

Zion Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 314
350 Pearl St.
Cadillac, MI 49601

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Cadillac, MI

Return Service Requested



TOWER TOPICS

April 2020

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Due to Coronavirus Pandemic
all church services are cancelled
until further notice**

April

2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Newsletter Deadline	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Cancellations until further notice have affected most groups, organizations and meetings normally held, due to the Corona-virus response. This includes church services. Easter worship will be celebrated when we are able to gather again. After April 13, if you have a question, about a specific group, call the office: 7759821.



The Tower Topics

April 2020
Volume 31 Number 4
Rev. Scott Torkko

Website: www.cadillaczion.org
Church Office 775-9821
Email: zionlutherancadillac@gmail.com

A Prayer for Protection During The Coronavirus

Lord, we admit that we are afraid. The spread of the Coronavirus is happening rapidly and throughout the world. We pray for healing for those who are sick. We pray for those who have lost loved ones into death.

We pray for protection. We come to your throne of grace asking for you to stop the spread of this virus.

We ask that our family, loved ones, and communities be protected and not become sick. We pray for medical providers. We pray for leaders, government officials, and those in authority that they would have the knowledge and desire to make decisions in the best interests of the people they serve. We pray for those in the media, that they would give us the information we need without creating needless fear or panic.

Lord God, you are in control of all things and we place our lives into Your hands. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit we pray, Amen

Birthdays	4
Book Club Cancelled	5
Buy A Chick	8 & 13
Calendar	12
Church Council	9
Important Updates	3
Just A Thought from Judie	6
Lunch Bunch Cancelled	5
Ministries Coordinator's Message—Val Hanson	4
On Line Church Services	10
Pastor's Page	2
Prayer Requests	11
Reminders	10
Senior Soup Luncheon Cancelled	5
Servers' Page	7

PASTOR'S PAGE

Thoughts from Pastor Scott

Beloved people of God, we are living through the times of which most of us have never seen. There have been several days where the news changes by the hour. It is hard to keep up. It is hard to not be afraid.

In our last worship service, I spoke of 3 words that would give us direction, hope, and purpose during these unprecedented days: Sacrifice, Servanthood, and Sabbath.

Sacrifice. when is the last time you have been asked to give something up for the common good? For me it's been a while. If I'm being honest with myself, I never have. People who lived through the depression, and through World War II, and to some extent the Korean conflict and Vietnam know what it's like to be asked to sacrifice. We are now in a time when each of us is being asked to give something up because the whole is more important and because it will take all of us doing our part. God's people ought to be uniquely prepared to sacrifice. It's who we are because it's who Jesus is.

Servanthood. These days are not only about giving something up. They are also about taking something up. What do you have to offer for the sake of the greater good? Who needs a phone call from you? Who needs groceries but shouldn't be going out of the house? What unique skill do you possess that might be offered? God's people ought to be uniquely prepared for servanthood. It's who we are because it's who Jesus is.

Sabbath. Creation took 7 days and was not complete until the 7th day, the day of rest, was complete. Moses commanded the Israelites to rest because it kept the rhythm that God had built into creation and as a way of defying the forces that declare work and busyness as a god. How many of us have wished our minds would slow down at night but they can't because of worry about all of the things we need to do? How many of us are wrapped up in running through our days (most times doing good and important things) and so can't find a time to rest. God has said it. Moses has commanded it. And now the government is demanding it. Rest. Do a puzzle. Go for a walk in silence. Bike ride with your family. Set up an altar at home for prayer, song, and Bible reading. You are invited to reclaim sabbath and if you don't do it now, chances are you never will. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Sacrifice. Servanthood. Sabbath. We are uniquely equipped as God's people to live in the midst of these days of turmoil. When this is all over, and there will be a day when it is over, what kind of stories and memories might you tell about these 3 opportunities now in front of you? Living these 3 practices over the next weeks, how might they change your life for the better when life returns to "normal?"

I for one believe we will learn a lot about what it means to follow Jesus in the weeks to come. Beloved people of God, you have worshipped all of your life to live during days like these. It's time to be the steady presence your loved ones and God's world need you to be.

Blessed to be your pastor, Pr. Scott

Important Updates

All worship services, including Wednesday Lenten services are cancelled, until further notice. We will celebrate Easter when we are able to gather again for worship.

In addition, all other groups (committees, youth groups, etc) are not meeting during the governor's stay-at-home directive.

No food is to be served in the church until further notice.

The church office will not be open through at least April 13. If you need to get in touch with Pastor Scott his cell.

Because we will not be gathering at church for worship on Easter Sunday, we will plan to celebrate Easter in worship together on the Sunday that we do return to gathering at Zion.

Pastor Scott has postponed his sabbatical at least until the beginning of May.

Please be in prayer and conversation about how we might serve the many people in our community impacted by the many closings taking place.

Ideas for Staying Connected

1. Hold each other, our community, and our world in prayer.
2. Check Zion's website for updated information, sermons, and weekly announcements: cadillaczion.org
3. Check the posts on the Zion Facebook Page. Log in to your Facebook account and search Zion Lutheran Church, Cadillac. Choose one of the posts with the ELCA symbol and it will take you to our page.
4. Make a phone call or send a text: Call/text a friend from church just to check-in any time, but especially Sunday morning between the hours of 9 and 12.

Also, the church voicemail will be updated with current worship service information.

5. If you did not receive a phone call on Sunday, it may be because we do not have a current phone number for you. If you think the church office may not have your current email address and phone number, email Val at vhansonzion@gmail.com
6. Some may be affected by lack of work or a decline in income during these days. Please know the church recognizes these struggles. If you are in need of assistance, or are coming alongside someone who is, please contact Pr. Scott.
7. Pr. Scott intends to preach a live sermon on Wednesday's and Sunday's. Please check the church website or the church facebook page this Tuesday, March 17 after 7:00 p.m. for exact times as logistics are still being worked out.
8. Please don't forget the ministry of Zion continues. As such, your weekly (or monthly) offering is as important as ever. You may mail it to P.O. Box 314, 350 Pearl St, Cadillac, MI 49601. The mail will be picked up at the post office by office staff. You may also give through the church
(Continued on page 4)

Important Updates Continued:

website or by downloading the GivePlus app on your mobile device. Another option, which is only available temporarily, is to call Vanco Client Services to give over the phone. Vanco is the company who has managed our direct deposit option for years. Their Client Services team will take donations and ap- them to our account if you call their Client Services team at 800.675.7430. Call Val if you have any questions.

9. Do not be afraid! The church and God's people have lived through times of persecution, famine, and plagues. Still, by God's grace, here we are. Be wise, care for your family and neighbors, and stay connected to your church.



Ministry Coordinator

Val Hanson



I really enjoyed reading the responses shared regarding connections during Pastor Scott's sermon series in February, but few of the ways we are finding ourselves connecting now are on that board. This is all new. We could not imagine in February that we would not be able to physically be together in March. We find ourselves scrambling to figure out new ways to worship together, serve our community, and support each other. We feel how strongly we need to stay connected. We are making phone calls, sending emails, checking the church website, posting on Facebook, holding meetings using a video conferencing app called Zoom, and looking for ways to help our neighbors. We will see what each day brings and keep depending on God and on each other. If you see a need that we can serve or if you have ideas on ways that we can help each other stay safe, but also stay connected during his time, please call my cell phone or email vhansonzion@gmail.com.

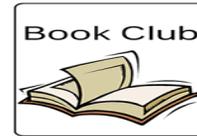
April Birthday's



Deborah D	4/02	ply
Lisa W	4/02	
Griffin S	4/04	
Amanda H	4/04	
Jan M	4/05	
A.J. G	4/05	
Esther D	4/06	
Brayden R	4/06	
Scott H	4/07	
Larry L	4/12	
Linda C	4/16	
Simone T	4/16	
Tristan F	4/17	
Jason H	4/17	
Allison P	4/19	
Jackson H	4/22	
April N	4/24	
Gavin N	4/24	
Caroline N	4/24	
Julie K	4/24	
Michael V	4/25	
Penny S	4/25	
Rick K	4/26	
Emmett D	4/26	
Lindsey T	4/27	
Ann H	4/28	
Chazz M	4/29	
Kristina G	4/30	
Scott C	4/30	



All activities on this page are cancelled due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. If questions, check with church . 775-9821



Zion Women's Book Club will meet Tuesday, April 14th at 4 p.m. They will be discussing the book The Shadow Land by Elizabeth Kostova. A young American woman, Alexandra Boyd, has traveled to Sofia, Bulgaria, hoping that life abroad will salve the wounds left by the loss of her beloved brother. Soon after arriving in this elegant town, she helps an elderly couple into a taxi and realizes too late that she has accidentally kept one of their bags. Inside she finds an ornately carved wooden box engraved with a name. Raising the lid she discovers that she is holding an urn filled with human ashes. On her search for the family she will first have to uncover the secrets of a talented musician who was shattered by political oppression. April's book club hostess is Rhea Carey.

The Lunch Bunch

The April Women's "Lunch Bunch" is Thursday, April 16, at 12:30 p.m. at the After 26 Depot Cafe (127 W. Cass St). Invite your friends and join us for fellowship and lunch.

We simply ask you let us know you're joining us by signing up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board. Please sign up by Easter Sunday, April 12.

If you have any questions, please call the April hostess, Marilyn Bridges.

Cancelled

Cancelled

Pancake Brunch **Cancelled**
The first of the Fellowship Committee's Zion Family activities is Sunday, April 19.
Stay, following our 9:30 worship service, for a delicious pancake breakfast and fellowship with your Zion family.

Due to concern regarding the spread of Coronavirus, we will not be holding our Easter Egg Hunt this year.
Thank you!

Zion Family Olympics—The second Zion Family Activity will be on Sunday, May 3. Again, stay following our 9:30 worship service, for our first Zion Family Olympics. Join in some friendly competition against others members of your Zion family. Our **Cancelled** Olympic games are for everyone. Even if you don't want to participate in the games, stay and cheer on your friends.

Senior Soup Luncheon will be Saturday March 28 unless cancelled due to Coronavirus precautions.

Luncheon is at noon and all Seniors are welcome.

Sign up on bulletin board. There is no charge.





Just A
Thought
from
Judie



Who woulda thought.....????? *In all my years I would never have imagined that our churches would close due to a pandemic. Yet, it has become a fact.*
The decision to do so was in the best interests of all.

And maybe, just maybe, because of this, we here at Zion will become even more aware of just what an important part the church and our attendance means to each of us.

Can we pray at home? Certainly. Can we watch ministries on television? Certainly. Can we continue to send in our pledges to support our church? Certainly. Can we continue to care about each other with phone calls, email, notes and caring acts? Certainly. And hopefully we will ALL do these things.

But the coming together, worshiping together, sharing in song and liturgy, in hearing the Word, in communing at our Lord's table and in relating with one another during the fellowship time will be missed. The meetings, the social times, the outreach of our committees, the normal routine of our church functions and affairs will be changed temporarily to aid a greater cause.

This is certainly "a time that tries men's souls."

But, because of who we are, son's and daughter's of the Living God, the Good Shepherd, He will walk us through this time. This will be the time to turn inward and dis-cover all the many gifts of Spirit available to us.....strength; peace; belief.....and we, like Job, will choose the way of our God.

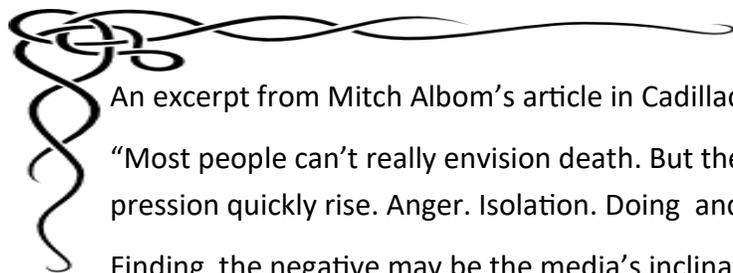
We will survive. And for those around the world, whose bodies do not survive, the message of the approaching Easter assures us that they too, will live, in new form and for eternity.

Let's gather ranks and do all we can do as individuals, with willing cooperation and perhaps even some sacrifice, to promote restored wellness in our community and our world.

This is a time to give whatever possible and needed to neighbor and friend, as well as family.

May your faith rise above any fear. Know that God knows our needs before we even ask and trust that He will shepherd us through this valley of the Coronavirus into green pastures once again.

Until we all meet again to worship and fellowship together.....
May God bless you and keep you.

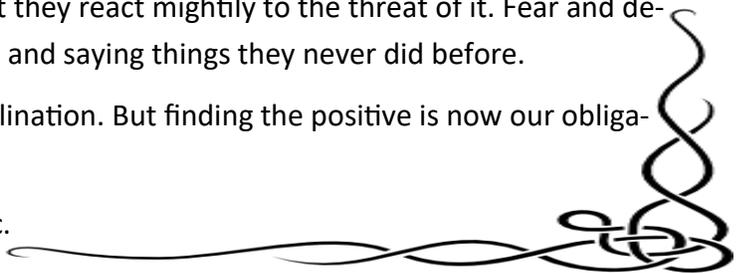


An excerpt from Mitch Albom's article in Cadillac News 3/17/20

"Most people can't really envision death. But they react mightily to the threat of it. Fear and depression quickly rise. Anger. Isolation. Doing and saying things they never did before.

Finding the negative may be the media's inclination. But finding the positive is now our obligation. "

Stay calm. Be kind to each other. Don't panic.



THE APRIL SERVING

ALTAR GUILD

Marilyn Bridges, Beckie Kanipe, and Karlene Paffhouse

FUNERAL COORDINATORS

Marsha Armstrong and Claudia Moutsatsan

ACOLYTES

05 8:30 Ashlynn Bechtel and
Audrina Runyon 10:30 Erica Con-
radson and Dezi Torkko

09 7pm Hayley and Hannah Free-
man

10 12pm Kaitlyn Johnston
7pm Kellen Koschmider

12 8:30 Audrina Runyon
10:30 Volunteer Needed

19 9:30 Ashlynn Bechtel and
Audrina Runyon

26 9:30 Mason Freeman and
Braydn Winkel

COFFEE HOUR

05 8:30 Darlene Hettel and
Penny Stange

10:30 Larry & Colleen Luhtanen
Randy &
Marie Mercier

12 8:30 Volunteers Needed
10:30 Volunteers Needed

19 9:30 Fellowship Pancake Breakfast

26 9:30 Freeman Family Marie Renneker and
Val Hanson

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

5 8:30 Jeff Johnson
10:30 Jeri LaRocque, Allen Meyer, and
Helen Potter

9 12:00pm Sue Anderson
7:00pm Colleen Luhtanen; Dan & Peggy
Vantkerkhoff

12 Easter Sunday 8:30 Volunteers Needed
10:30 Jeri LaRocque; 2 Volunteers Needed

19 9:30 Sue Anderson, Bobbie Brown, and Ty
Wilson

26 9:30 Nancy Anderson, Char Davis, and Lee
Jones

GREETERS

05 10:30 George & Cathy Cochrane

12 10:30 Easter Sunday Jeri LaRocque;
2 Volunteers needed

19 9:30 Rod Gibbs and Eric Gustafson

PAGE



On Hold
We will most
likely not be
gathering for
worship in
April.

26 9:30 Bob & Shirley Harcourt

Lectors

05 8:30 Marty Solomon/10:30 Rick
Swanson

09 Noon Val Hanson/7:00PM Lindsey
Torkko

10 Noon Elsie Moore/7:00PM Howard
Potter

12 8:30 Mark Tanner/10:30 Kathi Kohler

19 9:30 Jennifer Sück

26 9:30 Mark Tanner

NURSERY

5 10:30 Heather, Autumn, and Madi-
Vanderstar

12 Easter Sunday-No Nursery

19 9:30 Freeman Family

26 9:30 Alicia Damgard and Megan
Keller

SOUND TECHS

01 7pm Todd Bruggema

5 8:30 Eric Gustafson/
10:30 Randy Mercier

9 7pm Scott Hanson

10 7pm Dave Koenig

12 8:30 Volunteer Needed
10:30 Volunteer Needed

19 9:30 Scott Hanson

26 9:30 Anne Koschmider and Marty
Dahlstrom

USHERS

1 7:00pm George & Cathy Cochrane

5 8:30 Greg & Nancy Anderson

10:30 Marty & Pam Dahlstrom Char
Davis and Deb Kulmacz

9 Noon Paula Campbell and Carol Nev-
erth 7:00pm Eric Gustafson and
Becky Spielman Jim & Joan Higgins

10 Noon Bob Shumway and Karla An-
derson 7:00pm Dean & Mary Kidder

12 Easter Sunday-8:30 & 10:30
Volunteers Needed

19 9:30 Joe & Deb Bielik Joe Baumann
and Beckie Kanipe

26 9:30 Bobbie Brown and Phil Kuusisto
Jeff and Penny Johnson



Thank you for helping women and children in our local community
 Thank you for your generous support of our February Noisy Offering. The \$238.93 you generously gave has been sent to the Cadillac OASIS Family Resource Center to support their efforts to strengthen and safeguard families in our local area. Thank you for helping us make a "loud noise" of caring.

The Outreach Committee has decided to simply cancel the March Noisy offering.



And the people stayed home.

And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and grew gardens full of fresh food, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed."☐

Kitty O'Meara 1839 – 1888
 Irish-French Catholic Author

Buy a chick and feed the hungry!

Every year, around Easter, we participate in the ELCA's World Hunger Buck-A-Chick sale. By purchasing a paper chick for just one dollar, you can help a family escape from hunger. One dollar provides a family living in poverty with a chick. Soon enough, the chick begins producing eggs. Eggs made nutritious, protein-rich meals, and can be sold at the marketplace for income. And, thus, that one dollar helps families escape from hunger for good. During the month of April, you can help alleviate hunger by buying one of our paper chicks or a whole flock! A paper chick can be found in this month's newsletter. Return the chick to the church office by mail or drop it off when the church office re-opens. Checks should be made out to Zion Lutheran Church. Just be certain all donations are designated for the "Buck-A-Chick" sale. It will be awesome to have the fellowship hall brightly decorated with our chicks when we are able to return to gathering for worship and celebrate Easter at Zion.

Disease is only a temporary experience. The Soul is on the pathway of an endless, ever expanding journey. Judge not according to appearances. We are to look and think independently of the confusion around us. See with the eyes of God.

Sit quietly with yourself and see everything according to the Divine pattern. Trust that Infinite love will guide and protect you in everything.

Taken from various sources



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL 2020-21

February 2018 - January 2021

George Cochrane

Kaitlyn Johnston

Jamie Peterson

Patti Swanson

February 2019-January 2022

Barb Hazlett

Lee Jones

Roger Pitts

Abby Zukauskay

February 2020-January 2023

Jeanette Baumgras

Todd Bruggema

Pam Dahlstrom

Jennifer Freeman

Executive Committee

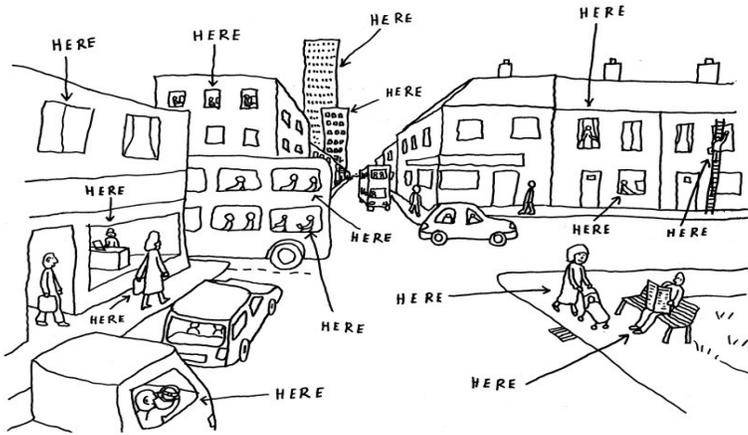
President: Roger Pitts

Vice-President: Lee Jones

Secretary: Todd Bruggema

Treasurer: Pam Dahlstrom

WHERE THE CHURCH IS



CartoonChurch.com

Christ in Our Homes Devotional

Pick up your daily devotional Next time you are at church, pick up the April through June issue of our daily devotional, Christ in Our Home. This devotion magazine follows the lessons for each Sunday is available in both a large-print or regular-print editions. Feel free to take a copy for a friend or neighbor as well. If you can't get to church and would like a copy mailed to you, please call the church office (775- 9821).

Reminders.....

Cancelled until further notice:

- All Weekly Services and meals
- All committee meetings
- Book Club
- Lunch Bunch
- Pancake Breakfast
- Noisy Offering
- Soup for Seniors
- Family Olympics
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Prayer Circle
- TOPS
- Stitchery
- Nailya's Recital
- Walker's Trio Concert
- Easter flower orders

Not Cancelled:

- Weekly Pledges
- Newsletter Deadline
- Prayers for those in need
- All kind deeds towards each other
- Safety precautions for all
- Patience during this pandemic
- Optimism and hope

To access weekly Wednesday Lenten Services and Sunday morning worship services on your computer, go on line and type in cadillaczion.org

Then click on Zion Lutheran Church of Cadillac

To the right you will find access to our on line Wed. and Sun. services.

Fearful thoughts: there will be anxiety, fear and panic. Many things will be shut down—businesses, schools, places of worship, sporting events. There will be economic turmoil.

Jesus Thoughts: I will bring together neighbors, restore the family unit. I will bring dinner back to the kitchen table. I will help people slow down their lives and appreciate what really matters. I will teach my children to rely on me and not the world. I will teach my children to trust me and not their money and material resources. AMEN

Author unknown

Listen to your faith rather than your fear



"I do wish you would stop asking for change back when they pass the plate."



Prayer List



New prayer requests or updates as of March 26:

Diane, sister-in-law of Mary K, undergoing testing for cancer

Kay and Phil B, parents of Julie H

Adam H, brother of Harry H, health concerns

Ernie D, friend of Jan F, cancer

Allison H, continuing health concerns, immune deficiency

John K, son-in-law of Gloria K, prayer concerns

Jarred H, family member of Brian & Cherie B, Muscular dystrophy

Donna R, procedure to relieve pinched nerve pain

Eric H, surgery and health problems

Shirley H, heart surgery

Brian B, pancreatic cancer

Nancy G, lung transplant recovery

Dan S, health concerns

Continuing Prayer Requests

John C

Deb B

Barb B

Kim G

June E

Kay F

Norma J

Allena M

Janet S

Shirley T

Elaine W

Arline W

Ron W

To add a prayer request to our list,
Please contact Pastor Scott
by cell phone
or by email at
pastortorkko@gmail.com

Prayer List Email Option

You can receive Zion's Weekly Prayer List by email. Those requesting the Prayer List by email will receive it on Friday afternoon each week. If you are interested, let Val know by calling the church office or email her at vhan-sonzion@gmail.com



Zion Prayer Chain

Zion's Prayer Chain is happy to pray for requests that you have throughout the week. To request prayer, contact Linda Carlson. You may also contact Linda to join the Prayer Chain.

We are the masterpiece of Divine co-creation still under construction.