

Tower topics

June 2020

June 2020
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For Now



On line



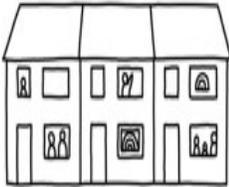
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Until further notice

BEATITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE
WHO STAY INDOORS



FOR THEY HAVE
PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE
UNEMPLOYED AND THE
SELF-EMPLOYED



FOR THEIR NEED OF
GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE
CORNER SHOPKEEPERS



FOR THEY ARE THE
PURVEYORS OF SCARCE
THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY
DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL
WORKERS



FOR THEY ARE THE
BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL
THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL
WORKERS; THE AMBULANCE CREWS,
THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE
ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS



FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND
THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE
CHECKOUT WORKERS



FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND
FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF
OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE
REFUSE COLLECTORS



FOR THEY WILL SEE
GOD DESPITE THE
MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE
TEACHERS



FOR THEY REMAIN
STEADFAST AND
CONSTANT IN
DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH
WORKERS; THE DEACONS,
PRIESTS AND BISHOPS



FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING
PRESENCE IN A HURTING
WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO
SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE
PARENTS,



FOR THEY ARE COPING
ALONE WITH THEIR
RESPONSIBILITIES AND
THERE IS NO RESPIRE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO
ARE ALONE,



FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF
GOD AND WITH HIM THEY
WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE
BEREAVED,



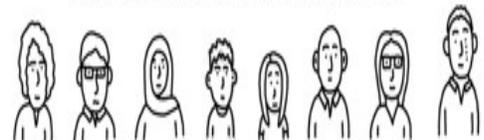
FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS
ALREADY HAPPENED. THEY
SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO
ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR
ABUSERS



FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY -
THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS;
ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO
WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY



MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE
GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN

Thoughts from Pastor Scott



I have completed reading a novel, *Again to Carthage*, that follows a runner from the time he decides to try and make the Olympic team as a marathoner to the time he completes the marathon in the Olympic Trial. I continue to be attracted to this marathon metaphor. A couple of quotes that have shaped my thinking.

*“The race was so long that good runners simply didn’t allow themselves to be drawn into the contact game.” (p 327) (“the contact game” is when runners try to keep up with those who race out to the front of the pack in an attempt to speed up the rest of the racers)

*“Because a marathon took hours, not minutes, almost any kind of error or mishap could conceivably be remedied in time” (p 328). My note: the exception is going out at a pace that you can’t keep... that’s the error from which a marathoner cannot return.

With these quotations in mind, here are some thoughts:

First and foremost, we are blessed beyond measure. People have been willing to step forward to make phone calls, to organize a food drive, to clean up the church yard. To date we have not had severe financial distress. Quite the opposite, actually. Some people have increased their giving or paid their intended yearly gift in advance. This may have ramifications for the end of the year. As it is, however, we are going month by month. As leaders of the congregation, I’m not sure we can thank people enough.

Second, there is no clear way forward on re-opening. One congregation in Cadillac reopened the first Sunday of May. Other congregations in our community have set dates to open. One plans to open the Sunday after the current stay at home order is lifted. Another plans to open in the middle of June. At this moment I am resisting the temptation to name a date to regather. The uncertainty of the government’s orders combined with the chaotic nature of the virus itself makes choosing a date feel futile. One pastor who is a marathoner told me this, “If there’s one thing marathoners hate it’s people cheering on the side of the road acting like the end of the race is near when it clearly isn’t.” She as a marathoner despises false hope. Setting a date feels like naming a finish line that may get pushed back further. I am grateful to Dr. Mutch, Nancy Anderson, Jamie Peterson, and Roger Pitts for helping us think thru the many layers connected to reopening.

(Con’t on page 4)

Third, I have gathered with a small group to work on a more permanent way to broadcast worship live on the internet. I suspect this option will be with us long after the doors of the church begin to reopen. The plan is to place a webcam in the balcony (one that is able to focus in on the chancel area). This will allow us to loop into our sound system. It will also put the technology piece in the hands of someone other than the pastor, for which I am grateful

The lead character in *"Again to Carthage"* has great moments during the run. He hits his stride for miles at a time. He takes in the cheers from spectators, paying special attention to the cheers of those whom he knows. But there are hard miles. He gets blisters. He falls at one point and is bloodied. He pushes his body so hard that he becomes delusional. And then, this, "He didn't fully comprehend that he had crossed the finish line. There was no sense of finality. No sense of accomplishment or joy as he had experienced in other races. He was only aware that he had stopped, and that therefore it must be over." (p. 350)

I can't imagine how we'll know when this is over. I suspect it will happen gradually. One moment at a time. Until one day it occurs to us that we haven't mentioned the virus for a while. And we have settled into a new rhythm together. I long for that day.

At this time wisdom suggests living day by day, trusting that God has us in the present and that God is already in the future working out what that new rhythm will one day look like. As we run this marathon together, let us do all we can to keep from leaving people behind.

Let us have eyes to see people on the sides of the race struggling, that we may help them.

Let us resist the urge to run the race faster than we can either as an individual or as a congregation.

Let us be patient and kind in a world that is increasingly at odds about what comes next.

And let us rest in Jesus, the perfecter of our faith, the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end, the one who has died and rose again.

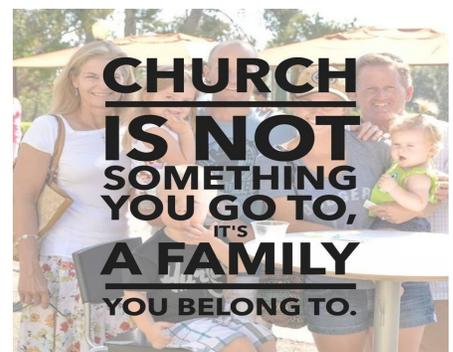
Let us be people of resurrection hope.

Blest To Be Your Pastor

Pastor Scott



Anyone can be a
Father
but it takes SOMEONE
special to be a
Dad



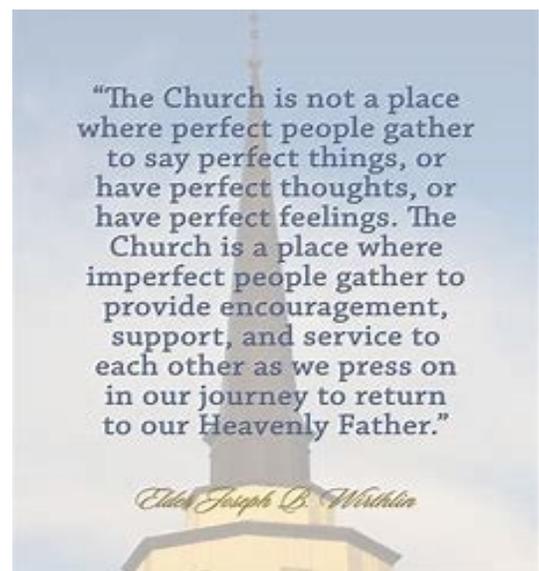
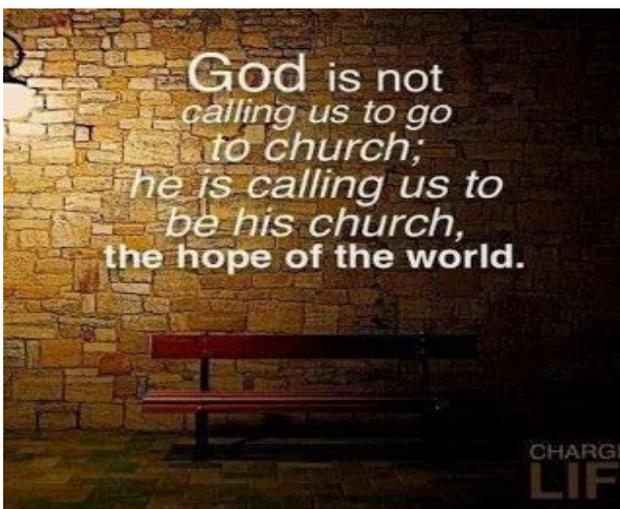


Ministry Coordinator

Val Hanson

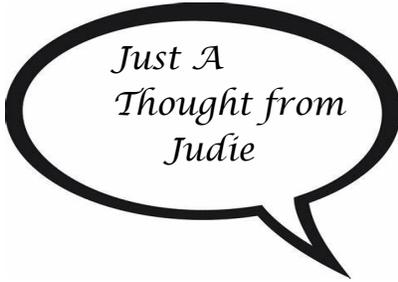


When the Stay Home Stay Safe executive order was issued, Zion focused on finding ways to continue providing the most essential functions of ministry. Pastor Scott found ways to lead us using the internet, and our established benevolence ministries continued uninterrupted, but it felt like many things were on hold. Our committee meetings waited. Our Sunday School waited. Our fellowship time waited. It felt like we were in a holding pattern, but ministry was taking shape in new ways. A phone ministry was established. We found a way to hold a food drive. Zoom meetings hosted devotional and fellowship groups on the internet. Children joined a teleconference to hear a Bible story and talk about it. In the coming weeks, things will continue to change. Some of our ministry groups may be able to begin meeting again in person, or we may continue to figure out new ways to continue ministry from our homes. I don't know what the upcoming weeks will look like for our ministry, but I'm confident that we will continue to be the church together. With God's help, we will figure it out.



Just as our bodies need a balanced diet, so do our souls.

What are you waiting for?
The hoped for promotion?
The loss of 5 or 10 pounds?
The healing of a bodily discomfort?
The increase in your financial situation?
Forgiveness from someone?
To be loved more?



Let each day of your life be the spiritual experience you seek.
The power to change and evolve lies within you.
The life you desire is happening right now.
Don't wait for the one thing, the one person, the one event that will change your life.
Cherish all your moments. Live it now!



Tick Tick Tick

The Sunrise of our faith

Early one morning, as I sat reading, I looked out the window to the east and the most beautiful sunrise drew me from my chair to the window to fill me with wonder and awe. I quickly grabbed my camera and in my pajamas, went outside to try to capture the beauty of this gift from God. It lasted only a very short time and by the time I came inside, the glow had faded and the daylight dawned.

Just before noticing this sunrise my mind had been on the Pandemic affecting our world just now and how it might affect my life.

I must admit, I was beginning to feel the grip of fear. As I returned to my reading, the words of my devotional book revealed Joseph's experience with his fear of the future of taking the responsibility of Mary and the baby Jesus. But it focused on Joseph overcoming his fear of the future by listening to his faith rather than his fear and following the command of God, tho the path would not be an easy one.

The prayer following this meditation was simply "Jesus, calm my worries and guide my path." I then thought of the lovely gift I'd been given of the sunrise and my soul found its peace.

When our life seems uncertain, as this pandemic spreads its consequences globally, we too, as Joseph, need to listen to our faith and ask our God who gives us the sunrise, to calm our worries and guide our path.

Just more thoughts from Judie

"When fear sets in, as at times it will, remember that better is yet to come.
That thought helps dissolve the load of unbelief which we now carry."
(words from Thomas Troward and Ernest Holmes)

Noisy Offering Update

With the ongoing life interruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Outreach Committee wants to keep everyone informed about the status of our Noisy offerings. Since we are not physically meeting at church, nor do we know when we will be able to do so, the Outreach Committee has decided to postpone future Noisy Offerings at this time. Once we are able to return to worship, the committee will discuss resuming this important way to support valuable ministries both locally and throughout the world.



Zion Flower Care

The beautiful perennial and annual flowers around Zion need tender care during the summer. If you would like to cover a week of removing the spent blooms from the church entrances and planters, please call Shirley Gibelyou to request a convenient time for you.



Serving Our Local Community

Once again, this summer, we will serve our local community by maintaining a community garden along the Keith McKellop Walkway. For those unfamiliar with this ministry, the garden we maintain is near the Rotary Pavilion near the railroad tracks.

The initial spring clean-up has been completed. We now need families and/or individuals to keep everything looking neat and clean. This is a simple and quick chore. If you're walking the walkway, just include some time to make certain our garden is weed free and looking good. Since it's outside and the garden is not near the main walkway, it's easy to work on the garden while maintaining a safe distance.

If you can share a week or more of your time during the summer and early fall, please contact Marilyn Bridges.

Still Looking ahead to gathering as a Zion family

Yes, the Fellowship Committee is still planning on some outdoor, group activities for June and July. We realize, of course, this is all dependent upon whether or not restrictions have been lifted.

So, let us look forward with hope, to gathering back together for fellowship at one or more of the following activities:



for

Sunday, June 7 - Spring Hike

The Fellowship Committee, Pastor Scott, and the committee looking into when we will reopen, felt we could all use an opportunity to gather with other members of our Zion Family. So, the June 7 hike is going to happen!

Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Carl T. Johnson Hunting & Fishing Center (6087 M-115). A state park sticker is required, so if you don't have a state park sticker, alternative parking is available at Kenwood Park. Just allow yourself extra time to walk over to the Carl T. Johnson Hunting & Fishing Center.

We'll have the opportunity to greet each, and give "air hugs." Plus, spend some time enjoying outdoor weather and hiking the Carl T. trails. For those wishing a longer hike, there are connecting trails that go into Kenwood Park.

The Fellowship Committee also has the following two activities in the planning stages, (both postponed from their original dates pending the virus situation.) Please watch the July newsletter or, if we're back at worship, check the bulletins for more details.

Drive In Movie

Ice Cream Social and Bingo at Church



For the safety of our children, we will not be gathering for our traditional summer VBS.

Vacation
Bible
School

Currently, are considering what we might offer for the children this summer. Please watch the church Facebook page, website, and weekly emails for upcoming details.

Time For A Smile.....



Church Bulletin Bloopers:

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The Minister will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing: "Break Forth Into Joy."

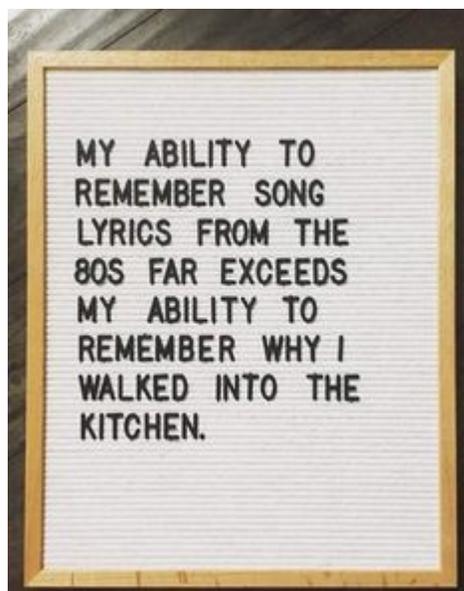
Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. at the church. Please use the large double doors at the side entrance.

The eighth graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 p.m. Prayer and medication to follow.



If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it!



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What part of "thou shalt not"
don't you understand?

June **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** Page

Jeanette B

Carol P

Claudia M

Sharon H

Erica O

Chandler G

Sandy F

Jim H

Ruth S7

Charles R

Linda D

Kendra B

Louise W

Joan K

Judie S

Colleen L

Rick S

Sarah B

Jennifer M

Jerry P

Kase M

Hazel J

Roger N

Mildred N

Gerri F

Janae B

Eric W

Kathy G

Marilyn P

Gail M

Bruce V

Jason J

Kathi K

Penny D

Karen C

George C

Anna G

Ellery S

Matthew R

Janet S

Sandra D

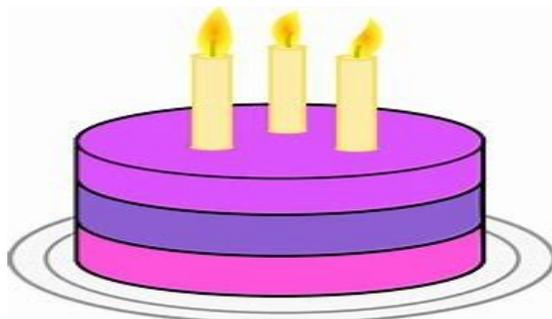
Marcia S

Cliff S

Declan H

Dottie R

Alina H



Prayer Requests



New prayer requests or updates as of May 31:

- The family of Patti S upon the passing of Patti's brother
- Laurie, daughter of John and Maxine S, surgery recovery
- June E, recovery from a fall
- Rev. Don E, brother of Rhonda P waiting for triple by-pass surgery
- Deb B, health concerns
- Peggy V, diagnosed with lung cancer, undergoing further testing
- Pierre C, brother-in-law of Phil and Dar K, cancer and unable to get chemo treatments
- Dr. David R, friend of Dave and Linda M, lymphoma treatments
- Brian B, pancreatic cancer, stroke or brain infection - recovery, strength
- Esther A, stepmother of Cherie B, hospitalized with lung cancer

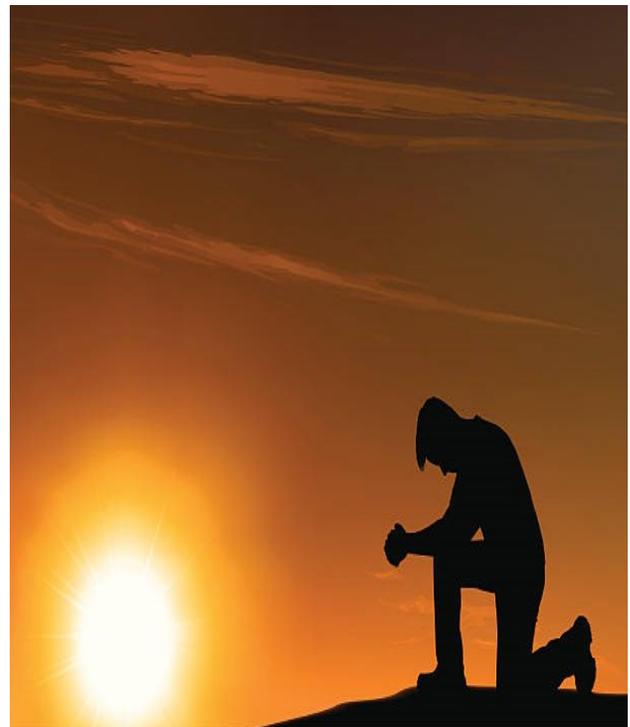
Continuing prayer requests:

- John Carlson
- Deb Barney
- Barb Beaulaux
- Kim Gabara
- Nancy Grumm
- June Emmons
- Kay Foster
- Norma Johnson
- Allena Michelson
- Dan Stafford
- Janet Steinbach
- Elaine Weigel
- Arline Wiggins
- Ron Wysopal

To add a prayer request to our list, please contact Pastor Scott or email at zionlutherancadillac@gmail.com



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





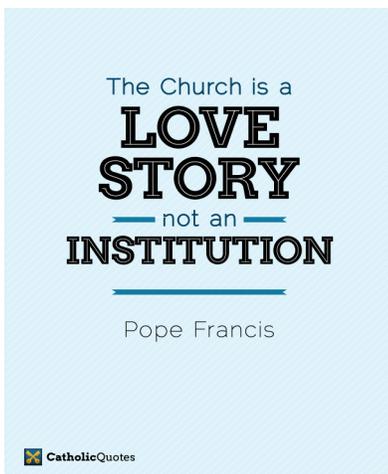
I will lead them in paths that they have not known....

Isaiah 52:16

"I am bringing all my problems to the altar of faith and I know that every true desire of my heart will be fulfilled through the power of love. My first desire is that all my thoughts and all my acts shall give joy and gladness to everyone around me. I wish the healing power of love to flow through me to everyone.

I believe that divine intelligence, which is the Mind of God, is guiding, guarding and directing my thoughts and acts. I believe that God already knows the answer to this problem: therefore I am letting go of the problem, as though it were difficult, and I am listening to the answer, as though it were sure. The answer to this problem not only exists in the Mind of God; I affirm that it is in my mind now, that something in me does know what to do. I joyfully accept divine guidance. I am open to new ideas, to new thoughts, new hopes and aspirations. This which so recently seemed a problem, no longer exists for the Mind of God, which knows the answer, is quietly flowing through my thought and feeling. A great peace and joy come over me as I accept this answer from the giver of all life.

(Taken from Daily inspirations by Raymond Charles Barker and Ernest Holmes)



Who Am I ?

I am a conduit to express the Divine. I came here to be love. My soul is on the pathway of an endless, ever expanding journey.

I bury the seeds of my prayers deep within God's love and cover them with my faith.

(Also taken from Daily Inspirations by Barker & Holmes)