



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

505 WATCHOGUE ROAD ✘ STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. 10314
(718) 981-3151 ✘ www.zion505.org

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
P.A.I.D.
Staten Island,
New York
10314
Permit
#127

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

April *Messenger*



A Message from The Rev. John Saraka

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of those who arrested Jesus, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

John 20:19



Over the last few weeks we have experienced together an event like nothing we have ever seen before in our lifetime. The Coronavirus has paused the world in a way that is unprecedented. All the normal ways we gather, work, and unplug, have been shut down over a course of a few weeks. In a time of high anxiety and fear, the Church is usually the place we go to for a serving of hope in the midst of our questions, and yet, even the Church in response to loving the most vulnerable among us, needed to pause it's gatherings. As we have not gathered at Zion for worship since March 8th, it looks like we will need to remain closed through Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, and possibly through April or longer. Where this saddens me at the prospect of not gathering with this beloved community, I believe with the rest of the nation and city, we are doing our part to protect the vulnerable, contain the virus, and participate in being good neighbors to each other as we are called to do in the Christian faith.

With that, in the life of the Christian Church, it is not unprecedented to have people be locked inside and isolated to endure a difficult time. When Jesus died on Good Friday, the disciples locked themselves up in a room for fear of suffering the same fate as Jesus, and so those who were once travelling and spreading the good news through word and deed, now practiced social distancing from the world around them. They were terrified about what tomorrow might become for them.

We share many of those same fears of our future, of those loved ones who surround us, and what tomorrow might hold. We are locked up to protect ourselves, as we wait for this storm of the virus to pass. The Good News of the Easter story is that Jesus does not leave the disciples in this state of fear and anxiety over the future, but comes to them where they are in the locked room. Although for the moment they could not participate in the local synagogue or go to the temple for worship, and life was disrupted for them as they could not go outside as they normally do, God chose to break through the death that gripped them and meet them in their fear so that a word of peace, hope, and resurrection could be spoken into our lives. At this time, as Easter approaches, hear the words of our risen savior who stands among us in our homes, in our isolation, in our hospitals, in our communities and says, 'Peace be with you!'

Good Friday is not the final answer, but as the old sermon reminds us, Sunday is coming! Death is not the final answer, Love has that privilege. The coronavirus will not have the power to hold us up forever, but God will meet us where we are now, and draw us out in time once again.

The amazing thing about when we are locked up with fear, God does an amazing thing when the stone is rolled away, when the disciples are compelled from the locked upper room, when we are called back into a more normal routine, the world will never be the same, there is a new normal with God. Easter is about returning to live again in God's love.

Every Sunday, while we are in our homes I will continue to video my sermons, and broadcast a message of hope for a weary world found in our greatest treasure the Word of God. Lisa M. in the office has done a great job of making sure the messages, the bulletin, the website, and the blasts are accessible to you.

In the midst of these challenging times, God is to be found in the room with us, for the Spirit of God is always at work, and thanks be to God:

Alleluia, Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!!!

Happy and Blessed Easter! I give thanks for each of you.

Pr. John

(as soon as there is a change in the rules for gathering together and it becomes safe we will let you know and we will re-open as soon as possible)

**Join our weekly worship,
go to our website
<https://www.zion505.org/worship>
*you can also call the church office
718-981-3151 for assistance***

For our Sunday School and kids of Zion Lutheran Church



<https://vimeo.com/402578938>

Join our **LIVE Bible Study**
Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. for our *LIVE* class



**Pastor will meet with Confirmation Class Live
via [gotomeeting](#) on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm**



First Communion class Pastor John will contact you and let you know a time.

****LIVE* - to participate in any of our LIVE classes -
download "GoToMeeting" application on your phone or email***

The Holy Week and Easter worships are cancelled

***Due to the coronavirus pandemic
a 'pause' on nonessential services and gatherings are in place until April 30.
All meetings, worship and programming are suspended until further notice.***

To be included in our on-line communication and see our live videos of worship and important messages from Zion, please email to lisam@zion505.org or call Lisa at 718-981-3151 or 917-796-5366 to give updated information

2020 Zion Lutheran Church Directory Update



Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cellular Phone(s): _____

Address: _____



Peter Abdelmessih, Sr., Debbie Agrell, Diane Andersen, Elna Ballarino, Dennis Bell, Larry Bianco, Charles Bilezikjian, John Buttermark, Kurt Carlsen, Angelina Rose Carlson, Connie Chorman, Mildred Curley, Chu Family, John Dellacotto, Lois Deland, Demeter Family, Roger Domyahn, Margaret Dunphy & Family, Billy Durney, Lillian Eidhammer, Bruce Holmgren, Stephanie Fergersen, Salvatore Ferrotti, Rosie Fitzsimmons, Martin Genco, Mary Gilligan, Carmela Giordano, Kolbrun Giordano, Dorothy Hatibov, Linda Klein, Bunny Lewand & Family, Jaime Light, Anna Lisk, Sally Lorentzen, Judith Minenno, Janet Miseri, Gerd Molton, Anne O'Halloran, Daniel Olson, Ole Olson, Meghan Ortega & Family, Harold & Teresa Owens, Janet Payson, Monica Peter, Thomas Pezzengrilli, Marlene Picone, Marina Rebmann, Skip Rehm, Richard & Linda Reinhartsen, Connie Retzlaff, Joan Roitzsch, Joann Ruggiero, Peter Ruggiero, Hap and Ingrid Russell, Anita Russo, Lisa Salberg, Margaret Sallemi, Pauline Sapountzaki, Abraham Isaac Saraka, Judith Saraka, Kathy Schulz, Doris Spinelli, Joli Steinberg Alyssa Traficenti, Catherine Tuppatsch, Ronnie Urus, Joe Virga, Matthew Virga, Nancy Virga, Rachael Villamonte, Fred & Sue Vokral, Jack Vokral, Jenna Warmbier, Maryann Weibel, Lisa Whalen, Nicole Wildes, John Wisniewski, Richard Wisniewski, Jane Yelacic, Joan Yuskevich

To all who have been infected or in contact with COVID 19



METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD NEWS

As you might expect, the Synod, like all of us, is struggling with its response to the COVID 19 crisis. ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and NY Metro Synod Bishop Paul Egensteiner have clearly stated that the priority is the health and well-being of all members of our community. They note that Martin Luther also emphasized the duty to care for our neighbors long ago when asked about Christians' response to a plague. And in keeping with Christ's teachings and examples, we must not just consider ourselves, but consider everyone, and act accordingly.

At this time, all congregations are urged to postpone or cancel all in-person gatherings, including services, events, meetings, and Bible studies through March 31. We are also asked to maintain contact with members and friends of our congregations, where possible, to volunteer to help those in need, and to hold our communities in prayer. Suggestions and helpful resources are posted on the Synod's website.

The Synod office is closed until further notice, and staff will continue to work remotely. All are urged to follow the recommendations of healthcare experts for self-care.

Consideration is being given to postponing the Annual Synod Assembly, currently scheduled for May 8 and 9 at the Melville Marriott. Bishop Egensteiner and the Synod Council are expecting to make a final decision within the next several weeks. All current Synod events are subject to cancellation or postponement.

A HELPFUL HINT!

Did you know that saying the Lord's Prayer takes exactly as long as the CDC recommends you wash your hands?

**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR! LOVE YOUR GOD!
WASH AND PRAY!!**

A SENSE OF HUMOR

We don't want to minimize the seriousness of the Covid 19 situation. But with all the angst and anxiety going on these days, it's helpful to keep a sense of humor to maintain your balance. So...



CHARITY KNITTERS

I'm seeking charity knitters to assist with the numerous requests received on a regular basis. Many of our knitters have a favorite project they like to work on or a specialty item they like to create. Anyone who participates can provide as many items as they wish on any project they choose to work on.

With that said, I supply yarn for anyone who needs it. I also pick up & drop off to any person(s) who don't drive or are housebound. If any of your knitters have an idea they would like to have as part of the mission I'm happy to continue the conversation!

If you need me to meet anyone who might be interested so they can feel more comfortable or would like to learn more, let me know. It would be amazing if we can create a group of knitters to be added to our "family".

Below are links to see projects:

<https://www.nyestateofbusiness.com/projects>

<https://www.nyestateofbusiness.com/phoenix-hope-project>



Zion's Monthly Breakfast

hosted by the Men's Group

Is cancelled and contingent upon a change in the status of the Coronavirus pandemic



Warmest thoughts of you on your special day. May God richly bless you with all the things that make your heart happy, and may your day be filled with joy. On your birthday, may your day be touched by God's presence in your life and filled with the kind of joy that only He can bring. Happy birthday!

Justin Accornero.....	Apr 23	Nicholas Maggi	Apr 18
Jesse Amaty	Apr 16	Dorie Marrone.....	Apr 23
Gabrielle Arrabito	Apr 13	Collen McCulloch.....	Apr 17
Kyle Bensen	Apr 2	Angel Medina	Apr 16
Hillary Burns	Apr 4	Elaine Minew.....	Apr 24
Justin Cayton.....	Apr 14	Richard Nelson	Apr 1
Kathy Cayton	Apr 24	Joseph Nilsen.....	Apr 16
Andrew Conner.....	Apr 1	Jeffrey Olsen	Apr 27
Andrew Creech	Apr 27	Rylie Olsen	Apr 19
Darren Curley, Jr.....	Apr 17	John Petersen	Apr 8
John Delin	Apr 27	Richard Reinhartsen	Apr 4
Lisa Giordano.....	Apr 19	Sherry Retzlaff	Apr 15
Judith Gottlieb	Apr 5	Dylan Rosenberg.....	Apr 9
Frances Haase.....	Apr 24	Frederick Russel.....	Apr 13
Justine Hickey	Apr 30	Linda Skogstrand	Apr 22
Josef Horvath	Apr 2	Christina Solomon	Apr 10
Michael Hudak.....	Apr 8	Jennifer Solomon,.....	Apr 23
Robert Jakubowski.....	Apr 17	Eileen Tuite	Apr 10
Beatrice Jay	Apr 30	Kristin Valentin.....	Apr 10
Michael Lake	Apr 20	Jackson Walker	Apr 23
Axel Lorentzen	Apr 27	Dawn Whalen.....	Apr 1
Sally Lorentzen.....	Apr 20	Christopher Woodhouse	Apr 22
Luke Macwan	Apr 29	Joan Yuskevich.....	Apr 18

If we missed your Birthday or would like to add your Birthday please [email lisam@zion505.org](mailto:lisam@zion505.org) or [call](tel:718-981-3151) the church office:, [718-981-3151](tel:718-981-3151).

PRESCHOOL NEWS

As you probably know by now, the big news is that the preschool is temporarily closed in order to comply with all recommendations for responsible behavior and caring not only for ourselves, but also our wider community during the Covid 19 emergency. At this point, we are planning to be closed until at least April 20, but will be happy to re-open sooner if circumstances allow.

The Valentine's Day dance was a big hit! Parents and children took to the dance floor, enjoyed the treats and beverages we offered, and marveled at Magic Pete (our own Pete Ruggiero)! As an unfortunate result of the closure, several planned fundraisers must be cancelled and several potential fundraisers have been tabled.

When school re-opens, we are asking that if you are in the building during school hours (8 am through 5 pm), you let either the church office or the preschool office know, so we can meet our obligation to know who is in the building with our children at all times.

The school has adopted a formal curriculum called "Learning Without Tears." A training day was scheduled for the teachers in Princeton NJ on March 27. We will be informed when that day can be re-scheduled.

Registration for Gigglez hours has been increasing throughout the year. We are planning to keep the Gigglez program open through the summer and during times when the regular classes are not in session – parents need reliable child care all year!

Our pre-K 4 year olds have been having STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) classes on Fridays. They've learned about static electricity, buoyancy, and electrons and neutrons.

"ADVENTUREZ: PASSPORT TO THE WORLD" is Zion's summer camp. There will be two 3-week sessions. Camp hours will be 9 am to 1 pm, with Gigglez available before and after camp. A shorter day is available for children born in 2017 (2 or 3 years old at camp time).

Zion's VBS will be the week between the 2 camp sessions (Chris Connell agreed to lead the VBS program this year). Volunteers are needed!

The DOH license renewal has been submitted and accepted! Registration has been underway for the 2020-2021 school year. As of March 6, 56 students were enrolled, and we expect another flurry of activity after NYC sends out the universal 3- and 4-year old program acceptances.

Finally, with the beginning of the new council and committee season in June, the Preschool Committee will be losing two members, Janet Payson and Carole Larsen. If you know of anyone who has an interest in the Preschool and might be a candidate for the committee, please let a committee member know (Chim Chin, Lisa Plaia, Carolyn Waage, Pastor John, Janet Payson, Carole Larsen). This is YOUR preschool – help support it!



LARRY PLAIA IS ZION LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL'S ROCK STAR!!



Larry Plaia is officially designated as the Preschool Rock Star! After searching for months to find someone ready, willing, and able to serve as Zion's Fire Warden, Larry stepped up to the plate. Even though Larry is a Lieutenant with the FDNY, he still had to register for two separate tests, and then go to MetroTech in Brooklyn twice to take the tests. In order to have certified staff on the premises, Larry worked with Pastor John to help him pass one of the tests, and is working with one of our teachers to help her pass the tests. Having a Fire Warden is necessary for the church, and is urgent for the Preschool, since the application for the Preschool's license renewal was due in February.

Thanks so much Larry!



EASTER WORD SEARCH



Hunt for these Easter words!



**BASKET
BUNNY
CAKE
CARD
CHICK
CHOCOLATE
CHRISTIANITY**

**CHURCH
CROSS
CRUCIFIXION
EASTER
EGG
FEAST
HOLIDAY**

**HOLY
JESUS
LAMB
LENT
RABBIT
RESURRECTION
SUNDAY**



Words Up?

EASTER

Fill in the crossword and find the hidden words.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

?

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



505 WATCHOGUE ROAD • STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. 10314 • (718) 981-3151