



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

505 WATCHOGUE ROAD ✘ STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. 10314
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 June

Messenger

A Message from The Rev. John Saraka



Greetings Zion,

One of the things that is a daily ritual in our house with Abraham is time listening to music. Through either the Alexa app or videos on Youtube, Abraham will constantly call out the names of songs he loves: Ninety Nine, Happy, Funk (so thankful when he keeps the n in funk), which are his favorite pop tunes by Josh Groban, Pharrell, and Bruno Mars, then he moves to the children's songs: 4 from Sesame Street by Feist, any version of the Alphabet Song, and when he says Round, round, round he wants to hear the Wheels on the Bus immediately. One of his favorite Disney shows has been Frozen and Frozen 2 and he gets mesmerized when Elsa, Olaf, or Anna appear on the screen to sing. One of the songs that Anna sings is titled, 'The next right thing' and as the book of Proverbs reminds us, 'through the mouths of babes you have established strength'. The lyrics to this song reminds me that sometimes all we can do is try to figure out what the next right thing to do is, especially during challenging times. In the song Anna is facing grief over tremendous loss, and all she can do is try to take the next step during uncertain times, but with that, there is a desire to have that next step be the right step to take.

As we face the ongoing 'shelter in place' in response to the Covid-19 crisis, and we are not meeting as a congregation face to face, we continue to look forward to that day when our 'more normal' routine of worship will return. Until then, based on information from the CDC, NY State and City, the Synod, we will continue to explore what are the best practices to keep our community safe. As our congregation consists of many seniors, we also will be extremely cautious in our decision making process to make sure that we are not endangering those who are most at risk. The truth is there are days when we try to absorb the news from our elected officials and the next steps don't always seem clear, so we taking in all of the information we can to prayerfully and wisely make decisions. For the time being we believe it is safest to not gather in our building.

Over time, though, we do know what is clear. Our God will always be our God, and our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Our God calls us into that amazing love for our neighbor, and whatever next steps we take will be guided by our trust in God and God's love. With that, although we are not open in the sense of being in our church building weekly, we do remain open in many ways, sharing the good news of God's love with one another through bible study, worship, and prayer, connected not only online, but by God's Spirit. In the biblical witness, God's people have often been isolated from one another, but God has held them together to bring about a witness to the world and we carry on that tradition of the Israelites and the early Church. For now, we will do the next right thing and remain worshiping in our own homes until it is safer to gather in the sanctuary and we have protocols in place that protect our community. We will continue to be the Church, alive and loving our neighbor each day we can. We will continue to prayerfully do the next right thing...

By the way, here are some the lyrics to the song I was referring to above that Abraham knows so well:

*I won't look too far ahead
It's too much for me to take
But break it down to this next breath, this next step
This next choice is one that I can make
So I'll walk through this night
Stumbling blindly toward the light
And do the next right thing
And, with it done, what comes then?
When it's clear that everything will never be the same again
Then I'll make the choice to hear that voice
And do the next right thing.*

While we continue to keep our building closed we begin preparing for that day when we will be gathering in person. There are ways you can donate and help us to prepare for that day by dropping off items that will keep us safe. You may drop off these items on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. or on Saturday and Sunday between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. (Saturday morning hours I tape the sermon on Saturday, and Sunday we have a live time of prayer in the morning). We are in dialogue about best practices to keep us safe, and looking at how we might transition to more public gatherings when it becomes safe and we are ready. This may mean outdoor worship to begin. We will keep you posted. For now we continue to be the Church in our homes.

Items for donation:

Masks – 3 ply disposable or Cloth face coverings

Hand Sanitizer refills and Pumps – 60% alcohol or more

Kirkland or Clorox wipes or any wipes that are equivalent

Lysol Spray Cleaner disinfectant or any Lysol equivalent product
(needs to list cdc approved)

Nitrile Gloves – (powder free) (Medium / Large)

On behalf of Zion Lutheran Church, we give thanks to all who continue to give their offerings and donations to the Church to keep the ministry going. We are still open even though we are not able to utilize our building right now in the same way that we are accustomed to. We hold online meetings, bible study, and Confirmation classes. We gather online for a Sunday morning prayer time, and post the bulletins and sermons through e-mail and our website. Leadership still continues to meet online to plan for the future, including putting together budgets for the Church and Preschool, while looking ahead to see how a safe transition back to the building might be possible.

Although, it feels and looks different than what we are used to, we are open, and we are continuing our mission to share the Good News of God's love with our surrounding community. With that, we continue to need your support.

During the Covid-19 Shelter in Place directives it takes an average of about **\$27,500/monthly** to pay for the salaries, insurance, utilities, office expenses, and other items that come up. For those who are able to maintain their giving during this time, again, we thank you for your support. Everyone's commitment makes a difference.

For those who are facing economic hardships at this time, we understand that your offerings may not be feasible at this moment. Please know that we understand and pray that you take care of your families, and if there is any way we can lend support to you please don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor John.

The beautiful verses from 1 Corinthians 12, reminds us of being part of the community of faith that God has called together: 'If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.' We are in this together.

With love and support.

The Rev. John Saraka



Zion Lutheran Preschool News

May 20, 2020

In July of 2019, during a transition of staff, Zion Lutheran Preschool was blessed to bring in Christine Connell as the Interim Director of the Preschool. We appreciate the leadership that Ms. Chris has provided to our community and ministry. With that, we hope that we can celebrate her tenure and work with us, and give the ZLP and Church community an opportunity to both celebrate and thank her for this service. While we are not able to gather together to do that in person at this current moment we hope we will be able to do so in the months ahead. Ms. Chris will be finishing up her work with us as the Interim Director as we end the calendar School year on June 30, 2020.

We are excited to announce that ZLP has found the next Director of the Preschool, Mrs. Linda Herman. Linda Herman has nearly 20 years of experience working as a director of a Preschool, she has worked as an Assistant Principal for the Board of Education, and as a teacher for both Pre-K and grades 1 through 4. She also has a supervisory license for NY State and City, New York City Early Childhood License, New York City Birth to Three License, and is a New York City Principal Pool Candidate. She has a breadth of experiencing developing, supervising, and growing Preschools in the boroughs of NYC. She is a resident of Staten Island and is looking forward to beginning her work with the Zion Preschool and Church community. She is also excited for the opportunity to work with all of you in carrying out the tradition of providing outstanding care and development to all of the ZLP families. Ms. Linda will begin on July 1, 2020. Please look for a letter from our new director in the weeks ahead.

As these are not normal times that we are living in due to the shelter in place directives, and we need to remain in our homes for the safety and health of the wider community, we hope that you will have an opportunity to meet Linda Herman in person as soon as possible. We are excited for the future of the Preschool ministry here at Zion, and look forward to continuing our commitment to provide a safe, loving, and nurturing environment to all the children who call Zion Preschool home.

Sincerely,

The Rev. John P. Saraka

Sandra Mormile, President of Zion Church Council

Carole Larsen, Chair of the Preschool Committee

JUNE 2020 OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

While we have been shut down for “in house” services, our church and its committees are still working hard to both maintain our ability to perform our mission and our facilities in the hope that we can soon join together in fellowship.

Operations, and its associated subcommittees, have been developing “action plans” that will help us to be as prepared as much as possible when the time comes that we can gather as a community. One of the greatest challenges though this has been our financial situation. With the church being shutdown, our monthly income has fallen far short of our ability to pay our operating expenses. In order to deal with this, we have continued to try to cut expenses as far as we can while maintaining our ability to function. To this end, we have taken a hard look at potential actions we can take with some potential assets in the church and with this, the budget subcommittee has proposed a 4 month budget in order to get us through the summer. This will need to be approved by operations and finance and then moved to council for final review. After we complete that, it will be presented at a special congregational meeting later in June.

In closing, we are in a tough spot right now, but Zion has faced challenges before, and we as a united community, have in the past and can once again overcome these financial difficulties.

Thank you,

Dave Thorsen,

Operations Committee Chairperson



The essential financial and management work of the church is continuing, even as worship and non-essential gatherings are paused. The Congregation Council, Operations Committee, Preschool Committee, and Budget Committee continue to meet remotely to ensure that the earthly needs of the congregation are addressed.

The scheduled “Tuesday Evening Meetings” for Operations, Faith Formation, Congregational Council, Christian Outreach, Preschool, and Budget Committee are constantly changing, please check with your committee chair for the next meeting.

Special Congregation Meeting

June 21st, 2020 at 11:00 am

gotomeeting.com

(please look for the e-mail blast invite as we get closer to the meeting)



Date is pending Governor Cuomo’s decision reopening – we can not say at this time when it will be held, please check Zion website for updated information.



Ways to stay connected to Zion:

1. E-mail blasts: Check your e-mails for our mid-week updates, children's messages, invitations to bible study, and Sunday morning bulletins, sermons, and an invite to the Sunday prayer time live.
2. Go to www.zion505.org and click on the Pastor John Worship link to access the weekly bulletin and messages.
3. Live Stream interactions – both on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. and Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. we have a way to live stream our bible study (Wed.) and Sunday Prayer Time (Sun.) through gotomeeting.com – look for the e-mail invitation or go to the website and connect through the Sunday bulletin.
4. Call Pastor John or other members directly to check in and see how everyone is doing.

Join us  Weekly

LIVE **Worships**

*Download ["GoToMeeting"](#) application on your smart phone or computer
you may also dial in using any telephone*

(check for email blasts and follow [gotomeeting](#) link and instructions)

Weekly Worship

Every Sunday at 10:30 am

Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10:00 am

Confirmation Class

Wednesdays at 5:30 pm



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



Many people are wondering how they can help in this time of need. Zion Lutheran has connected with the Staten Island Giving Circle to help provide for people in need during the Covid-19 crisis. As you know there are many people struggling financially and this is a way to give support.

On **Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturdays between the hours of 10 a.m. and Noon**, there will be someone available to collect donated items by the gym door. Because we need to maintain safe practices to protect one another we ask that you ring the bell first or call the church (718) 981-3151 to let us know you are here, please wear a mask and keep safe social distancing; we ask that you leave your packages by the gym door. We thank you for your help!

Times to Donate: Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday between 10 a.m. and Noon

Items needed:

Toiletries: *(Shampoo, Paper Products, deodorant soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.)*

Gift cards: *particularly Dunkin Donuts cards for homeless.*

Baby Supplies: *(diapers, wipes, tear-free shampoo, lotions/creams for infants, etc.)*

Food: *Canned goods, pasta, cereal, mac n' cheese, sauce (we are not able to collect meats at this time)*

We are also accepting financial donations to pass along so they can purchase necessary items or buy food cards.

Join with the



Staten Island Not For Profit Association, Inc.
to raise money for a

COVID-19 Response Fund

We are asking that Make your donations directly to:

<http://www.sinfpa.org/donate>

What your donation can buy:

N95 masks	\$45 for 10
Surgical masks	\$50 for 50
Gloves	\$15 for box of 50 pairs
Gowns	\$15 for 10

For those experiencing anxiety, or need some emotional help, during this time:

- NYS Emotional Support Helpline 1-844-863-9314
7 days a week, from 8 a.m. -10 p.m.
- 1-888-NYC-WELL



Project Hospitality Food Pantry

514 Bay St. Staten Island, NY 10304

Food Pantry:
Tuesdays and Thursdays
9am-11am

Grab and Go Soup Kitchen:
Tuesdays and Thursdays
11:30am-1pm





BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

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!

Carli Bergen..... 22-Jun
Lawrence Bianco 1-Jun
Heather Boardman..... 19-Jun
Ashley Bush 26-Jun
Bonnie Bush 19-Jun
Daniel Capic 11-Jun
Courtney Cayton 17-Jun
Jessica Chyorny..... 30-Jun
Matthew Crisson 16-Jun
Darren Curley 20-Jun
Shaylyn Curley 1-Jun
Carl Delin 19-Jun
Audrey Felicano 20-Jun
Peter Grewe 12-Jun
Daniel Jakubowski..... 20-Jun
Cameron Johnson..... 16-Jun
William Konecny 17-Jun
Krista Krueger..... 10-Jun
James Lake 12-Jun
John Lewand 14-Jun
George Miller 25-Jun

Erin Monahan 3-Jun
Patrick Monahan 1-Jun
Marie Mugge..... 16-Jun
Gale Mulligan 9-Jun
John Mulligan..... 26-Jun
Allen Nilsen..... 7-Jun
Olaf Olsen 10-Jun
Janet Olson 20-Jun
Melanie Perricone..... 17-Jun
Nina Perricone 21-Jun
Lisa Plaia 17-Jun
Hunter Rhodes 7-Jun
Valerie Richuisa..... 3-Jun
Christopher Rodriquez..... 3-Jun
Sam Salvatore..... 8-Jun
Les Sundback..... 29-Jun
Anne Tellefsen..... 28-Jun
David Thorsen 20-Jun
Jamilee Villamarin 10-Jun
Henry Walker 1-Jun
Darline Woodhouse 12-Jun

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).

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 to give updated information



Zion Lutheran Preschool Registration 2020 – 2021 School Year

REGISTRATION IS OPEN AND ONGOING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC!!

Zion's traditional Faith-based Early Education Programs for 2, 3 and 4's will be offered this fall as planned. When considering your child's placement at Zion, please consider your first choice for class and time, but be planful and have a back-up choice in mind. It is our sincerest desire to work with each family to best meet the needs of the student and also the parents schedule, but reality dictates that sometimes a second choice is needed. Please check our preschool website and Facebook page which will be continually updated and will maintain the most current information:

- ❖ Website: zionlutheranpreschoolsi.org
- ❖ Facebook: [Zion Lutheran Preschool Staten Island](#)

Registration will remain open until all seats are filled. Should you have any problems registering, simply reach out to the office @ 718-981-3623 to leave a message OR give Ms. Chris, the Director, a call @ 917-579-6657. We want this process to be easy and efficient for all parents.



Richard "Skip" Martinsen

We are sad to report that former Zion member, Richard "Skip" Martinsen, passed away this past April. "Skip" was the son of the late Martin and Ann Martinsen who were long time active members of the church. He grew up in the Zion family and was confirmed at Zion in 1961.

"Skip" was married to the former Gail Terklesen, also a long time Zion member. They relocated to Texas many years ago but always maintained their interest in Zion. He also leaves behind a son, Paul, two grandchildren, his brother Tom and sister, Ann.

If you wish to convey your condolences to the family, Gail's address is 6315 Hickorycrest Drive, Spring, Texas 77389.

