
The Zion Messenger

January 2021

(excerpt from my New Years Eve sermon)

*“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing... All the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. (Therefore) seek His kingdom and these things will be added to you... **Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, like men who are waiting for their master to come home...** Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes.” Luke 12.22, 30-31, 35*

2020, quite a year. Now 2021, and what a start! What shall we make of it all? Jesus in our Gospel reading says to us, *“Do not worry about your life. Do not fear. Be at peace.”* What Jesus is saying here is ‘post worthy’. Write it down and post it somewhere in your life. But be careful, don’t hear too simply nor too naively what Jesus is saying. PACK LIGHTLY, CHANGE IS COMING.

None of us (confidently I will say) currently lives where we were born. Comes the day when you have to move. This being part of life, we learn to keep things in boxes, easier to move that way. So down in your basement, or in your garage or attic, you keep your boxes. If you’re like me, the thought of moving all those boxes is exhausting! Sooner or later however, it will come. Just like the day of our final move... it’s coming too.

Jesus says don’t be anxious about any of these things; don’t cling to them. *Consider the ravens, consider the lilies*, they don’t care, they don’t worry, they don’t toil. They just go out and live as God gives and provides for them. Change is coming, Jesus is saying. That’s why you pack lightly. Both for the here and now and for then and there, for the things and time to come. But how do we know which? Take look at Jesus. *His face is set towards Jerusalem.* He is sending out His disciples into the villages into which He is going to arrive. Change is coming. Recall when He sends them out, what does He say to them? Pack lightly. *Take nothing with you.* For the Father has things in hand.

As for the things of life-food, clothing, possessions, stuff we’ve boxed and under control, If 2020 has taught anything, how much control is enough? The things that cause our hearts to fear, things like moving, sickness, death, financial woes, local and national upheaval - this too is part of life. How will it finally be resolved? **Only as the master returns, and He finds His servants (you and me) dressed and ready to go.** Therefore, we know: CHANGE IS COMING. PACK LIGHTLY. Christians, do not hold onto what is here. It doesn’t belong to us in the first place. Jesus said, *“Use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, they will welcome you into eternal dwellings.”*

“Do not worry about your life. Do not fear. Be at peace.” It’s the same thing children learn to sing in a song. “My God is so great, so strong and so mighty, there’s nothing my God cannot do.” As we continue into 2021, the next time you find yourself stressing, maybe even asking, “Lord what should I do?” Keep in mind the words from another old-time song: “He’s got the whole world in His hands.” Jesus sees to the end. Jesus gives for us to know that He will come again. Until then the bottom line is that **GOD IS IN CONTROL**. And that, *He is for us, not against us!* Romans 8

Zoom Bible Study

The Sunday morning Adult Bible Study is now meeting fully on ZOOM with ID #392-337-129 beginning at 9:30 a.m. We dig deeper into the readings from the weekend worship services. As the new church year begins, we also have a new Bible study guide, available on the church website. All are welcome.

Sunday School Update

Join us for Sunday School this week and following! The Early Childhood and Elementary classes are starting a new unit of study this week beginning with the Israelites on their journey to the promised land. You can join virtually with lessons posted on our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2929378880495711> or via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday for the adult class (Zoom ID #392-337-129). We also hope to restart in-person classes for all ages (3 year old to adult) in person on Sunday, January 17. If you would like materials for your child(ren) to use at home please contact Rachel Mosser (rachel.mosser@zion-school.org). God’s blessings as you study His Word this season!

2021 Offering Envelopes

The 2021 offering envelopes are ready to be picked up. If you have not been assigned envelopes, but would like them, please contact, Kim in the church office, or myself. If you would like information on giving electronically go to Zion’s website (www.zion-luth.org) and click on DONATE ONLINE. If you need assistance, contact Kim or myself. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Ron Williams, Financial Secretary, 637-2367

Annual Report

Board Chairs, please submit your board’s annual report to the church office (zionlutheranstaunton@gmail.com) by February 22, 2021.

December 7, 2020

The Zion Men's Club met on Thursday December 3rd to discuss the advice, opinions, and suggestions that were brought to mine and our attention regarding the 2021 Sausage Supper.

First of all, thank you for all the feedback! I was very happy and overwhelmed at all the feedback provided. It means a lot to me and the Men's Club that everyone took the time to provide some wonderful advice and suggestions that were asked for. Also, thank you to those that are willing to volunteer! Again, I am overwhelmed with all the support and generosity of everyone who responded to say that they would help out in any way possible.

Secondly, as we discussed the input, volunteers, as well as other factors, the Men's Club has decided to go ahead with the Sausage Supper, but in a different format this year, and hopefully, this year only. We will only have carry-outs provided this year, and the carry-outs will only contain fried sausage at \$1.00/link. The Sausage Supper will be only for one day (the 2nd Sunday of February, which in 2021, is Sunday, February 14th). It was discussed having the Sausage Supper for 2 days, but again, after consideration of the input that was given, the Men's Club, and due to the fact we are only selling fried links, not the entire supper, determined that one day would be more beneficial, in terms of sales and volunteers.

We will also have sausage sales prior to and the day of the Sausage Supper. We will be selling the 2 lb. bags and 5lb. bags, the 2 lb. bulk sausage, summer sausage, blood sausage, liver sausage, as well as the fried links for \$1.00/link. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, we will not be selling Pork Chops or Ribs this year. Although we will not be having the traditional Sausage Supper this year, we will be asking for volunteers to help in a different capacity this year. They may be asked to be runners (i.e., carrying carry outs to vehicles) or may be asked to help with parking in a staging area, so that traffic can be directed with ease, or with other various things. Again, we are hoping that this will be a one-time instance, and that in 2022, we will be able to hopefully go back to our normal and traditional Sausage Supper.

Again, thank you to everyone for their advice, opinions, suggestions, and their willingness to volunteer in any capacity!

Tim Seelbach
Zion Sausage Supper Chairman

What is happening at the school! 1/10/2021

What a joy and a blessing to have students back in the building! It was so wonderful to greet the students as they bounded out their cars. Over break, a group of volunteers installed the new projectors. These projectors were paid for by the CARES Act money received through the public school and monies from the Rink Calcari Memorial received through the Staunton Education Foundation. We are grateful and thankful for the blessings provided to Zion. Also a special thank you to the volunteers who spent quite some time installing the projectors, new wiring, and white boards. Our students were also able to receive the benefit of the new document cameras provided by the Staunton Education Foundation. They were on backorder for the first part of the year due to the pandemic, but arrived in time for remote learning. Boy! Did they ever make a difference in recording lessons for our students!!!

A Little about Remote Shared From Mrs. Kleckner

This week when I found myself in need of a substitute preschool aid, I called upon my son Seth to see if he might want to help out his mother at preschool. Seth who is still on break from Lewis and Clark eagerly agreed to help out. As I was telling someone about Seth helping me, I flashed back to the days that he was in my room as a 3-year-old. Mrs. Schu would hold a sweaty and super active child on her lap just so I could get through a story with the class. It made me smile and tear up as I realized how proud Mrs. Schu would have been to see that overly active little boy serving in a school she loved so much. I know that my son truly loved and appreciated his time at Zion as a student. Today, I was blessed to see his service in action as he came full circle from student at Zion to Teacher's Aid.

If you would like to see previous week's messages from Mrs. Crouch, go to shorturl.at/IJV18

January

2021

Zion Lutheran Church

Staunton, Illinois

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						5pm Worship w/C
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8am Worship w/C 10:30am Worship w/C			8:30am virtual Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 5:30pm Evangelism 6:30pm Confess/Sacrament	9am Bible Study 6pm Stewardship 7pm Alumni & Friends 7:30pm Men's Club		5pm Worship w/C Pastor Kirby
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8am Worship w/C 10:30am Worship w/C Pastor Kirby		7pm Admin. Council	8:30am virtual Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 6:30pm Confess/Sacrament	9am Bible Study		5pm Worship w/C Pastor Mitteis
17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 18	19	20	21	22	23
8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C 5pm Christian Basics/ Adult Info Pastor Mitteis		7pm Elders	8:30am virtual Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 6:30pm Confess/Sacrament	9am Bible Study 12:30pm Catechism		5pm Worship w/C
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C		7pm Parish Education	8:30am virtual Chapel 9am Lydia Circle 6:30pm Confess/Sacrament	9am Bible Study 12:30 Catechism 7pm Alumni & Friends		5pm Worship w/C
31						
8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C						