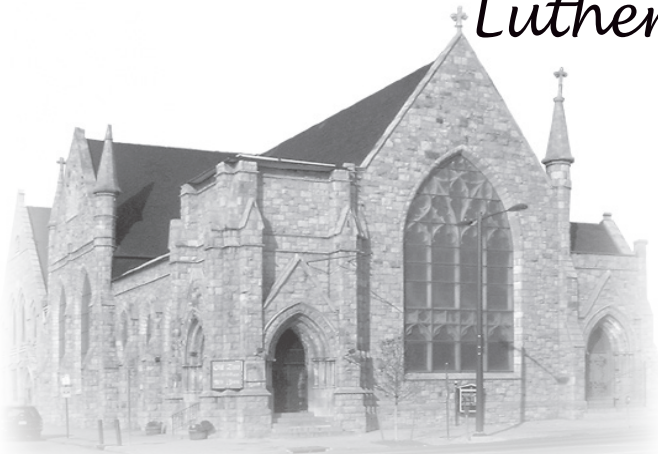


News from Old Zion/Alt Zion Lutheran Church



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Rev. Daniel P. Metzger, Pastor
Betty Meyer, Editor

June 2020

“The Lord is good,
A stronghold in the day of trouble;
And He knows those who trust in Him.”

Nahum 1:7

“*Der HERR ist gütig und eine Feste zur Zeit
der Not und kennt die, die auf ihn trauen..*”

A word from Pastor:

From Luther’s Large Catechism, The Fourth Petition of the “Lord’s Prayer”

Luther has listed at some length all the things which are included in the term “daily bread” – everything that we need for this earthly life. Most pertinent to our present situation, Luther reminds us that we are praying also that our heavenly Father would “preserve us from all sorts of calamity to body and livelihood, as lightning, hail, fire, flood, poison, pestilence...” Luther then reminds us of the important spiritual discipline which prayer for our “daily bread” really is:

Behold, thus God wishes to indicate to us how He cares for us in all our need, and faithfully provides also for our temporal support. And although He abundantly grants and preserves these things even to the wicked and knaves, yet He wishes that we pray for them, in order that we may recognize that we receive them from His hand, and may feel His paternal goodness toward us therein.

* * * * *

We hope to worship in our church this month!

The coronavirus has necessitated the closing of our church building for the last several months, and we are all praying that our Lord would speed the day when we can again worship in our beautiful sanctuary and open our doors to visitors. On May 24th the Council of Old Zion Lutheran Church held a “virtual” meeting. They decided that, should it be legally possible, our congregation will resume its regular gatherings for Sunday worship on June 28th, the fourth Sunday of this month. We will want to be wise—making use of social distancing and other measures to keep ourselves and each other safe. Nevertheless, we all earnestly look forward to that time when we can once again worship together! Grant this to us, heavenly Father!

* * * * *

Summer Schedule—check the website!

The arrival of summer reminds us all to be aware of changes to our schedule—for worship and for congregational activities. We pray that, after June 21, we will be able to pick up our regular summer schedule of worship for July and August. Please check the website for updates!

keep up with changes on our web site especially the new Old Zion History blog, and check out our posts on Facebook!

<http://oldzionlutheran.org>



A Word from the Pastor (Continued)

Trinity Season at Old Zion is “Pick your favorite hymn” time!

The first Sunday in June is the Festival of the Holy Trinity. Beginning with the 1st Sunday after Trinity—June 14—and lasting throughout the entire Trinity season, members of Old Zion Lutheran Church are invited to pick their favorite hymns to be sung in the Sunday services. On the “literature table” in the Fellowship Hall there is a box with some short forms on which you can indicate—by title and number in the hymnal—your favorite hymns. The pastor will try to include these hymns in our services.



Thanks!

Once again, I have been profoundly moved by and filled with gratitude for the way that Old Zion members have contributed their talents to the Lord’s service—this time in order to facilitate our worship during the weeks of the lockdown. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the following people for making our “virtual services” possible.

J.P. Meyer, who has provided the equipment and the know-how for us to be able to post our services on our website. He has also volunteered hours and hours of his time at home to edit the services.

Thanks, J.P.!

Jaye Green, our gifted soloist who has led us in the singing of hymns, both in English and in German.

Thanks, Jaye!!!

Pam Fernsler, who has adorned our services—English, German, and combined— with her flute.

Thanks, Pam!

When you again see these faithful members who have done so much for us, be sure to express your appreciation!



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To be determined—a memorial for Ron Schaffer



As you are all aware, Ron Schaffer passed away this last month after several weeks in Einstein Hospital. Ron was given a Christian wake and a Christian funeral at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church—neither of which was open to the public because of the coronavirus. His body was interred in the cemetery of St. Michael’s Catholic Church, 1445 N. 2nd St. We intend to have a memorial service for Ron at Old Zion. The date and time of that service must yet be determined.

June Birthday

6/11 - Elliot Kurtz

6/12 - Claudia Reiser



Please remember

our sick and shut-ins in your prayers!!

A card or a call is always appreciated!



In the middle of March, just as the Lenten Season was coming to a close, the Covid-19 pandemic caused the Governor of Pennsylvania to issue stay-at-home orders state wide. At first, Old Zion live-streamed services that were on-going for a small number of congregants who could come in, but it quickly became apparent that continued in-person services and gatherings were not safe and being discouraged.

Naturally, our Lutheran Spirit would not be diminished, and the Council of Old Zion, working with Pastor Metzger, decided that recordings of an abbreviated form of service could, and should, continue. At first, these services included just the readings, sermon, and benediction. Now, after securing copy- and streaming rights waivers we have been able to expand the services to include several hymns. So how exactly does the team of Metzger, Meyer, and Green create these services? Here is your inside look at the process:

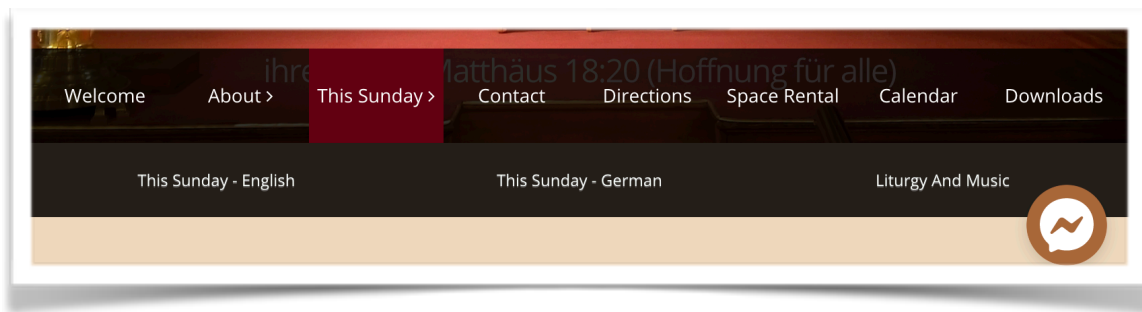
Every other week, Pastor Metzger prepares 2 weeks worth of services, including the selection of hymns and the preparation of sermons. Every other Saturday, the team assembles at the Sanctuary to record the services for the next two weeks: at first we recorded only 1 service, but now have returned to our “normal service schedule”; providing German, English, and Combined services on their usual days.



The services are recorded on an iPad, set up in the center isle, just a few feet back from the Altar Rail. Pastor Metzger performs the services standing at the wooden Pulpit (that was previously built for Pastor Schmutzler’s use during the German Services), which is placed at the center of the altar rail opening. Jaye Green sits in the pews, a few feet away, to serve as a vocal leader during the singing of the hymns, and JP takes his place at the organ. Each service is filmed, including the hymns, with short breaks in between. Joan Wachlin is also to be thanked for continuing to keep the church clean between recording sessions, and providing flowers for the altar, while Jaye ensures that the candles and paraments are attended and correct for the season.

After the recordings have been completed, JP takes the recordings home where they are edited into their final format (removing longer organizational breaks, adjusting the sound levels, adding various images and congregational responses to overlay for those watching at home). Just this past Sunday, we were also able to include a flute solo from Pam, which she recorded from home and sent to JP. The services are then uploaded to Facebook, where they premier “live” on Sunday morning at their usual service times.

The website was also redesigned, and is updated weekly, to include all of the daily propers, prayers, hymns, and liturgy, and Pastor Metzger has also made the sermons available for those who wish to read them. By going to www.oldzionlutheran.org/This-Sunday, a visitor or congregant can view both the English and German version of the service for that week, as well as see (and hear) the full liturgy and response music for their own devotional needs. After the services air on Facebook, they are also uploaded to YouTube and embedded on the website for easy reference for those who may have missed the normal service time on Facebook.



Members also now have access to an electronic means of donating through the website and app tithe.ly (though they can also mail their donations to the church!) - the donation platform is available as an app on cell phones and tablets, but can also be launched directly through the website.

While certainly not the ideal format for our services, and though we miss the company of our congregation, we are very glad to be able to provide an online service schedule, and are very proud that throughout the pandemic we have not missed a single Sunday due to the shutdown. We give praise to God for the efforts of our team, as well as the ability to be able to share his Word during this time of trial. Soon enough, we will all be able to return to fellowship at Old Zion; but until we can, please grab a cup of coffee - in the Lutheran tradition, of course - and enjoy being in the spirit of fellowship with all of us!

To view the service: find us on Facebook by searching for “Old Zion Lutheran Church Philadelphia” and choosing our “live” section - here you can see upcoming services and even choose to get a nice reminder notification. If you can’t watch live, the services remain on our facebook page, and can also be viewed by visiting our website at www.oldzionlutheran.org/This-Sunday.

