

ZION'S JOURNEY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Seek the Welfare

Rev. Renee Splichal Larson

Associate to the Bishop

Candidacy, Congregation, and Rostered Minister Accompaniment



"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." (Jeremiah 29.7)

These words from Scripture were lifted up by the Rev. Dr. Rolf Jacobson at the Spring Theological Event in April. The theme for the 3-day, on-line event was: Prophetic Words of Hope. God's people are always in need of hearing prophetic words of hope, which often come to us through poetry and song. Think of the Psalms and the Word of God spoken through the prophets!

People are wondering what ministry and worship look and feel like post-pandemic. For many, the last year has felt like the wilderness or even exile. I just saw a Facebook post of a friend who wrote: "Last night I hugged my first human in over thirteen months."

The words of Jeremiah come to the people of God who are in exile. They long for what was, and do not know what the future holds. It is in this state of grief and uncertainty that God asks the people to not fight their way home, or huddle together in fear, but rather to seek the welfare of the city. Keep in mind, this is the city of the ones who conquered Jerusalem. Not only are God's people to seek the welfare of the new city in which they didn't ask to be in, but they are to also "pray to the Lord on its behalf." What?!

The prophet then adds: "for in its welfare you will find your welfare."

This hopeful way of being made me wonder about all of our churches and cities throughout the SD Synod. What if in all circumstances we find ourselves, we seek the welfare of where we live? This requires us to think about abundance rather than scarcity, to go out into our communities rather than who we can get into our pews, and to trust that God is bringing new life and healing to all circumstances.

Pr. Jacobson planted seeds for thought at the Spring Theological Event. He said:

"Invite people to write poetry on hopes and hurts in the community so people can join them in ministry and blessing."

"How would you bestow hope as a congregation to your community and the world through your generosity and a proclamation of hope?"

And here are some additional questions to ponder in all of our communities of faith as we live into this Easter season: What is the nature of where God has planted your congregation? How is God blessing your community? What are the hopes and hurts of the people in and around your community? How does your mission and ministry connect with these hopes and hurts? What possibilities are out there that haven't yet been tried?

"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." (Jeremiah 29.7)

Come-and-Go Communion:

**Tuesday, May 11
Noon-1:00 p.m.**

Come to the sanctuary anytime noon-1:00 PM and you will be able to partake of the Lord's Supper individually or with your family group in a brief service (about 5 minutes).



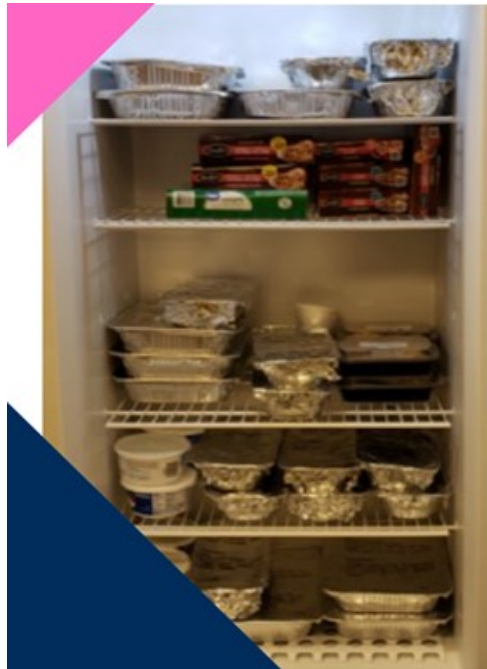
**Special Offering for the
Month of May
is
Salvation Army!**

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination. The Salvation Army exists to meet human need wherever, whenever, and however we can.

Please see the bulletin board



**DOING THE
MOST GOOD!**



**OUR
FREEZER IS
STOCKED**

KNOW SOMEONE IN NEED?

Do you have family or a friend who recently became ill, experienced a death in the family, or had a baby?

Stop in to the church office to take them one of our freezer meals

Thank you for your continued giving!

Zion remains active in ministry and mission, and the church's ministry will depend on your support. Checks can be mailed to the church office: Zion Lutheran Church, 1732 S Main St, Aberdeen SD 57401.

Or give online today (multiple ways) by going to zionlutheranaberdeen.org/giving.

Or just scan this QR code with your smartphone and it will take you to our giving page.



ZION HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Bethesda Home

Martha Zimmerman
Ben Schroeder
Carol Knispel
Jane Fischer
Janice Peterson

Bethesda Town Sq.

Meta Vetter
Shirley Wagemann
Viola Tetherow
Gladys Voegelé

Minnesota

LeRoy Buechler

California

Erna Schmierer

Groton Health Care

Leon Tobin
Marge Rhodes
Joe & Ruth Bosmoe

Colorado

Ella Aipperspach

Primrose Cottages

Charleen Hargens
Frances Wolff

Arizona

Hazel Martell

Idaho

Marvin Bucholz



"GRATEFUL FOR YOU"

☺ Thanks to all who donated supplies and snacks to Noah's Park Preschool.

☺ Thanks to the women for making meals after our Wednesday services.

☺ Thanks to all who helped with Sunday School throughout the year.

☺ Thanks to all who serve on Zion's Altar Guild. We had a lot of services in April and your time was greatly appreciated.

SUNDAY RADIO BROADCASTS

Will you consider sponsoring a Sunday Radio broadcast?

Radio sponsorships are \$110.00 and we have several openings coming up. (You may also sign up for half a broadcast and share with someone for \$55.00).

Please call Donna in the office @ 225-6755 to sign up and let her know what you would like it to be in honor or memory of. Thanks for your continued support of this important ministry.

Noah's Park Preschool

Hello from Noah's Park!!

We have been having such fun trying out our green thumbs in preschool!

We still have our grass seeds to water and we also planted some green bean seeds in a jar with cotton balls! Yes! Cotton balls!! It is really one of the best growing experiences we have had and I highly recommend you try it if you have little ones who would love to see how seeds grow...or if you are just curious yourself! An added bonus is that the seeds sprout fast – like in a couple days! Get a clear glass jar and place a good handful of cotton balls in the bottom. The cotton balls should cover the bottom of the jar. Add enough water to moisten the cotton balls – we used a spray bottle for this and it worked great. We could easily control the amount of water. Then, toss in a few green bean seeds (about 10) and place in a sunny window. Several of our seeds started to sprout in two days and all of the seeds sprouted within about four days! The glass jar allows you to see the roots and it doesn't take long for the stems to grow right out of the top of the jar!! When this happens they probably need to go into a bigger pot outdoors. We hope you have fun with this. It's really quite fascinating to watch.

Happy Spring! ~Jami



Worship Schedule

SUNDAY MORNINGS

8:30 AM TRADITIONAL
WORSHIP IN THE
SANCTUARY; RADIO
BROADCAST ON
KSDN 930 AM AND
102.1 FM

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

6:15 PM PRAISE BAND-LED
CONTEMPORARY
WORSHIP; KIDS TIME
DURING THE WORSHIP
SERVICE, ALONG WITH
A SUPERVISED
PRAYGROUND AREA
DURING THE SERMON

ALL SERVICES WILL BE LIVESTREAMED ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

TO GO MEALS

Available following
Wednesday evening services

MADE BY THE ZION WOMEN

Currently, we have worship opportunities available on Sundays and Wednesdays. Traditional worship will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am and can be heard on the radio on KSDN 930 AM and 102.1 FM. Praise Band-led contemporary worship will be on Wednesday evenings at 6:15 pm. This service will feature a kids' time during the service, along with a supervised playground area during the sermon. There will also be meals available following the service to take with you.

All services will be livestreamed on our Facebook page and website. Recordings of the broadcasts will also be available after to be viewed at any time on our Facebook page or our YouTube channel.

2021 Confirmation Sunday



June 6th, 2021
10:45 am

TAKING FAITH HOME

The *Taking Faith Home* sheets will now be available each week inside the front entryway of the church. You can pick up a copy if you attend Sunday worship or anytime during the week. We'll also include these with Sunday School packets that families will be receiving.

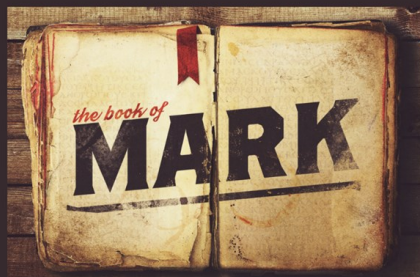


STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

Web: zionlutheranaberdeen.org
YouTube: bit.ly/ZLCYouTube
Facebook: facebook.com/ZionAberdeen
Instagram: [@zlcaberdeensd](https://www.instagram.com/zlcaberdeensd)

BOOK OF MARK FAITH MILESTONE

Sunday, May 2nd
Recognized during worship at 8:30 am
Milestone event at 9:45 am for 4th
grade students and an adult
Classrooms A&B



PASTOR'S CONTACT #'s

Pastor Erin - 605-252-0320
Pastor Tim - 605-290-6297

FAITH & FAMILY

Sunday School Update

In person: Our final day of Sunday School will be on **Sunday, May 2nd at 9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall.** Masks will be required for all over the age of two, and physical distancing will be practiced between family groups.

Vacation Bible School: VBS will be held on **Tuesday, June 1st**. A meal of hotdogs, chips, drink, and dessert will be served outdoors starting at 5:45 pm. Activities for the evening will start at 6:15 pm and will be centered around the theme "Celebrating God's Creations".



Full details can be found in the letter that will be mailed the first week of May.

Sunday Van Rides Now Available!

Our van ride service is now available on Sunday mornings for the 8:30 am traditional worship service. If you would like a ride to worship, or are willing to volunteer to drive the van, please call the church office @225-6755 and talk to Donna.



Rides Available

Council Highlights

April 2021

Organ committee representatives were present to discuss the bid for organ repairs. Council approved two congregational forums to present plans for organ repairs and financing plans. These forums will be held on May 23rd and May 26th, with a special congregational vote on June 6th between services.

There will be two services on June 6th for Confirmation Sunday (8:30 am & 10:45 am). There will be 8 students confirmed this year.

Covid responses were updated: the nursery is now open, van rides will resume (with masks); outdoor fellowship time is being looked at for the summer.

Pastor Tim submitted a letter that he will be moving when his house sells. His position is responsible for Pastoral Visits, 50% of the funerals and outreach to the homebound.

Volunteers Needed! - Volunteers are currently needed for both Sunday and Wednesday services. If you can help with any of the areas listed below, please call the church office. Training is provided for all positions and will be a once-a-month commitment:

Sunday and Wednesday

Deacon - distributes communion
Sound board operator
PowerPoint operator
Usher
Van Driver



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would be willing to help with ushering, sound, or PowerPoint for either Wednesday or Sunday services, please call the church office at 225-6755



Zion Lutheran Church
 1732 South Main Street
 Aberdeen, SD 57401
 (605) 225-6755 zion@nvc.net
zionlutheranaberndeen.org

Staff

Rev. Erin Heidelberger.....Pastor
 Rev. Tim Sersen.....Visitation Pastor
 Saundra Anderson.....Pastoral Assistant
 Donna Steckler.....Office Manager
 Sonya Kempf.....Director of Music
 Sue Gates.....Assistant Director of Music
 Jami Ringgenberg.....Preschool Director/Teacher
 Art Ketterling.....Maintenance

ZION'S KEY MISSION

Rooted in faith + Growing in Spirit + Reaching out to those in need

ZION'S MOTIVATING MISSION

+ Centered in prayer, nourished through the Sacraments, empowered by God's Holy Spirit, Zion is spreading the Good News through new and innovative ministries.

+ Rooted in a strong heritage, Zion focuses on developing ministries of caring to help those in need.

+ Zion opens her doors to singles, families, special needs, young and old, church and unchurched, welcoming all into the family of God.

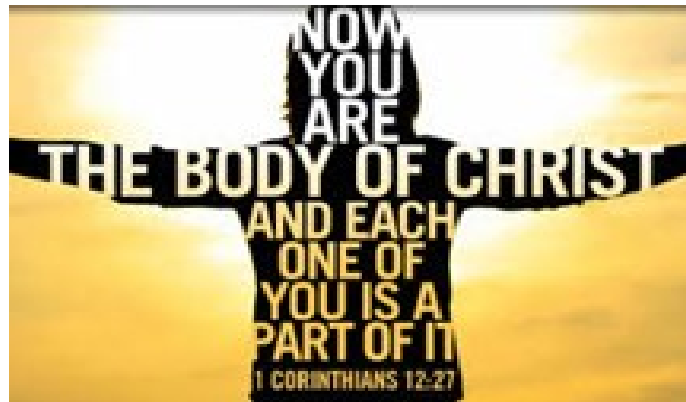
CHURCH COUNCIL

Officers / Executive Committee:

Jena GermanPresident
 Sharon Paranto.....Vice President
 Ed Suchomel.....Treasurer
 Nancy Schmidt.....Secretary

Council Representatives:

Kelly VanderWeyst.....Education
 Kathy Johnson.....Fellowship
 Rod Wiedrich.....Finance
 Shane Schauer.....Properties
 Nicole Schutter.....Social Concerns
 Mary Kost.....Stewardship
 Virginia Tobin.....Visitation
 Norma Nielsen.....Welcome & Outreach
 Kathy Heffernan.....Worship & Music
 Vacant.....Youth



STEWARDSHIP
Managing God's Gifts To Us

THROUGH MARCH 31, 2021

Monthly budgeted expenses: \$31,010

Actual March income: \$35,600

Actual March expenses: \$32,585

YTD budgeted expenses: \$93,030

Actual YTD income: \$91,386

Actual YTD expenses: \$99,017



**Musicians
needed!**

Do you have a love of contemporary worship music and musical gifts to share?

We are currently in need of Praise Band musicians for Sundays and Wednesdays.

If you are interested in either playing or singing in

our praise band, please contact Saundra at the church office (225-6755) or email her at: Saundra.Anderson@nvc.net



SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

SYNOD ASSEMBLY this year will be held virtually June 4-5, 2021. **Registration closes May 10.**

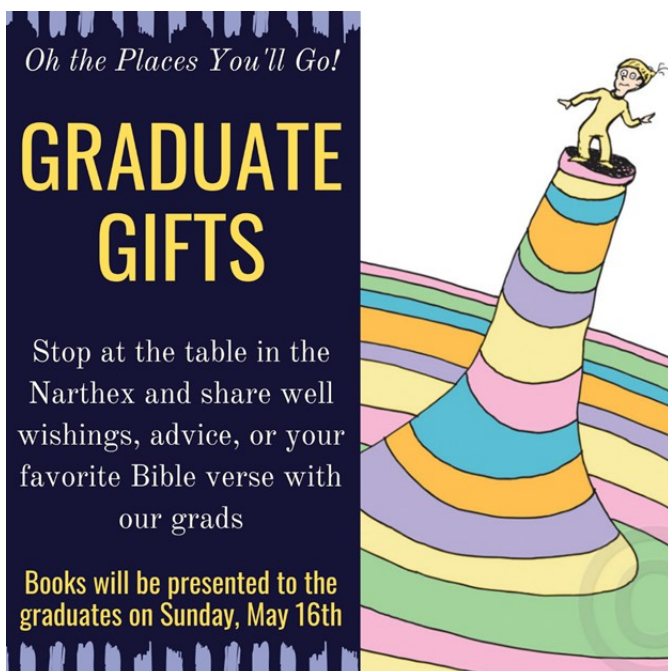
If you are interested in serving as a voting member for Zion, please contact Pastor Erin at 225-6755 or pastorerin@nvc.net.

FAITH & FAMILY



Bring Us Your Rebates!

If you have any Menards rebates you don't plan on using, please bring them to the church! They will be used to help cover some expenses of refreshing the youth room (paint, flooring, etc.). If you have any unmailed rebates on the bottom of your receipts, please leave them in the box on the table in the Fellowship Hall (next to the preschool receipts box). We will mail them in periodically together. No amount is too small! Your \$.70 with someone else's will add up quickly! :)





Altar Guild invites you to bring red geraniums to beautify the sanctuary for Pentecost on Sunday, May 23rd. You may also give money and it will be used to purchase plants.

The geraniums will be planted outside in the front of the church after Pentecost Sunday. If you wish to honor someone with your donation, please leave a note with your plant or money. Please have plants or monetary gift in the church office by noon on Friday, May 21st.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS



Are you interested in becoming a member of our faith family? Or do you know someone who is? Or are you wondering what it means to be a member of Zion? Let Pastor Erin know of your interest! We'll be deciding soon how to hold our New Member Welcome sessions in the months to come (possibly over Zoom), so we'd love to know if you're thinking about becoming a member. You can reach Pastor Erin at the church at 225-6755 or by email at pastorerin@nvc.net



We had a beautiful sanctuary for our three Easter services! Thank you to all who helped during those services or donated flowers to enhance our worship space.

THANK YOU'S

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your donation of \$600.00 to Safe Harbor. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thanks for your continued support of our agency.

The Safe Harbor Staff

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Words don't seem adequate. Thank you so much for your donation to DTOM 22/0 Foundation. It means so much to us that you trust us enough to support our work with your gift. Thanks to you, we will be able to continue helping over 100 veterans and their families at no charge to them. Please feel free to contact us or stop our at the ranch. Thanks again for supporting our mission!

Sincerely,
Chris Rider - Founder/CEO

CREATE and CHAT

**Sunday, May 23rd
3:30 pm**

Join us as we get together to paint coffee mugs and enjoy a time of fellowship. Cost for a mug is \$15.



Join us for a time of fellowship as we gather together to paint coffee mugs! Colorful Creations is supplying the materials and five different designs for you to choose from. Cost is \$15/mug. To order and select your design, please pick up an order form from the table in the Narthex and return to the church office or Pastoral Assistant Sandra by Wednesday, May 19th. A minimum of 15 mugs will have to be ordered as a group for the event to take place.

We have five pizza kits (one of each kind) from the preschool fundraiser that are available for purchase. Each kit costs \$20. All proceeds from the sales of these pizza will benefit the Zion Youth program. If you would like purchase one, please call the church office at 225-6755.

PIZZAS AVAILABLE

We have five take home kits available:

- Cheese pizza
- Pepperoni pizza
- Mini pizzas
- Apple dessert pizza
- Cheesy bread



UNCOMPLICATED GENEROSITY

Kathy McHenry

Executive Director, Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota

We sometimes discuss unfamiliar terms and tools at Lutheran Planned Generosity that might seem intimidating—charitable remainder unitrusts, gift annuities, donor advised funds. However, each of them is a great strategy to accomplish tax savings, increase income, and/or make generous gifts that might very well be something for you to consider.

There are ways to honor your faith and make a planned gift that are less complicated, too. Whether it's a retirement/investment account, you have the ability to name beneficiaries to receive those funds at your death. Simply request a beneficiary change form from your Investment or life insurance company. Complete it with the percentages of the funds that you'd like to go to family and specific ministries, sign and return.

Perhaps you'd like to divide your gift amongst several different ministries, but your insurance company doesn't allow multiple beneficiaries. Lutheran Planned Generosity can work with you to create a distribution agreement that permits up to ten (10) charitable organizations to benefit from your generosity or establish an endowment in honor of your family, all while meeting the company requirements.



If you'd like to know more about beneficiary designations, contact Kathy McHenry at (605) 274-5030 or kmchenry@sdsynod.org. You can also find information on our website, www.lpgsd.org, or our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/LPGSD>.

¹ It is important to coordinate your beneficiary designations with estate planning documents to accomplish your wishes. Always consult your legal and tax professionals for advice specific to your financial

FAITH & FAMILY

CONFIRMATION CORNER

Organ Update

Our organ is tired. After years of wonderful music, our organ is ready for an update and upgrade.

During the April church council meeting, it was approved to have a special congregational meeting on **JUNE 6TH, 2021** with a vote to move forward with a capital campaign for an organ revitalization. Our committee is very aware of some of the financial concerns that our congregation has and wants to make sure your concerns are heard prior to this meeting. With that goal in mind, we will be hosting two forums on **MAY 23RD and MAY 26TH, following the conclusion of worship in the Fellowship Hall.**



At this time, we are not asking for pledges; however, there is an organ fund started if you would like to donate before we start other fundraisers and pledges.

Our committee is very excited about this opportunity and wants to do anything we can to alleviate your concerns. Please reach out to Zach Anderson, Sonya Kempf, Sue Gates, Nicole Kempf or Millie Suchomel with any concerns you have. A concern you have is likely a concern someone else has but hasn't had a chance to voice it. Keep an eye on the church's website as we are working to put together a little video to explain what is currently held together with tape and work-arounds, as well as the things our organ will be upgraded to.

POST-PANDEMIC PLANNING

Rev. Jonathan Steiner

Director for Evangelical Mission / Associate to the Bishop for Stewardship and Outreach



So many things were put on pause because of COVID-19. Life milestones like weddings were postponed. Families have not gathered together for a year. And church life sometimes was adapted, and sometimes put on hold.

As we receive the blessings of vaccination, many of our churches are wondering, "what now?" I have heard again and again a desire to "go back to normal." Yet that isn't our call. Our call is to enter into the new life, to see the new thing that God is working in and through us.

Keep an eye out for resources from the synod for your congregation as you have these discussions. We will provide some conversation suggestions for working on community grief, discernment, and other places we need to pay attention to our ministry. We are planning a retreat for lay leaders and rostered leaders to ask tough questions and reflect on where they are, and

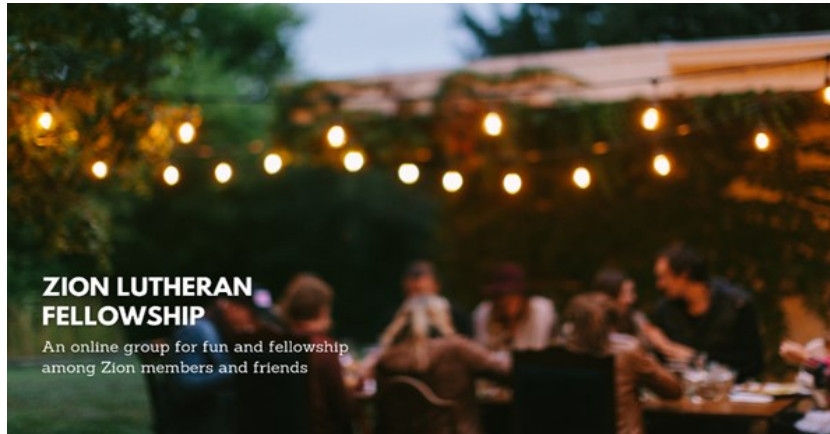
where God hopes them to be. We are putting together relationships so that you don't do this work alone.

If this work of finding a new way of being the church is exciting for you, please be in touch with me, and keep your eyes and ears (and email inboxes!) open for the next steps to take. Know that the Holy Spirit is at work, and God is up to incredible things through your church.

JOIN THE ZION LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP FACEBOOK GROUP

We have a new way of connecting with one another! All are invited to join our new Facebook group that's designed to let us interact with one another throughout the week online. This private Facebook group will be for members and friends of our congregation.

Our Zion Facebook page is a great "bulletin board" but this new group will be more of a virtual "living room". Join us to get to know one another better, engage with each other in some fun ways, and share prayer requests. Go to this link to join: **bit.ly/ZionFBFellowship**.



Siblings in Christ,

Grace and Peace in the name of the RISEN CHRIST! - As I am writing my May greetings to you I am looking outside the window, watching the rain fall. And, I give thanks for God's nourishing waters unto the parched land. Thanks be to God! Every year this time I pray for those who are called to steward the land and livestock that will bring nourishment to our tables. How long has it been that you gathered with those you love around a table for an in person meal? Many of us long to be together in person, especially in worship and fellowship. The CDC released new guidelines, which allow for small group gatherings, but caution us yet to gather in large groups especially without any safety measures or protection. I have released new recommendations concerning in person gatherings.



While you have heard me say it many times, I will say it again, I cannot tell you what to do; BUT I appeal to you to continue to use caution when gathering for worship and fellowship for the sake of protecting your neighbor. We are currently seeing an increase, not as steep as before, but nevertheless an increase in new infections, and this time around it affects young adults and children worse than before. Please, be good stewards of each other and wear masks, continue to physically distance, refrain from singing and gathering in large groups over coffee in your fellowship areas and continue to practice good hand-washing.

I fully recognize and acknowledge that living with COVID 19 remains a challenge as it robs us of what we hold dear, gathering in person, but if we are all disciplined, we will soon be able to gather in person. Until that day comes, be good stewards of each other by loving God and loving neighbor above self.

Journeying in Christ with you,
Rev. Constanze Hagmaier