

“Follow me,
and I will
make you fish
for people.”

Matthew 4:19, NRSV



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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EPIPHANY 3

January 24, 2021

As we, once again, are not able to meet for “in person” worship, we are back to doing a different form of the bulletin to keep you in touch. Here is your bulletin for today.

Prayer of the Day:

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

A Reading from the Book of Jonah

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah’s dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question “On whom should God have mercy?”

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm

For God alone my soul in silence waits; truly, my hope is in him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken. In God is my safety and my honour; God is my strong rock and my refuge. Put your trust in him always, O people, pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge. Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath, even those of low estate cannot be trusted. On the scales they are lighter than a breath, all of them together. Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it. God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God. Steadfast love is yours, O Lord, for you repay everyone according to his deeds.

Psalm 62:6-14

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Mark 1:14-20

Sermon: <https://1drv.ms/v/s!Alrwdlq5YZa1hnG6Jcyym5C6y4o>

Click on the link above to view Pastor Jeff's sermon (or you can find it on the website under the separate heading "Sermons")

Anthem: The Wartburg Choir in Germany: Celebrating 500 Years of Reformation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sdol8SV3ceU>

(Click on the link below for the musical version)

'A pocketful of calm', by Sally Whitwell

Performed by Sandra Mogensen

<https://youtu.be/ZewwFQuyZms>

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

For the church throughout the world, for pastors and teachers, for deacons and deaconesses, and for musicians and servers, that all proclaim the good news of God's reconciling love.

For skies and seas, for birds and fish, for favorable weather and clean water, and for the well-being of creation, that God raise up advocates and scientists to guide our care for all the earth.

For those who provide leadership in our cities and around the world, for nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations, for planning commissions and homeless advocates, that God inspire all people in the just use of wealth.

For those who are sick, distressed, or grieving; for the outcast and all who await relief (*especially Muriel, Klaus, Jack, Peter, John, Anne, Mervyn, Ken, Mary, Glenn, Beryl, Katana, Neil, Maria, Ralph, Rose Marie, Nya, Karen, Ron, Brian, and Kolby*), that in the midst of suffering, God's peace and mercy surround them.

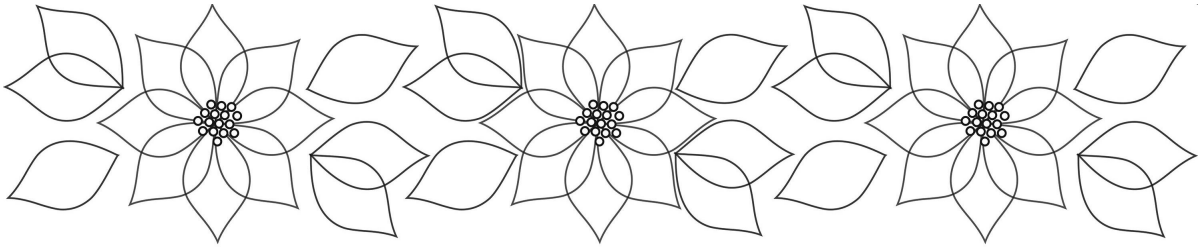
For our congregation and community, for families big and small, and for the organizations that meet here during the week, that God's steadfast love serve as a model for all relationships.

In thanksgiving for our ancestors in the faith whose lives serve as an example of gospel living, that they point us to salvation through Christ.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

ALL EVENTS
REMAIN
CANCELLED
UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE

A black and white line drawing of a poinsettia plant, featuring several large, five-petaled flowers and dark, pointed leaves. The drawing is positioned to the right of the text, partially overlapping the word 'CANCELLED'.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

**** IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ****

As you probably have heard, Ontario has been placed in lock down as of 12:01 A.M. December 26, 2020.

As a result, the Bishop recommends the suspension of ALL “In-Person” Worship until further notice.

Please stay tuned to our website

www.zionstratford.com

as

Pastor Jeff will continue to record his Sermons and Jane will continue to advise you of any updates and/or further announcements.

NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH COUNCIL

Nominations are now open for Congregational Church Council. Please submit your nomination to Kevin Tuer by email at kevintuer@gmail.com or by phone at 519-273-6205.

Nominations may also be submitted to any other Church Council Member.

2020 OFFICIAL RECEIPTS FOR INCOME TAX

Your 2020 Official Receipts for Income Tax are completed and will be mailed to you with the February issue of ZIONEWS. For those of you who receive the Newsletter via email, your Official Receipts will also be mailed out to you on January 29th, 2021.

ETERNITY FOR TODAY

We have a few copies of “Eternity For Today” available. Anyone interested in checking out this publication, which emphasizes “Living our Faith” through daily prayer and scripture readings, is asked to call Jane in the office at 519-271-8527 to make arrangements to have one delivered to you.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

As we, once again, find ourselves in a “lock down” situation and under a “stay home order”, we hope the following words bring you some comfort. This week I have chosen:

5 calming reminders about what matters most during pandemic panic & school closures

1. It is okay to sit in the anxiety sometimes and allow yourself (and others) to be off-kilter.
2. We need to rest in order to stay healthy — expecting ourselves to maintain normal productivity levels is not realistic.
3. This is an opportunity to rethink your obligations and how your time is spent, and decide what you want life to look like in the “new normal.”
4. Rugged individualism will not get us through a global pandemic — this is a time for us to

unite in our local, online, and global communities.

5. Fear is contagious, and it spreads even faster than a virus. Our own mental health is paramount right now.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BE KIND TO YOURSELF & YOUR
NEIGHBOUR;**

AND LOVE YOURSELF AS WELL AS YOUR NEIGHBOUR