

# SOUNDS OF ZION

*Love God, Love your neighbor, nothing else matters*



**ZION**  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

9535 Clarence Center Road, PO Box 235  
Clarence Center, NY 14032-0235  
MAY 2020

## From the Pastor's Desk

May 2020

**Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.**  
(Matthew 7:24)

Dear members of Zion, it was 4 a.m. in the year 2000 with Geneva and I sat straight – up in our bed as: walls gyrated; furniture swayed, and dishes rattled in the kitchen cabinet. IT WAS AN EARTHQUAKE IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA. "ONLY A 4.0" == the good folks at Bethlehem, in Oakland assured us ---" NO BIG -DEAL FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA", they said. Well, it was a BIG DEAL for Geneva and me who (to quote singer Carli Simon) ***Never felt the earth move under our feet.***

Jesus says (in the above text) that everyone who hears THESE words of mine and ACTS on them will be like a wise (person) who built (their) house on rock.

Just what words are we at Zion to HEAR – we who follow Jesus? – Well the context of our scripture text is the ending of the Sermon on the Mount and, the WORDS of the Sermon is, to hear (in part) that:

+ God's will is for us to comfort those who have lost loved ones; during this horrendous pandemic – and have not been able to bury them...

+ God's will is for us to bless those doctors, nurses, first responders who are looking after the well-being of others rather than looking out for the well-being of themselves...

+ God's will is for us to surround those who have lost their jobs and those who have lost their businesses with the assurance of their worthiness and esteem within the eyes of the Church and Society...

+ God's will is for us to remember that WE are the light of the world – shining a 'spotlight' on the love of God for all people, in general and for those suffering in this pandemic, in particular.

Zion, if we HEAR these words of the Savior – and DO them: then in the midst of this terrible 'earthquake' of world-wide proportions you and I will be on solid ground.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Carroll

My dear friends of Zion. As we draw near to the month of May with so many things still uncertain in our lives, I am preparing to hand over the pastoral duties at Zion to Dr. Julius Carroll, beginning May 1. This of course assumes that this will happen smoothly given our current and unpredictable lives these days. It has been a joy and pleasure to be among you for a longer than expected time.

In these 10 months I have seen the strength of this congregation grow as you have learned to be church without a full-time pastor at the helm. Leaders have stepped up, volunteers have continued to serve, members have realized the responsibility you all have to be the church together. In all of this, even as we have spent the season of Lent with a forced fast of giving up coming to church, we have come to appreciate what we now miss. I leave you with some fundamental questions as you reflect on your time of social isolation and an interim pastor coming to lead you forward:

In your forced fasting what have you discovered you can live without?  
What have you come to appreciate as truly essential?  
How will you choose to live differently going forward?

God bless you Zion, your future is bright because those days are in the hands of our Lord Jesus, crucified and risen, FOR YOU!

Peace

Pr. Dan

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### **Covid 19 in Zimbabwe:**

While many are truly suffering in our own land, our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe have just entered a mandatory 21 day shut down that is greatly effected by the fact that their homeland is in the midst of a severe drought that has brought with it significant famine. Many will be without food or sharing a single meal each day. The suggesting to wash hands is hard when you have only a small amount of water for drinking and cooking. Their health care system is almost non-existent with only simple clinics and a few for profit hospitals in the largest cities. Please keep our sister church in your prayers and be thankful for the food, water and health care system available to us here.

**God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. *Psalm 46:1***

**Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. *Matthew 11:28***

**Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. *Joshua 1:9***

**And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. *Matthew 28:20***

Zion Family,

With COVID-19 upon us, we are dealing with unprecedented amounts of uncertainty. News is being delivered by the hour and changes each day, affecting our lives and how we interact with each other. Zion continues to provide worship opportunities working closely with St. Paul's and Parkside to bring digital worship to all of our congregations. If you have not experienced the online services, please go to <https://www.zionclarencecenter.com>; there are many links on the Home page providing opportunities to experience the presence of Christ and connect with members of our congregation.

I am writing this letter to remind you that Zion still needs your ongoing financial support. For those who have had their employment altered or eliminated, our prayers and support are with you and your families. I am requesting those who can still provide their weekly offerings; please continue giving these offerings as they are an essential source of income to support not only Zion's ongoing expenses but our ministry activities. Please prayerfully send your gifts via mail to the church office, or you can easily set up online giving, using the following link. If you need any assistance, please contact Zion's office staff.

[https://zionclarencecenter.com/online\\_giving](https://zionclarencecenter.com/online_giving)

We sincerely hope you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy. Together in Christ, we are strong, and if we all do our part, we will get through these difficult times, becoming closer to those around us and closer to Christ in our hearts.

Prayerfully serving,

William Baron  
Council President

### **The Marks of Discipleship**

1. READ the Bible every day
2. WORSHIP every week
3. PRAY daily
4. SERVE others at ZLC and beyond
5. DEVELOP Spiritual friendships
6. GIVE of my time, talent and financial resources

Due to the Coronavirus, all activities are cancelled until further notice. The Council, in consultation with the County and Synod leadership, will know what steps we can take toward regathering in person.

Office hours are M, W, F 10am-12pm  
Check our website for more information.  
Website: ZIONCLARENCECENTER.COM

## ***Faith Journey– Love God, Love Your Neighbor, Nothing Else Matters***

**Worship Moving Forward** - Zion will continue to partner with St. Paul's and Parkside to have Saturday worship on Facebook at 5:00 pm and Sunday at 9:15am. Sunday worship on TV will be at 10:00 am on either channel 5 (meTV) or channel 67 (wbbz), with Zoom meetings following through April. Information is found on Facebook and the website. Follow the link for Zoom Meeting Instructions.

Music Devotions by our organist, Michael Shamrock are on Facebook, Saturday at 10:00 am

### **Monday Prayer and Fellowship Group:**

We are enjoying greatly our meetings via Zoom at 7pm every Monday.

You can click here to join- <https://zoom.us/j/719400523>

Or go to [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) and click on Join a Meeting

Meeting ID number is 719 400 523

From a cell phone you can call 929-205-6099 to join w/ audio only.

### **Men's Breakfast**

First Saturday of the month, 9am

You can click here to join- <https://zoom.us/j/860467054>

Or go to [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) and click on Join a Meeting

Meeting ID: 860 467 054

From a cell phone you can call 929-205-6099 to join w/ audio only.

My family Sunday School connect page address is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/800683730453672/?ref=bookmarks>

I'm moving to 1 lesson for all verses -one lesson for elementary and one for middle school.

Keep checking on your neighbors and loved ones. Be praying for our health care workers, first responders and essential workers as they work to get us through this. And keep the faith! If God can conquer death, God can beat this. We will get through this.

*Love God, Love Your neighbor, because nothing else matters*

*Pray First*

## April and May

<p><b>1</b> Mark 5:1-20 1 Corinthians 14:6-12 Proverbs 12:10</p> <p><b>2</b> Mark 5:21-43 1 Corinthians 14:13-17 Proverbs 12:11</p> <p><b>3</b> Mark 6:1-6 1 Corinthians 14:18-25 Proverbs 12:12-14</p> <p><b>4</b> Mark 6:7-13 1 Corinthians 14:26-32 Proverbs 12:15-17</p> <p><b>5</b> Mark 6:14-29 1 Corinthians 14:33-40 Proverbs 12:18</p> <p><b>6</b> Mark 6:30-44 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Proverbs 12:19-20</p> <p><b>7</b> Mark 6:45-56 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Proverbs 12:21-23</p> <p><b>8</b> Mark 7:1-23 1 Corinthians 15:21-28 Proverbs 12:24</p> <p><b>9</b> Mark 7:24-37 1 Corinthians 15:29-34 Proverbs 12:25</p> <p><b>10</b> Mark 8:1-10 1 Corinthians 15:35-44 Proverbs 12:26</p> <p><b>11</b> Mark 8:11-21 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 Proverbs 12:27-28</p>	<p><b>12</b> Mark 8:22-26 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 Proverbs 13:1</p> <p><b>13</b> Mark 8:27-38 1 Corinthians 16:1-9 Proverbs 13:2-3</p> <p><b>14</b> Mark 9:1-13 1 Corinthians 16:10-18 Proverbs 13:4</p> <p><b>15</b> Mark 9:14-29 1 Corinthians 16:19-24 Proverbs 13:5-6</p> <p><b>16</b> Mark 9:30-37 2 Corinthians 1:1-7 Proverbs 13:7-8</p> <p><b>17</b> Mark 9:38-50 2 Corinthians 1:8-14 Proverbs 13:9-10</p> <p><b>18</b> Mark 10:1-12 2 Corinthians 1:15-24 Proverbs 13:11</p> <p><b>19</b> Mark 10:13-16 2 Corinthians 2:1-4 Proverbs 13:12-14</p> <p><b>20</b> Mark 10:17-31 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 Proverbs 13:15-16</p> <p><b>21</b> Mark 10:32-45 2 Corinthians 2:12-17 Proverbs 13:17-19</p> <p><b>22</b> Mark 10:46-52 2 Corinthians 3:1-6 Proverbs 13:20-23</p>	<p><b>23</b> Mark 11:1-11 2 Corinthians 3:7-18 Proverbs 13:24-25</p> <p><b>24</b> Mark 11:12-25 2 Corinthians 4:1-7 Proverbs 14:1-2</p> <p><b>25</b> Mark 11:27—12:12 2 Corinthians 4:8-17 Proverbs 14:3-4</p> <p><b>26</b> Mark 12:13-34 2 Corinthians 4:18—5:10 Proverbs 14:5-6</p> <p><b>27</b> Mark 12:35-44 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 Proverbs 14:7-8</p> <p><b>28</b> Mark 13:1-13 2 Corinthians 6:1-7 Proverbs 14:9-10</p> <p><b>29</b> Mark 13:14-37 2 Corinthians 6:8-13 Proverbs 14:11-12</p> <p><b>30</b> Mark 14:1-11 2 Corinthians 6:14:—7:4 Proverbs 14:13-14</p> <p><b>1</b> Mark 14:12-31 2 Corinthians 7:5-10 Proverbs 14:15-16</p> <p><b>2</b> Mark 14:32-52 2 Corinthians 7:11-16 Proverbs 14:17-19</p> <p><b>3</b> Mark 14:53-72 2 Corinthians 8:1-8 Proverbs 14:20-21</p> <p><b>4</b> Mark 15:1-20 2 Corinthians 8:9-15 Proverbs 14:22-24</p>	<p><b>5</b> Mark 15:21-32 2 Corinthians 8:16-24 Proverbs 14:25</p> <p><b>6</b> Mark 15:33-47 2 Corinthians 9:1-5 Proverbs 14:26-27</p> <p><b>7</b> Mark 16:1-20 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Proverbs 14:28-29</p> <p><b>8</b> Luke 1:1-25 2 Corinthians 10:1-6 Proverbs 14:30-31</p> <p><b>9</b> Luke 1:26-56 2 Corinthians 10:7-12 Proverbs 14:32-33</p> <p><b>10</b> Luke 1:57-80 2 Corinthians 10:13-18 Proverbs 14:34-35</p> <p><b>11</b> Luke 2:1-20 2 Corinthians 11:1-6 Proverbs 15:1-3</p> <p><b>12</b> Luke 2:21-40 2 Corinthians 11:7-15 Proverbs 15:4</p> <p><b>13</b> Luke 2:41-52 2 Corinthians 11:16-33 Proverbs 15:5-7</p> <p><b>14</b> Luke 3:1-18 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 Proverbs 15:8-10</p> <p><b>15</b> Luke 3:19-23a 2 Corinthians 12:11-15 Proverbs 15:11</p> <p><b>16</b> Luke 3:23b-38 2 Corinthians 12:16-21 Proverbs 15:12-14</p> <p><b>17</b> Luke 4:1-13 2 Corinthians 13:1-6 Proverbs 15:15-17</p> <p><b>18</b> Luke 4:14-30</p>	<p>2 Corinthians 13:7-14 Proverbs 15:18-19</p> <p><b>19</b> Luke 4:31-44 Galatians 1:1-5 Proverbs 15:20-21</p> <p><b>20</b> Luke 5:1-11 Galatians 1:6-12 Proverbs 15:22-23</p> <p><b>21</b> Luke 5:12-16 Galatians 1:13-24 Proverbs 15:24-26</p> <p><b>22</b> Luke 5:17-26 Galatians 2:1-5 Proverbs 15:27-28</p> <p><b>23</b> Luke 5:27-39 Galatians 2:6-10 Proverbs 15:29-30</p> <p><b>24</b> Luke 6:1-11 Galatians 2:11-16 Proverbs 15:31-32</p> <p><b>25</b> Luke 6:12-16 Galatians 2:17-21 Proverbs 15:33</p> <p><b>26</b> Luke 6:17-38 Galatians 3:1-9 Proverbs 16:1-3</p> <p><b>27</b> Luke 6:39-49 Galatians 3:10-14 Proverbs 16:4-5</p> <p><b>28</b> Luke 7:1-10 Galatians 3:15-20 Proverbs 16:6-7</p> <p><b>29</b> Luke 7:11-17 Galatians 3:21-29 Proverbs 16:8-9</p> <p><b>30</b> Luke 7:18-35 Galatians 4:1-7 Proverbs 16:10-11</p> <p><b>31</b> Luke 7:36-50 Galatians 4:8-11 Proverbs 16:12-13</p>
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

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## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH— MAY 2020



*Christ is Risen!*  
*He is Risen indeed!*  
*Alleluia!*