



# ZION Lutheran Church

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## Protocol During the Coronavirus 19 Epidemic

*Update for March 18, 2020*

Dear Members and Friends of Zion Lutheran Church:

Grace and peace to all of you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I write to you concerning the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis that is affecting all of us at this time. This past weekend as we gathered for our three worship services, everyone in attendance was given the chance to express themselves and to ask questions. Amongst our discussion it was stated at all the services, that fear of the unknown is a huge issue. Bishop Mansholt addressed this by stating, “God’s love for us in Jesus Christ is steadfast and sure. God is with us, even in these times of great uncertainty and anxiety. We need not be afraid.”

As the situation surrounding COVID-19 continues to evolve in Wisconsin and our immediate community, Zion’s leadership has made the difficult decision to **suspend all public meetings and gatherings until further notice** including Sunday and Wednesday Lenten worship services.

These decisions are made to take part in the public effort to slow the spread of the disease per guidance from our congregation’s medical doctors and nurses, and the Wisconsin Department of Health.

### Zion Lutheran’s Building and Staff

Until further notice Zion’s building will be closed to the public, and all meetings, gatherings, and worship will be canceled or postponed. Zion’s office and staff will continue to work as appropriate given individual health and safety situations, but with varied hours and remote work as necessary. The most consistent way to reach someone is via email.

### WORSHIP & LIVE STREAMS

Until further notice we will be providing a simplified midweek Lenten and Sunday worship service by way of our website [www.shawanozion.org](http://www.shawanozion.org). By request, we will send by mail a CD with a worship service that you can watch on your home TV. Also, by request we will send you a manuscript of Pastor Ludford’s sermon.

Using a minimum of worship leadership in our sanctuary including pastor, limited musicians, and technicians we will record today’s message this evening using new equipment setup just last night. Our goal is to have this available sometime Thursday morning. Keep following this site for updates and how to view it. We will also be working to provide a live worship service this Sunday. Plans for other live stream opportunities like bible study, reflection, prayer and devotion are in the works and will be communicated to the Zion community as more planning happens.

## **OFFERING AND GIVING TO ZION**

To help support the ongoing financial health of Zion, if you have not already, please consider transitioning to online giving through Vanco (contact the office for information) or via [www.shawanozion.org](http://www.shawanozion.org) and click on the “Donate” button. Alternatively, offerings can be mailed to the Zion office. Soon we hope to have a locked drop box outside the church so you might drive by and deposit your offering. Some members have already responded by making special financial gifts knowing that we are at risk of falling further behind meeting paying our bills. Thank you for your ongoing and generous support of Zion and all of its ministries.

## **NEW OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

Out of concern and a commitment to serve our membership and especially those in need new ministries are being created. If you need to talk, share your fears, have someone pray with and/or for you we have an expanding group of people at Zion who have volunteered to be your faith partner in this time of uncertainty. We also have members who have volunteered to help shop, run errands, shuttle you to appointments and even help with auto repairs. Please contact the church office for assistance.

## **IN CLOSING**

Zion Lutheran Church is committed to walk along the community in times of bounty and times of uncertainty. As a community of faith called to create spaces to experience the love of God and the care for one another, building one another up, and walking alongside one another, please continue to hold all affected by this epidemic in prayer. It is our prayer and hope that everyone in the Zion faith community will experience the support and care of God, to whom all belong.

In God's ministry,  
*Pastor Scott Ludford*