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“...to serve all God’s creation in faith and love.”

March 16, 2020

All Worship Services, Events, and Meetings Cancelled until Further Notice

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our Lenten theme this year has been the Wilderness. And although we are only three weeks into our six-week journey, I’m sure we are all feeling the weight of that theme in our lives – feelings of fear, isolation, uncertainty, and pain. Our theme presents itself no longer in metaphorical ways alone but in real, tangible ways as we find ourselves in this extraordinary time in our country and in our world. But be assured that the common thread throughout this Lenten theme, throughout all of Scripture, and throughout our own lives is that **God is always with us** – even and sometimes especially in the Wilderness. Know that God is with you now.

During this time, communication will be key. **Norma, Diana, and I will continue to be in the office during the week** and will work diligently to get you the information you need as we move forward. If you did not get the email notification last week about worship being cancelled, please contact the office and let us know. Please also contact the office with any updated contact information. You can call (419) 224-9951 or email churchoffice@zionlima.org. We will be reaching out to families and individuals on a weekly basis to check-in and offer prayer. Your continued support of Zion’s mission through your gifts and offerings is also vital during this time. If you so choose, you can make use of our online giving via our website (www.zionlima.org)

Though these circumstances prevent us from gathering together *in person* for worship, they cannot prevent us from gathering together *in spirit* – nor can they prevent our continual, individual worship of Christ who is always present. **We will be offering an online worship service each Sunday.** It will be posted to our website (www.zionlima.org) and our Facebook page (facebook.com/zionlima) every Sunday by 8:30 am. Tune in and participate in worship whenever is most convenient for you, knowing that you are joined by your church family here and afar, and all the saints throughout all of time on earth and in heaven. If you do not have access to the internet, the readings for each week are printed on the back of this letter, and I encourage you to read through them on the appointed Sundays. We will also continue to post the testimonies from our Wednesday night Lenten services each week to our website and Facebook page.

Joshua, who led the Israelites out of the Wilderness, shared this message from God with his people: **“Be strong; be courageous! Don’t be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”** – Deuteronomy 1:9

Peace be with you,
Pastor Dan

Dan Gutman
Pastor

Diana Schneider
Administrative Coordinator

Norma Penn
Secretary

Lesa Brown
Childcare Director

Readings for Lent

Week 4 – 3/22

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

Week 5 – 3/29

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

HOLY WEEK

4/5 – Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 21:1-11