



# Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Dear Family of Zion,

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:3)

We greet you with the words of this Bible verse as we enter the Seasons of Advent and Christmas. These important seasons of the church year, although physically altered due to COVID-19, remain the same in our hearts as we express joy, love and hope to our fellow human beings.

While we continue to feel fully satisfied with the measures in place and the science behind them, we also recognize that case incidents have changed. As numbers continue to increase, there is a need for the church to show leadership in responsible stewardship for the safety of others. On the advice of Bishop Sid to all congregations in SK Synod, Zion has chosen to suspend in-person worship services beginning Sunday, December 5 and continuing to at least the end of January, when the situation will be reviewed. This decision is both disappointing and difficult but it is essential that we not be part of the problem.

Worship will continue to be offered online. It is fairly sobering that we will not have any in-person services to celebrate Christmas; however, we are in discussions about a number of means of celebration with our continued use of on-line worship and our Facebook page. If you desire Holy Communion during this time, please call the office to book an appointment with Pastor Ron, as communion is still an option for your family bubble.

In this season of giving, Zion has chosen to support the Saskatoon Food Bank, Interval House and Sanctum 1.5 in our 2020 effort to bring comfort and hope locally to people in need. We also continue to support the Lighthouse with our donations of much needed socks.

During Advent our focus is the Food Bank. Whether with donations by cheque or actual tins and packages of food, your support will be greatly appreciated. You will find the Advent Giving Calendar attached. Donations can be brought to the church or taken to the food bank directly.

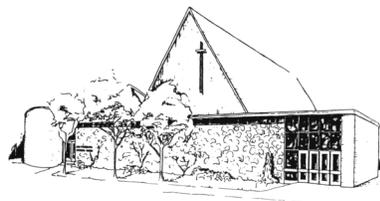
The Christmas Eve “loose cash offering” is designated this year to Sanctum 1.5 and we encourage you to support them. Our Christmas focus is once again on the women and children taking shelter in Interval House. Cash donations may be brought to the church and gifts-in-kind can be placed in the bins in the Narthex.

To support people and their needs elsewhere, please consider purchasing much needed supplies through the *Gifts from the Heart catalogue* from CLWR. From small to large donations and in between, there are many opportunities for giving. The catalogue is available online ([www.clwr.org/GFTH](http://www.clwr.org/GFTH)) and you may donate directly or bring your cheque to the church marked for CLWR.

Join us in worship on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> as we light the first candle in the Advent wreath, the candle of Joy. With the new restrictions announced Wednesday and effective today, our capacity has been capped at 30 people physically distanced.

Many blessings as we enter Advent.

Margaret Fast,  
Zion Church Council President



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