

To: The Congregation of Zion  
From: Adele King, Council President  
Date: March 27, 2020

Dear members of Zion,

As time continues forward, our news of this virus seems to be getting worse instead of better. Today Lancaster County was put under a “stay at home” order. Last evening I got the latest update from our Bishop on this matter. He states: “....knowing that so many of our church leaders and members fit categories most vulnerable to the worst effects of COVID-19, leads me to recommend that services for Holy Week and Easter NOT be held in our church buildings.”

I’m sure that this disappoints each of you for we, as Christians, look forward to these services each year. But, I do have good news to report. Pastor Caruana, Riley Klepper, Dave Klepper, Dave Albin, James Alfieri, and Jeff Engroff met (keeping their social distancing), and came up with a plan to video the Palm Sunday service. If all goes well, and it should, they will video services for Holy Week as well as Easter. You will be able to watch this on the church website or on Facebook. Printed versions will also be sent out so that those who cannot get the video can still read it. I’m sure this will help us to get through this tough time a bit easier, and we thank those participants who gave of their time and talents to see us through this. Communications will come out about this later.

These words also came from Bishop Dunlop: “The COVID-19 crisis is global. Please pray for our siblings across the ELCA and Lutheran World Federation, and especially our ministry partner, the Konde Diocese in Tanzania.” He suggested, too, that we can watch our synod’s chapel service at 9 A.M. on Wednesday mornings during the crisis. To do this, you can go to the Lower Susquehanna Synod page on Facebook. We are also encouraged by him to support our church and synod financially as generously as we are able.

Please stay safe and use caution. Take this time to reflect and meditate. Come up with a plan on how to make your lives have a greater meaning and how you can make a difference. Do not lose hope! Call someone to say you care and stay in touch! This time can be used productively, and I hope we can all be together again soon!!

I pray that all of us will make it through this crisis,  
Adele King