

To: The members of Zion
From: Adele King, President, Church Council
Date: April 3, 2020

Dear Friends,

I received an update from the Bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod this morning. He has recommended that congregations could possibly resume regular worship by May 3rd, but also noted that it depends on how things develop. At least that provides a bit of light at the end of the tunnel. I am so looking forward to watching the video of the service for Palm Sunday! I know they, (Dave and Riley Klepper) are doing last minute edits on that right now.) As soon as that gets out to all of us, they will begin to video Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. We sure hope this will help to keep everyone connected and give us some hope as well.

It was also recommended by Bishop Dunlop that we NOT do virtual communion, so, although the pastor may talk of communion, she may not “give” communion to anyone helping with the service (singers, readers, etc.), nor may we have “drive through” communion, since he feels it is “safest and best if we fast from Eucharist until this crisis is over”. I want to mention a debt of gratitude to Pastor Caruana, Dave and Riley Klepper, James Alfieri, Jeff Engroff and singers, Mary Hetrick, Lisa Nelson, and Dave Albin for their part in the services. They practiced social distancing and will make Holy Week a safer alternative for all of us. Thanks, too, to Donna and Dave Dumeyer who will be changing the altar appropriately, and Jean Pretz for her role in future services.

The Bishop is also recommending that the Synod Assembly be postponed until Fall. More will be decided around April 18th. Finances were also discussed in his letter, and I will forward information on loans and payroll to our financial people. Thanks to those who are able to continue to give.

The Council initiated a phone chain hoping to touch base with as many of you as possible. Those calls were well received and we were able to better identify those in need, those who were not receiving correspondence, and those who just needed to talk. If you got a call, and a message was left, please contact the person so as to verify your sense of well being.

We can still stay connected, and it is my hope to do so!!! Please stay connected with others through caring phone calls, and stay connected with God through many prayers to the Almighty! Pray for His strength and guidance to get us through this difficult time!! Don't forget that if you would like palms on Palm Sunday, they will be on the porch of the church!!! Pastor Caruana will be there to greet you from a distance between 10:00 A.M. and 1 P.M.

God bless each and every one of you,
Adele King, President, Church Council