

To: All members of Zion
From: Adele King, Council President
Subject: Extension of our "suspended time"
Date: March 19, 2020

Dear Members of Zion,

What a crazy time this is!! As a health education teacher, I always stressed to my students how essential it was to think about our health, because without "good health", very few other things would matter. Of course, I was referring not only to physical health, but also emotional, mental and spiritual health as well.

Hopefully, each of you is adhering to the mandates and suggestions being given. I received a new communication today from our Bishop. He stated: "Complying with our governor's mandate that non-essential businesses remain closed, I am extending until March 31st the recommendation that our congregations suspend in-person worship and meetings. Synod lawyers have advised us that churches are non-essential businesses and would be in violation of the mandate to hold worship". While I disagree that we are a non-essential business, I do know our church will survive this pandemic as Jesus Christ walks with us through this unknown era.

We are blessed to have Pastor Caruna also seeing to our spiritual, emotional and mental needs. She has done a great job of providing online messages, services, and prayers. I hope you are enjoying them as I have been. We are in contact daily, and I have been keeping the Council updated, and she and Anne, the staff. Please note that she has been advised to "suspend in- person visitations, especially of shut -ins, and the ill and other at-risk populations". So, please understand this if a request is made. We both feel this will most likely extend beyond March and we are fearful of losing our usual Holy week and Easter activities. We are attempting to be prepared for the probability. Easter is our true chance to celebrate His rising! While, as a child, it meant white gloves and new barrettes, now I know it to be the happiness in my heart and soul! We will try our best to plan for a meaningful Easter, 2020! I pray, though, that we will be able to resume all activities as already planned.

So, please bear with us during this difficult time. Pray for our church! Please send in your regular offerings as we must still maintain our church and its staff.

Praying for your good health and well being,

Adele King