

Zion Lutheran Church
226 Corley Mill Road
Lexington, SC 29072
Phone: (803) 356-2297
Fax: (803) 951-0287
ZionLexsc.com

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday
9:00am-2:00pm

Staff
Nathan Gragg
Pastor
Nathan@zionlexsc.com

Walt Hampton
Director of Youth,
Education, and
Communications
Walt@zionlexsc.com

Julie Branham,
Director of Music
Julie@zionlexsc.com

Starr Corley
Financial Administrator
Starr@zionlexsc.com

Steve Shumpert
Facilities Manager
Steve@zionlexsc.com



**Rooted in Christ
Growing in Faith
Reaching Out in Love**

The Season of Lent Continues

Wednesdays in Lent 7:00pm Online Worship Created for Community



A Theme for Wednesday Worship in Lent
Join others online for a casual time of worship each Wednesday during Lent. Beginning February 24 we will "premiere" a worship video via Facebook and YouTube at 7:00pm that will include scripture, songs, and suggestions for ways you can practice living in community even in these difficult times. Look for more information and resources later this month.

Sunday Worship in March

9:00am In Person Worship in Family Life Center

This service will follow clear safety guidelines. To learn more about this worship opportunity, go to Zionlexsc.com/inperson.

9:00am Online Worship via Facebook Live

Go to Facebook.com/Zionlexsc at 9:00am (no login required). The worship video will also be uploaded to our [YouTube channel](#) Sunday afternoon.

10:00am Drive In Worship in Zion Parking Lot

Our Drive in worship will continue on the church parking lot. Go to Zionlexsc.com/driveinworship for more information.

Looking Ahead to Holy Week and Easter



**Palm Sunday, March 28
Maundy Thursday, April 1
Good Friday, April 2
Easter Sunday, April 4**

In Person, Drive In, and Online worship opportunities are being planned for Holy Week and Easter. Look for more details soon.

See page 2 for important announcements about Staff Transitions at Zion

A Message from Pastor Nathan about Zion's Staff



Hello members and friends of Zion Lutheran Church. I have some important information to share with you about our church staff and the staff transitions we will be experiencing over the next couple of months.

First, after serving as Financial Administrator at Zion for the last 9 years, Starr Corley will be retiring at the end of March. Starr has been an outstanding member of our team and we are grateful for her willingness to continue serving in this position until we found the right person to take over these important duties. On Tuesday, March 16 from 11:00am-12:00pm you are invited to a drive by/drop by time of thanks and celebration for Starr on the side walk beside the church office.

Second, I am excited to share that Julie Branham has agreed to serve as our Interim Financial Administrator. Julie has been Zion's Director of Music since 2015 and we all know the dedication, joy, and spirit of cooperation she brings to her work. Julie will now take on some new duties while still continuing to fulfill all those of the Director of Music position. She'll be here in the office at Zion several days a week and will be working with our leaders and all of you as we continue to manage our financial matters well. Julie will officially begin as Interim Financial Administrator on March 1 and she will have several weeks of working with Starr Corley to become oriented to this new position.

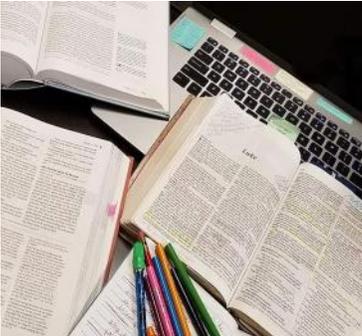
Finally, you may have heard by now that Steve Shumpert has announced his plans to retire from the position of Facilities Manager at the end of April. Steve has served on staff here at Zion for 15 years and his job has included more duties than we can count. Often working behind the scenes, Steve cares for our buildings and our grounds, and readies our facilities to be exceptional sites for ministry. More than that, Steve has always brought to his work a care for people, and a love of the Lord. I know you join me in giving thanks for Steve's years of service and for the ways we have seen the kingdom of God shining through all he does. We are making plans now for how we will honor Steve's retirement and so you can look for those details in the time to come.

Steve is not going away, he will continue to be an active member of Zion. But the time has come for us to seek someone new to serve as Facilities Manager. We need your help to get the word out about this need and so we are making a copy of the Facilities Manager Job Description available to you (go to www.zionlexsc.com/facilitiesmanager). I encourage you to think about people you know who may have the skills and the servant's heart for this work. Maybe that person is even you. If you have questions about this position, you can contact me here at the church office.

We continue to be blessed as a congregation with gifted staff who serve well as a team and serve the church with purpose and passion. Thank you for all the ways you support the staff of Zion as we work together in ministry to the glory of God.

In Christ,
Pastor Nathan Gragg

Adult Sunday School - Sunday Mornings 11:00am on Zoom



The Nomads Sunday School is hosting all adults for their Sunday Morning class this fall. They are continuing their book study on NT Wright's book *The Challenge of Jesus*. Join them on Zoom at 11:00am Sunday Mornings all are welcome.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/85721846616>

Meeting ID: 857 2184 6616 Passcode: Godis

All are invited and if anyone has questions they can contact Bob McCombs at 803-603-0882 - bob.mccombs58@gmail.com

Youth Group at Zion

In Person Youth Group

Wednesday Nights from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.



We will gather in the main parking lot appropriately distanced to study scripture and grow in faith together. Prepackaged snack and drinks will be available and chairs will be sanitized before and after we meet. (Bring your own bible.) Masks will be required except when eating.

Please let Walt know if you have any questions, Walt@zionlexsc.com.

Ways you can SERVE

We have 2 ministries in need of help due to our new worship experience.

- Our **Technology Team** is in need of 1-2 volunteers to help run the powerpoint, sound, and video equipment at the in person worship on Sundays. Anyone can do it as long as they are willing to learn, come and observe for a week and we'll show you!
- Our **Ushers** for Sunday worship are also looking for help. At the in person service they help record who is present, take temperatures, and make sure people find a seat. Outside at the drive in service they help direct traffic and setup/take down cones.
Let us know if you would like to help!

MUSIC NOTES - March 2021



Choir and Handbell friends,

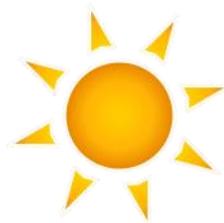
We continue to be unable to get together and create music as a group, however, if you've EVER thought of singing a solo or playing a handbell solo or instrumental solo, what better time to try than now?

Let me know if you might be interested!

If you have any questions, or if you'd like to share your musical talents in some way, please contact Julie at julie@zionlexsc.com.

My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises!
Psalm 57:7

Welcome Spring



It's been a year since we last worshiped together in the "normal" way, and the last year has been challenging for most of us in a variety of ways. I know I could use a little inspiration, and I started thinking about spring being just a few weeks away (It's 70 today!) and how it can feel a bit like a new beginning. The grass will begin to be more green than brown, flowers will bloom and release their sweet fragrances, and the warm weather will bring more of us outdoors to enjoy the warm rays of the sun. Here are some songs that were influenced by the spring season:

- *I Can See Clearly Now by Jimmy Cliff (1993)*
 In an interview with Johnny Nash (songwriter), he explains that this song was written in a hospital bed while he was recovering from surgery. This is probably why the song paints a bright picture about the future. It's a feel-good song that could liven up your spring.
- *Waiting for the Sun by The Doors (1968)*
 After the song was released, Jim Morrison said that he wanted to create a song unlike anything he had written before, one that was a pure expression of joy. Without question, he did just that.
- *It's a Beautiful Morning by the Rascals (1968)*
 The Rascals wanted to turn things around with their music. This much was clear in the 1960s when America was dealing with social and political issues. This song was a breath of fresh air for listeners, giving them a feel-good tune to weed out the noise of society's problems.
- *Here Comes the Sun by The Beatles (1969)*
 This song is about abandoning the dark past and basking in the warm sunlight. There's always a chance to start from scratch, write a new chapter, and live with a new dream.

Current Needs

Bruce Corley (Hospice care)
Jerald Drafts
Barry Granda
Melba Ivey
Wyman Kleckley
Ray Kyzer
Jane Langston (National Health)
Warren Peebles
Sara Rymer
Becky Saville
Carolette Turner

Homebound

Betty Baker (Carolina Gardens)
Barbara Brown
Les Caton (Brookdale Harbison)
Nellie Drafts
Gene Hendrix (Westminster)
Thelma Kleckley (Oakleaf)
Thomas Kleckley (Oakleaf)

Military

Brett Creasman (Army)
Burton Flake (Army)
Matt Mayer (Air Force)
Chris Rauch (Army)

Friends of the Congregation

Lynn Balch (health, wife of Craig Balch)
Cynthia Harman Black (breast cancer, daughter of the Harmans)
Mike Corley (testing, friend of the Leapharts)
Noreen Hamm (liver transplant, friend of Geri Nilsestuen)
Tommy Harman (cancer, friend of Janet Boltjes)
Tressie Hayes (breast cancer, friend of Carla Fallaw)
Esther Hempel (health, mother of Carol Hunter)
Heather Hobbs (health, friend of Bridgett Ridgell)
Arthur Holladay (health, uncle of Bonnie Phillips)
Catherine Holladay (health, grandmother of Bonnie Phillips)
Pam Holladay (health, mother of Bonnie Phillips)
Colin Hungerpiller (health, friend of Stefanie Wingard)
Jessica Seriah Housley & family (cancer)
Terry Hubert (cancer, Ray Kyzer's son-in-law)
Sue Jaeckel (cancer, friend of Geri Nilsestuen)
Shelly Koenig (cancer, daughter of Tom Panyard)
Sarah May (health, aunt of Mary Hampton)
Hayley Meetze (15 year old with cancer, friend of Janet Phillips)
Russell Meetze (cancer, family of Edith Clark)
Deanna Morrical (cancer, Hanna family)
Donna Riggins (cancer, sister in law of Rachael Rhoden)
Holly Roberts (health concerns)
Sylvia Ruff (cancer, aunt of Julie Branham)
Teresa Sharpe (cancer, friend of Al and Carla Fallaw)
Robert Tolar (health and family, friend of Bob McCombs)
Claybourn Walters (health, cousin of Eileen Leaphart)
John Whiteside (cancer, friend of the Shaws)

Congratulations to Kara and Zach Willis on their birth of their daughter Ada Jane born February 17th.

A note to Zion:

Thank you for all the love, cards, and prayers while I was in the hospital. Now I am home taking therapy three times a week. I hope I will be able to drive soon. God has blessed me with many friends and family. Blessing to all, with love - Becky Saville

*To ensure we have accurate information on our prayer list please let us know as prayer requests change.
To make updates or additions to the prayer list, contact the church office at 356-2297.*



Congregation Council

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

January 11, 2021, 7:00 pm, Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Suzette Porth, promptly at 7:00 pm. All council members were present along with Pastor Nathan Gragg and Walt Hampton.

Devotions were led by Lee Caulder with a discussion on “Hope”

Secretary’s Report: The December minutes were shared via email. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes without changes. The motion was carried. Walt Hampton explained the additional attachments (Directory, Constitution, Bylaws) and offers to make a binder for anyone that needs it.

Treasurer’s Report: Betsy Burn included a written attachment along with a verbal explanation of reports, MTD and YTD. States that giving is down, but expenses are also down due to COVID. Finance committee recommends allocating \$42k to the Capital Renovation Fund (acct 7800) as done in the prior year to be utilized as needed for capital renovations. This was presented and voted on with no members opposing. The recommendation was approved. The report will be filed for audit.

Executive Committee Report: Chair persons reports, committee has not met as of yet

Pastor’s Report: A written report was emailed by Pastor Nathan to council members. Pastor Nathan gave a verbal and public appreciation to those who helped in the success of the Christmas Eve service.

Eileen Leaphart agreed to join the Mutual Ministry Team and will serve for three years.

SC Synod announced Pastor Emily Edenfield will be the assistant to Bishop Ginny Aebischer.

Council Orientation:

Pastor Nathan emailed “The Six Most Important Constitutional Roles” and “A Month in the Life of a Congregation Council Member” .

Council members and titles are listed below within the Ministry Team Reports; also the Executive Committee shall consist of Suzette Porth, Betsy Burn, Kimberly Rauch, Sara Rymer, and Nathan Gragg

Reports from Ministry Teams:

Christian Education (Bridget Ridgel) – Jamie Hampton is working on packets for Lent.

Fellowship (Sue Anderson) – no report

Inreach (Janice Sult) – Edith says the inreach committee needs new members. Cards are sent out on a regular basis. Currently Janice, Edith, and Donna Corley have been working to reach members with food and other acts of kindness.

Mutual Ministry (Sara Rymer) – recap of the past month – Hudson BBQ catered meal to honor Steve Shumpert who is retiring this year. Chip Burn has been the chairperson for the past three years and is stepping down. The committee is looking for a replacement.

Outreach (Mary Nell Panyard) – no report

Property (Ernest Beck) – states that a recent walk through shows the church grounds are in good shape and thanks the Swygert/Shumpert team



LUTHERAN CHURCH

Congregation Council

Stewardship (Kimberly Rauch) – no report

Technology (Ross Hunter) - no report

Music & Worship (Lee Caulder) - Lee read a letter written to him from Carol Hunter, who is continuing her grandmother’s annual tradition of sending out a heart felt appreciation.

Youth (Kathryn Barton) – announced that the youth group will start to meet in person, in the church parking lot, again beginning January 13th.

Hannah Elrod’s Eagle Scout project voted on and discussed at previous meetings. Kathryn challenges each council member to make a donation to show her support. Betsy and Walt state that members should note on memo line where this donation is intended, and that there is a space to make this notation in an online donation as well.

BUSINESS

Old Business Walt and Kathryn will continue to give council update on Hannah Elrod’s Eagle Scout Project and the church’s matching funds

New Business None at this time

Upcoming

Next Congregational Meeting will take place via zoom Feb 8, 2021 with Sara Rymer having devotions.

Joys & Concerns

Briefly discussed the COVID vaccine being available for those aged 70+

Sara Rymer is headed to Florida for more treatments

Bruce Corley currently unable to moved due to illness

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer at 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Rauch



Giving Info Year to date January 24, 2021

Offering **anticipated** year to date: \$ 70,144

Offering **received** year to date: \$ 67,170

Difference year to date: \$ -2,973

Gifts to Zion and Partner Feeding Ministries this Year

Mission Lexington: **325 pounds of food**

Snack Packs Ministry: **\$ 0**

Matthew 25 Lunch Ministry: **\$ 450**

Giving at Zion - Recent Memorials & Honorariums Given

To General Fund

In memory of Wayne & Lewis *by Becky Saville*

To Music Ministries

In memory of Felix Kirszenbaum *by Steve & Darlene Cox*

March Birthdays

2nd Henry Phillips
Jenny Ellisor
Jeff Hunter
Shannon Richardson

3rd Iris Harman
Bert Wingard

4th Will Reeside
Drew Branham

5th Guy Kimball

6th Margaret Sox

8th Lynda Hook Whiteside

9th Rayna Kleckley

10th Jason Sox
Brantlee Boltjes
Louise Parker

11th Burlie Corley
Jean Peebles
Steve Wingard
Darlene Weight

13th Roscoe Nesmith
Jamie Dooley
Dave McKinley
Jack Hampton
Trevor Granda

15th Hadley Harmon
Evelyn Varn
Libby Wright
Janet Setro

18th Russell Kleckley
Janice Sult
Eileen Leaphart
Sophi Hanna

20th Traci Hanna
22nd Cassie Hook
Gail Fox

23rd Larkin Corley
Ross Hunter

24th Kent Grant
George Nesmith

26th Joe Corley
29th Louise Drafts
30th Azmi Jebali
31st Kathryn Barton
Adrian Bandelier

March Anniversaries

1st Bridgett & Hop Ridgell

4th Kathy & Brad Corley
Joanna & Nathan
Gragg

15th Janice & Ronald
Lindler

GIVING OPPORTUNITES

We encourage you to give to support the ministries of Zion Lutheran Church during this critical time. We are fortunate to have continued to receive offering from many through the mail and through the various electronic ways we have to give.

You can contact Starr Corley in the church office to find out more about these ways to give (356-2297, starr@zionlexsc.com) or go to <https://www.zionlexsc.com/giving>.

There are many ways to give an offering to Zion today or in the weeks ahead.

1. You can mail offering to Zion Lutheran Church, 226 Corley Mill Road, Lexington, SC 29072.
2. You can send a gift through your bank's online giving system.
3. You can click here to go to Zion's online giving page to give a one time offering or to set up regular automated giving. [Zionlexsc.com/giving](https://www.zionlexsc.com/giving)