



## St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, ELCA

915 Federal Avenue – Downtown Saginaw - Saginaw, MI 48607

Office: (989) 754-0489  
Office Hours: 9am-1pm

**Worship: Rev. Robert Schmidt, Pastor**  
**Facebook: Zion Lutheran Church-Freeland**  
**Facebook: St John Lutheran ELCA Saginaw**

Office Email: [sjc915@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sjc915@sbcglobal.net) [stjohnlutheranelcasaginaw.weebly.com](http://stjohnlutheranelcasaginaw.weebly.com)

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**SPIRIT NEWSLETTER**

**June, 2020**

**Issue 134, Volume 1**

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Dear St John:

It is the first day of June, or more important the day after Pentecost! He has not left us alone. He has given us His Holy Spirit to lead us and strengthen us. Christ Jesus is always with us whether we sense or Trust that He is!

There are many things happening around us; the virus, the flood, the senseless death of George Floyd and all the aftermath of all three. For the virus I pray that all of you are staying safe. On the flood, yes, the Church Camp did get hit. Thanks to Teen Challenge for helping to remove the carpet and pad from the Rec Hall. A few of us on Memorial weekend washed out cupboards, cleaned carpet and painted floors. The good news is that it could have been worse.

Other good news is that Brandy Blohm graduated from High School. It would be great if we all can send her a card & gift!

About George Floyd, I pray that all of us pray for Peace and understanding that we are all treated the same way with respect. This is not an easy thing! But with God we can and must grow in understanding!

I would like to share a devotion again from Oswald Chambers:

### **THE GRACIOUSNESS OF UNCERTAINTY**

*"It doth not yet appear what we shall be."* 1 John iii. 2.

Naturally, we are inclined to be so mathematical and calculating that we look upon uncertainty as a bad thing. We imagine that we have to reach some end, but that is not the nature of spiritual life. The nature of spiritual life is that we are certain in our uncertainty, consequently we do not make our nests anywhere. Common sense says— "Well, supposing I were in that condition...." We cannot suppose ourselves in any condition we have never been in.

Certainty is the mark of the common-sense life; gracious uncertainty is the mark of the spiritual life. To be certain of God means that we are uncertain in all our ways, we do not know what a day may bring forth. This is generally said with a sigh of sadness, it should be rather an expression of breathless expectation. We are uncertain of the next step, but we are certain of God. Immediately we abandon to God, and do the duty that lies nearest, He packs our life with surprises all the time. When we become advocates of a creed, something dies; we do not believe God, we only believe our belief about Him. Jesus said, "Except ye ... become as little children." Spiritual life is the life of a child. We are not uncertain of God, but uncertain of what He is going to do next. If we are only certain in our beliefs, we get dignified and severe and have the ban of

finality about our views; but when we are rightly related to God, life is full of spontaneous, joyful uncertainty and expectancy.

“Believe also in Me,” said Jesus, not— “Believe certain things about Me.” Leave the whole thing to Him, it is gloriously uncertain how He will come in, but He will come. Remain loyal to Him.

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In closing, I pray that we can all be together to worship on Sunday by phone, internet or TV. Zion Lutheran Freeland Service is at **10:00am Sunday Live-Stream.**

**Worship: Rev. Robert Schmidt, Pastor**

**Facebook: Zion Lutheran Church-Freeland**

**Facebook: St John Lutheran ELCA Saginaw**

We are still planning to have our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm for election of Council Members. If you would like to serve, let me know, 989-980-8038.

God’s Blessing always,  
Your brother in Christ,

Kurt K. Aven, Council President

**Friends with No internet?  
Tell them to CALL IN on Sunday for 10am worship audio:  
1-312-626-6799  
Meeting ID # 861-0756-4868  
Password 932089**

**Note:** If people are calling in from a landline, this is considered a long-distance call. Currently, music doesn’t sound great on the call-in audio. This is due to the technology we are using (Zoom). There is nothing we can do to fix that. However, all the spoken parts should sound fine.

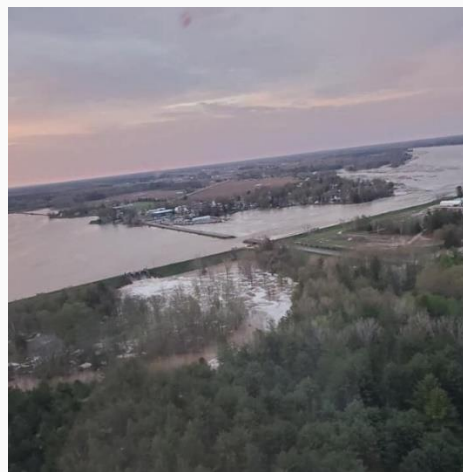
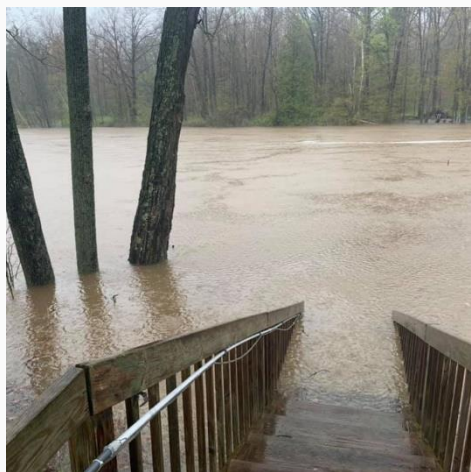
**WHAT IS OUR MISSION?** *Sharing God’s grace while growing in faith.*  
**WHAT IS OUR VISION?** *To be an inviting, welcoming faith community making a difference.*



**Brandy Blohm**



## Synod Disaster Response Update: Mid-Michigan Flooding



After 2.5 days of rain on May 17-19, rivers and reservoirs in Gladwin County overflowed and caused two problematic dams downstream to fail. This sent 21.5 billion gallons of water into Sanford, Midland, and parts of Western Saginaw County. Flooding was also recorded in Arenac and Isoco Counties. All five counties have been declared disaster areas by Governor Gretchen Whitmer. The Red Cross is managing the sheltering of people in both counties. Emergency Management Directors are coordinating rescue, sheltering, and beginning to work on recovery.

The North/West Lower Michigan Synod has six congregations in the affected area: Trinity and St. Timothy in Midland, Hope in Rhodes, Christ the King in Gladwin, and St. Paul in Au Gres, and Grace in East Tawas. None of the church buildings are damaged. Trinity, St. Timothy, and Christ the King have members with the most damage to their properties. The North/West Lower Michigan Synod is continuing to partner with Lutheran Disaster Response to provide assistance with immediate needs as well as long term recovery efforts.

We invite you to help by donating to [the North/West Lower Michigan Synod Disaster Relief Fund](#). All funds will be used for direct support of affected residents.

## IN THIS TOGETHER

The **Our Saviour Lutheran church office** will remain open at this time, and will continue its hours of operation: Mondays and Thursdays 8:30am-1:00pm. At this time, our top priority remains the health and safety of our congregation. As we continue to follow all CDC and Synod recommendations in relation to COVID-19; **In person worship & group activities will be suspended until, Sunday, June 21st for now.** Visit OSLC and Zion Freeland's Facebook pages for up-to-date information, and also to join live worship services with Pastor Rob.

Join us for Live Worship and Connecting on Facebook @ZionFreeland Sunday Worship at 10:00am Everyday Morning Devotions at 9:00am (ish) Everyday Children's Bedtime Prayers at 8:00pm (ish)

If you are un-able to connect via Facebook for Sunday Worship, please feel free to join by phone. Dial: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID # 861-0756-4868 Password 932089

**Drive-Thru Communion** ALL are welcome to the sacramental service. Follow signs and arrows at each location for traffic pattern and flow. This will be a no-contact service. Pr. Rob will be wearing a mask, and will be the only one handling the wafers. Communion will be bread only, handled with gloves and gently administered into cupped hands of the driver for the entire vehicle. **We ask that the driver please wear a mask.**

Sunday 11:00am to 12:00pm at Zion, Freeland  
**Sunday 12:30pm to 1:00pm at Our Saviour**  
Wednesday 7:00pm to 7:30pm at Zion, Freeland

Members may consider giving their offerings by using the "Give Plus" app through the app store, mailing offerings to the church, or dropping them off in person during office hours or at the drive-thru communion. Please contact the office with any questions. Stay safe, and have a blessed day. Sincerely, Terra Houck - Office Secretary (989) 799-5470 E-mail: [oslcsaginaw2525@att.net](mailto:oslcsaginaw2525@att.net)

### FRAUD ALERT

The Synod has received reports of people receiving fraudulent emails from Bishop Satterlee asking for money or gift cards. These emails are **not** from Bishop Satterlee. Please **do not** respond to them or send any money or gift cards.

This type of email scam has become prevalent in church communities. In this scam, people pretending to be someone you know send an email asking for help and for you to send them gift cards or wire them money.

If you receive one of these emails, **do not** send any personal information, money, or gift cards. If you are unsure if the email is fraudulent, check the email address it was sent from and contact the person separately (ex: call/text using a number you know is theirs, send a separate email to an account you know is theirs). **Do not** respond to the email you suspect is fraudulent.

If you have had your email account hacked or are worried that it might have been hacked, change your email password. When selecting a new password, make sure to use one that is strong and includes numbers, special characters, and a mix of upper- and lower-case letters.

Coronavirus Resources We continue to post updates and resources pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic on our website at: <https://www.mittensynod.org/news/coronavirus-resources/>  
 New resources include information and guidance on what congregational leaders should consider as they think about reopening and returning to church buildings.

**Coronavirus Update**

**On June 1, Governor Whitmer lifted the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Order and moved the entire state of Michigan into Phase 4 of the MI Safe Start Plan. As part of this plan, outside gatherings of 100 people or less are allowed as long as all participants are wearing masks and practicing social distancing. Indoor gatherings of 10 people or more are still prohibited. In order to give congregations time to plan and prepare, Bishop Satterlee is maintaining his recommendation that congregations suspend all in-person worship services through June 21.**

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

- 05** Arla Basner
- 06** Connie Oswald
- 09** Kendall Specht
- 14** Linda Beers
- 16** Jill Wendland
- 17** Farrah Madsen
- 21** Wayne Andersen
- 21** Mark Goodeman
- 27** Joseph Aven
- 27** Matthew Aven
- 28** Marguerite Schuetter
- 30** Allison Taylor

**Wedding Anniversary**  
**22** Arthur & Sandra Meyer

**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

- 04** Alexis Venegas
- 09** Raul Venegas
- 09** Zeke White
- 14** Dale Glover
- 28** Debrah Herzberg
- 28** Lorna Keaner
- 29** Luella Markel
- 30** Sue Albrecht
- 31** Craig Glover
- 31** David Kramer
- 31** Linda LaFlair

**JULY Wedding Anniversaries**

- 25** Robert & Madeline Blohm
- 08** Charles & Ginger Reed
- 11** Larry & Lorelei Roenicke



**Prayer Partners for June**

- June 07** St. Paul Lutheran Church/Reed City
- June 14** Hope Lutheran Church/Rhodes
- June 21** Hope Lutheran Church/Rockford
- June 28** St. James Lutheran Church

Please include our Bishop Craig A. Satterlee in your prayers as he leads our Synod.  
 Pastor Robert Schmidt.

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN NUMBERS**

DATE	REGULAR OFFERING
05/07/2020	\$1,715.00
05/14/2020	\$550.00
05/21/2020	\$445.00
YEAR TO DATE INCOME	
JANUARY 1, 2020 - May 21, 2020	
REGULAR OFFERING: \$14,689.96	
RENTALS: \$9,516.50	

**SAGINAW METRO MINISTRIES FOOD PANTRY**  
**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, 915 FEDERAL AVENUE, SAGINAW, MI**

**June 11 Food Pantry 8:00am**  
**June 25 Food Pantry 8:00am**  
**July 09 Food Pantry 8:00am**  
**July 23 Food Pantry 8:00am**



**German Worship Service – June 14<sup>th</sup>**

On Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, St. Lorenz's monthly German worship service will be held at 11:00 am in the Church - 1030 W. Tuscola Rd., Frankenmuth. Safe distance seating, hand sanitizing and face masks (for entering and exiting the building) will be requested to assure we worship safely. The Service focus is on God's provision for His people in all the events and circumstances of our faith journey. Most recently, the pandemic has forcibly caused untold and unanticipated change and challenge in our faith journey. The Old Testament lesson reminds us that He "bears us up on eagles' wings." The English sermon theme is "Wings of His Mercy" and is based on Ex. 19:4 by Pastor Bill Hoesman. The congregation will join in singing favorite hymns including; „ O Heilige Dreifaltigkeit" (O Blessed Holy Trinity), „Jesus Jesus nichts als Jesus" (Jesus Jesus Only Jesus), „ Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen" (Praise to the Lord, the Almighty), and „Heut fangen wir in Gottes Nam" (As We Begin Another Week).

The service will be available on Charter cable channel 191, on the St. Lorenz app., and livestreamed on the St. Lorenz website at: <http://stlorenz.org> where you click on the 'Media' tab on the top of the home page and then click on the 'Traditional Services' box on the left. Prior German worship services can be viewed on the St. Lorenz website under the 'Media' tab either under the 'Traditional Services' box or for older services in the file labeled 'Archive: German Services' found further down the page on the right. The next German worship service will be July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We look forward to you joining us for worship. Gottes Segen!

## June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> *7:00pm-7:30pm Drive-Thru Communion at Zion, Freeland	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>Holy Trinity Sunday</b> *10:00am Live-Stream Worship on Facebook *11:00am-12:00pm Drive-Thru Communion at Zion, Freeland *12:30pm-1:00pm Drive-Thru Communion at OSLC	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> *7:00pm-7:30pm Drive-Thru Communion at Zion, Freeland	<b>11</b> Food Pantry 8:00am	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Flag Day <b>Second Sunday after Pentecost</b> *10:00am Live-Stream Worship on Facebook *11:00am-12:00pm Drive-Thru Communion at Zion, Freeland *12:30pm-1:00pm Drive- Thru Communion at OSLC  St. John Lutheran, Tentative Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting 1:30 pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> *7:00pm-7:30pm Drive-Thru Communion at Zion, Freeland	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Start of Summer (Summer Solstice)
<b>21</b> Father's Day <b>Third Sunday after Pentecost</b> *10:00am Live-Stream Worship on Facebook *11:00am-12:00pm Drive-Thru Communion at Zion, Freeland *12:30pm-1:00pm Drive- Thru Communion at OSLC <b>HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Tentative Council Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>24</b> *7:00pm-7:30pm Drive-Thru Communion at Zion, Freeland	<b>25</b> Food Pantry 8:00am	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</b> *10:00am Live-Stream Worship on Facebook *11:00am-12:00pm Drive-Thru Communion at Zion, Freeland *12:30pm-1:00pm Drive- Thru Communion at OSLC	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				



**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**915 Federal Avenue**  
**Saginaw, MI 48607**

**Worship 10AM Sunday on Facebook: Zion Lutheran Church-Freeland**  
**Serving the Saginaw Community Since 1857**

***Mission: Sharing God’s grace while growing in faith.***

***Vision: To be an inviting, welcoming faith community making a difference.***

**Council Members as of July 1, 2019**

**Officers to Serve One Year**

**July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020**

President ..... Kurt Aven 989-980-8038  
 Vice-President..... Lin Bentley 989-996-0135  
 Treasurer ..... Carl Quackenbush 989-770-4129  
 Secretary ..... Ruth Sharper 989-245-2965

**Boards to Serve Two Years**

**July 1, 2019– June 30, 2021**

Stewardship & Finance ..... Carl Quackenbush 989-770-4129  
 Property Maintenance..... Eugene Miller 989-792-1517  
 Camp Ministry ..... Pam Aven 989-385-4877  
 Worship & Music ..... Marie Wells 989-793-7340  
 Evangelism..... Marie Wells 989-793-7340  
 Congregational Life..... Eveline Gatzsche 989-790-0872  
 Parish Education..... Madeline Blohm 989-274-8398

<p><b>FOOD PANTRY—June 11 &amp; 25</b>          Pantry starts 8:00am</p>	<p>Community Dinner and Breakfast          For the Hungry –Canceled until          further notice.</p>
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