

Zion Lutheran Church
330 Griswold Street
Elgin IL 60123

847-888-2882
www.zionelginil.org
zionelgin@yahoo.com

The Zion Spirit



"Grounded in Christ: Sent to be a blessing"

April 2018



The Challenges of Discipleship

Discipleship Matters

Studies of congregations that are doing well show that people want to be part of a congregation that helps them grow as followers of Jesus. People are not interested in just belonging to the church. Many are too busy to simply join another organization. But people are curious about God, interested in advancing their spiritual lives, and want to know more about Jesus and the God who comes to us in him. When people find that the church can engage them and help them grow as disciples, their focus changes. Church done right changes lives.

Discipleship is the practice of sitting at the feet of a teacher and learning from a master. Christian discipleship is grounded in our relationship with the God we meet in Jesus. Luther said that when we receive faith in Christ that we then live our lives with Christ as an ever-present example, a sort of mentor. Christ guides us and offers us direction for the journey. This comes to us, not as some sort of legal instruction from Christ, but as wise advice from a trusted friend.

Martin Luther once said that, "Christ teaches so gently that he entices rather than commands." What he meant by that is that having Jesus as a companion doesn't mean that God forces us to do anything. God works through inspiration rather than coercion. Sometimes we may wish that God was more forceful in making things come out right, but God seems to patiently encourage and wait for us to come along at our pace rather than God's.

If you are serious about your discipleship, there are aspects of a faith life that you can give attention to in order to be intentional about your growth. While many such lists of discipleship practices exist, the core of most of them are relatively similar. Here is one such list that may help you reflect on your current walk with Christ:

- Worship
- Give
- Study

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- Prayer
- Invite
- Encourage
- Serve

Each of these practices involves many different ways to pursue them. For example, worship can be in large or small settings, more traditional or more contemporary, and vary in many other ways. There are dozens of ways to pray – both individually and with others. For each of these areas, the key is to find ways that you can engage to keep you connected, growing and staying connected to God in Christ. We are constantly working on ways to help each of us grow, but if you have any special needs or questions, be sure to ask Pastor Dave or Deacon Marlene. We are here to help you as you walk your spiritual journey with Christ.

Earth Day Worship – April 22 Come for a Free Zion Tote Bag!

Help us celebrate Earth Day! This year Earth Day falls on a Sunday and our worship and activities will take advantage of this and focus on care of creation as Christian stewards of the world God has made. Everyone attending will receive a free gift of a Zion logo imprinted reusable shopping bag with a self-storing pouch. It is perfect for sticking in your pocket or purse when you go into the grocery store. We'll have them available for everyone attending between services in the overflow space on Sunday, April 22nd.

In addition, our worship that day will draw from music and prayers that emphasize love for and care of God's green earth.

Here is a prayer by Loraine R. Schmitz: "Oh God of all things, at the time of gradual our awakening to the dangers we are imposing on our beautiful earth, open the hearts and minds of all your children, that we may learn to nurture rather than destroy our planet. Amen"

Healing Service – April 24, 7:00 PM

The ministry of healing is an important part of the Christian tradition. Jesus spent much of his time healing people and teaching those who were present when it happened. Our Befriender Ministry Team is encouraging us to be alert to the opportunities around us to provide healing ministry as an ongoing part of what it means to be the church.

We will have a special evening service at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 24th. The focus of this service will be within the Lutheran worship liturgy known as "Service of the Word for Healing." We will offer music, scripture and preaching and a chance for individual prayer with laying on of hands. All are welcome to attend – with small or big things you would like to have prayed for. Know someone who would benefit from prayers? Invite the to come with you!

Baptisms – New Members of the Body of Christ

On March 18th we were blessed to welcome two new members into the body of Christ at Zion. The two new people are Violet Suh, daughter of Tim and Sarah Suh and also Colton Phalp, son of Kerri and Jason Phalp. Please be praying for these young people and their families in hopes that their journey with Christ will be the central factor in their lives as they grow.

New Directories Have Arrived!

The 2018 picture directory has been finished and is ready for distribution. Each family who had their picture taken is entitled to a free copy of the directory. We will be labeling them and setting them out for pickup in the narthex in the next few weeks, so be watching for them and see how nicely they came out. A big thank you to Nancy Emmer for taking the lead on this and to Rebecca Rizzo for her help laying out some of the activity pages. It came out really well and it should help people have the info they need to know each other better.

New phone numbers since the directory was printed:

Jennifer Leatherby, 847-977-8618

Joy Flathau, 224-388-7373

APRIL 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Easter 06:30 AM-Sunrise Svc 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship 04:30 PM-AA Dist 22	2	3 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle - We Serve 08:00 PM-AA	4 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-Choir 07:00 PM-AA	5 07:00 PM- Apostolica Ch (Library)	6 Office Closed 08:30 PM-AA	7 09:30 AM-Prayer Shawl 10:00 AM-AA 06:30 PM-Youngish Adults 08:00 PM-AA
8 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship	9 06:30 PM- Council	10 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	11 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-Choir 07:00 PM-AA	12 10:00 AM- Befriender 07:00 PM- Apostolica Ch (Library)	13 Office Closed 08:30 PM-AA	14 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
15 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 09:45 AM-Godly Play forum 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship 02:00 PM-Mission Trip Prep Mtg	16	17 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	18 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-Choir 07:00 PM-AA	19 07:00 PM- Apostolica Ch (Library) 07:00 PM- Inclusive Team	20 Office Closed 08:30 PM-AA	21 08:30 AM-Work Day 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
22 Earth Day Newsletter Articles Due 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship	23	24 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle - We Serve 08:00 PM-AA	25 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-Choir 07:00 PM-AA	26 04:00 PM- Spiritual Practices 07:00 PM- Apostolica Ch (Library)	27 Office Closed 06:00 PM- Youth Group - Chicago 08:30 PM-AA	28 Youth Group - Chicago 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
29 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship	30					

Easter Weekend – The Three Days

“Triduum” is the term that has been given to the three days of worship that surround the death and resurrection of Jesus. These three days include worship for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day. We will have special worship opportunities for each of these days and encourage everyone to set aside time to reflect on the death and resurrection of Jesus and what it means for our lives today.

- March 29 at 6:30 PM - Maundy Thursday
worship with meal and communion
- March 30 at 7:30 PM – Good Friday
Tenebrae worship
- April 1st – Easter Morning
 - * 6:30 AM – Sunrise worship
with Holy Communion
 - * 8:30 AM – Festive Worship
with Holy Communion
 - * 9:45 AM – Easter breakfast
and children’s egg hunt
 - * 10:45 AM – Festive Worship
with Holy Communion

As you come to honor the death and resurrection of Jesus, consider inviting a friend or family member to come with you. It may change their life!

“Godly Play” – Rethinking Sunday School

If you are interested in or invested in Sunday School for children, then you may want to learn more about “Godly Play.” This is a way of teaching scripture stories and ideas to children using a Montessori based approach to education. The model would involve rearranging our classrooms, getting props and shelves and work spaces for kids to use, and training a group of adults to lead using the storytelling and freedoms that make Montessori approaches work so well for elementary aged kids. If you are interested in finding out more, there will be a meeting between services at 9:45 AM on Sunday, April 15th. Talk to Pastor Dave or Deacon Marlene if you want more info or to let them know you will be attending.

BIBLE READINGS for April

April 1

Psalms 118:21-29

John 20:1-18 (sermon text)

April 8

Psalms 145:13-21

John 20:19-31 (sermon text)

April 15

Acts 9:1-19 (sermon text)

Matthew 6:19-24

April 22

Acts 16:16-34 (sermon text)

Luke 6:17-23

April 29

Acts 17:16-31 (sermon text)

John 1:14-18

APRIL VERSE OF THE MONTH

Now Jesus did many other signs
in the presence of his disciples,
which are not written in this book.

But these are written so that
you may come to believe[a] that
Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and
that through believing
you may have life in his name.

John 20:30-31



If you have concerns or joys to share, please call the church office at 847-888-2882 and press 2 to place a request on the prayer line.

Nursery Updates Planned

We have been working hard to be better equipped and focused on things that will engage young adults and families with younger children. An important part of this is the nursery. Young parents who visit for the first time assess that as a big part of coming to worship. A question they ask, "Is this a clean and safe place for my child as we worship here?" We are fortunate to have a good attendant in Betty Lopez. But looking at the space, things are worn and it is time for an update. There are plans to replace the carpet with laminated flooring and to include laminated flooring that flows into the library as well. We'll paint the walls and update furniture and other items. There will be a special "nursery shower" day where people at Zion can contribute items from a wish list that the nursery team assembles. Watch for more info as this project unfolds.

Work Day – April 21st

Each spring and fall we have a day to work on the facilities at Zion. Having them clean and cared for allows us to use them for effective ministry and share them with community partners in ways that build connections and support for the people around us as well. To do this, requires a good team of people to come and work on projects. There are simple projects that anyone of almost any age can do. There are bigger projects that take more ability and strength. Everyone can help make a difference!



This spring we will be working on things outside in the yard to get it cleaned up, mulched, etc. We'll do a bit of finishing work on the sanctuary floor to get it ready for waxing. There will be AC units to install, painting to do, and many things to clean and fix. And with a

good turnout, donuts and coffee, and a good attitude, it should also be a lot of fun.

The day will begin at 8:30 and we will finish by about noon. Look for a signup at Zion so we can know how to organize the projects and how many donuts to get!

Spiritual Practices

Are you seeking to have a more intimate relationship with God, but aren't sure how to begin? Do you wonder how scripture and prayer can impact your daily life? Do you need to create some space in your life simply to be with God? Then come and join us on Thursdays beginning April 26 from 4-5:15. Marlene will be offering a 6-week course on Spiritual Practices. Each session will include learning about a spiritual practice and then practicing the practice so that you may use it in your own devotional life. Each will be self-contained, so you can come as you are able. If you were part of her class in the Fall, you will have an opportunity to review some of the practices you learned.

Youngish Adults – April 7th

The "Young-ish Adults" Group will be meeting on Friday, April 7th for an evening meal and fellowship. The location of the meeting is yet to be determined so if you have questions or would like to host the group at your home, they would love to hear from you. Check with Mandy Garcia for more info.

Flat Roof Update

You may have heard that we have some issues with the west end of the flat roof. The flat roof design was not well thought out when the building was built and it is now 55 years old. We are going to have it looked at by roofing professionals and find out how best to repair and update the design in the most effective but also cost effective way. Much of the flat roof is in fine shape, so we are planning to just work on the west side of the roof to stop the leakage issues that we have been battling for the last few years. Watch for more info so that you can stay apprised of the progress on this project.

Financial Report

February	Income	Expenses
General	\$13,7017	\$12,993
Building Fund	\$1,479	\$868
YTD	Income	Expenses
General	\$34,834	\$35,681
Building Fund	\$2,779	\$1,736

Intergenerational Cross-Cultural Learning Experience (ICCLE)

Did you know Native Americans have the highest percentage of any racial group in the USA who serve in the military? The ten folks going on the ICCLE trip to North Dakota in June (plus three other members) learned this at our recent visit to the Trickster Art Gallery in Schaumburg. We have also watched a moving documentary "Dakota 38+2", available on Youtube, which includes a combination of history, determination and reconciliation in our present day. We highly recommend you watch it! These are just a few of things the group is doing to prepare for the experience in North Dakota. We have two more preparation meetings, April 15 from 2-5 and May 20 from 2-5 before our departure in June.

Singer/Songwriter Jonathan Rundman to visit area

Jonathan Rundman will perform at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 1234 N Arlington Heights Road in Arlington Heights on Saturday April 14 at 7:30 PM.



Rundman has been writing songs and performing across the country since he was 18 years old. He emerged on the national music scene generating rave reviews in *Billboard*, the *New York Times*, and others.

Jonathan's music has been heard throughout churches in the United States as well as on the radio in North America and Europe, the *Ellen Degeneres Show*, and *CBS This Morning*. One of Rundman's best-known songs, "The Serious Kind," has been sung at Our Saviour's many times.

Do You Have a Will?

Often we don't want to think about the fact that death will one day take us. But of course, one day it will take each of us. Having a will is an important planning tool for everyone. Even if you think you don't have much, most people die with significant resources. Pray about your legacy and please consider your family, your church and other important things as you do.



Thursdays in May – Spiritual Practices

May 14 – KHUSA Lowrie Party

May 20 – Last week of Sunday School, Teacher appreciation and Congregational Forum

May 27 – Summer Worship Schedule begins
8:30, 10:15

June 8 and 9 – Synod Assembly

June 10 – Church picnic

June 16-23 – Intergenerational Cross-Cultural

Sept 29 – Workday

Oct 6 – Blessing of the Animals

Youth Group

This month our youth group will have a couple of events. First, they will be preparing and serving the Easter Breakfast. They have chosen the menu of hash browns (with a variety of toppings), eggs, bacon, coffee cake, fruit and drinks. We hope you will join us! This will be a free will donation with 1/3 going to support Night Ministry in Chicago where they volunteered last summer on their mission trip. The other 2/3 will help pay the cost of the Faith and Science event.

On April 27 (Friday) and 28 (Saturday), our youth will be joining with youth from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Christ the Lord Lutheran Church as we head into Chicago. Friday night we will be at our Lutheran Seminary (Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago) to begin our discussion of Faith and Science and here we will spend the night. On Saturday, our youth will spend most of the day at the Museum of Science and Industry as they explore this intersection in a hands on way.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Worship/ Holy Communion

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:45 a.m. Worship/ Holy Communion