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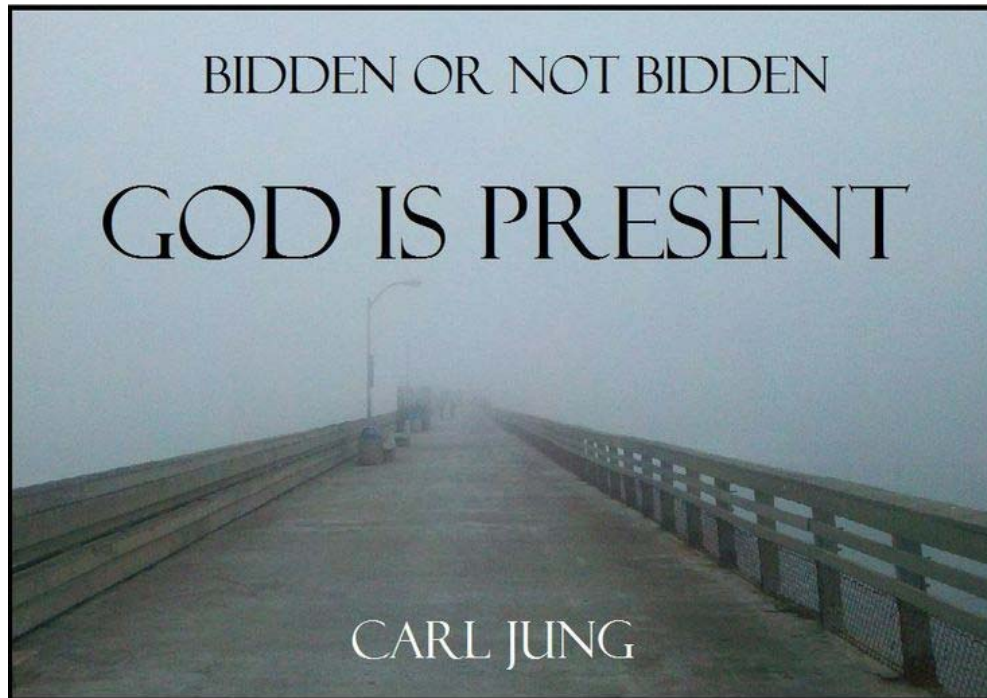
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# The Zion Spirit



*"Grounded in Christ: Sent to be a blessing"*

February 2018



## **Lent – A Time for Growing Closer to God**

The famous psychotherapist, Carl Jung, once said, "Bidden or not bidden, God is present."

We live in the ongoing and abiding presence of God. This is an essential part of describing who God is. God who made the world is also intimately and intentionally connected to it. It is God whose breath breathes life into us. All of us live and breathe, literally by the grace of God.

But for Christians this goes even deeper. Jesus says we are "to abide in him" and he promises to "abide in us." It is this intimate connection to the risen Jesus that makes the presence of Christ even more potent and more powerful for us as people of faith.

Historically, Lent developed as a time of preparing people to be baptized and be joined to Christ. It was an in depth time of learning and discipline so prepare the whole person – mind, body and spirit. At the end of Lent, new Christians would be baptized on Easter or at the Easter Vigil and welcomed into the life of the church. They would receive communion for the first time. They would live their lives

under the promises of Christ to the faithful. Where they would go, Christ would go with them.

Today, Lent has taken on its own character. In part because the first Christians were joining a fringe group, there were few families with multi-generational connections. Most new Christians were converted as adults and not born into the faith community. Today, things are more mixed. Many of us were baptized as infants. Another large portion were baptized as children or by our early teens as part of parents and grandparents passing on the faith and their children taking it up. Only a small percentage of the people who are part of church life in America joined, from scratch, as adults. So, for the most part, a season like Lent for baptismal preparation is less relevant.

But Lent is still a time to prepare the whole person – mind, body and spirit. At Zion we have a principle that says, "We deepen our faith to strengthen our discipleship." The intent is to say that at our best,

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all of us continue to learn and work to be better followers of Jesus. Lent is a chance to take less for granted and to take more of the Christian life with intentionality.

So yes, "Bidden or not bidden, God is present." And we could live our entire life not bidding Christ to come and he would still show up. God is faithful.

But Lent is a chance to live with intentionality and to take nothing for granted. God is present. This Lent, may each of us notice and be thankful for the promise of life in Christ.

## Godly Play

As times have changed the church is called to change as well. To reach people and help them understand the deep love that God has for them, the church has always adapted to use the things available to it in order to share the good news that has come to us in Jesus.

We are exploring new ways to organize Sunday educational time with our children. Godly Play is a Montessori based method of making stories come to life for children and creating space and freedom for them to flourish. We are exploring getting training and remodeling our education space to make a new and more engaging educational opportunity for kids in the church and in the community around us. Interested in being a part of this? See Pastor Dave or Deacon Marlene.



## Ash Wednesday

This year Ash Wednesday is February 14<sup>th</sup>. Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten journey and is about understanding our mortality and dependence on God. We will have Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion that evening at 7:00 PM. Come and begin the journey of Lent, the journey to the cross.

Lent is the time for trimming the soul and scraping the sludge off a life turned slipshod. Lent is about taking stock of time, even religious time. Lent is about exercising the control that enables us to say no to ourselves so that when life turns hard of its own accord we have the stamina to yes to its twists and turns with faith and hope.... Lent is the time to make new efforts to be what we say we want to be.

*St. Benedict*

## Midweek Wednesdays in Lent "Radical Sending"

Each year during Lent we take time to focus some extra attention on learning, praying and gathering for support during the week. These Wednesday evenings have changed over the years, but the one common thread is gathering to grow deeper in our faith.

This year's theme is no exception. We'll be using a video curriculum Called "Radical Sending" and the host on the videos will be Demi Prentiss. The videos are short (about 5 minutes each night) but they provide a base from which we can learn, discuss and share ideas together. The church is a sent people. In fact, it is our being sent by Jesus and the Holy Spirit that are central marks of what it means to be the church.

Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday (February 14) with a worship service and then our series for Radical Sending will begin on February 21st and last for five Wednesdays during Lent, ending on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

The schedule each Wednesday evening will be:

- ◆ 6:45 PM – Class in the overflow space
- ◆ 7:30 PM – Evening Prayer in the sanctuary

Come be part of Lent on Wednesdays at Zion!

# FEBRUARY 2018

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed   | Thu   | Fri   | Sat   |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |  |   | 1<br>07:00 PM-<br>Apostolica<br>Ch (Library)                            | 2<br>Groundhog<br>Day<br>Office Closed<br>06:00 PM-Luau<br>Party<br>08:30 PM-AA | 3<br>09:30 AM-Prayer<br>Shawl<br>10:00 AM-AA<br>08:00 PM-AA                                       |
| 4<br>08:30 AM-Worship<br>09:45 AM-Sun. School<br>10:00 AM-Adult Ed<br>10:45 AM-Worship<br>01:00 PM-Apostolica Ch<br>(Library)<br>04:30 PM-AA Dist 22      | 5   | 6<br>05:30 PM-Soup<br>Kettle<br>08:00 PM-AA  | 7<br>Office Closed<br>06:00 PM-Praise<br>Team<br>07:00 PM-Choir<br>07:00 PM-AA  | 8<br>10:00 AM-<br>Befriender<br>07:00 PM-<br>Apostolica<br>Ch (Library) | 9<br>Office Closed<br>08:30 PM-AA   | 10<br>10:00 AM-AA<br>08:00 PM-AA  |
| 11<br>08:30 AM-Worship<br>09:45 AM-Sun. School<br>10:00 AM-Adult Ed<br>10:45 AM-Worship<br>01:00 PM-Apostolica Ch<br>(Library)                            | 12<br>Lincoln's<br>Birthday<br>06:30 PM-<br>Council | 13<br>05:30 PM-Soup<br>Kettle<br>08:00 PM-AA   | 14<br>St. Valentine's Day<br>Office Closed<br>05:00 PM-Praise<br>Team<br>06:00 PM-Choir<br>07:00 PM-AA<br>07:00 PM-Ash Wed      | 15<br>07:00 PM-<br>Apostolica<br>Ch (Library)                           | 16<br>Office Closed<br>08:30 PM-AA  | 17<br>09:00 AM-Property<br>Task Force<br>10:00 AM-AA<br>05:00 PM-Chili<br>Cook-off<br>08:00 PM-AA |
| 18<br>Newsletter Articles Due<br>08:30 AM-Worship<br>09:45 AM-Sun. School<br>10:00 AM-Adult Ed<br>10:45 AM-Worship<br>01:00 PM-Apostolica Ch<br>(Library) | 19<br>Presidents<br>Day                             | 20<br>10:00 AM-Ladies<br>Bible Study<br>05:30 PM-Soup<br>Kettle<br>06:30 PM-Neighbor<br>Forum<br>08:00 PM-AA | 21<br>Office Closed<br>05:00 PM-Praise<br>Team<br>06:00 PM-Choir<br>06:45 PM-Class<br>07:00 PM-AA<br>07:30 PM-Lenten            | 22<br>07:00 PM-<br>Apostolica<br>Ch (Library)                           | 23<br>Office Closed<br>08:30 PM-AA  | 24<br>10:00 AM-AA<br>08:00 PM-AA  |
| 25<br>08:30 AM-Worship<br>09:45 AM-Sun. School<br>10:00 AM-Adult Ed<br>10:45 AM-Worship<br>01:00 PM-Apostolica Ch<br>(Library)                            | 26  | 27<br>05:30 PM-Soup<br>Kettle<br>08:00 PM-AA   | 28<br>Office Closed<br>05:00 PM-Praise<br>Team<br>06:00 PM-Choir<br>06:45 PM-Class<br>07:00 PM-AA<br>07:30 PM-Lenten<br>Service |   |   |   |

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.



## Mission Trip

Have you heard about the wonderful opportunity for an intergenerational mission trip through Zion? We will not only learn about, but enter another culture on a Native American reservation in North Dakota. Open to those entering 7th grade through adults of all ages, we'll head to the Spirit Lake Nation Reservation. Hosted by Dacotah Oyate Lutheran Church in Sheyenne, ND, we'll learn about their culture, ministry, history and more! The week will include an on-site service project, a tour of Spirit Lake, cooking our own meals and evening campfires at night, plus an area activity. The group will take the train to North Dakota and back. It is projected that the whole trip will cost around \$550 per person. Applications are due no later than March 4. Interested? See Dianha Ortega-Ehreth or Deacon Marlene. Scholarships are available.

## New Hispanic Group to Use Building

At our January church council meeting we discussed a request from a Latino group that was looking for space for a Bible study. Council approved the request for six months and we will be testing the relationship as well as getting to know them and their leader Nicolas Cortez. We will be exploring ways that we can get to know them better, so watch for more information in the months ahead. For now, the group will meet on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons.

No act of virtue can be great  
if it is not followed by  
advantage for others.  
So, no matter how much  
time you spend fasting,  
no matter how much  
you sleep on a hard floor  
and eat ashes and sigh continually,  
if you do no good to others,  
you do nothing great.

*St. John Chrysostom*

## BIBLE READINGS for February

### February 4

Psalm 42:1-3

John 4:1-42 (sermon text)

### February 11

Psalm 27:1-4

John 9:1-41 (sermon text)

### February 14 Ash Wednesday

Psalm 23

John 10:1-18 (sermon text)

### February 18

Psalm 104:27-30

John 11:1-44 (sermon text)

### February 25

Psalm 51:7-12

John 13:1-17 (sermon text)

### March 4

Psalm 17:1-7

John 18:12-27 (sermon text)

## FEBRUARY

### VERSE OF THE MONTH

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd.  
The good shepherd lays down  
his life for the sheep.

**John 10:11**

## Thank You

Thank you to everyone who surprised us at our farewell party. We will miss our Zion family tremendously but we all know that life goes on and God is with us every step of the way.

Our new address is 4438 Lake Rd, Williamson NY. Our cell #s and email will remain the same. Please keep in touch.

With sadness, anticipation, and love,

Rick and Ruth Greene

## Zion's Befriender Ministry is excited about their 2018 plans!

Some of our plans are:

- ♦ To hold monthly meetings at the Elgin Housing Authority and arrangements for this have already begun.
- ♦ To hold a Healing Service here at Zion after Soup Kitchen. The date will be April 24 at 7pm. More information will be provided as the date draws closer.
- ♦ To implement an opportunity for personal prayer during communion. A Befriender (Personal Prayer Minister) will be available outside the sanctuary to pray with any member of the congregation who would like to take a few moments during communion to pray about concerns. This will be starting in a few weeks. Again, more information will coming!
- ♦ An Informational Meeting is being planned for February (date and time TBD.)
- ♦ Anyone interested in knowing more about the Befriender Ministry is encouraged to attend. We are looking for more people to be trained as Befrienders. Look for more information about this meeting.
- ♦ A designated Befriender phone line (extension) has been set up. Anyone calling the main Zion phone number will be prompted to leave a message on the Befriender line if desired. A Befriender will monitor messages and return calls, then set up a visit if indicated.



As you can see, our Befrienders are enthusiastically finding ways to be supportive of others who are going through stressful or challenging times.

## Youth Group



This month we will meet on President's Day – February 19. There's no school! We will meet at Zion at 1:00 for a conversation about Abraham Lincoln and how his understanding connects with ours as Christians. We'll then head to LazerMaxx for LazerTag Double Play which includes two 30-minute sessions of lazer tag, arcade tokens and soda for \$20. Our friends from Holy Trinity will be joining us. Feel free to invite friends too! Just let Marlene know by Feb 11 as we need to make reservations.

## Monkey Lips



Perhaps you remember playing a compelling game of "Would You Rather" at Zion one Sunday a few months ago. One of the questions that got a laugh was, "Would you rather eat monkey lips or cow brains?" We played the game during the sermon to illustrate the differences between the members of the body of Christ, and ultimately how they work together to further the kingdom of God. This work is often accomplished by using our spiritual gifts - abilities and characteristics given to us at baptism to serve God and the church.

At Zion we are excited to begin discovering and exploring our gifts in an intentional, engaging way through a new program we're calling DYG: *Discover Your Gifts*. Staff and council have been developing this program for months and will begin to introduce it in the coming weeks. So whether you'd rather eat monkey lips or cow brains, keep an eye out for more news and updates about spiritual gifts coming soon, and get ready to "DYG" in a little deeper.

## Financial Report

| December      | Income        | Expenses        |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| General       | \$16,975      | \$17,770        |
| Building Fund | \$827         | \$868           |
| <b>YTD</b>    | <b>Income</b> | <b>Expenses</b> |
| General       | \$246,464     | \$243,672*      |
| Building Fund | \$12,899      | \$13,679        |

\* Includes \$21,300 for roof



**Chili Cook-off – Feb 17**

Each year we enjoy an evening of great food and fellowship as we have our annual chili cook-off. There are always a wide variety of wonderful chili recipes on display and people enjoy the chance to taste a diverse sampling of chilis! People submitting a pot of chili for competition

should have their chili at the church at 4:30 PM. The event will begin at 5:00 PM. The top two chili recipes will be awarded prizes but all of us will have a great time and be winners!

I look upon all the world as my parish;  
thus far I mean, that, in whatever part of it I am,  
I judge it meet, right, and my bounden duty  
to declare unto all that are willing to hear,  
the glad tidings of salvation.

*John Wesley*



Mar 3 – Spaghetti Dinner

Mar 5 – Lutheran 101

Mar 7-21 – Wednesdays in Lent  
Lenten Classes (6:45)  
Worship (7:30)

Mar 19 – Zion 101

Mar 25 – Palm Sunday

Mar 29 – Maundy Thursday Dinner and Worship

Mar 30 – Good Friday

April 1 – Easter!

April 21 – Workday

June 16-23 – Mission trip

Sept 29 – Workday

**“We’re Glad You’re Our Neighbor”  
Forum – February 20**

The Inclusive Church Task Force has planned a forum for families who have questions and concerns about immigration. The event will begin at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. It will include a variety of [people with expertise in immigration issues and help for people with insights from an immigration attorney, the police, city of Elgin, U-46 schools, Centro de Información and more. If you have a friend or neighbor who would benefit from learning more about how to access services and help feel better connected in the community, be sure to let them know.

**Property Task Force  
Planning Meeting – February 17**

For the last couple of years we have discussed the plans for how to care for and improve the building at a task force meeting. We plan to have this meeting on Saturday morning, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. The goal? To list needs and make plans and a timeline for how to care for and improve our facility during 2018. If you’d like to come – the meeting is open to all.

**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