

## CHURCH – What is missing?

"CHURCH"  
is not complete  
without "U!"



**A Christian's life can never  
be complete apart from  
a healthy CHURCH.**

### Why There is "U" in Church

We are taught by the language we speak that church is a place. We go "to" church. We worship in "a" church." When people say where they go to church it is the name and address of a facility.

Conversations often go like this:

We say, "I go to Zion Lutheran Church."

"Where's that?" they ask.

"On the west side, on Griswold Street."

"Oh, I never heard of Griswold Street. Where is it?"

We respond, "Near Walnut and 31. Do you know where Laird Funeral Home is?"

They answer, "Oh sure, I know where Laird's is."

"Well, we are right behind them – just one block west of 31."

All of this is because all of us are prone to think of the church as a thing, a building, or a place first. But this is totally wrong. The church is people. The church is you.

What if, in response to someone asking where Zion is, we could say, "Well it's right here. I am a piece of Zion who is right in front of you."

One thing we all need to work on is internalizing the notion that the church is not something we attend. It is something we are. We worship, not because it is a fun activity (although it may be fun sometimes), but because we are the body of Christ. This is what we do. We gather as God's people and together, we live out our identity as followers of Jesus.

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This is a reminder that there is no church without you. We have been fortunate to be able to improve the facility here over the past few years. We've made updates, added handicap accessibility to the entrance, reroofed the sanctuary, and we will reroof the flat roof this summer. But these are not the church. These are maintenance to the building – a tool for ministry. You are the church.

Being the church takes all of us. When we worship, we need everyone to take their turn greeting, ushering, reading, projecting, assisting, etc. We need someone to help record sermons from the soundboard. During the week we need Befrienders, Kids Hope Mentors, Soup Kettle workers, etc. Each thing we do together allows us to be the feet, hands and voice of Jesus for each other and/or for the people in the world around us.

Finally, church is an identity and not an activity. In other words, you are just as much the church on Tuesday at your job, Thursday at home with family, and Saturday volunteering somewhere else. We live out our identity together and we send and support one another as we live out our daily lives in the church. So, YOU are the church. Not alone. But the church is only fully the church with you in it.

## **Children's Toy Exchange**

Do you have toys in good shape that your children or grandchildren have outgrown? Would you like some new things to replace them with but don't have the space or want to spend too much? Then this may be your chance. Toys from the nursery, along with any toys in good condition you would like to bring in, will be on display and free for the taking through July 15<sup>th</sup>. Items will be in the north end of the fellowship hall downstairs. Any items not taken by July 15<sup>th</sup> will then be taken to a Thrift Store for them to sell.

## **Nursery Remodeled**

New pain, flooring and window treatments frame the nursery. Lots of labor went into this and the women held a nursery shower to get new items for the nursery. It looks fresh, clean and safe. It will be a great place for children to receive quality care for the next few years. Thanks to all who worked on this or contributed in any way.

## **Mentoring – Did You Know?**

Did you know that a recent study showed that while all aging brains show some decline, the brains of older adults who mentor stayed sharper and retained better memory and problem solving ability than those of people who don't? In other words, mentoring is good for BOTH the child being mentored and the mentor!

This summer we will be recruiting for additional mentors at Lowrie School. These elementary aged kids need a consistent adult and that person could be you. Mentors have found that the teachers appreciate the difference that mentors make and the kids are helped noticeably by having a mentor. Lots of kids want and need mentors. So, mentoring is good for kids. And now we also know, mentoring is good for you.

If you want to be a mentor, one hour per week with a child through the school year, talk to Tricia Grosser or Deacon Marlene. We'll be recruiting new mentors in August.

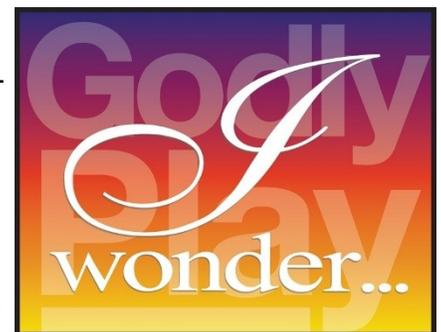
## **From Sunday School to Godly Play**

The children's Sunday School room is being redesigned as a Godly Play classroom. Godly Play is a Montessori based curriculum for children that deeply engages their minds, hearts and spirits with the stories and practices of the church.

Sunday School teachers and volunteers who wish to be involved with Godly Play this

coming year are encouraged to attend training on August 8<sup>th</sup> at Zion. There is also some summer reading on Godly Play for teachers and volunteers to help us all get on the same page regarding methodology. If you'd like a copy of the book, please see Deacon Marlene.

September 9<sup>th</sup> will be the first Godly Play session, but it will be for parents! Parents, we want you to experience the new Sunday School model first, so please mark your calendars. An activity for children during this first Godly Play session will be announced at a later date.



# JULY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 08:30 AM-Worship 10:15 AM-Worship 04:30 PM-AA Dist 22	<b>2</b> 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch	<b>3</b> 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	<b>4</b> 4th of July Office Closed 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch 07:00 PM-AA	<b>5</b> 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch	<b>6</b> Office Closed 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch 08:30 PM-AA	<b>7</b> 09:30 AM-Prayer Shawl 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
<b>8</b> 08:30 AM-Worship 10:15 AM-Worship	<b>9</b> 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch	<b>10</b> 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	<b>11</b> Office Closed 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch 07:00 PM-AA	<b>12</b> 10:00 AM-Befriender 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch	<b>13</b> Office Closed 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch 08:30 PM-AA	<b>14</b> 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
<b>15</b> 08:30 AM-Worship 10:15 AM-Worship	<b>16</b> 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch 06:30 PM-SWAN	<b>17</b> 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	<b>18</b> Office Closed 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch 06:00 PM-Kane County Cougars 07:00 PM-AA	<b>19</b> 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch	<b>20</b> Office Closed 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch 08:30 PM-AA	<b>21</b> 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
<b>22</b> 08:30 AM-Worship 09:30 AM-N.D. experience shared between services 10:15 AM-Worship	<b>23</b> 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch	<b>24</b> 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 06:30 PM-Healing Service 08:00 PM-AA	<b>25</b> Office Closed 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch 07:00 PM-AA	<b>26</b> 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch	<b>27</b> Office Closed 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch 08:30 PM-AA	<b>28</b> 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
<b>29</b> 08:30 AM-Worship 10:15 AM-Worship	<b>30</b> 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch	<b>31</b> 11:30 AM-Summer Lunch 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle - Zion Serves 08:00 PM-AA				

# AUGUST 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Office Closed 11:30 AM- Summer Lunch 07:00 PM-AA	<b>2</b> 11:30 AM- Summer Lunch	<b>3</b> Office Closed 11:30 AM- Summer Lunch 08:30 PM-AA	<b>4</b> 09:30 AM-Prayer Shawl 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
<b>5</b> 08:30 AM-Worship 10:15 AM-Worship 04:30 PM-AA Dist 22	<b>6</b> 11:30 AM- Summer Lunch 06:30 PM- Council	<b>7</b> 11:30 AM- Summer Lunch 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle - Zion Serves 08:00 PM-AA	<b>8</b> Office Closed 11:30 AM- Summer Lunch 06:30 PM-Godly Play Training 07:00 PM-AA	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM- Befriender 11:30 AM- Summer Lunch	<b>10</b> Office Closed 11:30 AM- Summer Lunch 08:30 PM-AA	<b>11</b> 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
<b>12</b> 08:30 AM-Worship 10:15 AM-Worship	<b>13</b> 11:30 AM- Summer Lunch	<b>14</b> 11:30 AM- Summer Lunch 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	<b>15</b> Office Closed 07:00 PM-AA	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Office Closed 08:30 PM-AA	<b>18</b> 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
<b>19</b> Newsletter Articles Due 08:30 AM-Worship 10:15 AM-Worship	<b>20</b> 06:30 PM- SWAN	<b>21</b> 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	<b>22</b> Office Closed 07:00 PM-AA	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Office Closed 08:30 PM-AA	<b>25</b> 10:00 AM-AA 02:00 PM-End of Summer Block Party 08:00 PM-AA
<b>26</b> 08:30 AM-Worship 10:15 AM-Worship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle - Zion Serves 08:00 PM-AA	<b>29</b> Office Closed 07:00 PM-AA	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Office Closed 08:30 PM-AA	

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.



## BIBLE READINGS for July / August

### Intergenerational Cross Cultural Learning Trip

On July 22 the team that traveled to Spirit Lake Nation in North Dakota will make a presentation sharing what they learned and experienced during their time there. This is a great way for all of us to be able to learn from the group and share in the learning. Be sure to be there for worship and between services – this will be a great Sunday. Our worship will also incorporate some things from the Native Culture.



### Amanda Fraas Will Finish Her Work in Madagascar

We have been sharing the newsletter from Amanda and many of you have been praying for her regularly during her year of service in Madagascar. She has been there as a part of the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program. Amanda is planning to stop and see some places in Europe on her way back and will return to the US in early August. Please keep praying for her and the people of Madagascar as she completes her year and then returns home this summer.

#### July 1

Hebrews 1:1-4 (sermon text)  
John 1:1-4

#### July 8

Hebrews 2:10-18 (sermon text)  
John 1:14-18

#### July 15

Hebrews 4:14-5:10 (sermon text)  
Matthew 9:35-38

#### July 22

Hebrews 9:1-14 (sermon text)  
John 19:28-30

#### July 29

Hebrews 11:1-16, 12:1-2 (sermon text)  
John 11:25-27

#### August 5

Psalms 51:1-12  
John 6:24-35 (sermon text)

#### August 12

Psalms 130  
John 6:35, 41-51 (sermon text)

#### August 19

Psalms 51:6-9  
Matthew 6:19-34 (sermon text)

#### August 26

Psalms 51:10-12  
Mark 10:17-31 (sermon text)

#### September 2

Psalms 51:15-17  
Luke 12:13-34 (sermon text)

### JULY

#### VERSE OF THE MONTH

Now faith is  
the assurance of things hoped for,  
the conviction of things not seen.

**Hebrews 11:1**

### AUGUST

#### VERSE OF THE MONTH

Jesus said, "If God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?"

**Matthew 6:30**

## Roof Campaign Update – Great News!

Although there is still one week left, we know that a high percentage of the donations toward the flat roof project have come in. We have once again been blessed with a great response and we should be able to do this project without taking money out of savings to do it. Great job everyone!

We have communicated with WeatherGuard about the timeline and it is going to be done either the last week in July or the first part of August. Much of this will depend on the weather, since this year has been the wettest May and June in regional history. How the timeline shifts will depend on the weather, but this gives us a base for planning.

The project will include the following work: Re-contour the roof to improve water flow toward the downspouts; install new TPO (synthetic rubber roofing); disconnect and reconnect air conditioning and rework/remove excess ducting; repair damaged ceiling and insulation where leakage has damaged it.

Watch for more updates as the project approaches. We'll keep you posted!

## Online Giving Can Make Summer Giving Easy

We have online giving options that make giving consistent and helpful. If you set a goal for what you think God wants you to give to support the church's work, online giving can ensure that you meet that goal. We have PayPal and also our own online giving portal. You can go to Zion's web site, click on the "Give" menu, and it will take you to the portal. Set up your account (secure and encrypted) and fill out how much you want to give and how often. It's that easy! And you will be able to accomplish your giving goal and not stress a bit about it (don't you wish workouts at the gym were this simple?).

## Dear Friends,

What a surprise at our annual picnic to receive a gift of deacon stoles from you! Even though as deacons we could make the change from towels to stoles when the churchwide assembly voted to move us from Diaconal Ministers to Deacons (also known as Ministers of Word and Service) in the summer of 2016, I had not made the change. Thank you for the beautiful set that I will look forward to wearing them during worship. I am deeply grateful for your gift and kindness.

Deacon Marlene



Lowrie kids loving the book giveaway from Zion members.

## Financial Report

May	Income	Expenses
General	\$21,742	\$17,551
Building Fund	\$787	\$868
<b>YTD</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>
General	\$97,588	\$94,332
Building Fund	\$6,185	\$4,304

## Kids Summer Lunch Program

Zion is in its first year of hosting the Kids Summer Lunch Program. This is a partnership with the City of Elgin, the Northern Illinois Food Bank, and U-46 Schools. We have a dedicated team of people working each day to make this possible. Like most first year sites, Zion's number of people served is slow as the word gets out to kids who need lunch. If you know someone who is under 18 who would benefit from free lunch, our meals are served Monday – Friday from 11:30 – 12:30 each day. Spread the word!

## Neighborhood Block Party – August 25<sup>th</sup>

To build connections with our community, we are planning a block party on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. People from SWAN, our neighborhood association, are also interested in working with us to plan this. We'll be setting up games, snacks, music and fun. We are putting together a team of people to help coordinate the block party. If you are interested in being a part of putting this together, see Deacon Marlene or Pastor Dave.

## Catechism Student and Parent Orientation Meeting

It is great to have a group of kids who are all at the right age to begin catechism classes in the fall. This is a process of "learning the basics" based on the content in *Martin Luther's Small Catechism* which has been the foundation of Lutheran Christian education for nearly five hundred years. We will add a mix of other interesting and relevant things to help students not only learn the basics, but also apply them to their lives as they grow.

We will gather interested families who have kids in 6<sup>th</sup> grade or higher for an informational meeting sometime in August. We'll try to schedule it based on who is interested so we can get everyone together and plan the fall. If you'd like your child to participate in this round of catechism, talk to Deacon Marlene or Pastor Dave and let them know.



## How's Your Devotional Life?

Summer is a great time to vary the spiritual practices that you may often use. A healthy spiritual practice mix includes some combination of scripture, prayer and reflection in ways that are consistent and nourishing for you. Having personal time with God and God's word are important. Finding some rhythm to your life that includes these is a good start.

A second set of spiritual practices involves some ways to interact with others. These things include small groups, educational classes, weekly worship and ways to interact and live in community. A healthy spiritual life has a social dimension to it since Christianity is a communal religion – you can't be a Christian in a full way without involving others in your spiritual life. Finding some rhythm here is important, too.

But good weather (especially if you aren't a winter person) brings with it the chance to be outside and add other dimensions that may not be as easy year-round but work well now. Going to a park or forest preserve for a quiet walk, finding a place to sit quietly outside and listen to the wind and the birds, or other ways to be outdoors can be really helpful things to add during the summer. This may include simply coming to the churchyard, walking the labyrinth and sitting on a bench for a while.

Whatever you do, be intentional about it. It will bring you blessings. Both Pastor Dave and Deacon Marlene have taken training in spiritual formation and Marlene is also completing a program in spiritual direction. If you want help setting up a pattern for your spiritual life, check with one of them and they'll be glad to talk with you about it.

## **Kane County Cougars Faith Night – July 18<sup>th</sup>**

Once again it is time to head to the ballpark for a night of fun and fellowship. The Kane County Cougars are hosting Faith Night at the ballpark on Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are available from Joy Flathau and they are just \$5 each! So, put this on your calendar and plan to enjoy a night with friends from Zion while watching the game.

## **A New After School Program to Begin This Fall**

Zion's new After School program will begin this fall. The goals of this new ministry are:

1. Create and build positive, faith-centered relationships with children and their families
2. Create space where people experience God's love.
3. Support children with social / emotional, academic and spiritual development needs.
4. Develop program outcomes focused on peace-making skills such as: developing empathy, expressing compassion, sharing forgiveness and reconciliation.
5. Develop meaningful connections between children and families in the community and the people of Zion Lutheran Church.

Zion will need volunteers to help make this new ministry program possible! If you are interested, please email Dianha Ortega-Ehreth at [dianhaoe@gmail.com](mailto:dianhaoe@gmail.com) and you will get added to a group list that will begin meeting in August (date to be determined).

### **SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**8:30 a.m.** Worship / Holy Communion  
**10:15 a.m.** Worship / Holy Communion



## **Coming Up**

- Sept 8 – God's Work Our Hands  
(note this is a Saturday!)
- Sept 9 – Resume fall schedule
- Sept 12 – Choir/praise team potluck.  
Interested in singing?
- Sept 29 – Workday
- Oct 6 – Blessing of the Animals
- Nov 18 – Community Interfaith  
Thanksgiving Service
- Nov 20 – Thanksgiving Service
- Nov 22 – Thanksgiving

## **Service of the Word for Healing Scheduled for July 24<sup>th</sup>**

Our first Service of the Word for Healing was a success and people who attended found it meaningful and helpful to be there. Our Befriender Team is planning our next service on Tuesday evening, July 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. This is a chance to gather with others, spend time in worship and prayer, and pray for healing for others and ourselves. Plan to come and bring others you know who would benefit from prayers for healing and wholeness.

## **Soup Kettle**

Many of you know that there is a free meal in Elgin each night of the week. Zion is the Tuesday site where a meal is served each week at 5:30. We do this in rotation with three other churches. The schedule for our nights to prepare and serve the meal are:

July 31, August 7, August 28, October 2, October 23, October 30, December 4 and December 25.

Interested in learning more or helping? Contact Joann Hartmann at [johartmann1@comcast.net](mailto:johartmann1@comcast.net) or 847-605-0618.