

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"

June 2018

How Sunday Worship Matters

Why Church?

This summer we are going to be spending some time and energy looking at how to enhance our worship life together. We'll be working on enhancing the flow of worship, making some small shifts to try new things with our liturgy, and doing some fun and new things with music. We hope you will find these meaningful and will be able to better engage worship as a result.

Why are we doing this? Because worship is the one place where we are all most likely to gather, engage and be engaged by God, and sent forth from the gathered community to go back into the world and live our lives as Christians throughout the week. It centers us and focuses us. It is part of the "grounding" that stands at the beginning of our purpose statement. Without gathering as a faith community, it is clear that it becomes harder and harder to say that we are functionally Christian. We need each other to remain faithful. We need worship to focus our hearts and minds on the things that matter most to God.

Lutherans understand worship differently than some Christian traditions. While some churches see God as the "audience" for worship, the focus of worship in a Lutheran setting is always that **God comes to us** as the gathered community. Each act of worship is to engage the worshiper(s) with God, either by bringing God's word to them or focusing their attention on the gracious and life-giving presence of

God who comes to them. When people come, our aim is that they encounter God in word and sacrament, and that worship makes space for that to happen. God is the primary worker in worship!

Preaching, liturgy, music, prayers, silence and the flow of worship all contribute to this or hinder this. Much of this is subjective. Leadership and liturgy elevate the possibility that people will be less distracted and more able to fully participate as a result.

Likewise, what we bring to this matters. When attendance is light or people's responses and singing are muted, we all worship in diminished ways. When we bring energy and life, speaking responses boldly and singing with energy, we all benefit and worship improves. This is because God uses each of us to reach all of us. Coming or not coming to worship is not just about you. When any of us miss, all of us worship differently. When each of us is fully present and contributing, all of us are blessed.

So, if you are one of those people who says, "It's summer and I can attend worship less," please put that thought aside. This summer we will be focusing on worship in some new and creative ways. That will include being very intentional about how to include children and families in worship. So, kids and adults will all be blessed by our time with each other and with God. Sundays are for worship. See you there!

Picnic June 10th At the church this year!

This year we are trying an experiment. The church picnic will be in the churchyard. We have made such improvements to our outdoor space that make it possible to try some new things outside. We have three new shelter tents for shade/rain so we have access to shelter. And we can do worship and games and food – so we're giving it a try.



The picnic will be June 10th right after second service. We will plan to worship outside at second service that day and enjoy a wonderful day of worship, food, games and fellowship. We'll also honor our graduates that day at the picnic as well. So plan to come and enjoy.

Food is simple. Congregational Care will get the meat for the meal. We all bring side dishes and desserts to share! There is always plenty, so come and enjoy. This may be a great day to invite a friend!

Thank you to our Kid's Hope USA Mentors!

Eight mentors have completed this past school year as mentors to eight children at Lowrie and two at other local elementary schools. Each of these kids have grown in so many ways and our mentors have been a part of this! We are so thankful to each of you for "showing up"! Ashley Talip, the social worker writes following our end of the year party, "I was asked by multiple kids today at the party if they can spend time with you next year! Please let all the mentors know how they have left lasting fingerprints on our students hearts!" Thank you mentors! Also a big thank you to Tricia Grosser who took a lead role in directing the program.

To anyone who has an hour each week and would like to make a difference in the life of a child, see Tricia or Deacon Marlene to explore the possibilities! We have several children waiting for a mentor!

Memorial Committee Designates Use of Funds

The Memorial Committee met at the request of the congregation's council. They discussed three uses for some of the current Memorial Funds: Tent shelter houses for outdoor events at the church; use of money given in memory of Tim Fraas toward the flat roof repairs in a way that supplements what the congregation decides to do; and money for any extra needs that remain unmet as the overflow space and the nursery are remodeled. The committee approved money for three 10-by-10 commercial popup tents. They will be here for the picnic in a few weeks! The committee agreed that Tim's frustration with the flat roof over the years made using some of the funds for that would be a fitting use and make him smile; and the committee approved a cushion for the improvements to the overflow and nursery areas in the event there are some details that need final small funds to finish the projects well.



We give thanks for the memories of the many people who have made contributions to the Memorial Fund in memory of the many people who have touched our lives and gone on before us. These gifts make it possible to do special and important things that our operating budget doesn't accommodate. This is a fitting and helpful tribute to the saints who have gone before us.

Synod Assembly

Each year the congregations of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod gather to learn, grow and make decisions about our shared work. This year's assembly is in Tinley Park and will be June 8-9. Deacon Marlene, Pastor Dave and Chris Wargo will be our voting members this year. Deacon Marlene will also be the assisting minister at the synod assembly worship service on Friday evening, a great honor. Pray for our leaders throughout the Chicago area to have a good assembly and make good decisions as they meet together.

JUNE 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 09:00 AM- Office Closed 08:30 PM-AA	2 09:30 AM-Prayer Shawl 10:00 AM-AA 12:00 PM- Women's Lunch- eon/Shower 08:00 PM-AA
3 08:30 AM-Worship 10:15 AM-Worship 11:30 AM-Youth Group 04:30 PM-AA Dist 22	4	5 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	6 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-Choir 07:00 PM-AA	7	8 08:00 AM- Synod As- sembly Office Closed 08:30 PM-AA	9 08:00 AM-Synod Assembly 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA Youngish Adult Group
10 Newsletter Articles Due08:30 AM-Worship 10:15 AM-Worship 11:00 AM-Church Picnic at Zion	11 06:30PM- Council Mtg	12 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	13 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-Choir 07:00 PM-AA	14 08:00 AM- Flag Day 10:00 AM- Befriender	15 Office Closed 08:30 PM-AA	16 ICCLE Trip 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
17 ICCLE Trip Father's Day 08:30 AM-Worship 10:15 AM-Worship	18 ICCLE Trip	19 ICCLE Trip 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	20 ICCLE Trip Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-Choir 07:00 PM-AA	21 ICCLE Trip	22 ICCLE Trip Office Closed 08:30 PM-AA	23 ICCLE Trip 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
24 08:30 AM-Worship 10:15 AM-Worship	25	26 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	27 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-Choir 07:00 PM-AA	28	29 Office Closed 08:30 PM-AA	30 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA

BIBLE READINGS

for June

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.



The Befrienders Ministry needs your help!

We don't have enough Befrienders to accomplish all our goals.

These plans include:

- ♦ Supporting members of our congregation who have recently lost a loved one, are experiencing difficulties such as divorce, financial troubles, job insecurity, health issues or other challenges.
- ♦ Connecting with the Elgin Housing Authority to visit and support those residents who are facing obstacles such as those listed above.
- ♦ Holding a worship service once a month at the Elgin Housing Authority building.



A Listening Presence

We are looking for people who would like to become a Befriender. After the initial Befriender Training, all we ask is that you attend the monthly Befriender meeting and make a once or twice monthly visit to someone in need.

Being a Befriender is not difficult and is very rewarding. We are planning to begin training in early June. Each training session is 2 hours in length and will be held in the evenings at Zion. To assure convenience for the trainees, we need to know who is interested, so we can set up a training schedule that meets their needs and fits their schedule.

Two people have already committed to becoming Befrienders. I encourage you to hear the call to become a Befriender. We need more Befrienders to provide a "Listening Presence" to others. If you are interested or have questions, please talk with Pastor Dave or Bev Breskovich.

June 3
Exodus 19:1-6, 20:1-2 (sermon text)
Matthew 22:34-40

June 10
Exodus 20:3-11 (sermon text)
Matthew 22:34-40

June 17
Exodus 20:12-16 (sermon text)
Matthew 22:34-40

June 24
Exodus 20:17 (sermon text)
Matthew 22:34-40

JUNE VERSE OF THE MONTH

I am the Lord your God,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery;
you shall have no other gods before me.

Exodus 20:2-3

Deaths in the Congregation

We gather in the name of Jesus to declare a gospel of hope that is not only for life as we know it, but also beyond death and into eternity. It is this hope that gives us the ability to engage death with a vision of life with God in a new way, even from beyond the grave.

This month we said good bye to two long time members. On May 3rd, David G. Coombs died after a few month struggle with cancer. He was in hospice and his last words to his family were, "I'm OK." On May 4th, Nancy Valentine died after time in a nursing home and hospice following a fall. Like David, she was ready to move on to be with God in eternity and died with a strong sense of hope.

Please pray for the friends and families of these two people. Life will be different without them, but we pray that the promises of Jesus bring them comfort and hope.

Interfaith Cross-Cultural Learning Experience

This month, ten from Zion will be headed off to Spirit Lake Nation in North Dakota. This group will range in age from 12 – 70+. They are leaving June 16 via Amtrak to ND and will return June 23. They will learn about the Native American Experience, build relationships and stay at a local Lutheran congregation. Dakotah Oyate Lutheran Church in Tokio, ND. Please keep our travelers and the people of Dakotah Oyate Lutheran Church and the tribe of Spirit Lake Nation in your prayers this month.

In May, the group read and discussed the Doctrine of Discovery in a Skype call with Vance Blackfox from the ELCA. In brief, the Doctrine of Discovery...

Papal Bulls of the 15th century gave Christian explorers the right to claim lands they "discovered" and lay claim to those lands for their Christian Monarchs. Any land that was not inhabited by Christians was available to be "discovered", claimed, and exploited. If the "pagan" inhabitants could be converted, they might be spared. If not, they could be enslaved or killed.

This, as you can imagine, has had severe consequences for the Native American peoples who already inhabited the land. Exploitation has continued over the centuries. In 2016, at the ELCA church-wide assembly, the ELCA passed the "Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery" resolution which calls for the church to "explicitly and clearly repudiate" the doctrine and "to acknowledge and repent of its complicity in the evils of colonialism in the Americas." It also calls the church to take action in many ways. To read more about the resolution passed at the ELCA assembly, visit <https://elca.org/JLE/Articles/1202> . To learn more about this, there is a very good downloadable fact sheet, at <https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/43/18253>

Financial Report

April	Income	Expenses
General	\$22,180	\$18,619
Building Fund	\$1,382	\$868
YTD	Income	Expenses
General	\$73,289	\$76,853
Building Fund	\$5,398	\$3,472

Flat Roof Update

Over the last few years we have been fighting with the deterioration of the flat roof over the west end of the building. In fact, that was one of the things we talked about when people asked what else we would have to keep on the radar in church repairs. The flat roof is 55 years old and needs to be resurfaced. We will be discussing this and may call a meeting in June to vote on moving forward with repairs to the roof. This would end roof issues at Zion for decades and mean the entire building was reroofed in a span of a year – a great feat if we can pull it off! Be praying for guidance on this and watch for updates and info. The next month will be a time to decide how to proceed and we want everyone informed and able to be in the conversation as we listen for the Holy Spirit and move ahead in whatever ways we sense God guiding us.

New Members

This month we welcome the White family as new members in the congregation. Amy and Kaity White are the proud new parents of Isla Louise. We will baptize Isla and her mother, Amy during worship that morning. Isla's other mom, Kaity, will affirm her baptism and join as well. And we will also welcome Susan White, Isla's grandmother, as a member transferring from Lutheran Church of the Master in Carol Stream. Then, on June 3rd, we will welcome Michael Flowers into membership as he affirms his baptism during worship. As each of us supports these people in their faith journey, it is a good reminder to take stock and helps us refocus on our own. Please pray for and welcome these folks into life at Zion!



Improvements to the Main Floor Decor

As we finished decorating the entrance, it was clear that sprucing up other parts of the main floor would be helpful as well. A team is working on the details for new paint, window treatments, and hospitality space in the overflow room. The nursery is getting an overhaul and has been painted and will soon have a new floor. The new floor will also flow into the library, which will also be painted. Keep watching for progress on these projects!

Women's Luncheon and Nursery Shower

Calling All Women! You are invited! Come and enjoy a salad luncheon together and assist in the renovation of Zion's Nursery with shower gifts on Saturday, June 2 at 12 Noon. If you would like to bring a salad or dessert, there is a signup in the overflow space, but it is not required. Also, baby pictures of our women are encouraged, so dig through your old photos and find a picture! Please try to turn these in, in advance to Michelle Pierson or Deacon Marlene. Friends are welcome. To visit the nursery gift registries, visit the following:

Target - <https://www.target.com/gift-registry/giftgiver?registryId=79f27126e7744439a95e8b7a4efc5302&type=GENERIC&occasionType=OTHER>

Amazon - <https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/liz-denman-carrie-hand-august-2018-elgin/2SGWDGVFNHTWG>

Young-ish Adult Group

The "Young-ish Adult Group" will gather on Saturday, June 9 for an evening meal and fellowship. It will be held at the home of Liz and Joe Denman. To find out more contact Liz at lizeckstein@yahoo.com or call her at 847-602-0939.

Summer Lunch Program

During the school year many kids get free and reduced meals. Some get breakfast and lunch at the school. During the summer, these families often struggle to make ends meet and food and nutrition can be an issue. To help with this, the City of Elgin and the Northern Illinois Food Bank have a Summer Lunch Program.

Zion will be a host site for the first time this year. Meals will be delivered from the Food Bank each morning and then families can come between 11:30 and 12:30 each day for lunch. We'll be doing some games and reading with them as well. This is a great chance to be of help to people in our neighborhood and also meet some of the neighbors who have children. We can still use some volunteers, so if you are interested, please talk to Joann Hartmann or Deacon Marlene.



- July 18 – Kane County Cougars All Faith's Night
- Aug 25 – Back to School Block Party
- Sept 10 – Resume fall schedule
- Sept 10 - God's Work Our Hands
- Sept 29 – Workday
- Oct 6 – Blessing of the Animals
- Nov 18 – Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
- Nov 20 – Thanksgiving Service
- Nov 22 – Thanksgiving

Youth Group

It's time for a hike! June 3, immediately following the late worship service (about 11:30), we'll gather at Zion, then head out to get a bite to eat. Then off to "Raceway Woods Forest Preserve" in Carpentersville. Raceway Woods was built as a racetrack in 1958. It was a dangerous course with many issues and was never able to make the improvements necessary to become a viable racetrack. The last race was held in 1968. In 1994, a group of local park districts purchased 90 acres, and in 2002 the remainder was purchased to become a forest and nature preserve. Volunteers who have maintained the site have recognized its importance as a race track and some of the original track and related structures are still in place to form a hiking trail.

Summer Schedule

A reminder that our summer worship schedule will be in place through and including Labor Day weekend. We will worship at:

- 8:30 – Early Worship with Communion
- 9:40 – Fellowship time
- 10:15 – Late worship with Communion