

Zion Lutheran Church
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The Zion Spirit



"Grounded in Christ: Sent to be a blessing"

May 2017



500th Anniversary of Reformation

On October 31, 1517 a German monk named Martin Luther nailed his "95 Theses" to the door of the castle church at Wittenberg. A university professor, his goal was to start a dialog/debate about what he felt were errors and abuses in the church of his day. The castle church door was a common place for public memos to be hung in order to allow others in the community to see what someone was thinking and in order to start a public conversation.

Little did Luther know that the recent invention of the printing press would take his local debate and turn it into an international event. Copies were printed and distributed all across Europe and before it was over the Protestant Reformation was started and the birth of Lutheranism had occurred. It was a bit of an historical accident – not what Luther had intended. But history and the church would be changed forever.

2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of this world-changing event. To celebrate, churches all around the world are honoring this momentous occasion with special events and services. While this event marks the start of Protestantism, even the Vatican is participating and encouraging Roman Catholics to be involved as well.

In Elgin, we are working on some special events for the fall to commemorate this. A joint Lutheran-Roman Catholic service is being planned for the afternoon of Sunday, October 29th. Lutheran and Roman Catholic leaders will plan a joint celebration that day – Reformation Sunday. We are exploring having a special exhibit of the St. John's Bible that month in Elgin (a calligraphy, handwritten Bible that is a modern masterpiece), and there will be a special choral concert at St. Mary's Catholic Church the first Sunday in October. October 2017 will truly be an amazing and powerful time to be the church in Elgin.

In addition, this fall we'll host a special showing of a Rick Steves (of PBS fame) program, "Luther and the Reformation" done especially for the 500th Anniversary celebration. Rick Steves has donated a copy of this program to every ELCA Lutheran Church across the country. We'll have a special showing of that film on Monday, September 18th with dessert starting at 6:30 PM. Save the date!

We have much to learn and celebrate in a year like this. Take advantage of the things that will be happening. 500 years ago, Luther posted his ideas. The impact of that event is still being felt today.

Debt Retirement and Roof Sunday Marlene and Dave Daubert Matching Challenge

On Sunday, May 21st we will be having a Debt Retirement and Roof Sunday. This will be a chance for us to see if we can offer some extra efforts to raise money to pay off our congregational debt for the environmental improvements that we made a few years ago. It will also give us a better base from which to get the resources needed for a new roof on the sanctuary, which is now a necessity.

In order to encourage this, the Dauberts are committing up to \$10,000 in a 1:2 match. For every dollar toward debt retirement, the Dauberts will put in \$0.50 up to a total of \$10,000. So, if we can get \$20,000 from members toward debt retirement, the Dauberts will write a check for \$10,000 (giving us a total of \$30,000).

It is essential that this money be over and above your regular money toward our budget. It will do us no good to pay down the loan, get the roof replaced, and not be able to operate ministry!

This would be enough to pay off the Energy Improvement Loan with IFF for about \$16,000 and also give us \$14,000 toward the cost of a new roof (Roof costs look to be in the neighborhood of \$30,000). We could then restructure our current loan with the Mission Investment Fund, use some of the Spaghetti Dinner Funds, and get the needed roof repairs and replacement work done in a proper way while keeping our monthly payments and total debt about the same as it is now. That would be amazing!

Please be praying about this excellent chance to make progress on our facility and ministry! Thanks.

Memorial Bricks to Be Ordered

We have memorial bricks to be ordered that we will then install in the patio when they arrive. Bricks are \$50 and we need to have at least five to place an order for the best pricing. We have a few to order so will soon be getting a few more. If you'd like to add a name, let us know and we'll include your request in the next order.



Patio Update

If you have been around the building the last few weeks, you have probably noticed the entrance area getting some final touches. A fence has provided a nice border, new benches frame the area and encourage people to stop and sit, and mulch and plants soften the edges. A new "Peace Pole" has been installed that says "May peace prevail on earth," in English but also in Norwegian (language of the church founders), German (language of many of our immigrants as well as the site of Lutheran Reformation), and Spanish (the other language spoken by many in our neighborhood). The improvements look great. Thanks to all who helped make it happen!



"Pallet to Palate" event to support Food for Greater Elgin

Our congregation has made a commitment to support the important work of helping people on the margins have enough food through the ministry of Food for Greater Elgin. Many of our members volunteer on a weekly basis. Another way to support this important ministry is by attending this upcoming fundraiser, Monday, May 22, 5:30 - 8:30 pm at The Haight, 166 Symphony Way, Elgin IL.

Visit www.foodforgreaterelgin.org/p2p/ to register.

For where God built a church,
there the Devil would
also build a chapel.

Martin Luther

MAY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 07:00 PM- Zion 101	2 05:30 PM- Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	3 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-AA 07:00 PM-Choir	4 04:00 PM- Girl Scouts	5 Cinco de Mayo Office Closed	6 09:30 AM-Prayer Shawl 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
7 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship	8 06:30 PM- Church Council	9 10:00 AM- Ladies Bible Study 05:30 PM- Soup Kettle	10 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-AA 07:00 PM-Choir	11	12 Office Closed	13 10:00 AM-AA 04:00 PM-Youth Group 08:00 PM-AA
14 Mother's Day Newsletter Articles Due 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed	15 07:00 PM- SWAN	16 05:30 PM- Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	17 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-AA 07:00 PM-Choir	18 04:00 PM- Girl Scouts	19 Office Closed	20 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
21 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship 04:30 PM-Alano Club	22	23 05:30 PM- Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	24 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-AA 07:00 PM-Choir	25	26 Office Closed	27 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
28 08:30 AM-Worship 10:15 AM-Worship	29 Memorial Day	30 05:30 PM- Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	31 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-AA 07:00 PM-Choir			

VBS

Vacation Bible School will be June 19 – 23.

This year's theme will be God's Peaceable Kingdom.

If you would be willing to help, please see Deacon Marlene.

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.



Advent Retreat Planning Invitation

Our Spirituality Matters Team is looking at putting together a retreat for Advent. The retreat will be for all ages (kids and adults) and will be held on Saturday, December 2nd at the Riverwoods Camp north of St. Charles. If you think helping plan activities for a fun and meaningful way to spend a day during Advent, please talk to Deacon Marlene or Pastor Dave and they will help connect you with the planning team.

Zion 101 – May 1

This is a chance to gather with others to learn more about how Zion works and what Zion is up to. The session will begin at 7:00 PM in the church library and we'll look at what Zion is about, the ministries we are involved in throughout the local community and our connections to the wider church and work all around the world. This is a great chance for newer people to get more insight into the congregation as well as for those considering membership in the church.

New Member Sunday May 7th

We'll be receiving new members on May 7th at both services. We have several people interested in membership but if you are considering joining the congregation, please talk to Pastor Dave. He can help you get oriented to what is involved in connecting your desire to follow Jesus to life at Zion.



Interfaith Classes

To finish the Adult Education year we will have four guests for our class time. Starting April 30th and for four Sundays we will have guests with us from Muslim, Jewish, Hindu and Buddhist traditions. This is a great chance for us to listen and learn about people of other faiths.

BIBLE READINGS for May

May 7

Acts 8:26-39 (sermon text)
Luke 24:44-47

May 14

Acts 15:1-18 (sermon text)
Luke 2:28-32

May 21

Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21 (sermon text)
Luke 18:9-14

May 28 *Summer Schedule Starts*

Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29 (sermon text)
Luke 1:68-79

June 4

Acts 2:1- 4; Galatians 4:1-7, 5:16-26
(sermon text)
Luke 11:11-13

MAY

VERSE OF THE MONTH

Yet we know that a person is justified, not
by works of the law,
but through faith in Jesus Christ.

Galatians 2:16a

Befriender Update

The Befriender Ministry Team is up and running and the first round of training is beginning. Training will be offered during the day and Befrienders will learn the skills needed to make a good pastoral visit and to listen and pray with people in transitions. Our Befriender Team is headed by Tim Fraas (Coordinator for Lay Visitation) and also includes John Bradburn, Bev Breskovich, and Joann Hartmann. Please be praying for them and the people who are beginning training!



A Listening Presence

Youth Group

We have a lot going on for our youth the next couple of months! On Saturday, May 13 from 4-10PM, we will be joining with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church's youth group for a multi-hour hunger event. This will include dinner. We will meet at Holy Trinity, located at 357 Division Street in Elgin. We will be walking outside, so dress for the weather and include good walking shoes.

Local Mission Trip June 11 – 16 for youth in 7th – 12th grade. We will again be joining with Holy Trinity's youth group for this special week. Our trip will include 3 nights in Chicago at the Lutheran School of Chicago, with service projects and tours included. We'll come back to Elgin for a day of hands-on service and home to rest, then Thursday, down to the Starved Rock area for work and play. We'll return to Elgin on Friday evening. There is a meeting for all kids that are interested in going, at Holy Trinity on Tuesday, May 2 at 7 PM. Please see Marlene with any questions.

Spring Fiber Fling

The prayer shawl ministry, which meets the first Saturday of the month, is planning a field trip to the McHenry County Fairgrounds to attend the Spring Fiber Fling on May 20th. It's an opportunity to observe herding demos, crafter demonstrations, such as spinning, sheep shearing, embroidery and more. There are many vendors, music and food. Entry cost is \$3.00. For further information about the event go to www.mchenrycountyfair.com. We'll try to car pool or just meet up. Contact person: Sheryl Flores 847-602-0931.

Financial Report

March	Income	Expenses
General	\$15,450	\$21,222
Building Fund	\$1,209	\$1,231
YTD	Income	Expenses
General	\$49,248	\$53,681
Building Fund	\$4,434	\$3,692

Environmental Update

One of our priorities includes a concern for environmental justice. In March, an executive order dismantling the Clean Power Plan was signed that also lifted the requirement that federal policy makers consider the impact on climate change before approving environmental permits. The past three months have also seen a budget proposal that includes a massive cut to funding for the EPA, the overturning of decisions to halt the controversial Keystone XL and Dakota Access oil pipelines, the scrapping of a rule barring surface-mining companies from polluting waterways and the lifting of a moratorium on coal leasing on federal lands. The U-turn on environmental policies comes as evidence mounts that climate change has already caused significant damage, from killing large section of Australia's Great Barrier Reef to causing sever drought in Africa. These are all concerns that Christians are invited to pray about as we grieve the damage humanity does to the planet. Although Earth Day was just celebrated in April, let us all celebrate and enjoy earth day every day by going for a walk and appreciating the world God has given us. Let us also be praying and resolving to do what we can to reduce our own carbon foot print and care for the earth that God has given as a blessing to all humanity.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who came to the Easter breakfast. We hope you enjoyed the food! The youth cleared \$400. \$200 will help to purchase plants for the new memorial garden area and \$200 will go to Feed My Starving Children to help provide food for children in developing countries who might not otherwise have food. Thanks for your donations!

Graduates

Graduates from high school and college will be honored at this year's congregational picnic. If you know a graduate who is part of the Zion community, please contact Joy Flathau, Karen Rizzo or Marlene Daubert so that they can receive an invitation.



Cougars Baseball Outing

Congregational Care is sponsoring a trip to the Kane County Cougars baseball game on Monday, June 26. The game starts at 6:30pm, and tickets will again be \$5 apiece. Seats will be closer to the concourse than last year. Be looking for a sign-up sheet on the table in the Overflow Room. Ticket money is due by June 18. If you have any questions, see Joy Flathau or any member of the Congregational Care committee.



Ice Cream Social

On June 3rd we'll be sponsoring an ice cream social for the neighborhood. It will be a fun way to get outside and host the neighbors for ice cream and toppings as well as for some other outdoor activity. The day will be from 3-5 PM. Want to help? Please talk to Michelle Burdick to join the team!



Books for Lowrie



Each year for the last several years, Zion has given each child at Lowrie a new or like new book. Once again, we hope to do this. We'll need to collect about 500 books for kids and we have a special need for older elementary level books and kids books in

Spanish. We'll be collecting these through mid-May, so please get started. Thanks!

Justice is a temporary thing
that must at last come to an end;
but the conscience is eternal
and will never die.

Martin Luther



- June 3 – Ice Cream Social (3-5 PM)
- June 11 – Congregational Picnic at Wing Park
- June 11 -1 6 – Youth Group Mission Trip
- June 19-23 – Vacation Bible School
- June 26 - Kane County Cougar All-Faiths Night
- September 10 – Fall Worship Schedule begins
- September 18 – Special movie showing of "Luther and the Reformation" by Rick Steves
- October 29 – Joint Reformation Service
- December 2 – Advent Retreat

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

Summer Schedule Begins

Each summer we shift our late service ahead a half hour to allow for worship to start the day and then give people as much time as possible to enjoy the summer weather. Starting Memorial Day weekend (Sunday, May 28th) we will have early service at 8:30 AM and late service at 10:15 AM. This will be the schedule through Labor Day weekend.

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