

Zion Lutheran Church
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The Zion Spirit



"Grounded in Christ: Sent to be a blessing"

May 2018



The Story Campaign is Coming in Fall

The Bible is the "source and norm" of our faith tradition. This is the official language that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America uses to describe how important scripture is. The Bible is the foundation of the church's witness to who the God is who we meet in Jesus Christ.

The Bible emerged over centuries of ministry in the early church. In addition to the Bible we currently use in the Protestant tradition, Roman Catholics include some other books in their Old Testament that are not in ours. But in every Christian faith tradition there is universal agreement: the inspiration that caused the Bible's authors to write what would become scripture is a gift from God and to be celebrated and kept alive.

Studies about church renewal also show that the Bible is at the heart of renewal for congregations of all kinds. Whether a congregation is conservative or

liberal in its faith understanding, there is no replacement for believing that the Bible is important and helps ground us in the work of God in Jesus Christ.

If you want the congregation to be more vibrant and alive, then you need to work to make your own faith more vibrant and alive. There is no better way to grow in your own faith than to dig into the Bible. Congregations where people regularly spend time, on their own, reading the Bible are healthier than congregations where people don't. The finding is clear: healthy vibrant Christians are the foundation of a healthy congregation. In other words, if you read your Bible, then everyone wins. You grow in your faith and the congregation gains a vibrancy that comes from people who are excited about their faith being the building blocks of the ministry here.

Continued on next page

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To help all of us help each other in this, Zion will be taking a break from the lectionary texts for much of the next school year. Starting in the Fall, we'll be reading from "The Story" each week and preaching on the same texts we read from as the foundation for our Sunday messages. This will keep us all reading together, supporting and encouraging each other, and walking through the Bible as a group.

"The Story" takes us on a 31-week journey through the Bible. We'll start in Genesis and with creation. We'll walk through the Old Testament as Israel is formed and then as the prophets rise up to call God's people to faithfulness. We'll read texts longing for a Messiah to come and bring salvation to them. And then we'll turn to the New Testament and read through the life of Christ, discover how the early church and the Apostle Paul shared the faith with new people, and then end in Revelation with the promise of God's kingdom breaking in for a final victory.

We'll post reminders about this over the summer and start taking sign up for everyone who wants copies of "The Story" and set up everything you need to get started. Be praying about this so when the time comes to get started, you will be ready to dig in to the Bible and see how God uses scripture to enliven your faith.



Catechism Class to Start in Fall

We will be starting catechism classes for middle school students in the fall. We plan to have a meeting of parents and youth who are interested in this educational opportunity and want to explore setting up these classes. We'll be contacting people to find a good date to get everyone together to discuss the program and set up an initial schedule. Interested? Talk to Deacon Marlene or Pastor Dave.

May 20 – Congregational Forum on Flat Roof and Children's Ministries

Every few months we try to get people together to hear and discuss what Zion's leadership has been working on.

These forums have always been helpful ways to keep people in the loop and also to



get feedback as we continue to stretch ourselves in order to do what we can to continue the work of Jesus in our time. Sometimes these things relate directly to ministry. Other times things relate to keeping our facilities in shape as a tool for ongoing ministry.

On May 20th we will have one of these forums with a couple of key topics that we want to discuss:

- ◆ Update and possible decision about the flat roof (watch for information about congregational business being done this day)
- ◆ Children's Ministries:
 - ◇ Godly Play program for Sunday School
 - ◇ After School Program for Lowrie kids in 2018-2019 school year

Plan to be there for the discussion. You'll be glad you are!

Sunday School Year End – Thanks to Teachers!

During refreshments on May 20th, we will take a little time to say "thanks" to the people who work so hard through the year to make our Sunday School happen for kids and adults. It will be a fun way to start the Congregational Forum and an important chance to recognize this important ministry. There will be children's activities following the thank you, during the forum.

MAY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	2 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-Choir 07:00 PM-AA	3 04:00 PM-Spiritual Practices 07:00 PM-Apostolica Ch (Library)	4 Office Closed 08:30 PM-AA	5 Cinco de Mayo 09:30 AM-Prayer Shawl 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
6 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship 04:30 PM-AA Dist 22	7	8 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	9 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-Choir 07:00 PM-AA	10 10:00 AM-Befriender 04:00 PM-Spiritual Practices 07:00 PM-Apostolica Ch (Library)	11 Office Closed 08:30 PM-AA	12 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
13 Mother's Day 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship	14 02:30 PM-KHUSA Party 06:30 PM-Council Mtg	15 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	16 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-Choir 07:00 PM-AA	17 04:00 PM-Spiritual Practices 07:00 PM-Apostolica Ch (Library)	18 Office Closed 08:30 PM-AA	19 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
20 Newsletter Articles Due 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 09:45 AM-Cong forum 10:45 AM-Worship 12:00 PM-Mission Trip Prep Mtg	21 06:30 PM-Pallet to Palette Event	22 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	23 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-Choir 07:00 PM-AA	24 04:00 PM-Spiritual Practices 07:00 PM-Apostolica Ch (Library)	25 Office Closed 08:30 PM-AA	26 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
27 08:30 AM-Worship 10:45 AM-Worship	28 Memorial Day-Office Closed	29 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	30 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-Choir 07:00 PM-AA	31 04:00 PM-Spiritual Practices 07:00 PM-Apostolica Ch (Library)		

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 May

May 6

Philippians 1:1-18a (sermon text)
Luke 9:46-48

May 13

Philippians 2:1-13 (sermon text)
Luke 6:39-45

May 20 Pentecost

Philippians 4:4-7
John 14:15-17 (sermon text)

May 27 Trinity Sunday

1 Peter 1:1-2 (sermon text)
Matthew 3:13-17

June 3

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

New Members Received

On April 22nd in worship we received some new members. Logan Schultz, grandson of Jim and Cyndi Little-dale and son of Jessica Little-dale was baptized. In addition, Pat Nelson, Erich Parczany, Ralph Parczany, Anne Runowiecki, and Jeanna Sayle joined by Affirmation of Faith. Please welcome these people and offer words of encouragement as they mark this milestone on their spiritual journeys.

Graduates

We will honor our 2018 graduates at our congregational picnic on Sunday, June 10th. If you or someone you know from our Zion community is graduating from school (H.S./Degree) let us know so we can be sure to celebrate this important accomplishment!



ICCLE Update

We have a team of 10 going on the Intergenerational Cross-Cultural Learning Experience (ICCLE), June 16 - 23. This group has been meeting monthly in order to learn about Native American culture and decisions from our churches, government and other institutions and individuals, that have impacted Native Americans over the course of history and still impact them today. In April, Bev from the Befriender's Ministry came and led a session on Deep Listening, as we seek to listen respectfully to those we encounter. We also had a visit from Monica, an Elgin resident from the Prairie-Band Potawatomi Nation, who shared her story and answered many questions. In May, we look forward to conversation with Vance Blackfox from the ELCA about the Doctrine of Discovery, a piece of history that isn't in the history books, that we should all be aware of.

To read more, visit

<https://www.elca.org/JLE/Articles/1204>

MAY VERSE OF THE MONTH

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.

Philippians 4:4

New Zion Logo T-Shirts

We will be bringing out a design for a new Zion T-shirt to be available for ordering during the month of May. Shirts will be available in early June and be a great way to share Zion when we are out and about. Watch for shirt prices and order details on Sundays during the month of May!



May 21 – Pallet to Palette

Food for Greater Elgin will have its annual gala celebration on Monday evening, May 21st. The event is a fundraiser to raise support for the important programs the FFGE carries out. Many members of Zion are very involved in this important work. This event will be held at the Grand Victoria and



feature wonderful food, enjoyable activities, and the chance to both learn about and celebrate the important work the organization does. Tickets are \$60 and proceeds all go to support Food for Greater Elgin. Talk to Joann Hartmann if you have any more questions or would like to attend or visit their website <http://www.foodforgreaterelgin.org/pallet-to-palate/>

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Summer Lunch Program

We have an exciting chance to host a summer lunch program at Zion during the months of June, July and August while school is out of session. Many kids get breakfast and lunch at school as part of their school day and without it live in homes where there are not enough resources to provide adequate food for them. During the summer, this food source is gone and many families struggle to provide enough food for their children. The Northern Illinois Food Bank and the City of Elgin partner to provide summer meals and use locations like local congregations to distribute the food.

We are planning to try to be a summer lunch site. Prepared lunches are delivered to the church between 8 and 9 AM on Monday – Friday each week. We just need a person to meet the delivery person at the church and get the lunches into the building. Then people come for their lunches and we need at least two people to be there to distribute them as families come.

We need a dependable schedule of volunteers for each day, but the same people don't have to do every day. If you can routinely give even one day a week to help with this, let Joann Hartmann or Deacon Marlene know. This is a great way to meet many of the families in our church's neighborhood!

Main Floor Redecorating Work

It has been over a decade since we have painted the nursery, library and overflow spaces. A team has been looking at updates and is ready to begin the work. We'll be repainting these three areas, installing a laminated floor in the nursery and library, and adding cabinets and a counter for a coffee and hospitality center in the overflow space. Things should work better and look fresh and welcoming when the work is done!



Summer and Online Giving

Many of our members and active worshippers have switched to electronic giving – either as a repeated draft or using the portals available on Zion's web site. This has made a huge difference in having a more consistent cash flow (really important over the summer). Please pray about your support of Zion's work over the summer and see what works best for you to keep your giving current. Thanks so much!

Financial Report

March	Income	Expenses
General	\$17,110	\$22,669
Building Fund	\$1,237	\$868
YTD	Income	Expenses
General	\$50,726	\$58,351
Building Fund	\$4,016	\$2,604



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. We will also have time to journal most weeks. Each session 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.

- June 2 – Women's Luncheon / Nursery Shower
- June 8 and 9 – Synod Assembly
- June 10 – Church picnic
- June 16-23 – Intergenerational Cross-Cultural
- July 18 – Kane County Cougars All Faith's Night
- Sept 10 – Resume fall schedule
- Sept 10 – God's Work Our Hands
- Sept 29 – Workday
- Oct 6 – Blessing of the Animals

Kids Hope USA Year-End Party



It's hard to believe, but the end of the school year is almost here! All year long the Kids Hope Mentors have been meeting with their kids and their Prayer

Partners have been praying for the kids to do well and the mentors to be helpful. So, our Party Planners will be putting their heads together to celebrate the end of the school year with a year-end party on May 14th at 2:45 PM as school gets out. This will be a chance to connect with parents, enjoy some fun and food, and honor the kids with recognition for the good work they have done as they have completed another school year.

Youth Group

Youth group will meet next on Sunday, June 3 following the late service (about 11:30). We'll stop and get a bite to eat, then head out for an afternoon hike, to enjoy nature (weather permitting).



May 27 – Summer Schedule Starts

Summer brings with it longer and warmer days and the chance to spend more time outdoors in the amazing world that God has made. It is also a time when school is out and people travel more frequently. We adjust our worship schedule to allow everyone to be able to worship and focus their week on God while still having time to enjoy the day in some other way as well.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Through May 20

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

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

May 27 – September 2

8:30 a.m. Worship / Holy Communion

9:40 a.m. Fellowship time

10:15 a.m. Worship / Holy Communion