

Zion Lutheran Church
330 Griswold Street
Elgin IL 60123

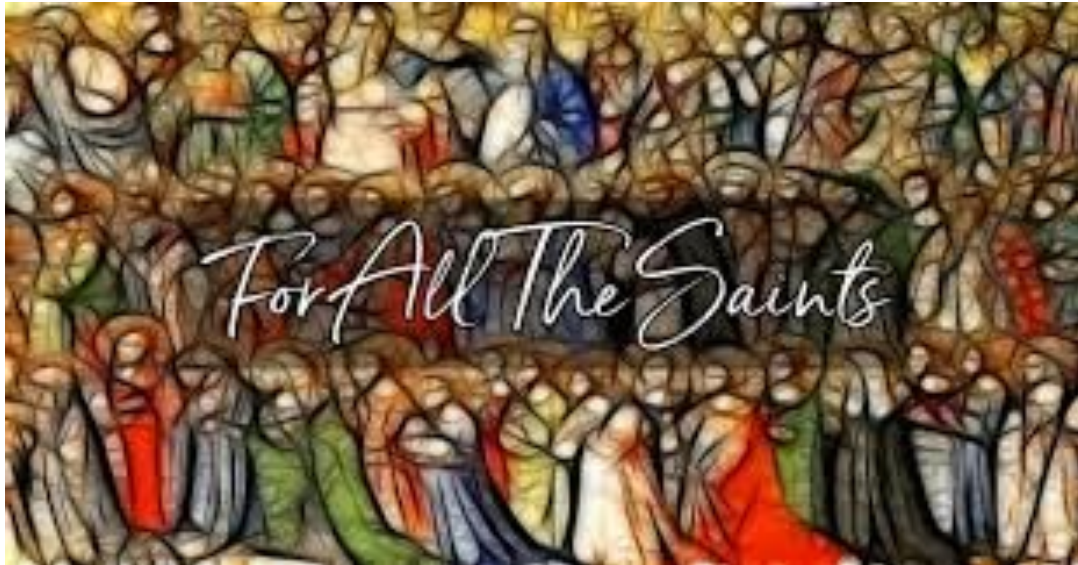
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The Zion Spirit



"Grounded in Christ: Sent to be a blessing"

November 2018



Those Who Have Gone Before Us

All Saints Day is November 1st. Each year on the first Sunday in November we celebrate this important day and use it as a chance to remember those people who have gone before us and had some important impact in shaping our lives.

The word "saint" has a more accessible meaning in scripture than it sometimes seems to have in common usage today. Much of this is because the Bible uses the word "saints" to refer to all baptized people. When Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians he addressed it "to all the saints in Ephesus..." In other words, we are all saints and declared righteous and holy, not by our own ability but by the grace of God promised to each of us in our baptism and shaping us in faith.

Think back over your life and you will likely have a few of these saints in your story. It may be family members, neighbors, best friends or others. But in each case, if we believe that Jesus is Lord and loves us, then someone told us and helped us trust that. Likewise, if we have discovered our gifts and found meaning in our lives, then likely some people helped us find this out or helped us develop those things. We are all shaped by the work of others. None of us actually makes ourselves. All Saints Sun-

day is a chance to be grateful and remember who it is who helped make us who we are.

In worship that day we will remember each of those who have died in the last year and whose funerals and memorial services were conducted by the ministers at Zion. That list includes people who have been a part of Zion for a long time as well as residents of the local community who may not have had a church home and our pastor or deacon provided care to them. We will read a list of people who have died in the last year and ring a tone to honor the remembrance of each one. Then we will invite all who desire to do so to come forward and light a candle in remembrance of those people we want to remember in a special way.

Death ends our relationship with these people in some ways. But in other ways, these folks still influence us and shape us long after they are gone. In fact, in the Roman tradition saints, lifted up as especially special people, are viewed to be living in eternity and able to still pray for us and intercede with God on our behalf. While most Protestants don't emphasize this aspect of saints, many among us continue to find situations where it feels like

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someone special who has died is somehow still present to us and for us, even after they have gone.

So what happens after we die? The Christian faith doesn't have an answer for that. Our faith tells us something happens and it is connected to us being in the presence of God. The Bible uses lots of images to help us and Jesus encourages his disciples with promises that he is going somewhere and preparing a place for us to be with him there as well. The images include a new heaven and a new earth, a mansion with many rooms, crossing a river, the New Jerusalem, a place with no more sorrow or tears and more. These are used to help us know that even though when death comes we will enter the unknown, we will not need to be afraid.

Jesus has gone before us to "return to the Father." The Apostle Paul tells us that Jesus is the "firstborn among the dead" and therefore leads us and goes before us to the place where we will go. Scripture doesn't use just one image to describe what happens beyond death, but the death and resurrection of Jesus and the witness of scripture are clear. We need not fear death. When we cross over, God will be right there to greet us.

Congregational Meeting November 18th at 9:45 AM

Our annual congregational meeting is to be held on November 18th at 9:45 AM at the church building. This is between services to make it possible for all active and confirmed members to attend and participate in the meeting. The agenda will include approval of the budget for 2019 and election of church council people whose terms begin on January 1, 2019. Please plan to attend and be a part of this meeting.

Thanksgiving and Pies at Zion

Each year we have a Service of the Word for Thanksgiving on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. This year that will be on Tuesday, November 20th at 7:00 PM. We also enjoy time together in fellowship after the service enjoying a pie fellowship. Pastor Dave and Deacon Marlene will be making pies again and if there are one or two left when we are done, there will be a drawing to see who gets a pie to take home for Thanksgiving dinner!



CERL Community Thanksgiving Service at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Each year the Coalition of Elgin Religious Leaders (CERL) holds a community Thanksgiving service. It is an interfaith event and includes people from many faiths. It is one of the highlights of the year in the religious life of Elgin.

This year's service will be on Sunday, November 18th at 4:00 PM. It will be held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 340 Grand Blvd. across from Lord's Park in Elgin. This year's theme will be focused on giving thanks for peace and a peaceful community. There will be a joint choir to share in a combined musical selection. Plan to attend – it's a great community way to celebrate Thanksgiving!

Wedding Invitation to Erin Daubert and Jose Ramirez Wedding.

On Saturday, December 8th Erin Daubert and Jose Ramirez will be married in the sanctuary at Zion Lutheran Church. The wedding will be at 3:00 PM and there will be a reception at Emmett's in West Dundee from 4:00 – 6:00 PM. All are welcome to attend. So that Erin and Joe can plan the reception food, they are asking that if you plan to attend, please go to the RSVP on line and let them know by November 16th so that food can be ordered. The registration link can be found by clicking this link: <http://erinandjose-rsvp.us/> and filling out the reservation form. To find out more about the wedding in general, the Erin and Joe's home page can be found at <http://erinandjose.us/>

Christmas Program Planned for December 16th

This year's Christmas program will be taking a new and creative approach to telling the Christmas story. Using narration from the Christmas story in the Godly Play curriculum, we'll use a mix of narration, actors, a nativity scene and music to tell the story in a meaningful and creative way. Jeff Grosser will be coordinating the music pieces of the program and Dianha Ortega-Ehreth will be working to tell the story. If you are interested in being in this all-ages program, see one of them and let them know you'd like to be involved. And watch for details to come, as rehearsals will be announced soon.

NOVEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>It is only with gratitude that life becomes rich! <i>Dietrich Bonhoeffer</i></p>				<p>1 02:00 PM- Peacemak- ers</p>	<p>2 Office Closed 06:30 PM-AA Study 08:00 PM-AA</p>	<p>3 09:30 AM-Prayer Shawl 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA</p>
<p>4 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship 04:30 PM-AA Dist 22</p>	<p>5 07:00 PM- SWAN Board Mtg</p>	<p>6 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA</p>	<p>7 Office Closed 12:00 PM-EHN Board Mtg 05:00 PM-Choir 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-AA</p>	<p>8 10:00 AM- Befriender 02:00 PM- Peacemak- ers</p>	<p>9 Office Closed 06:30 PM-AA Study 08:00 PM-AA</p>	<p>10 08:00 AM-Youth Group to LOMC 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA</p>
<p>11 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship</p>	<p>12 06:30 PM- Council Mtg</p>	<p>13 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA</p>	<p>14 Office Closed 05:00 PM-Choir 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-AA</p>	<p>15 02:00 PM- Peacemak- ers</p>	<p>16 Office Closed 06:30 PM-AA Study 08:00 PM-AA</p>	<p>17 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA</p>
<p>18 Newsletter Articles Due 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 09:45 AM-Cong Mtg 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship 04:00 PM-CERL Inter- faith Thanksgiving</p>	<p>19 06:30 PM- SWAN (LL)</p>	<p>20 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study 12:00 PM-CERL at Zion 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 07:00 PM- Thanksgiving SVC & Pie 08:00 PM-AA</p>	<p>21 Office Closed 05:00 PM-Choir 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-AA</p>	<p>22 Office Closed Thanksgiv- ing</p>	<p>23 Office Closed 06:30 PM-AA Study 08:00 PM-AA</p>	<p>24 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA</p>
<p>25 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship</p>	<p>26 06:00 PM- AAUW (overflow)</p>	<p>27 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA</p>	<p>28 Office Closed 05:00 PM-Choir 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-AA</p>	<p>29 6:30 PM- "Dakota 38" showing at Gail Borden</p>	<p>30 Office Closed 06:30 PM-AA Study 08:00 PM-AA</p>	

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.



If the only prayer you said
in your whole life was
"thank you,"
that would suffice.

*Meister Eckhart,
German theologian*

Making Sundays Happen

We thank all who filled out a Making Sundays Happen sheet. It really helps us to know who is willing and able to do the various roles that make Sunday a success at Zion. Our new system will be:

- The notebook will be open for signups until the third Sunday of each month prior to assignments. Use this time to sign up for roles and dates that you are able to do.
- After the third Sunday, the Making Sundays Happen sheets will be used to assign people who don't sign up into various dates to fill the slots.
- Once you are assigned, if you can't fulfill that assignment, please contact another person who can swap with you and let the office know so the bulletin is accurate. A roster of roles and people with phone and email will be created for you to use.

Thanks for all you do to make our Sundays happen. It takes many of us working together to be the body of Christ in this place.

Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,
always giving thanks to God the Father
for everything,
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:19-20

BIBLE READINGS for November

November 4 All Saints Sunday

Joshua 1:1-9 (sermon text)
Luke 12:27-34

November 11

Judges 4:4-9 (sermon text)
Luke 8:1-3

November 18

Ruth 1:6-18 (sermon text)
John 9:1-3

November 25

1 Samuel 12:20-25 (sermon text)
Matthew 22:41-46

December 2

1 Samuel 17:41-50 (sermon text)
John 14:9-14

NOVEMBER VERSE OF THE MONTH

Be strong and courageous;
do not be frightened or dismayed,
for the Lord your God is with you wherever
you go.

Joshua 1:9

To be grateful is to
recognize the love of God
in everything He has given us --
and He has given us everything.
Every breath we draw is a gift of His love,
every moment of existence is a grace,
for it brings with it
immense graces from Him.

Thomas Merton

Commitment Sunday – November 11th

Each Fall we take time to reflect on our giving to and through the congregation. It is also an important time to reflect on your entire giving plan – not only through Zion but also to other places that are important to you and that you believe do work that is consistent with God’s hopes and dreams for our world.

This time is an important time. Most of us simply do what we do unless we step back for a moment and reflect on what we are doing and ask a simple question, “Is this what God wants me to do or is God calling me to make a change in some way?” This is a good practice for our giving, but also for any and all important aspects of our life. Taking time to pause and ask God for guidance is one of the signs of a mature spiritual life.

This year, our reflection time will point toward November 11th as our Commitment Sunday. In the next few weeks you will receive a letter with a chart outlining the giving patterns for our congregation, a worksheet to help you assess where you are and what you and God want your goal to be for the coming year, and a prayer to pray as you do this. Most of you who give regularly should have received a statement recently for the third quarter that will help you see what you have done this year as a base for thinking about next year.

In general, the costs of life go up and this is true for the church. Inflation impacts us at home and it impacts our shared faith life together. So, if we are to continue to do good work as a congregation, our giving needs to grow with our ministry. That may mean God is calling you to take a step to give a higher percentage of what you have. Or it may be that God is saying the percentage you have been giving is correct but as cost of living comes to you, be sure to pass that same amount through in your giving. The same amount given next year will actually be less than it was this year.

Whatever you and God decide, please pray about it. If you set a goal for your giving that is what God wants you to give, it will be the right goal for you. And if you set a goal for your giving that is what God wants you to give, then it will be the right goal for your Zion as well.

Thanks for all you give and do. Our shared work is an investment in God’s work in the world!

Planned Giving Lunch Coming Soon

We have been talking to staff at the ELCA Church-wide organization about planned giving – how to think about our assets and how they will be shared after our death. Things like wills, trusts, beneficiary accounts, life insurance, etc. are all vehicles to share your assets with the people and organizations that matter to you. How we distribute our estate says much about what we value in our lives. We will be hosting a lunch workshop with a staff member from the ELCA churchwide organization sometime soon. Be watching for information about this when a date is set and be thinking about your values and assets and how you want them to work after your time here on earth is over. Thanks!

Zion to co-sponsor the movie “Dakota 38” at Gail Borden Library

Thursday, November 29, the movie “Dakota 38” will be shown at Gail Borden Library. We are a co-sponsor of this important movie. If you missed our showing at Zion, you have another chance! The movie will be followed by discussion.

In the spring of 2005, Jim Miller, a Native spiritual leader and Vietnam veteran, found himself in a dream riding on horseback across the great plains of South Dakota. Just before he awoke, he arrived at a riverbank in Minnesota and saw 38 of his Dakota ancestors hanged. At the time, Jim knew nothing of the largest mass execution in United States history. This is a piece of history that you will not have learned in your history class.

We hope to see you there.

Financial Report

Sept	Income	Expenses
General	\$13,875	\$41,657
Building Fund	\$965	\$868
YTD	Income	Expenses
General	\$163,394	\$198,680
Building Fund	\$11,198	\$7,812

Expenses include \$23,490 spent on Property Special Projects in Sept. and \$25,366 YTD.

Youth Group

On Saturday, Nov 10, our 6th-8th graders will leave in the morning and head to LOMC – Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center in Oregon, IL. There they will join in a day of activities centered around “Crazy Love: God’s Radical Affection for Us”. The day will include a concert by Agape, lots of activities and our meals. We will return late in the day.

December 2, we will be going out to lunch and then shopping for white gifts. After shopping is complete, we head back to Zion to wrap gifts, share some snacks and play some games. We will plan to end at 4:00 PM. Please bring a snack to share.

Zion Children’s Ministry News

Godly Play is going very well! The children have heard several stories so far, including the Creation story, the Ark and the Flood, and the Great Family which was about Abraham, Sarah and their descendants. Stories coming up in November will include The Exodus, The Ten Best Ways (10 Commandments) and Holy Baptism. On November 25 the children will practice for the Christmas program in the sanctuary during Sunday School time. The Christmas program, which will be on December 16 will be an adapted children’s liturgy of the Christmas story that will engage the whole congregation.

One new thing that we will add to Godly Play in November is collecting offering envelopes during our Feast Time (group snack), which comes towards the end of the Godly Play routine. This addition will help children understand and practice the importance of giving especially as we come up on Thanksgiving! Children will discuss and select a ministry to support with the money collected at the end of the school year. If your child does not have a box of offering envelopes, let me know!

The After School program called Peacemakers is also doing well! We have room for a few more children and volunteers. Registration information can be found in the overflow space or on Zion’s web site.

Dianha Ortega-Ehreth,
Coordinator for Children and Family Ministries
dianhaoe@gmail.com or 773-860-0588 (cell)



Dec 16 – Christmas Program

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Family Worship – 5 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship – 11 PM

Mar 6 – Ash Wednesday. Lent begins

Mar 13 thru Apr 10 – Wed evening Lenten study and worship

April 18 – Maundy Thursday meal and worship

April 19 – Good Friday worship

April 21 – Easter



White Gifts

It won't be long until Advent comes and we prepare for Christmas. One of our commitments at Zion is to be sure that the homeless and near homeless kids in U-46 schools are remembered and we do this through White Gifts. White gifts are gifts we individually purchase for a particular child. This year we will have 50 names and ask interested folks to help by taking a name (or two) and purchasing gifts in the amount of \$30. Their parents provide gift suggestions. These gifts are to be wrapped in white paper and returned to Zion no later than December 9. If you would prefer to donate money, (\$35 to cover tax and wrapping paper), please sign up for a particular child and give the money to Deacon Marlene. The youth group will be going shopping on December 2. Thanks for brightening a child's Christmas!

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