

Zion Lutheran Church
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Elgin IL 60123

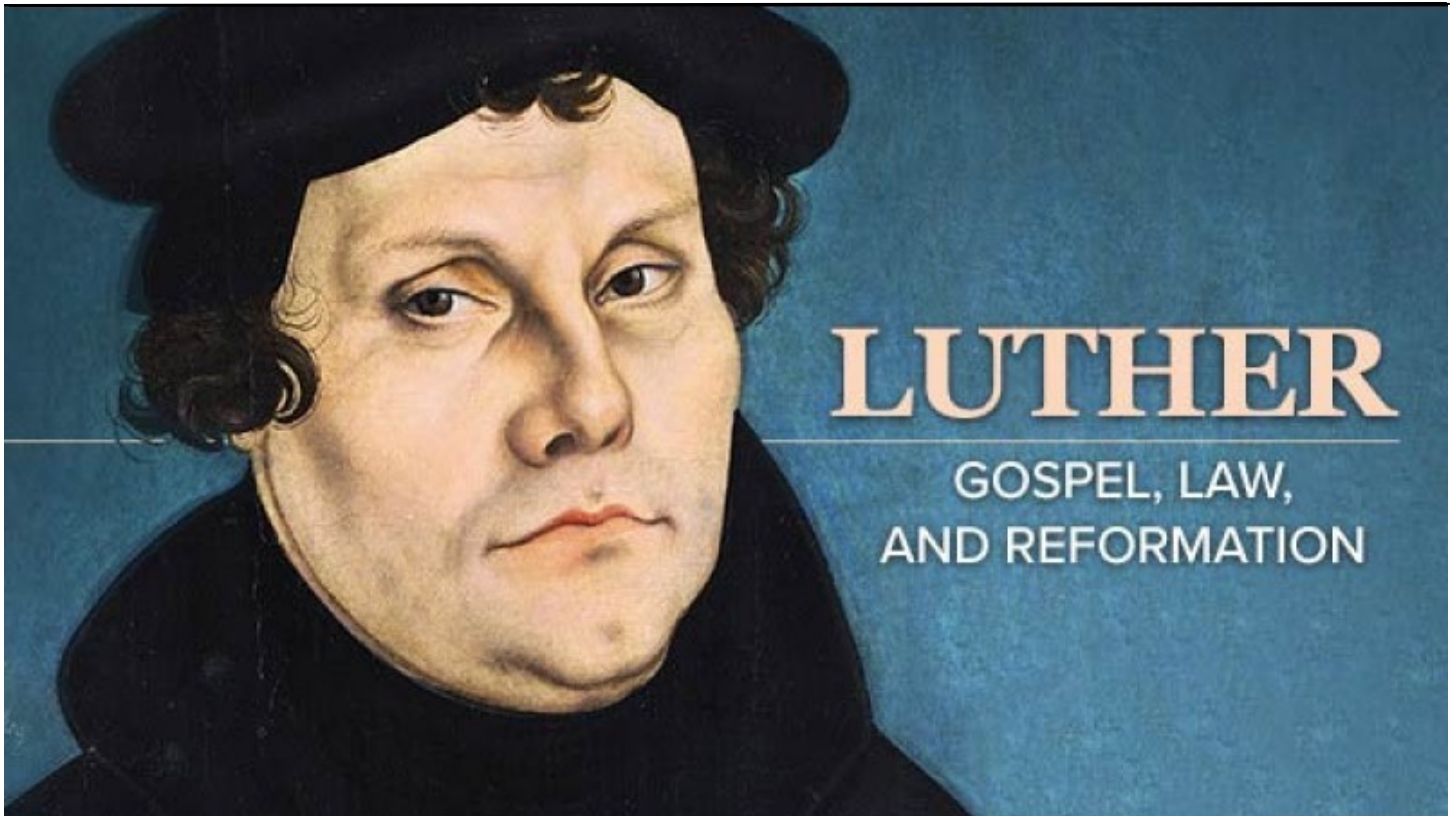
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The Zion Spirit



"Grounded in Christ: Sent to be a blessing"

October 2018



Reformation Sunday

Sunday, October 28th is Reformation Sunday. It is the last Sunday each October and a day when we remember the work Martin Luther did to begin the work of reforming the church. On October 31, 1517, Luther posted his 95 Theses (ideas) on the church door of the Castle church in Wittenberg, Germany. His goal was to begin a conversation/debate about the work of the church and the nature of the God we meet in Jesus. Little did he expect the explosion of ideas that would follow, much of it due to the newly invented printing press and the way ideas could suddenly spread from a local document to news across Europe.

Often, Lutherans view this day as a day of triumph and reflect on the good work that we have done. But in today's world it is also a chance to reflect on being a new church for our time as well. The world has changed dramatically since 1517. In fact, change happens so fast that much of what we do

and use on a daily basis now wasn't even dreamed of when many of us were children! The church has changed, but much slower than the world around us. There is ongoing work to do.

Sometimes people like to say that rather than our church being a "reformed" church, instead we see ourselves as a "reforming" church. That "-ing" emphasizes less about what we have done and calls attention to the ongoing challenge to be continually assessing what we do and how and why we do it.

Just as Luther had new access to the printing press, the introduction of the internet and cell phones have radically changed how information travels today. What was once a long distance call with charges, is now free and can be done from anywhere at anytime. What once needed to be looked up in a multi-volume and slowly going out of date encyclo-

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pedia can now be accessed with Google in a moment with up to date information.

How is the church responding to this new day and the pace with which things happen? How are we being sure our message communicates the grace of the God we meet in Jesus to a world that is increasingly non-gracious and divisive? And how is what we are doing when we gather, equipping each and every one of us for the work of being followers of Jesus in 2018?

The Reformation was a major watershed for western society. It started a snowball rolling down a big hill. But it was a beginning and not a destination. We continue to give thanks for the work of Luther and others who worked so hard to reform the church so we would know God's love as freely and graciously given. But they did not close the book on this. They simply wrote some chapters and passed it on to us. It is our work to continue to reflect and change in ways that would honor the work we have received but not stopped there. God is still working on us!



Blessing of the Animals – October 6th

The first Saturday in October is close to the Commemoration of St. Francis. This is a common time for people of faith to gather for a blessing of the animals. Francis was known for loving nature and appreciating life. His statue is often made with birds on his shoulders and animals near his feet.

Zion will host a Blessing of the Animals Service on Saturday, October 6th at 4:30. The service will be on the labyrinth patio of weather permits – inside on the lower level if it is raining. Bring animals, leashed, crated or otherwise appropriately contained. This has always been a fun and meaningful time to give thanks for the pets who enrich our lives and to meet and enjoy the animals others have as well.

Godly Play

Godly Play is our new Montessori-based Sunday School program and we are off to a great start! Godly Play allows for children to hear a story and then play, which is how children "work." Reminder to all adults that the Godly Play room is for CHILDREN ONLY on Sunday mornings. If you want a tour, let Dianha know and she'll be glad to show you around in there any other time! Reminder also to parents to bring your children downstairs on Sunday mornings BEFORE 9:45 am.

Peacemakers is the new After School Ministry Program at Zion that had its groundbreaking session on September 20th with five children. We can accommodate up to 20 children from grades 1 to 6 on Thursday afternoons. We do games, snacks, a short lesson on social/emotional development and homework help. Registration forms can be found in the overflow space or on Zion's web site! If you would like to volunteer with this fun program, let Dianha know. All volunteers must go through a 1-2 hour training and have a background check.

Both Godly Play and Peacemakers are supported by many of you in the congregation already, thank you! If you want to be more connected with these new ministries, spend some time with the following questions:

- What was your favorite way of playing when you were a child?
- Do you believe children are aware of the mystery of God in their lives?
- What was your earliest memory of God?
- What social and emotional skills do you wish you had in elementary school?
- How well do you know Zion's particular neighborhood in the Elgin area?

Please keep all children ministries in your prayers this month – that we all may be transformed by the words of Jesus: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" and be of helpful service in building strong, healthy children in our community!

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

OCTOBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 07:00 PM-SWAN Board Mtg	2 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle - Zion Serves 08:00 PM-AA	3 Office Closed 05:00 PM-Choir 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-AA	4 02:00 PM-Peacemakers	5 Office Closed 06:30 PM Bible Study 08:00 PM-AA	6 09:30 AM-Prayer Shawl 10:00 AM-AA 05:00 PM-Blessing of the Animals 08:00 PM-AA
7 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship 04:30 PM-AA Dist 22	8 06:30 PM-Council Mtg	9 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	10 Office Closed 05:00 PM-Choir 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-AA	11 10:00 AM-Befriender 02:00 PM-Peacemakers	12 Office Closed 06:30 PM Bible Study 08:00 PM-AA	13 10:00 AM-AA 01:00 PM-Know Your Rights Forum 08:00 PM-AA
14 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship	15 06:30 PM-SWAN (LL)	16 08:00 AM-Boss's Day 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	17 Office Closed 05:00 PM-Choir 06:00 PM-Praise Team 06:30 PM-Catechism Group 07:00 PM-AA	18 02:00 PM-Peacemakers	19 Office Closed 06:30 PM Bible Study 08:00 PM-AA	20 08:00 AM-Sweetest Day 08:00 AM-Pancake Breakfast 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
21 Newsletter Articles Due 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship 01:30 PM-CROPWALK 04:00 PM-Big Book AA (LL)	22	23 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle - Zion Serves 08:00 PM-AA	24 Office Closed 05:00 PM-Choir 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-AA	25 02:00 PM-NO PEACEMAKERS	26 Office Closed 06:30 PM Bible Study 08:00 PM-AA	27 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
28 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship	29	30 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle - Zion Serves 08:00 PM-AA	31 Office Closed 05:00 PM-Choir 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 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.



Marlene to be commissioned as a Spiritual Director this month

Our journey as Christians is one that is hopefully always evolving and growing as we mature in faith and age. Sometimes we seek out new learnings, other times our experiences provide us opportunity to reflect and grow.

In the fall of 2016, I (Marlene) finished a certificate of Spiritual Formation at Columbia Theological Seminary, a seminary near Atlanta GA. Pastor Dave completed the same program about the same time. (This spiritual deepening came as a response to our sabbatical in 2013). This was a wonderful experience and I began to wonder, what's next in my faith journey? I felt drawn into a program to become a Spiritual Director. Classes began in February 2017. Since then, I have been going to classes one weekend a month with a program called "Sacred Journey". Here we have learned and practiced becoming spiritual directors (also referred to as Spiritual Companions). Marlene will complete this program October 20 and be commissioned as a Spiritual Director that same afternoon.

So, what is a Spiritual Director anyway? In short, it is someone who companions another on his or her spiritual journey, paying attention to the presence and work of God in his or her life. The Holy Spirit resides deep within each of us and it is through sharing of sacred stories, exploring the questions we have, listening - sometimes in silence that we become more aware of the sacred within each of us and explore how all of that is connected in our daily lives. Spiritual Directors do not have answers, we accompany another on this deepening journey.

BIBLE READINGS for October

October 7

Genesis 37:2-8 (sermon text)

Luke 6:35-38

The Story week 3

"Joseph: From Slave to Deputy Pharaoh"

October 14

Exodus 3:1-15 (sermon text)

Luke 4:14-22

The Story Week 4 "Deliverance"

October 21

Exodus 19:1-8 (sermon text)

Mark 9:2-8

The Story week 5

"New Commands and a New Covenant"

October 28 - Reformation Sunday

Numbers 10:33-36 (sermon text)

John 6:30-35

The Story Week 6 "Wandering"

November 4 - All Saints Sunday

Joshua 1:1-9 (sermon text)

Luke 12:27-34

The Story Week 7 "The Battle Begins"

OCTOBER VERSE OF THE MONTH

Jesus said to them,
"I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me
will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me
will never be thirsty."

John 6:35

Crop Walk – October 21st

On Sunday, October 21st, Elgin will once again come together to combat hunger. This annual event brings people from many different faith communities to walk for those who must walk for food and water every day.

Zion has annually been one of the largest fundraisers for this cause. Once again, we want to be at the front of the pack. Watch for members of our team in worship on Sundays and be sure to approach them and offer to support them. 25% of all funds raised stay in the Elgin area. The remaining 75% go to national and global causes. So, this is one place where we act locally and it impacts people close to home and around the world.



Financial Stewardship Thoughts

We will spend some more time reflecting on this important subject as the November newsletter comes out in a few weeks. But this is a good time to let you know a few things about our upcoming annual fall stewardship campaign. First, Stewardship Sunday will be November 11th. That’s the day we’ll receive commitment cards in worship. Be praying about your upcoming personal goals for the year ahead.

Also, we modified Gary Anliker’s pay in August but otherwise; none of our other staff have received a raise since January 2017, so two budget years. We’ll be looking at that to see what’s possible for the other staff as we budget for 2019, but once again, we will likely be tight. We are not in financial jeopardy, but it is important to know that we have had to use savings this year to pay some of our regular expenses. As we come out of summer, we are behind for the year. Your generosity allows us to compensate our staff fairly and be sure they know their wellbeing matters to us all. Finally, and most importantly, your giving is truly an investment in what God is doing in and through the ministry of Zion. So please feel good about your giving and know that it matters. Thank you!



Youth Group

In October, our youth group will be walking in the Annual Crop Walk, to raise money for local and global hunger, walking with other youth from Elgin. We will meet up for lunch at Burger King (165 Dundee in Elgin) prior to the walk. Following lunch we will get ready for our 2:00 start time downtown. Be sure to pick up your CROP Walk forms to begin to raise money.

If you are not allowed to laugh in heaven,
I don't want to go there.

Martin Luther

Financial Report

August	Income	Expenses
General	\$14,586	\$17,881
Building Fund	\$789	\$868
YTD	Income	Expenses
General	\$145,210	\$156,673
Building Fund	\$10,283	\$6,944

God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.

Augustine



- Nov 18 – Congregational Meeting
- Nov 18 – Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
- Nov 20 – Thanksgiving Service
- Nov 22 – Thanksgiving
- Dec 16 – Christmas Program
- Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Worship 5 and 11PM
- Mar 6 – Ash Wednesday. Lent begins
- April 21 - Easter

Pancake Breakfast - Saturday, October 20th

Zion will be hosting a pancake breakfast on Saturday, October 20th from 8 AM to 11 AM. The proceeds will help with facility costs and help us maintain the facility while also making it available for so many in the community around us. The breakfast will have a free will offering taken.



Invite friends and family for breakfast and help Zion care for our facility at the same time!

Christian community is the place where we keep the flame of hope alive among us and take it seriously so that it can grow and become stronger in us.

Henri Nouwen

The best and most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even heard, but must be felt with the heart.

Helen Keller

The Story Continues

If you didn't get to start reading The Story when we began, as this newsletter comes out we are just out of the gate. That means that you could read a couple of chapters (they are not really long) and get caught up. The Story is an abridged version of the Bible that covers Genesis to Revelation in 31 chapters. Read a chapter a week and by May you will have read a great overview of the Bible. Plus, adult education and the sermons will cover the material with you, so you should be able to both read and get your questions answered. What are you waiting for?

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