

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"

September 2018

**Get involved...
make a difference!**

Making Sundays Happen — Worship at Our Core

Did you know that two-thirds of all ELCA Lutheran congregations have less people attend worship than we do at Zion? Over the course of a year, our average attendance is just about 100 people each week. But with a small parking lot (28 spaces including the two handicap spots) and needing two services, it takes a lot of people to make Sunday happen.

Each week we need more than 20 people plus musicians to make our worship happen. With 100 people involved in a typical week, that means EVERYONE who can, needs to take on at least 1-2 roles each month in an ongoing way. If we don't, then the remaining people have to take on more roles — one or more tasks every week.

We have tried a few different methods — each with something to recommend it and also with some drawbacks. But the job of coordinating it has been a difficult one, in part due to the size of our pool of Sunday people. But it isn't the size of our system

that is the issue (we are bigger than 2/3 of all ELCA congregations across the country). The issue is how we have done this and everyone's acceptance of the foundational principle that to be a part of worship means to also accept some responsibility for helping worship happen. This fundamental assumption is at the heart of participative worship, at the heart of Lutheran understanding of worship, and at the heart of our shared worship life.

Roles use a variety of gifts and personality types. Some parts involve being up front and reading. Other parts are behind the scenes. In between are roles like acolyte and usher where you are seen but don't have to speak in front of people. The important role of greeter means simply being able to smile and say hello to people as they enter the building.

So, don't be a pew sitter. Everyone of us can do something!

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We are going through a transition in how we assign people to Sunday roles. We'll be putting together a "Making Sundays Happen" time and talent sheet. Sunday, September 16th we'll spend time thinking about this and encouraging everyone to sign up for one or more roles. Then we'll be developing a method to use that information to help fill the schedule and hopefully find smoother ways to do this work.

So, we are asking that you reflect on worship and your part in it. Good worship centers us on God's presence in our time together so that we can be better prepared as we spend our week in the world. Worship is not something we attend. It is something we do. Each of us sharing in that makes worship better for all of us.



God's Work, Our Hands – September 8th

This year we are trying something a bit different with our annual "God's Work, Our Hands" day. We'll be doing a project with Habitat for Humanity. The day will begin with gathering at the ReStore at 8:00 AM for devotions and then teams will go out to house builds for the day. There's also family projects for the morning to make planter boxes and bird houses. Some will work in the ReStore. Plus, a team will be at Christ the Lord creating quilts as welcome gifts to families. So please pray for those people who signed up for this important day of service. We are doing this with the other ELCA congregations in Elgin as a way to show our faith and impact the community.

El Centro Gala

El Centro de Información is an important agency that works with immigrants in the Elgin area. They are a great community partner with Zion. This year, we will have a table at their annual gala on Saturday, Sept. 29 for the second year in a row. There are ten seats at a table and each is \$120. We are hoping to fill all ten of our slots and show our support for the work they do. Interested? See Dan Garcia or Pastor Dave or Deacon Marlene. Baskets and new items for the auction are also welcome. Pick up an auction donation form if interested in helping this way.

First Communion

We are starting a new session for children ready to receive their first communion. Kids are ready when they understand that communion is a special way to celebrate that Jesus is with us. Zion's policy is that there is no set age for first communion. Children are welcome to commune when the pastor, the parents and the child all agree that communion is appropriate. If you are interested in your child receiving instruction for communion, see Pastor Dave



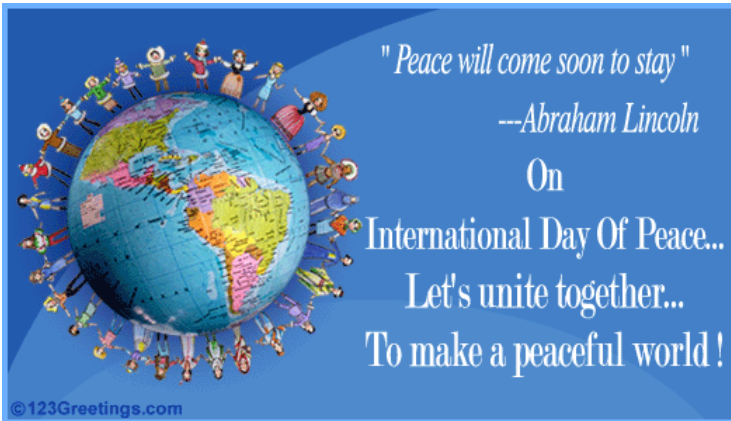
"Peacemakers" After School Program to Begin Volunteers Needed to Help

We are excited to begin our new after school program this fall. Once a week, on Thursdays, "Peacemakers" will help elementary aged kids learn skills to function as peacemakers in their daily lives and also provide snacks, games and homework help each week. Kids will arrive after school gets out (2:30 PM) and be picked up by 5:00 PM each time.

There will be a training session for anyone interested in helping with this once a week after school program. The session will be led by Dianha Ortega-Ehreth and go from 2-4 PM on Thursday, September 13th. We are excited about this important chance to connect with kids and their families and hope you are too! If you are interested in helping as part of a team, let Dianha know!

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 08:00 AM-GWOH 09:30 AM-Prayer Shawl 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
2 08:30 AM-Worship 10:15 AM-Worship 04:30 PM-AA Dist 22	3 Labor Day - Office Closed	4 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	5 Office Closed 07:00 PM-AA	6	7 Office Closed 08:30 PM-AA	8 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
9 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship	10 06:30 PM- Council Meeting	11 10:30 AM- KHUSA Director Mtg at Zion 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	12 Office Closed 06:00 PM- Choir/Praise Team Potluck 07:00 PM-AA	13 10:00 AM- Befriender 02:00 PM- Peacemaker Training 04:30 PM- AAUW	14 Office Closed 08:30 PM-AA	15 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
16 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship	17 06:30 PM- SWAN 07:00 PM- Godly Play Leaders	18 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	19 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-AA 07:00 PM-Choir	20 02:30 PM- After School program begins	21 Office Closed 08:30 PM-AA	22 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
23 Newsletter Articles Due 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship	24 06:30 PM- Kid's Hope Training	25 05:30 PM-Soup Kettle 08:00 PM-AA	26 Office Closed 06:00 PM-Praise Team 07:00 PM-AA 07:00 PM-Choir	27 02:30 PM- After School program	28 Office Closed 08:30 PM-AA	29 08:30 AM-Work Day 10:00 AM-AA 08:00 PM-AA
30 08:30 AM-Worship 09:45 AM-Sun. School 10:00 AM-Adult Ed 10:45 AM-Worship						



International Peace Weekend

Last year we hosted this event. This year a Global Peace Feast will be on Sun. Sept 23rd from 5 -6:30 at Highland Ave Church of the Brethren, located at 783 West Highland Ave in Elgin. This community event will be an intergenerational event with story-telling and music. Bring a dish to share from your heritage to contribute to the potluck. We will also join the other churches in Elgin by ringing our bells at noon, calling for peace.

Native American Prayer

Teach your children
what we have taught our children-
that the earth is our mother.
Whatever befalls the earth
befalls the sons and daughters of the earth.
If men spit upon the ground,
they spit upon themselves.

This we know.
The earth does not belong to us;
we belong to the earth.
This we know.
All things are connected
like the blood which unites one family.
All things are connected

Whatever befalls the earth
befalls the sons and daughters of the earth.
We did not weave the web of life;
We are merely a strand in it.
Whatever we do to the web,
we do to ourselves. . . .

CHIEF SEATTLE

Edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amiden

BIBLE READINGS

for September

September 2

Psalm 51:15-17

Luke 12:13-34 (sermon text)

September 9

Romans 12:1-16 (sermon text)

Luke 8:26-39

September 16

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 (sermon text)

Mark 6:6b-13

September 23

Genesis 2:4b-9 (sermon text)

Luke 4:16-21

September 30

Genesis 15:1-6 (sermon text)

John 14:9-11

SEPTEMBER

VERSE OF THE MONTH

Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed
by the renewing of your minds,
so that you may discern
what is the will of God—
what is
good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2

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.



Zion's Library

The library has been growing, thanks to donations from several of you! We are once again looking for bookends to help maintain the Library & to help the Library look better. Do you have any bookends at home that you no longer have a use for? If so, please contact Rebecca Rizzo or the church office & let us know! They do not necessarily need to be a matched set—we'll be happy to take odds and ends! We appreciate your help in making the library the best it can be.



New books and new sections have been added. The inventory in the binder has been updated. New sections include Congregation Resources and Social Justice & Ethics. In addition, obsolete sections have been removed—most notably the Audiobooks and Video sections, as few people still have cassette-tape players or VCRs. These items have been donated.

Please feel free to browse the materials and check out anything that interests you. I just ask that you fill out the appropriate sections on the Check-Out Clipboard, and that you return materials to the Returns Box (which is located on the bottom shelf of the bookcase nearest the door). If you have any materials that you would like to donate, please contact me. We always welcome donations to continue expanding the Library!!

Also, do you have any Zion Library books at home that you are finished with? The current list of check-outs is quite lengthy. If you are finished with materials, please return them to the Returns Box and cross off your name on the clipboard, so others may enjoy the materials. Remember, the check-out process works purely on the honor system!

Finally, if you are attending a meeting in the library, **please** do *not* pull a book from the shelves to use as a clipboard while you are taking notes. Often, this leads to books being reshelfed improperly, and others are not able to find desired materials. Thank you for your consideration.

Come check out the library and please contact me with any questions.

Thanks so much,

Rebecca Rizzo
RebeccaRizz@gmail.com
 847-373-1402

Godly Play – Parents' Day is Sept. 9th

The first day of our new Sunday School will be a special one. There will be special activities for kids while parents are invited into our new "Godly Play" classroom to experience the new Montessori based curriculum. Dianha Ortega Ehreth will lead a special session to help parents see our cool new Sunday School as a way to kick off our new program and our new year.

Thanks for Summer Lunch Program

This summer we had our first year of providing free lunches for kids over the summer. The program was a partnership with the Northern Illinois Food Bank, U-46 Schools, and the City of Elgin. Over a dozen Zion members and a few people from community partners volunteered time each weekday to receive fresh meal deliveries each morning and pass out lunches during mid-day. This first year was slow (word has it that immigrant families were nervous about coming for food for fear it was a set-up), but each day was blessed by the caring gift of time by each of these volunteers. Thanks to all who worked to make this happen!

Thanks Thrivent!

A big thanks to Thrivent Financial for recent grants. In the past three months, they have provided us with grant money to purchase advertising for the sign boards for the summer lunch program and the Community Fiesta; the large rug for the summer reading program and Godly Play room, and funds to purchase supplies for the Community Fiesta. If you have accounts with Thrivent, you may be eligible to pull together a team to provide a benefit to others, as well.

Financial Report

July	Income	Expenses
General	\$16,205	\$26,209
Building Fund	\$1,318	\$868
YTD	Income	Expenses
General	\$130,864	\$138,793
Building Fund	\$9,494	\$6,076

Healing Service – September 25th

We have started to offer a Service of Word and Prayer for Healing in the evenings every few months. Response has been wonderful and this is going to be a part of our regular rotation. The next service will be held at 6:45 PM on Tuesday, September 25th. This is a great chance for you or someone you know to come and spend time in prayer as well as have someone pray for you, anoint you with oil and provide spiritual support.

KHUSA Fall Workshop For Mentors and Prayer Partners

A child Trauma therapist will help us understand the behaviors of our kids and present ways to respond to children in the moment. Also we will receive a lot of new mentoring ideas. For those interested, we'll be going out to dinner near All Saints, before the workshop. More details to follow...

All Saints Church
on Quentin Rd in Palatine
Monday, September 24th
6:30-8:00pm

Fall Schedule Begins September 9th

Each year we begin our regular schedule for worship and education starting the weekend after Labor Day. This year, that day is September 9th. The Fall schedule looks like this:

- * 8:30 AM – Worship with Holy Communion
- * 9:45 AM – Youth and Children’s Sunday School (lower level)
- * 10:00 AM – Adult Education (in church library)
- * 10:45 AM – Worship with Holy Communion

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



- Oct 6 – Blessing of the Animals
- Oct 20 – Pancake Breakfast (8-11am)
- 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

Work Day

It is time for the Fall work day. We'll gather at Zion on Saturday, September 29th at 8:30 AM. There will be lots of projects – indoors and out. Some will be cleaning. Others repairing things. Others updating or painting. There will be something for people of all ages and abilities. Watch for info and a sign up sheet at Zion and set the morning aside to help get Zion ready for fall!

The Story Bible Reading Campaign

This fall we begin to read The Story. This is a 31 week, through the Bible reading campaign. We'll be signing people up to get copies of the book through September 9th and books will be available and people will be commissioned in worship on September 16th. Adult education, our youth classes, Thursday Thoughts and the sermons will all support this work. Have you ever wanted to understand the Bible better? This is your chance. Sign the covenant in the narthex and get started!

