

Zion Lutheran Church
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The Zion Spirit



"Grounded in Christ: Sent to be a blessing"

February—March 2020

Sabbatical Information

Deacon Marlene and Pastor Dave will be on sabbatical for 8 weeks. During that time they will focus on learning about enhancing and making our worship more dynamic and diverse. They will also be studying and visiting congregations who have been able to reach out to their communities and include increasingly diverse people in congregational life. To learn more about ministry in diverse communities, they will visit congregations in Baltimore, Grand Rapids, Rockford and throughout the Chicagoland area.

During the sabbatical we will have pastoral support from good colleagues in the Elgin area.

- ♦ Sundays January 19, 26 and February 2nd will be led by Pastor Karen Schlack.
- ♦ Sundays February 9, 16, 23, and March 1 and 8th will be led by Pastor Arlyn Tolzmann.
- ♦ Pastoral care emergencies will be covered by Pastor Jeff Mikyska. His phone number for emergency contact is 847-293-5176.
- ♦ For hospital visits, call Allison Mikyska, our church secretary. She will work with Befrienders to make sure someone will visit. She is taking Clinical Pastoral Education as part of her seminary training and may be part of the visiting team. Her number is 630-770-5130.

For other questions, you may contact Allison Mikyska at the church office 847-888-2882, Dave Russell (congregational president) at 815-739-1135 or Gudrun Dorgan at 847-610-0489. These people are all very capable and the congregation will be in good hands during the 8 weeks of sabbatical. In addition, everyone can help by worshipping regularly, being proactive about volunteering for roles like worship leadership, financially supporting the ministry of the congregation, and praying for God's guidance and blessings on the work we share.

Midweek Lenten Services

Each Wednesday in Lent we will have a midweek service. We will use Holden Evening Prayer for our liturgy. This is a wonderful way to focus during the week as part of Lent.



Wednesday worship will be at 7:00 PM and will be held on Wednesdays March 4, 11, 18 and 25.



Small Groups on Thursdays During Sabbatical

As a part of the sabbatical work, the congregation will be reading from Pastor Dave's book, *Lutheran Trump Cards*. It is a primer on the basics of Lutheran faith in accessible and contemporary language. Congregations all across the country have been using this for new members classes, small groups, and confirmation. Now it is our turn! Copies of the books are available in the church narthex and there is simply a free will donation to help cover the costs.

To give people a chance to talk about it and learn more together, we will be having a series of small group meetings each Thursday evening at 7 PM. The group will meet in the church library and be led by a rotating group of leaders from the sabbatical team. Everyone is welcome and there is a sign up sheet in the narthex if you'd like to participate.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the start of the season of Lent. It begins a journey that takes us with Jesus to the cross. Ash Wednesday is named for the practice of marking Christians with the sign of the cross, traced on foreheads with ashes that are often made from the previous year's branches from Palm Sunday



Ash Wednesday is February 26th this year and our Ash Wednesday worship will be at 7:00 PM

Congregational Meeting and Brunch—February 2nd

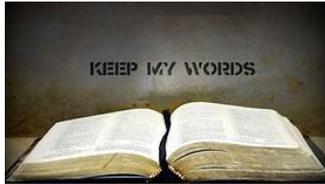
Each year we have two annual meetings. We have one in November where we try to do most or even all of our business. The other is in late January or early February and the focus is reporting and celebrating the previous year's work as a congregation. This year's winter meeting will begin at 9:40 AM in the Fellowship Hall. It will include a congregational brunch, our second vote on congregational amendments approved in November, and a chance to focus on helping people know more about Zion's ministry leaders. Everyone is invited and we hope many of you will attend!

February Verse of the Month

"For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed but the law." (Romans 3:28)

March Verse of the Month

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:4-6)

**Worship Scripture Lessons****February 2, 2020**

Romans 12:1-8 (sermon text)
1 Peter 2:4-10 (also sermon text)
Mark 5:24b-34

February 9, 2020

Psalms 95:1-7 (sermon text)
Matthew 18:15-20 (also sermon text)

February 16, 2020

Psalms 1 (sermon text)
John 1:1-14 (also sermon text)

February 23, 2020

Romans 3:21-31 (sermon text)
Galatians 5:1-15 (also sermon text)

February 26, 2020—Ash Wednesday

Psalms 32:1-5
Mark 9:30-37 (sermon text)

March 1, 2020

Ephesians 2:19-22, Ephesians 4:1-6 (sermon texts)
Mark 10:17-31

March 8, 2020

Ephesians 4:20-24 (sermon text)
Mark 10:46-52

March 15, 2020

Psalms 86:8-13
Mark 12:1-17 (sermon text)

March 22, 2020

Psalms 89:1-4
Mark 12:28-44 (sermon text)

March 29, 2020

Psalms 102:12-17
Mark 13:1-8, 24-37 (sermon text)

Chili Cookoff

It's time for the Annual Chili Cookoff. It will be Saturday, February 8 from 5-7 PM in the Social Hall in the Lower Level. Bring your best chili and whatever kind of fixings go with it and compete for the Best Chili at Zion for 2020! Drinks will be provided. Desserts are welcome. Visit the sign-up sheet in the overflow area. (You are not required to bring Chili. You can come and be a taste tester too!)

Youth Group

The Youth Group will meet on Sunday, February 16 following the late service. If the weather cooperates, the youth will grab lunch and head to Villa Olivia for an afternoon of tubing. If the tubing run is not open, the youth will be at Zion for lunch and then an afternoon of ping pong and other games.

On Sunday, March 15, the youth will have an afternoon event on leadership development, here at Zion.

Men's Group Meeting

Zion's Men's Group will meet at Brick's Pizza on Tuesday, February 25th at 7PM.

Annual Spaghetti Dinner Planned for March 7th

This year's Cafe Zion Dinner will be held from 4:00 – 7:00 PM on Saturday, March 7th. A team will be working to get everything prepared, set up and then served. In past years Andy Flores has been the leader for this event and Andy has always done a great job. However, due to his health, Andy will not be able to lead this year's team. Dale Edwards and Jim Littledale will be helping lead the group and the men's ministry will be providing support. Everything else will still need all the same kinds of involvement to make soup, assemble the salad bar, provide desserts, wait tables, decorate and setup, cook and clean up, etc. So, if you can help, please talk to Dale or Jim to find your place in this annual event. Funds raised by the dinner go to help defray costs of maintaining our facilities.



April 1—Sabbatical Sharing Potluck
April 9—Maundy Thursday Meal and Worship
April 10—Good Friday Worship
April 12—Easter
May 17—Last day of Sunday School
June 8-12—Peace Camp
June 14—Zion Church Picnic
June 19—Faith Night at the Cougars

**FINANCIAL UPDATE YEAR TO DATE
THROUGH DECEMBER 2019**

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
General	\$221,737	\$226,833
Building	\$11,580	\$10,416