

Zion Lutheran Church
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The Zion Spirit



"Grounded in Christ: Sent to be a blessing"

September 9, 2020

Sunday School for Pre-K through Grade 6 Starts Sunday!

As Fall arrives it is time to begin our Sunday School programming. Dianha Ortega-Ehreth has been hard at work planning for a new season with some great new materials. We'll be using a curriculum that helps the kids learn from the same lessons as the ones used for the sermon and children's sermon in worship – helping connect everything and helping kids learn. This year's program will have more variety, more ways to learn, more ways to have fun and share games. In short – kids are going to love it!



Sunday School for pre-K through Grade 6 will be every Sunday morning at 10:30 AM. We'll use Zoom and once we get things going, we may even use breakout rooms online to have younger and older kids have some time in their own groups. Dianha will be sending out an email to all the kids and families connected from last year, but now is the perfect time to invite new kids to join us!

Here is the Zoom info:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87989048679?pwd=aVBiNkxvVGpZNFd2OWNzVjUeEFIQOT09>

or by phone for audio only: 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 879 8904 8679

Passcode: 183688

Next Small Group Communion Scheduled for September 19th



Saturday evening, September 19th at 6:00 PM will be our next outdoor worship with communion. **We are going to have it on a Saturday evening because there are**

some whose work schedule made it impossible to come during the week. So we'll have one service on the church lawn that evening. Social distancing, wearing masks and all safe practices will be required to participate. There will be scripture, a sermon, prayers and we will share communion using current best communion practices.

Registrations are requested by Thursday, September 17th so we can plan. Please contact DeaconMarlene@ZionElginIL.org or by phone at 847-602-6401. Let her know when you can attend – thanks!

Debt Retirement Update Thank you!!

Well, the Dauberts are both now officially in the next decade and their 60th birthdays are history. But the debt campaign they helped set up as part of turning 60 was well responded to. All of the donations toward debt retirement came to \$7100! And the saved interest on that amount of principle being paid early will save over \$1500 in interest as well. We took almost a full year off the loan payment timeline during this 3-week campaign. Nice job everyone! Your generosity will help Zion be debt free sooner and better able to do the work God has ahead. Thanks again!

thank you!

CROP Walk to End Hunger Virtual Walk This Year

Fall is here, and that means it's time to start thinking about CROP Walk! As with so many things in 2020, CROP Walk will look different this year. We will be fundraising through the website <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/elginil/ZionLutheran> and you can fundraise directly to that page rather than creating your own. Tentatively, we will culminate with a safe, socially distanced, masked walk around the neighborhood during the afternoon on Sunday, October 11th. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Rebecca Rizzo.

CROP Walk will be done in conjunction with God's Work, Our Hands. So, if you are looking for activities to help be a servant church, this may be a great option. But there are other ways to serve as well – so check out the next article for more ideas.

Spiritual Disciplines – Lectio Divina Thursday Mornings at 10 AM

On Thursday mornings we will be doing Lectio Divina (an ancient practice of listening to scripture). It is an easy practice to learn so if you are new, now is a great time to join the group! This is a great chance to deepen your spiritual alertness and some of the skills needed to increase your devotional life.

To be a part of the class, join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83943242899>

Phone for audio only: 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 839 4324 2899

Sunday on Facebook Live This Week's Updates

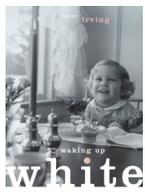


Last week was our first week trying the new slides and captioning software. In general, it all went pretty well, and feedback was positive. It clearly helped people connect and understand what was happening better. This week we'll add them again and take what we have learned to try to improve them. On the other hand, one of our rechargeable batteries failed during Pastor Dave's sermon and that led to sound issues – mostly overcome adequately on the fly (but there is always at least one challenge!)

This week will be our first time adding another leader. Jeanne Meyer will be with us in worship to lead the welcome and announcements as well as read the lessons. If you'd like to be a lay reader for online worship and can come in for less than an hour on Sunday mornings, let Pastor Dave know. We are ready to start including another voice!

In worship we'll look at Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8 (the story of Adam and Eve) and Luke 11:1-4. These lessons will help us look at why God created people and what our role is in God's work. It will remind you that your life matters and that your work is important to God. So, if you have a few minutes, look them up and read them before worship on Sunday. See you online!

City-wide Book Reading Read and Discuss About Race in America



The city of Elgin will be having a three-season chance to read books on race and have discussions as we do. The Coalition of Elgin Religious Leaders, which Pastor Dave serves on as co-president, is one of several sponsors for this exciting and helpful work. The book we will read in the Fall is *Waking Up White* by Debbie Irving. This is a very good book to help us understand how systemic racism is built into the fabric of life. In addition, there will be a two hour Zoom session with the author on Sunday, October 25th from 2:00 – 4:00 PM hosted by the Gail Borden Library. Watch for more about this and check out the title at the Gail Borden Library which will be ordering several copies for people to read – both paper and e-books.

God's Work – Our Hands Sunday This year it will last 4 weeks!

**God's work.
Our hands.**

Each fall the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) encourages us to have a day of service called, "God's Work – Our Hands Sunday." This year's will be a bit different as we adjust to life during a pandemic. But service is still an essential gift of the church to the world, so we want to encourage ways to make it happen.

First, we will not have service all together as a group but encourage individuals and families to share in acts of service alone or as a household. We want you to be intentional about an act of service during the four weeks that extend from Sunday, September 13th through Sunday, October 11th. You can find places which need help and simply volunteer there and then send an email to Allison who will be counting service hours and making a visual reminder to share what we have done and reported. Send that in to ZionElgin@Yahoo.com and let Allison know how much time you and your household donate during that window.

In addition, you can serve online and from a distance too. Everyone can do something! Here are some ways to serve from your home:

- ♦ Coloring cards for people who have cancer. The website gives instructions. Check out <https://philsfriends.org/cards-of-hope/>. Here you can download the cards and color them in, then send them to the office. They are giving cards a quarantine period before they are sent out. These cards provide encouragement during a very difficult time.
- ♦ Librivox for volunteering to read chapters of books that are in public domain. Here is the website to explore: <https://librivox.org/>. Click on the help button and it will provide information on how to be a volunteer.
- ♦ Help make dog play toys from old t-shirts. These will be delivered to the Anderson Animal Shelter. Here is a video for making dog toys: <https://www.google.com/search?client=fir&foxb-b-1-d&q=making+dog+toys#kpvalbx=q3ZyXtS0NqOQggfwkIbYBg54>
- ♦ We will add some more ideas in the week ahead and add a web page with links on the Zion web site. Watch for more ideas and if you have a good one – please share it with us so others can know about it too!

Memory Verse for this Month

Our memory verse for this week offers us a calling and also a glimpse of God's promises:

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

(Romans 13:8)

Thanks for Sending in Your Offerings

As we look at our financial reports, you are all doing amazing work and you need to hear a big "NICE JOB!" and THANK YOU!" As you know, it is making amazing work possible in this challenging time.

Each week during the COVID-19 shutdown, we have had several people send their offerings in to support Zion's ministry. Remember that you can give using our online portal, PayPal, GivePlus on your phone or simply mail a check to the church. Please continue to do what you can. Thanks so much for your faithful support of the work we do as God's people at Zion!

**This Week's Calendar:****Sunday, September 13– 15th Sunday After Pentecost**

9:30 AM – Worship on Facebook Live

4:00 PM – Youth Group

Monday, September 14

6:30 PM – Church Council

Tuesday, September 15

8:00 PM – AA Meeting

Thursday, September 17

10:00 AM – Spiritual Disciplines

Saturday, September 19

10:00 AM – AA Meeting

6:00 PM – Communion service in the churchyard

8:00 PM – AA Meeting

Next Sunday, September 20

9:30 AM – Worship on Facebook Live

