

Zion Lutheran Church
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The Zion Spirit



"Grounded in Christ: Sent to be a blessing"

January 13, 2021

Worship This Week: God Loves Even People You Don't

Our theme this week will help us wrestle with the fact that "God is including someone you don't like (and that's good news for you)." God doesn't select people based on our list of approved applicants. All people are viewed through divine eyes as God's children and it is God's desire to bring life to all people – even the ones we'd prefer to stay away from. Through Christ God is reaching out in love to all people.

In the light of what we are experiencing in our society right now, knowing that God's love moves beyond the camps we tend to put ourselves in, is good news for us as well. It is a reminder that the divisions that we are living through need not define us or be seen as lasting. There is hope for a different vision for our lives.

This week our joint choir/praise team will be singing some music. We also install our new church council as part of the worship. Please pray for this new team as the year begins!

This week's lessons come from Psalm 146 and Luke 4:14-30. If you have a few minutes, look up the lessons and read them before worship on Sunday. Invite a friend to watch with you online. See you online!

We Need Your Help in Praying for Lowrie Staff and Families

As you may have seen over the last few weeks, we have committed having prayer partners to pray for each of the 68 teachers and staff members, the children that they work with and their families on a regular basis, for the coming months. Thanks to all who are praying regularly for Lowrie staff! We have prayer partners covering most of the staff, we have only 6 more staff to go! **Can you help by including a Lowrie staff person in your prayers?** Linda Bailey is our coordinator. If you are willing to commit to pray (anyone can do this!), you may email her at baileylind@gmail.com or call her at 224-402-2027. Let her know if you are willing to include more than one staff person in your prayers. Thanks for your help!



Rev. Martin Luther King Elgin Event is Online This Year Saturday, January 16th at 9:00 AM



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. helped energize a movement for peaceful, nonviolent change to bring racial and economic justice to our country. His work started a process that, as the events of the past few years have highlighted, is not yet done. We still have work to do.

Each year the City of Elgin has an event to remember his work and to help us take up the mantle to continue it. In fact, Zion has an Inclusion and Equity Team that is committed to keeping this in our vision as a congregation.

To join the event this year, you can go to the City of Elgin Facebook page at 9:00 AM Saturday and there will be a Facebook Live Premiere with the event. All are welcome to attend!

Go to www.Facebook.com/CityofElgin to view the event on Saturday!

Spiritual Practices Group Continues on Thursday Mornings

The spiritual practices group is a group that meets most weeks on Thursday mornings at 10AM. It is simply for people who want to focus attention on their relationship with God. We are doing a unit that looks at winter as a way of connecting with our spiritual lives. Here's the Zoom link (Note this is a new link):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89044220638?pwd=WURLQ1JWWXQyaWd5S1ZXd0JibTYzQT09>

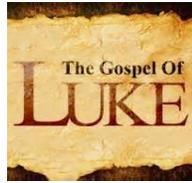
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By phone: 13126266799,,89044220638#,,, *594554#
US (Chicago)

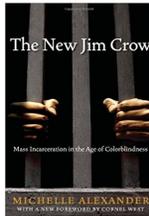


Intro to the Gospel of Luke Wednesday, January 27, 7:00 PM



This year as we work through the Narrative Lectionary, our gospel readings all come from the book of Luke. So, it is a wonderful chance to become familiar with this important telling of Jesus' story. We will explore the gospel online on Wednesday evening, January 27 at 7 PM. Everyone is invited to come and learn about Luke's concern for reaching out and including those who might be on the margins.

City-wide Book Reading *The New Jim Crow* Zoom Session on January 24th at 2:00 PM



This year there is a city-wide effort to learn more about how race impacts the ways we live and work together as a society. The Coalition of Elgin Religious Leaders (CERL) has taken the lead and been joined by the Gail Borden Library as key sponsors for this project.

The New Jim Crow is a book that looks at how race and the prison system are linked to create permanent injustices and an underclass that struggles to get by. The privatization of the prison system depends on having people in jail – you can't make money watching prisoners if there are no prisoners to watch. And getting out for good behavior can cost the prison owners tons of money – they want to keep you longer.

This event will use the book *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander as a basis for the program. With local leaders from both the academic community and local law enforcement, we'll explore how changing the prison system can enhance racial equity. (Kane County has already made some significant changes in their system, based on the teachings of this book and our Kane County sheriff will be present to talk about this.) Reading the book is encouraged – it is a good book and the library has copies. But you can attend the event online even if you haven't read it. There will be a presentation to begin the workshop, so everyone will benefit by attending.

Here is the Zoom registration info – you need to pre-register and will then receive a link for the event by email.

https://gailborden.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7v851AUURh6nl74OZoD0OA

Youth to Help Lead Worship on January 31st



Youth Group will help to lead worship on January 31st. We'll have involvement from kids and youth of all ages help with children's sermon, readings, prayers, and other pieces of the worship. It should be a nice way to change up worship and allow some new young leaders help us connect with God that week. Please be praying for our youth as they prepare us for worship that week!

Join A Team To Help Plan Lent!



Our Advent planning team did a great job and in spite of all the COVID related hurdles, we had a very meaningful season. Thanks to the team who did such a good job. We had a very good experience and your leadership really helped.

We'd like to take the same approach to Lent and have a team of people meet via Zoom and think about what we can do to make Lent a meaningful and engaging season as well, while we journey through the season to the cross and resurrection of Jesus.

Pastor Dave is inviting all interested people to plan to attend a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, January 20th at 7:00 PM. We will look at how to make the season come alive for all of us. Please let him know if you'd like to help by emailing him at PastorDave@ZionElginIL.org so we can plan. But if you can join at the last minute, please join us!

Here is the link info:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86479544925?pwd=UDFhYlVOSnhDRHU0QjhZL3RkdTV2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 864 7954 4925

Passcode: 5600048

Phone for audio only: 312-626-6799

Sunday School for Preschool and Elementary Kids



Sunday School for pre-K through Grade 6 is each Sunday morning at 10:30 AM. Kids join Dianha Ortega Ehreth to learn about the love of God in Jesus and enjoy each other as well. Sign on for a great way to learn.

You can save this link info for ongoing use. This will be the same link each week through the end of spring sessions!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85773375049?pwd=SHZpRHdqUkF4a1pUS0JPcGFGazFIQT09>

Meeting ID: 857 7337 5049

Passcode: 102056

Join by phone for audio only 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 857 7337 5049

Passcode: 102056

Memory Verse for this Month

*(Jesus said), "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people."
(Luke 5:10)*

Thank You For Your Offerings!

We are thankful that the people of Zion are so committed to this place doing God's work and doing it well. You are all doing amazing work and you need to hear a big "well done good and faithful servants!" As you know, it is helping Zion participate in God's work in this important and challenging time.

**Upcoming Birthdays**

Happy Birthday to our friends with January birthdays! We will be posting birthdays for the month in the newsletter. If you have a January birthday and are not on this list, please email Allison in the office at zionelgin@yahoo.com to make sure we have it to include. Thanks!



Janis Sherwood – January 1
Reid Dvorak – January 2
John Bradburn – January 3
David Stoffregen – January 7
Jerri Zoul – January 18
Kelby Bannerman – January 23
John Dvorak – January 29

This Week's Calendar:**Saturday, January 16**

9:00 AM – City of Elgin MLK
Event at www.Facebook.com/CityofElgin

10:00 AM – AA Meeting

Sunday, January 17 – Second Sunday After the Epiphany (Church Council Installation)

9:30 AM – Worship on Facebook Live

10:30 AM – Sunday School on Zoom

Monday, January 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Office Closed)**Tuesday, January 19**

8:00 PM – AA Meeting

Wednesday, January 20

7:00 PM – Lent Planning Meeting

Thursday, January 21

10:00 AM – Spiritual Practices Group

Saturday, January 23

10:00 AM – Choir/Praise Team Practice

10:00 AM – AA Meeting

Next Sunday, January 24 – Third Sunday After the Epiphany

9:30 AM – Worship on Facebook Live

10:30 AM – Sunday School online

