

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"

December 2022

Epiphany – Christ for the world

The word "Epiphany" means "to reveal" or "to make known." When someone has an epiphany, it is an a-ha moment! While we often merge the biblical stories and have the shepherds and the magi at the manger, the biblical story has the magi come later – maybe a year or more after the birth of Jesus. Epiphany is



January 6th but we will celebrate it on Sunday, January 8th in worship. It will be a day to celebrate the Christ came not for the few but for the many – and not just for us but for all sorts of people from every corner of the world.

Feed My Starving Children

Did you know that 6,200 children die each day from causes related to undernutrition? You are invited to join others from Zion in packing meals at Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg on Saturday, January 7 from 11:30 – 1:15. We have limited space available, so signup soon! Ages 5 to 95 are welcome. There are spots for those who need to sit as well, so don't let that keep you from participating.

For those interested, we'll go out for lunch following our packing time. To sign up, register at <http://www.fmssc.org/join-group?joincode=3BNPLN> or let Deacon Marlene know and she will sign you up. FMSC works in 109 countries providing nutritious meals to children. To help cover expenses of the meals, they will also invite donations.

Epiphany and Evangelism – You Can Invite Someone!

The world changed significantly during the pandemic. Many people who were casually involved in church simply stopped coming and aren't watching online either. In general, worship attendance is 70-80% of what it was before Covid. At Zion we've done much better than that, in part because of the dedication of our people who attend physically, in part due to the online presence we have, and in part because we have had people invite others to come and see what church life and the Christian faith are all about.

Almost everyone who comes to be a part of the church as an adult comes because someone who knows firsthand what faith is about invites them. It can be a bit nerve racking to attend worship for the first time, especially if you have never been involved in church before. People aren't sure what they are in for and how they will be received. Will they be confused and look or feel stupid? Will people be receptive and friendly?



That's why people report that, while they are curious about church and faith and especially Jesus, they are not likely to venture out on their own. But 4 out of 5 people say that if a trusted friend invited them to come WITH them, they would be open to saying "yes." Growing congregations thrive because members live out their faith and invite others to come and see. Use this Epiphany to think of who you could invite to Zion and to life in Christ!

A Big Thank you!

Thank you to all who brought gift cards or money for U-46 students and their families. We were able to deliver 38 cards! In addition, we collected several bags filled with needed items for seniors in the Tower Hills Nursing home in South Elgin. You know that all these donations are a blessing will bring some holiday cheer this Christmas!

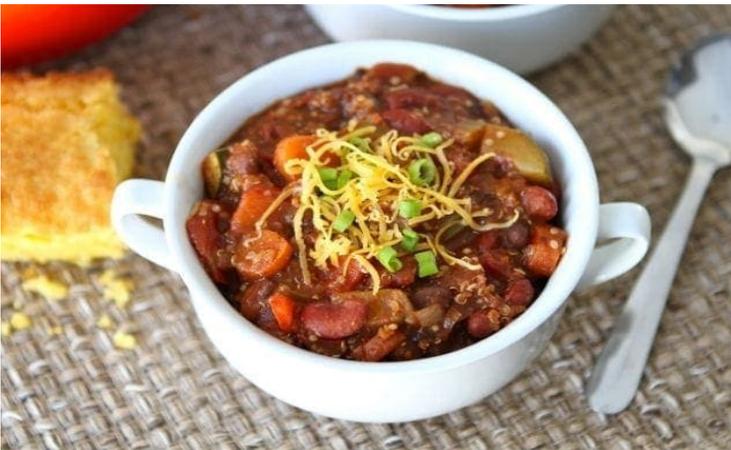
Thank You



for your Kindness

Hot Chili-Cook -Off while its' cold outside!

We are in again! Are you? Let's get the crockpots going (hopefully the fuses hold!) with your favorite recipe and enter our Chili Cook-off **at Zion on Saturday, January 14th at 5 pm.**



Of course, we also need "tasters" and judges!! So, you can just come and join us in tasting, judging and the fun, even if you do not bring a chili. We ask let us know, if you are going to have a chili entry and are vying to win the famous travel trophy! Any questions? Please check in with Gud-run.

Congregational Gathering – January 29th

This year's winter gathering will be Sunday, January 29th between services. We will plan on a nice celebration with some great remembrances of the year. Plus, our Menu for Mission will be a chance to share how our local support is sent to partner organizations around the area. So put this date on your calendar and plan to be here!

140 Acts of Service

At Zion, we are "Grounded in Christ and sent to be a blessing." Most days we do acts of service because that's who we are as children of God. This is our identity. Perhaps you have taken someone to an appointment who didn't have a car, brought a meal to someone, volunteered at a non-profit or shoveled snow for a neighbor. These are all examples of acts of service that show we care about another. We have 12 spots left to fill on our 140 Acts of Service board. Let's fill it this month! The board is located near the coat rack on the main floor.

The (long-awaited) Spaghetti Dinner will be back!

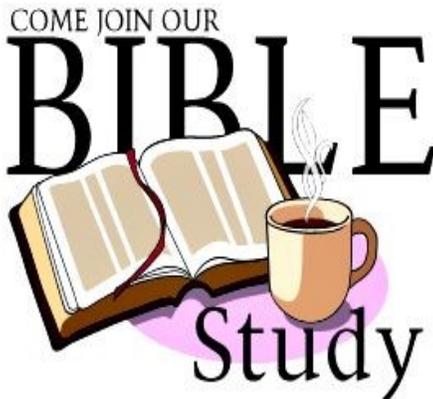
Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 11th from 4-7 pm, since you do NOT want to miss this! Watch for more info in the February newsletter as well as ways to sign up to help make it a success! This great night transforms Zion into an Italian café and is great fun



4th Monday Bible Study – January 23rd

We resume 4th Monday Bible studies on Monday, January 23rd at 7:30 PM. We will look at the texts for February which will be the end of the Epiphany season and the beginning of Lent – so its going on! Come join

the group online using Zoom. A link will be sent out to the email list the week before as both a reminder and a way to log in. Hope to see you then!

**Book Club**

Book Club will be reading *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. We will meet on Zoom at 6pm on Monday, January 16. The Zoom link will get e-mailed to the group as the date gets closer. If you have any questions, still need a copy of the book, or would like to be sure you are on our e-mail list, please see Rebecca Rizzo, or e-mail her at RebeccaRizz@gmail.com.

**Pastor Sunitha Mortha to Lead Workshop at Zion on March 19th**

Save the date and plan to attend! We will have guest presenter Pastor Sunitha Mortha from the Metro Chicago Synod with us! We will begin after late worship at noon with a light lunch and then Pastor Sunitha will lead us in an engaging session on identity and how we see ourselves. It will help us understand our stories and perspectives and help us also be more open to the stories and perspectives of others as we seek to connect with the diverse neighbors God has given us. Watch for more details as the day approaches and be sure to save the date!

Spiritual Practices

The Spiritual Practices group will begin on Thursday January 12 on Zoom at 10AM. We will be reviewing the Living Gratefully practices and continue to explore things that take our attention away and to look at them differently.

**Coming Up**

Wednesday, February 22, 7:00PM – Ash Wednesday Worship

Saturday, March 11 – Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, March 19, 12:00PM Lunch followed by workshop with Pastor Sunitha Mortha from Metro Chicago Synod. Watch for details.

Sunday, April 2 – Palm Sunday

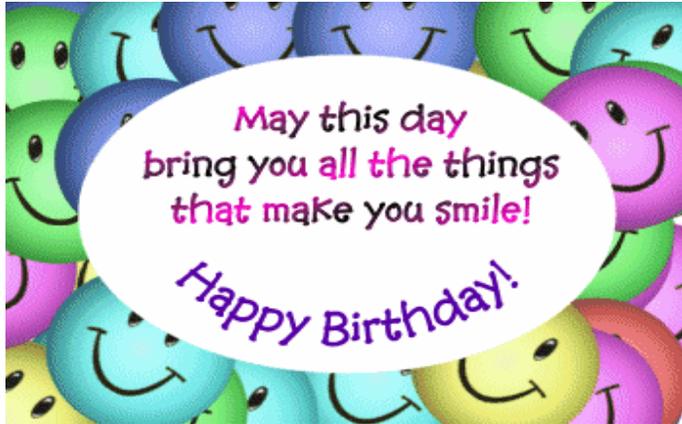
Thursday, April 6 – Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 7 – Good Friday

Sunday, April 9 - Easter

Upcoming January Birthdays

Happy Birthday to our friends with upcoming birthdays! If you have an upcoming birthday and are not on this list, please email in the office at zionelgin@yahoo.com.



- 1—Janis Sherwood
- 2—Reid Dvorak
- 3—John Bradbury
- 7—David Stoffregen
- 14—Ashley Groesser-Helvey
- 18—Jerri Zoul
- 23—Kelby Bannerman
- 29—John Dvorak

We're Searching for Volunteers

As 2023 begins we need assistance with worship roles including readers, greeters and ushers for the coming weeks. There are two ways to sign up, visit the sign-up sheets outside the sanctuary or go to the sign-up page at www.ZionElginIL.org and clicking on the worship page to find the link to sign up for each worship service.

Lessons and Verse of the Month**January 1—Second Sunday of Christmas**

Psalm 132: 11-18

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-17 (sermon text)

January 8—Combined Epiphany and Baptism of Jesus)

Psalm 29:1-11

Matthew 3:1-17 (sermon text)

January 15—Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm 91:9-12

Matthew 4:1-17 (sermon text)

January 22—Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm 1:1-3

Matthew 5:1-20 (sermon text)

January 29—Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm 20:1-7

Matthew 6:7-21 (sermon text)

JANUARY VERSE OF THE MONTH:

(Jesus said) "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

