



Zion noiz

The Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church
Piedmont, California

August 2021



Pastor Paul writes...

In a 1948 speech to the House of Commons, Winston Churchill paraphrased Spanish philosopher George Santayana when he said: “Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it.” Those are very wise words. The writer of Ecclesiastes wrote long ago: “Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account.” (Ecclesiastes 3:15)

In this critical Year of Vision at Zion, our first thought is to look ahead, not behind. We want to ask: “Where are we going?” “How will we get there?” “What is our first step?” Perhaps the best place to begin to look forward is first to look behind us, to study what has already taken place and to ask what there is to learn from the past.

In the past, when I studied in the university and at the theological seminary, I took many classes in church history and the history of theology. Perhaps at the time I did not fully appreciate the value of what I was learning. But I have come to appreciate history more and more as time goes by. This summer I thought it was time to refresh my understanding of the history of the Christian Church and to rediscover the lessons to be learned from the past. So, I tackled a book called *The Church From Age to Age: A History from Galilee to Global Christianity* (Concordia Publishing House, 2011). It is a modest tome of over 900 pages, which does a ‘brief’ survey of the history of the Christian Church from its first-century beginnings down through the centuries and around the globe. If you are at all inclined to learn a little more about church history, I highly recommend it as a great book to read.

As we move through this Year of Vision at Zion and we work to get a handle on our strategic plan for God’s mission, I want to share with you two significant realities that I saw at work throughout the history of the Church while reading this book. One is negative and one is positive. But we need to understand both clearly as we envision the future. The first reality is the total depravity of humanity. The second reality is the immeasurable grace of God in Christ. Let me explain what I mean.

The first reality, I am sorry to say, is a very negative one, but I share it as a word of caution against unrealistic expectations. The history of the Church, just like the history of the world, is sadly littered with sinful actions, sinful attitudes, and sinful behavior of God’s people. Our fallen nature rears its ugly head in countless ways, including abusive behavior, greed, materialism, power plays, and selfishness, all un-

Continued on page 2

Weekly Worship

Sundays: 8:30 am Traditional Worship (on-line) 10am In-person Worship 11am Contemporary Worship (on-line)
Bible Class: Sundays at 9 am (beginning Aug. 8) Wednesdays at (beginning Aug. 18)

SEEK

DISCIPLE

MULTIPLY

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der the guise of the Christian Church. It is sad, but there it is. What do we learn from this reality? We learn not to expect there to be perfect congregations, perfect church leaders, perfect worship services, perfect programs, or perfect strategic mission plans. Even the holy Christian Church is made up of imperfect people. The sooner we acknowledge this sad reality, the sooner we will remember the need for grace, mercy, patience, and perseverance as we worship and work together as God's people serving together in God's mission to a world of imperfect people just like us.

The second reality, I am happy to report, is far greater than and far more powerful than the first reality. The ultimate and transformative reality of the immeasurable grace of God in Christ meets every single human need and every human imperfection. The perfect grace of God in Christ brings rescue, redemption, restoration, and renewal to imperfect people. God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, not counting our trespasses against us. God loves all people in spite of their imperfections. God sent His perfect Son to save imperfect people. By His wounds we are healed. By His death we are made alive. By His resurrection, we are assured of living beyond this imperfect world in a new creation for all eternity.

What do we learn from the reality of the immeasurable grace of God in Christ? We learn what it means to be the people of God in Christ. We are people of grace. People of gratitude. People of hope. People who make for peace. People who never give up, never give in, never let go of the grace of God in Christ. People who know that in the end it is not our might or power or wisdom or skill that builds the Church and saves the world, but always and only the immeasurable grace of God in Christ. Jesus said: "I will build My Church!" And He does. Thank God for His immeasurable grace in Christ!

In Christ alone, Pastor Paul

City Team Vans

Many of you have seen the City Team vans and truck in our parking lot, but why are they there?

We are partnering with City Team! City Team is undergoing a remodeling project from July through October. A little while back they reached out to all of their partners for places to house the residents and a place to park their vehicles. Zion said, "We have a parking lot!" City Team was very excited and grateful to have a place to park. What vans and trucks are at Zion will change based on their space and needs for the day.

It is always great to be able to help our partners in mission!



CATECHISM CORNER

More from the introduction to the Book of Concord.

What is a "confessional" Lutheran?

The word "confession" is used in a variety of ways, but when we speak of a "confessional" Lutheran we mean a Lutheran who declares to the world his faith and most deeply held belief and conviction, in harmony with the documents contained in the Book of Concord. You will catch the spirit of confessional Lutheranism in these, the last words written in the Book of Concord:

Therefore, it is our intent to give witness before God and all Christendom, among those who are alive today and those who will come after us, that the explanation here set forth regarding all the controversial articles of faith which we have addressed and explained—and no other explanation—is our teaching, faith, and confession. In it we shall appear before the judgment throne of Jesus Christ, by God's grace, with fearless hearts and thus give account of our faith, and we will neither secretly nor publicly speak or write anything contrary to it. Instead, on the strength of God's grace, we intend to abide by this confession (FC SD, XII, 40).

August, 2021

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS RESUMES IN-PERSON & ON ZOOM!

On **Sunday, August 8th** Bible Class will return to the Garden Room for in-person study from 9:00-9:45 a.m. Pastor Paul will be conducting a closer look at each Sunday's lessons. We will dig deeper into the background, context, and application of the lessons read in worship. Our study will not only reap blessings in our worship, but it will guide our lives of faith for the whole week that follows. You may be surprised how much you miss by only hearing the lessons once in church. There is so much more to learn! Plan now to join us for Sunday morning Bible Class.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS RESUMES IN-PERSON & ON ZOOM!

On **Wednesday, August 18th** Bible Class will return to the Garden Room for in-person discussion and will also be available on Zoom for others to join us that way.

From the first and oldest book of the Bible, we are learning from history (His story). We are learning to apply the lessons of the past to our lives of faith in the present and we plan ahead for our future in Christ's mission. From God's perfect creation to humanity's awful fall into sin to God's promise of the chosen seed to become our Savior, Genesis reveals God's gracious heart of love and His redemptive acts of salvation for all people.

Our study has introduced us to some of the great heroes of the faith and we have quickly seen by their faults and their mistakes, that they are a lot like us – imperfect people in need of a Savior. Thankfully, rescue and redemption are what God does best! And what God did for His people of ancient times, He continues to do for us!

On Wednesday mornings we let the Lord speak to us Himself as we examine the text and study the accounts of Genesis in the light of all of God's Word in Holy Scripture. We meet every week from **10:00-11:00 a.m.** in the Garden Room and also via Zoom. The Zoom invitation link will go out to the Zion community via e-mail and the weekly Sunday announcements.

We always enjoy seeing each other and we engage in lively and spirited discussions of God's Word. We would love to have you join us any and every Wednesday morning that works for you. See you soon!



And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25

Survey of Worship Preferences at Zion

As Zion opens its doors for in-person worship, the board of directors is looking to you, the Zion Community, for guidance in setting the style and time of worship at Zion Lutheran Church. A survey was sent via email and passed out at Sunday morning worship, asking what style of worship and what time of service you would prefer.

By now, you should have received a survey via email, asking you for your preference in worshipping at Zion Lutheran Church. If you did not receive the survey, please contact the church office. The board of directors has decided to leave the survey open so individuals on vacation or unable to complete the survey thus far, can still have a chance to let their voices be heard.

Following are the results of the survey as of July 14, 2021.

Question 1: Which of the following times do you prefer a worship service to take place?

8:30 am—24 % 10 am—58% 11am—3.5% Open to any—14.5%

Question 2: Which of the following worship styles do you most personally prefer?

Traditional-Liturgical—61% Contemporary—3.5% Blended Approach—32% No Preference—3.5%

Question 3: What are your thoughts on moving to one unified worship service each Sunday?

Approve—76% Disapprove—8% No Preference—16%

Question 4: What are your thoughts on moving to a single, rotating, weekly worship style where each week a different style is used (Example: 1st Sunday is traditional, 2nd Sunday is contemporary, 3rd Sunday is hybrid, etc.)?

Approve—24% Disapprove—54% No Preference—22%

The board of directors thanks everyone who responded to the survey. As we wait for more responses, we will continue our on-line services at 8:30 am and 11 am, with the option to watch at any time, and we will also continue our in-person service at 10 am. Starting Sunday, August 8, in-person Bible Study will resume on Sunday mornings at 9 am in the Garden Room.

The board also thanks all the individuals who took the time to leave comments in the survey. The comments were most helpful in determining the thoughts behind the percentages. We were impressed with the spirit of unity and inclusion that most of the comments expressed. The comments also brought up issues, such as health concerns, that need to be addressed.

Some comments included:

- I like the traditional service on-line at 8:30 and the 10 am service. But I would also be fine with the 8:30 am traditional and 11 am contemporary
- I like the traditional service overall, but I think that contemporary music joyfully praising God provides a terrific lift to a service
- I prefer a service similar to what I grew up with.
- We have to think about our services appealing to visitors and making them feel welcome & comfortable.
- Continuity is important---especially for attracting new members. The feeling of "not knowing what us next" is not friendly/comfortable and welcoming.
- Also liked the fifth Sunday combined service
- I think it is important to offer both services for people to feel comfortable.
- Zion has historically done this well.
- Nothing worse than worshipping with a few people in a huge space

Property Committee Update from July

As many of you have noticed, phase one of Zion's long-anticipated garden renewal is nearly complete. Roses have been planted, mulched, and appropriately efficient irrigation with soaker hoses has begun. The area is currently fenced off to keep out the deer that eye tender, young roses as the best sort of snack. Thank you to Bill Swift for all of his hard work on this project!

At its most recent meeting in July, the committee also discussed adding additional cameras to the visual security system already in place for the church and TRIS; following up on a second bid for Park Boulevard hillside stabilization work; reviewing first bid for Garden Room kitchen refurbishment; and detailing Zion's requirements for groundskeeping, gardening, and parking lot debris-clearing on a weekly basis.

The Property Committee meets at 6:30 pm on the first Monday of each month. All are welcome to join.



Church Humor Hot Sauce

A minister who was very fond of pure, hot horseradish always kept a bottle of it on his dining room table. He offered some to a guest, who took a big spoonful. When the guest finally was able to speak, he gasped, "I've heard many ministers preach hellfire, but you are the first one I've met who passed out a sample of it."



Sunday Dinner

A young couple invited their pastor for Sunday dinner. While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the minister asked their son what they were having.

"Goat," the little boy replied.

"Goat?" replied the Pastor, "Are you sure about that?"

"Yes," said the youngster. "I heard Dad say to Mom, 'We might as well have the old goat for dinner today as any other day.'"

LWML Community Project

It's that time of year again...time for the kids to head back to school! What a different experience this year will bring! It's also time for us to help out some low-income Oakland students and families with school supplies.

This year LWML is partnering with Thrivent and City Team Ministries to provide supplies to be used by students in our several of our most needy Oakland elementary schools. We are using our grant money from Thrivent and money generated by our congregation to target these specific supplies: binders, binder paper, spiral notebooks, and pencil pouches.

Don't worry. We'll do the shopping, looking for all the best bargains. Please give generously to one of our annual and most worthy projects. It's a great outreach opportunity.



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www.kidscanhavefun.com

Junior and Senior High Youth News

It has been awhile but what a time the past year and half have been. But through it all God has remained and we have stayed faithful to Him.

Amazingly the time has come to begin talking about the National Youth Gathering. The next National Youth Gathering is July 9-13, 2022 in Houston, Texas. The Youth Gathering is open to all confirmed 8th graders through youth under 19. Our traveling dates will be July 8-14. We have to get there and then have some time to get back.

If you are interested in attending let Mr. Harger know as soon as possible, as arrangements and registration will open in September.

We have lost a lot of time for fundraising, but I am confident we can make much of that up. Our next e-waste recycling date is set for Saturday, August 28 from 10 am to 4 pm. The longer you help, the more money you earn for the National Youth Gathering trip. Three years ago some of the attendees earned enough to pay for the whole trip!



- Christ is the Creator of all things and became a creature Himself, entering into His own creation.
- Christ reconciles all things to himself through his death and resurrection.
- Christ (risen, ascended, complete, sovereign) reigns over all authorities inside and outside the church.
- Christ transforms the lives of all his people into his image.
- Christ promises to return to restore all things and make his reign explicit for all to see.



A FUND RAISER FOR
ZION LUTHERAN YOUTH GROUP



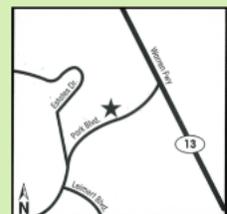
ELECTRONIC WASTE COLLECTION AND DOCUMENT SHREDDING

E-Waste
Some
items free
Others
for a fee

It was pre-pandemic since we have done an event!
So dig out all of that old electronic waste material
and all those documents that need to be shredded and bring them down.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
PARKING LOT
5201 PARK BLVD. PIEDMONT CA 94611

Saturday, August 28
10 AM to 4 PM



All items are recycled according to California Law.
For more information or commercial pickup call: C&T Recyclers @ (510) 590-7510

+ **Communion Assistant Schedule** +
July-August, 2021

Sunday, July 25	10:00 a.m.	Cliff Cooper
Sunday, August 1	10:00 a.m.	No Communion
Sunday, August 8	10:00 a.m.	Frank Cham
Sunday, August 15	10:00 a.m.	Brian Walsh
Sunday, August 22	10:00 a.m.	Steve Harger
Sunday, August 29	10:00 a.m.	Dave Nemy

Confirmation Instruction

Confirmation class for 7th and 8th graders will begin on **Tuesday, September 14** at 7 pm!

If you have anyone that you know (child, grandchild, niece, nephew, neighbor, friend) that would be interested in joining our class let Mr. Harger know.



Confirmation Class



Sunday School/Kids' Church

Sunday School and Kids' Church makes its come back on Sunday, **September 12, 2021!**

We can't wait to see you and your so much bigger smiling faces!

Our Children's Christian Education program will be gathering in the Sanctuary at 9:00 am.

Movie Night

Movie nights at Zion are returning to the Garden Room!

On **Saturday, August 21** at 7:00 pm, we will watch the movie that was scheduled when the pandemic hit and halted our movie nights—*A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*. Tom Hanks portrays Mister Rogers in *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, a timely story of kindness triumphing over cynicism, based on the true story of a real-life friendship between Fred Rogers and journalist Tom Junod. After a jaded magazine writer (Emmy winner Matthew Rhys) is assigned a profile of Fred Rogers, he overcomes his skepticism, learning about empathy, kindness, and decency from America's most beloved neighbor.

Free movie! Free popcorn! Free fresh squeezed lemonade!

Come join the fun!



Iron Men

The Iron Men are back to gather in person!
 The "Manly Meal" is back! The fellowship is back!

Iron Men will next meet on **Thursday, August 12 at 6:30 pm.**

We are currently studying ten ordinary men who God used to change the world.

This month's lesson is about the sixth ordinary man: Joseph—Jesus' earthly father.

Please consider joining this group for a great time of fellowship and growing together in God's Word.

We Are the Church Together

August 2021

“I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!”
(Hope Publishing Co. 1972)



PRAYERS

of

Zion Lutheran

Arms linked, swaying side to side, almost one hundred children's voices raised in song: Vacation Bible School, 1988. A very simple song with a very powerful message. We are the church to serve God's people and to bring God's good news to the world.

At Zion, we have an absolutely beautiful church building. But the church building is just walls without its people. Even in this past year of a pandemic, Zion has been able to minister and to serve God's people through online ministries and worship services, Christian Concerns, and Zoom Bible Classes. Our Prayer Ministry continues as we pray for each other and for those whom we have never met but ask for prayer on our Zion app. The church without walls provides practical help for providing food, shelter and services through CityTeam. Our church without walls provides spiritual guidance through prayer and Bible studies. Our online services this past year have provided an opportunity for us to worship God. Yes, it is wonderful to go to the sanctuary and praise God with other believers, but the online ministry has provided an opportunity for those who cannot physically attend to worship as well.

The church includes those we know (members of our congregation) as well as strangers, who serve the same God. Strangers like Hank and Marcy Schulz, who were on their way home Saturday after visiting friends in the Sierra National Forest. As they drove on a forest road, they pulled over after seeing us standing by the side of a dirt road. Our Prius had a tire/lug nut problem and we were stuck. Could they help? Yes. After calling AAA, Michael stayed with the Prius waiting for the tow truck, while Hank and Marcy drove us into Oakhurst to secure lodging for the night. They went out of their way to show us where the Prius would be towed as well as where the car rental agencies were located. Then they drove back up into the forest to get Michael. This was not a quick trip. They provided everything we needed, to virtual strangers. Well, not completely strangers, as Marcy pointed at the Bible in the back seat of our car. We did not even have to ask. They were complete servants showing the love of Jesus.

Yes, God was definitely watching over us and providing for members of His Church to help us in time of need.

How many times do we see, pray or help in some way that we are unaware of how God is using this in His plan?

The term “church” is used to describe an “assembly.” In the Greek, the word ecclesia” means an “assembly” and usually means a group of believers when used in the New Testament (email Pastor Aldrich 6/8/2021). An assembly of those “called out,” the “Una Sancta,” Latin for the universal church, which is the group of believers in Jesus Christ around the world (RCH Lenski: Interpretation of Ephesians page 467). There is an equality of all believers, Jew and Gentile, in the Una Sancta. Those who profess Jesus as Lord and Savior, and are witnesses to God's love, to others are “the church.”

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called Children of God!” (1 John 3:1-2). As we children of God gather to worship and praise Him for all He has done, and for all He continues to do, we become the Church.

“The church is not a steeple, The church is
not a resting place the church is the people.”
(Hope Publishing 1972)

--Marlene Grunow on behalf of our Prayer Ministry at Zion





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:30 AM Live-stream Traditional Worship ■ 10:00 AM In-person Worship ■ 11:00 AM Drive-Thru Communion ■ 11:00 AM Live-stream Contemporary Worship 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6:30 PM Property Committee - CR 	3	4	5	6	7
<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:30 AM Live-stream Traditional Worship ■ 9:00 AM Bible Class-GR ■ 10:00 AM In-person Worship ■ 11:00 AM Drive-Thru Communion ■ 11:00 AM Live-stream Contemporary Worship 	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>15</p> <p>NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:30 AM Live-stream Traditional Worship ■ 9:00 AM Bible Class-GR ■ 10:00 AM In-person Worship ■ 11:00 AM Drive-Thru Communion ■ 11:00 AM Live-stream Contemporary Worship 	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:30 AM Live-stream Traditional Worship ■ 9:00 AM Bible Class-GR ■ 10:00 AM In-person Worship ■ 11:00 AM Drive-Thru Communion ■ 11:00 AM Live-stream Contemporary Worship 	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8:30 AM Live-stream Traditional Worship ■ 9:00 AM Bible Class-GR ■ 10:00 AM In-person Worship ■ 11:00 AM Drive-Thru Communion ■ 11:00 AM Live-stream Contemporary Worship 	30	31	1	2	3	4
			<p>10:00 AM Wednesday Bible Study In-Person and Zoom</p>	<p>10:00 AM Wednesday Bible Study In-Person and Zoom</p> <p>12:30 PM Finance Committee</p>	<p>7:00 PM Zoom Iron Men</p>	<p>7:00 PM Movie Night - A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood</p> <p>10:00 AM E-Waste recycling</p>