



Pastor Paul writes...

It has now been over a year and a half since most of the greater Bay Area counties mandated a “stay at home” order except for essential work and necessary errands such as grocery shopping. Sunday, March 15, 2020, was our last “normal” Sunday morn-

ing at Zion and even then we had already dispensed with handshakes at the door. The following day, March 16, the “stay at home” order went into effect in Alameda County, which affected the majority of our Zion community. It is an understatement to say that life has not been the same since.

Nevertheless, being the indefatigable people of hope that we are, we at Zion courageously declared this year of 2021 to be *The Year of Vision* at Zion. It was, and is, a great theme. As Proverbs 29:18 reminds us: “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” The word “vision” in this Bible passage is talking about a “prophetic vision,” that is, the Word of the Lord. Where and when God’s Word is no longer guiding our lives of faith and service, there and then we perish by our own foolishness. Therefore, we have designated this year to be seeking the guidance of God’s Word to direct our focus for the future mission and ministry at Zion. Everyday life as we knew

it has changed and it will likely change again in the future. We look to God’s Word to give us vision for the future.

One reality in our line of sight is crystal clear: as long as we are faced with the uncertainties of an ongoing pandemic and the corresponding changes on best practices in the midst of the pandemic, long-range strategic planning seems impractical, if not downright impossible. Even short-range objectives are difficult to define. This *Year of Vision* seems to be like a year of sailing in the fog. It is hard to see what’s right ahead of us and that makes safe steering a real challenge. What are we to do?



Thankfully, as the people of God there is much that we can do, and we are doing it at Zion. We stay the course, faithfully and steadily. We continue our mission of proclaiming Christ crucified and risen as the only Hope of the world. We deliver

a practical, relevant, and timely Word and Sacrament ministry to our faith community, near and far, using all available resources and technologies. We worship in-person and on-line, and we serve neighbor-to-neighbor as God opens doors and gives us opportunity to share Christ’s love in word and action among those in need. We are not doing nothing. We are not even just doing something. We are doing everything we can by doing what we have so well for nearly 140 years through the mission and

Continued on page 2

Weekly Worship		
Sundays: 8:30 am Traditional Worship (on-line)	10am In-person Worship (live-streamed)	11:30 am Contemporary Worship (on-line)
Bible Class: Sundays at 9 am	Wednesdays at 10 am	

SEEK	DISCIPLE	MULTIPLY
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Inside this issue...

Line-up change for Live Stream Page 2	Reformation Festival Service Page 3	A Vision of Grace Page 8
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Pastor Paul Writes continued from page 1

ministry of Zion Lutheran Church, and for 130 of those years, through Zion Lutheran School. We proclaim grace, hope, life, and peace which is delivered to us and to all by God's grace alone, through faith in Christ alone, based on Holy Scripture alone.

In this critical Year of Vision at Zion, as I have already written, we are learning 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!

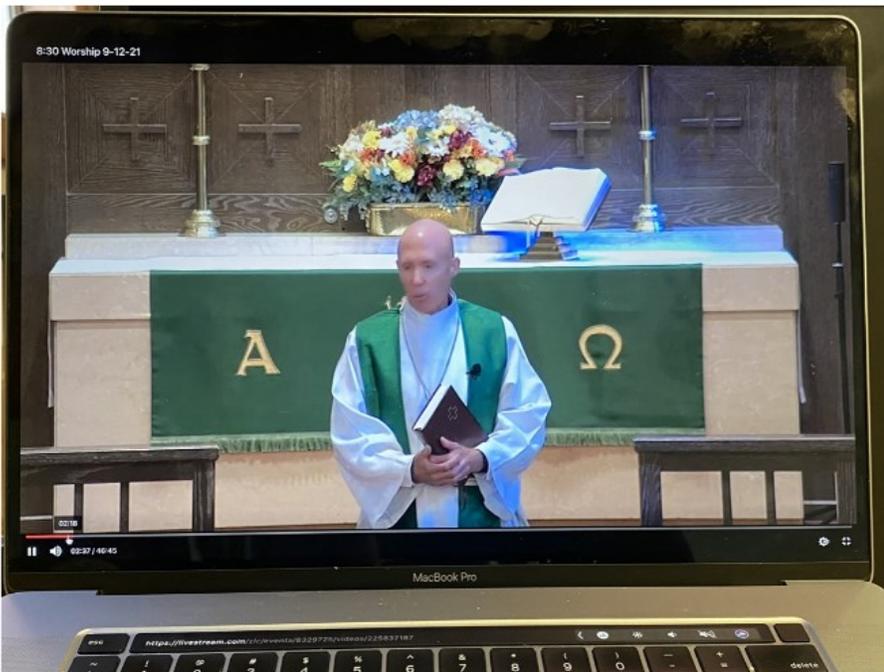
Saved with you by grace alone, through faith in Christ alone, based on Scripture alone, Pastor Paul

Live Stream Line Up Change

zlc.online.church



Zion is adding a live stream of the 10:00 am in-person worship service.
The 11:00 am contemporary worship is moving to 11:30 am.



Beginning
Sunday
Morning
October 17, 2021

8:30 Traditional
10:00 In-Person
11:30 Contemporary



Zion Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive

Supporting CityTeam Oakland

Please place your non-perishable food donations in the barrels in the church narthex.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food . . . Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." Mathew 25:35, 40

STUDYING GOD'S WORD

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS I

What about the Scripture lessons that Pastor didn't preach on Sunday? If we only hear them once and continue with the service, have we engaged with these lessons as fully as we could? If not, now we have an opportunity for taking "A Longer Look at the Lessons" each week. We are asking: What is the overall context of the text for the Sunday sermon? How do the "other" lessons for the Sunday fit into the theme of the day and the message of the sermon? There is so much to learn and to discuss about the lessons which we hear read in the service, but which are not mentioned in the sermon. Our Sunday morning study gives us an opportunity to take a closer look and to discuss the many facets of each Sunday's lessons. Join us on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Garden Room.

IRON MEN

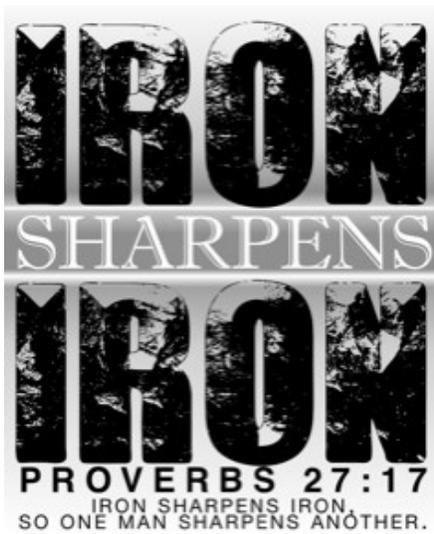
Pastor cooked our "manly meal" last month! There was a salad and fruit—concerning choice for an Iron Men meal.

Iron Men will next meet on Thursday, October 14 at 6:30 pm.

We will study the eighth of the ten ordinary men that God chose to change the world. This month we look at Lazarus, The Final Witness.

Good food, great fellowship, and growth in God's Word!

It doesn't matter if you missed any or all of the first seven ordinary men that God chose to change the world, as each month we study someone new! Give it a try! You are welcome anytime and no pressure to cook or if you miss a month.



WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS

The first book of the Bible derives its name from the opening words of Scripture, "In the beginning..." Genesis is the Greek word for "beginning" and it was used as the title of the first book of the Septuagint, the earliest extant Greek translation of the Old Testament. The Book of Genesis narrates the beginning of the history of the world, the patriarchal history of the Israelite people, and the beginning of God's plan of salvation to send the Promised Messiah as the chosen "seed" from the lineage of the first woman, Eve.

This year our Wednesday Bible Class has been delving into the earliest accounts of recorded history and week after week we have marveled at how practical and relevant are the timeless truths of God's Word. We are not merely dutiful students of ancient history, we are eager disciples of God's precious Word of comfort, hope, and promise for the challenges we face today. And we are not disappointed, for God's Word always provides fresh insight and powerful wisdom for our lives of faith.

You are invited to join us in-person or on-line via Zoom from 10:00-11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Garden Room. If you cannot join us every Wednesday, come as often as you can!

My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 2:1-6

Right and Wrong

A Sunday school teacher was teaching her class about the difference between right and wrong.

"All right children, let's take another example," she said. "If I were to get into a man's pocket and take his billfold with all his money, what would I be?"

Little Johnny raises his hand, and with a confident smile, he blurts out, "You'd be his wife!"



Zion Lutheran Church
**REFORMATION DAY
FESTIVAL SERVICE**

The service will feature a variety of special music and the traditional liturgy and music of our annual Reformation Festival. Holy Communion will be celebrated. Light refreshments and safe fellowship outside will follow the service. Spread the word and invite others to join us either in person or online at 10:00!

Sunday, October 31

10 am

In-person &
Live-streamed

The regular 8:30 am traditional and 11:30 am contemporary services will also be streamed online as usual that day in order to serve the schedules and preferences of our wider community of faith.



Movie Night at Zion

Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Tom and Jerry

One of the most beloved rivalries in history is reignited when Jerry moves into New York City's finest hotel on the eve of "the wedding of the century," forcing the event's desperate planner to hire Tom to get rid of him, in director Tim Story's "Tom & Jerry." The ensuing cat and mouse battle threatens to destroy her career, the wedding and possibly the hotel itself. But soon, an even bigger problem arises: a diabolically ambitious staffer conspiring against all three of them.

An eye-popping blend of classic animation and live action, Tom and Jerry's new big-screen adventure stakes new ground for the iconic characters and forces them to do the unthinkable... work together to save the day.



Free Movie!

Free Popcorn!

Free lemonade!

Rated PG Run Time 1 hour 41 min

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER

+ **Mr. Michael Grunow** +

Received into Communicant Membership via transfer from St. Peter's, San Leandro

Sunday, September 5, 2021

Welcome, Michael, and God bless you!

Catechism Corner

With the start of Confirmation class again this year, I thought it would be good for us to revisit the Ten Commandments over the next few months.

The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God.

The First Commandment

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

The Second Commandment

You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

Junior High and Senior High News

Reform means to make changes in something, typically a social, political, or economic institution or practice, in order to improve it (Oxford Languages). That is what Martin Luther wanted to do with the Catholic Church of his time. As a professor and monk, a learned man of his time, he saw that there were some questionable practices that were happening in the church. He took the opportunity to post his thoughts on the doors to the church in Wittenberg in Latin, the scholarly language, to open a discussion. He did not want to break away from the Catholic Church. Rather he wanted to discuss the issues to either be convinced or agree with the church, or encourage the church to make some changes.

Luther was not the first to want to make some changes in the church, he just happened to be doing so at the right time. With the use of Guttenberg's press, others were able to quickly translate his thesis into German and spread them to the people. The Reformation era of the church had begun.

You too are at the right time! You digitally native young people, you have such great and powerful tools in your hands to spread the awesome news of Jesus, to your friends, family, and the world quickly and easily! Zion reaches people each week across the US with our live-stream services. We even reach people in other countries: Chile, Finland, Germany, Canada, and the list goes on.

It doesn't have to be a bold statement, but you can like and share other's positive Christian memes, posts, etc. Just the way that you conduct yourself in

your social media platforms is a witness. You also are a witness every day in the classroom, simply by living out your Christian faith daily. Being kind, caring, compassionate, and helpful, not bullying or being a "mean girl", you are a great witness. In the words of the Newsboys, "Shine. Make 'em wonder whatcha got. Make 'em wish that they were not on the outside looking bored. Shine. Let it shine before all men. Let 'em see good works and then let 'em glorify the Lord."

You can reform—make those changes within your sphere of influence in the world.



In other news, what an awesome job Abby and Savannah did helping out at E-waste recycling day back on August 28. They got to shine and share Jesus by living out their faith to the recycling company staff and to all of the people that dropped off items. Through all of their hard work and the generosity of Zion members and our local community, the youth made \$1,050.65 for the trip to the National Youth Gathering in Houston, July 2022!

Have you?

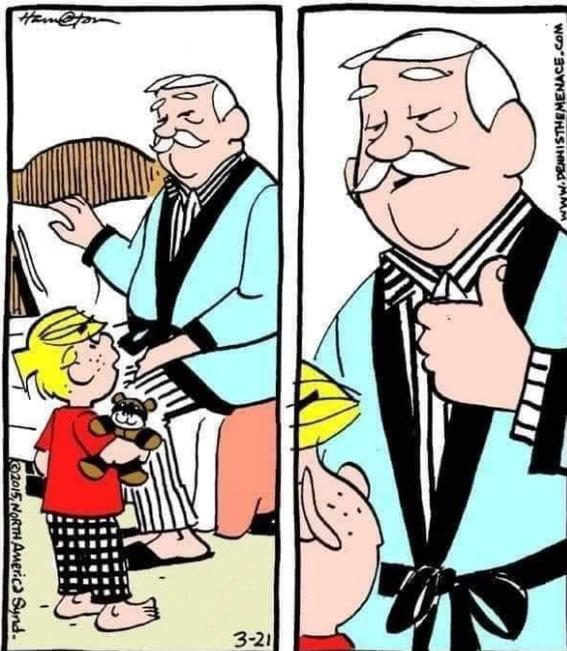
Did you subscribe to Zion's YouTube yet? Like and share any of the Zion posts?

This is a simple easy way to increase the spread and reach of God and of Zion.



You can give money to Zion Church just by shopping! When shopping on Amazon, go to smile.amazon.com and choose Zion as your charity. Then shop as usual. Our last Amazon Smile donation was \$27.52.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.



"DO YOU COUNT SHEEP TO GET TO SLEEP, GRAMPA?"

"NOPE... I TALK TO THE SHEPHERD."

Going forward, the Zion Lutheran Church Choir will practice and sing for church services in the back of the sanctuary. This will allow for participation for all our singers, regardless of physical limitations. Thank you to Cliff Cooper and Steve Harger for making room for the choir in the back of church. The choir is always looking for more singers. If you are interested, please contact the church office.



Church Humor

Elijah's Test

The Sunday school teacher was explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal to her class. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut the steer in pieces and laid it upon the altar. And then Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times.

"Now, said the teacher, "can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?"

A little girl raised her hand with great enthusiasm and said "To make the gravy!"

God Made Us

A little boy was sitting on his grandfather's lap as he read him a bedtime story. From time to time, he would take his eyes off the book and reach up

to touch his wrinkled cheek. He was alternately stroking his own cheek, then his again. Finally he spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," he paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?"

"Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again, he observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"



Zion Lutheran Church

Piedmont, California

+ Communion Assistant Schedule +

October, 2021

Sunday, October 3 rd	10 a.m.	No Communion
Sunday, October 10 th	10 a.m.	Cliff Cooper
Sunday, October 17 th	10 a.m.	Dave Nemy
Sunday, October 24 th	10 a.m.	Frank Cham
Sunday, October 31 st	10 a.m.	Steve Harger

Zion Lutheran Church

Piedmont, California

+ Altar Flower Donations +

October, 2021

Sunday, October 3 rd	Filled
Sunday, October 10 th	Neveu
Sunday, October 17 th	Uhle
Sunday, October 24 th	Dal Ferro
Sunday, October 31 st	Filled



A Vision of Grace Received and Grace Given

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.”
(Ephesians 2:8 NKJV)*

God's promise arrives as pure gift. That's the only way everyone can be so sure of it (Romans 4:16 MSG). A gift so great it has its very own term: GRACE. Only five letters but the difference between eternity with God in heaven, or Hell.

Growing up in a conservative German Lutheran home (and marrying the son of a conservative Lutheran pastor) I have heard and sung about grace constantly.

How can such a little word be so incredible? It is awesome because of what it does.

Jesus took our place on the cross. The punishment for our sins is paid for by His sacrifice. He took our place. Because of how wonderful we are? NO. “Christ died while we were yet sinners” (Romans 5:8). Can we fathom giving our only son to die for a bunch of sinners?

Abraham in Genesis was told to take his only son Isaac to be sacrificed. How incredibly heavy his heart must have been as he trudged up the hill holding his son's hand. “But who will provide the lamb?” his son asked. “God will provide the sacrifice” Abraham answered (Genesis 22). A special measure of faith must have been given to Abraham just to put one foot in front of the other. I'm sure Abraham had questions for God, such as “Isn't this the promised son?” But he obeyed. And Grace was given to him. A ram was aside the altar and sacrificed instead.

The woman caught in adultery (John 8). She was likely scantily dressed. And the Pharisees yanked her out of bed and brought her before a crowd of young male students. Imagine her shame. She was brought before Jesus. “What should we do with her? She was caught in adultery.” Oh they could not wait to throw those stones! It is so gratifying when another's sin is acknowledged but not our own. But Jesus didn't accuse her. He gave her a gift. He gave her Grace. “Where are your accusers?” He asked, after they had all left. “Go and sin no more.” Just like that she was made new.

When our sins are forgiven, the righteous robes of Jesus cover us. When God looks at us, He does not see our filthy selves. He sees His Son's holy robes. “We are given a new heart and a new spirit.” (Ezekiel 36:26) “Christ is in us, the hope of glory” (Col. 1:27). God lives in us when we confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior (1 John 4:15).

So, now that we are new creatures, made with a new heart and given this gift of grace, how do we live? “Grace is everything Jesus. Grace lives because He

does, works because He works and matters because He matters. He placed a term limit on sin and danced a victory jig in a graveyard. To be saved by grace is to be saved by Him – not an idea, doctrine, creed or church membership, but by Jesus Himself, Who will sweep into heaven anyone who so much as gives Him the nod” (Grace, Max Lucado 2012).

We are told to extend grace to others by sharing our faith in Jesus and by praying for each other. We extend forgiveness (grace) to others who have harmed us, not an easy task I find. We grow in God's grace as we learn to forgive each other. We grow in knowledge of His word and in His promises (2 Peter 1:5). We extend grace by being the hands and feet of Jesus. When your car breaks down and someone offers to help. Or you are trying to get all of your heavy school bags into the car and a mother walks over and offers a hand. So many examples of how we can extend grace to one another.

“The Greek word for grace is 'charis' – grace, gift, favor, divine blessing and so much more! Grace in reference to God's gifts to us can only mean a free gift; anything more than that is something earned and would therefore constitute a wage for work done. Grace is given freely and grace is received through faith, which is also a gift of God in us!” (Pastor Paul Aldrich, email 8-23-2021).

Agape love is the love of Grace; the love that God gives to us in His Son Jesus, the benevolence which God provides to us (Ephesians 5:25, 28; 1 Peter 1:22).

*What grace is this! My Lord and King
Has set His face to suffering
My God eternal dies to bring
Eternal Life to me.*

*What grace is this – that very God
Would stoop to lift a cross of wood
And walk a road of rock and blood
A Sinner's road, for me.*

*What grace is this! Though Lord of all,
He yields to Pontius Pilate's law
And lets the Roman hammers draw
A rush of blood for me.*

*What grace is this! Rude agonies!
With common thieves he hangs and bleeds
The sinless Son bears each misdeed,
He pays it all, for me.*

(What Grace is This, Laurie F. Gauer 2005)

– Marlene S. Grunow prayer ministry

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Live-stream Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Bible Class-GR 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM In-person Traditional Worship 11:00 AM Live-stream Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM Zion Annual 	27	28	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Wednesday Bible Study In-Person and Zoom 3:00 PM Confirmation Class 	30	1	2
3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Live-stream Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Bible Class-GR 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM In-person Traditional Worship 11:00 AM Live-stream Contemporary Worship 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Property Committee - CR 	5	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM No Bible Class - Pastor Away 3:00 PM Confirmation Class 	7	8	9
10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Live-stream Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Bible Class-GR 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM In-person Traditional Worship 11:00 AM Live-stream Contemporary Worship 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous Peoples' Day Columbus Day 	12	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Wednesday Bible Study In-Person and Zoom 3:00 PM Confirmation Class 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Iron Men 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Movie Night
17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Live-stream Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Bible Class-GR 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 11:30 AM Live-stream Contemporary Worship 	18	19	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Wednesday Bible Study In-Person and Zoom 3:00 PM Confirmation Class 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:30 PM Finance Committee 	22	23
24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Live-stream Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Bible Class-GR 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 11:30 AM Live-stream Contemporary Worship 	25	26	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Wednesday Bible Study In-Person and Zoom 3:00 PM Confirmation Class 	28	29	30
31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halloween 8:30 AM Live-stream Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Bible Class-GR 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 11:30 AM Live-stream Contemporary Worship 			3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Wednesday Bible Study In-Person and Zoom 3:00 PM Confirmation Class 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diwali 	5	6