



Zion noiz

The Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church
Piedmont, California

May 2021



Pastor Paul writes:

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! With these words we continue to greet one another every Sunday of the Easter season. There is a common perception, even among Christians, that once Easter Sunday is past, there is not much to celebrate in the Church's worship life until Christmas rolls around again. But that is simply not the reality and for good reason!

First of all, every Sunday is a celebration of the Lord's resurrection. Every Sunday is, therefore, a mini-Easter! In the time of the early church, the first disciples moved the day of worship from the observance of the Sabbath on the seventh day of the week to the celebration of the risen Lord's

Day on the first day of the week, in recognition of the resurrection victory, which Jesus accomplished on that first Easter Sunday morning. So also today every Sunday is a festival celebration of the victory that the risen Christ gives us. Through Word and Sacrament, we humbly receive the gifts our risen Victor gives us by His grace: forgiveness of sins, life, and eternal salvation!

Secondly, the weeks after Easter Sunday provide special opportunities for celebration. On the Second Sunday of Easter, we remember how Jesus personally appeared to Thomas to assure him of the reality of His resurrection and to bless Thomas with His peace that passes all understanding. On the Third Sunday of Easter, we remember how Jesus appeared to His disciples and ate fish with them to demonstrate the reality of His physical resurrection from the dead. On the Fourth Sunday of Easter we rejoice in the good news that Jesus is our Good Shepherd and on the Fifth Sunday of Easter we remember that Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches; when we bear much fruit we show ourselves to be His disciples.

Finally, exactly forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, He ascended into heaven (see Luke 24:51 and Acts 1:9). Ascension Day itself is always a Thursday, forty days after Easter, and at Zion we celebrate Jesus' Ascension on the following Sunday, the 7th Sunday of Easter. Jesus' ascension into heaven marked the withdrawal of His visible presence in the world, but it also prepared the way for Him to be present with us everywhere His Word is proclaimed and His Sacraments administered until He returns again in visible glory. The risen and living Christ is present with us more closely now than ever through the ministry of His Holy Spirit that lives in us by God's grace through faith in Christ!

So, Easter Sunday may be behind us this year, but the celebration of the risen Christ continues! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! May God continue to bless you with His Easter peace and joy in the risen Christ!

Pastor Paul

Weekly Worship

SUNDAYS

8:30 am Traditional Worship
9:45 am Sunday School
4 year olds through 6th grade

10:00 am Youth Bible Class
10:00 am Adult Bible Class I & II
11:00 am Contemporary Worship

WEDNESDAYS

10:00 am Bible Class

SEEK

DISCIPLE

MULTIPLY

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JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH NEWS

It is that time of the year when you are ready to be done with school and things. This year maybe more so than other years, although many of you have just had a change in school. Some of you have gone back to school in-person full-time; others of you in some sort of hybrid. I am sure that it is great to see you friends in person again and just get to hang out a little.

Well, the same is true here at Zion! The church is allowed to open up more, as I am writing we are at 50% capacity and maybe even more soon. It has been great to see many Zion members that have come to in-person worship. Zion, not unlike your schools, is in a hybrid model right now. Online Sunday services at 8:30 and 11:00 am and in person at 10:00 am. Zoom Bible Study on Wednesdays, Zoom Iron Men, Virtual Game Nights, and more. Just like your education has been virtual, so had your faith connection. Zion is here for you not just on Sunday mornings, but 24/7 as well. We have 25-30 connections each week that are utilizing the on-demand 24/7 option to worship. It is amazing. We also get to worship with people around the country and the world.

I encourage you to engage with Zion, pick the type of worship you enjoy, and join us either “live-streaming” on Sunday morning, in-person, or on-demand. All are great ways to hear God’s word and keep you faith growing, now and in the future.

I am sure that Josie, Hector, and Bennett are coming down with “senioritis” and are ready to graduate and move on from high school. Cal and Blaise are ready to be done with every Tuesday night “forever” (two years) of Mr. Harger and confirmation class. Even as you meet these important and major milestones in you life, God is still with you by your side at all times and all places. He will help and guide you through these exciting days and into your future. Remember that you are always walking with God.

Speaking of the future, July 9-13, 2022 in the next National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. Save the dates now and start planning on attending. This is always an awesome experience. The theme for the National Youth Gathering 2022 is “In All Things”



HOW CAN YOU CONNECT WITH OTHERS?

Send a card Send an email Send a text Give someone a call
Drop a small gift off on your neighbors porch (then do a doorbell & dash)
Pick and share your flowers Bake and share some cookies

Zion noiZ

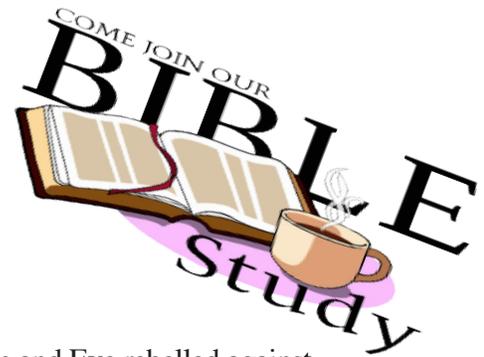
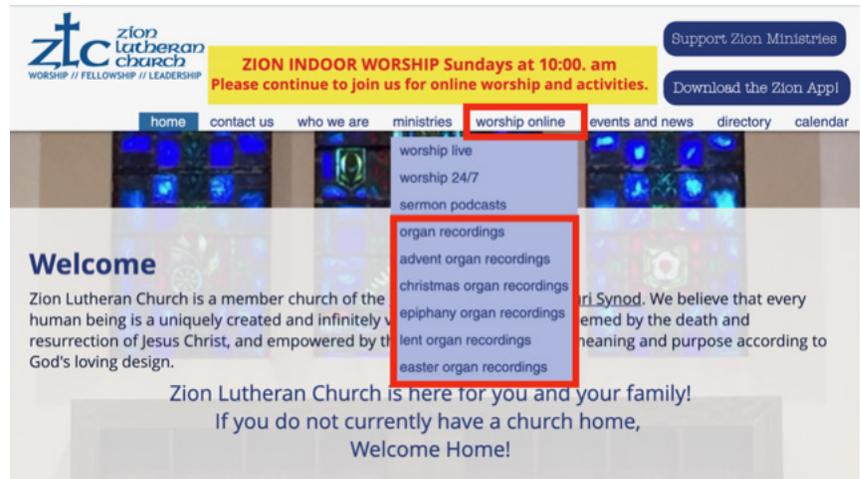
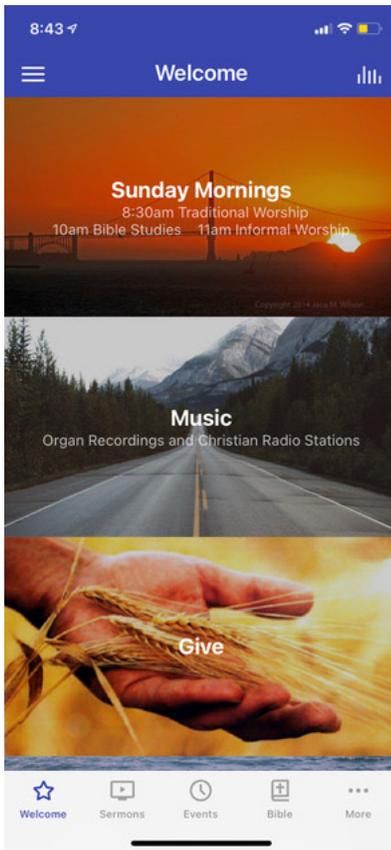
Zion noiZ contains the information we want to make noise about, to celebrate, to invite others, to tell the world. Notice the way that it is capitalized, as if a reflection, this reminds us that we are a reflection of Zion: what we do and how we conduct ourselves all reflect upon Zion.

LET’S GO OUT AND MAKE SOME NOIZ FOR ZION!

ORGAN RECORDINGS

Did you know that you can find links to recordings of all the organ music used in our live worship in the last year, as well as several other pieces, all played on the Zion organ by Dr. Hunsberger?

Go to <https://www.zionlutheran.net/organ-recordings> and in the Zion app music tab



WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS THE STUDY OF GENESIS CONTINUES...

God's creation of a beautiful and perfect world was soon marred by sin, as Adam and Eve rebelled against God's gracious will for them. That original sin led to more sin and more selfishness. Jealousy led to murder. Cain killed his brother Abel in cold blood. Humanity became increasingly self-absorbed and stubbornly rebellious against God.

But again and again, the faithful and forgiving God intervened in the hearts and lives of humanity and continued to seek and restore those who had lost their way. This same gracious and loving God continues to rescue and redeem those of us who stumble in our sin and are in need of renewal and restoration. Thankfully, this is what God does best!

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. via Zoom. The Zoom invitation link goes 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!

CATECHISM CORNER

More for the introduction to the Book of Concord.

What are the Smalcald Articles and the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope?

In 1537, Martin Luther was asked to prepare a statement of Lutheran belief for use at a church council, if it was called. Luther's bold and vigorous confession of faith was later incorporated into the Book of Concord. It was presented to a group of Lutheran rulers meeting in the town of Smalcald. Philip Melanchthon was asked to expand on the subject of the Roman pope and did so in his treatise, which also was included in the Book of Concord.

What is the Formula of Concord?

After Luther's death in 1546, significant controversies broke out in the Lutheran Church. After much debate and struggle, the Formula of Concord in 1577 put an end to these doctrinal controversies and the Lutheran Church was able to move ahead united in what it believed, taught and confessed. In 1580, all the confessional writings mentioned here were gathered into a single volume, the Book of Concord. Concord is a word that means, "harmony." The Formula of Concord was summarized in a version known as the "Epitome" of the Formula of Concord. This document too is included in the Book of Concord.

Iron Men

Zion Men's Fellowship and Bible Study Group

We hope you can join the Iron Men Zoom Thursday Nights May 6th and May 20th

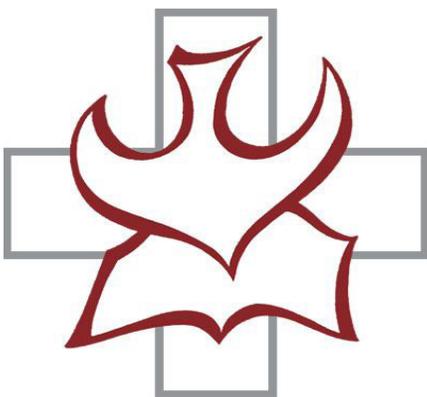
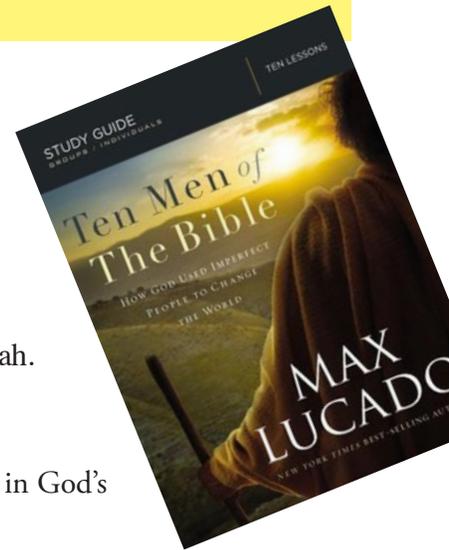
Each time we meet we are looking at another Man of the Bible. The first one was Noah.

On May 6, we will look at Job. On May 20, we look at Jacob's life.

Ten Men of the Bible: How God Used Imperfect People to Change the World

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

Join us whenever you can via Zoom every other Thursday night at 7:00 pm.

**CONFIRMATION QUESTIONING**

This year the Confirmation Questioning will be conducted via Zoom.
on Saturday May, 1, 2021 at 10:00 am.

Our two confirmands, Cal Ronay and Blaise Walsh will be questioned on their Christian faith.

All Zion members are invited to attend. This is also a great time for a review of your catechism knowledge.

Information to join Zoom Questioning

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87473419201?pwd=RkZnckcveDFINGpIc0NqVkrVnK2Nsdz09>

Meeting ID: 874 7341 9201. Passcode: ZionRocks

CONFIRMATION

The Rite of Confirmation will be celebrated on Sunday May 2, 2021 during the 10:00 am in-person worship. During this time Cal and Blaise will profess their faith before the congregation. A recording of the Rite of Confirmation will be added to the end of the online services on May 9th.

Please pray for these two young men as they prepare for these big momentous events.



Are your Mite boxes overflowing???
 Mites in a box are not able to do any good deeds!!
 The national LWML has many helpful Christian organizations that are need of support!!
 So please bring your Mite boxes to Zion on any Sunday & drop it in the BIG Mite box.
 LWML will send them in to one of the those many organizaions !!!
 THANK YOU & BLESS YOU!!!



PRAYER MINISTRY

A VISION OF A HOLY HELPER

“Holy Spirit, Light divine, Shine upon this heart of mine:
 Chase the shades of night away, turn the darkness into day.
 Let me see the Savior’s face, Let me all His beauties trace;
 Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to Thee!”
 (Holy Spirit Light Divine, LSB #496)

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (John 14:26 ESV)

We worship a God Who is a Creator, a Savior and a Divine Helper.

God’s Holy Spirit was there at the creation of the Earth and all living things. “And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters” (Genesis 1:2). In chapter two of Genesis, God breathes into man’s nostrils the “breath of life” and man became a living being (Genesis 2:7). Just going out into God’s creation show us His incredible ability to form things that exist in certain habitats and because of other living things that support them. We worship a Father God - Creator!

We also worship a Savior, God’s only Son, who took our punishment for our sin when he was crucified on the cross. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved” (John 3:16, 17).

After Jesus’ resurrection, He gave us another Helper, the Holy Spirit. “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever” (John 14:16).

“So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’ And when He said this, He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’” (John 20:21,22).

We worship a Creator/Father, a Savior/Son and a Holy Spirit/Helper.

This past year has found us in many situations we could not have imagined five years ago. A worldwide pandemic leaving over half a million people dead. The loss of jobs, or jobs as we have known them. Death and illness of a loved one leaves us in pain. The phone call that informs us that a nine year old student was killed coming home from a Bible class, leaves one stunned. Waking up to the sight in one eye gone leaves one bewildered. A car accident, an illness, all these leave us unprepared. But God sees it all and He sends us a Holy Helper; the Third part of the Trinity.

Jesus said, “But when the Helper comes, I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father; He will testify of Me.” (John 15: 26, 27)

The Holy Spirit is also a comforter and encourager. “The Holy Spirit helps us to pray. (Romans 8:26-27 says; The Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in word. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.” (Max Lucado, Upwords, February 2021)

And when uncertainty or bad things come we have a steadfast helper. In Hebrew the word “steady” is the same as “uphold” as in Psalm 37:17: “The arms of the wicked will be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous.” (Desiring God, December 2020). We are upheld in a steady way.

We are given this gift from God. John 3:6: “Spiritual life comes from the Spirit.” So no matter what our circumstance may be, we have a Heavenly Helper, Who does know and understands and is always with us.

Sometimes we are bombarded by uncertainty or challenging events; unexpected places. A song written by Heather Sorenson (2019 Hal Leonard LLC) tells of how God helps us in those unexpected events of life.

“I know the plans I have in store”,
 You whisper in my ear,
 Words of affirmation, things I need to hear,
 But of all the things You planned for me
 I never would have guessed
 that bringing me right here is what You call Your best.
 But here I am in this unexpected place,
 A place I did not ask for,
 But one that’s filled with grace.
 And here I am in this room I did not plan,
 But Jesus You are here.
 You are Grace
 You are with me
 in this unexpected place.”
 “Holy Spirit, joy divine, Cheer this saddened heart of mine,
 Yield a sacred, settled peace
 Let it grow and still increase.”
 (Holy Spirit Light Divine, LSB #496)

A Holy Helper who helps us to understand His word! Who encourages us and sustains us. “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the one true faith.” (Luther’s Small Catechism, Apostle’s Creed, Third Article)

The Holy Spirit helps to keep us steadfast in our faith. He helps to keep us in humility and trust. The Spirit gives us the words to say when we share with others about Jesus. (And when we write newsletter articles!) He helps us when we have fallen, receive difficult news or become ill.

Our prayer should be for us to receive the help of the Holy Spirit.

“Breathe on me, breath of God;
 fill me with life anew,
 that I may love what Thou dost love and do what Thou wouldst do.”
 (Breathe on me Breath of God, Edwin Hatch 1835-1889)

We receive the Holy Spirit as a result of Christ’s resurrection. (Acts 2:32-33) “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out what you yourselves are seeing and hearing.” The Holy Spirit draws us close when we are in uncertain times, unexpected places. We have this promise that God the Father, Jesus His Son, and the Holy Spirit are always with us.

We most certainly have a Holy Helper!

Marlene S. Grunow
 prayer ministry





Church Humor:

Atheist and the Loch Ness monster

An atheist was spending a quiet day fishing when suddenly his boat was attacked by the Loch Ness monster. In one easy flip, the beast tossed him and his boat high into the air. Then it opened its mouth to swallow both.

As the man sailed head over heels, he cried out, "Oh, my God! Help me!"

At once, the ferocious attack scene froze in place, and as the atheist hung in mid-air, a booming voice came down from the clouds, "I thought you didn't believe in Me!"

"Come on God, give me a break!!" the man pleaded. "two minutes ago I didn't believe in the Loch Ness monster either!"

A great gnashing of teeth

A preacher of the old school was describing the events of Judgment Day and, of course, he used Biblical phrases whenever he could.

"Oh, my friends," he shouted, "imagine the suffering of the sinners as they find themselves cast into the outer darkness, removed from the presence of the Lord and given to eternal flames. My friends, at such a time there will be weeping, wailing and a great gnashing of teeth!"

At this point, one of the elders of the congregation interrupted.

"But Reverend," he said, "what if one of those hopeless sinners has no teeth?"

The preacher crashed his fist on the pulpit, "My friends, the Lord is not put out by details. Rest assured ... teeth will be provided!"