



Zion noiz

The Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church
Piedmont, California

July 2020



Pastor Paul writes...

We have truly been the “church without walls” for more than three months now! But even though we have not been able to worship within the walls of our sanctuary at Zion, we have been able to continue to grow in faith and life in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit working through God’s Word in us. Thank God for His grace in Christ!



This month we enter the third quarter of “The Year of the Walk” at Zion! The Year of the Walk means that we “walk our talk” in our daily lives of discipleship. The Biblical concept of holistic discipleship reminds us that walk in mind, body, soul, and spirit, or, we might also say, in head, heart, hands, and habits.

In the first quarter (January through March), we examined the first dimension of holistic discipleship in Christ, which involves our HEAD. We looked at the five chief teachings of the Christian faith: Sola Scriptura, Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Solus Christus, and Soli Deo Gloria. Our faith and life are based on the clear teachings of Holy Scripture.

In the second quarter (April through June), we examined the second dimension of holistic discipleship in Christ, which involves our HEART. This focused on what we believe and value about God’s mission, specifically the Great Confession (Matthew 16:16), the Great Commandments (Matthew 22:37-40), the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), the Great Commitment (Acts 20:24; Luke 9:23-25, 57-62; Mark 1:17-20; 2 Timothy 2:3), and the Great Celebration (Revelation 7:9-10).

Now, in this third quarter (July through September), we will examine the third dimension of holistic discipleship in Christ, which involves our HANDS. Skills must be learned in order to be a disciple that seeks the lost and disciples the found. These skills include: a spirit of prayer, a willing heart, openness to opportunity, intentionality to serve others in need, and a humility that lets God lead the way for our witness to others. May God bless our hands as we them in His service!

Walking with you in the Word and in the world, 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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“May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life!”

– Psalm 128:5

Guidelines for the Re-opening of Worship at Zion

Our first gathering is Sunday July 5, 2020!

It Begins with You!

It will be great to be back at Zion! We are thankful for the opportunity to worship in person once again. We are also blessed to continue virtual worship services. In-person worship may not look the same as we remember from pre-COVID days as we follow state, county, synod, and district requirements and guidelines. Yet we will be together rejoicing in Christ’s promises and fulfillment of the Scripture. We joyfully worship regardless of where it takes place – on-line or in-person!

As you read through the following guidelines, we ask three things of everyone.

First, please respect those who have developed the guidelines. The directions included are the result of much prayer, thought, input and discussion. Each of us has different opinions and approaches and we will not all agree with every guideline.

Second, please know that guidelines and format may change as circumstances change. We are learning together how to live and worship in changed times. We must be flexible as we determine what works for our congregation and still meets requirements. We will continue to closely monitor health regulations and requirements. As we are allowed to do more, we will prayerfully move forward or change our format.

Third, in Christian love for one another, we each bear a responsibility to one another to abide by the guidelines. The love that God has poured into our lives does not insist on its own way nor is it irritable or resentful. Therefore, together we will work to follow the guidance given, not insisting on our own way, realizing we are here to grow in the love of Christ and to share that love with one another.

Every member and visitor should understand the dangerous nature of this contagious disease and take appropriate personal measures to lessen the risk of spreading the virus. This is “agape” love that we so frequently talk about in Christianity. It is sacrificial love that gives up our personal wants, desires and even rights for the sake of others. It not only gives these up but does so willingly and gladly. This is what Paul is speaking about in 1 Corinthians 13, when he says, “love does not insist on its own way.” He follows by saying that love is “not irritable or resentful” and that “love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things.”

So let’s show the world some real Christian agape love and joyfully work together to keep each other safe, enjoy our modified time of worship and fellowship, and rejoice that we are on the road to recovery!

In short, a healthy, loving attitude is critical.

We are concerned for those who are at-risk and should not be returning to the sanctuary at this time. Individuals and families have the freedom to decide whether or not to return to in-person worship under the following guidelines or to continue to participate online from home. Each individual or family should make a prayerful decision about whether or not it is appropriate for them to gather for in-person worship. Virtual worship services will continue in their present format. ***Please understand there is no way to entirely eliminate the risk of infection in any public gathering.***

Our concern is also for all who will be present at worship. Loving our neighbor at this time may include doing things uncomfortable to us personally, but which could be a blessing to our neighbor. We realize the particular question of whether or not to wear masks has become controversial, but the state of California and the County of Alameda have been clear that **WE MUST WEAR MASKS**. We also believe wearing masks is an important precaution that provides care for our neighbors. Zion will provide you with a mask if you are not wearing one when you arrive for in-person worship. This will be for you to keep and to bring with you to future services. Thank you to Carolyn Dal Ferro for sewing and donating masks for Zion’s use.

The Sanctuary will be cleaned and sanitized before and after each worship service. All materials (hymnals, envelopes, pencils, etc.) have been removed and placed into storage. Restrooms will be available but as single use only. Please avoid the unnecessary touching of surfaces. The drinking fountain will be off limits. The Cry Room will be closed.

We are not allowed to serve food or drinks at this time. This includes coffee. If coffee is part of your Sunday morning worship routine, please make sure to have yours before you come to church or after you leave. Social distancing requirements and the current ban on food and drink mean that the Garden Room will be closed for now.

Current Guidelines for Worship

(These Will Change as Necessary)

1. **If you or anyone in your household is sick**, or if you are at risk of contracting the virus, you are encouraged to stay home and continue to worship with us online. This includes:
 - a. The Elderly (You know who you are).
 - b. People with underlying medical conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, and heart conditions.
 - c. People who have access to those at risk in nursing institutions or assisted living centers.
 - d. People who have recently or who are currently experiencing upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms and those who live with them.
 - e. People with COVID-19 or who live with someone who has COVID-19.
 - f. People who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
2. **Please enter through the main double doors**, which will be propped open and maintain social distancing of 6 feet as you are waiting to enter. Look for blue tape on the parking lot and floors.
3. **Stop at the sign-in table.** There will be a slip to sign about your self-health examination. We need to keep these records in order to provide them to the county – if necessary – should someone test positive. Thus, signing in each Sunday is required.
4. **Next, please proceed to the disinfecting stands** where you will find hand-sanitizer.
5. **Deposit your Offerings** in the plate in the Narthex as you enter the sanctuary.
6. **We have determined that we can seat 70 people**, in accordance and keeping with the State and County guidelines of 25% of capacity. You may not be allowed to sit in your “regular” pew or with your regular seatmates. The pews will be taped off to keep you out of certain pews and portions of pews. This is to help maintain 6 feet social distancing.
7. **Pastor and others involved in leading worship will be wearing masks during worship.** This is in accordance with the County guideline that everyone must wear a mask.
8. **Social distancing is to be maintained at all times.** Children need to stay in pews during the Object Lesson. If a child needs to leave the sanctuary to use the restroom, an adult should accompany them.
9. **Windows will be opened** to the extent possible to encourage airflow. If you get cold easily, please bring a sweater.
10. **When Holy Communion is offered (1st and 3rd Sundays)**, you will be directed by the ushers on when to leave the pew. Communion will be served in the Narthex at the end of the service. You will hold out your hand to receive a wafer and you will pick up an individual cup of wine from a stand where the cups will be placed one at a time. Take the cup and when you have finished, please place it in the basket provided for that purpose. After receiving communion, you will exit through the door into the parking lot and immediately continue to your car to depart. Please observe the CDC, State, and County guidelines, that discourage fellowship or social gathering on the premises both before and after the services.
11. **Non-Communion Services** will be dismissed pew-by-pew. Please observe the CDC, State, and County guidelines that discourage fellowship or social gathering on the premises both before and after the services.
12. **Both the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services will be live streamed every week** using the same format as we have been and available on demand for those who prefer to remain home.
13. **Holy Communion will be offered from 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on the 1st Sunday of the month for those not attending worship.** This will be conducted outside as a drive-by communion, with everyone remaining in their cars and driving past the communion stations. We will direct traffic flow. This format allows those who do not chose to attend in-person worship services also to receive Holy Communion.
14. **There will be no Kids Church** until further notice. Children remain in worship with their family.

15. There will be no in-person non-worship events at Zion until further notice, including Sunday School, Game Night, Movie Night, etc. All Zoom meetings and online events will still take place virtually, including Wednesday morning Bible Study.

Note: Our Plans are Subject to Change!

As you are well aware, the situation in which we find ourselves continues to develop and even the best plans are subject to changes. We will monitor and abide by our state, county, synod, and district requirements and guidelines. We will do our best to alert you to any changes as they may develop.

WHAT WILL THE WORSHIP SERVICE ITSELF LOOK LIKE?

Since the vast majority of clinical studies suggest that the primary form of transmission of the coronavirus is through the air, we will do everything possible to limit this sort of transmission.

This means that we will:

- **Limit the length of the service.** Services will be modified to be approximately 30 minutes.
- **We will not be singing.** An introduction and two verses of the hymns will be played differently each verse, with variety that is difficult to use when leading singing. Text will be on the screens to ponder during the playing.
- **We will limit congregational verbal responses.**
- **There will not be a printed bulletin or announcements.** All of the liturgy, readings and hymns will be shown on the screens.
- **Offering plates will not be passed.** Offerings will be placed in the plates as you enter or exit. Offerings may also be made securely online via the Zion website or the Zion app. We encourage you to sign up for electronic giving if you haven't yet.

By implementing these measures during the service, we will meet the State and County's goal of limiting the time that people are together, limiting the amount of speaking that could introduce airborne particles, limiting movement that could stir up airborne pathogens and reducing the number of surfaces that are touched by individuals. Following the service(s), the sanctuary and restrooms will receive a deep cleaning.

Pastor, I'm Just Concerned. May I wait longer before I return?

Yes, absolutely you may wait. We do not want anyone to feel pressured to return to Zion until you feel ready and comfortable doing so. Our elderly and many others with underlying medical conditions or who care for those with such conditions are certainly the most vulnerable. Therefore, we will continue to publish a video version of the worship service each week so you may stay home if you choose. It is available by going to our website at www.zionlutheran.net or on Facebook.

How Can I Help? What Needs To Be Done?

First and foremost, PRAY that God will bless us and protect us. Second, remember that it begins with you and an attitude of gratitude will go a long way in helping us out. We will need volunteers to:

1. Greet people (in a socially distanced way), and ensure they sign in.
2. Oversee the disinfecting table.
3. Monitor the restrooms, allowing only one person or family unit in at a time.
4. Help clean and sterilize after each worship service.

Jesus said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

(John 13:34-35)

May this be our guide as together we seek to proclaim and practice.

"May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life!"



WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS

Wednesday Bible Class has been meeting every week from 10:00-11:00 a.m. via Zoom. The Zoom invitation goes out to the Zion community via e-mail. We always enjoy seeing each other and we engage in lively and spirited discussions of God's Word. Everyone is welcome to join us any and all Wednesdays that work for you.

In July we will be continuing our in-depth study of the Gospel of St. John. Written last of the four Gospels, this Gospel presents a great deal of material that is not included in the accounts of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. We are discussing one chapter a week, so on July 1st we will be in John 3 – a great place to join us if you haven't yet. See you then!

**IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN.**

LWML in conjunction with FESCO and THRIVENT is collecting donations for backpacks and school supplies for low-income students in Alameda County. School may start early this year, and now more than ever, these boys and girls need our help.

Please help support this project through your generous donations to Zion Lutheran Church (ear marked School Supplies) or on line via SUBSPASH . Monies need to be collected no later that July 20.

Let's make this yearly "school supplies drive" more successful than ever!

IRON MEN

Iron Men continues to meet via Zoom until we get the word that gatherings can resume at church. It has been great to gather via Zoom as a group again.

We are getting together to discuss many and various topics. The Zoom meetings are happening every other week at 7:00 pm. The next Zoom meeting is July 2nd. Watch for the constant contact email with information about the Zoom meeting, the topic and Bible Reading for the gathering.

If we are allowed to gather in person, we will meet on July 9th,
our regular 2nd Thursday.

**CATECHISM CORNER**

The month, we begin a look at the Augsburg Confession of 1530.

This version is taken from the Book of Concord.

Skipping the Preface and beginning with the Chief Articles of Faith.

Chief Articles of Faith**Article I: Of God.**

1] Our Churches, with common consent, do teach that the decree of the Council of Nicaea concerning the Unity of the Divine Essence and concerning the Three Persons, is true and to be believed without any doubting; 2] that is to say, there is one Divine Essence which is called and which is God: eternal, without body, without parts, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness, the Maker and Preserver of all things, visible and invisible; and 3] yet there are three Persons, of the same essence and power, who also are coeternal, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. And the term "person" 4] they use as the Fathers have used it, to signify, not a part or quality in another, but that which subsists of itself.

5] They condemn all heresies which have sprung up against this article, as the Manichaeans, who assumed two principles, one Good and the other Evil: also the Valentinians, Arians, Eunomians, Mohammedans, and all such. 6] They condemn also the Samosatenes, old and new, who, contending that there is but one Person, sophistically and impiously argue that the Word and the Holy Ghost are not distinct Persons, but that "Word" signifies a spoken word, and "Spirit" signifies motion created in things.

WALKING WITH SCRIPTURE

Refresh – Remind – Rejoice

“On my heart imprint Your image, Blessed Jesus, King of Grace,
That life’s riches, cares and pleasures never may Your work erase.

Let the clear inscription be: Jesus crucified for me

Is my life, my hope’s foundation,

And my glory and salvation.”

(LSB #422 On My Heart)

A memory that I have of growing up in Lafayette, California; hot summer evenings; my Dad with his hat, apron and tongs, out by the barbecue, grilling whatever meat Mom would have given to him. The odor of that marinated meat or chicken increased our appetites. My mother would marinate the meat for days. There it would sit in the refrigerator, soaking in herbs, spices and whatever else the recipe listed for two to three days. The meat would not only change flavor, but also consistency, until it was just right for the barbecue. Do we soak up the flavor of Scripture, so that we are changed? Infused with the Word of God so that our hearts are more like Christ’s. I Peter 2:2-3 tells us to “feast on the Word.” God’s Word is a “feast for our hearts, mind and spirit. This is our banquet table, where there is no such thing as taking too much.” (Charles Stanley, In Touch, June 2020, page 41)

We feast on God’s Word; we soak in the Holy Scriptures; a type of marinating that changes the way we are. The goal of every Christian is to be conformed to His image. (Romans 8:29) When we read God’s Word, memorize it and keep it in our hearts, it is there to guide us, comfort us, convict us, and instruct us. The words of the Bible permeate our minds and hearts to understand His desire for us. We are to become “just like Jesus.” “God loves us just the way we are, but refuses to leave us that way. More than anything, He wants us to be just like Jesus.” (Max Lucado, Just Like Jesus, page xxii)

When we are changed in Christ through His word and Spirit, we are conforming to His image (Romans 12:2). “Let the spoken word of Christ have its home within you, permeating every aspect of your being.” (Colossians chapter 3) Parents are told to “teach diligently”, to “impress” upon the hearts of their children, the laws of God. This is to affect every area of our lives: home, work, school and recreation. (Deuteronomy 6:7)

We are to remember what God has done for us. “Remember His marvelous works which He has done” (I Chronicles 16:12). Remembering what God has done is essential to Christian growth. We are constantly encouraged and inspired to continue our Christian walk as we are reassured that God keeps His promises. We are able to learn of Jesus and what it means to have His heart. God’s Words brings us to repentance and forgiveness for sins. God’s Word is a guide. God sends us His Helper, the Holy Spirit, to enable us to understand His word. We remember His works; we ponder His words. “Ponder” is to “think upon,” “consider”, or reflect upon His word. Paul urges us in Philippians 4 to think on or ponder “whatever is true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are pure. The Greek word, logizamai, is used here to convey thinking about, considering, pondering and taking account of, all that we read in His word.” (David Beaty, Biblical Meditation, p. 7)

We have a Bible option on our Zion App. You can read or listen to God’s word any time of day. I have been listening to the Gospels, per Pastor Paul’s recommendation, to better learn what “having a heart after God” looks like. When we become better familiar with God’s Word, we involve Him in all our decisions. Proverbs chapter 3 tells us to involve God in all of our choices. He gives us understanding and wisdom. God is always faithful. He is the very definition of Faithfulness. Our highest goal is to “love the Lord your God, with all your heart, soul and mind.” (Matthew 22) After we are refreshed in God’s Word and remember what He has done for us, we then rejoice and recite to others what He has done. Every time Jesus would heal someone, they would run off to share their good news. Don’t we love to share good news? Something that may have changed our life? God wants us to recite, to tell others about what He has done and what He is continuing to do. “I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With Him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure.” (Psalm 16:8, 9) “True love for God is expressed by sincere obedience to God’s will and ways as revealed to us in Scripture.

Meditating upon Scripture is one of the best ways to internalize the truth on God’s word and be strengthened by Christ’s Spirit to obey it.” (David Beaty, Biblical Meditation, p. 15) Psalm 64:9 “All mankind will fear; they will proclaim the works of God and ponder what He has done. Let the righteous rejoice in the Lord and take refuge in Him.” We recite and rejoice in all that God has done. And when we rejoice, remembering what He has done, we bring glory to His Name. Our testimony becomes what God has done in our lives of test and trials. God uses everything for His glory. We were created to glorify Him. We sing Psalm 145: “O Lord, You are my God and King, and I will ever bless Your Name. I will extol You every day, and evermore Your praise proclaim. You, Lord, are greatly to be praised, Your greatness is beyond our thoughts; all generations shall tell forth the mighty wonders You have wrought.” Let us continue our walk, saturating ourselves in God’s word; refreshed and remembering what He has done and reciting and rejoicing in His faithfulness.

-Marlene S. Grunow, prayer ministry

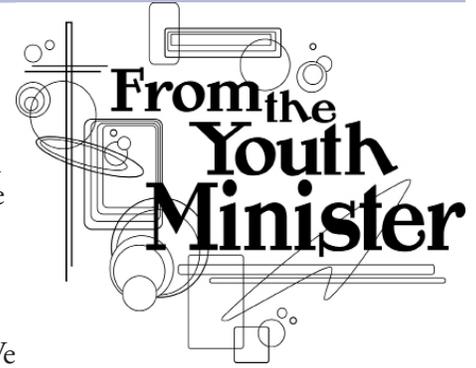


JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH YOUTH NEWS

Hey! I write you this letter as a Youth Minister who admires, respects, loves you and deeply cares about your soul. I genuinely want the best for you.

Do you know how awesome you are? Well, let me say it: you are AWESOME! You are wonderful, you are beautiful and you are God's. Let me tell you, the Church needs you! "You are unique and unrepeatable." You offer something that no one else offers. You are the only you! Never underestimate the power of your example.

It's also important to hold each other accountable. Scripture says, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24,25). We need each other.

**I am passionate about seeing you walk with Jesus for your lifetime.**

John 10:26-30 gives us a picture of what the process of walking with Jesus looks like . . . "But you don't believe me because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

In this passage Jesus says His sheep will believe Him (which is more like an active faith instead of intellectual acknowledgment). How does that active faith come about

Listening to Jesus – Jesus makes it clear that His sheep listen to Him. We are inviting students to listen to the voice of God through prayer, Scripture and looking for signs of His work.

Knowing Jesus – After we learn to listen to Jesus, He becomes familiar to us. We can discern His voice from others. We have an ongoing relationship with Him. We move from knowing about Him to actually knowing Him.

Following Jesus – Students who listen to Jesus and learn to know Him will naturally follow Him. Where He goes they will go because they will want to be with Him. And what is the result? As a teenager develops a habit of walking with Jesus, they will experience life and security

I want you to know that I care about you, I am here for you, and I love you. No matter who you are, what car you drive, where you live or where you are from, there is a place for you in the church and God's Kingdom and in His Mission. I challenge you to get involved. God has an amazing plan for your life!

Church Humor:**Car Crash**

After dying in a car crash, three friends go to Heaven for orientation. They are all asked the same question, "When you're lying in your casket, and friends and family are mourning over you, what would you like to hear them say about you?"

The first guy immediately responds, "I would like to hear them say that I was one of the great doctors of my time, and a great family man."

The second guy says, "I would like to hear that I was a wonderful husband and school teacher who made a huge difference in the children of tomorrow."

The last guy thinks for a moment, and then replies, "I guess I'd like to hear them say, 'Look, he's alive!'"

Lutheran Dog

This Lutheran couple felt it important to own an equally Lutheran pet, so they went shopping. At the kennel specializing in this particular breed, they found a dog they liked quite a lot.

When they asked the dog to fetch the BIBLE, he did it in a flash. When they instructed him to look up Psalm 23, he complied equally fast, using his paws with dexterity. They were impressed, purchased the animal, and went home. That night they had friends over. They were so proud of their new Baptist dog and his major skills, they called the dog and showed him off a little. The friends were impressed, and asked whether the dog was able to do any of the usual dog tricks as well. This stopped the couple cold, as they had never thought about him doing "normal" tricks.

"Well", they said, "Let's try it out." Once more they called the dog, and they clearly pronounced the command, "Heel!"

Quick as a wink, the dog jumped up, put his paw on the man's forehead, closed his eyes in concentration, and bowed his head.

They had been deceived! He was Pentecostal!

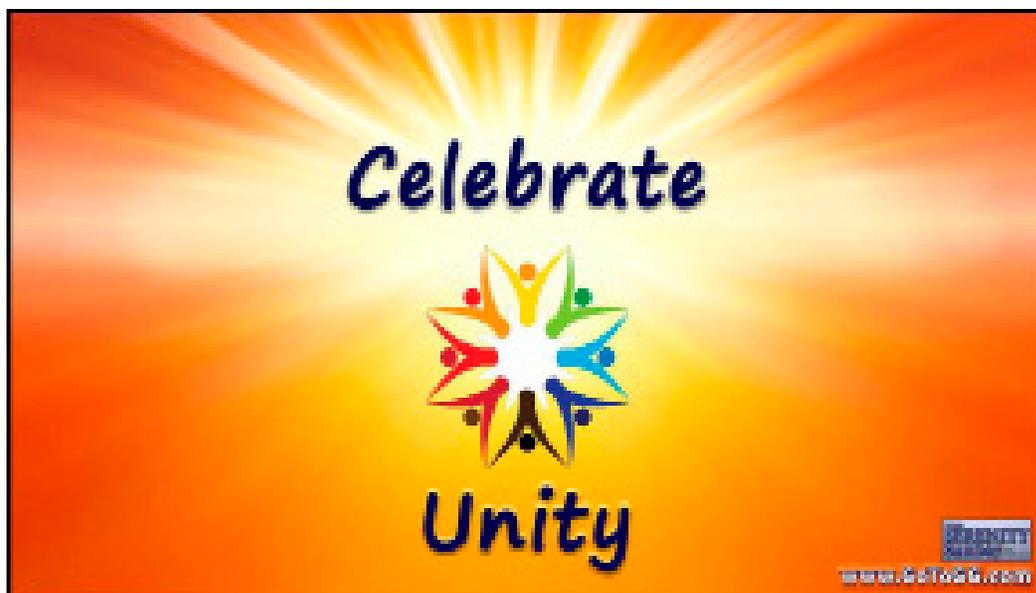
Zion noiZ

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!

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting in progress. On the left, a browser window displays the Bible Gateway website with the text of Romans 14:1-13. The text includes verses about welcoming those with weak faith, abstaining from judgment, and giving thanks to God. On the right, a grid of 10 video thumbnails shows various participants in the Zoom meeting. The Zoom interface at the bottom shows a search bar and several document thumbnails.

Wednesday Morning Zoom Bible Study.



The following letter is from the Christian-based agency with whom Karen Hebel and Carolyn Dal Ferro volunteer. If you are interested in joining as a tutor, as well as understand more clearly the inequity of services and justice in our city, contact Karen Hebel for more information.

A STATEMENT FROM CHILDREN RISING

Dear Karen,

The murder of George Floyd on May 25th at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer was heinous and intolerable. It has exposed a centuries-old wound, once again shining a spotlight on racial injustice in our nation.

Children Rising stands in strong support of racial justice. We ally with passionate, peaceful protesters who raise their voice against the cruel and unnecessary death of George Floyd and the centuries of biased social structures that have existed for too long in this country. These structures have limited opportunity and have excused violence against African Americans for far too long. They are deeply-rooted in many aspects of our society, including the criminal justice, healthcare, and education systems, and in the personal views of many who have yet to recognize “white privilege.” The result is generation after generation of African Americans living in the shadows of poverty, violence, fear, and inequity.

Black Lives Matter. For the past two weeks, our nation has convulsed under the weight of deep-felt sorrow, frustration, and anger. Sadly, we’ve been down this well-worn path so many times. Names like Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Oscar Grant, Michael Brown, Freddy Gray, and Eric Garner brought angry protests to the streets of our cities in the past decade. But this time, something feels different.

The ancient Hebrew prophet Isaiah wrote, “Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. . .” We stand with our African American brothers and sisters and with all others seeking positive change. We believe it is not enough to be non-racist. We must all be anti-racist. Silence is culpability. It’s time for all of America to actively become part of understanding and addressing this issue.

We pray that God’s love continues to open hearts throughout this country, and reveal a better understanding of the plight of our African American brothers and sisters. We also pray that this moment in our history will become a pivotal point for lasting change. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated, “True peace is not the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice.” We believe this social upheaval towards a just society for everyone should not end until African Americans can truly feel they are safe in America.

As an organization, we are inspired to strengthen our commitment for equal education for all children. Our mission is to nurture and equip vulnerable children to rise above the challenges created by generations of poverty, violence, and educational inequity. Deeply rooted racism is at the heart of why so many African Americans continue to suffer under these societal ills. Educational inequity is one of the many outcomes of this pervasive racism. Improving the quality of education for vulnerable children of color is imperative and foundational for achieving long-term, enduring social justice.

We pledge as an organization and as individuals to work even harder to provide opportunities where the broader community can address educational inequity in our urban public schools. Our one-on-one tutoring and mentoring programs are designed to place a caring adult in the life of a vulnerable child. When volunteer tutors and mentors step out of their comfort zone, they develop relationships with children, youth, and school staff, many of whom are African American. These caring volunteers are often transformed by their service. For those who are not African American themselves, most develop an all-new and important empathy for the struggles of so many African American families.

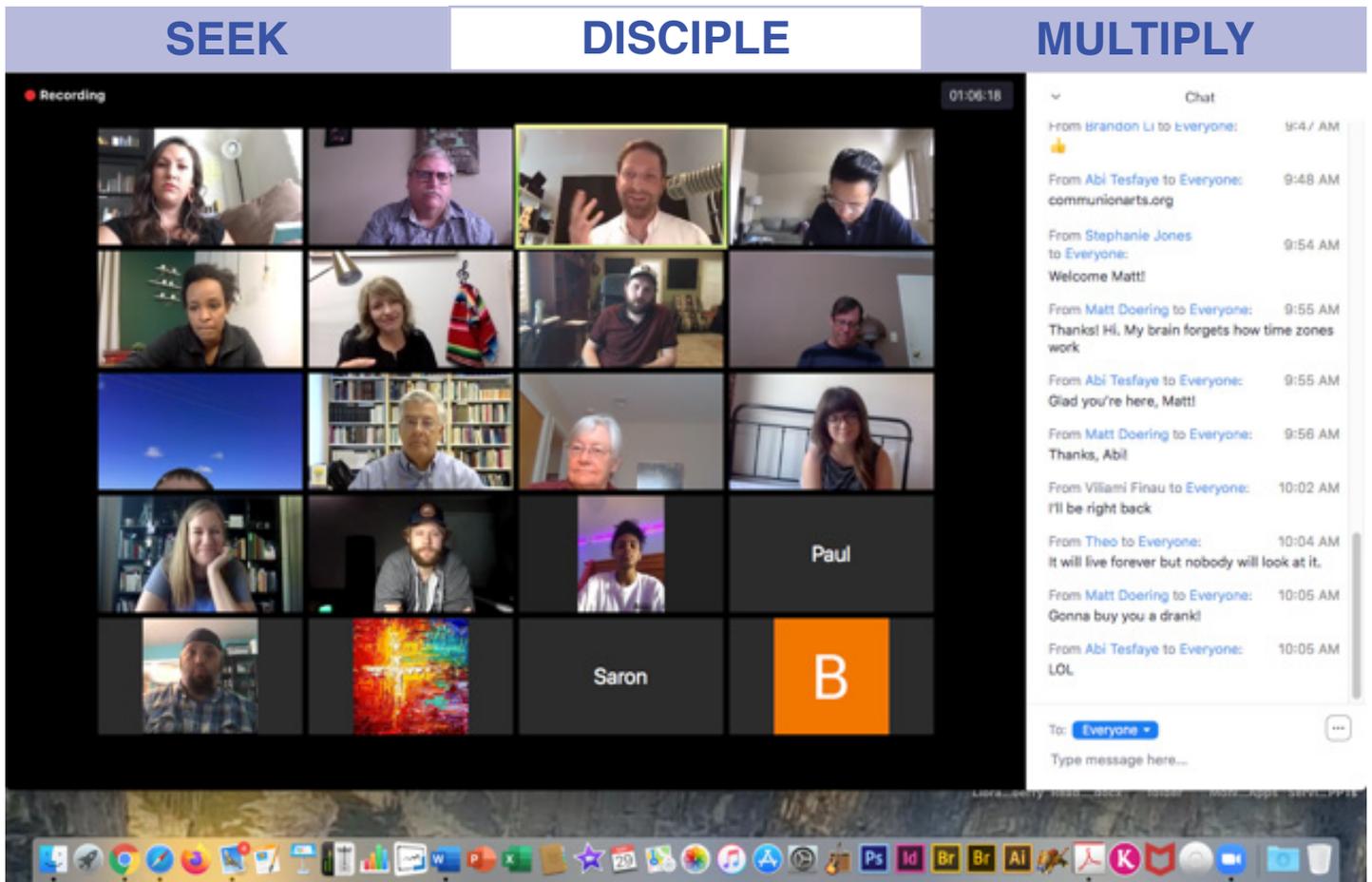
Finally, we believe in the overall goodness of our neighbors. Serving the vulnerable in our society promotes understanding and compassion. An increased spirit of service will open more ears to listen, and more eyes to better see, and we will approach a new era of community – a community of fairness and equality for all, regardless of the color of our skin.

None of us should expect meaningful change without actively becoming part of the solution. All of us at Children Rising encourage you to seek meaningful ways to put your good intentions into action. We will do our best to do more, so together we can defeat systemic racism once and for all.

In Community,
Jim Wambach
Executive Director
Jonathan Mayes
Chairperson, Board of Directors

Our Contact Information
Children Rising
2633 Telegraph Ave, #412
Oakland, CA 94612
510-836-5100
<http://www.children-rising.org>





Mr. Harger taking part in a LINC Zoom Conference.

