

Connecting
through Grace
ZION
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

1070 Foothill Dr. Salt Lake City, UT 84108

THE HERALD

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Connecting through Grace

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Zion Events	2
Community Events	3
Discussions, Studies, & Small Groups	3
Announcements	4-5
Children & Youth	5
Youth Activities	6
Help Needed	7
Worship Volunteers	7
Children's Christmas Program	8
UT Legislature Opportunities	8

WELCOME!

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:17-18



We are Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, committed to being a loving and welcoming community of faith in Jesus Christ. As a community of God we welcome all.

We rejoice in the manner in which diversity enriches, nurtures, and challenges the life and ministry we share in Christ. We embrace actions and attitudes within the Church that assure access to Word and Sacrament regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic or marital status, physical or mental capacities, age or race.

We are a Reconciling in Christ community. All are welcome.

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

It was enough for me to struggle in my study with Hebrew, if only to discover that Jesus' name means "The Lord makes room." I shared my discovery with "our homeless friends" in a recent morning devotion. It is not uncommon for someone to interrupt, if not challenge me during these devotions. "If that is true," exclaimed one of our worshippers, "that changes everything!"

Yes, it does. This is why Luke, the gospel writer, plays with that name in telling Jesus's story. He says they laid Jesus in a manger, because there was "no place for them in the inn." The baby Jesus grows up to befriend any and all with no place, making a place for them at his table. Everyone has a place with Jesus.

Once Jesus visited the home of Zacchaeus, a man without any friends. He was a sinner, a tax collector. "Today salvation has come to this house," Jesus announced. He was playing with the name salvation, which was also Jesus' name. "Today the Lord makes a place at your house, Zacchaeus!"

As we enter this holy season, we are named as God's beloved, baptized as we are in Jesus' name. There is no place we can be but that God, the Lord, makes room for us.

Wherever your place, that is God's place, too. This is our Christmas joy of Jesus, Emmanuel, the Word-made-flesh, who dwells among us in grace and truth.

And, that, dear friends, changes everything.

Pastor Steve Klemz

UPCOMING ZION EVENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:15 AM Awakening Worship

9:15 AM Sunday school for children & adults

10:30 AM Traditional Worship

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Adult Open Forum Bible Discussion

All are welcome to discuss the current Sunday's lessons, focusing on the Gospel. We will meet at 9:15-10:15 in the room across from the sanctuary.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING PARTY

Sunday, December 9, following the 10:30 (late) worship please join us for a fun day decorating "Gingerbread Houses"! A pizza lunch will be provided during the decorating fun!

Please bring your favorite Gingerbread house decorations (candy, cereal, sprinkles, anything goes!) and be sure to sign up on the bulletin board just outside of the library so we can have enough houses and pizza for all participants. All are welcome!!

This is a Thrivent Financial sponsored event with a free will offering to the Volunteers of America Youth Center. Please bring items to help **FILL THE PACK** with Zion Youth to support local homeless youth in need during the colder months. A list of suggested items is on the bulletin board just outside of the library. Cash donations also accepted and will be used to purchase items for the *Fill the Pack* offering.



WINE & CHEESE PARTY

Saturday December 1 at 7:00 PM at the Three Fountains Club House located within the Three Fountains Cottonwoods complex. The building does not have a specific address for you to GPS so use 695 East Three Fountains Drive as your search address and follow signs to the clubhouse. (There are 2 communities. Go to the one on the West side of 900 East, not the East Side. There is an office complex at the mouth of the entrance from 900 East).

Bring an appetizer to share and your beverage of choice.

Looking for someone to play Christmas Carols at the upright piano in the clubhouse for some inspirational singing during the evening, if you are a willing volunteer.

Peace of the Season.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

On December 2nd, we ask that you prepare and turn in your statement of intent to formally declare your commitment of time, talent and financial gifts for 2019. Printed copies will be available at church on Sunday.

Thank you for your participation during this exciting season!

Doug Graham, President

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

6:00 PM FAMILY-FRIENDLY WORSHIP

9:30 PM ORGAN RECITAL by David Chamberlin

10:00 PM CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP with HOLY COMMUNION & CHANCEL CHOIR

COMMUNITY EVENTS

GERMAN AMERICAN SOCIETY OF UTAH

All are invited to their Christmas concert, 'Fröhliche Weihnacht' at Zion
Sunday, December 16th at 7:00 PM.

Performance by the German Chorus Harmonie, under the direction of Joan Steinmann and Lothar Gulla,
with Genevieve Christianson and other musical guests.

General admission \$8; GAS members / students \$4

www.utahgermanamericansociety.com

QUILTERS WITHOUT BORDERS

Our next meeting will be held at the Women of the World office at 3347 South Main

Street. We will meet at 7:00 pm, Thursday, December 6th. I know some of us had difficulty finding the address last year. It's a little tricky to find because it is in a small strip of offices off of Main Street. It's not a separate building. You have to drive into the parking lot and look for the actual office. Refreshments will be pot-luck. Be aware that the office space is small so be prepared to be cozy with each other!

For those of you who haven't heard, Samira Hamish received an award recently. This October in Geneva, Switzerland, Samira Harnish recently was awarded the UNHCR's highest honor for refugee service. The Nansen Award is awarded each year by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and highlights the efforts Women of the World has made in resettling refugees in Salt Lake City.

We are fortunate to be able to get together with this outstanding organization every year in December. To read more about the award and this great group, go to <https://womenofworld.org>.

FAMILY PROMISE

Wish List: Oven & Washer

Gifts of the Magi We have launched our holiday gift giving program, Gifts of the Magi. If you are interested in sponsoring a family, please sign up [here](#). Information will be sent out to sponsors in the next few weeks. Please contact myself or Briel (briel@familypromisesaltlake.org) with any questions or concerns. Thank you!

Shelter Program Schedule (December 2-December 9) @Wasatch Presbyterian Church (1626 South 1700 East) Coordinator: Allison (202)257-6410; (December 9-December 16) @Hilltop United Methodist Church (966 E Buddlea Drive) Coordinator: Mike (801)755-0339 (December 16-December 23) @Christ United Methodist Church (2375 East 3300 South) Coordinators: Lane and Catherine (435)730-0908

(December 23 - December 30) @Christ United Methodist Church (2375 East 3300 South)
Coordinator: Ralph (704)880-8957

CROSSROADS URBAN CTR

Needs for December:

Food: Cereal

THRIFT STORE ITEM: All things warm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP

The Women's Small Group meets the first and third Monday at 7:00 PM in various homes and studying The Gospel of John. All women are welcome.

Contact Alyce Gross: 801-557-9646
or adgross1@msn.com

ADULT STUDY

Sunday Morning Advent Bible Study – All are Welcome! 9:15-10:45 in the atrium

December 2: “Come, Lord Jesus” – in Holy Communion; open conversation & coffee (Pr with SS classes)

December 9: “Come, Lord Jesus” --- “Hope for the Holidays*” --- with LIRS, making Christmas cards for children and families in detention.

December 16: “Come, Lord Jesus” – coffee and conversation (Pr. Steve on vacation)

December 23: “Come, Lord Jesus” – exploring Advent scripture

“Hope for the Holidays” --- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service provides a toolkit for making and sending Christmas cards with notes of encouragement in both English and Spanish. See www.lirs.org/take-action/hope-for-the-holidays/

EPIPHANY POTLUCK

On Sunday, January 6, 2019, we will celebrate Epiphany Sunday. During the Sunday school hour, beginning at 9:15 AM, we will hold our ethnic potluck and share the meal together downstairs in the terrace room. All are welcome!

IN OUR PRAYERS

Christ's healing presence with Marlyce Chytraus, Bonnie Judge, Michael Chard, Rodney Schroeder, Linde Wrathall, Louise Nelson, Ron Finner, Terri Finner, Jennie Johnson, Leo Seegert, Berkley Foulks, Emily Ann & Christy Hillock during hospitalization. For Juan de Dios Lopez and Lisa Mensinger in their call to ordained ministry.

LIBRARY CORNER

The Library Guild meets Tuesdays at 10:30 AM. Come and be a part of this Small Group.

The following books have been added to the children's section: “Sparkling Hanukkah” by Elizabeth Spurr; “The ABC of God Loves Me” by Fiona Boon; “The Christmas Coat, Memories of My Sioux Childhood” by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve; “This is the Star” by Joyce Dunbar & Gary Blythe.

The following books have been added to the adult section: “Luther Lives” edited by Edward C. Fredrich; “With the holy spirit and with fire” by Samuel M. Shoemaker; “Martin Luther; The Man Who Rediscovered God and Changed the World” by Eric Metaxas; “More Jesus Less Religion” by Stephen Arterburn & Jack Felton; “The Storyteller's Companion to the Bible, Volume One, Genesis” by Michael E. Williams.

We welcome any religious and children's books donated to the church library. When donating, please drop your books into the wooden drop box with a note. Please donate your fiction books to the public library. Thank you!

REMEMBER TO RETURN YOUR OVERDUE BOOKS!

Parents: Please assist your children when checking out the library books by making sure a full name is written on the check out card. Also, remind your children to be respectful of the church library books!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Greetings, Zion congregation!

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving! Sunday school is moving right along, and we can't believe it's already December!

Coming up this month, Pastor Steve will visit with the Sunday School classes December 2, there will be a congregation-wide opportunity for gingerbread house decorating after the 10:30 service on Sunday, December 9th, then Joyful NOIZ will perform at the 10:30 service on the 16th, and the Sunday School Christmas Program happens on Sunday, December 23rd! Whew! That's a lot!

I hope you and your families will make some time for peaceful reflection and take some deep breaths during all of the chaos.

Once again, I'd like to personally (and on behalf of the many other families whose children benefit from Sunday School) thank all of the teachers! We know that you often miss other opportunities for education and fellowship during the Sunday School hour, and we thank you!

In His Service,
Melissa Butson,
Sunday School Superintendent

LET ME SHINE PRESCHOOL



Wow! As always our Let Me Shine Community continues to amaze and astound me with its collective generosity. **Thank you** to our volunteers and to those who supported the Scholastic Book Fair. Because of your generosity it was a great success, earning our school over \$700.00 in new books and leaning resources.

We also thank everyone who donated to Crossroad Urban Center Food Pantry and participated in the Operation Christmas Child service project. Our school donated many baskets of food and donated 37 shoebox gifts!!! It's a blessing to touch the lives of so many children and help our own children understand how blessed we are.

You are welcome to attend our preschool Christmas programs. Please see dates and times located on the LMS bulletin board in the narthex. It's a delight to see and hear the Christmas story told by preschoolers!

May the good news of our Savior's birth fill your hearts with joy this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

In His Service,
Barb Ballif,
Director

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

FILL THE PACK – VOA Youth Resource Center

Please consider helping fill the pack.

The youth are working on filling 10 packs for the Youth Resource Center. Below is the list of items for the pack. Please drop the items off by the Director of Youth Ministry office by December 9th. Thanks again for your generous support during this time of Advent.

Notebooks, Hand Warmers
Reusable Water Bottles
New Socks, Gloves, Earbuds
New Men & Women's Underwear
Food Gift Cards, Pens & Pencils

FAITH FORMATION DISCIPLES

I wanted to share some of the insights of the Youth (Angus, Berkley, Gambit and Thor) who are part of the Faith Formation Program (aka Confirmation). This year we are exploring the Hebrew Text (Old Testament) and as we explored the Law these youth came up with some interesting ideas. We compared the commandments in Deut 5 with what Jesus said in Matt 22:34-40. The pivotal question for the day was **what does it look like to love your neighbor as yourself?** The conversation quickly turned to using mathematical operators to answer the question, and here is what some have said:

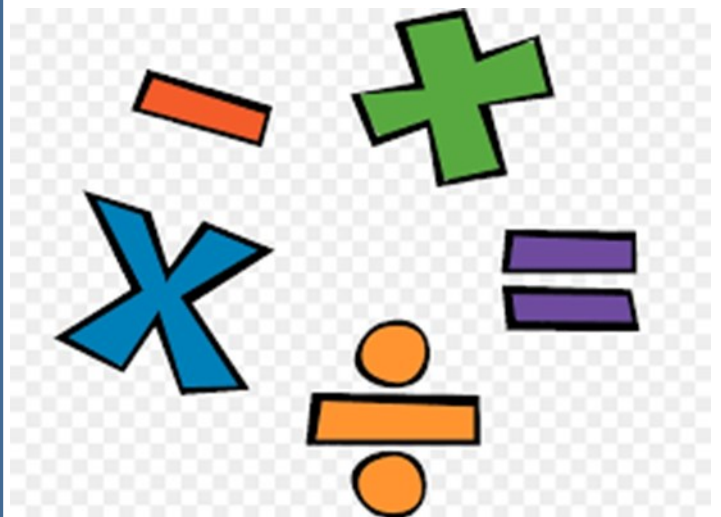
The Equal Sign: The two lines are the same with space in between. You represent one line and the other line is the neighbor. God fills the space between the two lines, which gives us space to love the other like ourselves. **Gambit Sox**

The Division Sign: The two dots represent you and your neighbor. The line represents all the ways that get in the way of loving your neighbor like racism. Jesus tells us to love and not to hate. **Berkley Foulks**

The Plus Sign: Each line represents you and your neighbor, and how our lives intersect at points when we love each other. Oh hey, guess what the plus sign looks like the cross?! **Angus Hickman.**

YOUTH SYNOD GATHERING CANCELLED

The Synod cancelled the youth gathering at Rocky Mountain Estes Park. BUT...I am working on bringing the theme of VOCATION to Utah. Stay tuned for more details.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS TREE SET UP

HELP WITH CHRISTMAS TREE SETUP

**December 23, 2018
after 10:30 am service**

Helpers are needed to set up the Christmas tree in the sanctuary on December 23rd after the 10:30 am service. With many hands, the task goes really quickly! Questions? Ask Paul Mogren.

CONNECTING THROUGH GRACE: Financial Stewardship

Many thanks to those who attended our Annual Congregational Meeting last month and for passing the proposed budget for 2019. We praise God for your generosity.

Yours in Christ,
Leslie Miller,
Church Council Treasurer

COUNTERS FOR 2019

Zion's counters are the people who, well, count the weekly offerings. The task is easy and is a great way for you to make a personal contribution to Zion's operations. Each week, a team of two counters opens, counts, and records the contributions in the ServantKeeper system, balances, and takes the deposit to the bank.

We're in the process of preparing the schedule for the 2019 year. If you already are a counter, please let us know of any times you are NOT available during the 2019 calendar year. If you are not yet a counter, let us know of your interest! We'll train you, pair you with an experienced counter, and add you to the team schedule.

Questions? Ask Jane Erdahl or Ann Marie Mogren.



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	10:30am Assisting Ministers	Ushers	Altar Guild	Greeters	Counters	Refreshments
Dec 2	Erin Basta	Volunteers needed	Jan + Holly	Volunteers needed	Andrew + Warren	Please volunteer
Dec 9	Denny Gross	Volunteers needed	Carrie + Denny	Volunteers needed	Ann Marie + Diane	Library Guild
Dec 16	Rachel Kibler	Volunteers needed	Jan + Bruce/ Lois	Volunteers needed	Ethel + Janice	Please volunteer
Dec 23		Volunteers needed	Steve/Marie + Holly	Volunteers needed	Ann Marie, Fred, Angie, Sandra	Please volunteer
Dec 30		Volunteers needed	Marci + Marsha	Volunteers needed	Ethel + Janice	Please volunteer

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 23, 2018 6:00 pm
Children and youth need to arrive by 5:30 for warm-up.
Please come by 5:15 if you want to use one of our costumes or choir robes.

Please join the children and youth of Zion for our annual Christmas program featuring music and Bible readings that tell of the first Christmas.

Families: children may wear costumes from the Bible story of the Nativity (angels, shepherds, Mary, Kings, animals etc.) We also have plenty of white choir robes for angels and will have garland available for "halos".
Teens who do not play in Joyful NOIZ will be readers and need to come for our rehearsal on Sat. Dec. 22 at 9:00 am in the sanctuary.

Cookies and hot cocoa will be served after the program. We need parent volunteers to:

Set up reception/ make hot cocoa

Clean up reception

At least a dozen cookie bakers to provide 2-3 dozen homemade cookies

Set up instruments -Help Susan with instrument set up on afternoon of Fri. Dec. 21

Clean up instruments -carry everything downstairs afterwards

Please contact Susan Swidnicki Sljswidnicki@gmail.com or (801) 953-2301 if you can help.

This is a really special night every year. Please make sure your child is at Sunday School during December in order to be prepared.

May we all feel and spread God's spirit this Holy Season.

UT LEGISLATURE OPPORTUNITIES

Seeking Zion members or visitors who are interested in a single topic you would like to follow during the upcoming Utah legislature and share the appropriate upcoming actions with the Zion community.

Maybe it's air quality, regressive taxes, suicide prevention, Medicaid or something else. We will partner with agencies who are plugged into those issues – CORC and Catholic Community Services—to identify specific steps interested Zion members may join in. Love to see some new faces in this effort!

Please contact Steve Jenny (sjenny1297@aol.com), Marsha Gilford (marsha.gilford@gmail.com) or Pastor Steve (pastor@zelc.org).

Visit the church website for the current calendar: <http://www.zelc.org/newsandevents.html>