



Connecting
through Grace
ZION
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

THE HERALD

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A Word from the Pastor

The most powerful moment in the movie, *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, happens when, for a full minute, nothing happens.

In the scene leading up to the moment, Fred Rogers and a journalist are sitting in a downtown Chinese restaurant. The journalist is in crisis. “Mister” Rogers asks his struggling friend to join him in an exercise.

“We’ll just take a minute and think about all the people who loved us into being,” Rogers quietly suggests.

“I can’t do that,” replied his troubled friend.

“They will come to you,” he assures him. “Just one minute of silence.”

The camera slowly pans the restaurant. After a few moments, the camera shot rests on Rogers’ face. He turns his head ever so slightly until he is looking straight at the camera — straight at us.

We are inside a full minute when no words are spoken. We notice how silence envelopes the restaurant and now, all of us in the theater. It is profound.

“Thank you for doing it with me,” Rogers says, “I feel so much better.”

Norma and I agreed. Unwittingly, we had participated in a moment of mindful meditation.

Mister Rogers did not ask us to be grateful for the people who come to mind in those 60 seconds. He simply asks us to be open to whoever comes. No judging.

Pastor Steve Krenz
+

in our prayers

- safekeeping for all who travel
- for our nation
- for mission partners, Vicar Lisa Mensinger, Crossroads Urban Center
- for our congregation, for our stewardship response
- for Erin Bramscher, Ellen Liu
- for continued healing: Terri Moffit, Dave Zabriskie, Susan Swidnicki, Michael Chard, Bonnie Judge, Elfie Wright, John Krehbiel, Ron Finner, Cindy Haverkost, Paul Krehbiel, Rowan Ayers

A Vicar's Voice

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8



On Sunday, November 24, the people of Elim continued to show their gratitude for God's blessings through baking pumpkin desserts for Shepherd's Bowl (a mission project through The Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Ogden). Vicar Lisa coordinated the event and the people spent a few hours after worship making and baking over 200 servings of pumpkin bars, pumpkin pie slab, and pumpkin cookies.

Thanks to Lois and Wayne Graham from Zion who helped out with the event. All ages were involved in making this time a wonderful social time while getting connected with each other again. Thank you for your support in walking with Elim by supporting Vicar Lisa in her call to be ordained in Word and Sacrament.

Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to sponsor one of the poinsettias used to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas, please contact the church office for more information or mark your envelope "poinsettia" in the offering plate. The suggested donation is \$10.—

Christmas Worship

Please join us on Tuesday, December 24th for our traditional Christmas worship. There is a family-friendly worship at 6 pm with carols and celebration and a traditional late service at 10 pm with choir and brass, preceded at 9:30 by our organist David Chamberlin's annual organ concert. Also please note there is only one service at 10:30 am on Sunday Decemeber 29.

Staff Gifts

It is that time of year where we continue to welcome your gesture of generosity toward our Zion staff by way of donations to our traditional staff Christmas gifts. If you would like to participate this year, please use the pew envelopes to indicate your donation as a "staff gift." Thank you for your generosity for those who take care of all of us. – *Zion Council*

At the Congregational Meeting in November, the Faith Formation Disciples shared their experience on their FFD Fall Retreat with Pastor Steve, Vicar Lisa, and Sara Sok. On each FFD Retreat we blend Luther's small catechism with how we live our lives as disciples of Christ. This year we took the FFD to Courage Reins in Highland, UT. Courage Reins' mission is to improve the lives of individuals with physical, mental, or emotional challenges through Equine-Assisted Therapy.

Berkley Foulks and the boys, Thor, Gambit, Angus, Joe, and Owen fed the horses and helped clean where they sleep and relax. Afterwards we shared a meal at Costa Vida where the youth came up with the idea of sponsoring a horse. They presented their idea to the congregation at the meeting. Thank you to the congregation for voting to give "seed" money for the new mission project spearheaded by the FFD 2020.

The FFD will be planning some fundraising opportunities for you to be involved. We also will be coordinating intergenerational trips to Courage Reins to serve at their facilities helping in the spring, summer, and fall.

Thanks to Erin Basta for hosting one of the first fundraisers at the Wine and Cheese Party on December 7. All the proceeds will go towards sponsoring a horse. Check out Courage Reins at courage reins.org.

Altar Guild

December 8 | Marci Hall + Jan Heins
December 15 | Steve & Marie Newton + Denny Gross
December 22 | Jan Heinz + Marci Hall
December 24 | Holly Graham + Ann Marie Mogren
December 29 | Steve & Marie Newton + Denny Gross

Counters

December 8 | Ann Marie Mogren + Erin Basta
December 15 | Ethel Olson + Janice Ruggles
December 22 | Ann Marie Mogren + Fred Strohacker
December 24 | Ann Marie Mogren + Sandra Kragthorpe
Diane Teece + Warren Patten
December 29 | Ethel Olson + Janice Ruggles

Assisting Ministers

December 8 | Denny Gross
December 15 | Volunteer Needed
December 22 | Rachel Kibler
December 24 | Vicar Lisa Mensinger
December 29 | Ross Anthony

If you'd like to volunteer to be a greeter, an usher, or host coffee hour, please sign up in the Narthex or contact the church office.

Worship Volunteers

Youth

This-is-what-grace-looks-like-Sunday — December 8

With displays, we are invited and encouraged to learn about more ways that we can participate in our life together in Zion. The offerings range from brushing down a horse to setting the table for the Holy Meal. All are welcome to join in following 10:30 am worship. Prayerfully consider how you will complete your Statement of Intent for 2020. Your statement will be received during the offering in worship. Thank you for your prayers and generosity.

Zion's Children's Christmas Program - Sunday, Dec. 22, 2019 - 6 pm

Children and youth please arrive at 5:30 pm to warm up.

Arrive at 5:15 pm if you want to use one of our robes or costumes.

Rehearsal: Sunday, December 22 - 9:15 am in Sanctuary

Reader rehearsal- Saturday, December 21 - 9 am

Joyful NOIZ - Youth choir rehearsal - Saturday, December 21 -10 am

Everyone may wear a costume which fits with the Bible story of Christmas (e.g. Angel, Mary, cow, sheep, wise person, not Frosty or an elf).

We have many angel robes and will have garland to make halos. Please don't spend money on this! A robe and stick and dish towel for a shepherd would be perfect.

We will need volunteers to set up and clean up our cookie reception afterwards. We also need lots of homemade cookies for our reception.

If your child wants to sing or play a Christmas solo or duet during the program, please let Susan know.

Questions? Email: Susan Swidnicki : sljswidnicki@gmail.com



Sanctuary Christmas Tree Setup

Please stay briefly after the 10:30 am service on Sunday, December 22 to set up the sanctuary Christmas tree. It's fun and goes really quickly with enough helpers!

New Sounds

If you would like to hear the new sounds added during the organ renovation to date, be sure to attend David Chamberlin's recital at 9:30 pm on Christmas Eve, December 24.

We are preparing to move into the next phase of the renovation. Thank you for your generous contributions to date. If you have not had a chance to contribute, please either contact the church office or place an envelope marked "Org an" in the collection plate.

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 almost \$800.00 in new books and learning resources. We also thank everyone who donated to Crossroads Urban Center Food Pantry and participated in the Operation Christmas Child service project. Our school donated many baskets of food and donated 44 shoebox gifts!!! You have truly blessed the lives of so many children and helped our own children understand how blessed we are. Please join us for your child's Christmas program. Make sure to mark your calendar with the program date and time. 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.

Barb

Barrbara Ballif, Director



Zion's Annual Wine & Cheese Party

Join us on Saturday December 7 from 6-9 pm at the home of Erin Basta (1231 East 6200 South, Murray, 84121) for Zion's Annual Wine & Cheese Party. Bring your favorite beverage and an appetizer or dessert to share. All members and guests are welcome. There will be a free will offering for Courage Reins. Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

Sunday School + Gingerbread Houses

Happy December, Zion! We've had a wonderful Fall and are headed into a joyful Christmas season. Thank you to everyone who donated and who came to help sort the donations for Bright Minds Day Care. Pastor Steve and Melissa Butson delivered your donations and had a tour of the daycare. They really appreciated all of your efforts, and we would love to develop a longer term relationship with them. Stay tuned! Coming up in December, we have the Gingerbread House decorating party after church on December 15th. Please see the bulletin board for sign-ups. The Christmas program with the children will be at 6 pm on December 22-please join us! Please remember that there is no Sunday school on December 29th!

Year-end Checkin On Your Contributions to Zion

During December, take a moment to check your online giving record to be sure it reflects your donations to Zion to date.

It's a simple process. First, login to the online directory. If you already have registered, simply login and then from the main screen, click on Giving History. The first screen will show your giving history to date (from the launch of the Servant Keeper software in 2018). Click on Detail (just under the black bar at the top) and you'll see your 2019 contributions. You can click on the date range as well and select a different time frame. Contributions are posted to the system after the weekly count amount is verified from the bank, so recent contributions may take a few days to post. If you see any errors or discrepancies, please notify the church office. If you have not yet registered, to enable secure access, follow these steps:

1. Go to servantkeeper.com/member-portal/zclc/login
2. Click on the link that says "Haven't registered yet?"
3. Add your family email address. In the Servant Keeper system, that is ordinarily the email associated with the head of household. If you put in an email address and receive no confirmation with a few minutes, try another family email address. For example, if you first put in one spouse's email address, on the second try, use the email of the other spouse. If you still have problems, that is, you don't receive a confirmation email with a password reset in it, please call the church office so we can check to see which email is listed as primary.
4. You'll receive an email titled "Member Portal Registration" and in it a link to create a password and login.
5. Once you create that, you can log into the directory online. You will go to your entry directly and you can use the links to view your family profile, edit member information, and view your contribution history.

Notice, too, on the bottom of your profile page that there's a link to the entire online directory. Until people get photos uploaded, it looks pretty empty but if you click on the names, you'll get address, phone, and email detail. The password to link to the directory, once you are logged into Servant Keeper, is zionfoothill.

Email office@zclc.org or call 801.582.2321 if you have questions or problems accessing the directory or your contribution statements.

Giving to Zion

Generous contributions from members and friends of Zion help us carry out our operations and goals each year. Key points: We ask for a statement of intent each year (we are receiving these on December 8). These financial commitments help the church council set and keep to the budget for the year.

How you can give offerings to Zion:

- 1) Cash or checks in the offering plate. You set the frequency, from weekly to annually. If you want to use envelopes, contact the church office for a box for the year.
- 2) Online bill pay, via your financial institution. Set up regular contributions in your bill pay system, to be sent to Zion. There typically are no charges or fees for either you or the church.
- 3) Vanco or PayPal: These online systems are easy to set up and convenient to use for either one-time gifts or ongoing donations. See the instructions on Zion's web page: <http://www.zelc.org/give-now.html> . Though they are simple, do be aware that both of these services charge fees to Zion of about 2% of your donation. If you do choose to use them, please consider adding a little extra to offset those fees. When you sign up, you will see an option to add extra to offset ACH and/or credit card processing fees so 100% of your donation can be used for mission and ministry.
- 4) The Advantages of a Tax-Free Transfer from an IRA to Zion: If you are 70 1/2 and need to start taking Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) each year from your traditional IRA, you can request that a distribution be sent directly to Zion. This transfer, called a qualified charitable distribution, reduces your adjusted gross income by the amount of the transfer so may help you stay in a lower tax bracket, avoid increased Medicare premiums, etc. Instead of giving weekly donations, an annual check is generated by your IRA custodian to Zion. Talk to your IRA provider today to see if this method could be beneficial for your financial planning in 2020. There is additional information available online; one source is the Fidelity Investments page: [fidelity.com/building-savings/learn-about-iras/required-minimum-distributions/qclds](https://www.fidelity.com/building-savings/learn-about-iras/required-minimum-distributions/qclds) .
- 5) Time and talents: There are numerous opportunities for service in and around Zion, which you can do in addition to your financial contributions. There are ongoing volunteer opportunities for counting offerings, altar guild, assisting minister service, Sunday School teaching and attendance, and choir, among others. There also are one-time events to keep in mind, like helping set up the sanctuary Christmas tree, hosting the annual holiday wine and cheese event, coffee hour sponsorship, help with VBS and other children-related events, like the Christmas program, and more. They will be noted in the bulletin and Herald, so watch for them!

**To be featured in the Herald
submit events or news to
office@zelc.org**

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