



Connecting
through Grace
ZION
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

1070 Foothill Dr. Salt Lake City, UT 84108

THE HERALD

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Connecting through Grace

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

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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.

Do-Not-Be-Afraid New Year

Do not be afraid.

When Gabriel appears to Mary with shocking, life changing news of her wondrous, impossible pregnancy, the angel looks into Mary's troubled face and says: **Do not be afraid.**

When Joseph is devastated upon finding out that Mary will give birth to a child he knows is not his, he decides to choose divorce over stoning, an angel counsels him: **Do not be afraid.**

When the shepherds are out in the cold, night fields --- shepherds who are not even considered worthy of being counted in the empire's census, when these no-count shepherds are terrified upon seeing the sky break open in otherworldly song, the angel speaks to them: **Do not be afraid.**

Do not be afraid rings the Christmas proclamation. Whatever can this mean when there are so many reasons to be afraid?

What if the cancer returns?

What if the diagnosis means.....?

What if my loved one loses sobriety? ---- or never embraces it?

What if our congregation cannot meet its financial needs? --- loses heart?

What if the loss (of loved one, our plans, our way for doing things) overwhelms?

What if we lack the will to get global warming under control?

What if dark division rips the community we share?

We all have the "what ifs" that stir up anxiety and fear.

(continued on next page)

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 meet at 9:15-10:15 in the room across from the sanctuary.

BUNCO!

Children, youth, and adults are invited to join in our next UT Conference Event on Sunday, January 27, 2019 for a rousing game of Bunco! If you can roll dice, you can master this game. Playing is good for the soul, so come out and have some fun and laughs. We'll gather at Zion Lutheran in Salt Lake City (1070 Foothill Dr.) from 2-4 p.m. Snacks will be served. Bragging rights will go to the four people who end up at the top table. Please contact Pastor DanaLee with questions. 262/705-5811 (call or text) or D_LO777@hotmail.com.



YOGA-BASED EXERCISE CLASS

Start the New Year feeling young again with balance, strength and flexibility.

We meet each Monday / Wednesday / Friday at 9:00 AM in the atrium — it's fun and it's free!

ACTION FORUM

Sunday, January 13th at Noon.

Topic will be announced soon!

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR....

(Continued from page 1)

Still, let's imagine some different "what ifs?" What if the message of the angels and shepherds and stars of Christmas offer real hope in the face of real fears? What if Jesus is "God-with-us" and "God-for-us" in all times and places? What if the presence of a vulnerable baby is the very love that enters our cold world and harsh hearts, causing us to celebrate generosity? What if the manger birth moves us to believe that in weakness we will find strength? What if we discover how the light shines, even in the valley of the shadow? And, what if we find that it is love that cradles us, even if it feels as prickly as manger straw?

And, what if, we live in the hope and the joy of a "Do-not-be-afraid" new year?

+ *Pastor Steve*

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FAITH&POVERTY DAY ON THE HILL

All are welcome to participate in this year's Faith and Poverty Day at the Utah Capitol. This event is a way for us to participate and provide witness to wise decisions that attend to the welfare of all people, especially those with limited incomes. This session of the 2019 Utah Legislature may put limits on the Medicaid expansion, which voters approved in November. It may increase the sales tax on food, which means that the poor pay more for food. Hopefully, the Legislature may also address ways to reduce child homelessness.

The Coalition of Religious Communities (CORC) is working to highlight these key policies for low income families by organizing **Faith & Poverty Day at the Utah Capitol from 10am to Noon**, the first Thursday of the legislative session, **January 31, 2019**. Bishop Jim Gonja will join us for the day. Parking at the capitol is very limited. Look for more information about car pooling from Zion. Please plan to attend. Put "The Faith & Poverty Day" in your calendar and [invite a couple friends](#) to come with you!

SoulCollage® with Julie Vesely

Sunday, January 20, 2019, Noon to 3 pm* at ZELC

Unleash your **CREATIVITY** and feed your **SOUL**. Discover a creative way of giving space for your inner wisdom to come through. No talent needed just a willingness to explore. All are welcome from the age of 12 to 100. Register by Sunday, January 13, 2019 by emailing Lisa Mensinger, youth@zelc.org. *Soup and sandwiches will be served.



FAMILY PROMISE

Special thanks to each and every one of you that is supporting Family Promise Salt Lake during this holiday season - whether that is through Gifts of the Magi, volunteering your time, donations or whatever it may be. We are so grateful for you and it is because of you that our families will have a Christmas to remember!

Starting on January 1, 2019, we will be requiring **ALL volunteers** to watch our Volunteer Training Video and read the Code of Conduct before each shift. With the grants that we receive, we are required to have each volunteer read the Code of Conduct and have it posted at each church. We have put the Code of Conduct in poster form and ask that these are displayed in an area where all volunteers will view it. It only needs to be up during the week of Family Promise.

The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to protect vulnerable clients from abuse, neglect, mistreatment and exploitation. The Code of Conduct clarifies the expectation of conduct for volunteers.

Schedule: December 30 - January 6) @Christ United Methodist Church (2375 East 3300 South)

Coordinators: Nicole (801)505-3441 and Ben(801)518-7517

(January 6-January 13) @Christ United Methodist Church (2375 East 3300 South)

Coordinators: Wayne (801)440-5789

January 13-January 20 @Our Saviors Lutheran Church (2500 East 3900 South)

Coordinators: Cathy (801)557-2032.

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

"All are Welcome!" Jesus and the Church's Ministry of Welcome

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. Child-friendly foods encouraged. 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: Toy Story 3, Toy to Toy by Tennant Redbank, Morning Has Broken by Eleanor Farjeon, The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi, The Fun Bible Search Book...Find Rupert by Chad Frye, Children's Stories of the Bible from the Old and New Testaments, Deluxe Edition.

The following books have been added to the adult section: The Lutheran Church in North American Life by John E. Groh and Robert H. Smith, Diary of an Old Soul by George MacDonald, The Story of England by Michael Wood, Reader's Digest Who's Who in the Bible.

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

Happy New Year, Sunday School families!

We're looking forward to reconvening classes on January 13th. We have Epiphany potluck during the Sunday School hour on January 6th.

On January 27th, there will be an First Communion Class with Pastor Steve after the 10:30 service. Also on the 27th, our Youth Choir will sing for the late worship.

In His Service,
Melissa Butson,
Sunday School Superintendent

Epiphany
Potluck, 2017



LET ME SHINE PRESCHOOL

Greetings and Happy New Year! May your hearts overflow with joy as we continue to celebrate the good news of our Savior's birth!

Let Me Shine is back in full swing on January 7 with a lot of exciting activities planned as we begin the New Year. Please visit us anytime and see the wonderful things happening here!

Let Me Shine Christian Playschool and Preschool enrollment begins on January 7, 2019 for Zion members, currently enrolled students and siblings. Enrollment forms are available in the school and church offices as well as on our website: www.letmeshine.org. They are accepted on a first come-first serve basis with enrollment opening up to the general public on February 1, 2019. Classes fill up quickly so make sure to get your form turned in as soon as possible to guarantee your space.

Please call with any questions or to schedule a tour of our school!

In His Service,
Barb Ballif,
Director

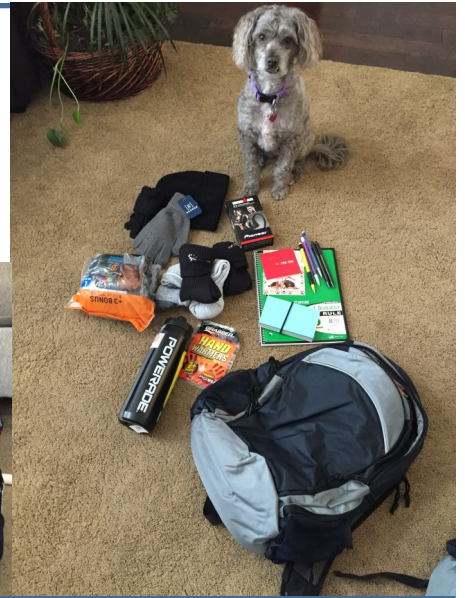


YOUTH ACTIVITIES

FILL THE PACK—Youth Resource Center


Thank you for your support in helping the youth donate 10 full packs to VOA—Youth Resource Center.

Thanks to Maggie
(the dog) and Jenna
Nelson for
purchasing and
assembling the
packs.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Last month we had a White Elephant gift exchange among all the youth. It was a blast as we incorporated conversations around being different Biblical people. Here's just one Would You Rather Question to ponder: "Would you rather have dinner with Jesus or Moses?"



FAITH FORMATION DISCIPLES

We are exploring the Books from the Hebrew Text such as Judges, Ruth, and Kings this coming month during our Sunday School Hour.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS TREE REMOVAL

HELP WITH CHRISTMAS TREE REMOVAL

**January 6, 2019
after 10:30 am service**

Helpers are needed to put away the Christmas tree in the sanctuary on January 6th after the 10:30 am service. With many hands, the task goes really quickly! Questions? Ask Paul Mogren.

ELCA Youth Core Leadership

Are you a youth, grades 9-11, or do you know a youth with love for the church and gifts in leadership? Applications are being accepted for the 2019-2020 team.

The [YCLT](#) exists to provide leadership development opportunities to high school youth, to plan and lead the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit, and to serve as a focus group for ELCA Churchwide Ministries as they strive to do ministry with youth more effectively.

[Go here](#) for more info and to apply. Applications are due Jan 15, 2019.

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
Jan 6	Denny Gross	Volunteers needed	Carrie Denny	Volunteers needed	Marci Ann Marie	Please volunteer
Jan 13	Erin Basta	Volunteers needed	Steve/Marie Holly	Volunteers needed	Bob Fred	Please volunteer
Jan 20	Marsha Gilford	Volunteers needed	Ann Marie Jan	Volunteers needed	Diane Warren	Please volunteer
Jan 27	Ellen Liu	Volunteers needed	Marci Marsha	Volunteers needed	Ethel Jane	Please volunteer

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

The Advantages of a Tax-Free Transfer from an IRA to ZELC

If you are 70 1/2 and need to start making Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) each year from your traditional IRA, you can request that a distribution be sent directly to ZELC.

If you itemize, the tax deduction looks the same—at first blush. But because the transfer, called a qualified charitable distribution, keeps your required minimum distribution out of your adjusted gross income, it can help you stay below the income cutoff for some other taxes and charges. (For people who don't itemize their deductions, making the tax-free transfer can help them benefit from their charitable gift.) If you have to take large RMDs from your retirement savings, you could be pushed into a higher premium level for Medicare, but making a tax-free transfer of that RMD to charity keeps that money out of the calculation for Medicare premiums.

Talk to your IRA provider today to see if this method could be beneficial for your financial planning in 2019.

God's Peace,

Leslie Miller,

Council Treasurer

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>