



Connecting  
through Grace  
**ZION**  
EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

# THE HERALD

Volume 18, Issue 1 | January 2020



## A Word from the Pastor

We are back at work. Life has returned to normal. Lights that adorned houses in my neighborhood since Halloween are now extinguished. Christmas music has gone silent. Stores are advertising Valentine's Day. And it's only the sixth day of Christmas. It feels like it all went so fast, a brief flash of silent light and then business as usual.

Without candles and the singing, it's a bit more difficult to open ourselves to the miraculous, indwelling of Christ, Emmanuel, God-with-us. It feels like ordinary life, which, of course, is what Jesus came to: Life. It is not our Christmas card picture of life, but real, every-day regular life. It is not even a comfortable life but the life of a homeless refugee family.

Here's the real miracle of Christmas: In and through the Christ Child, God is besides us and within us and for us all the time. Remember John the Gospel writer's Christmas message for us:

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. – John 1:4-5*

In receiving this life and light, John says that we have received grace upon grace.

Thank you for the ways you have channeled this grace, one with another, in our holy days and holidays and ordinary, challenging days. Whatever our resolutions, and whatever this year brings, live in the joy that God is with us. This grace is sufficient, it is enough. Now we can get on with the living of these days, feeding the hungry, sharing peace with the troubled, welcoming the stranger -- or whatever else those who are least among us may from time to time require.

*I am thankful for this moment. I will use it as an Advent exercise. "Come, Lord Jesus," I will pray. Then in the hushed reverence, I will listen, for a full minute.*

Pastor Steve Klemz  
+

## in our prayers

- for our congregation and our stewardship response
- for our nation
- for mission partners, Vicar Lisa Mensinger, Lutheran Immigration Refugee Services
- 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
- for those who request prayers: Amy Larsen, Saria Woodall, Ronnie, Vicki, Carla, Mike, Olena, Darrel, Rupel & Devin, Charm, Kirsten, Carol, Ken, Richard Fiefr, Charlie Ostegren, Norma Klemz, Ken, & Kristen Doran, Marjorie Johnson, Ric & Diane, Kirsten Zumonja, Ken Reid, and Ric

# A Vicar's Voice

We have a yearly tradition in my family on New Year's Day of choosing ONE WORD. On January 1st we gather around the table with markers and magnetic sheet. We share around the table our hopes and dreams for the coming year and the kind of person we want to become this year. We write down a list of characteristics that describe this kind of person, and then each of us narrows our list down to ONE WORD. We write the word down on the magnetic sheet and decorate it with Bible verses or other images. The Word Magnetics stick to the side of our fridge to remind us of whom we wish to become this year.

Last year, my ONE WORD was ACCEPTANCE. This year's word will be PERSPECTIVE. As a family we have found this practice fulfilling in many ways. As we share our ONE WORD from the past year, we are genuinely surprised how God has worked in our lives through small and big ways. Try something new this year and minimize your New Year's Resolution to ONE WORD, and watch how God is meeting you in places and times not known before.

Here are the top-ten words chosen most often: Trust, Patience, Love, Discipline, Focus, Faith, Surrender, Peace, Listen, Joy. What will your ONE WORD be for 2020?



Lisa M. Mensinger

# Dear Church – A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.

*Pastor Steve will lead the discussion on Dear Church, by Lenny Duncan, at the Sunday adult forum on January 26. All are welcome. Participants do not need to read the book in order to participate. Summaries will be provided. Here are some of the discussion questions from the book's study guide.*

How do you feel when you hear the ELCA is the whitest denomination in the country?

*Was it surprising to hear that white supremacy is a system that doesn't need active racists to function?*

## What does it mean to “wage peace?”

Reaction to the chapter, "Dylan Roof and I are Lutheran."

*The discussion continues through February 2. The class meets between 9:15 and 10:15. All are welcome.*

*The Coalition of Religious Communities invites you to join us for*  
**Ending Child Homelessness**  
**Day at the Utah Capitol**

January 30, 2020  
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
Utah State Capitol

For more information call Bill Tibbitts at  
Crossroads Urban Center, 801-364-7765 ex 107.

www.crossroadsurbancenter.org  
www.facebook.com/crossroadsurbancenter

**CORC**  
A MULTI-FAITH  
RESPONSE TO  
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## Faith Formation Disciples

Thank you to all you attended the Wine & Cheese Party and for donating \$250 to Courage Reins. We will be planning another trip to Courage Reins sometime in January or February.

Also, Faith Formation Disciples we will be choosing Disciples to explore more in depth during the Month of January. Please begin to reflect on a disciple that you would be more interested in learning more about.



# Worship Volunteers

## Altar Guild

January 5 | Ann Marie Mogren + Denny Gross

January 12 | Marci Hall + Holly Graham

January 19 | Ann Marie Mogren + Jan Heins

January 26 | Steve + Marie Newton + Denny Gross

## Counters

January 5 | Ann Marie Mogren + Leslie Miller

January 12 | Tracy Hackworth + Paul Mogren

January 19 | Erin Basta + Paula Dastrup

January 26 | Tracy Hackworth + Marci Hall

## Assisting Ministers

January 5 | Denny Gross

January 12 | Ross Anthony

January 19 | Erin Basta

January 26 | Vicar Lisa Mensinger

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.

## Suicide Prevention Awareness at Zion

We have heard much in the news recently about suicides in Utah and many of you may be aware that our church is a part of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, an organization that promotes faith, hope, and life for those struggling. Zion has faith leaders who attended a conference in August to train others to be of help in our community in this regard. Most families may have been affected in some way by a suicide related tragedy and there is much that we can do to attempt to help those who are AT DANGER for self-harm or who might recently have experienced a suicide-related tragedy.

If you would like to give assistance to those families, please seek help from one of the leaders who attended the training. They include: Pastor Steve, Vicar Lisa, Kathie Supiano, and Marion Ayers. There is much to learn so we can better aid those who are hurting and want assistance. May we be "helping hands" on their journey. Feel free to speak to any of our faith leaders.

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

#### Adult books

*Halley's Bible Handbook with the New International Version* by Henry H Halley  
*Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers: Exploring Christian Faith* by Martin E Marty  
*Our Mission: Discovering God's Call to Us* by Robin and John McCullough-Bade  
*Luther in Light of Recent Research* by Heinrich Bohmer

#### Youth books

*The March of Faith - Grade Six SS Textbook* by Inez Steen  
*Noah's Ark* by Jenny Thorne  
*Special Day Prayers for the Very Young Child* by Mildred Grenier  
*Lost and Found Cat: The True Story of Kunkush's Incredible Journey* by Doug Kuntz and Amy Shrodes  
*Santa's Favorite Story* by Hisako Aoki and Ivan Gantschev  
*A Christmas Memory* by Truman Capote

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!

## New Sounds

If you attended the (wonderful!) festive organ recital on December 24, you had a chance hear the new sounds added during the organ renovation to date.

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 "Organ" in the collection plate.

## January Bible Study

Start 2020 off in a meaningful and prayer-filled way, with a book study using Richard Rohr's newest book, *The Universal Christ*. Pastor DanaLee Simon will be leading a 7-week exploration on Wednesday nights at Zion Lutheran from 6:15 - 8:00 pm, beginning January 8 and ending February 19. The cost is \$50, plus you will need to buy your own book. Scholarships are always available - just speak to DanaLee. This class will be limited to 12 people, so please secure your spot soon by emailing DanaLee at [d\\_lo777@hotmail.com](mailto:d_lo777@hotmail.com). Questions may also be directed to her at this email address.

*It's time to start thinking about enrolling your child for next year! We will begin the enrollment process on January 6, 2020. Enrollment forms are available in the school and church offices as well as on our website: [www.letmeshine.org](http://www.letmeshine.org). Priority will be given to currently enrolled families and Zion members. Beginning February 1, enrollment opens to the public on a first come-first served basis. Many classes fill up fast so please get your application 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*



### **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/zcl/login](http://servantkeeper.com/member-portal/zcl/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](http://zionfoothill).

Email [office@zcl.org](mailto:office@zcl.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/qcds](https://www.fidelity.com/building-savings/learn-about-iras/required-minimum-distributions/qcds) .
- 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](mailto:office@zelc.org)**

phone: 801.582.2321  
fax: 801.583.8043  
email: [office@zelc.org](mailto:office@zelc.org)  
email: [pastor@zelc.org](mailto:pastor@zelc.org)

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