

Connecting
through Grace
ZION
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

THE HERALD



Volume 17, Issue 5 | May 2019

A Word from the Pastor

We are still in Easter, called to be Easter people. And what are Easter people? We are like those first women who "go and tell" that Jesus is risen! When people ask what I believe about Christianity and the Gospel, they often temper their request: "Please, keep it simple." While in Tanzania, a Peace Corps volunteer asked me to describe my belief, "in ten words or less."

My response? Not if/then but because/therefore -- Because Jesus lives.....

A pastor friend who accompanied me, chimed in: We're all jerks. God loves you anyhow.

I have put some members in our community on the spot. "In ten words or fewer," I asked, "how would you proclaim the gospel?" "If need be, you may include a clarifying sentence."

Here's what they had to say:

Throughout the Bible, God empowered ordinary, reluctant sinners to do extraordinary things. -Kathy Foulks

Selfless, unconditional grace, love and forgiveness for all - at all times and places. -Lisa Mensinger

Thank you for what I have been given. May it be enough for the road ahead. Onward. -Louise Nelson

Grace: "Apathy is perceived poorly, it doesn't matter because of Jesus" -Christian Mogren

Could you have asked a more complex and yet simple thing? -Chandler Bursey

"Nevertheless [Luther's "dennoch"], God IS real. Resurrection IS. Grace IS. The Music goes on - so, get with it." James Gardner with some clarification:

And it continues to baffle me why Jesus said that it is now "better" for us that the Holy Spirit is now within in new depth and clarity - I would have asked Jesus to be right beside me (a walking Wikipedia of "answers" and an ATM - Santa Claus - for any needed goodies).

Instead, we walk a walk of Faith, in Grace, because of Christ, as conveyed in Scripture, to the Glory of God.

And your response?

"Always be ready to share the hope that is within you," writes the Apostle Paul.

In the meantime, it is enough to proclaim:

Christ is risen!

Pastor Steve Krenz
+

Save tax dollars by gifting RMD's to Zion

The bad news: Some of us have reached the age of 70 ½ when US tax law requires us to begin mandatory draw-downs on our tax-deferred Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs.) This applies to Traditional, Rollover, Simple, or SEP IRAs, and most 401(k) and 403(b) funds. These draw-downs are called Required Minimum Distributions (RMD's in tax law-speak.) If you have a financial advisor he/she will fill you in on the details, or you can research the requirements on the web. In general, if you will reach age 70 ½ in a calendar year, you must pay the first annual RMD in that year, or, for the first year only, by April 1 of the year after. Heads up: the IRS penalty if you don't comply is nasty, 50% of the amount not taken in time! The amount that must be taken is a formula involving the value of your IRA at the end of the previous year divided by a Life Expectancy Factor...too difficult to explain here, but your advisor or the IRA custodian will inform you of the amount you must withdraw each year. Here's the catch: You have to pay taxes on the RMD as income! The tax rate you pay is determined by your income tax calculations at the end of the year in which you made the RMD.

Now, the good news: There is way to avoid paying taxes on your RMD (either all or part of it.) If you want to make donations to Zion, or any other 501(c) (3) organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions, your RMD can be donated, tax-free, using something called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD.) QCD's can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distribution each year. In addition to the benefit of giving to Zion, the QCD excludes the amount donated from your taxable income. Also, QCD's don't require that you itemize on your taxes, so you can still take advantage of the recent increase in the standard deduction. This might change your giving habits. Instead of giving weekly donations, you can give an annual check generated by your IRA custodian in Zion's name.

More details: Talk to your financial advisor or do your own internet research. Try the Fidelity Investments page as one source: [fidelity.com/building-savings/learn-about-iras/required-minimum-distributions/qcds](https://www.fidelity.com/building-savings/learn-about-iras/required-minimum-distributions/qcds)

Written for the Herald by Fred Strohaker

Required Minimum Distributions

Sunday School

"What a beautiful Spring we've had so far, and your children have been such an important part of it for our congregation. Coming up in May, the Cherub Choir will be singing at the 10:30 worship service on Mother's Day (May 12th....pay attention families....it's coming up soon, and you don't want to forget this!). Then on May 19th, Joyful NOIZ will performing at 10:30 am worship, and we will be having our Teacher Appreciation Brunch from 9:15-10:15 am

Melissa

**Sunday School
Teacher Appreciation Brunch!**

**Sunday May 19
9:15 am**

*Save
the
date!*

Youth May Activity - Boondocks
Saturday, May 18 from 1-3 pm
Let's kick off the summer with a few hours of fun at Boondocks. Bring \$5

Easter Brunch

Thank you to the people of Zion for coming to our traditional Easter Brunch, and thank you for your generous donations towards future youth activities. Thank you to all the parents and youth who helped set up, prepare, cook and clean up. It was a beautiful time to share a meal with everyone, especially visitors and friends.



Christ is Risen, indeed!

Easter Egg Decorating

We had a messy time decorating eggs ten different ways. The most popular way to decorate the eggs this year was rolling the eggs in whipped cream. We had a real blast!



Luther Heights
BIBLE CAMP

Summer Adventure at Luther Heights
July 14-19, 2019

We are looking to take our Wilderness experience to Idaho this Summer. Middle school and high school youth are invited to join us on a summer camp adventure of canoeing, hiking, swimming & fishing around the Redfish Lake. Complete the online pre-registration form and bring \$100 deposit* by May 12. *Scholarships are available

Zion
Youth

Choir Director Position

Zion is hiring a choir director, a part-time paid position. Worship is primary to our congregational life, and music is central to our worship.

Duties include choosing seasonally-appropriate choir anthems for weekly worship, and rehearsing and conducting the choir on Sunday mornings. If desired, the choir director can take on additional duties (for additional pay) of planning hymns and liturgy appropriate for the church season.

Choral conducting experience is required for this position. We are looking for a person who is enthusiastic about church music, who gets along well with others and is open to learning, and who respects singers and knows how to communicate with them.

We are a welcoming congregation, and we believe that all are beloved children of God. This message should be communicated in word and music.

Start date is flexible. Please send resume and cover letter to office@zelc.org.

Interfaith PRIDE Service — May 30, at 7 pm

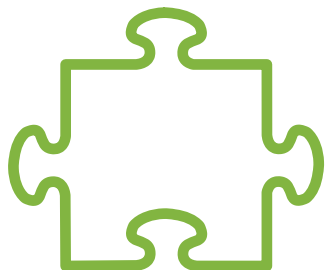
"Exist, Resist, Persist" is the theme of this year's service, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Bishop Karen Oliveto (first openly Lesbian Bishop in the United Methodist Church) is the guest speaker.

All are welcome!

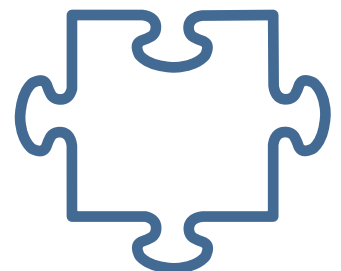
Christ United Methodist Church
2375 East 3300 South, Salt Lake City 84109

Call for Singers

The service will feature the One Voice choir, under the direction of Bryan Beckemellom, and the gathered community choir will be singing "For Everyone Born". Rehearsals will be held at Christ United Methodist Church at 7pm on May 16th, May 23rd, May 28th, with the service on May 30th. You don't have to be an expert musician to participate! Those interested in singing this year can contact Monica Dobbins at rev.monicaDobbins@gmail.com or show up to the first rehearsal.



At its April meeting, the Zion Council agreed to include Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church as a signatory for the Statement by LGBTQ-Autism Utah. To read the full statement, contact the church office or find a link on our Facebook.



Message from the Director

In case you haven't checked out the playground lately – take a peek! After last year's construction project it has been restored. New concrete was poured and re-stripped, new sod laid, and new outdoor learning centers and musical equipment installed. We thank God for last year's appeal money and emergency funds to make this possible. The kiddos and staff are loving it!

It's hard to believe that summer break is almost here. It's been an amazing year with 108 wonderful children. I love spending time with all the children and watching them grow. I smile as I hear the stories they share about their school day. It's so fun to see how much they've changed over the past nine months.

As always, my door is open. I invite you all to share your thoughts, concerns and affirmations with me. Thank you for an incredible year and for being part of the Let Me Shine family. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

God's Peace,

Barb Ballif, Director

Let Me Shine Spring Appeal

Thank you all so much for your ongoing support of our amazing children at Let Me Shine. Zion has a unique opportunity as a community to support our littlest ones as they grow in the love of God. Please read the appeal letter available in the narthex and share with all who appreciate the value of children's education at Let Me Shine.

Let Me Shine is Hiring

Let Me Shine is now hiring Preschool Teachers & Aides for the 2019-2020 School Year. The school is looking for part-time workers for Fall 2019, seeking enthusiastic Christian teachers and aides with early childhood experience to share God's love with children. Applicants must be energetic, self-motivated, and team players. Teachers must have an Early Childhood Associates or equivalent and experience in teaching, curriculum, and lesson planning. Send resumes to:

Attn: Barb Ballif, Director
Let Me Shine Christian Preschool
1070 South Foothill Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84108



News from the Library

The Library Guild meets Tuesdays at 10:30 am. Come and be a part of this Small Group. 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 library 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 books this month:

Susie: The Life and Legacy of Susannah Spurgeon, Wife of Charles H. Spurgeon
by Ray Rhodes Jr.

Emergence: Labeled Autistic (Paperback)
by Temple Grandin & Margaret M. Scariano

When God Winks at You: How God Speaks Directly to You Through the Power of Coincidence
by Squire D. Rushnell

Baptism: A User's Guide (Exploring Christian Faith)
by Martin E. Marty

Three-in-One Bible Readers
Noah's Ark | Gideon's Battle | Queen Esther

Three-in-One Bible Readers
Prodigal Son | John the Baptist | Jesus & the Children

Three-in-One Bible Readers
Joseph's Story | Jonah & the Big Fish | The Fiery Furnace

Three-in-One Bible Readers
A Good Samaritan | Parable of the Talents | Zacchaeus

God Made It for You!: The Story of Creation by Charles Lehmann and Kathleen Kemly

Book Club!
May 28th | 3 pm
The Lounge

Rev. Brigette Weier has been called to serve as Pastor of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. All are welcome to attend her installation at a special service on Saturday, May 18, 3 p.m. at Our Saviour's, 2500 East 3900 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.



Thank you!

Dear Family of Zion,

I cannot begin to thank you for the beautiful celebration that you held for my 20th anniversary of working at Zion. I will always cherish this day in my memory: the wonderful music from the Livengoods, the amazing pieces written by Brandt Graham and performed by Joyful NOIZ and alumni, the kind words from Brandt and Dianne Krehbiel, the delicious reception, the video of my time at Zion, the flowers and generous gift and especially the many loving letters and cards I received. It meant so much to me that you would recognize my work this way. None of this music ministry with children and youth would have been possible without countless others here at Zion.

When I think about my life, my greatest blessings have been my children, my folks and the childhood they gave me and this church, Zion Lutheran. You have been my constant support and encouragement. I thank God for you and pray we can keep up this ministry for many years to come.

Susan

Thank you!

Zion Lutheran Children's Choir Festival

Zion hosted our second Children's Choir Festival on March 30 and it was a great success. We were blessed to work with Dr. Loneka Battiste from University of Tennessee, Knoxville who is an expert on gospel music and just a beautiful person for the children to work with. The children of Zion and our guest children learned some wonderful songs that we had never known before. The day included games with Rex Graham and Thomas Wenzel, Orff instruments with Ms. Susan, singing skills with Dr. B. and lunch and snacks. Jesslyn Popwell, the children's choir director at Calvary Baptist also joined with us to help and she will be teaching with us again this summer for our VBS music camp.

We appreciate Zion's generous support of this day and also the financial support of Thrivent. Many thanks to volunteers that day: our teens, Zoe Caldwell, Thomas and Rex, Jenna Nelson, Gambit Sok, to Marci Hall for arranging Thrivent funds and to our other volunteers, Louise Nelson, Carolyn Hickman, Sarah Sok, Laurie Darnell, Linda Strohacker, Diane Gardner, Dianne Krehbiel and Lisa Mensinger. This is a great way for us to provide outreach and also help build the skills for the children in our own choirs.

Love thy Neighbor

Vacation Bible School Music Camp 2019

August 5 - 9, 2019

Monday - Thursday, 9 - 3 pm

Friday 9 - 1:30 pm

Sunday, August 11

Children Invited to
sing during worship at Zion

What is Orff-Schulwerk?

Orff combines singing, percussion instruments (xylophones, glockenspiels, drums, etc), movement, rhythmic speech and improvisation to teach music in a joyful, child-friendly, and creative way.



Kindergarten Half-Day Program

We are offering a half day option for children who have completed Kindergarten. It will include music, Bible Study, games, and art.



Join us for:

- Singing Skills and Games
- Orff Percussion Instruments
- Drumming
- Creative Movement
- Lap Dulcimer for 4th/6th graders
- Bible Study
- Prayer
- Healthy Snacks provided
- Instrument Demonstrations
- Art
- Outdoor games

Details:

We welcome any interested children who have completed Kindergarten through 6th grades. You do not need to be a member of Zion or our choirs. Some financial assistance is available.

The children will conclude the camp by singing during the 10:00 AM worship at Zion Lutheran Church on Sunday, August 11, 2019.

Please bring a sack lunch Mon-Friday. Snacks will be provided.

The fee covers the entire week.

Register before 7.8.19 -

\$20 per child-full day

\$10 per child-half day (K)

Register after 7.8.19 -

\$30 per child-full day

\$15 per child-half day (K)

Kindergarten children have an option of full day (\$20) or half day (\$10).

**Questions? Contact the church office at
801.582.2321 or office@zelc.org**

May Worship Volunteers

Altar Guild

May 5: Ann Marie Mogren / Denny Gross
May 12: Steve & Marie Newton/ Marsha Gilford
May 19: Marci Hall / Bruce & Lois Stewart
May 26: Jan Heins / Holly Graham

Counters

May 5: Jan Heins / Paul Mogren
May 12: Bob Hackworth / Ann Marie Mogren
May 19: Jane Erdahl / Erin Basta
May 26: Fred Strohacker/ Diane Teece

Assisting Ministers

May 5: Denny Gross
May 12: Need Volunteers
May 19: Need Volunteers
May 26: Need Volunteers

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.

Summer Worship

Beginning May 26, Zion will switch to our summer worship schedule, with one service being held at 10 am. This schedule will continue through Labor Day.

Semi-Annual Meeting - Save the Date

On June 2, Zion will host it's semi-annual Congregation meeting following worship.



If you haven't already, please follow Zion on social media. There you'll find news from and about Zion, pictures from events, worship, the grounds, and more!

[Facebook.com/zionslc](https://www.facebook.com/zionslc)

[Twitter.com/zelcslc](https://twitter.com/zelcslc)

[Instagram.com/zelcslc](https://www.instagram.com/zelcslc)



The ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly is being held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, May 3-5. Members of Zion will attend the event. The ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod has focused this last year on what it means to be Christ's Church for the Life of the World. Attention now turns to what animates witness and ministry as Christ's Church by exploring the Spirit's work within everyone – individually and communally. Under the theme "Be Transformed" the 2019 Synod Assembly will consider the changes that take place in hearts, minds, and very being as God's love in Jesus takes hold.

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

**phone: 801.582.2321
fax: 801.583.8043
email: office@zelc.org
email: pastor@zelc.org**

**1070 S. Foothill Drive
Salt Lake City UT 84108**

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