

Connecting
through Grace
ZION
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

THE HERALD

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Connecting through Grace

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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...

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.....

Here it is, the ideal family gathered around an ideal holiday table. Norman Rockwell has captured the sentiment of a bygone era. It is an endearing picture: all smiles and family bliss with everyone sitting down for a turkey dinner. Even the table setting is perfect.

My experiences certainly do not measure up to this picture. Even before the turkey is served there's already been some hard feelings. Sulking replaces smiles for those told to put their phones away. Where's the uncle who shows up with a ring of salami under his arm, smelling like a brewery? One is tight lipped, doing his best to remain silent when the conversation turns political. And, there is that heavy cloud, which hovers over the table because of *the* empty chair.

Like the picture, sometimes we get caught up in ideals. The ideal job. The ideal vacation. The ideal relationship. Ideal children and ideal homes and ideal holidays. Whether the picture is painted by Rockwell, created by advertisements, or sketched into our imaginations --- they are all unhealthy. They lead us to see what we have --- and who we are -- as unworthy or not good enough.

In Advent we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus." This is the message of Advent: Jesus comes. But he does not come into an ideal picture of ourselves or our world. Jesus comes to us just as we are. He comes into our fear of losing and dying; he comes into our troubled families and lives; he comes into our preoccupation with status and image. He comes into our differences, be they political, or racial or theological. Jesus comes into our addictions --- to substances, to work, to food; to affirmation, to control.

Somehow there is peace in all of this, to be loved and accepted and counted worthy because of God's love and acceptance for us.

Come, Lord Jesus, indeed.

Pastor Steve Klemz



Sunday School News!

Zion Sunday School is very blessed to have great teachers, students, and families participating. We ask for your continued prayers for all.

December 3rd Pastor Steve will visit the Preschool through 6th grade classes during the Sunday school hour.

December 10th is **Zion's Annual Gingerbread Decorating and Lunch Party** following 10:30 worship. Kids of all ages will be able to decorate a graham cracker gingerbread house to celebrate the Christmas season. Lunch will be provided. Please bring a decorating item(s) to share with all. Some ideas are: cereals, small candies (M&Ms, smarties, skittles, etc.), string licorice, and marshmallows. Please **RSVP** by signing up on the bulletin board outside the library or email or call Louise Nelson mlcnelson@yahoo.com or 801-803-9942. In order to have enough houses assembled for all, please **RSVP by Saturday December 9th**.

December 17th will be the **Sunday School Annual Christmas Program at 6:00 pm**. The students will tell the Christmas story through song and music. Zion is truly blessed with many children. Please show your support by attending this service.

December 24th Zion celebrates the birth of Jesus with worship services at 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm.

January 7th is **Zion's Epiphany Potluck** during the Sunday school hour. All families are encouraged to attend and bring an ethnic dish to share from your heritage. You won't want to miss the great food, from herring to rosettes and jambalaya to chili verde. You never know what graces our table.



View from the Pew

Marsha Gilford said an interesting thing recently in announcing the Wine and Cheese Party's starting time when she described Zion members as being known as "prompt." A few decades of ushering, including many times when I had to remind Hal Sinn not to chide the late arrivals, give me a different perspective.

Even so, Marsha's comment got me thinking: What is Zion known for? What should we be known for? What would we like to be known for?

There are many possibilities to answer those questions. What comes to your mind? My thoughts go to physical characteristics, such as the blue bell tower outside and the organ inside. And to the people, with a pastor of 25 years who is a voice and a presence in the community, and leaders who contribute their experience and effort to guiding the congregation. There's the music, in so many wonderful forms. And the children and youth, expressing themselves in worship and adding a lot just by showing up.

Part of Zion's mission is to identify what we do well and emphasize those things, I believe. It is challenging for a church to be everything to everyone, but it is possible to be really effective in certain areas. As usual, I don't have the answers, but I do have the questions: What do we want to be known for?

~Kurt Kragthorpe



Library Corner

The following books have been added to the library: *"Joy Notes at Christmas"* by Debra Jordan Bryan; *"The Beggars' Christmas"* by John Aurelio; *"Spin the Dreidel!"* by Alexandra Cooper; *"Martin Luther's Christmas Book"* by Westminster Press; *"Christmas Readings to Recapture the Wonder of the Season"* by Harold Shaw Publishers; *"Festival of Lights; The Story of Hanukkah"* by Maida Silverman; *"Eight Winter Nights"* A Family Hanukkah Book by Laura Krauss Melmed.

The Library Guild usually meets on **Tuesdays at 10:30 am** in the library. 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 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!



Ladies! Come together for a fun evening at We Olive before the holiday chaos begins. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, December 1st for drinks and appetizers. We Olive is located in Trolley Square at 602 E 500 S. Please RSVP to Christy Hillock at 806-470-3973. See you there!



Our next meeting will be on Thursday, December 7th at 7 pm. We will meet at [3347 South Main Street](#) in Salt Lake City in order to quilt with several women refugees from the

Women of the World organization. Each of the women will go home with one of our quilts. This is a really fun event so you won't want to miss it. Please bring a treat to share.

Quilters Without Borders, With love and a prayer



Annual Family Fun Gingerbread House Party

Come One Come All to Zion's annual **Gingerbread House Decorating Party and Lunch on December 10th after 10:30 worship!**

Lunch will be served at **11:45** with **gingerbread decorating** starting at **12:30**. Kids of all ages will be able to decorate a graham cracker gingerbread house to celebrate the Christmas season. Lunch will be provided. Please bring decorating items to share with all. Some ideas are: cereals, small candies (M&Ms, smarties, skittles, etc.), string licorice, and marshmallows. Let your creative juices flow! Please **RSVP** by signing up on the bulletin board outside the library or email or call Louise Nelson mlcnelson@yahoo.com or 801-803-9942. In order to have enough houses assembled for all, please **RSVP by Saturday December 9th**.



Wine & Cheese Party on Friday, December 1 at 7:00 PM.

Thanks to our newest visitor Geoff Smart for hosting this Zion event. Bring an adult beverage and appetizer to share. Geoff lives 2 blocks from the church at **2002 Princeton**. Bring a friend

and share in the merriment of the holiday season.

SAVE THE DATE:

On Epiphany we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles — that is, to all nations.

We will celebrate Epiphany with an ethnic potluck on Sunday, January 7, during the education hour (9:15-10:15). All are welcome. Please bring your favorite ethnic dish to share: herring, rosettes, jambalaya, chili verde, and black-eyed peas with ham hocks have graced our table in the past. All are welcome — especially children. We will have story time, learning about the wise men. Children will also travel about the church, bringing their gifts to Jesus. Children, please bring the gift of a canned food item, which we will donate in Jesus' name to Crossroads Urban Center.



Connecting through Grace

Commitment Sunday— December 3

During worship each member of the community will offer their statement of intent.

APPEAL GOAL FOR 2018: INCREASE OFFERINGS BY \$46,000

To continue to accomplish Zion's ministry in our congregation and the community, a generous increase is needed. We will use that increase by:

Investing in our Home: \$30,000 annual mortgage payments to address much needed physical plant maintenance items

Investing in our Children: \$11,000 to support an expanded VBS program as well as other music outreach.

Investing in our Congregation: \$5,000 for upgraded software and systems to improve both internal and external communication via our web pages, social media, etc.

Together, as we respond to the invitation to live generously and to be the church, we will reach our goal for 2018.



In Our Prayers: Christ's healing presence with Diane Teece, Dianne Krehbiel, Rodney Schroeder. Thanksgiving for the birth of Eve Mariel to Matt & Autumn Kieber-Emmons, with big brothers Xavier, Gabriel & Isaac. God's grace with Dorothy Nielsen. For Juan de Dios Lopez and Lisa Mensinger in their call to ordained ministry.



NOTE THE TIME CHANGE

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP WITH CHOIR: **10:00 PM**



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 \$800.00 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 45 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.*

Peace,
Barb Ballif
Director

Connecting Through Grace: Financial Stewardship

January-October 2017 Totals	
Envelopes/Loose Offerings	\$310,555.05
Year-to-Date Goal	\$378,621.55
Difference	-\$68,066.50
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	
Organ Fund	\$99,974.12
Campaign Goal	\$220,000.00
Difference	-\$120,025.88

We praise God for your generosity.

Yours in Christ,
Leslie Miller, Church Council Treasurer

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Meets each Wednesday morning at 7:00am downstairs. Come have breakfast with us and discuss God's Word! We are studying the weekly scriptures from the Taking Faith Home bulletin insert.

Beautiful Blessings Group—Join us!

This new small group of women meets at 10 AM on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at Honeysuckle Coffee Co (8745 South 700 East, #2, Sandy, UT). Bring your child(ren) because there is a play area for them while you enjoy sharing beautiful blessings with other women. We will begin exploring the book by Linda Dillow, *Calm My Anxious Heart*. A link to the first chapter can be found on our website. Contact Lisa Mensinger at youth@zelc.org.

Sunday Worship

8:15 AM or 10:30 AM
Education hour 9:15 AM

ZELC Church Council Highlights:

- Motion made to accept worship planning team recommendation to hold the Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at 10:00 p.m. rather than 10:30 p.m. Motion seconded. 1 opposing vote. Motion passes.
- Motion made to hold one worship service only at 10:30 a.m. on December 24 and December 31. Motion seconded and passed.

Annual meeting, November 19th:

- Doug presented a motion from the council to engage in the 2nd mortgage of \$250,000, 10-year term, 3.5% APY, with monthly payments of \$2500 (\$30,000 annually). Motion seconded. Call for questions (none). Call for vote: vote is unanimous and motion carries and passes with no objections and none abstaining.
- Doug presented a motion from the council to adopt the 2018 budget as presented. Motion seconded. Call for questions (none). Call for vote: vote is unanimous and motion carries and passes with no objections and none abstaining.
- Doug motions to allow council to secure and approve names to be voting members for the upcoming Rocky Mountain Synod conference in Westminster, CO, May 3-5, 2018. Motion seconded. Call for vote: vote is unanimous and motion carries and passes with no objections and none abstaining. There are no current volunteers or nominations at this time.
- Thank you to Fred Strohacker and Leslie Miller for their work on the 1960 scholarship fund that was presented to Horizonte Learning Center. Funds totaling \$12,807.87 were distributed and gifted.

Bible Study with Pastor Steve

All are welcome. Sundays, in the Atrium, 9:15-10:15. On December 3, the class will meet with Lisa and the youth, talking about generosity in our faith. (Pr. Steve is with the Sunday School classes this day.) The remaining Sundays explore the Gospel of Mark.

Christmas Eve Morning Worship — Sunday, December 24, 10:30 AM. The service will be reflective, contemplating Jesus' birth among us in Luke 1:26-38.

It will include a litany, to remember:
those we have lost and loved;
the pain of loss;
our needs;
and the gift of light and hope.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 17th at 6:00 PM at Zion. Sign up to bake cookies and/or help in other areas for this festive event. Follow the link to Sign-Up Genius for all the details. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4fada822a4f94-christmas>



All children and youth participate in our Christmas program on Sunday, Dec. 17th at 6:00 PM. They are either readers or perform as musicians.

Saturday, Dec. 16th: 9:00 AM Reader rehearsal

10:00 AM Joyful NOIZ rehearsal

Sunday, Dec. 17th: 9:15 AM All Sunday school classes rehearse in the sanctuary.

5:15 PM Arrive early if you would like to wear a choir robe or angel costume.

5:30 PM All children and Joyful NOIZ warm-up, meet in the children's choir room.

6:00 PM Program begins followed by a cookie & cocoa reception in the atrium.

Costumes: Please dress as a character from the Bible story of Christmas. (Mary, a shepherd, king, cow, donkey, etc. but NOT an elf, reindeer, or superhero.) We also have choir robes and angel costumes you are welcome to use. Please arrive by 5:15PM if you would like to use a Zion robe or costume.

The Children's Center is looking for your retired jewelry. The Children's Center annual jewelry luncheon is now collecting donated jewelry. Please clean out your jewelry box and pass along any pieces (men's or women's) that you no longer wear and are willing to part with. The items can be *anything* from older costume jewelry, to a newer piece that you do not wear. We will happily take them and repackage them to sell at the event. If you would like to come to the event, it is March 15th at The Little America hotel 11-1pm. Please drop off any and all items in the Let Me Shine office or the church copy room. Thank you for taking a moment and cleaning out your jewelry box to help support the children.



Thank you to our wonderful Zion family. Zoe's Baptism and First Communion was a beautiful culmination of so many years of your continuous love and support.
~Nicole Caldwell

YOUTH NEWS

Contact: Lisa Mensinger, Director of Youth Ministries at (801-582-2321 ext 11) or email: youth@zelc.org

Curling at Olympic Oval

Friday, Dec. 22 7:30—9:30 pm

Brought back by popular demand—
the Art of Curling.

Please complete and print out the Registration Form & Waiver by **December 10** to reserve your spot. Bring a friend!

<http://utaholympiclegacy.org/learn-to-curl/>

Faith Formation Disciples Schedule

Ceiling Tiles and Faith Formation Essays due
December 17

Jan. 14-20, 2018 ----- Meet with Pastor Steve & Lisa
Caring conversations about questions.

Sun, Jan 21, 2018 ----- 11:30 am—2:30 pm
Celebratory Luncheon & Practice
Faith Coaches invited to give toast.

Sun, Feb 11, 2018 _____ 10:30 am
Affirmation of Baptism

Fri-Sun, Feb 23-25, 2018 ----- Souper Bowl of Caring
Faith Coaches invited to Dinner Sat, Feb 24



June 27—July 1, 2018

Houston—Here We Come!

Please keep in your prayers the 20 people who will be heading to Houston next June.

Zion: Luke Reuschel, Rex Graham, Zoe Caldwell, Jenna Foulks, Andrew Hall & Thomas Wenzel

Elim: “Dr. Quinn” (Micaela) & Lydia
Our Saviour’s: Chris, Connor & Jasmine
Shepherd of the Mountain (PC): Andrew, Maya, Jordanelle, Jacob, Kyleigh

Adults: Bob Wenzel, Steve Hoffman (PC), Carla Wonder-McDowell (OSLC) & Lisa Mensinger

Required YG Meetings

Dec 10 (Sun) - 1—3 pm

.....Shepherd of the Mountain

Feb 23-24, 2018

.....Souper Bowl of Caring

April 29, 2018 (Sun) - 1-3 pm

.....Our Saviour’s Church

June 3, 2018 (Sun)

.....Swimming Party, place TBD

All fundraising events as well.



FFD Retreat 2017

Remembering our Baptism

Sharing a meal with Coaches



December, 2017

Freed & RENEWED
in Christ **500** YEARS OF GOD'S
GRACE IN ACTION

at a glance...

Assisting Ministers:

10:30 AM
Dec 3 Denny Gross
Dec 10 Marsha Gilford
Dec 17 Rachel Kibler
Dec 24 Lisa Mensinger
6:00 PM
10:00 PM
Dec 31

Ushers:

Ron Chytraus + Volunteers

Altar Guild:

Dec 3 Carrie Hinderaker
Marsha Gilford
Dec 10 Steve/Marie Newton
Denny Gross
Dec 17 Jan Heins
Bruce/Lois Stewart
Dec 24 Carrie Hinderaker
Holly Graham
Dec 24 PM Carrie Hinderaker
Ann Marie Mogren
Dec 31 Marci Hall
Marsha Gilford

Greeters:

Counters:

Week of:

Dec 3 Ann Marie & Warren
Dec 10 Paul & Doug
Dec 17 Warren & Janice
Dec 24 Ann Marie, Jan,
Angie, Sandra
Dec 31 Diane & Marci

Church Staff Out of Office:

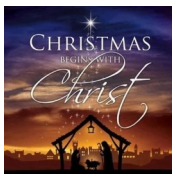
Office Administrator out of town Dec 25 thru Jan 6.

Youth Director attending seminary Jan 2 thru Jan 12.

Pastor Steve out of office Dec 25 thru Jan 3

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ADVENT 3 8:15 am Awakening Worship 9:15 Education Hr 10:30 Worship	4 9 Yoga-based exercise	5 11:40 LMS Chapel	6 7 Men's Bible Study 9 Yoga-based exercise 9 Staff Mtg	7 7 Quilters w/o Borders @ 3347 S. Main St. 6:30-8:30 Meditation Group	8 9 Yoga-based exercise 6 pm Ladies Night @ We Olive at Trolley Sq 7 pm Wine & Cheese Party	9 9-11 am G/A Chorus Rehearsal 4 pm G/A Chorus Advent Dinner
10 8:15 am Awakening Worship 9:15 Education Hr 10:30 Worship Noon-Gingerbread Houses 6:30pm Compassionate Friends Mtg	11 9 Yoga-based exercise	12 6:30-9 G/A Chorus 6:15 Cong Council Mtg 6:30-9 G/A Chorus	13 7 Men's Bible Study 9 Yoga-based exercise 9 Staff Mtg 11:40 LMS Chapel 4:30 Worship Planning Mtg 5-8 pm LMS Parents Night Out	14 6:30-8:30 Meditation Group	15 9 Yoga-based exercise	16 9 Christmas Program Rehearsal
17 8:15 am Awakening Worship 9:15 Education Hr 10:30 Worship Tree set-up 6 Children's Christmas Program	18 9 Yoga-based exercise	19 11:40 LMS Chapel 1 Book Club	20 7 Men's Bible Study 9 Yoga-based exercise 9 Staff Mtg	21 6:30-8:30 Meditation Group	22 9 Yoga-based exercise Last day of preschool	23
CHRISTMAS EVE 24 10:30 Worship only	CHRISTMAS DAY 25	26	27 9 Yoga-based exercise	28	29 9 Yoga-based exercise	30

6:00 pm Child-Friendly Worship
10:00 pm Candlelight Worship



Church offices closed all week

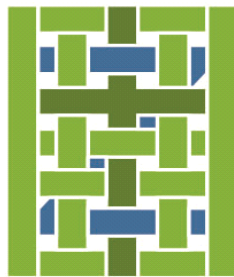
6:30-8:30 Meditation Group

NEW YEARS EVE 31
10:30 Worship only
Guest Preacher Rev. Gordon Young

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP:

One morning worship @ 10:30 AM

6:00 PM CHILD-FRIENDLY WORSHIP
10:00 PM CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP



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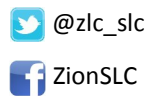
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www.zelc.org



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP:

One morning worship @ 10:30 AM

6:00 PM CHILD-FRIENDLY WORSHIP

10:00 PM CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

Go **tail** it on
the mountain.



Holiday shopping can change lives

Americans spend over \$300 billion on Christmas shopping each year. This year, consider giving gifts that fight hunger and grow the church with [ELCA Good Gifts](#). Select from more than 50 gifts – from goats to water filters to school fees – to help people in need. All gifts can be given in honor of friends and loved ones, and each gift comes with a free card for you to share the news. Give online and you can now personalize cards to send directly to your loved one's home or email address.

Get your whole congregation involved with [resources](#) like posters, bulletin inserts, planning guides, ornaments and coloring sheets. The gifts provide direct support to ELCA ministries that are already at work in nearly 100 countries.

[Give something unexpected this Christmas.](#)



HELP WITH CHRISTMAS TREE SETUP

December 17, 2017
after 10:30 am service

Helpers needed to set up the Christmas tree in the sanctuary on December 17th after the 10:30 service. The task goes really quickly! Questions? Ask Paul Mogren.

2017-2018 ZELC CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESIDENT, Doug Graham | VICE-PRESIDENT, Marsha Gilford | SECRETARY, Nicole Reese

TREASURER, Leslie Miller

Team Leaders: Holly Graham, Terri Moffitt, Ann Marie Mogren, Michael Chard