

Connecting
through Grace
ZION
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

THE HERALD

Volume 18, Issue 2 | February 2020



A Word from the Pastor

Dear Zion:

This is one of the questions in the Rite of Installation of a Pastor:

*Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures
and in your use of the means of grace?
Will you love, serve, and pray for God's people,
nourish them with the word and sacraments,
and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?*

Response:

I will, and I ask God to help me.

I do pray for you, people of God in Zion.

You are remembered as I compose Sunday's "Prayers for the People." I respond to your requests in prayer. We have shared prayers in hospital rooms and in my office space. Often times you are in my early morning prayers, called out by name or community. I have been caught up "at all times and in all places" during the Holy Meal, giving thanks for those who have channeled God's grace and love. I will even pray for you as I share the bread, speaking the promise of God's "for you."

And, I confess, sometimes my prayers are for your patience and forgiveness.

I am writing, requesting your help in changing my prayer life. Rather than praying for you; may I pray with you? Is there a time or place in the near future when we can visit? It would be my privilege to meet in your home or office or favorite café.

In the meantime, please pray for me.

In and through Christ,

Pastor Steve Klemz
+

Pastor Steve Klemz
office: 801.582.2321
cell: 801.414.4833
email: pastor@zelc.org

in our prayers

- healing for Ellen Liu, Terri Finner, and loved ones in cancer care;
- for loved ones in addiction and recovery
- for our community in Zion, especially with staff and congregation leaders
- or those who mourn the death of Vicky Brown and Charles Shannon

Sunday Worship in February

February 2 | Awakening Worship - 8:15 am

| Traditional Worship 10:30 am (*Children's Choir Singing/Bible Presentations*)

February 9 | Awakening Worship - 8:15 am

| Traditional Worship 10:30 am (*Cherub Choir Singing*)

February 16 | Awakening Worship - 8:15 am

| Traditional Worship 10:30 am

February 23 | Awakening Worship - 8:15 am

| Traditional Worship 10:30 am (*Joyful NOIZ/Youth choir performing*)

Worship Volunteers

Altar Guild

February 2 | Steve & Marie Newton + Denny Gross

February 9 | Steve & Marie Newton + Bruce and Lois Stewart

February 16 | Holly Graham + Marci Hall

February 23 | Holly Graham + Jan Heins

Counters

February 2 | Ann Marie Mogren + Leslie Miller

February 9 | Paul Mogren + Sandra Kragthorpe

February 16 | Bob Hackworth + Marci Hall

February 23 | Ethel Olson + Tracy Hackworth

Assisting Ministers

February 2 | Denny Gross

February 9 | Rachel Kibler

February 16 | Erin Basta

February 23 | Volunteer Needed

Coffee Hour

February 2 | Zoe Caldwell

February 9 | Erin Basta + Michael Rusnack

February 16 | Volunteer Needed

February 23 | Volunteer Needed

If you'd like to volunteer for any of these ministries please contact the church office.

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

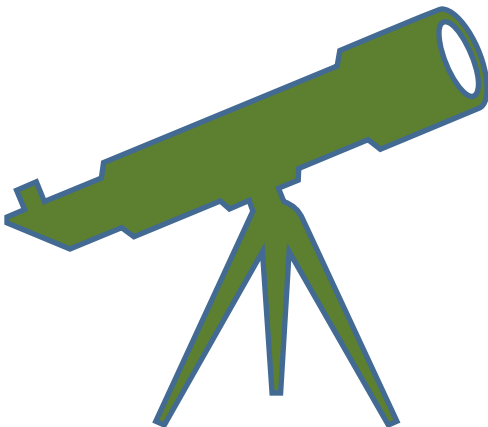
Pastor Steve will lead the discussion on *Dear Church*, by Lenny Duncan, at the Sunday adult forum on February 2. All are welcome. Participants do not need to read the book in order to participate. Summaries will be provided. The class meets between 9:15 and 10:15 am. All are welcome.



Family Promise Volunteers Needed

The Cathedral of St. Marks (231 E 100 S, Salt Lake City, UT 84111) is hosting families from Family Promise February 16-23. Family Promise's mission is to help low-income families and families experiencing homelessness achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response. Family Promise organizes houses of worship, social services agencies, nonprofits, and other local organizations to work together to provide a truly holistic response to families experiencing homelessness and at-risk families.

St. Mark's is in need of a few more volunteer shifts to be covered. If anyone in the Zion community is able to assist and for specific dates and times please contact Anne-Marie Eastman at 205-541-4342 or althea7h@gmail.com or reach out to the Zion church office.



Looking Ahead

Mark your calendars for future services:

Palm Sunday: April 5

Easter Sunday: April 12

More details to follow...

Ash Wednesday



Remember.

As the gritty ashes are smeared on our forehead on Ash Wednesday,
the one who marks us says:

“Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

Remember.

Those ashes are marked with the sign of the cross.

Remember.

We have been marked with the cross of Christ --- forever --- in baptism.

That cross marks us with another truth:

each of us is a child of God, beloved, the delight of God’s soul.

We are dust. We are beloved children of God.

All are welcome for Ash Wednesday worship.

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Services at 12 pm and 7 pm.

Everyone is invited to an inter-generational (ages 2 to 102) Sunday School hour on March 1st to continue our exploration of Spiritual Gifts as well as our Lenten theme of Spring Cleaning. Pastor Dana-Lee Simon will be with us to help lead us in some spiritual practices and fun! There will be time to mingle with friends, as well as gather in groups with others who share the same spiritual gifts. We invite you to take the Spiritual Gift Survey (available at zelc.org).

**Inter-generational
Celebration**



Please contact Melissa Butson, Lois Graham,
or Vicar Lisa Mensinger.

The Universal Christ

We are starting off 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 is leading a 7-week exploration which began on Wednesday January 8 at Zion and continues through February 19. *The Universal Christ*, a New York Times best seller, explores "what it means that Jesus was called “Christ,” and how this forgotten truth can restore hope and meaning to our lives."



Spring is coming, and with it comes a sense of renewal and new birth. Spring may bring the anticipation of getting outdoors to play golf, baseball, cycling, or tennis. We also may begin to do some spring cleaning around our homes where we look into our closets, basements, and garages to see what we have and what we may need to give away. Springtime is a time when we begin to anticipate how the rest of the year will unfold: Where do we want to spend our time? What new or old activity do we want to pursue for the rest of the year? What new places do we want to see?

Much like our personal spring cleaning, we are called by our baptismal promise to live out our call within our Zion Community. We are planning to create a space for you to begin that search. You are invited to reflect and assess your Spiritual Gifts. Together, we will explore how to share your gifts as the body of Christ.

During the month of February, we are inviting people to complete a Spiritual Gift Survey to begin the discernment of what gifts God has given us. Take 5 minutes of your time and complete either a paper form or electronic form (available on zelc.org) of the survey. If you choose to do the paper form, copies are provided in the Narthex. Please put your name on the form and deposit it in the basket. The Spiritual Gift team will be glad to send you a response of what your Spiritual gifts are. We hope to connect people with common gifts together on March 1st, and later to explore how we can share them in our Zion Community.

Thank you for connecting through grace at Zion.

Have Questions?

Please contact Melissa Butson, Lois Graham, or Vicar Lisa Mensinger

Spiritual Gifts

Library Corner

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 library books!

New books to be Ascensioned into the Library for February

Adult Books:

Psalms: Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching by James L. Mays

This is Luther: A Character Study by Ewald M. Plass

Lutheran Cyclopedia: A Concise In-Home Reference for the Christian Family by Erwin L. Lueker

Kids Books:

Grit and Grace: Heroic Women of the Bible by Caryn Rivadeneira

The World Jesus Knew: A Curious Kid's Guide to Life in the First Century by Marc Olson

The First Easter by Carol Heyer

The Tale of Three Trees: a Traditional Folktale by Angela Elwell Hunt

Jo and the Not-So-Little Lie: A Book About Telling the Truth by Lucy Bell

Being Me From A to Z by Lauren Kukla

The Memory Box: A Book About Grief by Joanna Rowland

Everyone Gets Upset: A Book About Frustration (board book) by Kristen McCurry and Jennifer Hilton

Mine!: A Counting Book About Sharing (board book) by Caryn Rivadeneira

God Made Feelings (board book) by Kristen McCurry and Jennifer Hilton

Sunday School



We started the year off with a wonderful performance of Joyful NOIZ and the Youth Choir and visits with Pastor Steve. In February, we are looking forward to presenting Bibles to our 2nd graders, performances from all three of the Sunday School choirs and have another visit with Pastor Steve. Thank you to all of our teachers for the hard and loving work that you do. Thank you, as well, to all of our families for trusting us with your kiddos!

-In Peace,

Melissa



Quilters Without Borders - February 5

There is a slight change to the February Meeting of QWB. Instead of meeting on the first Thursday of the month, the group is going to meet on the first WEDNESDAY of February - February 5. The group will be meeting at the First Baptist Church (on the corner of 1300 East and 800 South, in Salt Lake City) at 7 pm. Look forward to seeing you there!



Give back to our community by becoming a mentor for Volunteers of America, Utah's Amplified Mentoring Program. Many of our community's youth find themselves faced with difficult choices and are at risk for choosing a path that may lead to drug or alcohol abuse which may prevent them from reaching their full potential. We need caring and compassionate people like YOU to be leaders in our youth's lives. Dedicate only 6-8 hours of your time per month. For more information, go to: www.voaut.org/amp.

For the month of December, Zion's weekly envelopes and loose offerings, including one one-time gifts spread across the year amounted to \$44,152.22.

For the 2019 calendar year our collections totaled \$402,679.53. Our expenditures for the year totaled \$463,840.76, leaving us with a \$61,161.23 short fall.

Our budget has remained stable for the past 2 years, despite taking on a \$250,000 mortgage in late 2018 for the renovations in our sanctuary (with monthly payments of ~\$2500/month or ~\$30,000/year). This was mostly accomplished by trimming unspent funds. We also spent \$70,000 of our rainy day savings to make the down payment on the loan, leaving us with an uncomfortably small cushion at this time.

We praise God for your generosity over the years and ask that you keep the needs of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in your prayers.

In Christ,

Ellen

Ellen Liu
Church Council Treasurer

Report from the Treasurer's Desk

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!



Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support organizations you care about. Don't let Choice Dollars expire! Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31 to direct any remaining 2019 Choice Dollars. These dollars can be directed to Zion and help support all the great ministries of this great community.

Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. Or call your local Thrivent Financial advisor (Travis Breitling, Darren Morrison, Ron Sheltra or Andy Schrank). The church congregational coordinator, Angie Reuschel, may also be able to assist you.

I adored Mister Rogers and the love he shared with all he knew. He reminds me of God's word for us..." We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19

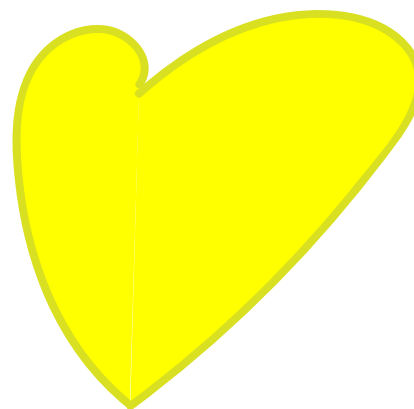
The following is from Mister Rogers book, Many Ways to Say I Love You

Here we are, all on this boat together, this floating planet...together. I feel blessed even in times of trouble. I wonder how human beings get that feeling. I guess it comes from a long line of people in our lives who have, in one way or another, "sung" that song:

*It's you I like.
It's not the things you wear.
It's not the way you do your hair,
But it's you I like.*

*The way you are right now,
The way down deep inside you,
Not the things that hide you,
Not your toys-they're just beside you.*

*But it's you I like,
Every part of you-
Your skin, your eyes, your feelings,
Whether old or new.
I hope that you'll remember
Even when you're feeling blue,
That it's you I like, it's you yourself.
It's you. It's you I like.*

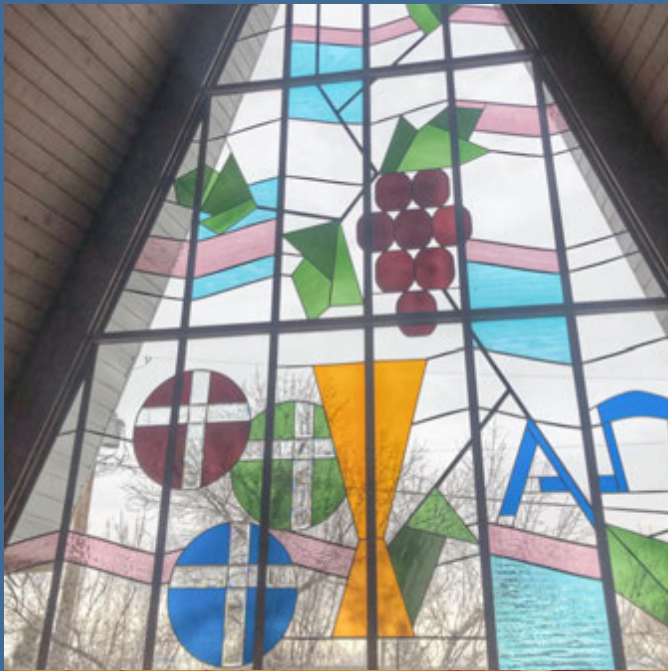


Happy Valentine's Day!

Barb

*Barb Ballif
Director*





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

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fax: 801.583.8043
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