



Zion noiz

The Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church
Piedmont, California
January 2026



Epiphany isn't a word most of us use in everyday conversation. In fact, you'll probably hear it most often in church.

At its core, the word means *revelation*—something being made known, whether it's a sudden insight or the revealing of God himself. Epiphany is often associated with light, reminding us that God's presence brings illumination to the world.

As we enter the season of Epiphany, we'll hear stories of Jesus revealing himself to the world. The season begins with the visit of the Magi and the Baptism of Jesus, and it concludes with the Transfiguration. In between we will hear Jesus' sermons, parables, and miracle stories.

Revealing Jesus to the world is one of our central tasks as a church and as his followers. At Christmas, we celebrate Jesus as the Light of the world, shining into our darkness. Now, we are called to live out his words: *"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."* (Matthew 5:16)

During my time here at Zion, one of my responsibilities is to help us reflect on how we can do this more faithfully as a congregation. In January, the Transition Team will share a survey with the congregation to help us understand where we are now. This insight will guide us as we grow and seek to be a brighter light in our community.

I encourage everyone connected with Zion—members and friends alike—to take part in the survey. Your participation will give us a clearer picture of who we are and how we can continue to shine Christ's light together.

Weekly Worship

Sundays: 9 am Traditional Worship In-person & Online.

All Worship Services are Available 24/7 via the Zion App, Website, YouTube and Facebook.

Bible Class: Sundays at 8 am Wednesdays at 10 am

SEEK

DISCIPLE

MULTIPLY

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Studying in Gods Word
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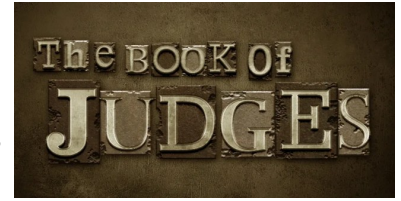
From the Parish Nurse
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Serving the Lord with Gladness
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STUDYING GOD'S WORD

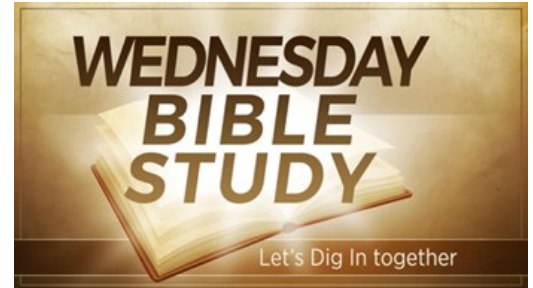
Sunday Bible Class I

Bible Class I continues to meet each Sunday at 8:00 am in the Garden Room, and everyone is invited to join us as we search the Scriptures for guidance, hope, peace, and strength. Led by Paul Grunow, the group has begun studying the Book of Mark. Depending on where the discussion leads, the class may cover a full chapter or just a few verses each week. Every session offers an opportunity for a solid study of God's Word and spirited discussion among fellow believers. Come grow in faith and understanding as we explore the Gospel of Mark together.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Join us each Wednesday morning at 10:00am for Bible Tapestry, a time of study, reflection, and fellowship in God's Word. Led by Pastor Dorn, we will explore the Scriptures, seeing how the many threads of the Bible are woven into God's great story of salvation. All are welcome—come and be blessed by His Word and by the community of believers who gather to study it either in-person or via Zoom.



January 7: Son of God/Son of Man

January 14: Cherubim

January 21: (Steve Harger)

January 28: Holy War

Zoom Link for Wednesday Morning Bible Study

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85173401109?pwd=AOu5B8EfdT6LFBCvAGfOk4x42bdQsB.1>

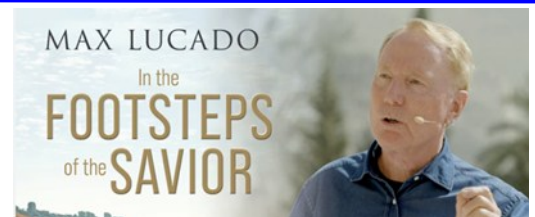
Meeting ID: 851 7340 1109. Passcode: YeahZion

Sunday Bible Study II

Bible Class II continues with the Bible Study by Max Lucado, "In the Footsteps of the Savior", at 8:00am in the Conference Room.

In this Study God has more in store for you than you can imagine! This video Bible study will provide an encounter with the life altering Holy One as we follow in the footsteps of the Savior through the Holy Land.

If you have not participated in any of Zion's Bible Studies on Sunday Mornings, now is the time with the start of the Advent and Christmas Season..



The Book of Revelation

The book of Revelation is an enigma to many Christians. It is often viewed as the strangest book in the Bible. So what can we learn from the book?

Some focus on all of the pictures of violence and wrath in the book. Some use those fears as a way to manipulate people.

However, the book is a book of hope for people who are suffering from the violence and fear in this world. It brings assurance to believers.

Join us for a discussion of the book of Revelation. The class will begin on January 18 at 10:30 AM (following the worship service and the fellowship afterwards). We will meet in the Conference Room. Bring your Bible if you want to write in it, otherwise Bibles will be available.

Have no Fear

*"Have no fear, little flock,
Have no fear, little flock,
For the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom.
Have no fear, little flock.*

*Have good cheer, little flock,
Have good cheer, little flock,
For the Father will keep you in His love forever,
Have good cheer, little flock."*
(*"Have no fear"*, Concordia 1935, 1975,
Zimmerman)

A new year – new plans – new goals. We have a wonderful interim pastor, but we will be searching for a new, permanent pastor/shepherd to lead Zion Lutheran. Do you have concerns or worries? I know that I do. I like to have things planned out, like a big lesson plan, and be ready and prepared. God tells us He has a plan and we don't have to worry. He has everything arranged and He knows just what will be. He tells us not to worry. "Do not fear." And He calls us "little flock" because He knows we are like little lambs, frolicking about one minute and upside down in a ditch the next.

God's children, the people of Israel, had escaped the cruel bondage of slavery in Egypt. When Pharaoh had second thoughts about freeing them, he send over 600 chariots to follow them (Exodus 14:6-8). As the children of Israel came to the Red Sea, they could only hear that army behind them. They knew if they were captured and made to return, it would have been much worse. They were AFRAID! So up stands Moses and declares: "Fear not! Stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today" (Exodus 14:13). I can imagine there were many trembling hearts and wide eyes. And you remember what happened: the children of Israel walked through the Red Sea on a dry path to the other side, safely. Pharaoh's armies quickly followed and the walls of water came crashing down, killing the armies. What a visual of God's protection that is. There were many times of deliverance and God's



provision as the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness. There are many times that God provides for His children as we wander about in this wilderness.

Sometimes we don't see God's provision right away, but He is there. We have faith in Him because He keeps His promises. And He tells us not to fear!

We have hope and help because God tells us that He will provide for our needs. He gives us His Holy Spirit: His Holy Helper. He helps us to pray and to learn. Our Holy Helper indwells us and helps us to reach out to others through His love, to proclaim His good news. God provided His first disciples, His first followers, with a Holy Helper, the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8 NKJV). God will give us power to help reach out to share His love.

He promises to always be with us. To never leave us. "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched. Nor will the flame burn you." (Isaiah 43:2 Legacy Standard Bible)

Do I know what will happen in the coming months? No. But I know that God has promised to be with us and send us His Holy Helper. He is always with us, even when we feel alone or discouraged.

*"May you see God's light on the path ahead
When the road you walk is dark.
May you always hear, even in your hour of sorrow,
the gentle singing of the lark.
When times are hard may hardness never turn your
heart to stone.
May you always remember when the shadows fall,
You never walk alone."*
(*"You never walk alone"*, Elaine Hagenberg,
Beckenhorst Press, 2019)

Continued on page 4

Catechism Corner

Zion's Stained Glass Windows

Continuing with the stained-glass windows 5 and 6 on the pulpit side.



The fifth window is The Ten Commandments. Read about The Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. The sixth window is an angel blowing a horn or trumpet announcing the Last Day of Judgment. See Matthew 24:29-31.

Church Humor

The Resolution Preacher

A young minister preached a powerful sermon on "Rules for Raising Children." After he got married and had children of his own, he changed the title of his sermon to "Suggestions for Raising Children." When his children became teenagers, he stopped preaching on the subject altogether.

The Reluctant Heavenly Traveler

The preacher said to his congregation, "I want everyone who wants to go to heaven to stand up!" Everyone stood up except one old man in the front. The preacher asked him, "Brother Williams, don't you want to go to heaven?" The old man replied, "Oh, I'm sorry, Pastor. I thought you were getting a group together to go now!"

Iron Men

Join us on **Tuesday, January 6 at 6:30 pm**, as we watch Season 4 Episode 8: Humble. Jesus refuses to look and act like the Messiah everyone expects—arriving like a lamb instead of a lion and riding a donkey instead of a war horse.

If you haven't been able to join us before that is OK we want you to join us now!

After all, you know the story and have read much of "The Book"!

Join us for our "manly" meal, fellowship and faith building!



Continued from page 3

The new year holds many uncertainties – changes – and new beginning. It also holds the promise of God's care and Holy help.

*"Have good cheer, little flock,
Have good cheer, little flock,
For the Father will keep you in His love forever,
Have good cheer, little flock."*

– Marlene S. Grunow
prayer ministry

Day Adventurers

Friday, January 16 @ 9:30 am
Blackhawk Museum

Blackhawk Museum, founded in 1988 in Danville, CA by Ken Behring and Don Williams, offers an educational experience with five unique galleries: The Don Williams Automobile Gallery, The Spirit of the Old West, Into China, Art of Africa, and World of Nature.

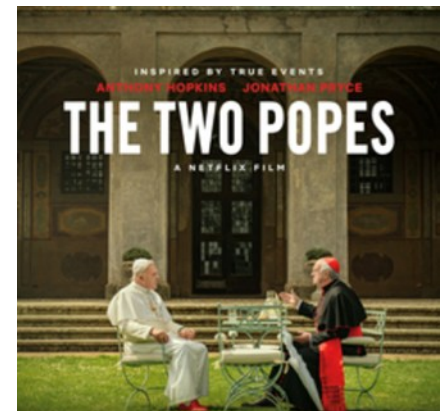
We will carpool from Zion meeting at 9:30 am, explore the museum.
Seniors (65+) \$15 Adults \$20. Lunch to be determined.
Sign up in the narthex!



Movie Night

The Two Popes
Saturday, January 17 @ 7:00 pm

Behind Vatican walls, the conservative Pope Benedict XVI and the liberal future Pope Francis must find common ground to forge a new path for the Catholic Church. At a key turning point for the Catholic Church, *Pope Benedict XVI forms a surprising friendship with the future Pope Francis*. Inspired by true events. Join us for fellowship, popcorn and film.



Board of Directors Notes

The Zion Lutheran Church Board of Directors' meeting November 23rd covered several organizational updates and governance decisions.

Church committee chairs summarized their goal and activities. The church music director, David Hunsberger, has planned a beautiful music program for the upcoming Christmas season including a string quartet for Christmas Eve. The Property Committee shared ongoing responsibilities and recent improvements, including security upgrades, wall repairs, and the electronic welcome sign and plans to repair of lighting of the exterior cross. Any expenditures beyond \$500 must be approved by the Board. Please see updates on the many on-going mission- and community-based activities in the monthly newsletter including this month's Christian Concerns Pillowcase project and LWML Holiday Boutique to support seminarians in training.

The Alpha School lease has been signed and facility upgrades are now underway - including exterior painting approved by the board. Alpha schools plans to add fencing, signage, and additional safety measures soon to enable the official school opening in January. We are thankful for this new tenant, as the 2-year commitment to lease the space represents a significant source of income and sustainability for the church.

Finally, the Board is planning to complete a financial review in first half of 2026. The review is overdue and must be completed to ensure financial health of the church. In order to ensure more timely communication and governance, the Board voted to begin monthly meetings on the second Sunday of each month. The December meeting was on the 14th. The next meeting in January 11th.

Super Bowl Party



Sunday, February 8 @ 3:00 pm

On the Big Screen in the Garden Room

Kickoff is at 3:30pm!

Free Will Offering to cover the cost of the Super Bowl snacks and drinks.

PARISH NURSING

Emotional Labor/Kindness Matters

Emotional labor refers to the work of managing your emotions and expressions. Sometimes we don't show our genuine emotions in our interactions with others. It can be difficult for us when we cannot express our true feelings or when it may not be appropriate to do so. There is a great deal of emotional labor for people in the helping and service professions especially when they are expected to always smile or seem cheerful.

There are two ways that we handle emotional labor:

Surface acting- We change our outward expression but our feelings stay the same. This happens when we smile on the outside but still feel angry or hurt on the inside.

Deep acting- We making a deliberate effort to change our real feelings and try to understand what the other person is feeling. This happens often in nursing and helping professions. When someone is grumpy or unkind you may understand that they are coping with illness or pain.

There are consistent findings that while surface acting contributes to emotional exhaustion, this is not the case for deep acting. Deep acting has positively affected workers by increasing their sense of personal accomplishment. Trying to understand how the other person feels seems to be good for us.

Even in churches, there are people who have different views or opinions and there may be emotional labor involved with getting along well with others.



Martin Luther's explanation of the 8th Commandment gives us Christian guidance. **The Eighth Commandment: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.** *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

I learned the last part as "put the best construction on everything." It is not enough simply not to lie to our neighbors. We must also defend them and speak well of them. Christians are encouraged to view everything in the kindest possible way. One thing I have found in my career as a nurse is that we often don't know everyone's story or everyone's struggles. To look at things in the kindest possible way or "put the best construction on everything" may have benefits for ourselves as well as others. It may increase our sense of personal accomplishment and decrease emotional exhaustion. Perhaps a good New Year's resolution for us is to view our interactions with others in the kindest way possible.

Be well, take care and God bless,
Stephanie

Game Night!

Tuesday, January 20 @ 6:30 pm
Join Us for Game Night!



Get ready for some fun! Come out on **Tuesday, January 20 at 6:30pm** for an evening of games, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game or try something new—there will be **plenty of laughs, and friendly competition!** Roll the dice, play a hand, or just enjoy cheering others on. Everyone's welcome—**don't miss the fun!**

SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS

Communion Assistant Schedule

January 2026

Sunday, January 4 th	9:00 am	Paul Grunow
Sunday, January 11 th	9:00 am	Dave Nemy
Sunday, January 18 th	9:00 am	Jonathan Schaff
Sunday, January 28 th	9:00 am	Frank Cham

Lay Reader Schedule

January 2026

Sunday, January 4 th	9:00 am	Hugh Bartlett
Sunday, January 11 th	9:00 am	Andrea Uhle
Sunday, January 18 th	9:00 am	Shannon Shockley
Sunday, January 28 th	9:00 am	Paul Grunow

Altar Flowers

January 2026

Sunday, January 4 th	9:00 am	Open
Sunday, January 11 th	9:00 am	Open
Sunday, January 18 th	9:00 am	Open
Sunday, January 28 th	9:00 am	Open

Usher Schedule

January 2026

Sunday, January 4 th	9:00 am	Oscar Castillo Michael Grunow
Sunday, January 11 th	9:00 am	Peter Grunow LlelaWalsh
Sunday, January 18 th	9:00 am	Oscar Castillo Michael Grunow
Sunday, January 28 th	9:00 am	Peter Grunow LlelaWalsh

Coffee Hour Hosts

January 2026

Sunday, January 4 th	9:00 am	Open
Sunday, January 11 th	9:00 am	Open
Sunday, January 18 th	9:00 am	LWML
Sunday, January 28 th	9:00 am	Open

Object Lesson

January 2026

Sunday, January 4 th	9:00 am	Steve Harger
Sunday, January 11 th	9:00 am	Pastor Dorn
Sunday, January 18 th	9:00 am	Rachel Harger
Sunday, January 28 th	9:00 am	Brian Walsh



CHRISTIAN CONCERNS

JANUARY FOOD OF THE MONTH

HAPPY 2026!!! May it be filled with happiness and good health. As you organize yourself for this new year, please prayerfully consider the routine of adding extra non-perishable groceries for our neighbors in need. Hunger has no season and we still have an inflated economy. Many folks are having to decide whether to pay rent, power or buy groceries. All groceries are donated to City Team Ministries, Oakland for their daily meal programs and the mobile pantries. Please look for the brightly colored barrels in the Narthex for your donations. God Bless you for your support!!!! Happy New Year!!!

Items needed---

Cereal (sugar free please)
Complete pancake mix
Soup and crackers
Coffee and Tea
Macaroni and Cheese

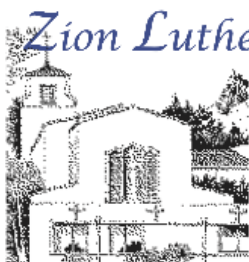
Shelf stable milk
Syrup
100% Juice
Flour and Sugar
Salt and Pepper

Peanut Butter and Jelly
Beans and Rice (dry or canned)
Pasta and Pasta sauce



JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Bible Class I & II 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30PM AA - GR 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:45PM Revelli Violin 	31 New Year's Eve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM New Year's Eve Worship ~ GR 7:00PM Romanian Church ~ GR 	1 New Year's Day	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Revelli Violin 	3
4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Bible Class I & II 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Transition Team ~ CR 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 7:30PM AA - GR 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:45PM Revelli Violin 4:00PM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 6:30PM Iron Men 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class 3:45PM Revelli Violin 5:00PM Confirmation Class ~ Zoom 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 4:00PM Revelli Violin 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 4:00PM Revelli Violin 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall
11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Bible Class I & II 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Board of Directors Meeting 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 7:30PM AA - GR 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:45PM Revelli Violin 4:00PM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class 3:45PM Revelli Violin 5:00PM Confirmation Class ~ Zoom 	15 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 4:00PM Revelli Violin 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Day Adventurers ~ Blackhawk Museum 4:00PM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 4:00PM Revelli Violin 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 7:00PM Movie Night ~ The Two Popes
18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Bible Class I & II 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Revelation Bible Class 	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 7:30PM AA - GR 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:45PM Revelli Violin 4:00PM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 6:30PM Game Night - CR 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class 3:45PM Revelli Violin 5:00PM Confirmation Class ~ Zoom 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 4:00PM Revelli Violin 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 4:00PM Revelli Violin 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 2:00PM Revelli Violin in Sanctuary
25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Bible Class I & II 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Revelation Bible Class 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 7:30PM AA - GR 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Trust Committee ~ CR 3:45PM Revelli Violin 4:00PM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class 3:45PM Revelli Violin 5:00PM Confirmation Class ~ Zoom 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 4:00PM Revelli Violin 4:30PM Board of Directors 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 4:00PM Revelli Violin 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall



Zion Lutheran Church

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If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter in the mail, please contact the church office.

This newsletter is also available on-line..