



Zion noiz

The Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church
Piedmont, California

September 2025



Beginning Ministry Together at Zion Lutheran Church

As I begin ministry at Zion Lutheran Church, I want to first express my heartfelt gratitude for the warm welcome you have extended to me and my family. Your openness and hospitality have already shown me the spirit of this congregation.

Clarifying Our Shared Purpose

I believe it's important to set clear expectations from the start. My role here is not to single-handedly carry out all the ministry at Zion. Rather, I am here to help our community discern and embrace the ministry to which God has called Zion Lutheran Church as a whole.

Jesus himself began his public ministry by clearly articulating his purpose. In

Luke 4:16-19, he stood in the synagogue and read from the prophet Isaiah:

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, **17** and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, **19** to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

As followers of Jesus, our ministry should reflect these same priorities. While we face many distractions from daily events and challenges, staying focused on Christ's mission remains essential for our congregation's unity and effectiveness.

Getting to Know You and Zion's Ministry

My initial focus will be building relationships and understanding the current ministries already flourishing at Zion. I extend an invitation to everyone—whether you're a member or simply part of our community—to schedule time to visit with me. These conversations will help me better understand both you as individuals and our church as a whole.

To make our time together most productive, I'll be providing a questionnaire for you to complete beforehand. This will give you an opportunity to reflect on what you'd like to share and help guide our conversation.

Discovering Our Gifts and Calling

Together, we will examine the gifts and opportunities God has placed before us. I firmly believe that God has equipped this congregation with all the necessary gifts to fulfill the ministry we're called to do. This requires each person to contribute their unique part, as Saint Paul describes in his teaching about "the body of Christ":⁷

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:7)
(Cont.. Page 2)

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 GOD'S WORD

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS I

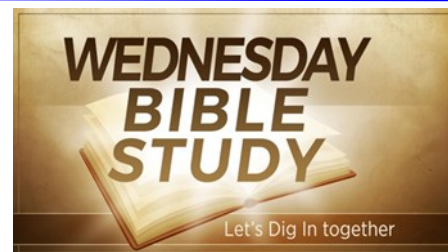
Bible Study I

Bible Class I continues meeting in the Pastor's office and everyone is invited to join us in searching the Scriptures for guidance and hope and peace and strength. Each Sunday will be an informal discussion on a chapter-by-chapter study of a book of John. The group may cover one or more chapters during a class or as few as only one verse, depending on how the discussion goes. Join us for solid study of God's Word and spirited discussion at 8:00 am on Sundays in Pastor's office.



WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

After taking the summer off, **Wednesday Bible Study will resume on September 3rd**! Bible study starts at 10:00 am in the Garden Room and via Zoom. Pastor Dorn will lead the Bible Class in discussing themes that run through the Bible from the Old Testament through the New Testament. These metaphors reflect important themes for our understanding of the overall message of God's Word.



SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS II

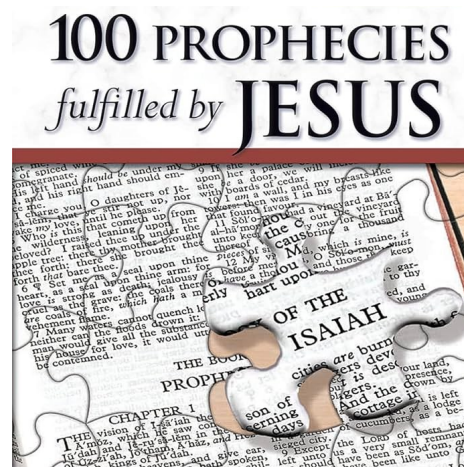
On Sunday, May 25th Bible Class II will be started a new study on "The Hundred Prophecies Fulfilled By Jesus" These Sessions are on,

1. Jesus Birth
2. Jesus' Life and Ministry
3. Jesus' Death and Resurrection
4. Jesus' Titles and Attributes

We will focus on the Old Testament references and the New Testament Fulfillment.

These Prophecies were from 1200 BC, 800 BC, and 500 BC.

Come join us for the start of these fascinating studies on these Messianic Prophecies and how they were fulfilled by Jesus..



(Cont. Page 1)

Looking Toward the Future

At the appropriate time, we will present our findings about Zion's purpose and ministries to the CNH District as we seek a permanent pastor to lead us. This process of self-examination will prove invaluable in identifying a pastor whose gifts and leadership style align well with our congregation's calling and vision.

The Foundation of Prayer

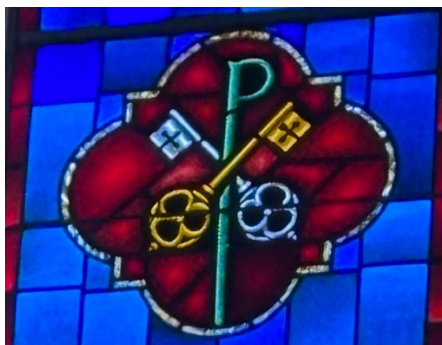
All of this work is undergirded and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Throughout this year, I ask you to join me in prayer—for me as I serve in this interim role, for our congregation as we grow together, and for God's guidance in leading the right pastor to Zion who will help us flourish in ministry. Together, we will discover how God is calling us to serve our community and world in Jesus' name.



Catechism Corner

Zion's Stained Glass Windows

Continuing along the top row of windows on the lectern side beginning at the front.



The Ship. The ship represents The Church. Just as God saved Noah and his family in the ark, God saves His people through the faith He imparts through the means of grace, His gifts to the Church. (1 Peter 3:18-21)

The Office of the Keys. Our Lord's gift of the keys of the kingdom, the power of the Church to forgive and retain sins. (Matthew 16:18-19)

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 28

Following worship and Fellowship time.



Church Humor

It's the day of judgement and all the true believers are waiting in line to get into heaven. The Angel Gabriel appears and says to them, "I want all the men to separate into two lines – the first line is for men who were the true heads of their household. All those men who shared decisions with their wives should form the second line." He continued, "And now all the women should go through the gates and report to Mary." (notice that all the women get into heaven immediately!). After all the women had left, the men quickly sorted themselves into two lines; I say lines but the line with the true heads of the household only had one man in it. The other line of those men who shared decisions with their wives stretched on for what seemed like eternity.

Gabriel addressed this long line, saying "You should be ashamed of yourselves. God appointed you to be the heads of your households and you have not fulfilled your duties. Out of all you men, there is only one who has obeyed God's orders. He then turned to the man who stood all alone in the first line and asked him, "How did you come to be in this line?" The man replied, "My wife told me to stand here."

Welcome Pastor Dorn and Family

Get a family picture, and names. Make up a little welcome.

Day Adventurers

It is time to plan start heading out at the Day Adventures! **On Tuesday, September 23rd**, we will gather for a planning lunch at Harry's Hof Brau in San Leandro. This meet and eat is to have people bring ideas of places to visit and things to do. What day or days of the week are better for you to be able to join. Also, keep in mind walking abilities and distances when thinking about possible places to go. These can be new places or old favorites. Let's get together, enjoy some fellowship, and plan for places to go.



IRON MAN

Join us on **Tuesday, September 9 at 6:30 pm**, as we watch Season 4 of The Chosen. The episode four entitled "Sitting, Serving, Scheming"; Roman soldiers demand the disciples carry their armor, but Jesus goes one step farther. Frustrated by the direction of Jesus' ministry, Judas visits an old friend for advice

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!



Game Night

Tuesday, September 16 @ 6:30 pm.

Join Us for Game Night!

Join us for a fun-filled evening of board games, snacks, and great company! Whether you're a serious strategist or just in it for the laughs, there's something for everyone. Bring a friend and your favorite game, or just show up ready to play. See you there!



Movie Night

Faith Like Potatoes

Saturday, September 27 @ 7:00pm

Angus Buchan, a rugged African farmer of Scottish heritage, who leaves his farm to his loyal subjects in the midst of political unrest and racist africans and charged land reclaims and travels north with his family to start a another farming life in Central Africa. With nothing more than a mudhouse on a patch of mud, and help from his foreman, Simeon Bhengu, the Buchan family struggle to settle in a new country. Faced with ever mounting challenges, hardships and personal turmoil, Angus quickly spirals down into a life consumed by anger, fear and destruction. Based on the inspiring true story by Aangus Buchan the book weaves together the moving life journey of a man who, like his potatoes, grows his faith, unseen until the harvest. **Join us for fellowship and film.**



CHRISTIAN CONCERNS



September Food of the Month

Backpacks have been filled, the bell has rung and the children are back in class!!! A good breakfast and lunch are key to a successful day. However, some of our Oakland neighbors are still struggling with food insecurities. The Christian Concerns Committee continues to collect non-perishable food items for our neighbors in need. All groceries are donated to City Team for their daily meal program and the many mobile pantries, that reach those outside the inner city. Please prayerfully consider adding extra groceries to your cart for our neighbors in need. Look for the brightly colored food barrels in the Narthex for your donations.

God Bless your contributions and God Bless all students and their teachers!!!!

Items needed---

Cereal (sugar free please)

Complete pancake mix

Soup and crackers

Coffee and Tea

Shelf stable milk

Syrup

100% Juice

Flour and Sugar

Peanut Butter and Jelly

Beans and Rice (dry or canned)

Pasta and Pasta sauce



Remember Your Heavenly Hope

““Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father’s house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.” (John 14:1-4 NKJV)

Back in the beginning in Genesis, God created the heavens and the earth. All was perfect. “And God saw that it was very good” (Genesis 1:10). Over and over again all of creation was declared “good.” Adam and Eve walked with God in the garden. They had a perfect relationship of understanding and trust. All was at peace.

And then Satan entered the garden and tempted Adam and Eve. “Did God really mean that?” Sin entered the garden. Suddenly Adam and Eve were afraid. Distrustful. God removed the Tree of Everlasting Life. God had a plan – a perfect and righteous plan to send His only Son, Jesus, to become our Savior, our substitute on the cross to pay the price for our sin. The Second Adam. Because this “Adam” is the perfect substitute sacrifice, we are able to live with Him in heaven. It will be a new heaven – a perfect heaven, where fear won’t exist and we will live with God and each other in perfect unity. Our relationships will be restored because of Jesus. All our doubts, concerns, cares and stress will fall away. Fatigue will vanish.

We will see and know our loved ones. Those mothers holding little children taken too soon – able to hug them. Our parents, spouses – all who we have loved and lost – those we hold dear in our hearts – we will hold in our arms. Can you just imagine that reunion?

We will all live in harmony with each other and all of God’s creation. Isaiah 11:6 says the lion will lay down with the lamb. We will walk with all of God’s animals without fear – only peace. Isaiah 65:25 speaks of peace throughout creation. All the heavens will be revealed to us (Psalm 19:1). We will behold this beauty. Our joy will be complete.

In Hebrews 11 we are told of a great assembly of all believers. All will come from the east and the west (Matthew 8:1). We will meet the great heroes of the Bible: Abraham, Moses, Joseph, Esther, Paul, Peter and John. Can you imagine? We will be united in peace and understanding. No more unkind words. Perfect union.

In Revelation 7:9, John had a vision of heaven. He saw a great multitude of believers: united in peace and love. So many they could not be counted. United in peace and purpose.

We learn in John 14, Jesus is preparing homes for us in heaven (John 14:2). Personal mansions made just

for you, with all you need to fulfill all your needs. (Isaiah 65:21) “They will build houses” and you will enjoy creating, gardening, building – all will reflect God’s goodness and glory and light.

Isaiah 35:5,6 – all will be restored and in perfect health. All pain will be gone – the blind will see – the lame will walk. Those born without limbs will be whole. Isaiah 40:31 – our strength will be restored – we won’t grow tired. The tree of life, mentioned in Genesis, will be in heaven, offering fruits of eternal life. The apostle John wrote of a vision of heaven in the Book of Revelation (Revelation 21:1-5). “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.... And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (verse 4).

That is the most (in my opinion) amazing part of heaven. God will be with us. We will know Him. We will worship in spirit and in truth. It will be a perfect home. God will never be far. Our loved ones will be with us. We will live without sorrow or strife. A home in which we would all want to be.



“I’m but a stranger here,
Heaven is my home.
Earth is a desert drear
Heaven is my home.
Danger around me stands
‘round me on every hand
Heaven is my Fatherland
Heaven is my home.

Therefore I murmur not
Heaven is my home.
Whate’er my earthly lot
Heaven is my home.
And I shall surely stand
There at my Lord’s right hand.
Heaven is my Fatherland
Heaven is my home.”
 (“Heaven is my home”, LSB #748)

Jesus knows exactly what each of us needs to be whole. As He prepares our “mansions” He knows all the special touches that will make it uniquely yours. And Jesus prepares every believer’s home. He puts in the love that only He can provide. Jesus loves us more than anyone ever could (John 2:23). God loves us because of His Son, Jesus. We will spend eternity in heaven with Jesus because of what He has done for us.

As we get older, more discouraged, slower, weaker and in pain, St. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians: Take heart, because our inner person is being renewed daily. He is looking at something we cannot see: eternity (2 Corinthians 5:7).

(Prayer article con’t to page 6)

PARISH NURSING

September 2025

Forgiveness

I recently read an interesting article on the role of forgiveness in physical and mental health. This was a review of 47 studies on forgiveness.

Three types of forgiveness were described:

- Forgiveness of others
- Self-forgiveness
- Forgiveness by God

One of the most stressful states comes from being unable to forgive or failure to cope with being wronged. This makes depression and self-blame worse. There is also *conditional* forgiveness which is requiring contrition from offenders. “I will forgive them if....” This is also called pseudo-forgiveness. While *unconditional* forgiveness may support physical well-being, *conditional* forgiveness led to increased mortality.

Forgiveness offers significant physical and psychological benefits, particularly in advanced illness and in later life.

Some benefits of forgiveness:

- Improved physical health, vitality and longevity
- Less infections
- Better psychological well-being
- Less depression
- Healthier management of anger and rumination (dwelling on negative feelings)

Recent findings suggest that forgiveness by God has the most impact on health. A close relationship with God was found to amplify the benefits of forgiveness. Feeling forgiven by God and having a secure attachment to God was associated with enhanced well-being, reduced death anxiety and higher self-worth.

Some variables that were found to be associated with forgiveness:

- Attachment to God
- High beliefs in God-mediated control
- Emotional support from members of the church
- Parents that encouraged their children to attend church and become involved with religion
- Humility
- Church attendance
- Compassionate love
- Old age

This is such important information for us. Those things that help us forgive are benefits that we have as members of a church and religious community. I am pleased to see that the benefits of church and relationship with God are being formally studied and the impact is being recognized. So take comfort in God’s forgiveness, forgive others and forgive yourselves.

Take care, be well and God bless,

Stephanie



Rossy, C., Pergolizzi, D., Fernández-Capo, M., Martos, C., Gámiz, M., & Crespo, I. (2025). The Role of Forgiveness for Aging and Advanced Illness: An Integrative Systematic Review. *Journal of Holistic Nursing*, 8980101251346072. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08980101251346072>

Prayer article con't from page 5

Jesus takes our hand and leads us. We walk by faith.

“One day You’ll make everything new, Jesus.
One day you’ll bind every wound.
The former things shall pass away
No more tears.
One day You’ll make sense of it all, Jesus
One day every question resolved
Every anxious thought left behind
No more fear.”
(One Day – Matt Redman 2017)

One day we will all see and feel His hand as Jesus stretches out to each of us. We will know the incredible joy, peace, and hope by taking His hand as we enter our eternal home.

“Welcome home, welcome home.
Arms are open wide.
Welcome home, welcome home.
Rest at Jesus’ side.
In this place there is grace,
perfect peace and rest.
Bread and wine, love divine,
be forever blessed.
Welcome home, welcome home,
nevermore to roam.
Welcome home, welcome home.
Seeker, welcome home.”
 (“Welcome Home”, Joseph Martin. Hal Leonard Milwin Music Corp. 2024)

– Marlene S. Grunow
prayer ministry

SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS

Communion Assistant Schedule

September 2025

Sunday, September 7 th	9:00 am	Jonathan Schaff
Sunday, September 14 th	9:00 am	Dave Nemy
Sunday, September 21 st	9:00 am	Paul Grunow
Sunday, September 28 th	9:00 am	Brian Walsh

Lay Reader Schedule

September 2025

Sunday, September 7 th	9:00 am	Hugh Bartlett
Sunday, September 14 th	9:00 am	Derek Koch
Sunday, September 21 st	9:00 am	Maret Bartlett
Sunday, September 28 th	9:00 am	Markus Niebanck

Altar Flowers

September 2025

Sunday, September 7 th	9:00 am	Walsh Family
Sunday, September 14 th	9:00 am	Open
Sunday, September 21 st	9:00 am	Andrea Uhle
Sunday, September 28 th	9:00 am	Open

Congratulations Lexi!

Usher Schedule

September 2025

Sunday, September 7 th	9:00 am	Oscar Castillo Michael Grunow
Sunday, September 14 th	9:00 am	Peter Grunow Llela Walsh
Sunday, September 21 st	9:00 am	Oscar Castillo Michael Grunow
Sunday, September 28 th	9:00 am	Peter Grunow Brendan O'Brien

Coffee Hour Hosts

September 2025

Sunday, September 7 th	9:00 am	Open
Sunday, September 14 th	9:00 am	Open
Sunday, September 21 st	9:00 am	LWML
Sunday, September 28 th	9:00 am	Open



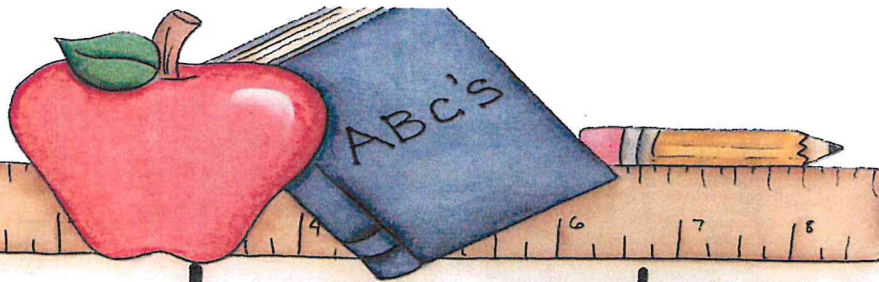
SCHOOL SUPPLIES UPDATE

The children are back in school and our school supplies project is complete. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation we were able to provide back packs for 100 students.

Purchased from City Team's Amazon wish list, the back packs were delivered and being distributed in less than two days. Isn't technology amazing!! Our total of funds was over \$2200. We did the purchasing and City Team is doing the distributing to students in the shelters and low income schools with which they regularly work.

This project is always a special one, and your community outreach sent students to class ready and equipped to start the new school year. Thank you so much for helping out!





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 8:00AM Bible Class I & II 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream	1 Labor Day 7:30PM AA - GR	2	3 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class 4:30PM Piedmont Rec Dept VBall	4 7:00PM EBRS	5	6
7 8:00AM Bible Class I & II 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Board of Directors Meeting	8 7:30PM AA - GR	9 6:30PM Iron Men	10 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class 4:30PM Piedmont Rec Dept VBall	11	12	13
14 8:00AM Bible Class I & II 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream	15 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 7:30PM AA - GR	16 6:30PM Game Night - CR	17 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class 4:30PM Piedmont Rec Dept VBall	18	19	20 12:00PM City Team Gradu- ation
21 8:00AM Bible Class I & II 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream	22 7:30PM AA - GR	23 12:00PM Day Adventures Planning Lunch	24 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class 4:30PM Piedmont Rec Dept VBall	25	26	27 7:00PM Movie Night
28 8:00AM Bible Class I & II 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Congregational Meeting	29 7:30PM AA - GR	30	1 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class 4:30PM Piedmont Rec Dept VBall	2	3	



We are pleased to share that Rev. Peter Dorn has accepted the call to serve as Zion's Transitional Interim Minister.

This important moment in the life of our church as we ask for God's blessing on Rev. Dorn's service among us and look ahead to this new season of ministry at Zion.

