



# Zion noiz

The Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church  
Piedmont, California

April 2025



Pastor Paul writes...

Here's a blast from the distant past: "The story you are about to hear is true. Only the names have been changed to protect the innocent." Do you remember those opening words to Dragnet? The show called Dragnet began as a radio drama in 1949 and was later adapted to a very successful TV series that ran for many years. The show starred a character named Joe Friday, who was a detective with the LAPD. The phrase most associated with Joe Friday was: "Just the facts." As a detective, he was only interested in the plain and simple facts, and not in any unnecessary embellishments.

St. Paul wrote in a style that Joe Friday would have appreciated. When Paul wrote about the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, he essentially declared: "The story you are about to hear is true." Not only that, but Paul stuck to "just the facts." In the great resurrection chapter of the New Testament, 1 Corinthians 15, Paul wrote in verses 19-20: "If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But **in fact** Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."

The literal, bodily, physical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is a true and reliable account of the facts. The written Scriptural record testifies to its veracity. The many eye-witnesses have confirmed the truth of the risen Christ. Paul declares the reality of the resurrection to be an undeniable fact upon which our eternal Christian hope rests. Christ was the firstfruit of the resurrection victory. Therefore all who fall asleep in Christ are raised from death to life to live with Christ in joy and peace forevermore.

Invite your family and friends to join us this year for the celebration of Easter:

## + Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> +

9:00 a.m. Easter Festival Service with Holy Communion  
Special Music by Zion Choir & Brass Ensemble  
Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt following the service

*"Christ the Lord is ris'n today!" Saints on earth and angels say;  
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Sing ye heav'ns, and earth, reply.  
LSB 469:1*

### Weekly Worship

**Sundays:** 9 am Traditional Worship In-person & On-line      11 am Contemporary Worship On-line  
*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**

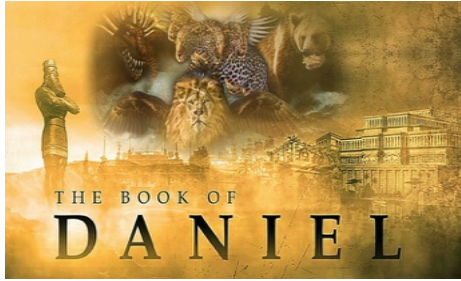
**MULTIPLY**

Inside this issue...

Studying in Gods Word  
Page 2

From the Parish Nurse  
Page 5

Serving the Lord with Gladness  
Page 4



## SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS I

Dr. Martin Luther wrote of Daniel: “From this book we see what a splendid, great man Daniel was in the sight of both God and the world. First in the sight of God, he above all other prophets had this special prophecy to give. That is, he not only prophesies of Christ, like the others, but also reckons, determines, and fixes with certainty the times and years. Moreover, he arranges the kingdoms with their doings so

precisely and well, in the right succession down to the fixed time of Christ, that one cannot miss the coming of Christ.... In the sight of the world, too, Daniel was a splendid and great man. For we see here that he rules the first two kingdoms as their chief prefect.... Though Daniel was never a king and never had great wealth or honor out of it, nevertheless, he did possess and perform the functions, duties, and offices of a king.”

We continue our study of the book of Daniel. He is one of the few well-known Biblical characters about whom nothing negative is written. His life was characterized by faith, prayer, courage, consistency, and lack of compromise. Three times in the book, Daniel is described as a “greatly loved” man. We have much to learn from our study of Daniel that applies today.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

Kudos to our faithful participants in Wednesday morning Bible Class! After successfully reading through the Pentateuch (the five books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy), our hard-working group continued through Joshua, Judges, and Ruth. Not content to stop there, we moved on through 1 and 2 Samuel and in March we finished 1 Kings. Now we are working our way through 2 Kings.



Who says that history isn't interesting? We have encountered and discussed some truly incredible events in Biblical history and through them we have seen the faithfulness of our gracious God in working out all things for our good and His glory. It's not too late to join us on this amazing adventure, so if you have ever struggled with reading Old Testament history, this is your opportunity to tackle it with the help of your family of faith at Zion.

## Bible Class II Sunday at 8:00 a.m.

Bible Class II will start a new six-session video study on (The Power of the Holy Spirit's Names) by Dr. Tony Evans. We will dig deep into the Bible's incredible revelations about the Holy Spirit's unique role.

- Goal 1. Identify, explain, and illustrate the Holy Spirit and his work through those descriptions and names.
- Goal 2. Show us how to relate to the person of the Holy Spirit in a more personal and intimate way.
- Goal 3. Help us learn how to take full advantage of all the Holy Spirit offers for our physical and most importantly our spiritual lives.

Please come join us on Sunday in the Conference Room for the start of this wonderful study that will benefit your life.



---

## Catechism Corner

### The Fourth Petition

#### Give us this day our daily bread.

*What does this mean?* God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

*What is meant by daily bread?* Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.



### The Fifth Petition

#### And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

*What does this mean?* We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

---

## Iron Men

Join us on **Tuesday, April 8 at 6:30 pm**, as we watch together The Chosen Episode from season 3 Episode 8 "Sustenance".

We had to reschedule from March so this is the same.

The Chosen is a groundbreaking historical drama based on the life of Jesus Christ, seen through the eyes of those who knew him. The Chosen depicts some of the life around the Biblical accounts. More happens in the daily life of the people in the Gospels and The Chosen is an attempt to share what it may have been like at the time for the disciples and others. Join us for our "manly" meal, fellowship and faith building!



---

## Church Humor

### Mother-In-Law Dies In The Holy Land

A man, his wife, and his cranky mother-in-law went on vacation to the Holy Land. While they were there, the mother-in-law passed away.

The undertaker told them, "You can have her shipped home for \$5,000, or you can bury her here in the Holy Land for \$150."

The man thought about it for a while and told the undertaker he would just have her shipped home. The undertaker asked, "Why.... why would you spend \$5,000 to ship your mother-in-law home when it would be wonderful to be buried here and spend only \$150?"

The man said, "A man died here about 2,000 years ago. He was buried here and three days later, he rose from the dead."

"I just can't take that chance."

### The Priest & The Taxi Driver

A priest and a taxi driver both died and went to heaven. St. Peter was at the Pearly gates waiting for them. 'Come with me,' said St. Peter to the taxi driver.

The taxi driver did as he was told and followed St Peter to a mansion. It had everything you could imagine from a bowling alley to an Olympic size pool.

'Oh my word, thank you,' said the taxi driver.

Next, St. Peter led the priest to a rough old shack with a bunk bed and a little old television set.

'Wait, I think you are a little mixed up,' said the priest. 'Shouldn't I be the one who gets the mansion? After all, I was a priest, went to church every day, and preached God's word.'

'Yes, that's true.' St Peter rejoined, 'But during your Easter sermons people slept. When the taxi driver drove, everyone prayed.'

# SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS

## Communion Assistant Schedule

April 2025

Sunday, April 6 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Frank Cham
Sunday, April 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Dave Nemy
Sunday, April 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Paul Grunow
Sunday, April 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Jonathan Schaff

## Usher Schedule

April 2025

Sunday, April 6 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Michael Grunow Llela Walsh
Sunday, April 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Peter Grunow George Berge
Sunday, April 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Michael Grunow Brendan O'Brien
Sunday, April 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Peter Grunow George Berge

## Lay Reader Schedule

April 2025

Sunday, April 6 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Oscar Castillo
Sunday, April 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Brian Walsh
Sunday, April 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Becky McFarland
Sunday, April 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Paul Grunow

## Coffee Hour Hosts

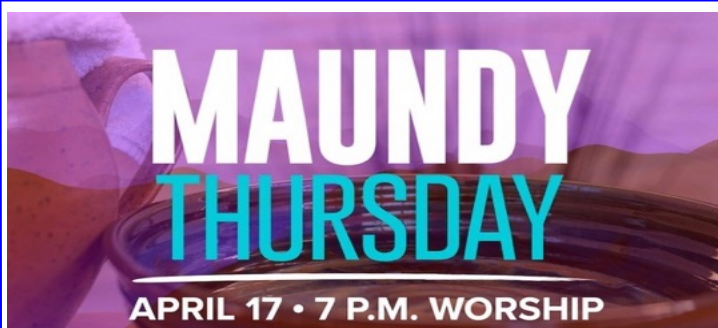
April 2025

Sunday, April 6 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	`Bartletts
Sunday, April 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Allens
Sunday, April 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	EASTER
Sunday, April 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Open

## Altar Flowers

April 2025

Sunday, April 6 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	LENT–No Flowers
Sunday, April 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Palm Sunday
Sunday, April 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	EASTER
Sunday, April 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Open



## DAY ADVENTURERS TO TOUR GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

Join us on **Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>** as we meet at Zion at **9:00 a.m.** and drive together to San Rafael to tour the Guide Dogs for the Blind campus. Included on the tour are stops in the residential courtyard, the training courtyard, and the Learning Lab of their Puppy Center. We will also have an opportunity to stop by their campus gift shop. Tours are walking tours that last approximately 1.25 hours and include both indoor and outdoor locations. Tours are free of charge; donations are always greatly appreciated. We will go out to lunch together after our tour. Please sign up at the Welcome Center at church.



---

## PARISH NURSE

### Surgeon General's Parting Prescription

United States Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy released his [\*Parting Prescription for America - PDF\*](#), weaving together reflections on his personal and professional experiences having spent six of the last ten years as our nation's Surgeon General.

Dr. Murthy makes the case that relationships, service and purpose create an ecosystem of meaning and belonging that are essential for fulfillment. These three elements form the triad of fulfillment. By contrast, modern culture has become increasingly centered on the triad of success defined by fame, money, power. We need a cultural shift that moves us toward the triad of fulfillment.



In his Prescription, the Surgeon General details each element and how they impact our health:

- **Relationships** are the connections we build with friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, and others we encounter. Healthy relationships where we feel seen and where we can be ourselves can be a powerful source of joy and support and can be buffers to stress.
- When we lack meaningful relationships, we can experience loneliness. Currently, a third of adults and around half of young people experience loneliness. Being socially disconnected increases our risk of heart disease, dementia, depression, anxiety, and premature death.
- **Service** comprises the actions we take that benefit others. Even though service is defined as benefiting others, filling one's life with service can have profound benefits to the person rendering the service.
- Studies show that sustained service efforts can reduce the risk of hypertension, stroke, early death, depression, cognitive decline, and can make us feel more connected to others.
- **Purpose** is the feeling of having an overarching life aim that guides and prioritizes our decisions and actions. It's not "what" we do. It's "why" we do it.

Purpose can be good for our physical and mental health. A high sense of individual purpose may reduce the risk of early death as well as stroke, lung disease, and dementia for some. Research also shows that people with a strong sense of purpose may experience lower levels of depression and anxiety and greater resilience in the face of stress.

"Today, we are faced with a profound choice: do we continue with the status quo, marked by pain, disconnection, and division? Or do we choose a different path—one of joy, health, and fulfillment, where we turn toward each other instead of away from each other; where we choose love over fear; where we recognize community as the irreplaceable foundation for our well-being?" **Dr. Murthy writes**, "As I finish my tenure as Surgeon General, this is my parting prescription, my final wish for all of us: choose community." "Never forget that good people with hearts full of love can change the world."

Dr. Murthy mentions declining participation in faith based organizations has exacerbated loneliness. Zion can be a place of healing for mind, body and soul. Let us be the people with hearts full of love that change the world.

Take care, be well and God bless,  
Stephanie

---

## Game Night

Get ready for an evening of fun and fellowship at **Game Night**, happening **Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM** in the conference room. Bring your favorite board games or card games, and don't forget to invite your friends and family!

Feel free to bring a treat to share. This event is open to all ages, so whether you're a seasoned gamer or just looking for a fun way to connect, there's something for everyone.

Mark your calendars and join us for a night of laughter, friendly competition, and great company!



## Remembering my Redeemer

For I know that my Redeemer lives; and He shall stand at last on the earth; After my skin is destroyed, this I know that in my flesh I shall see God whom I shall see for myself and my eyes shall behold, and not another.” (Job 19:25-27)

*“He left His Father’s throne above  
So free, so infinite His grace!  
Emptied Himself of all but love,  
And bled for Adam’s helpless race;  
‘Tis mercy all, immense and free;  
For O my God, it found out me!”*

(And Can It Be? Verse 2 Charles Wesley 1738)

Holy and Perfect God chose a separate people, for Himself, to worship and to love and obey Him. But after they sinned, Holy God could not walk with them in the garden (Genesis 3:22-24).

Throughout the times of God’s chosen people, they were to perform sacrifices to atone for their sins when they had forgotten to trust God or to follow His ways. There were various punishments and sacrifices they would make. The book of Leviticus (the book after Exodus) lists many of the

ways the people needed to atone for their errors. The book of Leviticus “is like the deed to a farm with rocky fields. Each rock is like a law. The scenes are tasks which must be done” (Encouraging Word Bible, page 140). These guidelines were a burden at times to follow – but they were necessary for forgiveness and blessings. There were burnt offerings, a grain offering, and a peace offering. And for sin, the sacrifice of a perfect lamb, a female without blemish (Leviticus 4:27-32). God’s own Son, Jesus, became a perfect lamb for sacrifice for our sins – everything He did, from His virgin birth in a stable to His crucifixion on a cross, fulfilled all the laws and prophecies. Only Jesus could be the perfect lamb.

*“When You prayed beneath the trees,  
it was for me, O Lord;  
when You cried upon Your knees,  
how could it be, O Lord?  
When in blood and sweat and tears,*

*You dismissed Your final fears,  
when You faced the soldier’s spears  
You stood for me, O Lord.  
When You stumbled up the road,  
You walked for me, O Lord.;  
when You took Your deadly load,  
that heavy tree, O Lord;  
when they lifted You on high,  
and they nailed You up to die,  
and when darkness filled the sky,  
it was for me, O Lord.”*

(When You Prayed, Christopher Idle, Hope Pub. 1992)



Everything Jesus did was for us. He had no sin to atone for, no blemish. He became the perfect sacrifice to atone for our sins, once and for all (Leviticus 16:36 and Hebrews 9:12). His blood was shed for all our sins and obtaining an eternal redemption for us. We are redeemed by His payment-sacrifice.

To purchase something – to pay in full is to “redeem”. You can use a bank note to go into a bank and cash it. You can complete a large purchase by redeeming several certificates of payment. Jesus’ sacrifice pays our eternal debt and saves us from an eternity of hell.

Because of His perfect sacrifice, we can wear His robes of righteousness and come before the throne of God in prayer and worship. Our sin debt is paid in full. A banking term: Tetelestai, “It is finished,” was spoken from the cross. The debt is paid in full. The debt caused by our sin – paid in full in the red ink of Jesus’ blood. A big stamp PAID IN FULL is across our lives (John 19:30).

When we remember Jesus, we think of His immaculate conception, His birth in a stable, His miracles of healing and bringing the dead back to life. But it is more difficult to think of Jesus as a lamb. A sacrifice that completed every law, every duty – everything we needed to have eternal life. And now that Lamb reigns on high in heaven and He will come back again one day to gather His redeemed in His arms – and take us home to heaven to live with Him for eternity. (continued on next page)

## Christian Concerns Lenten Project

The Christian Concerns Committee is pleased to announce, Christ's Care for Children has been chosen as the 2025 Lenten project. This LCMS Mission project is the sponsorship of Children in LCMS Lutheran Church in Kenya. We will sponsor Damaris Kerubo who is in her 2nd year of secondary school.



### DAMARIS KERUBO

**PLACE OF ORIGIN:** Nyamira County, Magwagwa

**BIRTHDAY:** August 8

**SITE:** Nyambiri

**SCHOOL:** Mangongo Primary School

**HOBBIES:** Cleaning the site

**FAVORITE SUBJECTS:** English

Sponsorship includes: school fees, uniforms, medications, catechism supplies, and daily living needs. Sponsorship for a student for 1 year is \$1080, and the goal of the committee is \$3500 which will enable us to sponsor her until her graduation in 3 years. Please prayerfully consider helping this young lady realize her dream of becoming an engineer. Donations can be made by placing a check in the offering plate, Subsplash, or you can use the QR code.



GIVE

Please keep Damaris in your prayers as a new member of our Zion family. God Bless Zion and her loving and generous members!!!

Christ's Care  
FOR CHILDREN:  
KENYA



More info

No more pain – no more fears – no more misunderstandings – only forever love and trust with Jesus. Forever joy and worship.

*“Thank You for the cross, Lord.  
Thank You for the price You paid.  
Bearing all my sin and shame  
In love You came  
And gave amazing grace.  
Thank You for this love, Lord.  
Thank You for the nail-pierced hands.  
Washed me in Your cleansing flow*

*Now all I know  
Your forgiveness and embrace.  
Worthy is the Lamb  
Seated on the throne.  
Crown You now with many crowns  
You reign victorious.  
High and lifted up  
Jesus Son of God*

*The Darling of Heaven crucified  
Worthy is the Lamb  
Worthy is the Lamb”  
(Worthy is the Lamb, Hillsong Worship, Integrity Music)*

Jesus – Son of God – my Redeemer.

– Marlene S. Grunow  
prayer ministry

## CHRISTIAN CONCERNS



### APRIL FOOD OF THE MONTH

Spring is in the air, but the stress of worrying about the next meal is still part of many in our Oakland community. Juggling finances to pay for rent, heat and groceries, often means folks may miss meals. Zion has been very generous with food donations, and the CCC is very thankful for your generosity and support. The grocery collection is on going, so please continue to add a few non-perishable "extras" to your grocery cart. God Bless your love and concern for our neighbors in need!!!

Items needed---

Cereal (sugar free please)	Shelf stable milk
Complete pancake mix	Syrup
Soup and crackers	Pasta and Pasta sauce
Macaroni and Cheese	Beans and Rice (dry or canned)

# April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>8:00AM Bible Class I &amp; II</p> <p>9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship &amp; Live-stream</p> <p>11:00AM Live-stream Contemporary Worship</p> <p>5:00PM Alena Sports Club VB</p>	<p>7:30PM AA - GR</p>		<p>10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class</p> <p>4:30PM Piedmont Rec Dept VBall</p> <p>6:00PM Lenten Potluck</p> <p>6:45PM Alena Sports Club VB</p> <p>7:00PM Lenten Worship</p> <p>7:50PM Confirmation Class</p>			<p>10:00AM EBRS - GR</p>
<p>8:00AM Bible Class I &amp; II</p> <p>9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship &amp; Live-stream</p> <p>11:00AM Live-stream Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>7:30PM AA - GR</p>	<p>6:30PM Iron Men</p>	<p>10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class</p> <p>6:00PM Lenten Potluck</p> <p>7:00PM Lenten Worship</p> <p>7:50PM Confirmation Class</p>		<p>4:00PM Amanda Bible Volleyball Clinic</p>	<p>11:00AM Western Service Workers</p>
<p><b>PALM SUNDAY</b></p> <p>8:00AM Bible Class I &amp; II</p> <p>9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship &amp; Live-stream</p> <p>11:00AM Live-stream Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>7:30PM AA - GR</p>	<p><b>NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</b></p> <p>6:30PM Game Night - CR</p>	<p>10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class</p> <p>4:30PM Piedmont Rec Dept VBall</p>	<p>7:00PM Maunday Thursday Service</p>	<p>7:00PM Good Friday Service</p>	
<p><b>EASTER SUNDAY</b></p> <p>6:30AM Easter Sunrise Service with Communion</p> <p>9:00AM Easter Festival Service with Communion</p> <p>10:30AM Easter Breakfast</p> <p>10:30AM Easter Egg Hunt</p> <p>11:00AM Live-stream Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>7:30PM AA - GR</p>		<p>10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class</p> <p>4:30PM Piedmont Rec Dept VBall</p>			
<p>8:00AM Bible Class I &amp; II</p> <p>9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship &amp; Live-stream</p> <p>11:00AM Live-stream Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>7:30PM AA - GR</p>	<p>9:00AM Day Adventurers to Guide Dogs</p>	<p>4:30PM Piedmont Rec Dept VBall</p>		<p>9:00AM EBRS</p>	