



Zion noiz

The Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church
Piedmont, California

May 2026



Have I got Good News for you!

What is your reaction to a statement like that? Does it make you expectant and excited or worried and afraid? Good news is not always received as good because it can mean a tremendous disruption in our lives.

That first Easter, the women ran to tell the disciples the news: the tomb was empty, Mary talked with Jesus, go to Galilee where you will see Jesus. Imagine the tumble of emotions that brought them. No wonder they locked themselves in the upper room for a while. They had to process the “good news” and what it would mean going forward. If the message was true, then their entire lives would be changed.

Many of us have been Christian for a long time. Many since infancy. So we tend to forget how life-changing this Good News can be. One danger for many of us Christians is that this Good News no longer makes a difference in how we live, in the choices that we make, and in our value system. In some ways we have adopted the value system of the culture around us. The Easter message becomes a challenge for us as we hear again the Good News that Jesus the Christ rose from death and now calls us to follow in His footsteps.

Now think of those outside the faith, who have never received the Good News for themselves. For them to receive the Good News, it would mean a change to their entire lives. Their reaction could be very much like the reaction of those who first heard the news that the tomb was empty and Jesus was alive. Their reaction could very well be a mix of joy, fear, and trepidation. What comes next for them? The change is very much like when a person moves from one country to another. They are brought to a whole new culture. It is as if they were born all over again.

This may help us understand why many are hesitant to receive the Good News. On the one hand, they observe Christians not living as Jesus lived, and on the other hand, they understand that accepting the Good News would require a dramatic change in their lives. So we walk with people as they go through the process as the Holy Spirit moves them.

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

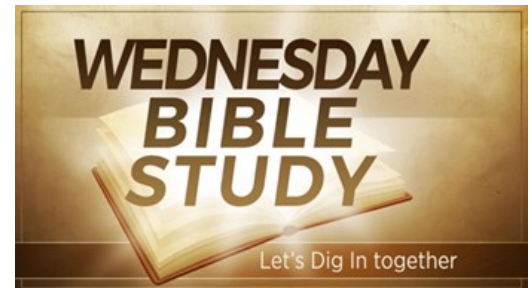
Sunday Bible Class I

All are invited to join our Sunday Morning Bible Class I at 8:00 AM in the Garden Room, as we study the Book of Acts together. This class provides an opportunity to grow in faith, deepen understanding of Scripture, and strengthen fellowship through thoughtful discussion and reflection. As we explore the early church, the work of the apostles, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, participants will gain insight into how God's Word continues to shape and encourage believers today. All are welcome to attend and be part of this meaningful time of learning and spiritual growth. We look forward to gathering each Sunday morning to learn, share, and grow 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.



May 6 Election/Predestination
May 13 Jerusalem, City of God
May 20 Symbolism of Clothing
May 27 Pentecost-Spirit/Breath

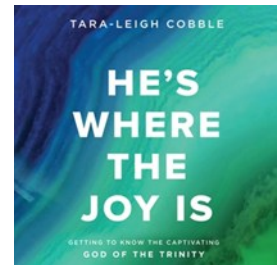
Zoom Link for Wednesday Morning Bible Study

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

Meeting ID: 851 7340 1109. Passcode: YeahZion

Sunday Bible Study II

The Doctrine of the Trinity sits at the heart Of Christian FAITH . It's the revelation that God is one essence and three in person – Father. Son, and Holy Spirit – eternally existing in a perfect unity of love, authority, and purpose. Though the term Trinity does not appear in Scripture, the reality it describes runs through the entire biblical story, from creation to redemption to the final restoration of all things.



The goal of this six-session study is to know the Father who loves, the Son who redeems, and the Spirit who transforms. Come join us for this fascinating study and one that we do not often study.

Bible Class: Leviticus for Christians

A Bible Class on the book of Leviticus will begin on Sunday, May 3, 17, 24 & 31 at 10:30 AM in the Conference Room. The first two topics will be "Holiness" and "Quarantine as an Act of Love."

Join Us for Game Night!

Tuesday, May 26 @ 6:30 pm

Join Us for Game Night!

Join us for an evening of fun, laughter, and connection at our Game Night! This is a wonderful opportunity for people of all ages to gather, enjoy friendly competition, and build community in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Whether you enjoy classic board games, card games, or group favorites, there will be something for everyone. Bring your favorite game to share or jump in and learn a new one. Light refreshments will be available, and friends and neighbors are always welcome. Come as you are and be part of a joyful night together!



Do Not Be Afraid! You Have a Holy Helper!

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him, but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” (John 14:16-18)

Who is our Holy Helper? The third person of the Holy Trinity:

“I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.” (The Apostle’s Creed, Third Article, Luther’s Small Catechism 1943, Concordia Publishing House)

The Holy Spirit brings us to and keeps us in the true faith. We do nothing to earn our salvation. It is a gift given to us.

So our Holy Helper is actually a part of the Holy Trinity (with the Father and the Son). We often focus our learning on the Father and on Jesus, the Son. But the Holy Spirit is the One who helps us to understand and to believe.

I remember when I was in the hospital undergoing tests – I would lie, immobilized, inside a huge machine. It would make loud clanging noises. I was then told to remain perfectly still. And, oh, RELAX! Right. I was not very relaxed. I tried to remember prayers or Bible verses. What came to my mind was the precious hymn: “Jesus Loves Me This I Know.” And I kept repeating those words. That was the Holy Spirit bringing me the comfort and remembrance of a longtime hymn.

The Holy Spirit helps us to remember and to understand God’s words. He will bring to mind a comforting Bible verse or hymn.

*“Holy Spirit, light divine,
Shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the gloom of night away,
Turn the darkness into day.
Holy Spirit, love divine,
Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;
In your mercy pity me,
From sin’s bondage set me free.
Holy Spirit, joy divine,
Cheer this saddened heart of mine;
Fill me with Your heavenly peace,*

Let it grow and still increase.”
(The Lutheran Hymnal: Arthur Reed, 1817)

Bringing word of comfort and songs to remembrance, and in addition helping us to pray, the Holy Spirit takes our words to the Heavenly Father: purifies our motives and guides our thoughts. I love to talk to my Heavenly Father in prayer and the Holy Spirit takes my words to my Lord. The Holy Spirit strengthens our faith, comforts us when we are sad and helps restore our faith.

The Holy Spirit works in our hearts to produce “fruits”. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23). When the Holy Spirit is within us, He helps to turn our faith (Ephesians 1:13-14) into qualities of joy and goodness. When we demonstrate charity, courage and faith, we are giving evidence of the Holy Spirit in us.

We can “call out” to God to send His Holy Spirit: our Holy Helper. At times we are fearful, full of doubts about the future or in despair. The Holy Helper will encourage and strengthen us.



*“Now let the Son of God enfold you
with His Spirit and His love,
Let Him fill your life and satisfy your
soul,
Let Him have the things that hold you,
And His Spirit, like a dove
will descend upon your life and make you whole.
O Jesus, O Jesus
Come and fill Your lambs.
O Jesus, O Jesus
Come and fill Your lambs.”*

(Spirit Song, John Wimber, Hope Publishing Co 1979)

We serve a God Who humbled Himself and left His Heavenly home to come to earth and be born a helpless baby. He became the propitiation, our substitute, for our place on the cross. And while we live on earth,

He sends us a Holy Helper, the Holy Spirit to guide us.

As things become more confusing and we feel like throwing our hands up in despair – we can throw our hands out to our Holy Helper.

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Catechism Corner

Zion's Stained Glass Windows

We continue with the lower windows on the lectern side from the front .



The first window is “Let the little children come to Me”.
Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16

The second window is the Wedding of Cana. John 2:1-11.

Church Humor

The Church Potluck Dinner

At a church potluck dinner, a man was overheard saying to his wife, “Honey, this food is so bad, I think it’s going to make me sick.” His wife replied, “Well, just be polite and eat it anyway.” The man responded, “But what if I die?” His wife replied, “Then we’ll know what killed you!”

The Exception

364 days of the year: Do NOT eat anything you find on the ground. Easter: Go and search in the dirt for candy a strange giant bunny left for you, kids.

The Little Things We Do...A new section from Betty Galambos.

We do not do things to try to please God. He has already given us His most precious Son and all He wants from us is to show His love to others and to spread the good news of His salvation. I am sharing a story each month of how ordinary people have done little things that have affected the lives of others. Go and do likewise.

Carolyn Dal Ferro was a teacher for many years at Zion school and one of her many assets was her innovative teaching methods (getting kids to learn in unorthodox ways). One day after one of these sessions, one of her Kindergarten students told her that she was going to be a teacher "just like you!" Many years later, Carolyn was visiting with Georgette Pratt when her daughter Heidi came in to see her Mom. As the three of them were remembering old times, that episode was remembered and relived, (Heidi was that student). Heidi Pratt Austin is now a well respected teacher in San Jose and influencing many lives just as Carolyn did and does. It is the little things you do.

Continued from page 3

He will “catch us” and hold us tight, no matter what we are going through.

*“Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up, Lord –
Come and quench this thirsting in my soul.
Bread of heaven, feed me until I want no more.
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.
Spirit come and make me whole.”*

(Fill My Cup Lord, Blanchard, Richard 1959)

– Marlene S. Grunow

Movie Night

Ruth and Boaz

Saturday, May 30
7:00 pm

It is a modern-day retelling of the Biblical [Book of Ruth](#), centered on Ruth Moably, a former Atlanta hip-hop artist who flees her troubled past to a small town in Tennessee.^[1] While caring for her late boyfriend's grieving mother, Miss Naomi, Ruth finds unexpected redemption and a new love with vineyard owner Boaz.



Dear Volunteers,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your participation in our Holy Week and Easter services. Your dedication of time and talent ensured a truly joyous celebration of this significant festival of the church year.

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

We would like to specifically recognize and thank the following individuals for their service:

Our Readers: Derek Koch, Andrea Uhle, Amy Easton, Stephen Hoverman, Carolyn Dal Ferro, Steve Oliver, Steve Harger, Paul Grunow, Nancy Hoverman, and Jonathan Schaff for leading our prayers.

Our Acolytes: Leni Mora, Alfred Mora, and Will Rauhen.

Our Ushers: Live Stream Team, and Monitors: Kelly Greenan, Peter Grunow, George Berge, Michael Grunow, Llela Walsh, Brian Walsh, Betty Galambos and Aaron Dorn.

Altar Preparations: Kathy Pomianek, Carolyn Dal Ferro, Leila Walsh, Vanna Pomianek, Andrea Uhle, (Sunday Sunrise Service); Dave Pratt, Kelly Greene, George Berge

Garden Room Décor: Carolyn Dal Ferro, Carol Neveau, Erin Dal Ferro, Dawn Allen

Sunday Breakfast: Suzanne Layden, Jenise Hamblin, Shannon Shockley, Carolyn & Mike Dal Ferro

Thank you once again for your unwavering support and for everything you do for Zion Church.

Best regards,

Andrea Uhle / Chairman Board of Directors

Executive Summary – Board Meeting 4/12/26

The Board recently met to review property needs, financial updates, and ministry priorities, with several important decisions made to support the church's mission and operations.

Significant improvements are underway in the church kitchen. The Board approved the purchase of two new freezer/refrigerators from Costco, generously funded by donations, as well as two replacement ovens from Home Depot to ensure safe and reliable food preparation. In addition, after careful review, the Board voted to transition to a new cleaning provider, TUClean, to improve the quality and consistency of facility care. Work is also progressing on the hillside remediation project. Initial planning has been approved, and the church will continue gathering bids while engaging with the neighboring property owner to determine the best path forward.

From a financial perspective, while the church reported a net loss over the past 9 months, it is largely attributed to planned capital improvements. The church remains on solid footing, with over \$3 million invested through 1919 Investment Counsel. The Board is taking steps to strengthen oversight and optimize returns through changes to the investment strategy and more regular reviews.

Ministry life remains active and forward-looking. Lent and Easter services were well attended, and there is a renewed focus on strengthening connections with the local community through outreach efforts. The pastoral transition process is continuing, with a congregation-wide gathering scheduled for May 24th following worship to share updates and invite input.

The Board also addressed several administrative matters, including resolving prior lease obligations with AMA school in a way that reflects both fairness and good stewardship, and establishing clearer processes for ongoing reimbursements with Alpha School.

Finally, the Board expressed deep appreciation for all who contributed their time and energy during the Lenten and Easter seasons.

Day Adventurers

Tuesday, May 19 @ 9:00 am

Sonoma Mission (San Francisco Solano)

Mission San Francisco de Solano marks the end of the mission trail. This twenty-first and last mission

was founded on July 4, 1823 in what is today the city of Sonoma. Mission San Francisco Solano was the only mission founded after Mexico's independence from Spain, and the only mission founded without prior approval of the church.

Cost is \$3 per person. Very affordable this month. We will get lunch at a nearby deli and eat in the park.

Sign up in the narthex! This is the last trip until the fall.



MISSION SAN FRANCISCO SOLANO

PARISH NURSING

Wound Care Kits Project



My San Francisco State University Nursing Students who were working with homeless adults in San Francisco at a wound care clinic realized that people living on the streets did not have access to basic wound care supplies. They came up with the idea of making wound care kits that could be given to unhoused persons and those living in shelters. A goal of the parish nursing program in cooperation with the Christian Concerns Committee is to develop and distribute wound care kits in the East Bay. This could eventually be developed into a larger community project.

A pilot of this project was undertaken in March. With the help of Teena Dorn, we received a \$250 grant from Thrivent to begin this project. A small group got together to assemble the kits. The wound care items were put in baggies and closed with a Zion sticker.

Contents of kits: “Band-Aid” type bandages in assorted sizes, a couple of larger non-occlusive bandages, skin cleanser, antibiotic cream and a small bottle of acetaminophen. Some of the kits also contained stockings.

Kits were distributed to Wisconsin Service Workers Association members who attended a “Pain Management” talk and to the Alameda Warming Shelter where we deliver breakfast bags. Remaining bags will be included in our Lenten Project at the Women’s Shelter that is run by City Team. I also gave a few out to people on the streets in San Francisco. Over 50 kits were distributed.

The kits were very well-received, and people were especially thankful for the inclusion of the acetaminophen. Medications for pain are difficult to access for people living on the streets and those who lack transportation. We plan to continue this project here at Zion.

How you can help:

If you would like to contribute to the contents of the kits, you can donate to Parish Nursing through a check donation to Zion with the memo Parish Nursing or SubSplash.

If you can identify places where these kits would be useful, please let me know.

We will be having a couple of events to fill bags.

If you would like to get a small group together to fill bags, please let me know.

Consider community organizations who would like to participate or raise funds for this. Take care, be well and God bless,

Stephanie



Iron Men

Join us on **Tuesday, May 12at 6:30 pm**, as we watch Season 5 Episode 2: House of Cards. Yes this is the same as we didn’t meet in April due to illness.

Why kill Jesus when Rome can do it for you? As the Jewish High Priest schemes to bring Him down, Jesus strikes first: turning the tables.

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!



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS

Lay Reader Schedule

Sunday, May 3 rd	Brian Walsh
Sunday, May 10 th	Bill Keep
Sunday, May 17 th	Maret Bartlett
Sunday, May 24 th	Steve Oliver
Sunday, May 31 st	Derek Koch

Usher Schedule

Sunday, May 3 rd	Michael Grunow Oscar Castillo
Sunday, May 10 th	Peter Grunow Llela Walsh
Sunday, May 17 th	Michael Grunow Oscar Castillo
Sunday, May 24 th	Peter Grunow Kelly Greenan
Sunday, May 31 st	George Berge Kelly Greenan

Communion Assistant Schedule

Sunday, May 3 rd	Steve Harger
Sunday, May 10 th	Brian Walsh
Sunday, May 17 th	Jonathan Schaff
Sunday, May 24 th	Dave Nemy
Sunday, May 31 st	Paul Grunow

Coffee Hour Hosts

Sunday, May 3 rd	Confirmation
Sunday, May 10 th	Andrea Uhle
Sunday, May 17 th	LWML
Sunday, May 24 th	Open
Sunday, May 31 st	Bartlett

Altar Flowers

Sunday, May 3 rd	Confirmation
Sunday, May 10 th	Andrea Uhle
Sunday, May 17 th	Jenise Hamblin
Sunday, May 24 th	Open
Sunday, May 31 st	Walsh

Object Lesson

Sunday, May 3 rd	Steve Harger
Sunday, May 10 th	Pastor Dorn
Sunday, May 17 th	Brian Walsh
Sunday, May 24 th	
Sunday, May 31 st	Rachel Harger



CHRISTIAN CONCERNS

APRIL FOOD OF THE MONTH

As we move into May, many in our Oakland community continue to face the daily stress of wondering where their next meal will come from. Balancing the costs of rent, utilities, and groceries often means difficult choices, and for some, missed meals. Zion has long been a generous source of support through food donations, and the CCC remains deeply grateful for your ongoing care and compassion. Our grocery collection continues, so please consider adding a few non-perishable “extras” to your cart each time you shop. God bless your continued love and concern for neighbors in need.

Items needed---

Cereal (sugar free please)	Shelf stable milk	Peanut Butter and Jelly
Complete pancake mix	Syrup	Beans and Rice (dry or canned)
Soup and crackers	100% Juice	Pasta and Pasta sauce
Coffee and Tea	Flour and Sugar	Macaroni and Cheese (no milk needed)
Salt and Pepper	Cooking Oil	



