



Zion noiz

The Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church
Piedmont, California

September 2026



Faith and Politics: How Do They Fit Together?

Faith and politics is a pretty hot topic right now. You've got some Christians who think the church should basically be running the government, and others who don't want a single word about politics spoken from the pulpit. So, where does that leave the rest of us?

The most famous Bible passage on this is in Matthew, where Jesus is asked if it's right to pay taxes to the Empire. His answer? "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." (Matthew 22:21)

At its core, the government's job is to keep order, maintain peace, and bring justice to society. The church's job is to share God's grace and love. Whenever the church tries to take over the government, things get ugly fast. And whenever the government tries to run the church, the actual message of Jesus gets lost. History is packed with bad examples of both.

That said, as Christians, we're still called to be good citizens. When Paul wrote to the Romans, he was talking to people living under a pretty corrupt, harsh dictatorship. Yet he told them: "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God." (Romans 13:1)

We're lucky to live in a democratic republic where we actually get a say in who represents us—and having experienced life under a dictatorship firsthand, trust me, democracy is way better. While the church as an institution shouldn't be running the country, individual Christians absolutely should get involved. We can run for office, and we should vote for leaders who reflect the values Jesus taught. We could definitely use more leaders who care less about grabbing power or wealth for themselves and more about actually serving the people.

Some additional Bible passages to consider: I Peter 2:13-21, John 18:33-37, Ezekiel 34:1-10, Mark 10:42-45

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

Bible Study I

Join Us for Sunday Morning Bible Class! Start your Sunday with God's Word and meaningful discussion as we study the Book of 1 Corinthians together each Sunday at 8:00 a.m. Together we'll explore Paul's practical guidance for Christian living, unity in the Church, spiritual gifts, worship, and the hope of the resurrection. Whether you're new to Bible study or have studied Scripture for years, everyone is welcome

Come with your questions, your Bible, and a desire to learn more about God's amazing grace. We look forward to growing in God's Word with you!



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Join us each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. as we study Isaiah. Discover God's messages of judgment, mercy, hope, and His promises of the coming Messiah through the book of Isaiah. Come deepen your understanding of God's faithfulness and see how these ancient words continue to speak to our lives today. Everyone is welcome!

Zoom Link for Wednesday Morning Bible Study

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

Meeting ID: 851 7340 1109. Passcode: YeahZion



Pastor's Bible Class

Pastor's Bible Class on occasional Sundays at 10:30 am is studying the **Minor Prophets**. Though their books are brief, their message is powerful. Discover how Hosea through Malachi proclaim God's call to repentance, His steadfast love, His justice, and His promises of restoration fulfilled in Christ. Come grow in your understanding of God's Word and see how these timeless messages continue to speak to our lives today.



Iron Men

Join us on **Tuesday, September 8 at 6:30 pm**, as we watch

Season 5 Episode 7 & 8: The Upper Room Part 1 & 2

Jesus arrives at the Last Supper. The disciples fear for their safety as Jesus' enemies close ranks around them.

Pilate summons Atticus to read him the riot act. The Sanhedrin boils over. The Last Supper ends..

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!



Movie Night

Saturday, September 19th 7:00 pm

The Sheep Detectives

When their beloved farmer is found dead under mysterious circumstances, a flock of the sheep conclude they will have to solve the murder themselves, even if it means leaving their meadow for the first time and facing the fact that the human world isn't as simple as it appears in books.

Join us in the Garden Room for fellowship and a fantastic film!



Game Night!

Tuesday, September 15 @ 6:30 pm

Join Us for Game Night!

Looking for an evening of fun, laughter, and fellowship? **Join us for Game Night on Tuesday, September 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the Garden Room!**

Whether you enjoy classic board games, card games, strategy games, or simply good conversation, there will be something for everyone. Bring your favorite game to share or enjoy one of the many games provided. No experience is necessary—just bring your enthusiasm and a willingness to have fun!

Game Night is a great opportunity to connect with the Zion family, meet new friends, and enjoy a relaxed evening of friendly competition and Christian fellowship. **Light refreshments will be provided, and all ages are welcome.**

Invite a friend, neighbor, or family member and join us for a fun-filled evening.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Church Humor

The Senior Memory Class

Two elderly couples were talking after the service. One man said, "We went to a brilliant memory seminar at the community center last week."

"That sounds great," the other man said. "What was the name of the teacher?"

The first man thought for a moment. "What's the name of that red flower with the thorns?"

"A rose?"

"That's it!" He turned to his wife. "Rose, what was the name of that teacher?"

The Secret to 60 Years

A couple was being honored for their 60th wedding anniversary at the church. The pastor asked the husband, "What is the secret to such a long, happy marriage?"

The husband said, "Well, we have a deal. I make all the big decisions, and she makes all the small ones."

"Give us an example," the pastor said.

"Well," the man replied, "she decides where we live, what car we drive, where we go on vacation, and how much money we give to the church. I decide what our foreign policy should be toward the moon."

The Little Things We Do...stories 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.

I few weeks ago, I was on my way home when I became part of a line of cars dutifully stopped at the crosswalk in front of the Dimond Post Office. They were waiting for an older woman to get across the street in her wheelchair.

She was not making much headway as there was a rise in the street and she was having trouble getting over it. After a few seconds (which seemed like minutes), the driver of the first car in line jumped out and pushed the lady across the street. On returning to the car, the driver was greeted with three vocal "thank you's, four horn honks and a wave. It is the little things you do.

Anyone who has a story to share can just talk to Betty after church sometime and will use your story as well.

Catechism Corner

Reviewing the Ten Commandments and their meanings.

The Seventh Commandment

You shall not steal.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

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.

The Ninth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.



Day Adventurers

Jelly Belly Factory

Tuesday, September 22nd @ 9:00 am

Gather at Zion for the Day Adventurers on **Tuesday, September 22, at 9:00 a.m.** for a fun and delicious trip to the **Jelly Belly Factory!** We will carpool together.

Once there we will enjoy a self-guided experience along the elevated, quarter-mile tour lane, where you'll get a bird's-eye view of the entire candy-making process in full operation. Along the way, explore interactive exhibits for all ages, watch HD/4K videos that provide an up-close look at how Jelly Belly candies are made, and maybe take a ride on the Jelly Belly Express.

After our tour and gift shop/candy stop, we will enjoy lunch at the Jelly Belly Café.

Tickets: Adults – \$8 | Children ages 3–17 – \$4 | Children under 2 – Free

Come along for a sweet day of fun, fellowship, and, of course, Jelly Belly treats! Bring your family and friends and join the Day Adventurers for this tasty adventure.

Watch for upcoming Day Adventurer trips scheduled on Saturdays when possible, to include more Zion members, friends, and family.



“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.” (Hebrews 6:19)

“For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, says the Lord – thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11”

We are in a bit of a stormy season right now at Zion Lutheran Church. We are without a full-time pastor. We are told it could be at least two years. Will we be able to still function? We do not want false hope. We also have many blessings. We have had a wonderful preacher and teacher as an interim pastor. We don't know what the future will hold. We do know Who holds it. We have a sure and steadfast hope in Jesus!

*“My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus Christ my righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' name
On Christ the Solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand”
(Hymnary.org 2003, TLH #575)*

In 1834, Edward Mote wrote these words after a spiritual awakening. He knew that his future was built on a solid anchor – the fact that Jesus had died to obtain the forgiveness of our sins – paying the ultimate payment and assuring us eternal life with Him. Edward went on to write over a hundred hymns.

The anchor is a symbol of the Christian faith. We hold fast to Jesus who has done for us what we would and could not do. Just as an anchor holds a ship firmly in place. We can hold tightly to the promises of Jesus – to be with us, to guide us and take us home one day. David wrote in Psalm 18: 1 and 2, “I love you Lord, my Strength. The Lord is my Rock in Whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation – my stronghold.” We trust in the sure and strong hope that is Jesus. The hope we have is like an anchor holding us fast to our Father as an anchor holds fast its ship (Leviticus 16: 2,15 and Hebrews 9: 3, 7). Even though an anchor is not a huge object, it can hold a huge ship firmly in place. Our faith in Jesus holds us in a secure grip to live our lives for Jesus. He promises to lead and to guide us.



The apostle Peter writes in his first letter (1 Peter 1:5) that God has given us abundant mercy – and “begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

Jesus offers us hope: a living hope of resurrection and an eternity with Him in heaven. Recently several members and friends in our church family changed their earthly addresses to heavenly ones. We know the hope that we share with them – the hope of an eternity with God in heaven. Jesus promised to guide them home and now gives them everlasting glory with Him.

*“Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand
I am tired. I am weak. I am worn.
Through the storm – through the night
Lead me on to the light –
Precious Lord – take my hand
Lead me home.”*

This gospel hymn was written in 1932 by Thomas A. Dorsey after he lost both his wife and newborn son in the delivery room. The image of Jesus holding His hand to touch His loved one to lead them home – is a comforting one. Jesus replaces death with the sure comfort and hope of eternal life.

We know we will see and be with our loved ones again in eternity. We know that because Jesus rose from the dead, we too will rise. We will live with Him forever. (Acts 24:25) “I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both the just and the unjust.”

We have no idea the glory that they are experiencing now. “No eye has seen, no ear has heard what God has prepared for those who love Him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9)

We know our hope in Jesus is a sure and true thing. Isaiah writes “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)

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Because we have a sure and steadfast hope in a Savior, Who is Sure and Steadfast, we know that He will always be with us, hears our cries, guides us and will take us home to heaven to be with Him in eternity one day.

That hope is anchored in eternity.

*“When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before His throne!
On Christ the Solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand.”*
(My Hope is Built, verse 4)

– Marlene S. Grunow
prayer ministry

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING ·

Property/Hillside Project: The Board reviewed the current status and estimated cost of the hillside remediation project. The engineered soil repair estimate is approximately **\$650,000**, with permits and related costs potentially bringing the total project cost to approximately **\$800,000**. The Board approved sending a letter to the neighboring property owner requesting a response and timeline for next steps. Temporary measures, including re-tarpping and adding K-rails, were also discussed. The project could take **one to two years** to complete, with the possibility of seeking an emergency permitting process because of school and safety concerns.

The Board also approved the Brase Memorial Bench which will be constructed in the Rose Garden in the coming weeks.

· **Financial Position and Budget:** Year-end financial statements have been prepared and distributed. The Board reviewed the current financial position, noting adequate cash reserves to meet immediate needs. The Board emphasized the importance of careful spending and long-term financial planning given the potential impact of current spending on Zion's future financial position.

2026–2027 Budget: The Financial Committee reported projected operating expenses of approximately **\$745,552** against projected income of approximately **\$674,210**, resulting in a projected **\$71,342 deficit**. The Board also discussed extraordinary expenses that are not currently included in the budget, including the hillside remediation project, estimated at **\$150,000–\$500,000**, and approximately **\$200,000 for housing associated with a new permanent pastor**. Salaries and employee benefits were also discussed as part of the overall budget review.

· **Governance and Financial Policies:** The Board approved the Financial Policies and Procedures previously presented, with the full policies included as an attachment to the minutes. A subcommittee was formed and they will review and make necessary corrections to the existing Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The Board also approved retaining a District recommended law firm to assist with the revisions and filing with the Secretary of State.

· **Call Committee:** The Call Committee reported that several pastoral candidates are currently being considered, with additional names recently received. The committee continues to communicate with the district, meet with potential candidates, and network with others as it prayerfully seeks a new permanent pastor. A church profile is also available to share with friends and family to assist in the search.

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 Teams Amazon wish list, the back packs were delivered to Zion this year. Our Out Reach Committee unpacked them, included a book mark blessing from Zion, and placed them by the altar. On Sunday, July 12, Pastor blessed the backpacks and the students who would be receiving them. Then they were taken to City Team to be filled. Our total funds was slightly over \$2000. We did the purchasing and but 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!

SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS

Lay Reader Schedule

Sunday, September 6 th	Bill Keep
Sunday, September 13 th	Emily O'Brien
Sunday, September 20 th	Hugh Bartlett
Sunday, September 27 th	Steve Oliver

Usher Schedule

Sunday, September 6 th	Michael Grunow Brendan O'Brien
Sunday, September 13 th	Peter Grunow Llela Walsh
Sunday, September 20 th	Michael Grunow George Berge
Sunday, September 27 th	Peter Grunow Llela Walsh

Communion Assistant Schedule

Sunday, September 6 th	Jonathan Schaff
Sunday, September 13 th	Paul Grunow
Sunday, September 20 th	Brian Walsh
Sunday, September 27 th	Dave Nemy

Coffee Hour Hosts

Sunday, September 6 th	Open
Sunday, September 13 th	Bartlett Family
Sunday, September 20 th	LWML
Sunday, September 27 th	Open

Altar Flowers

Sunday, September 6 th	
Sunday, September 13 th	Walsh Family
Sunday, September 20 th	Godkin Family
Sunday, September 27 th	Andrea Uhlee

Flower Costs are Now \$87 per Week

Object Lesson

Sunday, September 6 th	Brian Walsh
Sunday, September 13 th	
Sunday, September 20 th	Pastor Dorn
Sunday, September 27 th	Steve Harger



SEPTEMBER FOOD OF THE MONTH

Please prayerfully consider adding extra non-perishable groceries to your shopping cart for our Oakland neighbors in need. With our inflated economy, many folks are struggling to make ends meet, and sometimes have to decide whether to pay rent, power or buy groceries. The Christian Concerns Committee realizes this is a huge request, considering how expensive groceries are these days. All groceries are donated to City Team Oakland for their daily meal programs and many mobile pantries. Please look for the bright colored barrels in the Narthex for your donations. God Bless your love and generosity for our neighbors in need!!!

Items needed---

Cereal (sugar free please)
Complete pancake mix
Soup and crackers
Coffee and Tea
Salt and Pepper

Shelf stable milk
Syrup
100% Juice
Flour and Sugar
Cooking Oil

Peanut Butter and Jelly
Beans and Rice (dry or canned)
Pasta and Pasta sauce
Macaroni and Cheese (no milk needed)

CHRISTIAN CONCERNS

Parish Nursing

I have had concerns about people who live alone and may need to call 911. It may not be possible for people open the door to let 911 responders into the house if they have fallen, for example. If the house is locked, responders may need to force entry. This not only may cause damage but also a delay in care. The Knox Box is a resource.

The Knox Box

A Knox box or a key box as referred to in the California Fire Code Section 506.1 is "a secure device with a lock operable only by a fire department master key, and containing building entry keys and other keys that may be required for access in an emergency."

How it works

If you need a 911 response but are unable to get to the door the responder can open the Knox Box, remove the entrance keys and enter your home rather than having to force entry.

How to get it

You need to contact your local Fire Department. The unit needs to be connected to the correct regional master key.

Alameda County -Call their main administration line at **510-632-3473** or **925-833-3473**, or email the Fire Code Administration team at CountyFCA@alamedacountyfire.gov.

Ordering

There is a Knox Box Official Website. You need to know from your local Fire Department which to order so it is connected to the regional master key.

Cost

The single family residential model costs about \$220 but the cost depends on which model your local fire department requires.

Installation

Installation is usually the responsibility of the building owner. The Knox box must be mounted on the outside of the house at a height of five (5) feet from the ground up to the bottom of the box. The Knox box must be mounted in a location that is clear of obstructions. Once mounted notify the Fire Department to place keys within the box.

Please share this information with people you know who live alone.

Take care and God bless,

Stephanie



**Sunday
September 27
Following worship
Please plan on attending!**

Welcome
to our
New Member

**Thelma
Williams**



SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8:00AM Bible Class I 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Pastor's Bible Class	31 7:30PM AA - GR	1	2 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class	3	4 7:00PM EBRs	5
6 8:00AM Bible Class I 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Outreach Committee 10:30AM Pastor's Bible Class	7 Labor Day 7:30PM AA - GR	8 6:30PM Iron Men	9 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class	10	11	12
13 8:00AM Bible Class I 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Board of Directors Meeting	14 7:30PM AA - GR	15 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 6:30PM Game Night - CR	16 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class	17	18	19 7:00PM Movie Night
20 8:00AM Bible Class I 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Pastor's Bible Class	21 7:30PM AA - GR	22 9:00AM Day Adventurers - Jelly Belly Factory	23 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class	24	25	26 11:00AM City Team Graduation
27 8:00AM Bible Class I 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Congregational Meeting	28 7:30PM AA - GR	29	30 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class	1	2 3:00PM EBRs - GR	3



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..