



Zion noiz

The Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church
Piedmont, California

January 2025



Pastor Paul writes...

This year we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord on Sunday, January 5th. A Christmas carol based on the Gospel lesson for Epiphany is known by the title “We Three Kings of Orient Are.” For all its popularity, however, this wonderful carol has a rather problematic title. For one thing, the Bible never actually says how many Magi or wise men came from the east. It may have been three. Or two or four or even more! Tradition has suggested that there were three because they brought three gifts to Jesus. Secondly, the Magi were almost certainly not kings, but more likely scholars or astronomers. Finally, they were probably not from as far east as the Orient, but from the Near East, such as ancient Babylon, which was the largest ancient city in the world and a great

center of learning.

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”? Well, maybe not exactly that! But this much is certain: the Magi or wise men were not Jews! They were not sons of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They were not worshipers of the God of Israel. They were non-Jews or Gentiles, which is simply a catch-all phrase for all of the other nations and peoples of the world. For this reason, Epiphany has often been called “The Gentiles’ Christmas” because the Day of Epiphany celebrates the coming of the wise men from the east to worship Jesus. Epiphany celebrates the drawing of the Gentile people to worship the newborn King of the Jews. That means that Epiphany is our Christmas celebration, in the sense that we, too, were born as Gentiles and we have been drawn by God’s grace into a knowledge of and relationship with Jesus, the King of the Jews and the Savior of the whole world.

Epiphany proclaims that God’s love for people is universal in scope. Christ came to be the Savior of all people. In Christ, God assumed a human nature to rescue and redeem all of humanity. Jesus was born, lived, died, and rose again to bring forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation to all people. The word “Epiphany” literally means an “appearing” or a “manifestation” or, more simply, a “making known.” The Epiphany of Christ is all about making Christ known to all people as the Savior of the whole world.

This is the mission of the Christian Church and therefore this is the mission of Zion congregation: to make Christ known today. We work to make Christ known to all people as the Savior who seeks those who are lost, who rescues those who have fallen, and who brings hope to the hurting and peace to those who are in despair. This Epiphany mission involves making Christ known through our worship, our Bible studies, our activities and, on an individual and personal level, making Christ known by our words and actions in our daily lives of service and witness to others.

The first Gentiles brought gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh to worship Christ. Today we bring our heads, our hearts, our hands, and our habits to worship Christ. And just as the wise men returned to their own country, so we return to our daily lives with renewed faith and fresh energy to make Christ known in all that we do. May God bless you and strengthen you for His Epiphany mission.

In Christ always, *Pastor Paul*

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

Catechism Corner

This month the final article of The Apostles' Creed and its meaning.

The Third Article: Sanctification

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. Amen.



What does this mean? I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Movie Night



Saturday, January 25 @ 7:00pm

Young Woman and the Sea

Based on the extraordinary true story of competitive swimmer Gertrude "Trudy" Ederle, who, in 1926, was the first woman to successfully swim the English Channel. Trudy was born to immigrant parents in New York City in 1905. Through the steadfast support of her older sister and supportive trainers, she overcame adversity and the animosity of a patriarchal society to rise through the ranks of the Olympic

swimming team and complete the staggering achievement – a 21-mile trek from France to England.

Run Time 2 hour 11 min



Church Humor

'Tainted Money

Timmy didn't want to put his money in the offering plate Sunday morning, so his mother decided to use some hurried creative reasoning with him.

"You don't want that money, honey," she whispered in his ear. "Quick! Drop it in the plate. It's tainted!"

Horrified, the little boy obeyed.

After a few seconds he whispered, "But, mommy, why was the money tainted? Was it dirty?"

"Oh, no dear," she replied. "It's not really dirty. It just 'taint yours, and it 'taint mine," she replied. "It's God's."

Baptizing

There was a preacher baptizing people in a river when he hears someone approach him. He turns to find a man, completely drunk and smelling like a brewery. The preacher is repulsed by the smell, but he manages to ask the man,

"Are you ready to find Jesus?"

The drunk answers, "Yes, I am"

So the preacher grabs him and dunks him in the water. He pulls him up and asks the drunk, "Brother, have you found Jesus?"

The drunk replies, "No, I haven't found Jesus."

The preacher, shocked at the answer, dunks him into the water again but for a little longer this time. He again pulls him out of the water and asks again, "Have you found Jesus, my brother?"

The drunk answers, "Nope. I haven't found Jesus"

By this time, the preacher is at his wits end so he dunks the drunk in the water again --- but this time he holds him down for about 30 seconds.

When the drunk begins kicking his arms and legs, the preacher pulls him up.

The preacher asked the drunk again, "For the love of God, have you found Jesus?"

Game Night

Join s for Game Night! Did you get a new game for Christmas? Want to share it with others? Your family won't play with you because you always win? Then bring your game and join the fun on January 28 at 6:30 PM for an evening of fun, laughter, and games. All ages are welcome, so bring the whole family or a friend! Let's make this a night to remember!



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS

Communion Assistant Schedule

Sunday, January 5 th	9:00 am	Jonathan Schaff
Sunday, January 12 th	9:00 am	Frank Cham
Sunday, January 19 th	9:00 am	Paul Grunow
Sunday, January 26 th	9:00 am	Dave Nemy

Usher Schedule

Sunday, January 5 th	9:00 am	Michael Grunow Brendan O'Brien
Sunday, January 12 th	9:00 am	Peter Grunow Llela Walsh
Sunday, January 19 th	9:00 am	Michael Grunow Brendan O'Brien
Sunday, January 26 th	9:00 am	Paul Grunow Llela Walsh

Lay Reader Schedule

Sunday, January 5 th	9:00 am	Amy Easton
Sunday, January 12 th	9:00 am	Markus Niebanck
Sunday, January 19 th	9:00 am	Nancy Hoverman
Sunday, January 26 th	9:00 am	Paul Grunow

Coffee Hour Hosts

Sunday, January 5 th	9:00 am	Allen
Sunday, January 12 th	9:00 am	Open
Sunday, January 19 th	9:00 am	Bartlett
Sunday, January 26 th	9:00 am	Easton

CHRISTIAN CONCERNS

THANK YOU ZION KNITTERS

Thank you to Betty Galambos and her merry band of knitters for the 65 caps and scarves they lovingly made for the Christian Concerns Committee Pillowcase project for the men in the Recovery Program at City Team, Oakland. They were colorful and a very important addition to the pillowcases. They were placed lovingly right on top of the supplies in the pillowcases. Thank you to all knitters for your time, love and expense to provide the hats and scarves. And a very special thank you to Mike Dal Ferro, who spun some of the yarn himself to make the caps and scarves. God Bless you!!!

CHRISTMAS PILLOWCASE PROJECT UPDATE

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

The Christian Concerns Committee is overwhelmed at the very generous response to the annual Christmas Pillowcase project for the men at City Team Ministries, Oakland. Your generous donations of \$2366.52 and the donation of 65 t-shirts, enabled the committee to reach our goal of providing 65 pillowcases for the men. As planned, the pillowcases were filled with personal hygiene products, a towel and wash cloth, t-shirts and socks, sweet treats and a hand knitted cap and scarf from our Zion knitters. This project is entirely funded by donations, and is a HUGE success due to your generosity and support. Many men have shared the love they feel after receiving the pillowcases, and think of us when they use the pillowcases and the products included. God Bless your very generous support of this project!!!



THANKSGIVING GROCERIES UPDATE

The generosity and loving concern of Zion Congregation never stops!!!! In addition to the generous amount of non-perishable groceries the congregation donated for the annual Thanksgiving Grocery collection, \$2537.19 was also donated. These funds will be forwarded to City Team Oakland, for their daily meal program and the 19 mobile pantries they serve throughout the Oakland community, who cannot travel downtown to get food. Our economy is still fragile and expensive, and there are many folks who depend on this extra help. God Bless your love and generosity for our neighbors in need!!!

JANUARY FOOD OF THE MONTH

Happy 2025!!! 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 knows no season and we still have neighbors in need in the Oakland community. 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!!!!

PARISH NURSE

It is time for New Year's resolutions. We can probably all think of resolutions that we have not kept. In the book "Atomic Habits" James Clear suggests that small habits make a big difference. He discusses the benefits of making small improvements on a daily basis instead of trying to massive changes. He proposes a 4-step process for behavior change, either to create a good habit or change a bad habit. A *cue* triggers a *craving* which motivates a *response*, which provides a *reward*, which satisfies the craving and becomes associated with the cue.



How to create a good habit-

Cue	Make it obvious.
Craving	Make it attractive.
Response	Make it easy.
Reward	Make it satisfying.

How to break a bad habit-

Cue	Make it invisible.
Craving	Make it unattractive.
Response	Make it difficult.
Reward	Make it unsatisfying.

For example, if I would like to eat more fruits and vegetables, the first thing I would do is buy them and keep them visible. I would buy foods that look attractive and spend some time preparing them to that they are easy to reach and eat. I may find that if I buy fruits and vegetables that I like and spend a little time preparing them in a satisfying way I am more likely to eat more healthily.

So maybe this year, think of small changes that you can make on a daily basis using this model.

Take care, be well and God bless,

Stephanie

Super Bowl Party

LIX
SUPER BOWL

Sunday, February 9 @ 3:00pm

On the Big-Screen in the Garden-Room

Kickoff is at 3:30pm

Who will be playing? It won't be  or 

\$10 cover includes many traditional Super-Bowl snacks and non-alcoholic drinks.

Iron Men

Iron Men Join us on Tuesday, **January 14 at 6:30 pm**, As we watch together The Chosen Episodes from season 3 "Intensity in Tent City" and "Ears to Hear."

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!



Remember to Worship

The Prayer ministry articles in 2025 will focus on asking us to remember: to worship the Lord; love the Lord and show mercy; as well as guide and shepherd one another; to pray for and encourage each other, and several other qualities of the Christ-filled heart. *When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?* (Psalm 8:1-4)

We show our love for God by walking with Him and obeying His laws. His gift of our helper, the Holy Spirit, keeps us in obedience to His Word. God will always supply the need to understand His word and help us to follow it.

“Come to eat! Come to have your thirst quenched. Come to have your heart filled to overflowing.

Come to Me! Before you come to church with your hands, come with your ears, ready to hear the all powerful God of the universe breathe life, direction, and joy into your needy soul” (“Worship God by earnestly living for Jesus”, Bible Study Tools, John Barnett crosswalk.com/devotionals).

As we look at His creation, we marvel at God’s incredible artistry. Look at the mountains and the powerful ocean. We are blessed in California to have both. The birds sing to their Creator. The beauty of flowers and the incredible way a bird’s feathers will blend in with its surroundings.

*“I sing the mighty pow’r of God,
that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad,
and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained,
the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at His command,
and all the stars obey.
I sing the goodness of the Lord,
that filled the earth with food.
He formed the creatures with His word,
and then pronounced them good
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,
Where-e’er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread
or gaze upon the sky.”*



(Hymn of Creation, Dan Forrest, Beckenhorst Press 2014)
God created you to worship. He created all people and animals, but only one can worship Him in praise – in wisdom and in truth. You were created with a soul that longs for union with its creator. When you come around the tunnel road and come into the light – there is the Yosemite Valley. Doesn’t it just take your breath away? How many photos does one need? And it took God only three words: “Let there be ...” We are humbled in the sight of our Creator – whether it is a beautiful scene in nature, or the sound of your

grandchild crying at her baptism – those are the things that fill our hearts with worship and prayer. Words of praise come quickly

But first we will focus on remembering to worship: putting God first in our year and in our day. May God bless us with the ability to put Him first. To worship and glorify our God.

*“Oh come, let us sing to the Lord!
Let us shout joyfully to the ROCK of our SALVATION!
Let us come before His presence with psalms.
For the Lord is the Great God,
And the great God above all gods.
In His hands are the deep places of the earth.
The heights of the hills are His also.
The sea is His and He made it;
And His hands formed the dry land.
O Come, let us worship and bow down,
Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For He is our God
And we are the people of His pasture
And the sheep of His Hand.”*
(Psalm 95 NKJV)

And how do we come before such a mighty, holy and all-powerful God? We have a mediator.

“For there is One God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5). Jesus is our only way to approach God’s throne. Because our sins are forgiven, God welcomes us. Jesus has paid the price on the cross for our sins. We can boldly approach His throne with praise and prayer.

We begin our day in praise and prayer. In worship. Acknowledge Who He is. Perfect Sacrifice. Honorable, Love and Compassion and Friend. How do we show our thankfulness? We worship and praise

Him. We live for Him.

We love the Lord with all our hearts, souls and minds (Deut. 11:13). We put Him first over our worries, our feelings, our care and anxieties. We give them all to His care. His arms are wide open.

*“O Lord, our Lord,
How majestic is Your name in all the earth!,
You have set your glory above the heavens!
Out of the mouths of babes and nursing infants,
You have ordained strength, because of Your enemies,
That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.*

and easily. But what about the hard times? Times of affliction and stress? Those are the times, like with Job, we say “The Lord gives. The Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.” (Job 7:21). If words of praise are difficult, it may be easier to sing or say the words of a song. And when you ask for the help of the Holy Spirit, He will help you – strengthen you, to get you through those difficult times. The Holy Spirit helps us during those times to get close to Jesus and to pray for others. We only give honor to God when we pray for and serve one another.

And we are those who were created to worship God.

*O the depths of the riches of the wisdom of God!
How unsearchable His judgments.
O the depths of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
For of Him, through Him, and to Him are all things:
to whom be the glory,
to whom be the glory
forever.
Amen*

*O God beyond all praising
we worship You today
and sing the love amazing
that songs cannot repay,
for we can only wonder
at every gift You send,
at blessings without number
and mercies without end;
We lift our hearts before You
and wait upon Your Word,
we honor and adore You,
our great and mighty Lord.*

(O God Beyond All Praising, David Schwoebel, Beckenhorst Press 1982)

After their escape through the Red Sea, Moses instructed the people to worship and give thanks. We need to remind ourselves of God’s saving plan, His covenant with His people (Exodus 30:1-38). We need to worship. We need to be reminded to connect with our Father and with each other. When you look at God’s plan for rescue and salvation, what else can you do but thank and praise Him? Live out your life in serving Jesus. Show Jesus’ love to others and show them the heart of Jesus. All those pillow bags for the City Team ministry: the hands of Jesus. The love of Jesus’ family. Let our church be known for the hands and heart of Jesus. That is a way to worship our all-giving Lord.

– Marlene Grunow
prayer ministry



Directory Update

It is time to update your information in the church directory! So we can have accurate information for our directory. On the Sundays in January, there will be a list in the narthex for you to check the information that the church has for the directory. Please take a look and see if you have had any changes and make the changes on the list.

Also please submit a recent picture by emailing your picture to Steve Harger at sharger@zionluthera.net.

It would be wonderful to have recent pictures of everyone!

In February, new printed version will be available in the narthex.

You can have the directory on your mobile devices as well. The directory is available through the Instant Church Directory app, which is automatically updated whenever changes are made. If you don’t have the app, you can get the app from the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store searching for Instant Church Directory. You can also access the directory through the church website. The Instant Church Directory uses the email you have in the directory so you can access the information.





January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Bible Class I & II 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 11:00AM Live-stream Contemporary Worship 4:00PM Alena Sports Club VB 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30PM AA - GR 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Year's Eve 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Year's Day 	2		4
5 <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 10:30AM Church undecorating 11:00AM Live-stream Contemporary Worship 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:15PM Piedmont Rec Dept ~ BBall 6:30PM Confirmation Class 7:30PM AA - GR 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:15PM Piedmont Rec Dept ~ BBall 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class 4:15PM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:15PM Piedmont Rec Dept ~ BBall 	10	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30AM Mary Lou Weggemann Celebration of Life
12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Bible Class I & II 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 11:00AM Live-stream Contemporary Worship 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:15PM Piedmont Rec Dept ~ BBall 6:30PM Confirmation Class 7:30PM AA - GR 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:15PM Piedmont Rec Dept ~ BBall 6:30PM Iron Men 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class 4:15PM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:15PM Piedmont Rec Dept ~ BBall 	17	18
19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Bible Class I & II 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 11:00AM Live-stream Contemporary Worship 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inauguration Day (regional holiday) Martin Luther King Jr. Day 6:30PM Confirmation Class 7:30PM AA - GR 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15AM Day Adventurers to State Railroad Museum 4:15PM Piedmont Rec Dept ~ BBall 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class 4:15PM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:15PM Piedmont Rec Dept ~ BBall 	24	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00PM Movie Night ~ Young Woman and the Sea
26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Bible Class I & II 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 11:00AM Live-stream Contemporary Worship 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:15PM Piedmont Rec Dept ~ BBall 6:30PM Confirmation Class 7:30PM AA - GR 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:15PM Piedmont Rec Dept ~ BBall 6:30PM Game Night - CR 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class 4:15PM Piedmont Rec Dept BBall 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:15PM Piedmont Rec Dept ~ BBall 	31	1