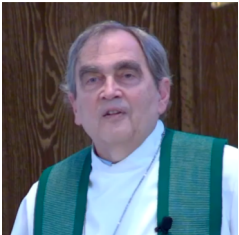




Zion noiZ

The newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church
Piedmont California
November 2026



Good v. Evil

What makes a person's actions good or evil?

When we are young, adults would say we were good when we followed the rules and colored within the lines. But as we got older, we found that there are people who follow the rules, but whose actions are mean and selfish and ugly.

Jesus commented on this. When it came to the Sabbath laws, for example, he put the needs of the people above the rules of the Sabbath (Mark 6:1-11). And to the rich young man who claimed to obey all of the Ten Commandments, Jesus told him to sell all he had and give it to the poor (Mark 10:17-22). So, for Jesus, doing good was more than simply following the rules. When asked what was the greatest commandment, he responded, "Love God..." and "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:28-34).

The "good," is then defined by our care for one another. As darkness is the absence of light, evil is the absence of good. So, when people do things for

themselves without a care for others, that would be an evil action. So, in the list of sins that we see in the scripture, greed and selfishness are commonly listed with all of the other sins. By this definition, there is a lot of evil happening in our society.

Law and Order is important for a community. When Law and Order breaks down, the community descends into chaos. The powerful and the people without morals lord it over everyone else. So, Paul writes to the church in Rome that we are to obey authorities for they are a gift of God (Romans 13:1-7). This is important for the common good. Can you imagine trying to drive a car without rules of the road? Law and Order does not automatically make us good people. However, it does allow us to live together peacefully. Obeying the Law is important as we care for one another.

For us, Jesus gives us a new commandment: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34) This defines what actions are good.

Weekly Worship

Sundays: 9 am Traditional Worship In-person and Online.

All worship services are available 24/7 via the Zion App, Website, YouTube, and Facebook.

Bible Classes: Sundays at 8 am and 10:30 am Wednesdays at 10 am Studying in Gods Word

SEEK

DISCIPLE

MULTIPLY

Inside this issue...

Studying God's Word
Page 2

Calendar
Page 11

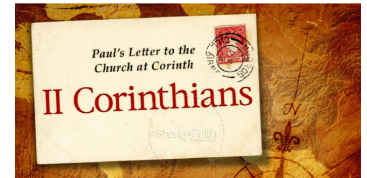
Star Party
Page 9

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 2 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

THANKSGIVING GROCERY COLLECTION

CHRISTIAN CONCERNS

The annual Thanksgiving grocery collection is a special tradition at Zion. Please bring non-perishable groceries any time before Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 26, 2026. All groceries will be donated to City Team Ministries, Oakland, for their daily meal program and their many mobile pantries. Please look for the brightly colored barrels in the Narthex for your donations. If you prefer to make a financial donation, you may place a check in the offering plate, donate via Subsplash, or "click on the QR code" and donate directly to Subsplash. Please make your check payable to Zion and write "**THANKSGIVING GROCERIES**" in the memo line. God Bless your generous support for our neighbors in need!!!

ITEMS NEEDED

Cereal	Complete Pancake Mix	Syrup
100% Juice	Peanut Butter and Jelly	Beans and Rice
Pasta and Pasta Sauce	Mac and Cheese (no milk needed)	Milk (shelf stable)
Flour and Sugar	Salt and Pepper	Vegetable Oil
Coffee and Tea		

Game Night!

Tuesday, November 17 @ 6:30 pm

Looking for a fun way to spend a Tuesday evening? **Join us for Game Night on Tuesday, November 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the Garden Room!**



You never know what will hit the table! We might be matching wits over Codenames, testing our strategy with Sequence, enjoying a classic game of Sorry!, or getting competitive with **Uno**. And, of course, there will be plenty of other games to choose from.

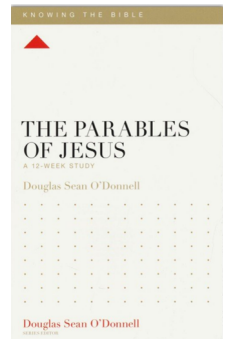
Bring your favorite game, bring a friend, and come ready for an evening of laughter, fellowship, and a little friendly competition. **No special skills required—just come and have fun!**

Iron Men

Iron Men will meet on Tuesday, November 10, at 6:30 p.m. for an evening of fellowship, conversation, and Bible study.

This month, we will study **the Parable of the Good Samaritan** from Luke 10:25–37. Jesus' familiar story challenges us to consider what it truly means to be a neighbor and calls us to show mercy and compassion to those around us.

Join us as we dig deeper into this powerful teaching of Jesus and discuss how it applies to our lives of faith today. **Bring your Bible, your questions, and a willingness to share in good conversation.** All men are welcome!



Join us for our “manly” meal, fellowship and faith building!

Movie Night

Saturday, November 21 @ 7:00 pm

Ordinary Angles

A struggling hairdresser finds a renewed sense of purpose when she meets a widowed father working hard to care for his two daughters. With his youngest critically ill and waiting for a liver transplant, the fierce woman single-handedly rallies an entire community to help.



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

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.

Church Humor

The Direct Line to Heaven

A traveler visited churches all over the United States. In every church, he noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall with a sign reading: “*Direct Line to Heaven — \$10,000 per minute.*” Curious, he finally asked a pastor in Seattle why it cost so much. The pastor smiled and said, “It's a direct satellite connection to the Almighty.”

Years later, the man traveled to Texas. Walking into a Dallas church, he saw the familiar golden telephone. But the sign underneath it read: “*Calls: 35 cents.*”

Astonished, he found the minister and asked, “Reverend, I’ve seen this phone everywhere, and it always costs ten grand a minute. Why is it only 35 cents here?”

The pastor beamed and replied, “Son, you’re in Texas now. It’s a local call.”

The Power of Prayer and Lightning

A businessman bought the empty lot right next door to a local church and announced plans to build a wild, 24-hour nightclub and bar.

The church congregation was horrified. They held an emergency all-night prayer meeting, begging God to intervene, change the owner's heart, or stop the construction.

A few weeks later, during a severe thunderstorm, a bolt of lightning struck the unfinished nightclub and burned it completely to the ground.

The furious business owner, knowing about the church's prayer vigil, hired a lawyer and sued the church for damages, claiming their prayers caused the act of God.

The church hired a defense attorney who vehemently denied the charges in court. When the judge reviewed the case, he sighed and said, "This is the most unusual case I have ever presided over. I am not entirely sure how to rule..." He paused, looking between the two parties, and added, "It appears that the nightclub owner is fully convinced that God answers prayers, while the church leadership stubbornly maintains that He does not."

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.

A clerk in a shoe store in Boston, was invited to Sunday school (church to us) where he gave his life to Christ.

His name was Dwight Moody. He went on to have a great influence on a Preacher named Frederick B. Meyer. Meyer did a lot of work on college campuses where he converted a man named J. Wilbur Chapman, who became involved with the YMCA. In this position, he arranged for a baseball player named Billy Sunday to hold a revival in Charlotte, North Carolina. This revival was received so well that another one was arranged with Mordecai Hamm as the preacher. At that revival a young man named Billy Graham gave his life to Christ. Little did that teacher know the impact he would ultimately have when he invited the shoe clerk from Boston to church. It is the little things we do that make a difference.

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

Catechism Corner

We just finished the Ten Commandments last month. Below are some of the questions in the latest (2017 edition) of the Catechism about the Ten Commandments.

15. *What are the Ten Commandments?*

The Ten Commandments are God's Law, His good and loving will for the lives and well being of all people.

16. *What is God's will for our lives?*

God wants us to trust Him above all else, to love Him, and to love our neighbor.

1 Timothy 2:4, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, and Matthew 22:36-40.



Do not fear: Sing!

“Serve the Lord with gladness: Come before
His presence with singing” (Psalm 100:2
NKJV)

“Enter His presence, come forth with
singing.

Come with thanksgiving – sing praises to His
name!

His goodness endures through all
generations,

His love and His mercy forever the same!

Our joyful hymns we raise;

We lift our voice in praise

To the Lord, for He is holy;

To the Father, Spirit, Son:

All honor and praise to Thy
great name we raise

Till Your heavenly kingdom
comes!”

(“Psalm of Praise and
Thanksgiving”, Mary McDonald,
Lorenz Publishing 2023)



“The Lord your God is in your midst,
The Mighty One will save;
He will rejoice over you with gladness
He will quiet you with His love
He will rejoice over you with His singing.”
(Zephaniah 3:17)

Can you imagine God quieting you
with His love and rejoicing over you with His
singing? He sings over you! Can you hear His
voice?

The Holy Scripture has hundreds of psalms
of praise and thanksgiving. Whenever the
children of God were victorious in battle –
song! When they were thankful – song!

I love to sing. I have always loved
music and singing. Music speaks to my
heart and spirit. I love the beautiful music at
Zion and I love to hear the children singing a

simple song of praise. Music combines what
we know and love and helps us to learn.
Martin Luther often used songs to teach Bible
concepts. He wrote many hymns we still sing
today. The hymns remind us of Who God is
and what He has done for us.

When reading Zephaniah, we hear that
God sings over us. I remember when every
night my husband would stand in our sons’
doorway and sing “All through the Night.” I
don’t know how many hours I spent in our
rocking chair holding our sons and singing to
them.

Singing calms the heart and brings
glory to the Lord. The entire book of Psalms
in the Bible is a book of songs.

“All the earth worships You
and sings praises to You. They
sing praises to Your name”
(Psalm 66:4).

“My lips shall greatly
rejoice when I sing unto Thee,
and my soul, which Thou hast
redeemed” (Psalm 71:25).

When I look at creation and how
incredible the works of God are, I wonder if
some of those words spoken were in a song?
Such words sung over birds or flowers,
Yosemite or the giant redwoods. There is
such majesty and beauty!

“While I live will I praise the LORD, I will
sing praises unto my God while I have my
being” (Psalm 146: 2).

“My Savior is my Lord and King,
He has control of everything,
He loves me and He bids me sing
He gives His song to me.
He calms my hurts and dries my tears,
He gives me strength to face my fears,
He sends His grace through all the years,
He gives His song to me.
Jesus is the song of life,
Jesus is the song of joy,

continued on page 6

Day Adventurers Rosie the Riveter Museum Saturday, November 14 @ 9:30 am



Gather at Zion for the Day Adventurers on **Saturday, November 14** for a fun and very interesting trip to the Rosie the Riveter Museum. We will carpool together.

Celebrate and honor the contributions and sacrifices of American civilians on the WWII home front. Discover how diverse communities lived, worked, and interacted. Many faces, many stories, many truths, weave a rich tapestry of experiences from this era of opportunity and loss.

The **Rosie the Riveter Visitor Center** is your starting point for exploring the history of the American Home Front during World War II. Located in Richmond, California, the center offers free admission and provides resources to help you make the most of your visit. Plan for 1-2 hours to experience the exhibits and watch one or more park films at the visitor center.

Tickets: Free

We will go out for lunch as a group afterward at a place to be determined.

Come along for a day of fun, fellowship, and, learning about the home front during WWII! Bring your family and friends and join the Day Adventurers for this adventure. Sign up in the narthex!



Cont. from page 5

Jesus is the song of love;
Jesus gives His song to me."
("Jesus is the Song", David Danner, Lorenz
Publishing 1979)

Is your life a song of Jesus' love? Do you share of the goodness of what God has done for you in Jesus? We can sing of Jesus' life, mercy and love in all we do and say. God tells us to praise Him – to give Him thanks. Not just on the third Thursday in November,

but every day. Our cries for help can be a song. Our cries of joy and thanksgiving can be a song. God hears every note of every song in your heart. He loves you and wants you to sing.

Singing encourages us. When we sing together in church, the angels join us. We are God's creation, inhabited with His Spirit. We are made to sing! You can sing in church, while doing the dishes and in the car. Singing produces endorphins (feel-good hormones).

Zion Lutheran Church Statistics 9/1/25 thru 9/1/26

MEMBERS

Infant Baptisms	2
Adult Baptisms	1
Confirmations	2
Adult Transfer In	6
Adult New Members	2
Deaths	2
Adult Transfers Out	0

FINANCES - FYTD

Offerings	77,213.57
Total Income	178,635.38
Total Expenses	223,471.99



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS

Lay Reader Schedule

November 1	Maret Bartlett
November 8	Emily O'Brein
November 15	Jonathan Schaff
November 22	Brian Walsh
November 29	Becky Mc Farland

Communion Assistant Schedule

November 1	Brian Walsh
November 8	Dave Nemy
November 15	Jonathan Schaff
November 22	Paul Grunow
November 29	Steve Harger

Altar Flowers

November 1	
November 8	Beverly Smith
November 15	Shannon Shockley
November 22	Walsh Family
November 29	No Flower 1 st Sunday in Advent

Usher Schedule

November 1	Michael Grunow Brendan O'Brien
November 8	Peter Grunow Llela Walsh
November 15	Michael Grunow George Berge
November 22	Peter Grunow Llela Walsh
November 29	George Berge Llela Walsh

Coffee Hour Hosts

November 1	Carolyn and Mike Dal Ferro
November 8	Karen and Dave Nemy
November 15	LWML
November 22	Maret and Hugh Bartlett
November 29	Judy and Jonathan Schaff

Object Lesson

November 1	Steve Harger
November 8	Pastor Dorn
November 15	Brian Walsh
November 22	Steve Harger
November 29	Rachel Harger

CHRISTIAN CONCERNS

The annual Zion Thanksgiving Grocery collection will begin in November. Please watch for detailed information. Let's help our neighbors in need during these very challenging time!!!

CHRISTMAS PILLOWCASE PROJECT



The Christian Concerns Committee once again requests your support for the annual Christmas Pillowcase project.

This year, there is a need for 80 pillowcases for the men in the Renew Program.

As always, the pillowcases will include personal hygiene products, a towel and wash cloth, a t-shirt and socks, a knitted cap provided by our Zion Knitters, and a sweet treat.

The project estimate for this year is \$2500.

Please prayerfully consider your support of this project. You may place a check in the offering plate, donate via Subsplash, or use the QR code to donate.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO ZION, AND MARK IT CCC IN THE MEMO LINE. GOD BLESS YOUR LOVING AND GENEROUS HEARTS!!!!

Board Meeting Highlights—October 4, 2026

Property Committee

Since it is more than 30 days since contacting our neighbor regarding the hillside with no response, the Board voted to contact our attorney.

The Memorial Bench has been ordered for the Garden area.

Outreach Committee

The “Smokehouse Band” is being contracted to have a concert in the Zion Patio in April 24, 2027.

Constitution Committee

The Constitution Committee is working with a lawyer to update our Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws. These will be reviewed prior to submitting them to the Congregation for approval.

Call Committee

The Call Committee continues the search process for the next “settled” pastor.

Finance Committee

The Budget for 2026-2027 was approved with a large projected deficit.

The Board is looking for members to be on the Finance Committee for this year.

Board Members

Immediately following the Congregational Meeting on November 1, the newly elected Board will select its officers for the year.





Bunco BRUNCH

Saturday, November 7
— at 11:00 am —

Cost: **\$20** per participant

Proceeds to support
seminarians.



Star Party

Come explore
the night
sky!

Wednesday

November 11, 2026

6:00 - 8:30 PM

Inside and Outside Activities

Clear or Cloudy

Telescopes provided
No experience necessary!
People of all ages welcome
Drop in and enjoy the fun!

- ★ View stars, clusters, nebulae, and galaxies through telescopes
- ★ Make your own star charts, planet maps, and more.
- ★ You may bring your own telescope or binoculars
- ★ Hot Chocolate, Constellation Cookies, and other snacks



Zion Lutheran Church • 5201 Park Blvd • Piedmont CA 94611
zionlutheran.net • 510-530-4213



Thanksgiving WORSHIP

Thursday, November 26
at 10:00 am

Non-perishable food
gathering to support



Advent Worship

HOPE • PEACE • JOY • LOVE



Wednesday Worship
Dec 2, 9, & 16 at 7:00 pm



Soup and Salad Supper
at 6:00 pm



Special Violin Recital
on Dec 16 at 6:30 pm

*Prepare your heart
for the coming of Christ.*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Saving Time ends 8:00AM Bible Class I 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Congregational meeting	2 7:30PM AA - GR	3 Election Day 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class	4	5	6 11:00AM LWML Bunco Brunch	7
8 8:00AM Bible Class I 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Outreach committee 10:30AM Pastor's Bible Class	9 7:30PM AA - GR	10 6:30PM Iron Men	11 Veterans Day 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class 6:00PM Star Party GR and Parking Lot	12	13	14 9:00AM Day Adventures ~ Rosie the Riveter 9:30AM Wound Care Kit Packing 3:00PM Robin Revelli Violin in Sanctuary
15 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 8:00AM Bible Class I 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Board of Directors Meeting	16 7:30PM AA - GR	17 6:30PM Game Night - CR	18 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class 6:00PM Alpha Open House	19	20	21 10:00AM WSWA Packing boxes 7:00PM Movie Night
22 8:00AM Bible Class I 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Pastor's Bible Class	23 7:30PM AA - GR	24	25 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class	26 Thanksgiving Day 10:00AM Thanksgiving Worship in-person and live stream	27 Black Friday	28
29 8:00AM Bible Class I 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 9:00AM Pastor's Bible Class	30 7:30PM AA - GR	1	2 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class 6:00PM Advent Soup Supper 7:00PM Advent Worship Service- sanctuary	3	4 5:00PM LWML Baby Jesus Cookie Exchange	5 10:00AM Christian Concerns pillowcase filling for City Team 10:00AM Church Decorating



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oakland, California
Permit No. 3244

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Church Email Addresses:

Pastor Dorn pdorn@zionlutheran.net
Steve Harger sharger@zionlutheran.net
Terry Frazier churchoffice@zionlutheran.net

www.zionlutheran.net

(510) 530-4213

If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter in the mail, please contact the church office.

This newsletter is also available on the website