



## Make God Known in Jesus

During the season of Epiphany, we will read many passages of Jesus being made known to the world. We begin with the coming of the Magi, to his Baptism in the Jordan, through his ministry of teaching and healing, and culminating in his Transfiguration, when he gives the disciples and us a glimpse of his glory.

This season also reminds us of our role as disciples of Jesus. We are called to continue to make Jesus known to the world around us. Though we are in the early part of the church year, where Jesus is beginning his ministry, Jesus' last words to his disciples are a message to us of our purpose as the church. His last words in Matthew are for us to "go and make disciples." His last words in Acts are to "be my witnesses."

In John 17, Jesus prays for his disciples, and he prays for us. "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (John 17:20-21)

We have a definite purpose together as the people of God at Zion church. It is not about the building or about the music or about the style of worship. The purpose is to make Jesus and God known to our community. (We have differing opinions on those things.) Everything that we do as a congregation should not be about how I feel, but about how it serves our purpose. We will never have complete agreement about anything. So in our disagreements and discussions, we always need to keep in mind our purpose—to make the love of God shown in Jesus known to the world around.

### 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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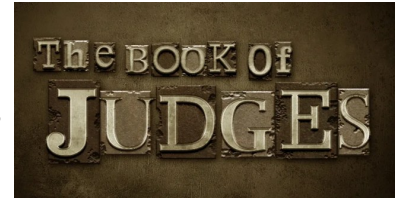
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## STUDYING GOD'S WORD

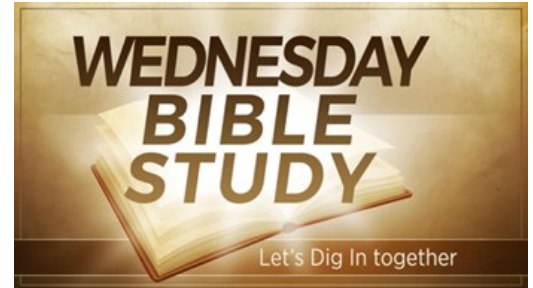
### Sunday Bible Class I

Bible Class I continues to meet each Sunday at 8:00 am in the Garden Room, and everyone is invited to join us as we search the Scriptures for guidance, hope, peace, and strength. The group continues studying the Book of Judges. Depending on where the discussion leads, the class may cover a full chapter or just a few verses each week. Every session offers an opportunity for a solid study of God's Word and spirited discussion among fellow believers. Come grow in faith and understanding as we explore the Gospel of Judges 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.



Feb 4--Gods and Goddesses

Feb 11--The Temple

Feb 18--Theology of Glory/Theology of the Cross

Feb 25--Sacrifice

Zoom Link for Wednesday Morning Bible Study

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

Meeting ID: 851 7340 1109. Passcode: YeahZion

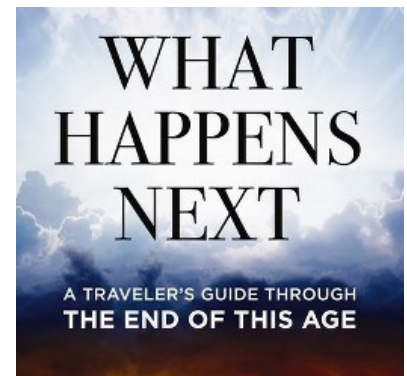
### Sunday Bible Study II

Are we living in the end times? Bible Class II will be starting a new Video Study Series "What Happens Next" by Max Lucado on Sunday February 1st at 8:00am in the Zion Conference Room.

The world seems fragile. Every day we hear of wars, famines, natural disasters, and strife. In this study, Max Lucado provides a wise and reassuring overview of what God's word has to say on the topic that often creates confusion and anxiety. We will explore four big ideas.

1. We were made to reign and rule with Christ
2. God has made promises to us and will keep them
3. God has a plan and reveals what's in store for us
4. We can spend eternity with God in an eternal home

If you are curious about the end times come and join us to hear and study what the Bible has to say. Sunday February 1st, 8:00am, Zion Conference Room



### The Book of Revelation

The book of Revelation is an enigma to many Christians. It is often viewed as the strangest book in the Bible. So what can we learn from the book?

Some focus on all of the pictures of violence and wrath in the book. Some use those fears as a way to manipulate people.

However, the book is a book of hope for people who are suffering from the violence and fear in this world. It brings assurance to believers.

Join us for a discussion of the book of Revelation. The class will begin on February 1 and 15 at 10:30 AM (following the worship service and the fellowship afterwards). We will meet in the Conference Room. Bring your Bible if you want to write in it, otherwise Bibles will be available.

## Fear Not! You are Loved!

“The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love, therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.” (Jeremiah 31:3)

*“O Love, O Love, O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in Thee;  
I give Thee back the life I owe,  
that in the ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.*

*O Joy, O Joy, O Joy that seeks me through the pain,  
I cannot close my heart to Thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain,  
that men shall tearless be.”*  
(“O Love”, George Matheson 1842-1906)

In a quiet room, George Matheson sat in darkness. His eyesight had been failing and was almost gone. His sister and caretaker, now recently married – George did not begrudge her happiness, but she had helped him in his ministry. He sat in darkness, a bit despondent. The lyrics of the first stanza came to him, “O Love, that will not let me go.” And then came the rest of the lyrics in a rush to the song we sing. The words came fast – like the Holy Spirit filling him with His love and peace. Have you ever experienced that humbling feeling of words flowing from your pen? When God puts thoughts into your head – the Holy Spirit spells them out.

We know that God will never leave us. His promise: “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5).

From our earliest days we learn that Jesus was born into a stable to be a Savior and a Friend. The One who is always with us and loves us.

*“Jesus loves me, this I know  
for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong  
They are weak but He is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me.  
The Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me, He who died  
Heaven’s gate to open wide.  
He will wash away my sin  
Let His little child come in.”*

These words of simple yet profound truth were written by Anna Bartlett Warner in 1859. This song, often sung by young children in Sunday School, tells us of Jesus. That He love us, not because of what we have done, but of what He is. God is love.

Several years ago, I was having an MRI exam to see if I had a brain tumor. I was strapped – very firmly – into the machine. My head could not move. Trying to relax was not easy. I tried to occupy my brain: alphabet, counting – but nothing could help me calm my mind. Suddenly the words to “Jesus Loves Me” filled my thoughts. Yes, Jesus loves me.

There are many instances of God’s love in the Bible: creation, deliverance, and salvation. The gift of His only Son, Jesus, was the gift of salvation and eternal life with Him in heaven.

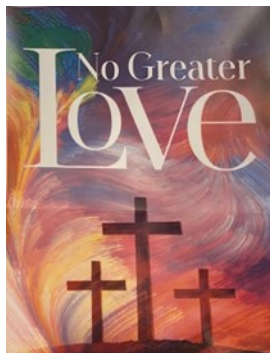
We see many examples of love: the love of a family, the love of a pastor for his flock. But the perfect gift of love was God’s gift of His only Son, *Agape* love, to take our place on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. A love that entered a smelly manger and a stable for us. We can only understand this love when we are with Him in eternity.

We show our love for God by sharing with others about the love of Jesus. We are called to be His witnesses and to share His love (Luke 24:48-49). There are many ways to show our love to others at church and to those who visit us. Greeting someone and truly making them feel welcome – helping someone to follow the order of worship – perhaps you can think of other ways to make visitors feel welcome.

How do we show love to others in our family or at work? We listen to each other. We encourage each other. We pray for each other. We share God’s goodness with each other.

But much more than anything we can do, is worship God for Who He is and what He has done for us. Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. He created all – He redeemed all and sustains all. God’s love is AGAPE love – the highest level of love. That desires only good for the believer. Sacrificial love – all for another.

Continued on page 4





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## Catechism Corner

### Zion's Stained Glass Windows

We begin with the lower windows now on the pulpit side. The lower window depict events in the life of Jesus,



The first window in the Baptism of our Lord. Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, and Luke 3:21-22  
The second window is the Transfiguration. Matthew 17, Mark 9, and Luke 9.

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## Church Humor

### A four year old's description of creation

In the beginning, which was close to the start, there wasn't anything except God, darkness and some gas. The Bible says, "The Lord, thy God, is one," but I think He has to be much older than that. Anyway, God made the world and then He said, "Give me some light," and somebody gave it to Him. He split an atom and made Eve. Adam and Eve didn't wear any clothes, but they weren't embarrassed because God hadn't invented mirrors, yet. Adam and Eve sinned by eating one bad apple and they were driven out of the Garden of Eden. I'm not sure what God drove them in because He hadn't invented cars, either. Adam and Eve's son, Cain, hated his brother as long as he was Abel. After a while, all of the first people died, except Methuselah, who lived to be, like, a million years old..

### Time and Money

A boy is praying to God one day and asks, "How long is a million years?" To his surprise God answers, saying "To me, it's about one minute." The boy then asks, "God, how much is one million dollars?" and God replies, "To me, it's a penny." The boy thinks and then asks, "God, may I have a penny?" God replies, "Wait a minute."

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## Iron Men

Join us on **Tuesday, February 10 at 6:30 pm**, as we watch  
Season 4 Episode 8: Humble. Jesus refuses to look and act like the Messiah everyone expects—arriving like a lamb instead of a lion and riding a donkey instead of a war horse.

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"!



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Continued from page 3

We have earthly love (eros), friendship (phileo) and the love of God (agape love). Agape love will always be with us.

"O Cross, O Cross, O Cross that lifted up my head  
I dare not ask to fly from thee.  
I lay in dust life's glory dead  
And from the ground the blossoms red,  
Life that shall endless be."

("O Love", George Matheson 1852; Elaine Hagenburg 2016, Beckenhorst Press)

– Marlene S. Grunow  
prayer ministry

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## Day Adventurers

Friday, February 20 @ 10:00 am

### Rosicrucian Museum

The Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum is devoted to ancient Egypt, located at Rosicrucian Park in the Rose Garden neighborhood of San Jose, California, United States.

We will carpool from Zion meeting at 9:00 am, explore the museum. Seniors (65+) \$12 Adults \$15. Lunch to be determined.

Sign up in the narthex!



ROSICRUCIAN  
EGYPTIAN MUSEUM



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## Movie Night

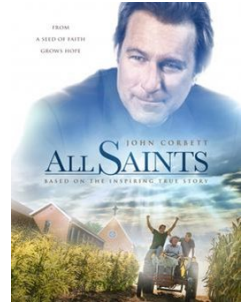
Saturday, February 28

7:00 pm

ALL SAINTS

ALL SAINTS is based on the inspiring true story of salesman-turned-pastor Michael Spurlock, the tiny church he was ordered to shut down, and a group of refugees from Southeast Asia. Together, they risked everything to plant seeds for a future that might just save them all.

Come enjoy the fellowship and the film!



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## Board of Directors Notes

### Summary of Board Meetings December 14, 2025 and Jan 11, 2026

A number of committees are seeking additional support from the congregation, including the following:

- A **Transition Team** to create a plan for the transition to a new permanent pastor. This is a very important activity for the sustainability of the church and the good of the congregation. The survey being done is an important part of the preparation for calling the next long-term pastor.
- We seek an additional member to serve on the **Finance committee**. The Board is committed to a more structured budget planning process going forward and invites members of the congregation to volunteer to serve. The Board recently voted on and approved Rebecca Nolan to act as the Chair of the Finance Committee. Her years of experience in this area will provide strong guidance to the Finance Committee. Further, the Board has a meeting scheduled in January with **1919 Investment Counsel** in January to review Zion's portfolio, discuss anticipated capital needs, and establish regular reporting.
- Just a reminder that an **Outreach Committee** has been formally established and will begin meeting in January. Its primary mission is evangelism and welcoming new members into the church. The committee plans to survey the congregation for ideas and feedback and will set goals for the coming year. Please see Peter Grunow or Stephanie Windle for more information.

Several updates to the **budget** were reviewed and approved. An outstanding contribution of \$10K was approved for payment to the church district, with a commitment to review district giving annually as part of the budget process. The Board approved a new committee spending policy, which sets a \$500 monthly limit, whereby expenses exceeding the limit would require board approval. Legal fees of \$28,875 - related to the hillside matter and creating an Alpha School lease - were reviewed and approved for payment. The Board reaffirmed previously approved medical insurance support for staff.

Work is underway to develop a formal financial policies and procedures manual with assistance from the district, including a review and correction of **bylaws and articles of incorporation** to ensure compliance. The aim is to have these items in place for the new permanent pastor.

The **Alpha School** has opened its doors this month and provides a significant, much-needed boost to Zion's monthly income. They have been renovating the space to prepare for the start of a highly innovative, educational program. Painting of the school is currently being discussed with possible changes to the exterior face pending.

Overall, the Board focused on strengthening governance, financial accountability, communication, and long-term planning to support the health and mission of the church during this transitional period. and will continue to provide routine updates to the congregation to ensure transparency on these key activities.

## PARISH NURSING

Drawing from a wide body of research across psychology, public health, sociology, urban design, and behavioral science, six core domains consistently show up as key to personal and societal thriving. They are called the Six Points of Connection.

### Six Points of Connection

#### 1. Have a neighborhood emergency contact

You can take a first, simple step by finding a neighborhood emergency contact—and suggesting they do the same. That chain of connection can become the foundation of something more. Neighbors might exchange contact info, designate mutual pet care backups, or simply commit to checking in regularly.

*Do you have a neighborhood contact? Could you be a contact for someone else?*

**2. Belong to a community of identity** Substantial research demonstrates that being an active participant in a community of identity not only contributes to a healthy mental state, but it also provides resiliency and a protective effect when adversity strikes, thus decreasing the likelihood of anxiety and depression.

Importantly, passive affiliation isn't enough. To gain the belonging benefits, individuals must actively engage: attend events, volunteer, share stories—investing reciprocity. Those without such connections are more vulnerable to loneliness and dissatisfaction. *This is an important way that our faith based community here at Zion can help us be healthier.*

**3. Join an activity-based community** Activity-based communities gather around shared interests or hobbies such as sports, crafts, or volunteering opportunities. Connection in an activity group is through *doing* something.

*Do you participate in an activity-based community? We have some activities here at Zion and perhaps we could develop more. What ideas do you have?*

#### 4. Connect with a friend or family member at least twice a week

Research consistently shows that individuals with frequent contact with friends or family report better mental health, lower stress, and stronger coping skills.

These regular ties reduce the sense of isolation and enhance feelings of stability and belonging.



*Connect with people during coffee hour and make a phone or coffee date later in the week. Call or visit someone who is homebound. Bring someone cookies. Do you have contact with a friend at least twice a week? How could you make this happen? How can you reach out to others?*

#### 5. Finding your third place in the community

Coined by sociologist Ray Oldenburg in 1999, the “third place” is neither home (first place) nor work (second place), but a social environment fostering casual, egalitarian interaction, such as cafés, libraries, barber shops, parks, gyms, or community centers. Third places are ideal environments to further bonding, offering a relaxed space for both casual conversations and meaningful connection. They are ideal for creating opportunities to create connections made between people from different backgrounds. The formation of diverse and supportive social networks offer resiliency and have been shown to improve mental health and lower stress levels.

*What are your third places? Are there church groups that could provide this?*

#### 6. Volunteering in the community

Engaging in community service through volunteering strengthens personal well-being and supports the broader community. A study by the University of Maryland found that people who volunteer are less likely to be lonely. Thus, volunteering helps us while we are helping others.

*How could you volunteer? What volunteer*

## Game Night!

Tuesday, February 17  
@ 6:30 pm



### Join Us for Game Night!

Get ready for some fun! An evening of games, laughter, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board game or try something new—there will be **plenty of laughs, and friendly competition!** Roll the dice, play a hand, or just enjoy cheering others on.

Everyone's welcome—**don't miss the fun!**

## Super Bowl Party



Sunday, February 8 @ 3:00 pm

On the Big Screen in the Garden Room

Kickoff is at 3:30pm!

Free Will Offering to cover the cost of the Super Bowl snacks and drinks.

# SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS

## Lay Reader Schedule

Sunday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>	9:00 am	Derek Koch
Sunday, February 8 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Amy Easton
Sunday, February 15 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Becky McFarland
Ash Wednesday, February 18 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Stephen Hoverman
Sunday, February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00 am	Jonathan Schaff

## Usher Schedule

Sunday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>	9:00 am	Michael Grunow Brendan O'Brien
Sunday, February 8 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	George Berge Peter Grunow
Sunday, February 15 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Michael Grunow Brendan O'Brien
Sunday, January 28 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	George Berge Peter Grunow

## Communion Assistant Schedule

Sunday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>	9:00 am	Brian Walsh
Sunday, February 8 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Jonathan Schaff
Sunday, February 15 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Dave Nemy
Ash Wednesday, February 18 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Paul Grunow
Sunday, February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00 am	Frank Cham

## Coffee Hour Hosts

Sunday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>	9:00 am	Dal Ferro
Sunday, February 8 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Nemy
Sunday, February 15 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	LWML
Sunday, February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00 am	Becky McFarland

## Altar Flowers

Sunday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>	9:00 am	Dal Ferro
Sunday, February 8 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Open
Sunday, February 15 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Open
Sunday, February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00 am	Lent No Flowers

## Object Lesson

Sunday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>	9:00 am	Steve Harger
Sunday, February 8 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Rachel Gessert
Sunday, February 15 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Pastor Dorn
Sunday, February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00 am	Brian Walsh



## **CHRISTIAN CONCERNS**

### **FEBRUARY FOOD OF THE MONTH**

Valentine's Day---a time to show our family and friends a little extra love. Let's extend that thought to our Oakland neighbors in need, by donating non-perishable groceries to Zion's Food of the Month. All groceries will be donated to City Team Ministries Oakland, for their daily meal program and mobile pantries. Our economy is still fragile, and the need is great. Please look for the bright yellow barrels in the Narthex for your donations. God Bless your support and concern for our neighbors in need!!!

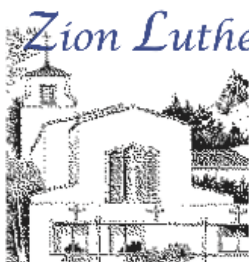
#### **Items needed---**

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

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





## Zion Lutheran Church

5201 PARK BOULEVARD  
PIEDMONT, CA 94611

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Church E-mail Addresses:

Pastor Dorn

[pdorn@zionlutheran.net](mailto:pdorn@zionlutheran.net)

Steve Harger

[sharger@zionlutheran.net](mailto:sharger@zionlutheran.net)

Terry Frazier

[churchoffice@zionlutheran.net](mailto:churchoffice@zionlutheran.net)

**[www.zionlutheran.net](http://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-line..