



Zion noiZ

The newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church
Piedmont California
October 2026



A Reforming Church

Every October, we celebrate Reformation Sunday. Reformation is a celebration and remembrance of the rich history of the Protestant movement, particularly that of the Lutheran Church. But remembering the Reformation isn't just about looking back at history—it teaches us vital lessons for today. It forces us to ask: *What core teachings make us a Christian church, and what details can change?*

Beware of Turning Good Things into Idols In 2

Kings 18:4, "He [King Hezekiah] removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the **bronze serpent** that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan)."

Originally, God used that bronze serpent to heal the Israelites in the wilderness. Over time, however, people turned it into an idol and began worshipping it instead of God.

The same thing can happen in churches today. Things that start out as helpful tools for worship—like a specific building, a style of music, or a tradition—can become idols. None of these preferences are required for salvation, yet they are often the exact things churchgoers fight about most.

Adapting to a Changing World Our culture is changing rapidly, causing many churches to close. When people get fearful, the natural impulse is to cling tightly to comfort and tradition. However, Jesus promised that "the gates of hell shall not prevail" against the church (Matthew 16:18). That doesn't mean the church stays frozen in time—throughout history, the church has survived only by adapting.

To stay alive and meaningful, every congregation must ask two key questions:

1. **What is essential to being a Christian church?**
2. **How can we share the Good News of Jesus with a new generation?**

Guided by the Spirit Being a "church of the Reformation" means being a church that is continuously reforming. As culture shifts, we must pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us into the future so we can always find fresh, effective ways to share God's Word.

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

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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



OCTOBER FOOD OF THE MONTH

CHRISTIAN CONCERNS

Kindly remember the ongoing Christian Concerns Committee Food of the Month collection for our neighbors in need. The committee realizes this is a huge request with the cost of groceries these days. However, many of our Oakland neighbors are struggling with food insecurities and our kindness may help fill the gaps. All groceries donated are given to City Team for their daily meal program and for their many mobile pantries. Please consider adding extra groceries to your shopping cart. God bless your contributions and support of this ministry

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)



Game Night!

Tuesday, October 27 @ 6:30 pm

Join Us for Game Night!



Ready for an evening of fun, laughter, and friendly competition? **Join us for Game Night on Tuesday, October 27, at 6:30 p.m. in the Garden Room!**

Whether you're into strategy, cards, trains, or games with a little more...explosive potential, there's something for everyone. You might find yourself building railroads, trying to survive explosions, or working your way through the ever-changing phases. Of course, there will be plenty of games to choose from, too!

Bring your favorite game, bring a friend, and come ready for some good-natured competition and great fellowship. **No experience necessary—just bring yourself and a willingness to have fun!**

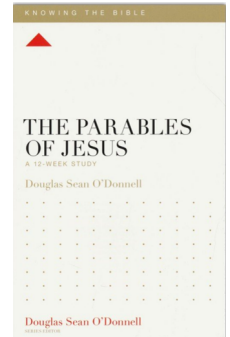
Iron Men

Join us on **Tuesday, October 6 at 6:30 pm**,
We begin a new study on the Parables of Jesus.

In *The Parables of Jesus*, Douglas Sean O'Donnell helps readers study some of Jesus' most famous narrative parables--including the good Samaritan, the prodigal son, and the rich fool--and understand their place in the story line of Scripture.

This study leads participants through books of the Bible and are made up of four basic components: (1) reflection questions help readers engage the text at a deeper level; (2) "Gospel Glimpses" highlight the gospel of grace throughout the book; (3) "Whole-Bible Connections" show how any given passage connects to the Bible's overarching story of redemption, culminating in Christ; and (4) "Theological Soundings" identify how historic orthodox doctrines are taught or reinforced throughout Scripture.

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



Movie Night

Saturday, October 10 @ 7:00 pm

Animal Farm: A Cautionary Tale

When the animals of Manor Farm are neglected and mistreated by their human owner.

When the farm is threatened with being taken over, Snowball, a wise sow, leads the animals in a rebellion. They successfully drive the humans away and rename the property Animal Farm, establishing rules based on equality and freedom.

This film adaptation is loosely based on George Orwell's novel.



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.

Board of Directors notes–9/13/2026

- **Financial Position and Budget:** The Finance Committee presented the proposed FY 26-27 operating budget, which currently shows a projected deficit of \$80,271.
- **Constitution and Bylaws Revisions:** The Bylaws and Constitution Committee has finalized text changes to be sent to an attorney for legal review before final approval. The Constitution and Bylaws will be presented to the congregation for approval when completed.
- **Call Committee Search:** The call committee is still looking for names of possible pastoral candidates to interview.
- **Outreach Committee:** The Tom Rigney concert netted around \$1,000.
- **Property and Hillside Project:** Certified letters were sent to Hirschberg and the contractor reminding them of their responsibility to finish the work on the hillside.
- **Congregational Meeting Planning:** The annual congregation meeting will take place on Sunday, Sept. 27th, following the worship service. Reports from the various committees will be presented and there will be an election of Board Members for the year.

Church Humor

The Bus Driver and the Priest

A bus driver and a priest both arrive at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter gives the bus driver a golden robe and a mansion, but gives the priest a cotton robe and a small hut.

The priest says, "Wait, I spent 50 years preaching! Why does he get more?"

St. Peter says, "When you preached, people slept. When he drove, people prayed!"

The Politician and the Pastor

A politician and a pastor die at the same time. St. Peter welcomes them and shows the politician to a luxury suite. The pastor gets a standard room.

The pastor asks, "Why the special treatment for him?"

St. Peter says, "We get pastors every day. We've never had a politician make it up here before!"

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 was trying to back out of a parking space at CVS on Fruitvale, when a car pulled directly behind me and blocked my exit. I got out and so did the driver of the other car. She ran over to hug me and although I was taken aback, I kind of recognized her as an ex-student. She said that she had been in my Consumer Math class and that she really learned a lot. She was working for Oakland Public Schools and designing math curriculum for ESL students. She said that not only did I make the class interesting (figuring interest, doing checking accounts, finding out which item is really on sale), but I knew everyone's name and called them by name. That was the things she remembered the most. I guess it is really the little things you 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

Reviewing the Ten Commandments and their meanings.

The Tenth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

The Close of the Commandments

What does God say about all these commandments?

He says, "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Ex. 20: 5-6)

What does this mean? God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

Do Not Fear:

You serve a God filled with Grace and Mercy

“But God, Who is rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loves us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together.” (Ephesians 2:4,5)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves; It is the gift of God, not of works, lest any one should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8,9)

*“Every promise we can make
Every prayer and step of faith
Every difference we will make
Is only by His grace.*

*Every mountain we will climb
Every ray of hope we shine
Every blessing left behind
Is only by His grace.*

*Grace alone which God supplies
Strength unknown He will provide
Christ in us our cornerstone
We will go forth in Grace alone.”*

(Grace Alone, Brown and Nelson 1998, 2017)

We sing of love, mercy and grace but do we really know the weight and meaning of those words? Small words – one only four letters; the others five. And yet the cost of those words of God’s love are more than we can comprehend or even fathom. While we were drowning in sin, God came to us to rescue us. He gave His only Son, Jesus, to reach down and pull us out! Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice on the cross to pay the payment for our sin – by believing we spend eternity with Him in heaven.

God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense – A simple way to remember the cost of your salvation. It’s not a church plan, or sermon, or written essay, or good deeds or money. It cost the life of God’s only Son, Jesus. An excruciating death: crucifixion on a cross.

*“By grace I’m saved, grace free and boundless,
My soul believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No! Then this truth will then remain:
By grace you too will life obtain.”*
(LSB #566 By Grace)

As well as grace, God is a God of mercy. Mercy is an act of love that withholds judgment and punishment on someone who deserves it. God withholds judgment on us because He put the ultimate judgment for our sins on His only Son.



*“What love is this
That You gave Your life for me
And made a way for me to know You
And I confess
You’re always enough for me
You’re all I need.”*
(What Love is This, Kari Jobe 2012)

Exodus 34:6: “The Lord is merciful and gracious – slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”

That love and mercy was the act of grace that sent Jesus to the cross to be the sacrifice for our sins.

One of my favorite stories in the Bible is the account in Mark 16 of a woman, Mary of Magdala, who was possessed by seven demons. She was a victim of a fearful evil – pain and misery. But when Jesus saw her, He healed her – spoke those demons out of her! And she worshiped Him and served Him even at the time of His death on the cross. She stayed by the sealed tomb, weeping for Her precious Savior. But in the morning there was Jesus! He first showed Himself to her – what a gift of love. Her Savior – her Lord of mercy and love. We will see Mary and the others in heaven one day.

Not an ounce of the mercy and grace is earned by anything we did. It is all an undeserved gift. Romans 3:24: “We are justified by this grace as a gift, through redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

Grace is what inclines God to be merciful to us. His grace, mercy and love.

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Day Adventurers

Bay Model

Saturday, October 24 @ 9:30 am



Gather at Zion for the Day Adventurers on **Saturday, October 24th** for a fun and very interesting Bay Model. We will carpool together.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Bay Model is a working hydraulic three dimensional scale model of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento & San Joaquin River Delta. It was built in 1957 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as a scientific tool to test the impacts of proposed changes to the Bay and related waterways. This one-of-a-kind facility once tested saltwater intrusion, movement of water-borne pollution, oil spills and changes to tidal flows as a result of barriers or landfill. While the Bay Model is still operational, it is no longer used for scientific research but is instead open to the public alongside educational exhibits about Bay hydrology.

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 Bay! Bring your family and friends and join the Day Adventurers for this tasty adventure. Sign up in the narthex!

Cont. from page 5

“What love is this?

*That You gave Your life for me
And made a way for me to know You”*

We are all in the same situation. We are all equal before God. We stand unworthy before Him – but God provided a way for us to be with Him in heaven. Jesus – our gift of grace, mercy and love.

*“Grace alone which God supplies
Strength unknown He will provide
Christ in us our cornerstone
We will go forth in Grace alone.”*

(Grace Alone, Brown and Nelson 1998, 2017)

A story in the Old Testament of Abraham and Isaac shows us God’s grace. In Genesis 22, God told Abraham to take Isaac – a long-awaited child – up the mountain to sacrifice him to the Lord. I can’t imagine what was going through Abraham’s mind: “God, wasn’t this child a miraculous gift and now you’re taking him back? What are You doing?” But Abraham held Isaac’s hand, and up the mountain they went. Isaac asked “How will we have a sacrifice?” “God will provide” answered Abraham. He must have felt ill. Abraham obeyed and a ram was provided by God for the sacrifice. The ram had been provided by God’s grace and mercy.

As we go through life and walk with God, grace upon grace, we are provided with His love and mercy. We are forgiven, and live for Him and share His love with others.

*“Every soul we long to reach
Every heart we hope to teach
Everywhere we share His peace
Is only by His grace.*

*Every loving word we say
Every tear we wipe away
Every sorrow turned to praise
Is only by His grace*

*Grace alone which God supplies
Strength unknown He will provide
Christ in us our cornerstone
We will go forth in Grace alone.”*
(Grace Alone, Brown and Nelson 1998, 2017)

– Marlene S. Grunow
prayer ministry

SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS

Lay Reader Schedule

October 4 Carolyn Dal Ferro
 October 11 Shannon Shockley
 October 18 Andrea Uhle
 October 25 Paul Grunow

Communion Assistant Schedule

October 4 Dave Nemy
 October 11 Paul Grunow
 October 18 Jonathan Schaff
 October 25 Steve Harger

Altar Flowers

October 4 Dawn and Jim Allen
 October 11 Jenise Hamblin
 October 18 Andrea Uhle
 October 25 Joann Bliven

Usher Schedule

October 4 Michael Grunow
 Brendan O'Brien
 October 11 George Berge
 Peter Gunow
 October 18 Michael Grunow
 Brendan O'Brien
 October 25 George Berge
 Peter Grunow

Coffee Hour Hosts

October 4 Becky McFarland
 October 11 Marisa and Larry Reom
 October 18 LWML
 October 25

Object Lesson

October 4 Alfred and Leni Mora
 October 11 Steve Harger
 October 18 Pastor Dorn
 October 25 Carolyn Dal Ferro



**Come explore
the night
sky!**

Star Party

**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

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From the Parish Nurse

Healing

The Bible provides advice about healing in James 5:13-15

“Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.”

God does heal people. Jesus shows us this in many of his miracles. Some of the apostles did as well. It is important to remember that healing depends on God’s power and will. It does not depend on the powers of the person providing the healing nor upon the level of faith of the person who wishes to be healed.

Healing and curing are different processes. Curing is the elimination of signs and symptoms of disease and almost always focuses on the physical body. Healing is multi-dimensional and can occur at levels such as emotion, mind, and spirit as well as the physical level.

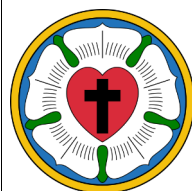
Healing and healing services can be a part of our ministry and a service to our community.

On Sunday December 6 at 10:30 we will be having a Service of Hope and Healing at Zion. The service will be open to the community. I encourage you to invite friends, especially those in need of healing and comfort.

Take care, be well and God bless,
Stephanie





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 9:00AM Alpha Parking Lot
4 8:00AM Bible Class I 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Board of Directors Meeting	5 7:30PM AA - GR	6 6:30PM Iron Men	7 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class	8	9	10 - John Hamblin Memorial 7:00PM Movie Night
11 8:00AM Bible Class I 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Outreach Committee 10:30AM Pastor's Bible Class	12 - Columbus Day - Indigenous Peoples' Day 7:30PM AA - GR	13	14 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class	15 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	16	17
18 8:00AM Bible Class I 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Pastor's Bible Class	19 7:30PM AA - GR	20	21 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class	22	23	24 9:00AM Day Adventurers ~ Bay Model
25 8:00AM Bible Class I 9:00AM In-person Traditional Worship & Live-stream 10:30AM Pastor's Bible Class	26 7:30PM AA - GR	27 6:30PM Game Night - CR	28 10:00AM Wednesday Bible Class	29	30	31 Halloween 



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This newsletter is also available on the website