

# Zion Lutheran Church

## May/June Newsletter

### What is God up to?

A message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton in the February *Living Lutheran Magazine*.

What is to be done? Our congregations are growing older and smaller. At least 40% of our congregations have an average weekly worship attendance of 50 or less. ELCA membership decreases by 70,000 people a year, or roughly the loss of a synod per year. Clergy retirements outnumber new candidates for ministry. Financial pressures and building maintenance create stress. There is a dearth of people in their 20s and 30s in our pews. How do we change this? How do we reverse the trends?

These are anxious questions that come from anxious people across this church. We aren't the only ones asking them—just about every mainline denomination, including the non-Latino population of the Roman Catholic Church, is in the same boat. Even some megachurches are showing signs of plateau or decline. And this is not exclusive to the Christian community. Some now see the decline of the church in general, and the ELCA in particular, as inevitable. The response can be to turn our churches into bunkers with our congregations sheltering within the walls or to try every new program that breathlessly promises to attract people to our congregations. Neither is an effective or faithful long-term strategy.

The questions we are asking have to do about us: "What can we do?" They express loss and grief and fear—loss and grief for what we were and fear about what we will become. Not only do these questions not lead to productive answers, they also don't point to hope. It's as if the church's one foundation rests on us and our efforts.

I think we need to ask: "What is God up to?" It's clear to me that we are living in a time of transition, especially for the Western church. I don't know how long this transition will last nor do I have a clear vision of what the church is becoming.

The good news is that you and I don't have to have a clear vision because God does. "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:18-19). This verse to Israel in exile wasn't a command to forget God's past saving work, but to believe that God was still acting. This is true for us today. When we stop asking what we can do to fix the church and start asking what God is up to, we open ourselves up to the life-giving promise of God's future.

If we want to attract people to our congregations to rebuild a memory, God will not bless our efforts. But if we—grabbed by the Spirit in baptism, changed by the Word, intimately and lovingly connected to Jesus and each other in communion, and set free by grace to serve the neighbor—invite all people into true life, then we shall become part of the answer. This takes attention and devotion. Worship, prayer, Scripture study, generosity and service—not in order to save the church, but in response to the new life God has given us in Christ.

Submitted by Burke Wallace



## **Pastors Letter**

Grace and peace to you all,

What a wonderful Lent and Easter we had here at Zion Lutheran Church. Lent and Holy week marked several shared worship services and events with our friends at St. Ann's Episcopal Church. We celebrated Easter with baptisms and welcoming new members into our congregation.

I hope that many of you will consider participating in our summer Theology Book Club. This summer, participants will be reading books focused on living as disciples of Jesus. The books are available in the Fireside Room. In July we will read *Being Disciples* by Rowen Williams and in August we will read *Lord, Teach Us* by William Willimon and Stanley Hauerwas. The dates for the discussions will be:

July 14 from 2:30-4:00pm discussing *Being Disciples* (chapters 1-3)

July 28 from 2:30-4:00pm discussing *Being Disciples* (chapters 4-6)

August 11 from 2:30-4:00pm discussing *Lord, Teach Us* (chapters 1-5)

August 18 from 2:30-4:00pm discussing *Lord, Teach Us* (chapters 6-10)

Thanks to all of you who participated in our cottage meetings. We look forward to sharing the results of those discussions with you and continuing the conversation of where ZLC is heading in the future.

*Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. (Psalm 98:1-3)*

Peace to you all,  
Pastor Ryan

## **Message from Council President**

On May 5, 2019, we will have had our Spring Congregational Meeting. At this meeting we will be presented the reports from several committee chairmen. We will also vote on the council members for by 2019-2020. Those nominated by the nominating committee are:

President	Dianne Hooton
Vice President	Brenda DeRoos
Secretary	Cynthia Guest
Treasurer	Elaine Werner
At Large	Stephanie Hensley
	Deborah Griffin
	John Grefe

Be sure to attend the meeting so we will have a quorum. It has been interesting and a pleasure to be your president.

**Save the Date!** Women's Retreat this year is October 18-20.

Your Council President,  
Vaness Kuhlmann

## **Message from Council Vice President**

Dear Friends, As Vice President, I volunteered to unofficially oversee Buildings and Grounds. For the first large project, I would again like to thank Stephanie Hensley who created computer-generated designs of our alter wall to give us direction. With the artistic guidance Lynne Terry and Pastor Ryan's support, a design was chosen and the work accomplished this winter.

Our next task will be to repair the janitor's room and roof behind Grace Hall. The first bid was \$12,000, much more than we can afford. So, I asked the second strongly recommended contractor to study the problem and see if he could use a "band-aid approach" and simply patch things up. After studying the problem, he said that section of roof must be replaced and rebuilt with a pitch so the water will drain off and not pool up on the flat roof under the two air conditioning units. Thankfully, the cost will be around \$7,000, still more than we have budgeted, but closer to what we can afford. The Council will meet in May to discuss options of how to finance it.

The third item regards broken windows in the sanctuary. In past years, windows were repeatedly replaced due to vandalism, frustrating damage that Tom Rasmussen, Charlie Leberman and Jerry Hooton repaired with our gratitude. In recent months, four more have been broken. We are looking at Solutions for this issue.

Lastly, as our tenure as officers comes to an end, I would like to thank Vaness Kulhmann for the leadership she has given the Council as our President. These past two years have not been easy for her, but her strength and determination have been a source of admiration from all of us. I look forward to having her as my mentor as I become President.

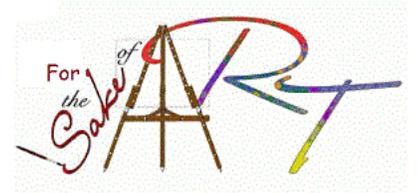
Sincerely, Dianne Spear Hooton

## **Message from Council Treasurer**

By now you should have received your Financial Giving Statement from Judi Renberg. And I hope you have been faithful in your giving since the beginning of the year. So this is just an update on where Zion is financially at this time.

The unfortunate thing that I have to report is that since the beginning of the year the General Fund has been running at a deficit of approximately \$2,000 per month. There haven't been any unusual major expenditures beyond what is normally needed to keep the buildings/grounds maintained, employees paid and office supplies received. At the end of 2018 the yearly expenses and revenues came out at a break even. Hopefully, the future giving will help us get back on track to having our revenues match our expenses again.

Elaine Werner, Treasurer



## **For The Sake of Art**

As we head into the coming summer months soon, we are gearing up for our annual FTSOA Summer Art Camp.

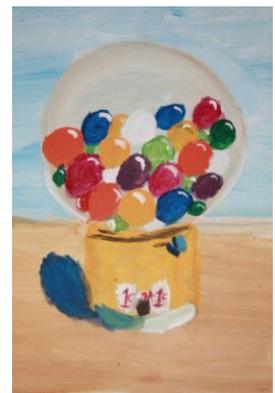
This year's Art Camp will be June 24<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon, and this year's theme will be still-life and underwater subjects. Snacks will be provided during this four-day event. Pre-registration will begin May 1<sup>st</sup>, and is open to all kids grades 1-8. Like all of our kids classes, this is a free art camp taught by professional artists.

We also will start selling tickets for our annual FTSOA Art & Wine Show fund-raiser by the beginning of June. More information will be available soon on the Zion website ([www.zlcstockton.org/art](http://www.zlcstockton.org/art)).

The members of the FTSOA Ministry Team would like to take this opportunity to thank Patti Kennedy for all of her hard work over the years as our Artistic Director. She will be leaving us at the end of May to focus on her job with the San Joaquin County Board of Education as well as her own art endeavors, and we look forward to having her come back sometime to teach a few classes in the future. Thanks for everything Patti. On a related note, we are looking for a replacement artistic director, so if anyone reading this newsletter knows of someone who might be interested in the position, please have them contact Christopher DeRoos through the church office for more information.

Finally, if you are interested in volunteering with the art program, please talk to any member of the FTSOA ministry team for more information: Chris DeRoos, Connie Crawford, Jane Rasmussen, Lynne Terry or Sharyn Carr.

Until next month, may you all have a wonderful spring/summer filled with blessings and joy. The FTSOA Ministry Team



# Easter Sunday Pictures

Included: Easter Service, New Members and a Baptism, with Brunch. Here are some pictures taken by Burke Wallace.





## **Friends of the Armed Forces**

May is National Military Appreciation Month!! There are six national observances during the month of May:

May 1<sup>st</sup> Loyalty Day;

May 5-11, Public Service Recognition week

May 8, VE Day, or Victory in Europe Day

May 10, Military Spouse Appreciation Day

May 18, Armed Forces Day. And of course

May 27 is Memorial Day

I am happy to report that Sailor Matthew Best has completed his temporary duty assignment on San Clemente Island and is now back at his home duty base in Port Hueneme. Thank you again for all your prayers and support! He especially loved the Oreo cookies!! Marine Joey Snapp has recently left on deployment to Kuwait, and Airman Jed Burlando will be shipping out soon for a deployment in Africa. We plan to support them during their deployments.

We will also continue to support "Karen's Closet" at the USAF Deployment Transition Center at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany. The DTC works with our service members returning from deployments on reintegration into a non-combat environment. Service members at the DTC can pick up needed items free of charge at Karen's Closet, which relies solely on donations. We would like to send a box or two quarterly. Any donations may be left in large wicker basket in the narthex. Please let me know if you have any questions, and as always, thank you for your continued support!

In His service,  
Jodi

## **A Baby Shower for Ashley and John Grefe**

The newest member of our church will be arriving sometime between July and August. To welcome him/her into this world, an informal baby shower will take place in the Fireside Room after the church service on either May 26 or June 2. (An announcement will be made before services regarding the finalized date as the time gets closer.)

Please plan to join in the celebration which I promised Ashley will be low key. Yet, a couple of her family members hope to also attend which will make it an even more special occasion.

Dianne Hooton

## **Children's Corner**

You may have noticed an addition in the church recently. A Children's Corner has been added behind the last pew. There is a small table with chairs, some books, coloring supplies and a couple of puzzles. Two short pews have been relocated to allow places for parents or grandparents to sit comfortably. If you are bringing young ones to church, you are invited to take advantage of the Children's Corner.

Thanks to Pastor Ryan and Tom Rasmussen for setting this up.



## **Fellowship**

### **Sisters in Christ Tea:**

We are having our annual Sisters in Christ Teas, Saturday, May 18 from 2-4pm. Relax and enjoy the tea and sandwiches, entertainment and prizes while being served by our ZLC men.



### **Pentecost Potluck:**

Our Pentecost Potluck is always great fun and will be held Sunday, June 9th after church in Grace Hall. You can sign up in the Narthex for main dishes, side dishes, and salads. Dessert will be provided.

Judi Renberg

## **Family Promise**

Update information about Family Promise of San Joaquin County  
By Doreen Spohn (Zion Lutheran Church Liaison)

On April 4, I attended the Family Promise of San Joaquin County General Meeting and would like to share with you the latest developments. The following organizations have agreed to host families or offer support in working to keep homeless families together and help them achieve stable housing.

**7 Host Congregations:**

First Presbyterian Church  
Zion Lutheran Church  
Temple Israel  
First Unitarian Church  
Holy Cross Methodist Church  
Great Valley Baptist Church  
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

**12 Support Congregations:**

First Congregational Church  
Shiloh Delta Valley Church  
St. Anne's Episcopal Church  
St. Anthony's Catholic Church Manteca  
Transformed Through Hope Ministries Manteca  
Valley Ministries  
Crosstown Community Church  
St. Bernadette's Catholic Church/Saint Vincent De Paul  
LDS Northland Ward Manteca  
God's Church City of David  
Horizon Fellowship  
St. Basil's Greek Orthodox

Family Promise of San Joaquin has provided a list of Activities for Volunteers:

- \* Preparing meals
- \* Providing financial literacy training
- \* Assist with fundraising events
- \* Communications & social media
- \* Event staffing
- \* Tutoring

Why this can be a great opportunity for you!

- Opportunity to help children and homeless families directly
- Opportunity to make a real difference
- Opportunity to increase your skills, while providing a valuable service
- Opportunity for a flexible volunteer schedule, so you can fit it into your weekly schedule
- Opportunity to volunteer together as a family to provide real value

Right now Family Promise of San Joaquin could REALLY use some help in these areas  
Fundraising

- \* Communications and Social Media
- \* Congregation Set Up

The next Family Promise of San Joaquin General Meeting will be May 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:00 at First Presbyterian Church, 31 East Vine Street. If you would like more information see me, Doreen Spohn at Zion or text me at: (209) 298-7571

### Serving in May & June

#### May 5

Assisting Minister	Bill Crawford
Communion Assistant	Connie Crawford
Usher	Pete Lepisto
Usher	Burke Wallace

#### May 12

Assisting Minister	Lynne Terry
Communion Assistant	Nancy Turnrose
Usher	Norm Randolph
Usher	Tom Turnrose

#### May 19

Assisting Minister	Deborah Griffen
Communion Assistant	Judi Renberg
Usher	Elaine Werner
Usher	Bill Werner

#### May 26

Assisting Minister	Dianne Hootong
Communion Assistant	Joyce Morken
Usher	Jerry Hooton
Usher	Gary McKnight

#### June 2

Assisting Minister	Ton Rasmussen
Communion Assistant	Cynthia Guest
Usher	LaVerne Gondry
Usher	Shirley Montgomery

#### June 9

Assisting Minister	Dan Terry
Communion Assistant	Sharyn Carr
Usher	Bob Carr
Usher	Burke Wallace

#### June 16

Assisting Minister	Phil Spohn
Communion Assistant	Nancy Turnrose
Usher	Pete Lepisto
Usher	Tom Turnrose

#### June 23

Assisting Minister	Lynne Terry
Communion Assistant	Judi Renberg
Usher	Elaine Werner
Usher	Bill Werner

#### June 30

Assisting Minister	Tom Turnrose
Communion Assistant	LaVerne Gondry
Usher	Gary McKnight
Usher	Norm Randolph

### Upcoming Events:

5/11-5	Synod Assembly
5/18 2pm	Sisters in Christ Teas
6/2	Sunday Worship Time change to 9:00am
6/9	Pentecost Potluck with P.O.O
6/24	FTSOA-Camp

#### **Congregation Birthday's:**

5/1	Ryan Guest
5/4	Calvin Henderson
5/5	Lee Christianson
5/6	Esther Reusche
5/6	Kately Messersmith
5/14	Gary Dingman
5/16	George Schilling
5/26	Lance Lundgren
5/30	Amy Spohn
5/31	Brodie Lundgren
6/1	Jerry Hooton
6/2	Connie Crawford
6/7	Dee Pulver
6/8	Gary McKnight
6/12	Liz McCarty
6/15	Charlie Leberman
6/18	Gregory Rice
6/19	Les Lundgren
6/23	Kristine Guest
6/23	Jordan Carr
6/24	Jane Rasmussen
6/25	Ana Landa

#### **Congregation Anniversaries:**

5/8	Tina & Bob Carr Jr.
6/12	Linda & Les Lundgren
6/17	Carolyn & Pete Lepisto
6/23	Dee & John Pulver

## GOSPEL CENTER RESCUE MISSION

### May/June Calendar

#### Weekly Activities:

##### Sunday

8:15am Cantor/Choir Practice  
9:00am Adult Education  
10:00am Sunday Worship

##### Monday

11:00am Banjo Practice  
4-5:30pm FTSOA-Kids  
7:00pm Prayer Group (second & fourth

##### Monday)

##### Tuesday

7:00pm Bible Study  
11:00am Esther's Circle (fourth Tuesday)

##### Wednesday

6:30pm Midweek Worship  
7:00pm Choir Practice

##### Thursday

7:00am Men's Breakfast  
12:00pm Primetimers (first Thursday of  
month)

##### Saturday

10:00am FTSOA-Adults (first Saturday of  
month)

- canned or dry beans
- rice or other grains
- whole grain pasta
- pasta sauce
- apple sauce
- peanut butter, or other nut butters
- rolled oats
- canned fruit in its own juice or water
- canned vegetables
- meals in a can (soup, stew, chili)
- canned chicken or tuna
- olive or canola oil
- low-sugar whole grain cereals
- shelf stable milk or milk-substitutes
- honey
- chicken, beef, or vegetable stock
- healthy snacks (granola bars, nuts, dried fruit)

Please avoid items packed in glass. Think healthy.

**Bring items to church on Sunday**





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**ZION'S STAFF**  
*Music Director:*  
Rhonda Nunes

*Office Administrator:*  
Genevieve Galli  
office@zlcstockton.org

*Custodians:*  
Leroy Shepherd  
Phillip Brown

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