

October 21, 2022

Zion Connection

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Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church!

We're all about helping you get connected -

With one another, with your faith, with the greater church,
and with opportunities to serve our community & beyond.

Bible Study Opportunities at Zion

Article by Joy Albrecht

I don't know about you, but I have always had an on-again, off-again relationship with group Bible study. I have had profoundly meaningful seasons in my life during which I was devoutly committed to spending time studying the lessons, answering the questions, and attending every session. During those seasons, I was blessed beyond belief. Likewise, I have had seasons in which I, well, the word that comes to mind is "fizzled." I started out strong at the start, but somehow I just seemed to run out of steam, out of interest and out of commitment. Eventually, I stopped attending all together. Needless to say, those were not times of deep spiritual growth for me.

I was recently inspired by the following paragraph from [Living Faith Congregational Planning Guide © 2000 ELCA](#) - "The maturing disciple attends to "study" in both private and communal contexts. Through reading, meditating and the study of Scripture, the lively word of God becomes active in the lives of believers. For thousands of years, the words of Jesus, the teachings of the prophets and apostles, and the stories of God's people have revealed God's heart and hope for the world and each one of us. The Holy Spirit inspires us through Scripture to see ourselves as we are and as God would have us become. Through the Bible we come to understand how God works in the world, for the world and through people like us."

Church Calendar

(For info re: any of these events, [please email the church office.](#))

Weekly Worship Service -
11:00am - In-person and via
livestream [\(Link\)](#)

Men's Prayer Breakfast -
Mondays - 8:30am @ Rainbow
Restaurant [\(Info: John R.\)](#)

Pastor's Bible Study via
Zoom - Thursdays @ 2:00pm

Mah Jongg Fellowship -
Fridays - 1:00pm - 3:00pm @
Zion [\(Info: Gail H.\)](#)

CWU Celebration @ Zion -
Fri., Nov. 4th @ 9:30am

Women's Bible Study
(Hybrid) - Mon., Nov. 7th @
10:00am [\(Link\)](#)

WELCA Monthly Mtg.
(Hybrid) - Mon., Nov. 7th @
10:45am [\(Link\)](#)

Nov. Church Council Mtg. -
Sun., Nov. 13th @ 12:00pm
[\(Info: Mike H.\)](#)

Sanctuary Flowers

October flowers are given by
Dona Olesen in celebration of
the 40th wedding anniversary
of Ken & Dona Olesen.

Bible Study - (cont.)

Fortunately for me, and for all of us at Zion, we now have three spirit-filled opportunities to gather for Bible study with one another:

- **Pastor's weekly Bible study** meets via Zoom every Thursday at 2:00pm. Pastor leads the class in studying the 2nd Lesson for the upcoming Sunday worship service. The scripture is read aloud, and Pastor then leads the group in a thought-provoking discussion of the message. All are invited to join. With the Zoom format, attendees can participate from near and far. Every Thursday morning, Pastor sends an email with that week's Zoom meeting link. Please contact [Pastor Nielsen](#) to be added to his email list.
- Every Monday morning at 8:30am, the **men of Zion** meet for breakfast, coffee, fellowship and an informal (no homework!) Bible study. The study is based on the weekly lessons printed in the *Celebrate* worship insert which we use during Sunday services. The men read through the scripture lessons and share their thoughts and questions with one another.
- Zion's hybrid-style ([Link](#)) **women's monthly Bible study** is held on the 1st Monday of each month (2nd Monday, if the 1st Monday is a holiday). The 35-minute study begins promptly at 10:00am (fellowship at 9:30am). National WELCA-prepared study materials are used in the 35-minute session. Leadership of the study is shared among several women with each bringing her own style and focus.

Prayer Request List

Intercessory prayer is a meaningful way we can support one another.

Our prayers have been requested for:

Leif & Monika, Isabelle, Lou Anne, Roy, Malcolm, Dylan,
Mike, Bob, Jim, and Karla.

To add a name(s) to Zion's prayer list, please speak to Pastor, Susan S., or Joy, or [email the church office](#).

Ministry Notes & Updates From Around Zion

- All those who volunteered to participate in the upcoming **CWU program on 11/4th** - Please meet right after church this Sunday, Oct. 23rd, for a very quick meeting.
- **Flower Donations for 2023** - The stringboard is empty! All 12 of the flower envelopes have been claimed, and most have already been returned to the offering plate. Thank you, Zion, for your generous support of our lovely flower ministry.

Sunday Scripture Readings

Sunday, October 23rd
(20th Sunday of Pentecost)

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22
Psalm 84:1-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

Sunday, October 30th
(Reformation Sunday)

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

Sunday, November 6th
(All Saints Sunday)

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:11-23
Luke 6:20-31

Sunday, November 13th
(23rd Sunday of Pentecost)

Malachi 4:1-2a
Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

October Birthdays -

1st - Leslie Smrekar
2nd - Anne Schultz
4th - Susan Moser
6th - Jean Harrass
9th - Sam Smrekar
11th - Barbara Collins
12th - Pastor Nielsen
19th - Barbara Schroeder
31st - Dona Olesen

November Birthdays -

3rd - Rev. L.G. Wehman
9th - Mike Harrass
13th - Thais McGovern
22nd - Marci Nielsen
23rd - Richard McCamant
23rd - Lou Anne Cousino

Ministry Updates - (cont.)

- Our music ministry is blessed to have Lou Anne Cousino (and husband Roy) back with us for several weeks. **Thank you, Lou Anne**, for sharing your very special gift of beautiful organ music with us on Sunday mornings.
- The “milk can” is back! The gray milk can in which we used to (pre-Covid) collect **donations of loose coins** to benefit The Neighborhood Center of South Lake has been relocated to the white table in the narthex. Lighten that heavy wallet, and lighten another’s load - a win/win for sure!
- A reminder from our treasurer - The end of the year is fast approaching. In order to claim **tax benefits for any donation for 2022**, the donation must be received by the last Sunday in December.
- Donations received to date for Hurricane Ian relief currently total **in excess of \$500.00**. **Thank you, Zion**, for your care for your neighbors! If you would still like to donate, please clearly write ‘Hurricane Relief’ on your check (made out to Zion), and place it in the offering plate.
- Donations are still being collected for the Groveland Elementary School CIT program. **The following items are needed:** paper towels, toilet tissue, Kleenex tissue, dish soap, bar soap, body wash, wash cloths, hairbrushes, combs, toothpaste, toothbrushes, detergent, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, and all types of cleaning products. All items can be placed in the labeled box under the far table in the fellowship room.