



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

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NEWS FROM ZION FEBRUARY 2018

Pastor's Page

Taking Faith Home: Rituals & Traditions

We all engage in rituals and traditions. A ritual is a pattern of behavior that carries meaning. A tradition is a ritual that comes around on particular occasions like birthdays or holidays. Many rituals develop rather by accident. We are creatures of habit and once we find a pattern we like we tend to repeat it.

Some families have rituals related to bedtime—supper, bath, book, and prayers. Some have dinnertime rituals with a particular table grace prayed. Maybe you have rituals for your hellos and goodbyes. I know some families who say goodbye for the day with, “Love you!” and the other responding, “Love you more!”

Traditions are usually associated with special events, like candles on a birthday cake or whether you open gifts on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning. It's interesting to reflect on our traditions and the reasons we have them, the memories they hold, and whether there are particular meanings for them.

The 4th Key on the *Taking Faith Home* (TFH) bulletin insert (following Caring Conversation, Devotions, and Service) is Ritual/Tradition. Each week we are given ideas to attach faith-filled meaning to our rituals or traditions. Our worship life is rich with both rituals and traditions and some of them can be translated to our daily lives of faith.

This month we will begin the season of Lent, the six weeks leading to Easter. In the history of the church this has been a time of preparation for those who will be baptized on or after Easter. The already baptized assembly accompanies these baptismal candidates by incorporating one or more spiritual disciplines in their lives as they renew their own commitment to this baptismal life.

The three spiritual disciplines that are most often adopted in Lent are fasting, prayer, and giving. (See Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 and Matthew 6:1-6, 16-20.) The point of Lenten fasting is not to renew our commitment to our New Year's resolution to lose weight. We can fast from many things, including food. The purpose of fasting is to live without whatever draws us away from God so that we can turn toward God and place our trust in God for our sustenance once again.

Often, our fasting can be an instrument for turning us toward prayer and/or almsgiving. Let's say I fast from buying my lunch during the week. I can then take the money I would have spent on my lunches and give it to an organization that feeds the hungry. One year I fasted from watching primetime TV dramas (the ones with lots of murder and violence), and spent my evenings reading *The Book of God* by Walter Wangerin, Jr. There was certainly lots of

action in this novel version of the Bible, but it also reinforced God's faithful calling to God's people to return their hearts to God. This became a kind of prayer and devotional time for me.

Our TFH pages during Lent will give helpful ideas for how to include fasting, prayer, and giving. Some people like to adopt one of these

you, try the ideas in TFH and see which ones you find the most difficult or the most meaningful and keep those in mind for how you might keep them year round or take on for the whole season come next Lent.

May this Lenten season be a time of renewal and rededication to our daily faith practices.
Pastor Lynne

On Sunday, February 4th we will welcome Margie Fiedler, Executive Director of FLBC, to worship and Adult Forum. Margie will preach and will bring us up to date on all the great things happening at the camp!

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp is situated in the majestic Rocky Mountains of western Montana. We are a camping ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America committed to proclaiming and living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Camp is owned and operated by 55 ELCA congregations in western Montana, including Zion, and is open year-round to groups of all ages.

This month Caring & Social Ministry will host the February 18th "God's Work. Our Hands." breakfast to benefit the new cabin that will be handicap accessible. Come hear more about this and all the fun summer & year-round programs FLBC has to offer!

Social Concern of the Month

disciplines for the whole season. If this is new to



Now is the time to register for summer camp! Check out these two great options in

Montana: www.flbc.net and www.christikon.org

Did you know? Zion Lutheran offers scholarship for those who attend summer bible camp! Whether your child attends Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp or Christikon, families can request up to \$200 per child for a full week of camp or \$100 for a half-week. Please contact the church office or speak

SUMMER CAMP

Zion Council Notes from December

- The trust committee awarded three scholarships of \$1000 each.
- The 2018 budget was reviewed as amended and approved for vote at the annual meeting.
- A TV has been purchased for use in the narthex. (used Christmas Eve)
- Discussion on electronic giving with Vanco. The consensus is that we need to use the program



10 Biblical Ways to Love



1. Listen without interrupting. "To answer before listening — that is folly and shame" (Proverbs 18:13).
2. Speak without accusing. "Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (James 1:19).
3. Give without selfishness. "The righteous give without sparing" (Proverbs 21:26).
4. Pray without ceasing. "We have not stopped praying for you" (Colossians 1:9).
5. Answer without arguing. "Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife" (Proverbs 17:1).
6. Share without pretending. "Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of ... Christ" (Ephesians 4:15).
7. Enjoy without complaining. "Do everything without grumbling or arguing" (Philippians 2:14).
8. Trust without wavering. "[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres" (1 Corinthians 13:7).
9. Forgive without punishing. "Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13).
10. Promise without forgetting. "A longing fulfilled is a tree of life" (Proverbs 13:12).

—From various websites; all Scriptures NIV



With Sympathy

On January 3, 2018 we commended **Helen Boettger** into the hands of God, following her death on December 27, 2017. Helen was a bright and gentle presence here at Zion for so many years. She appreciated the week audio recording we provided of our worship services which kept her connected to her community of faith in the last couple of years. Our prayers are with her family and friends.

On Saturday, February 10, at 11:00 a.m. we will gather to give thanks for the life of **Jim Sauby** and commend him into God's care. Jim passed away on December 19, 2017, following a fall on the ice. Jim & Barbara have been faithful members of Zion for many years. We continue to hold Jim's family and friends in our prayers.

Midweek Worship during Lent – Salvation Stories

Our weekly Wednesday worship has become a mainstay in our congregation, and provides a helpful option to those who cannot attend on Sunday mornings. For the season of Lent, the readings for Wednesdays will not follow the Sunday lectionary. Instead, they will carry the theme of salvation stories—Creation, The Flood, Deliverance at the Red Sea, Valley of Dry Bones, and the Fiery Furnace. These stories will be told in creative ways and the services will use simple choruses from the Taizé community for the liturgy. As usual, Holy Communion will be celebrated each Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent on February 14th with worship at 6:00 p.m. The salvation story series will follow from February 21 - March 21. During Holy Week there will not be a service on Wednesday, March 28th. Worshipers are encouraged to attend the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, March 29th and 30th.

SOUP SUPPERS WILL BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 21
PRIOR TO THE LENTEN WORSHIP AT 6:00 P.M.
CHECK THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX TO SIGN UP TO
BRING SOUP, BREAD, BUTTER, OR MILK.



Newsletter Info!

If you have any information that you would like included in the March Newsletter please have it emailed or dropped off at the church office by
Monday, February 12th

Emails can be sent to:
kwirtzberger@gmail.com

We Need Your Email Addresses!

Some new things are coming to Zion!

Soon we will be sending out weekly E-Mail Blasts! This will be a great way for you to stay informed on different church events and weekly news.

If we do not have your email address please call the church office at 535-5082
or
email Katie at kwirtzberger@gmail.com



The ZION Bulletin Board

Family Fun at CAMP ZION!!!

March 4th - 10:30am

Families are invited to "board the bus" upstairs for a sneak peek at camp!!

We will play games, sing cool songs, worship around the campfire, eat lunch by the lake, have quiet time in our cabin, see a goofy skit, make a craft . . . and have a ton of fun!!

FEBRUAR ALCOLYTE SCHEDULE

2/4/18 – Bergin Larson

2/11/18 – Jett Boyce

2/18/18 – Brooke Weinheimer

2/25/18 – Rylee Cowen

LENTEN PRAYER VIGIL

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

NOON – 5 PM

FIRESIDE ROOM

FEBRUARY SERVANT SCHEDULE

USHERS	GREETERS	LECTORS	COMM. ASSISTANTS
2/4/18 – Laurie Bentley	2/4 – Loyd & Pam Bowen	2/4 - Karen Combs	2/4 - Pam Bowen
2/11/18 – Bob Bjelland	2/11 – Gladys Busenbark	2/11 - Cindy Giese	2/11 - Annette Bjelland
2/18/18 – Pat Carroll	2/18 – Franz Family	2/18 - Lynn Franz	2/18 - Vonnie Ortgies
2/25/18 – Bill Cowen	2/25 – Harriet Irish	2/25 - Vickey Cowen	2/25 - Avis Simpson

Do you do Social

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

<https://www.facebook.com/Zion-Lutheran-Church-Lewistown->

