

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

505 WATCHOGUE ROAD STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. 10314
(718) 981-3151 www.zion505.org

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Messenger



LENT

Baptismal Renewal

As we continue in the season of Lent, we reflect on the baptismal promises we made at our confirmation, or our sponsors made on our behalf at our time of baptism. At the baptism rite, we hear these following words, 'Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, as you receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

- ◆ **To live among God's faithful people,**
- ◆ **To hear the Word of God and share in the**
- ◆ **Lord's supper**
- ◆ **To proclaim the good news of God in Christ**
- ◆ **through word and deed**
- ◆ **To serve all people, following the example of Jesus.**

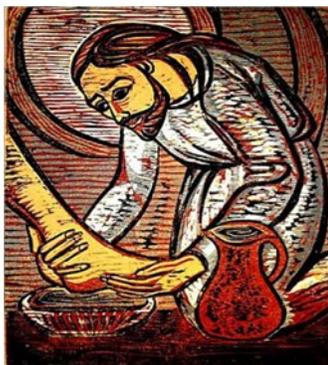
We often don't talk enough about the responsibilities that come along with the tremendous gift of baptism. Like committing to worship together, and connecting with our brothers and sisters around us by sharing together our joys and sorrows. This first commitment empowers us to see beyond ourselves, and know that God calls us into relationship with a living God, and with one another. This sets the tone of acknowledging who we are as beloved children of God, and also broken sinners in need of grace.

The second commitment to hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, again gives us the stance of humility in this life, and sets the tone that we are in need of God's grace for our lives, and God meets us in both the Word and Sacraments here in this space.

To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed. My wife often uses the phrase, 'Don't just talk about it, be about it.' As Christians, we are called to share the love of God with the world around us, and not just say the words but also reflect God's love in our actions. God's love is our witness.

To serve all people, following the example of Jesus. In this we have our model with Christ, who stooped down to wash the feet of the disciples, and took off the mantle of God's glory to dwell among us in the flesh because God's love is that strong for us. We are called from the baptismal font to go out into the world for the sake of the world, equipped with God's love.

I hope you will take time in this season of Lent to renew your baptismal commitments.





Soup Suppers

Wednesday Evenings in Lent

Virtual Soup Suppers and Evening Prayer on Wednesday Evenings in Lent

Wednesdays: March 3, 10, 17, 24

*we will be gathering virtually to have a soup supper,
followed by a brief service of Evening Prayer.*



Soup on Us

Pick a soup you like to try but wouldn't want to buy
make a soup for yourself,
or pick up a can of soup from Zion's shelf



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 28th – 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

(in person worship)

9:30 a.m. (virtual worship)

(those worshipping at home can pick up your palms at the church during the week)

Maundy Thursday, April 1 – 7:00 p.m.

(in person and virtual)

Good Friday, April 2 – 7:00 p.m.

(in person and virtual)

Easter Sunday, April 4 – 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. (in person worship)

9:30 a.m. (virtual worship)

On the first Sunday, March 7th, we will return to offering Holy Communion at each worship service, both 8:30 and 10:30 in person, as well as, at our 9:30 a.m. virtual worship. As we are still in the midst of a pandemic, we need to practice safe protocols as we distribute communion to all. More information will be given on the 7th to keep everyone safe. Bring your faith, and be met by God's grace.

For the virtual worshipping community, there will be wafer and juice available to you at the Church the week prior for pick up, and if you cannot pick up Communion for yourself, please let Pr. John know and he will drop a home Communion kit for you.



Corner

Why Focus on Equipping Households?

Those of us formally engaged in faith formation know that like learning to speak one's native language, to become fluent in the language of faith, it is best to hear it and practice it daily in the home. In the journal *Life-long Faith*, John Roberto writes: "As church leaders and educators, we all recognize that the family is the first community of faith and the most powerful influence on the faith of children and teenagers. We also recognize that parents are the first educators of their children, providing the foundation for a spiritual and religious life. We know that ... parents need help to assume their roles in fostering faith and a deeper spirituality within their homes Unfortunately many congregations have contributed to the situation by overemphasizing age-segregated programming, which further divides families Oftentimes there is little to no programming that engages the entire family, or that empowers and equips parents for their task as the primary religious teachers of their children and teens."

Foundation and Fundamentals

Nathan Dungan, founder and president of Share Save Spend, offers the following observation: "An overwhelming majority of people say that they received little or no instruction about money – be it share, save or spend. Everywhere I go, the answer is the same, which means the primary responsibility for teaching about money most often falls to parents. Therein lie both the problem and the opportunity." He continues, "The unfortunate byproduct of this approach is that most people, unknowingly, cede the narrative of money and values to culture Imagine the possibilities if congregations proactively addressed these issues. What if the new stewardship normal moved beyond a pledge card and expanded to a year-round educational focus on money and values and the role it plays in our lives?" Raising children in the 21st century has become increasingly complex. The choices parents and kids face have grown exponentially. Companies spend \$17 billion in advertising each year to reach our kids. The average child sees 25,000-40,000 ads each year. Teens spend \$160 billion of their own and parents' money annually, in addition to influencing another \$160 billion of their parents' spending. Kids today experience instant gratification for most of their needs and wants. We join Dungan in asking the question, "Who is engaging, educating and equipping our households and young people for current and future financial opportunities and responsibilities?" When our children are bombarded 24/7 with messages urging them to spend, where is the voice inviting them to share? How do we not allow our changing culture to engulf us and overwhelm us? In the midst of a culture that tells us what we need and what to buy, how can the church respond with a lively faith and take seriously the cultural and daily realities impacting family life? How can the church partner with households without adding to the guilt and demands on time that too many parents already feel? How can congregations model faith practices when people gather so people are equipped when they scatter? Dungan, Nathan. "Money Sanity U." Center for Stewardship Leaders, Luther Seminary, blog post Dec. 4, 2012.

In the road to Emmaus story recorded in Luke 24, it is at the household table where Christ is revealed and recognized, that hearts are warmed for greater sharing and generosity. In God's Story Acts 2:41-47 we learn, :

"They gathered in the temple AND at home." They were like family to each other and they practiced what it meant to follow Jesus – they heard and studied God's word, ate together with friends and family, prayed for one another, and they joyfully shared what they had with others. Household by household they grew as followers of Jesus Christ. This holy story offers a view of what a healthy faith community looks like when it is open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and practices in the formal setting called church what it looks like to follow Jesus in the domestic church called home. To develop a deeply owned faith that grounds one's identity as the child of a generous God and a follower of Jesus requires congregations to create a vital church-home partnership and intentional cross-generational culture that forms disciples as steward leaders. The church is called to provide a place to practice and ways to practice our faith.

The church is called to equip households to learn and speak the language and stories of faith – at home. The Rev. Dana Lee Simon, an ELCA pastor, said it well “After attending a Generosity Workshop, I am convinced that I, not the culture, will shape my child’s identity, values and attitudes toward giving, saving and spending.” We gather as family at the Lord’s Table so we are able to gather as households of faith at our picnic tables, coffee tables, kitchen tables and restaurant tables. In the midst of the challenges that our 21st century congregations and families face, consider creating “training tables” for a daily life in Christ – training tables for hearing the Word of God and sharing in the Lord’s Supper. As God’s living, breathing gospel in the form of God’s Son born among us takes root at our tables and in our hearts, we are freed to live generously.

Foundation and Fundamentals

In his book *The Mission Table*, the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman offers these inspiring words: “When we talk about ‘tables,’ we do not speak of bureaucratic systems or techniques or programs. We again take our seat at the kitchen table, bathed in stories and values and rhythms of faith that have anchored us in a gracious [and generous] God from generation to generation From the kitchen table, we are sent to the altar table, and from here into the world as story and sign bearers of the Creator’s vision for reconciliation, forgiveness, restoration, and grace.

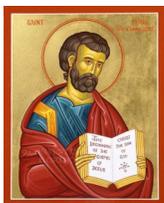
(Taken from the Generosity Project)

Pr. John Saraka

Come Join Our
BIBLE



STUDY Wednesday Mornings at 10:00 a.m.



Come take a peek at the book I wrote!!!

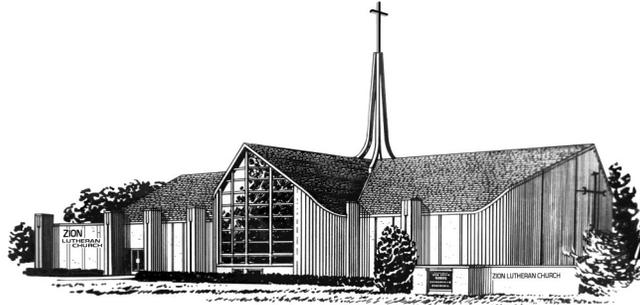
We are studying the Gospel of Mark over the next few weeks.

Every Wednesday at 10 a.m. you can join us in person in the Upper Room or link with us through Zoom.

Calling all 7th and 8th graders; if you haven’t made your Confirmation and are ready for classes, contact Pr. John immediately, as Confirmation Class will begin soon.



Calling all 5th graders and above, if you haven’t made your First Communion and are ready to begin classes contact Pr. John immediately, as First Communion Class will begin soon .



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Greetings Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Zion Lutheran Church. This past year has taught us that our faith is not only vital to our lives, but needs to be adaptable to meet the challenges of our world. This message of God's love is constant and unshakable. The vehicle that carries that message through times of crisis has been passed on from the spoken word, to print, to media, to technology, to the virtual world, and back again, but the real lives that are transformed through the Word of God begins to reshape the world for the better.

We are sharing a link below for you to make donations to support the ongoing ministry of Zion Lutheran Church through VANCO, the leading provider and host for online giving for the Lutheran Churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Churches of America. This is a secure site.

Click on the link below, and Vanco will lead you through how you can give directly to the mission of the Church.

Again, thank you for partnering with us in this important work.

<https://secure.myvanco.com/YH40>

Blessings to you!

Pr. John Saraka

VANCO





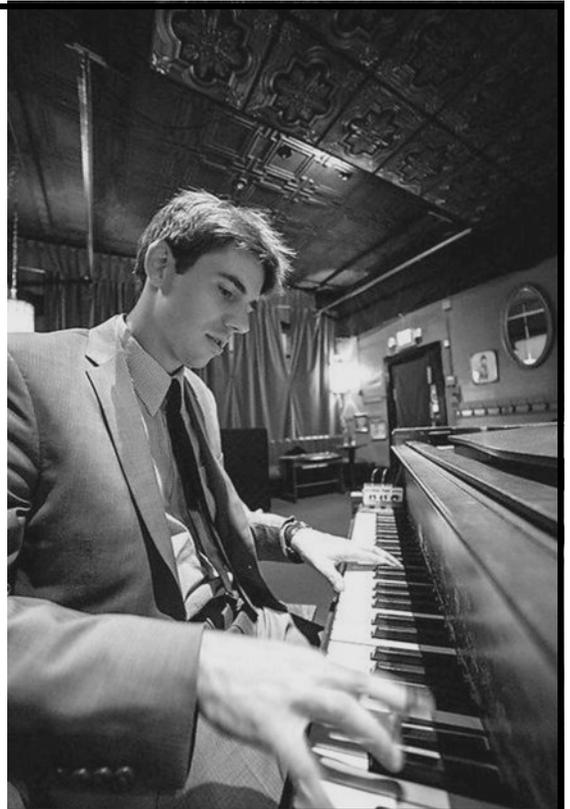
Paul Shinn

Music Director/Organist

Primarily a jazz pianist, Paul Shinn has been accompanying church services on organ & piano in several denominations since the time he was 14 years old. His favorite styles of sacred music include traditional gospel hymns as well as the works of his musical hero J.S. Bach. Paul's knowledge of a wide variety of genres allows him to select music from many sources that best fit together to support the contextual demands of the service each Sunday. His goal during worship is to create music that engages the congregation to participate in song (when the time is right again after Covid!) and also enhances the spirituality in ways that only music can.

Aside from sacred music, Mr. Shinn is an enthusiastic performer of jazz, pop, salsa, classical and blues. He is an accomplished solo jazz pianist and was a semifinalist in two international piano competitions in Montreux, Switzerland (2010) and Pretoria, South Africa (2016). Paul has also composed and arranged the music for four full-length albums featuring his ensemble The Paul Shinn Trio -- two of these albums are available on Spotify at the moment along with one full-length concert video on YouTube.

Born in Mainz, Germany and raised in Kansas City, MO, Paul has been living in New York for the past four years. He studied music at the University of Missouri (Kansas City), University of North Texas (Denton) and University of Colorado (Boulder). Paul's hobbies include tennis, skiing and reading. He is the oldest of four brothers and lives in Greenwich Village with his girlfriend Hazel. Samples of Paul's playing and concert dates can be found at <https://www.paulshinnmusic.com/>





CONNECTION

Greetings Dear Community,

We are offering two opportunities for connection and prayer, both virtually and in person. This is a time to gather, and share our struggles, find support and lighten the load we carry through mutual understanding.

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on Zoom, *(link provided in weekly email)*

Saturdays, 10 a.m. in person in the Upper Room

Please check church website and your email weekly for links and information for Wednesday evening (7:00 pm) Zoom meetings and Saturday mornings (10:00 am) in person meetings.



March Birthdays

May the Lord's blessings continue to be with you and your family, and may His words continue to move you from strength to strength. I wish you all the best and many more birthdays to come.

Kristi Andersen	Jessica Gottlieb	Jake Luxoro	Arlene Secondo
Arnold Bjorklund	George Hansen	Taylor Luxoro	Anthony Siminson
Danielle Cabanas	Angela Hickey	Patty MacDougall	Max (Sorokata) Wright
Stephen Capic	Monica Horvath	Sandra Mormile	Richard Steen
Arthur Carlson	Justin Jakubowski	Stacey Nalwasky	Hailey Vesce
Matthew Coombs	Lauren Kane	Avery Neckin	Isabella Vesce
Kathleen Doyle	Xiao-Xian Kane	Douglas Olson	David Villamarin
Roy Eidhammer	Linda Klein	Allison Pilatsky	Doris Virga
Anthony Figueroa	Bunnie Lewand	Lauren Pilatsky	Jenny Vokral
David Gallo, Jr.	Silje Lorentzen	Janice Russel	Michael Warmbier
Taylor Gallo	Blake Luxoro	Julia Sarcone	

If we missed your Birthday or would like to add your Birthday please **email lisam@zion505.org** or **call** the church office:, **718-981-3151**.



We are looking for volunteers to make a difference in our mission: Become an usher, a reader, an assisting minister, work with the altar guild, or acolyte at Worship. These are all ways you can make a difference in the life of our community by helping create a wonderful worship experience for all. If interested in serving in any of these areas, speak to Pastor John and he will connect you with training and support.

Thank you!!!

Operations & Finance Committee Report

March 2021

Dear members of Zion,

After a snow filled and cold February, we are starting to see the light at the end of the winter tunnel. With spring approaching, the Operations committee will be looking to “spruce up” the building. Hopefully we can have work parties, with congregational volunteers, to assist with some yard clean up as the weather improves.

Snow Removal Report: Due to changes in programming at the church, we no longer require an outside snow removal contractor to handle that requirement. Snow removal has been performed, since the beginning of the new year, as an “in house” job and has resulted in a savings of \$3,000 to the church.

2021-2022 Budget: Preparation for the July 2021 – June 2022 budget will begin in March and be ready for presentation at the June Congregational meeting.

Sanctuary Sound System: We have received three proposals for the upgrading of the sanctuary sound system. The bids range from five thousand to twenty thousand dollars. Final selection will take place in March and funding will be from the Memorial Fund.

Land Appraisal: As discussed at the last Congregational Meeting, an appraisal for the remaining 5 building lots of land on Home Place are in the works. We will hopefully have these numbers for the council and congregation within a few more weeks.

Merger Update: The merger of St Pauls/St Lukes into Zion has been placed on pause by the synod. The synod is reviewing it policy and procedure on mergers and consolidations (merger is the larger church absorbing the smaller one and consolidation is taking two churches and making a new one with a new constitution). This pause came as a surprise and is very disappointing, particularly to the members of St. Pauls/St. Lukes as we have been working closing together for five years to make this union happen. We will present updates as they come along.

Preschool Subcommittee: The final financial winddown of Preschool is still ongoing. Due to the 12 month tuition payment schedule (offered to the parents to lower the monthly charge) a number of families had already paid tuition beyond the 4 months that the Preschool was open, for the 2020-21 school year, and were entitled to reimbursements. In addition, there were families who had not fulfilled their total payments for the 4 month session or Giggles program. Much thanks to Pastor John and our Preschool Committee Chairperson, Christine Thorsen, for all of their efforts in helping to close this portion of the Preschool.

Thank you,

David Thorsen

Operations and Finance Chairman

“Tablet” Pilot Program



As we have moved into the world of being able to stream our services and have interactive online bible studies, it has become apparent that some people may not have the best access to these services. Dave Thorsen approached the pastor with an idea to get a program going to get computer “tablets” to seniors and those in need so they can take part in our activities virtually. The pastor thought this was a great idea. After this initial discussion, we were able to reach out to Mike Jakob (our insurance agent from

Carrier Insurance Company) with our idea to get a pilot program going. Mike has generously donated a total of 6 “tablets” to the church. In addition, we have two “tablets” (that we were able to re-purpose from the suspended preschool program) which allows us to offer 8 tablets to start off with. If this program is successful, we hope to be able to raise funds to expand it. If you are interested in receiving a “tablet” to be part of this pilot program, please contact Pastor John so he can add your name to the list. We hope to begin this Pilot Program by the end of February.

Breakfast



Zion’s Pick Up Breakfast

As we all know, except for Sunday Church services our extra in person activities at church have been halted by the pandemic. Zions Wednesday breakfast (formerly Men's Breakfast) was not immune to this. As we move slowly back to normal, we would like to start off with offering a once a month (Wednesday) "Breakfast Pick Up Program". Pastor John and Dave Thorsen will do the cooking for the first one and hopefully we can have some volunteers to help package the breakfasts for pick up. The idea was to get the program started, so when we can meet in person, it won't be like starting from a dead stop. This program started on the last Wednesday in February (February 24th) and will continue on the first Wednesday of the month (starting with March 3rd) after that. (If we have enough volunteers to help, we may be able to add extra days).

Breakfast will be, pancakes, an omelet and sausage, packaged to go. Serving times will be from 8 am to 9 am.

The Zion Breakfast has historically been a 3-dollar donation to help pay for the cost of goods. Donations are appreciated but not mandatory. If you are interested in picking up a breakfast, **please call Lisa Mazzone at 718 981-3151 or email lisam@zion505.org to sign up and reserve your breakfast.**

Worship Schedule



Sundays, 8:30 a.m. Sanctuary
(in person worship)

Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
(Virtual Log In)

Sundays, 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary
(in person worship)

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 28th – 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
(in person worship)

9:30 a.m. (virtual worship)
(those worshipping at home can pick up your palms at the church during the week)

Maundy Thursday, April 1 – 7:00 p.m.
(in person and virtual)

Good Friday, April 2 – 7:00 p.m.
(in person and virtual)

Easter Sunday, April 4 – 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
(in person worship)
9:30 a.m. (virtual worship)

Virtual Bible Study



Every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.
We are studying the Gospel of Mark
Please look for the invitation in a blast on Tuesdays.

Zion Lutheran Church Contacts

Rev. John Saraka	Pastor	pastor@zion505.org
Lisa Mazzone	Administrator	LisaM@zion505.org
Sandra Mormile	Council President	presidentSM@zion505.org
Donald Thorsen	Council Vice Pres.	vicepres@zion505.org
James Chin	Treasurer	treasurer@zion505.org
David Thorsen	Council Secretary	secretary@zion505.org
David Thorsen	Operations Chair	operationsDT@zion505.org
Joe Bruzzese	Faith Form. Chair	blueblazer10314@aol.com



Please contact Lillian Eidhammer to purchase ShopRite gift cards
cell phone: 347-277-2630 or
email: eidhammer8@aol.com



Jake Salvatore Giza
February 20, 2021

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Peter Abdelmessih, Sr., Debbie Agrell, Diane Andersen, Elna Ballarino, Dennis Bell, Larry Bianco, Charles Bilezikjian, John Buttermark, Kurt Carlsen, Angelina Rose Carlson, Connie Chorman, Frank Chorman, Michael Curley, Mildred Curley, Marg Dellacotto, John Dellacotto, Lois Deland, Billy Durney, Lillian Eidhammer, Stephanie Fergersen, Rosie Fitzsimmons, Martin Gignac, Mary Gilligan, Carmela Giordano, Kolbrun Giordano, Nancy Giovanzzo, Christa Gutheil, Dorothy Hatibov, Linda Herman, Bruce Holmgren, Pastor Lauren Kirsh Carr, Linda Klein, Bunny Lewand, John Lewand, Jaime Light, Anna Lisk, Sally Lorentzen, Barbara Mak, Mazzone Family, Judith Minenno, Janet Miseri, Gerd Molton, Anne O'Halloran, Daniel Olson, Ole Olson, Meghan Ortega & Family, Monica Peter, Thomas Pezzengrilli, Marina Rebmann, Skip Rehm, Richard & Linda Reinhartsen, Connie Retzlaff, Joan Roitzsch, Joann Ruggiero, Peter Ruggiero, Hap and Ingrid Russell, Anita Russo, Patrick Russo & Family, Lisa Salberg, Margaret Sallemi, Karen Sanders, Pauline Sapountzaki, Abraham Isaac Saraka, Judith Saraka, Kathy Schulz, Joli Steinberg, Catherine Tuppatsch, Corine Urciuoli, Ronnie Urus, Joe Virga, Matthew Virga, Nancy Virga, Rachael Villamonte, Fred & Sue Vokral, Jack Vokral, Jenna Warmbier, Lisa Whalen, Nicole Wildes, John Wisniewski, Richard Wisniewski, Jane Yelacic, Joan Yuskevich

*Dear Prayer Circle members please remember MaryAnn in your prayers.
To all who have been infected or in contact with COVID 19*

PLEASE EMAIL AND OR CALL CHURCH OFFICE WITH UPDATES FOR THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYERS AND OR THOSE WHOM CAN BE REMOVED.