



# ZION COMMUNITY CHURCH THE VOICE OF ZION

May 2024

## SERMON TITLES & SCRIPTURE READINGS

- May 5 Nate
- May 12 Nate  
Mother's Day
- May 19 Pastor Jan Fischer  
"where's Your Ice Cream Cone?"  
Luke 10:38-42
- May 29 Nate



## BIBLE READINGS

- May 5 2 Corinthians 4-5, Exodus 17-20,  
2 Samuel 5-9, Psalms 51-53,  
Job 35-36, Jeremiah 27-31,  
Mark 15-16
- May 12 2 Corinthians 6-8, Exodus 21-24,  
2 Samuel 10-14, Psalms 54-56,  
Job 37-38, Jeremiah 32-36,  
Luke 1-2
- May 19 2 Corinthians 9-10, Exodus 25-28,  
2 Samuel 15-19, Psalms 57-59,  
Job 39-40, Jeremiah 37-41,  
Luke 3-4
- May 29 2 Corinthians 11-13, Exodus 29-32,  
2 Samuel 20-24, Psalms 60-62,  
Job 41-42, Jeremiah 42-46,  
Luke 5-6



Please have your articles for the Voice into the office by **May 19** for the **June Voice!**

Leadership Team Meeting,  
**Tuesday, May 14, @6:00 PM.**

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

We honor all of the Mother's this day, especially the Mother's that are 80 years and older!

Carolyn Baasch, Lois Chilson, Betty Foemmel, Wilma Jolivette, Betty Kruger, Joyce Oldham, Kathy Parbel,  
Rachel Robus, Nancy Root, Sandy Stulo, Ann Thompson



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Hello Zion Family!

Who are we? AND! What are we about???

As I talked about in my 1<sup>st</sup> sermon on 4/14, the past few years have been difficult for the Zion Community. There has been lots of change and lots of loss. It has been a difficult time for many. You have done the only thing that you could do in that time: HOLD ON! And I commend you for that. As people left you stepped up and stepped forward and made sure that this church would continue. For that I say – Thank You! Thank you for all that you have done to keep Zion community church running!

As with any transition from a difficult season to a hopefully easier season it is natural to crash a bit. To need a break. To need some rest. To be revitalized! A season where change isn't forced on us externally but rather intentionally chosen and pursued with purpose, passion, and following the Lord's leading.

So, with this before us it is vital that we ask the BIG questions! Like who are we? What are we about? What changes do we need to make so that we can better fulfill the great commission in Matthew 28:19-20 NLT  
“Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always.”

This is our God-given mission. This is why we do what we do! But how do we go about accomplishing it? This is something that we will certainly talk about more on Sundays, weekday interactions, and spaces like this.

With that being said, let me pull back the curtain a bit a let you in on a little secret. The answer is YOU! 😊  
That might surprise you and catch you a bit off guard. But I would ask the question...who is the great commission given to? Was it a group of professional pastors? People with a long list of Theological degrees, ministry accomplishments, who have been through a long and formal ordination process? (To be clear I'm not saying any of those things are bad or wrong). But the great commission was given to average Joe's and Jane's.

Just something to think about.

Blessings,

Nate

## How's Your Heart Today?

I'm reminded of the importance of **guarding** our hearts. As **Proverbs 4:23** states, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

What is the most valuable thing in your home? What would happen if it was stolen or even lost? You probably could replace it using your insurance or savings, which is a hassle to be sure, but not a total disaster either. The truth of the matter is, if a thief broke into your home and stole **EVERYTHING** of value, he still wouldn't have taken the most valuable thing, your most precious treasure—your heart.

In fact, the only way a heart can be stolen is if we have attached it to someone or something else that can steal it. Then our loss would be truly great. God tells us to love Him with our entire hearts, because it is in Him alone that our heart can be kept safe. That is so important to realize as our hearts have the power to influence everything else in our lives.

The verse that tells us to guard our hearts also paints a picture of the heart being like a "well spring." A well-spring is a source of clean, fresh, safe water that nourishes the life of the plants and animals surrounding it. It certainly influences everything around it. If it is contaminated somehow, or if it is cut off from its source deep within the earth, everything in the area is affected—which says to me, a wellspring is worth guarding and caring for, protecting from pollution, and maintaining its connection to the source.

So having said all that, let's do a little application here. We are to guard our hearts as if they are providing life-giving springs of water to our lives.

- We guard them from being poisoned by pollution when we keep them from bitterness, hatred, envy, from being offended.
- We guard them from drought by staying connected to the true source through prayer and praise.
- We guard them from unhealthy affections by not attaching them to unreliable things of the world that can steal our hearts away.

God will keep us safe and flourishing as we diligently "guard our hearts" by loving the Lord our God with all of our hearts and our souls and with all our minds, as Jesus commanded (Matthew 22:37).

Prayer: "God, show me how to give my whole heart to You and to guard it well. I know it is safest when it's in Your care."

How's your heart today? In these unprecedented times, it's vital that we protect the wellspring—our hearts. Let's worship the Lord, praise His name, thank Him for His protection, provision, and presence in our lives!

I close by sharing a few lyrics from a song by Hillsong, "From the Inside Out."

"My heart and my soul, I give You control. Consume me from the **inside out**, Lord. Let justice and praise become my embrace to love You from the **inside out**."

Until Next Month...

In His Grip,

Pastor Jan

# Update from the Leadership Team

EXCITING THINGS! (Ok, not really....but kind of!)

Do you know what excites me about vocational ministry? Maybe you would think it's because I love God and want to love others well. Or it's because I like to preach and discuss how to best follow Jesus in our current context!

But you would be wrong! It's because I love having conversations about resurfacing our parking lot, updating our website, updating our HVAC, renovating parts of the church building, and where to best place security cameras!

All right, you got me. That's not true! For me, it certainly is the former reasons and not the latter. However, much of my first weeks as the new pastor have focused on the latter topics.

But why these physical improvement projects? Why would we spend \$17K+ on resurfacing our parking lot? Well, partially because it would cost us more later. As the surface deteriorates faster, more damage must be repaired. However, other than responsible finances, it furthers our mission to love people well.

How? We must consider how people who do not currently attend Zion will feel when they enter our home. Our home starts on our website, where people get their first impression of who we are. Then, the parking lot when they first drive onto our property and then when they walk in our front door. God created us to be physical beings! So, what we see, smell, and feel directly impacts our impression of a community and whether we want to become a part of it.

As we try to live out the great commission (Matthew 28), we want to love well people who don't have a church home. And while that includes personal hospitality, it also consists of the aesthetic and maintenance hospitality of our website, parking lot, and building.

So, in a way, it is exciting. We just have to see it with new eyes.

Nate

## CELEBRATING May BIRTHDAYS AND ANIVERSARIES

4. Ron Cummings, Ron & Karen Cummings
5. Paul & Nancy Krause
6. Rose Zellner
8. Lilly Swenson
8. Dave Zimmermann
9. Paul Krause
17. Dave Foemmel
18. Mercedes DeGrand
25. Zoey Wilson
30. Ethan Dagit
30. John & Rachel Foemmel



PRAYER TIME FOR ALL WOMEN—TUESDAY, May 7 & 21, 1: 00 PM Sandy Neumann will open her home on the first and third Tuesday of each month. We will be gathering to pray for whatever God has put on our hearts and minds. Pray for strength in these troubling times and anything that God may lead us pray for!

### CELEBRATE CHILDREN'S WORSHIP!

**SUNDAY, MAY 5—PICNIC POTLUCK—right after the worship service!**

Grilled hot dogs, brats and hamburgers, will be provided. Please bring the sides to share with the meal.

This is the last day of Sunday School for the kids and Lorelei until October.

Thank you kids and Lorelei for your faithfulness to Sunday School!

The Church office will be closed Friday's, May 3—October 11. If you need anything, please leave a message on the answering machine or you can call Mary Jane's phone at—715-615-0957. If I don't answer, please leave a message and I will return your call. Thank you!  
Enjoy your summer!

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

May 2024

I'm a person intrigued when I see numbers about a project.

A recent South Central OCC meeting gave me lots of numbers to review and be amazed at how powerful OCC is spreading the love and word of Jesus. Below are some of the numbers.

In 2023 11.3 million shoeboxes were collected, 10 million from the US

118,000 outreach events took place (Distribution of the boxes and beginning lessons from the Greatest Journey.)

Outreach events occurred in 100 different countries and 11 continents.

South Central Wisconsin collected 10,278 boxes

2243 boxes were collected at Zion drop off center  
60 boxes packed by Zion.

A mind boggling number is for every box packed, besides the child another 7-10 people hear about Jesus and the chance for salvation. Many coming to accept the Lord as Savior. These 7-10 people go out and tell their friends and neighbors. This is how churches and faith communities are being built.

The question was asked haven't we filled enough boxes? The answer was no. By 2028 the goal is to reach 100,000 unreached places. These are places where they have never heard about Jesus. Many of these places are in the Pacific Islands. We still have plenty of work to do.

Want to become a fisherman of souls for Jesus, keep supporting OCC. For May/June we will collect hygiene items- toothbrushes, soap, washcloths, nail clippers, nail files, deodorant. As usual all other items are accepted.

If you want to learn more about OCC view pictures, videos and see happy faces of children when they receive their boxes, visit [www.Samaritanaspurse.orgocc](http://www.Samaritanaspurse.orgocc).

God bless

Deb kirslenlohr

