



ZION COMMUNITY CHURCH

THE VOICE OF ZION

May 2025

SERMON TITLES & SCRIPTURE READINGS

- May 4 Pastor Nate
"No Outsiders"
Acts 10:34-43
- May 11 Pastor Jan
Mother's Day
"A Journey In Becoming A Person Of Faith"
1 Samuel 1:1-28
- May 18 Pastor Nate
"The Spirit Builds the Church"
Acts 12:5-11
- May 25 Pastor Nate
"Sent and Sustained"
Acts 13:1-5



BIBLE READINGS

- May 4 1 Samuel 18-25, 1 Chronicles 3-7,
Psalm 59, 56, 57, 142, 52, 54,
Acts 13-17
- May 11 1 Samuel 26-31, 2 Samuel 1-5,
1 Chronicle 8-12, Acts 18-22,
Psalm 96, 106, 122
- May 18 2 Samuel 6, 1 Chronicles 13-20,
2 Samuel 7-12, Acts 23-27,
Psalm 60, 132, 89, 51, 32
- May 25 2 Samuel 13-24, Acts 28,
Psalms 3, 63, 34, 18, Romans 1-4,
1 Chronicles 21



**LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING Wednesday, May 7
@6:00 P.M.**

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

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS AT ZION

**The office will be closed on Friday's starting
May 2—October 10, 2025.**

If you need anything please leave a message on the
answering machine. Or if you need immediate
response please call Pastor Nate, Pastor Jan or Mary
Jane's cell phone.

Thank you!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The sun just broke through the clouds as I sat down to write this. It's still a bit windy, and the yard is soaked from more than a full day of steady rain. But it's beautiful out. The grass is turning green. Birds are showing up again. Several ducks and geese waddled around the backyard like they owned the place! We're certainly not in summer, but it's clear we've turned the corner. Winters behind us—and isn't it amazing how much that lifts your mood? There's something about spring that speaks to the soul. You feel it when the sun finally warms your face again and watch the world slowly start to bloom.

People from all kinds of cultures noticed that, too. Many used to believe life itself died in winter and came back in spring. They didn't just track the seasons—they built stories around them. Stories of death and rebirth. And maybe that's why spring feels like the perfect time to celebrate Easter. But Easter isn't about blooming flowers or warmer weather—it's about Jesus. He really died. He really rose again. And that changes everything. The resurrection is the foundation for how we live. As Romans 6:4 says, "Just as Christ was raised from the dead... we also may live new lives."

So, here's a question to consider: What would it look like to live like that this spring? What's one way you can lean into the new life Jesus makes possible?

During Lent, we walked through grief, doubt, and waiting, and saw Jesus meet us there. While Easter doesn't erase the pain, it does give us great hope. The tomb is empty. Christ is alive. And that changes how we face the hard things. We're not called to ignore the mess, but to trust that even now, God is making things new. There is an invitation in front of us to start fresh. To pray with hope again. To believe that God is doing something new. Even when it still feels a little muddy or messy.

So, take a walk and enjoy the warmth, the sun, and the new life budding. And as you walk around your neighborhood, pray for the people who live around you. Look at each house, not as just a building, but as a home where real lives are being lived. Pray for peace inside their walls. Pray for marriages and families, for those who are lonely, those who are struggling, and those who don't yet know the hope of Jesus. If someone is outside, make sure to say a hearty hello. A wave and a smile might seem small, but you never know how much it could mean to someone. Maybe it could be the start of a relationship that, over time, begins to blossom!

Spring is a natural time to reconnect, not just with the outdoors, but with the people God has placed around us. You don't need a formal plan or a perfect prayer. Just walk slowly. Be present. Let the Holy Spirit bring names or faces to your heart. And ask God to help you see your neighbors the way He sees them. This is how new life grows, in ordinary places, through simple acts of love, one step and one prayer at a time.

Nate

Finding Hope in God's Peace

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7, NASB)

COVID-19 changed our world in 2020 and we're still feeling ramifications from it 5 years later. Many of us felt overwhelmed and anxious in what we called the new "normal." The fact of the matter is, it is challenging to juggle all that life throws at us. My own need for control gets the best of me sometimes. The enemy is real and he knows my weak spots. He delights when I'm consumed by the fog of anxiety, knowing that I have lost sight of God's faithfulness. At this point, the battle for my mind is at stake.

The Apostle Paul wrote the book of Philippians while in prison. He could have been captive to anxiety, but instead responded in songs of praise. His example teaches us that only God's armor equips us for the battle that begins in the mind. We find Paul victorious, glorifying Jesus and cheering us on to follow the battle plan for peace. When I realize my thoughts have been taken hostage, I have learned to surrender my anxieties and replace them with God's truth. For it's in this discipline that I experience freedom. Instead of spiraling, may my prayer become, *"Lord find me singing:*

"Waymaker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper, Light in the Darkness. My God that is who you are!"

What are you anxious about today? Have you taken it to God in prayer?

Many Blessings!

In His Grip,

Pastor Jan

A Matter of Important Choices

You are serving a cause that is more significant than you can understand. Yes, *you're a part of it*. This really is taking place, right now.

Among many other things happening in our midst, God is answering prayer through Zion Community Church. YOU are a part of His answer.

What evidence tells us prayer is being answered? Most importantly, we're witnessing Spiritual growth. Moreover, we're living the Great Commission.

In part, because of your multi-faceted support of this Church Family, members of our Congregation are becoming further equipped- to be the prayerful voices of welcome, to be the arms of loving hugs and to be the hands of greeting for those who have not known they are welcome among us.

Because of your supportive engagement, outreaching members of the Zion Family are joyfully acknowledging to anyone who needs assurance that: "*Zion Global Methodist Church welcomes EVERYONE who seeks Hope in Christ our Lord*". The Zion family- including YOU- is welcoming all who are weary and heavily laden down. Because of you, the last, the lost and the least are finding a loving family at Zion.

This is happening- because already- you have chosen to be "not of this world."

You have chosen the Way, the Truth and the Life, that leads to Life eternal.

You have chosen the path of love and unity that DEFEATS the enemy and that allows the power of the Living God to move actively in and through the Body of Christ- on behalf of HIS reconciliation of HIS creation.

You have chosen the path of self-denial, of humility, of service, of peace and of self-sacrifice. You have chosen the path of redemption and renewal.

You have chosen the ONLY path of Hope, of Wholeness and of true Freedom.

And, because of *you*, God is moving in our Congregation. The happening changes are gentle, organic; with each little step pointing to hope and healing in Christ our Savior.

Welcome to the building of the Kingdom of Heaven. Zion Family: ***welcome home!***

Create in me a heart, oh Lord, that will follow where You lead. Align my thoughts and actions that my prayers are gladly answered and my actions be ever in Your service. May it be that even in chaos or impending storm that I close my eyes and hear Your voice above all. Make my heart to burn for Your direction. Break my willful nature and keep me leaning, loving, learning from Your Perfect, Reckless, Love.

What a great, triumphant beauty. To rise from desperate ashes because You called my name. The wind that would direct my path be the very breath of You. Oh, to find the depth of my destruction be another's salvation in Your holy, perfect way. Would that I be broken, to be used by You. What great joy. What Perfect, Reckless, Love.

It was in the plan of all creation, from the first until the last that You would save us from destruction on the hill of Calvary. A brave and terrible beauty that brings us to our knees. Broken pieces, humbled hearts, ashes of our failures. Fertile soil for our Creator with His Perfect, Reckless Love.



MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 26, 2025

PLEASE REMEMBER AND HONOR THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES!

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE!

I am excited to share news of the great impact the 2024 Operation Christmas Child Shoebox collection season had all over the world!

The total shoebox collection worldwide in 2024 was 11,927,439 of which 10,574,805 were collected in the United States. That is 11,927,439 opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus with children around the world! Considering that each box touches approximately 10 lives, this outreach is truly taking the gospel to the ends of the earth!

Our South Central Wisconsin region collected 10,165 shoebox gifts, 2512 were from our Zion "drop-off" in Marshfield.

This is an unusual year as every shoebox I tracked from our area went to Malawi!!!! If you have tracked a box that did not go to Malawi let me know. I cannot wait for testimonies to come from Malawi, Africa!!

Through your church's partnership in this ministry, the impact will be felt. Please know the tremendous results of your investment of time and energy. It remains a great blessing to serve alongside you and we, the volunteer team, are here to support you in any way that we can.

Please join us as we continue to pray for the safe arrival of gifts and God's blessing on the outreach events taking place. May God use these evangelism and discipleship resources to equip local churches to effectively reach children and families for Jesus Christ. Malawi containers arrive March 26 and April 2!

I trust that your partnership with OCC will continue to be a blessing to you and your church in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Laura Johnson



A BIG thank you to the Sunday School students for collecting change for OCC. (Total collected TBA soon.) Your generosity of donations will fund the students to go shopping to personally fill a box.

The collecting basket has returned. Collecting hygiene items, school supplies, toys, games and clothing. Due to custom restrictions soap will no longer be allowed.

Zion will be raising money for OCC with two brat fries this summer at Festival Foods.

Mark your calendars for Friday, May 23 and Thursday, July 3 from 9-6. Bring your appetites.

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER

PLEASE JOIN US FOR PRAYER ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 8:30 A.M.

IN THE PRAYER ROOM! (north end of hallway on the left)



CELEBRATING MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANIVERSARIES

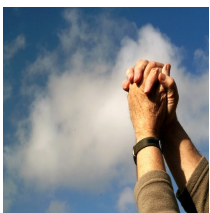
4. Ron Cummings
4. Ron & Karen Cummings
5. Paul & Nancy Krause
6. Rose Zellner
8. Lilly Swenson
8. Dave Zimmermann
9. Paul Krause
17. David Foemmel
28. Nate & Liz Cravillion
29. Lucy Cravillion
30. Ethan Dagit
30. John & Rachel Foemmel



We would like to recognize the Mother's that are 80 and older!

Carolyn Baasch, Lois Chilson, Betty Foemmel, Joyce Oldham, Kathy Parbel, Rachel Robus, Nancy Root, Tommie Schultz, Sandy Stulo, Ann Thompson

"TODAY, WE CELEBRATE THE WOMEN WHO'VE TAUGHT US THE TRUE MEANING OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE."



PRAYER TIME FOR ALL WOMEN—TUESDAY, MAY 6 & 20, 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!



SPRING CLEANING

CHURCH WORK DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 9:00 AM—2:00 PM

Prep the yard for the summer and plan for supplemental care.

Paint south hallway!

“MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!”



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We're On The Hunt!!!

We are in need of laundry soap containers from the soap pods used for laundry.

The empty soap pod containers will be used to make a Santa table decoration.

For this project, registration will be a must in order to have sufficient supplies for each registered participant.

There will be an alternate craft project for those ladies that prefer to not make the Santa decoration.

Of course, we will also have some Christmas games and Christmas Bingo!

Date of December ladies event will be posted at a much later date.

Leslie

WOZ (Women of Zion) - SATURDAY, MAY 3 @9:00 am. Come join us for fellowship, games and making of greeting cards. Bring a snack and get ready for some fun.

MOZ (Men of Zion) will meet at the same time to play corn hole games.



If you would like a copy of the minutes from the Leadership Team meeting, they are available on the Information Center in the Narthex.

Please help yourself!