



ZION COMMUNITY CHURCH

THE VOICE OF ZION

September 2025

SERMON TITLES & SCRIPTURE READINGS

- September 7 Pastor Nate
"Two Paths"
Psalm 1
- September 14 Pastor Nate
"The Lord Is My Shepherd"
Psalm 23
- September 21 Pastor Jan
"Our Great King"
Psalm 72
- September 28 Pastor Nate
"From Mourning to Dancing"
Psalm 30



BIBLE READINGS

- September 7 2 Chronicles 29-32,
1 Corinthians 8-12, 2 Kings 18-20,
Psalm 67-68, Psalm 123,
Isaiah 36-44
- September 14 2 Timothy 3-4, Numbers 13-16,
1 Chronicles 20-24, Psalm 105-107,
Proverbs 22, Joel, John 13-15
- September 21 Titus, Numbers 17-20,
1 Chronicles 25-29, Psalm 108-110,
Proverbs 23-24, Amos 1-4,
John 16-18
- September 28 Philemon, Numbers 21-24,
2 Chronicles 1-5, Psalm 111-113,
Proverbs 25, Amos 5-9, John 19-21



**LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 3, @5:30 P.M.**

Please have your articles for the July Voice
into the office by **September 19** for the
October Voice!

Welcome September

New month, new chapter, new
page and new wishes.
May the month give you courage,
strength, Confidence, patience,
self-love & inner peace. May
everyday in September fill your
days with Hope, love, sunshine
and energy. Let there be Joy,
Fun and Laughter.

From the Lead Pastors Desk: When I Talk to God

When do you pray? If you're like most people in this world—It's when you're desperate, when you feel like you need some kind of miracle. When the doctor calls with bad news, or when life feels completely out of control, and you don't know what to do next, or wonder how something good could possibly come out of this situation.

But, hopefully, you're not like most people. Prayer is one of the great joys of being a follower of Christ. We get to talk with God, our father, the creator of the universe, whenever we would like, about whatever we would like. How often do you take that opportunity? If you're like me, probably not often enough.

And that isn't to put myself down or to make you feel bad. But you and I, we get to talk to the most powerful being in the universe and beyond! How crazy is that? And equally, how crazy is it that we probably don't talk with him as much as we possibly could???

Prayer can be a steady rhythm of life that we live with God. It can be a constant conversation that we are having with him, where we bring our joys, our fears, our questions, and our gratitude into the very presence of God. And he listens to us! And when we learn the sound of his voice, he answers us back! Again, INCREDIBLE!

And that's why I'm so excited for our new sermon series this fall, starting September 7th, called When I Talk to God: a journey through Psalms. For 7 weeks, we will look at the seven different types of Psalms (Lament, Thanksgiving, Praise, Wisdom, Royal, Trust, and Remembrance) and learn how to pray them.

Psalms is the prayer book of the Bible, but too often our prayers all sound the same. The Psalms show us a richer variety: some joyful, some raw and honest, some deeply instructive. Through this series, we'll learn new ways to pray—new ways of talking to and with God.

My prayer for Zion this fall is simple: that we would grow as a praying people. It roots us in His love, it aligns our hearts with His purposes, and it reminds us that we are never alone.

So, as we prepare for this series, start asking God to teach you to pray in fresh ways. Open the Psalms this week. Read a few verses out loud. Make them your own prayer. And join us this fall as together we learn what it means to say with the psalmist:

Psalm 116:1–2 (NLT) - *I love the Lord because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy. Because he bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath!*

From the Associate Pastor's Desk

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalm 118:24

I don't know about you, but I love autumn. Whereas each season has a beauty of its own, autumn is still my favorite. It is full of simple moments that bring me joy. Whether it's the crisp air, going to an apple orchard to pick up a bag of Honey Crisp apples, taking a drive to see the changing colors, drinking hot apple cider, sitting around a bonfire roasting hot dogs and making smores, or walking through the fallen leaves, there are small joys all around me. Unfortunately, life often becomes rushed, and I miss these moments. And yet, joy is found in the present, in the small things and the fall season reminds me to slow down and take notice of the simple gifts God gives us each day.

The thing is, when I find joy in the little things, I am reminded that God is with me in every moment. It's not always about the big events; it's about appreciating the everyday blessings that God provides. So, I want to encourage you to take time this fall to find joy in the simple moments. Whether it's a moment of peace, a laugh with a friend, or the beauty of nature, let it fill your heart with gratitude and joy in the Lord.

Pray with me...

"Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the simple moments that fill my life with joy. It's easy to overlook the small things, but I know that joy can be found in every moment. Help me slow down and appreciate the beauty and blessings around me. Whether it's a cool breeze, a warm meal, or time with loved ones, I want to find joy in the everyday gifts You provide. Teach me to rejoice in the present and to find happiness in what's right in front of me. Thank You for Your presence in every moment. Amen."

Forever in His Grip,

Pastor Jan

From the Pastor's (Wife's) Desk

August is winding down and many in our communities are preparing for back to school. The teachers are prepping their classrooms and sitting through trainings. School staff are gearing up for the transition into the school schedule. Families are buying school supplies and meeting teachers.

It's a time of year that I spend a lot of time thinking about how our family can help.

Ever since my kids started school, I've been amazed at how wonderful it is to have a village of people around us – caring adults who focused on their education, so I can focus on being a mom.

And every year I feel the same gratitude. People working in the schools give so much to our kids. But it's not an easy job. I make it a priority to tell my kids' teachers that we are here to support them. It's one thing to be grateful for people who are helpers. It's another to go out of our way to care for them while they care for others.

In Exodus 17, the Israelites were fighting a battle in which they were outmatched. Moses stood on top of a hill nearby, and as long as his hands were stretched out, the Israelites had the advantage. When his arms got tired and dropped, the Israelites started losing. So, two of his companions, Aaron and Hur, held up his arms until Israel won the battle.

None of us can do this life well on our own. And for those in helping professions, like teachers, doctors, nurses, counselors, first responders, police men and women, and others, pouring out to others can be draining.

It's the way of Christ to put our faith into action. How can we support people in our life who are serving others? Let's ask teachers if we can help supply anything they need for their classrooms. Let's donate to school programs. Let's check in consistently with each other and pray for each other. Let's volunteer. Let's show kindness to the receptionist at the pharmacy. Let's pay attention to the needs in the community and meet them when we can.

Jesus drew people to himself through his kindness. He saw needs and he cared for those in need. He asked questions and listened to the answers, reading between the lines to hear people's hearts. Are we reaching out? Are we taking initiative to help others?

As the seasons shift, may we pay attention to how we can love others like Jesus, in practical, hands-on ways.

Serving with you, Liz Cravillion

Come to me and ask
I was speaking to my Maker,
Just a day or two gone by.
Asking Him about the sorrows,
When would they be turned to joy?



"My dear child" He answered,
"Come and rest your weary soul.
It is you that chooses burdens,
Willingly you pay that toll."

In the quietness He answered
Just as if **He** was standing there.
With thunderous silence He answered,
In a voice so touched with care.

"My love for you will go unequalled
Through your sorrow and your pain.
You need only trust in me
Till good times come again."

"I would not choose for you a life
So burdened and unfair.
Just reach for me and call My name
Rest assured that I am there."

"Understand that I have given you
My son, a Savior, He.
Jesus died to give you life again
He died to set you free."

"How is it Lord" I asked Him,
Like a child searching the unknown,
"That I feel so many burdens
I am taking on alone?"

"Alone my child." **He** chuckled
"You have answered yourself at last.
You've done everything one man can do
But **come to me and ask**".

Kate



When I Talk to God

Psalms



New Sermon Series Begins September 7

When I Talk to God: Praying through the 7 Types of Psalms

Starting September 7, we're beginning a new 7-week sermon series in the Book of Psalms called *When I Talk to God*.

Each week, we'll explore a different type of psalm — from lament and thanksgiving to trust and praise — and learn how these ancient prayers can shape our conversations with God today.

Whether you're joyful, frustrated, tired, or hopeful, the Psalms give us words for every season of life. Join us as we discover how to pray with honesty, depth, and faith.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 @5:00 PM. WILDWOOD PARK PAVILLION (Northwest side)

POTLUCK, PLEASE BRING A DISH TO PASS! - meat and buns, plates, utensils, and drink provided.

It is with deep sorrow and a heavy heart that we write to inform members of the Global Methodist Church of a devastating and tragic event that occurred in our mission field in Nigeria. On May 23, 2025, the community of Munga Lelau in Taraba State, Nigeria-part of the Northeast Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church-was brutally attacked by armed assailants identified as members of the Fulani militia, an Islamic extremist group.

The trauma, fear, and devastation caused by this attack cannot be overstated. Survivors have scattered to surrounding villages with no organized aid, and many are seriously injured and in urgent need of medical attention. GMC has called on the government of Nigeria to act justly in protecting Christians and to provide tangible relief for those displaced by this violence. The most immediate needs include: Food supplies for displaced families and children, Emergency Shelter and Clothing, Medical treatment for the injured, Increased Security and protection for vulnerable communities.

We are encouraged to participate in a special humanitarian offering. Your generosity will directly support those suffering in the aftermath of this tragedy.

During the month of September you may give a special offering for the Humanitarian Relief Fund for Nigeria. Please mark your check and or envelopes for Nigeria.

Please continue to pray for Nigeria, that we might be the light in the darkness, the hands and feet of Jesus in the midst of evil and suffering.

Thank you for your support!

Wednesday, September 10, 5:30—Life Group Study in the Fischer Room.

We will be starting a new series with Louie Giglio, “Goliath Must Fall”.

In **“GOLIATH MUST FALL”**, Pastor Louie Giglio uncovers a newfound twist in the classic story of David and Goliath. It is not God’s plan for you to live with a giant standing in the middle of your life, demoralizing you day after day. Our freedom and God’s glory are forever interwoven into one story. God does want us to live free. He wants us to recognize that He’s already killed the giant.

Please let Pastor Jan know if you would like to be a part of the new study.



SUNDAY MORNING OFFERING

You are welcome to drop your morning offering in the box located in the sanctuary as you enter. If you need offering envelopes, please contact Mary Jane or Linda. Or you can use a Love Offering Envelope located on the information center in the Narthex.

We also provide “ONLINE GIVING” - go to Zion’s website—zioncommunitychurch.org and at the top of the page there is an “ONLINE GIVING” box just click and fill in the information.

Or you may use the QR Code that is provided below.

Any questions please talk with Linda Cummings.

Thank You!



CELEBRATING SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANIVERSARIES

- 2. Deb Kirslenlohr
- 8. Ken Roehl
- 9. Vicki Foemmel
- 10. Connor Berry
- 11. Betty Foemmel
- 11. Allie Gripentrog
- 14. Marilyn LaPointe
- 16. Doug Gray
- 19. Kathy Parbel
- 19. Alana Ziaya
- 19. Heather Swenson
- 19. Morris Sorby
- 22. Rachel Robus
- 25. April Onsager
- 28. Zach Parsons
- 29. Rita Kloehn



LET'S PRAY TOGETHER



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR PRAYER ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 8:30 A.M.
IN THE PRAYER ROOM! (prayer room has been moved to the south
end next to Pastor Nate's office)**

PRAYER TIME FOR ALL WOMEN—TUESDAY, September 2 & 16, 1:00 PM @ZCC in the Fischer Room. 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!



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!

Come join us September 6, 9:00 AM in fellowship hall for coffee and light refreshments at 9. We will have a devotional and will then have opportunity to make jump ropes for our Operation Christmas child boxes.

Fleece material will be available that to make tie blankets and will be distributed to those from the congregation who are hospitalized, receiving care in facility or are homebound.

Thank You to those who donated items for the Christmas in July event. The collection basket remains in the Narthex, and any items are still being accepted.

A reminder that no liquids are on the do not pack list. This includes shampoo, lotions and liquid glue. This year soap has been added to the list of items that are not allowed. The reason being is customs regulations. The t shirts that have been collected will be made into jump ropes and packed into boxes. School items are now on sale and a good time to pick up. I've also learned that socks and shoes are great items to pack. In many countries children cannot attend school without their feet being covered.

Stories are being shared that socks are worn even if the toes and heels are thread barren. National collection week is November 17-24. Hours will be posted shortly.

A couple of other opportunities to participate in OCC are as follows. On September 20, from 10-12, Zion will be holding a workshop for local churches and organizations to learn more about specifics of OCC. Anyone can attend. Have you ever wondered what happens to boxes after they are trucked to Aurora to our processing center?

Starting the day after Thanksgiving, volunteers go through each box looking to see if there are items on the do not pack list, fill boxes with fillers if boxes are not full. This continues through mid-December. Shifts are 4,6, or 8hrs Monday through Saturday. Sign up begins September 1 and generally fills up quite fast. Let me know if you have questions or want more info about these opportunities.

Please add the OCC to your prayer lists. Pray for those packing boxes, staff who are busy finalizing details of drop off week, boxes yo make it through customs. Once through customs, for the people who transport them to various areas throughout the 123 plus countries. Distributions can include by rowboats, bicycles, carts, motorcycle or carried on the backs of people. Pray for the teachers who will be teaching the classes for children to learn more about Jesus. Most importantly that the children feel Gods love and accept Jesus as their Savior and become disciples telling more people about Jesus.

God Bless

Deb Kirsenlohr