



GOOD TIDINGS FROM ZION

Go and...ask



This month's Go and...theme is Go and...ask. We tend to be answer people...solution people. We don't care for lingering questions or doubts. We don't especially like uncertainty. And often we don't like considering the possibility we don't know as much as we think we do. Too often our knowledge—or what we think is knowledge—goes unchallenged.

Curiosity might be one of the characteristics we need most in our society...and humility.

Questions can have several different purposes. We ask questions when we don't understand something. One of the things that bothers pastors is when people don't want to participate in Bible studies and other educational things because they feel like they don't know enough...and mostly I think they're afraid others will judge them for what they don't know. I can preach. I can lecture. But my preferred way to teach is through dialog. That includes questions. Often, in Christian education, there are way more questions than answers. We are long past the era where the religious "experts" are expected to have all the answers. We can all learn from each other. We can challenge dogma and tightly held beliefs. We can ask questions about what the Bible has to do with the world today and wrestle with answers together.

I have a spiritual director, Sister Anne, with whom I've met monthly for over 20 years. Her role is to be a guide to help me see what God is doing in my life, in my work, and in the world. She generally does this through asking questions. Some of those questions are uncomfortable. But it's through wrestling with questions that I grow and learn—wrestling with questions by myself, with Sister Anne, with other pastors, and with you.

- What are your big questions?
- What are you afraid to ask?

Christ's peace,

Pastor Kris

A View from the Pew

By Preacher Woman's Husband (aka Daryl Bohac)

Sunday Morning Ain't Good Enough Any-
more

As I listened to Preacher Woman's sermon this last week (10/29/23), I was reminded of an epiphany I had in my own faith journey – Sunday Morning Ain't Good Enough Anymore – sometime ago.



This was not a judgement on the quality of sermons (I like where I sleep at night!) or the value of coming together as a community of Christ. Both, and more, happen at worship and contribute greatly to the strength of my faith. No, it was a realization that as important as Sunday is in my faith life, there are six other days in the week to be dealt with and that waiting for Sunday might not be a wise way of keeping the faith. Pastor Kris' reminder that "all Christians, whether political leaders or not, have a call to participate in communal life for the common good", struck a chord with me and was a reminder that my call to participate extends well beyond worship in the physical church on Sunday morning, but well into the other six days of the week. For me, this means participating in the community I live in, the place I work (unless one is retired and sits around pondering how they can fill up the newsletter), and the world I occupy. And participating as Jesus has asked us to do when he said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" and "Love your neighbor as yourself." Easy to read, hard to do sometimes, and almost always results in unheralded kindness which we all could stand more of.

Prayer Practices from Virg—November

In November, it's often good to think of the things we are thankful for. Gratitude is a quality of being thankful, our readiness to show appreciation, and to return kindness. My heart has been filled with the generosity of our congregation in identifying how they can volunteer outside of our church walls. Being able to show gratitude to others, can make ourselves feel more thankful for what we have.



Prayer practices for gratitude:

1. Gratitude journal-you can write things out or just a quick itemized list on a daily basis
2. Gratitude flash prayer-"God, thank you for the beautiful sunrise this morning" or God, thank you for the heat in my house on this cold day"
3. Gratitude basket-write things you are thankful for on a piece of paper and fill a basket. Just don't make it too hard. We often overlook the smallest things that we should appreciate such as breathing fresh air, having food in the house, or hearing a happy song.
4. Look into some gratitude apps-there are numerous ones in the App store on our phones.
5. Look at grateful.org to get a prayer every day and other inspirational quotes.

Travel Story from Janna Harsh

Though I have flown often, every time we taxi down the runway I still send up a prayer. To the effect of “into your hands oh Lord I commend myself “. Not from fear but being conscious of having willingly stepped into a process over which I have no control.

Travel is like that. However much you plan, the unexpected - good or bad - will happen.

Commending myself to Gods hands means for me that I choose to rejoice in the help of strangers, revel in finding wonders I never knew of and learn from the mistakes I made.

The kayaking photo is a kindness of strangers example as I arrived at the wrong kayaking place first. But was given a lift to where my reservation was.

The wall of Girona is a wonder I knew of while the 11th century Creation Tapestry I got to see only because I told a textile expert how much I enjoyed her talk the previous day. And I made it through a five day trail ride thanks to the support and kindness of fellow riders & our guide . All strangers just a day or so previously.

I learned so much this trip. God is good.



Worship is at 9:00 am Sundays, in person or online—or you can join us later on YouTube. Links to the bulletin and YouTube channel can be found on our website:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAYUm7ydQ1ka_OdTr-R9Ww

Calendar

- November 1** 7:00 pm—Wednesday school/Confirmation
November 5 9:00 am—All Saints' Sunday—Worship with Holy Communion and Service of Remembrance
3:00 pm—5:00 pm—Freed for Life event
November 8 7:00 pm—Confirmation
November 12 9:00 am—Worship
November 15 7:00 pm—Confirmation/Wednesday school
November 19 9:00 am—Worship with Holy communion
November 26 9:00 am—Worship

Advent begins December 3. we have been invited to join Grace Lutheran Church in rural Wahoo for Advent Wednesday evening services beginning Dec. 6. The service will be at 6 pm and will consist of Holden Evening Prayer, a message based on that week's story for the confirmation class at Grace and Zion, followed by a light meal. The service will be in their basement – there is a lift.

Advent 1 attendance challenge—I'd like us to see for one Sunday what the church could feel like if everyone who ever comes to worship would come on the same Sunday. How about the first Sunday in Advent, December 3? Obviously some of you may be traveling and illness is always a possibility. But if you're able, let's all show up!

Contact Information

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November helpers

Cleaners—Kim F./Cathy H.

Usher—Merlin/Aaron

Lector—Rine

Communion Asst.—Carol

Acolyte—