

GOOD THINGS FROM ZION

February 2023

This month's Bethlehem newsletter article addressed work we are beginning with a consultant to think more intentionally about the future there. It didn't have much to say for Zion and I didn't have either time or an idea for a separate article. But, this edition of the Zion newsletter does have important info about upcoming things.

Education

Kids

February 8 is Wednesday School and Confirmation at 7 pm. February 15 will be off.

Lent begins on February 22 with Ash Wednesday. So much of our faith formation comes from our experiences in worship, and for kids that's especially true when it involves movement and actions. Ash Wednesday is like that. I hope you will worship as a family on Ash Wednesday at either 6:30 at Bethlehem or 8 at Zion.

Lent Midweek services will start on March 1 at Bethlehem and alternate from there. Details on the next page.

Confirmation students are expected to attend special Lent and Holy Week services and Midweek services. We can work out rides if those are needed.

Adult

February 29—End of Life

It is a fact of life that we will all one day die. The advances that science and medicine have made over the last century are staggering. Better nutrition, antibiotics, vaccinations, prenatal care, and improved safety have dramatically increased average life expectancy by drastically reducing early death.

Other medical care and technological advances have added some to that increase, but they have been kind of two edged sword and have made dying more complicated.

What do you need to know about end of life decisions for yourself or your loved ones? What do advanced directives do? What don't they do? What exactly is a Do Not Resuscitate order? How do you know when it's time to let go? What does scripture say about any of this?

Join us on **February 19 at 11:30 at Bethlehem**. Pastor Kris, Virg Unverferth, ARNP, and Curtis Olson, RN will present their perspectives and lead the discussion.

Calendar

Worship services are livestreamed to the church YouTube channel. You can find the link to that and the bulletin on our website: <https://www.zionithaca.org/worship>

- February 5** 9:00 am—Worship with Holy Communion
- February 8** 7:00 pm—Confirmation and Wednesday School
- February 12** 9:00 am Worship
- February 19** 9:00 am Worship
11:30 at Bethlehem, Adult Education—End of Life issues
- February 22** Ash Wednesday Service with Communion and Imposition of Ashes
6:30 at Bethlehem, 8:00 at Zion
- February 26** 9:00 am—Worship

Lent Midweek

Lent midweek services will begin March 1 at Bethlehem and will alternate from there. For the last three years I've envisioned a "dinner church" format with prayers, simple liturgy and music, the meal, and a learning/faith building activity. Covid smashed it for two years and last year, for a variety of reasons, the availability of music leaders was pretty sparse. We nailed the Van Gogh activity though! My goal is to get prints made and have those available by the time we start.

This year I'm aiming for a bit more of a hybrid worship/learning service, but I also want it to be something all ages can participate in and really engage. Details are still being hammered out.

I've always loved Lent midweek and I'm excited about this year's offering!

Vacation

At this point, I know two of my vacation dates for sure—May 21 and June 25. If either of those dates work for you to share a message and/or lead worship, let me know

February Helpers

Cleaners - Aaron and Kathryn Nygren

Communion Assistant - Merlin Fick

Ushers - Gail Otto/Charlie Rin

Lector - Ficks