

Contact Information

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Log in information and the worship bulletin for worship can be found on our website on the “Worship online and in person” page

Zion Lutheran Church
589 County Rd. 13
Ithaca, NE 68033

GOOD TIDINGS FROM ZION

October 2022



October Helpers

Cleaners - Kathryn and Aaron Nygren

Communion Assistant - Merlin

Ushers - Aaron Nygren and Charlie Rine

Lectors

Oct. 2 - Evie Hofmeister

Oct 9 - Merlin

Oct 16 - Merlin/Marcia

Oct 23 - Anne and Evie Nygren

Oct. 30 - Merlin/Marcia

Acolytes

Oct. 2 - Evie Nygren

Oct. 9—Karsen Kouma

Oct. 16—open

Oct. 23 and 30—Henry Nygren

Vocation

We had a nice group for our first Adult Education Learning Salon. It was a beautiful day and we were able to sit outside by the lake for our conversation. As we go through these events, I will share a recap as my newsletter article for those who weren't able to attend.

Our first conversation was about vocation.

Vocation in the secular world has typically meant the work you do for pay. In the religious world before the Reformation, vocation meant a specifically religious vocation – priest, monk, or nun. One of the gifts of the Reformation was to say that all our work is holy and serves God's world. Here is what Martin Luther said:

“...the works of monks and priests, however holy and arduous they may be, do not differ one whit in the sight of God from the works of the rustic laborer in the field or the woman going about her household tasks, but that all works are measured before God by faith alone.”

Our vocation is not just about our paid work either – it's really how we live our whole lives and interact with others. Our vocation begins with our baptism – our vocation is how we live out of our lives as baptized, claimed, and forgiven.

We went through what the Bible says about vocation and also reviewed the promises we make in our own affirmation of baptism. This list is what we came up with as the Christian vocation. These are the things that all Christians are called to do. However, our own particular gifts, assets, and talents will make us better at some than others.

Tend and care for creation

Love God and love your neighbor as yourself

Pray

Practice kindness and justice – advocate for those whose voice is often not heard

Care for the most vulnerable – hungry, poor, prisoner, visitors from outside our borders, sick

Witness to God's love in Jesus – in other words, tell people about the life and love you've found in Jesus

Make disciples

Forgiveness

Reconciliation

(cont. pg. 2)

During our conversation, we each went through how we spend our days and looked for ways we can practice the different aspects of our Christian vocation in our daily activities. We found that there are all sorts of ways we can do that, even when we're retired.

There are times in our lives when we're discerning what we are to do in a next phase in our lives. Young people especially come to mind. However, those of us in the group were more on the retirement end – either already retired or approaching retirement. What will that phase look like? What might be specific ways we can think about our vocation?

We didn't get much time to talk about it on Sunday, but here's a little acronym for one way to discern where God might be calling you next. It's called a PAWN analysis.

Purpose – which of the items on the Christian vocation list resonate most with you?

Assets, gifts and talents – assets can be physical assets – money, land, educational certificate or degree, etc; gifts and talents are the things that you are especially good at

Wow! What is God already doing in your life and community. God is always working to build the kingdom. Where do you see signs of that in your life or community? Are there ways your purpose, assets, gifts, and talents may align with those activities?

Needs – these are your own needs as well as needs you see around you. A personal need can be something like dissatisfaction with a present job, a need to be useful, etc.

This analysis can be used as an individual or as an organization. We'll probably use something like it to assess the church mission, vision, and values.

And we don't need to stress too much about finding the one right thing – no matter what we do, we can in some way be practicing or vocation in the prayers we send, the encounters we have with others anywhere, and in our participation in church or community.

Our next education salon will be on **October 30 at 12 noon at Zion**. The title of our topic is **"These stories are crazy! Why do we believe them?"** We'll talk about how we use the ancient texts of the Bible in our own lives.

Christ's peace,

Pastor Kris

Here's a little view of our first learning salon



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>

October 2	9:00 am—Worship with Holy Communion
October 5	7:00 pm—Confirmation and Wednesday school
October 9	9:00 am—Worship
October 12	7:00 pm Confirmation class and Wednesday school
October 16	9:00 am—Worship
October 19	7:00 pm—Wednesday school gathering; Confirmation class
October 23	9:00 am—Worship
October 30	9:00 am—Worship with Holy Communion—Reformation

Pastor Kris Vacation

I am on vacation October 11 through the 19th and will be off Sunday October 23 for the Good Life Halfsy half-marathon

Pastor Glenda Ferguson will be covering the 11th through the 19th for pastoral emergencies. Her number is 402-443-5503.

Pastor Karen Tjarks is leading worship and preaching October 16. Daryl Bohac will lead worship and preach on October 23.

