



GOOD TIDINGS FROM ZION

Luke

I don't remember exactly when we started using the Narrative Lectionary, but I think we've been through the 4-year cycle somewhere around three times. I've really enjoyed it. I think for those who are pretty regular worship attenders, either in person or online, it has provided the opportunity to really grasp the whole biblical story. People tend to think the Old Testament story is a separate story from the New Testament. The Narrative Lectionary helps us see that the Bible tells one continuous story of God and God's work in the world.

Occasionally, folks have commented that the Old Testament part of the Narrative Lectionary gets a bit long. It's usually December before we actually get into the gospel. This year we're going to do something different. This year is Luke's year, so we are going to do a deeper dive into Luke's gospel, especially the part leading up to the passion of Christ.

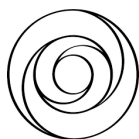
Beginning September 8, we'll begin at the very beginning – meaning we'll get Christmas in September. Advent will be a little weird, and we'll get Christmas twice, but what's not to love about that? The readings will be laid out so that we begin the passion narrative at the start of Holy Week so that will fit better. It helps that Easter is quite late this year. I will still make some Old Testament connections when it fits.

Luke is longer than Mark, and we won't read it all in worship, although I will likely put the left-out readings on an insert in the bulletin on the weeks where we skip over some. The goal for this is really just to have a more in-depth encounter with Jesus. There are faith traditions that weight all of scripture equally. Ours is not one of them – the Lutheran understanding of the Bible is that what it ultimately does is reveal Jesus and the gospel. Jesus is the main thing, and we need to keep the main thing the main thing. It's not that we view the rest of scripture as inferior or wrong, but we read the rest of scripture through the lens of Christ and Christ's love. That shapes everything for Christians – from how we understand the Bible to how we live our lives.

It's my hope that we'll find ways to really see ourselves in the stories... to really follow Jesus with the other disciples. And through that, we can continue to grow as 21st Century disciples.

In Christ,

Pastor Kris



Seeking the Spirit

By Virg Unverferth

The spiritual practice I would like to encourage you to practice this month is called **Walking into scripture**. It is a way to use your imagination and participate in the story rather than simply read about what happened. You can use this method with any Bible story in which there is action (a plot and actual story line) and several characters.

Read the story one time. Select a character (give yourself permission to be Jesus sometimes.) Read it a second time. Use all your senses: What are you seeing? What are you smelling? What are you hearing? What are you thinking? What are you doing? What do you touch? What emotions are you experiencing? Journal or share aloud about your experience as that character in the story.

Some stories you can use to begin this practice include: Matthew 4:18-23, Mark 2:1-12, Luke 9:10-17 and Luke 2:1-20.

Zion at the Fair and at School

On Sunday September 8 we'll do a blessing for kids who have headed back to school as well as any adults who work in education.

Then on Sunday September 29 we'll celebrate the Fair. Kids and adults who want to share some of their fair entries will have some time to do so, and also an area in the narthex to display some other things.

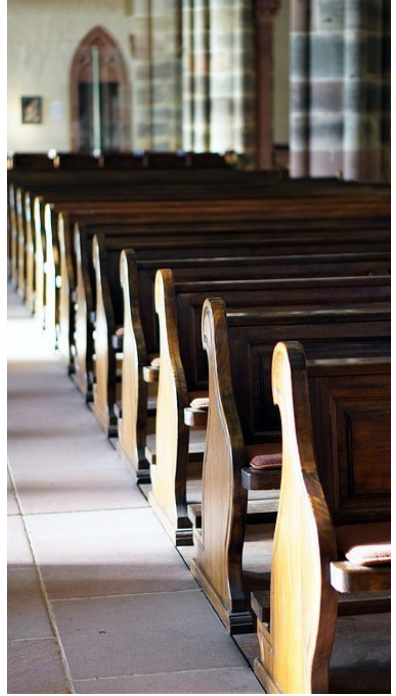
Over the year, I hope to do a few other things like this where we celebrate the work, creativity, and passion people share with the world. In October, we'll celebrate harvest.

A View from the Pew (September 2024)

By Preacher Woman's Husband

Too Much of a Good Thing

During a recent conversation with a fellow pew dweller (PD), I was asked how I managed attending the worship services of the two churches PW serves. I replied that I tried to rotate between the two congregations but sometimes lose track of where I was last given travel schedules and other things. PD suggested that I could attend both services on Sunday as a way to solve my memory challenges. My response was, "Church is a good thing, a really good thing, but too much of a good thing is exactly that, too much!" That led to an interesting facial reaction by fellow PD. I realized much later that my comment really needed some explanation. After all, some might expect a little bit more enthusiasm from the pastor's spouse on attending worship services.



Certainly, a mark of healthy discipleship is regular attendance at worship. Being with a community of Christ is important not only for our relationship with Christ, but as importantly our relationship with each other. It is where we often learn how to be kind and compassionate with each other and where we may learn about things going on in our fellow PDs lives that deserve our care and concern and our prayers. Yet we shouldn't let perfection become the enemy of good, or even great, discipleship. But another mark of discipleship is being engaged in the mission field beyond the physical place of worship and the weekly services offered there. For me, that means taking what I learn by regular attendance at worship, from the sermon to the conversations before and after worship, and taking those things into the rest of the week, Monday through Saturday, and applying them in my faith life and my encounters with my neighbors, friends, family, and maybe most importantly people we have never met before. I don't recall where I encountered the phrase, "Sunday morning isn't enough anymore," but it was sometime ago in my faith journey and has served me well. I have made some progress in moving beyond the checklist approach to discipleship, i.e., made it to worship on Sunday good to go for the week approach. Going beyond Sunday requires thoughtful intentionality to be engaged in discipleship in the mission field Monday through Saturday. It is far easier on Sunday morning when I am among my fellow pew dwellers.

I am blessed to be a part of the congregational life of two churches. I also know that I can be a bit of handful at times as I believe I am a really funny person. I am also reminded of a saying a senior general officer shared with a group of a relatively new generals, "There is no tree so big that a small dog won't pee on it." So as I said earlier, too much of a good thing is exactly that, too much! See you on Sunday and hope to meet you out in the mission field as well. I'll be better for it.

BBQ Pictures



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

<https://www.zionithaca.org/worship>

Calendar

September 1 9:00 am—Worship with Holy Communion

September 4 7:00 pm—Church School

September 8 8:00 am—Council

9:00 am—Worship - **Back to School Blessing**

September 15 9:00 am—Worship

Pastor Kris is gone Sept. 14 through Sept. 20

Coverage for Pastoral Emergencies—Pastor Dave Maloy, 402-306-3828

Carol is leading worship and sharing the message

September 18 7:00 pm—church school

September 22 9:00 am—Worship

September 29 9:00 am—Worship; **Zion at the Fair**

September Helpers

Cleaners—Megan/George

Usher—Jerry/Harvey

Lector—Nygrens

Communion Asst.— Charlie

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