



GOOD TIDINGS FROM ZION

Go and...serve with neighbors



This month's Go and...theme is Go and...serve with neighbors. This is brilliant. We are so used to hearing go and serve your neighbor. Go and serve God's world. The implication is that we are the active ones who go out and take our superior resources and gifts to those in need. To be fair, there's definitely a place for that. Lots of organizations depend on it.

But to go and serve with neighbors implies something very different. That's when we partner with others who live in the area we wish to serve. Church mission trips have long been a popular component of ministry in many churches. Good ones do good things. But some church mission trips – or even non-church mission trips – have been less than helpful because the would-be missionaries play the great white savior. They swoop in with their superior resources and help in ways that are not helpful.

My favorite story comes from Tanzania. A group had come through and toured Machame hospital near Moshi. Noting that the hospital laundry was done by hand and hung out on bushes to dry, members of the group decided they needed an industrial washer and dryer. What they could have learned but didn't was that the electrical grid there can't support an industrial washer and dryer. They were being used for storage.

Go and serve WITH neighbors means injecting humility and a willingness to listen to what is already being done by the people in the situation, and what's really needed. It means building relationships with neighbors – as individuals in our own neighborhoods yes, but also as a community of faith. It may also mean being willing to let neighbors serve us.

So often we live in our own little world and don't even get to know our neighbors. I live in Waverly and am involved in various community things. As Waverly grows, people will sometimes raise concerns about losing the small-town feeling. But when I ask more about that, they mostly don't seem to know how to describe what they mean by that. The ones I've asked mostly don't seem to know even their own neighbors.

(continued next page)

Really all of the go and... themes we've covered actually do give us an opportunity to know our neighbors.

Go and...pray. We can pray for our neighbors and ask God to lead us to relationship with them

Go and...listen. Go and...tell your story.

So a challenge for the month – go and get to know a neighbor you don't. It can be either in your own neighborhood or the church community. Have neighbors over for coffee or a block party.

I've also been thinking for awhile about more ways we might be able to do this as a church community, especially in Davey.

Helping with the park renovation was a great example of serving with neighbors. What ideas do you have?

In Christ,

Pastor Kris

Kids' News

Confirmation—Gary and Pastor Kris are co-teaching a class of 5 young people. One student is from Zion—Evie Nygren, and four are from Grace. We are studying the Bible this year. Gary made a list of seven questions to ask about any Bible story you read—or sermon you hear. We are using those questions to help us better understand the biblical story. We don't use a curriculum but we use a fair number of videos from The Bible Project. We meet on Wednesdays.

Elementary—Carol is teaching four elementary school aged boys on Wednesday nights. Finding curriculum that makes things reasonably simple for teachers and engaging for students has been a challenge. But this year we seem to have found one in Living the Word from Spirit and Truth Publishing. They meet every other Wednesday.

Preschool—There are three preschool children that meet in a little class after worship on Sundays. The curriculum is a very simple one being developed by Pastor Kris and using Bible stories from The Children's Storybook Bible by Desmond Tutu. It's being taught on a monthly rotation by different people in the congregation. It's a 20-30 minute class with really no prep other than looking through the lesson ahead of time. We could use a couple more volunteers to cover the year.

Worship is at 9 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.zionithaca.org/worship>

Calendar

- October 8** 9:00 am—Worship
Preschool Sunday school to follow
- October 15** 9:00 am—Worship
Preschool Sunday school
- October 18** 7:00 pm—Confirmation and Wednesday school
- October 22** **9:00** am—Worship
Preschool Sunday school
- October 25** 7:00 pm—Confirmation
- October 29** 9:00 am—Reformation worship with holy communion

October helpers

Cleaners—Kyli and Jon Christo

Usher—Jon/Kylie/Karsen

Lector—Fick

Communion Asst.—Merlin

Acolyte— Karsen—Oct 8, 15

Contact Information

Pastor Kris Bohac—402 499 4993

krisbo90@gmail.com

President Diane Rine—402.480.1483

Facebook—[Zion Lutheran Church ELCA](#)

Website—www.zionithaca.org