

Sunday School Summer Break Begins Next Week

During Summer Break there are no Sunday School classes and worship begins at 10am. Children's Church will continue to be offered during worship time after the Children's Moment is completed so don't forget to join us!

For more information: Contact Kim Ridenour at miskim@myactv.net or the Church Office at 301.739.7244 or visit <https://zionreformed.church/children>.

Worship @ 10am Sunday Mornings Beginning Next Week

Virtual Worship available at
<https://zionreformed.church/worshiplive>



Serving Jesus by Doing Good

Serve Jesus by doing good.

Count those serving Jesus. Trace the numbers.



When you see someone in need ... help!

Match the persons to those they can help.



When you help others in need, you are serving Jesus.

Find Jesus.



Jesus will say to those who have served Him, "Come, you who are blessed by My Father ..."

Trace the letters.

the kingdom is prepared for you."

Zion Pre-School Bulletin

May 22, 2022 (Year C) * 6th Sunday of Easter (Ages 3+)

God Has A Plan for Us!

Hearing God's Word: Jeremiah 29:11-12 (International Children's Bible)



¹¹ I say this because I know what I have planned for you," says the Lord. "I have good plans for you. I don't plan to hurt you. I plan to give you hope and a good future. ¹² Then you will call my name. You will come to me and pray to me. And I will listen to you.

Today, I want to talk about an empty box! What can you do with an empty box? Well, we can stand it up on its side and pretend that it is a refrigerator! But wait.....if we use it for that, then all the food we put in will begin to spoil and stink up the place. OK, so what can we do with it? I know, we can lay it flat, climb in it and use it for a car! But wait....I'm too big to fit in the box. I'd crush it! Besides, it has no wheels...we wouldn't get very far. I know! I'll use it for a hat! But wait...the box is too big for my head, and it really isn't very stylish. Hmmm.....maybe this box just doesn't have a purpose.

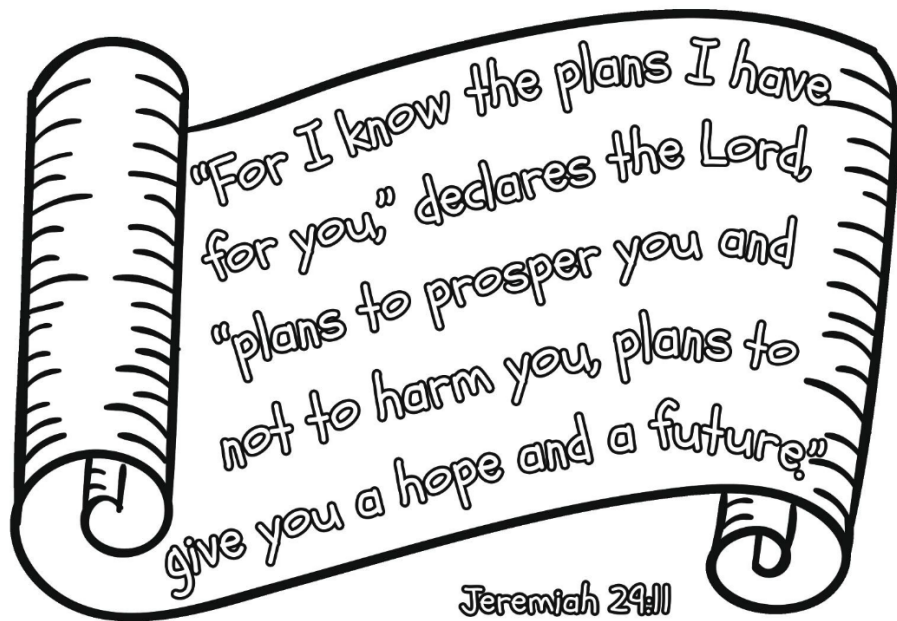
But this box does have a purpose! It is best used when it is used as it was designed! You can put things in the box and store things in it! That is what this box was made for! It is only really of value to me if I can use it for what it was designed it for! This box is a lot like you and me. In our scripture lesson, God tells us that God has a plan for our lives. We might try to live our lives the way we want to, but we will only really be of great value to anyone when we are doing what God has planned for us. God has a very important plan for each of us, and God wants us to find it and fulfill it--all with God's help, of course! When we discover what God's plans are for us, we find great joy in being what God made us to be. As a matter of fact, we'll find a lot of satisfaction in doing things we never dreamed of.



What Are Plans?

Did you know that builders can't build a house without having a plan? That's right! They have to take their plans to a supervisor to check the plans to make sure everything is measured correctly. If you have one wall that is too short, the whole thing can fall down. If you forget to add a door no one can get in! Having a plan is important. You can't have a bunch of people just building what they want—they have to follow the builder's plan. Your life (and this church community) are like a beautiful house and God is the builder. Remember, God tells us in Jeremiah that God has a plan for us!

- ✚ What is a plan?
- ✚ What kind of plans does God make?
- ✚ Are God's plans always good? Why?
- ✚ Does God always have the best plans for us? Why?
- ✚ Should we be scared of God's plans? Why or why not?



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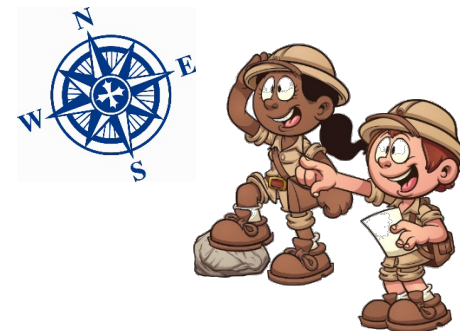
A Roadmap



This treasure map is kind of like the plan God makes for each life. See the X? That's where God wants to lead us, to a good place in God's perfect plan. See all these different paths? No matter which one we take, God will lead us to the good place God has for us but some paths have obstacles in them. We should trust God to lead our lives right from the beginning. When we do that, we can avoid some snares

and traps along the way. God has a plan for you and for this church!

Today at church we are looking at the vision [goal, dream, or hope] of our church; the mission of our church [our reason for being a community of faith, our purpose as a church]; and what our core values are as a church. These core values help define how we are to act or behave to live into our vision and mission. Another words these core values help us to achieve our mission and vision by helping us to act more like Christ, loving all of our neighbors. All of these things: vision, mission, and core values are tools to help us remember the plan God has for this church and act like our "treasure map" so that we can see where we are and where we need to get to, and so we can make sure that what we are doing always goes along with God's plans. The mission, vision, and core values were created by a group of church members who prayed and discussed them in accordance with God's Word and how the still-speaking voice of God directed them.



Zion Reformed Mission, Vision & Values Statements

The mission, vision, and core values of Zion Reformed United Church of Christ are:



To Share God's Inclusive Love, Uniting Us with Our Community.



To share the gospel of Christ in such a way that we find God, grow our faith, discover our purpose and make a difference.



As followers of Christ, we share these Core Values:

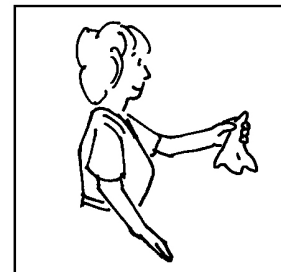
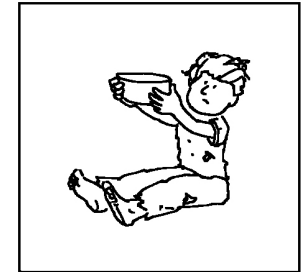
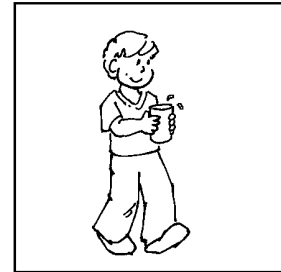
- 1) Community: Where we show Love of God and One Another
 - Welcoming all people
 - Celebrating unity and diversity
 - Working in partnership with other churches
- 2) Spiritual Life: Where God Is Still Speaking
 - Encouraging people on their faith journey
 - Listening through prayer
 - Forgiving and being forgiven
- 3) Discipleship in Action: Where Justice isn't about "Just Us"
 - Striving to imitate the life of Christ in thought, word, and deed
 - Being good stewards of time, talent & resources
 - Acting as Christ's hands & voice in the world
 - Caring for God's creation



Zion Reformed United Church of Christ
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When you see someone in need ... help!

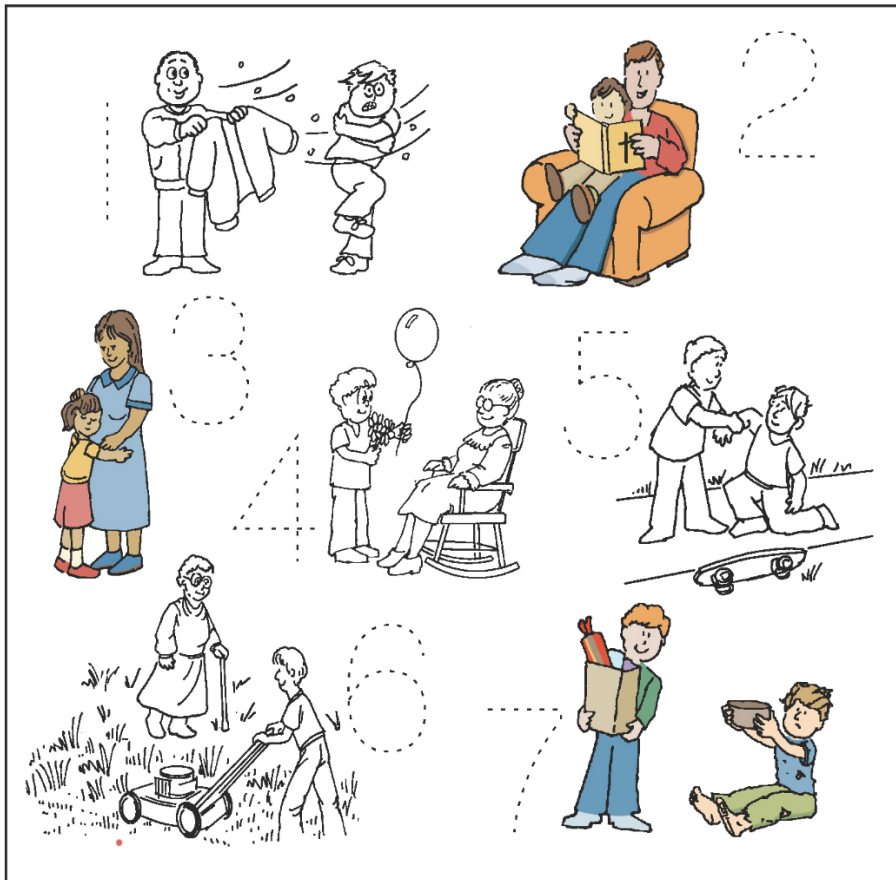
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Why Practice these Vision, Mission, and Values?

Hearing God's Word: Matthew 25:31-45

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³¹ "The Son of Man will come again in his great glory. All his angels will come with him. He will be King and sit on his great throne. ³² All the people of the world will be gathered before him. Then he will separate them into two groups as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ The Son of Man will put the sheep, the good people, on his right and the goats, the bad people, on his left. ³⁴ "Then the King will say to the good people on his right, 'Come. My Father has given you his blessing. Come and receive the kingdom God has prepared for you since the world was made. ³⁵ I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was alone and away from home, and you invited me into your house. ³⁶ I was without clothes, and you gave me something to wear. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.' ³⁷ "Then the good people will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food? When did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you alone and away from home and invite you into our house? When did we see you without clothes and give you something to wear? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and care for you?' ⁴⁰ "Then the King will answer, 'I tell you the truth. Anything you did for any of my people here, you also did for me.' ⁴¹ "Then the King will say to those on his left, 'Go away from me. God has said that you will be punished. Go into the fire that burns forever. That fire was prepared for the devil and his helpers. ⁴² I was hungry, and you gave me nothing to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me nothing to drink. ⁴³ I was alone and away from home, and you did not invite me into your house. I was without clothes, and you gave me nothing to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you did not care for me.' ⁴⁴ "Then those people will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty? When did we see you alone and away from home? Or when did we see you without clothes or sick or in prison? When did we see these things and not help you?' ⁴⁵ "Then the King will answer, 'I tell you the truth. Anything you refused to do for any of my people here, you refused to do for me.'

Unto the Least of These



Have you ever heard someone say, "Wait just a minute?" Well, sometimes a minute can seem like a long time. Other times, a minute seems to fly by. I want you to have someone time a minute or use a timer to do so and see how many things you can think of that you like to eat. Are you ready? Okay -- ready, set, go! Did you think of a lot of good things to eat? I did. I thought about fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza, cake, cookies, ice cream, candy, and a lot more. What did you think of that you like to eat? (share your list of foods with one another)

Have you ever been hungry? Oh, I don't mean a little bit hungry. I mean really hungry with no hope that you would get anything to eat today...or tomorrow...or the next day. Sometimes we forget that not everyone in the world has plenty of food to eat. In that one minute while you and I were thinking about all the good things we like to eat, twelve children in the world died because of hunger-related illness.

One day, Jesus was speaking to a group of people and he said to them, "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat...I was thirsty and you gave me a drink." "When did we do that?" they asked. Jesus answered them, "If you did it for one of the least of my children, you did it for me." We have a lot to be thankful for, don't we? The question is, are we willing to share it with those who are not so fortunate? Will you share what you have with those who are in need? Remember, it is the same as doing it for Jesus!

And this is why we practice these vision, mission, and values statements. They are more than just statements, they are our plan, our purpose, for existing as a people and as a church. They exist to help us practice Christ's command to love one another...to share God's love. They are a roadmap to help us chart our path. They are a reminder that if we drift away from our purpose and calling of how to get back on track. These statements along with the Word of God help bring us back to God, always! Following Christ's command to love one another helps us to know God and have a relationship with God, and that is the purpose of our very existence as a person and as a faith community—to know (love) God and to love God is to love others!

Let Us Pray:



O' God, we thank you that you have a plan for our lives. Help us to discover those plans and to allow you to complete those plans. We want to be useful to you as you have given us so much. May we be willing to share it with those in need as you share with us. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.



This lesson adapted from the following resources with permission for worship purposes:

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"What Are Plans?" from Ministry Ark's "[For I Know the Plans](#)", ©MinistryArk.com.

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