

ANNOUNCEMENTS - June 5, 2024

Zion Lutheran Church, 15 S. 4th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110
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WOW (Worship On Wednesday) 12:10pm

April 24 – June 12 (Wednesdays) 12:10pm WOW Series: “Organic Discipleship”

Based on the Book:

Organic Disciples: Seven Ways to Grow Spiritually & Naturally Share Jesus
by Kevin G. Harney & Sherry Harney

April 24: Foundations

May 1: Bible Engagement

May 8: Passionate Prayer

May 15: Wholehearted Worship

May 22: Humble Service

May 29: Joyful Generosity

June 5: Consistent Community

June 12: Organic Outreach

**Notes on Today’s Service Theme: “Consistent Community:
The Power of Togetherness in a Polarized World”**

Key Scripture Verses:

Romans 12:3-8 *English Standard Version ESV*

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Galatians 3:26-28 *ESV*

²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:23 *ESV*

³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Matthew 18:15-17 *ESV*

¹⁵ “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

John 13:34-35 English Standard Version

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Excerpts from Organic Disciples (pp 203-232):

God Needed Nothing, but He Invited Us to Be His Friends.

Jesus called people to follow him and be with him. (Matt. 4:19)

Jesus called people to his mission. (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:7-8; Matt. 9:27)

Jesus Loved People.

Jesus loved all sorts of people. (John 11:3-5; John 21:20; John 13:1; John 15:13)

Jesus loved the “unlovable.” (Matt. 9:9-13, Matt. 11:19; Mark 2:15-16; Luke 15:1-7; Luke 7:36-38)

Jesus loved the unprotected and vulnerable. (All the Gospels, especially clear in Luke)

Real Life and Real Relationships

Jesus had varied relational connections. (Matt. 12:15, 46; 13:34; Mark 13:13-19)

Broken relationships broke the heart of Jesus. (Matt. 5:23-24; Matt. 18:15-22)

Jesus felt the knife thrust of abandonment and broken relationships (Matt. 26:14-16; Luke 22:54-62; Mark 14:50)

The gracious and risen Lord called his followers back to him. (John 21:15-22)

Better Together: Why We > Me

We were Made for Community

The imago Dei (Gen. 1:26-28)

Devoting Ourselves to Consistent Community

The power of the table. Jesus knew the intimacy and glory of a good meal shared with others. (John 2:1-11; Matt. 26:17-30; John 21:9-24)

The joy of a good walk. Jesus engaged in life-giving community with others as they walked together. (Matt. 4:18-22; Luke 24:13-35)

The life-giving gift of blessing. Words of kindness and encouragement build community. (John 8:11; Luke 19:9; Luke 23:43; John 21:22)

The beauty of everyone. ... Let this biblical picture fill your heart.

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

Revelation 7:9-10 ESV

The World Will Know We Are Christians by the Way We Love One Another ... And Them
In community, people will encounter love in action.

Ask yourself, “If I invite a nonbelieving friend into my life, my home, or my church, will they be amazed by the love they see between Christians?” This is one of the most important aspects of our witness in the world. We are called to love the believers God places in our lives. Make time to express your affection to those who live in your home. Be a church that overflows with kindness and care for one another. Love believers who are part of other Christian fellowships in your town and talk about what they mean to you. They are family. The world needs to see how we love one another. Then they will know we are Christians.

In community, people will see forgiveness at work. (Ephesians 4:32)

Ask yourself, “Am I committed to forgiveness at such a deep level that it shows? Or am I quick to judge and slow to let go of hurts?” Christians are a community of radically and divinely forgiven people. We are washed, loved, and cleansed! Our reflexive response should be grace and forgiveness. If not, we need to spend some time at the foot of the cross, looking into the face of our Savior, who cried out, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34). Create a community of forgiveness, and invite people in to see what Jesus offers.

In community, people will see unity in diversity.

Of all the places in the world, the church and Christian community should be a model of people from every walk of life living in unity. Our churches should look like our community, in all of its diverse beauty. Look at your life, your home, and your church. What can you do to create unity in the midst of a conflicted world?

LOOKING AHEAD

***** WOW will NOT be held on June 19 due to the Juneteenth Holiday *****

WOW Mini-Series on the Psalms: June 26 – July 17

Psalms 113, 69:1-16, 27, 40:1-10

Weekly Schedule

Sunday (Communion & Healing Prayer on 1st and 3rd Sundays and Festivals)

9:00am **Sunday School** (in-person only); 9:45am **Fellowship** (in-person only)

10:15am **Worship Service** (in-person & online)

Wednesday (Communion on the 1st Wednesday)

12:10pm **WOW, Worship On Wednesday** (in-person & online); 12:35pm **Lunch Fellowship**