

Zion Mennonite Church's Covenant Renewal

Scripture for 2017:

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

We, Zion Mennonite Church, believe in the God of all hope, who created the world and loves us deeply. We believe in Jesus, who came to redeem us by His death and resurrection, and who lives to intercede for us. We believe in the Holy Spirit who fills believers, reminding us of all that Jesus taught, convicting us of sin, giving us direction, comfort, and help, both individually and as a congregation. This year we commit ourselves to this Triune God and to helping each other grow closer to God as we practice rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks together.

Zion Mennonite Church is encouraging members & regular participants to make commitments today. We are asking God to move in our midst more freely as we practice listening and obeying what we hear from Him, anticipating that God may lead us this year in ways that we cannot yet know, that He certainly will help us become more aware of each other’s needs, and will teach us how to better encourage and help each other.

In 2017 we agree together that we will:

- Practice “rejoicing always:” looking for how the mercy and kindness of Christ plays out in our lives and the life of our congregation.
- Learn to intercede for each other and develop a habit of listening prayer.
- Make effort to give thanks in all circumstances, committing ourselves to notice and report the benefits of practicing gratitude.

TESTIMONY in 200 words or less: Tell a story of how you’ve witnessed God at work in your life this past year.

Our commitment to each other in 2017:

WORSHIP - We desire to enjoy God through vibrant worship:

- Memorizing and repeating the verse for the year as a reminder to give praise to God during the week.
- Committing ourselves to be more fully present and actively involved in worship during the weekly worship service.
- Practicing a habit of giving daily thanks to God.

Other: _____

FAITH FORMATION – We commit to engaging individually and together with Scripture:

- Making a practical plan for Bible reading/meditation, telling someone else about it.
- Sharing with others what Scriptures or words are emerging that give life and provide direction and comfort from the Lord.

Other: _____

OUTREACH & SERVICE – We seek to develop the muscles of sharing the Gospel:

- Asking God in prayer for direction about some habit of service or outreach to become involved with this year.
- Discerning what to remove from our lives to make time for this new habit.

Other: _____

STEWARDSHIP – We aspire to practice generosity in response to God’s generosity towards us:

- Seeking God’s direction for a particular dollar amount or percentage of income to make as a goal for giving to Zion this year.
- Practicing the Sabbath as a weekly reminder that God is God, and we are not.

Other: _____

CARE – We desire to intentionally care for each other as the body of Christ:

- Praying for members of the congregation, especially thanking God for those with whom we disagree and asking God to bless them richly.
- Practicing hospitality by eating together and conversing with each other.
- Committing to engage with one other person, a group of two or three (Life Transformation Group^{*}), or a small group.

Other: _____

^{*} A Life Transformation Group (LTG) is a group of 2-3 people, all of the same gender, who commit to a weekly rhythm of Scripture reading, meeting for accountability, and prayerfully joining God’s work in the world.

Zion Mennonite
Church invites all
members to commit
themselves to.....

Worship

- Participating in corporate worship on most Sundays: praising, confessing, hearing scripture and sermon, sharing communion, washing feet, and sharing our joys and concerns.
- Worshiping and adoring God as part of daily life
- Praying the Kingdom (Lord's) Prayer regularly

Faith Formation

- Reading the Bible
- Studying Jesus' life
- Talking and listening to God
- Participating with a Sunday school class

Care

- Participating in a Life Transformation Group or small group
- Praying for each other
- Sharing meals together in homes
- Giving and receiving counsel

....then we will grow in every way and be more like Christ (Ephesians 4:15).....

Outreach & Service

- Watching to see what God is doing and joining in
- Proclaiming the Gospel through our words and actions
- Being salt and light where we are

Stewardship

- Giving our gifts and our time to God & the Church
- Practicing the Sabbath
- Showing gratitude to God by generously giving financial resources to the mission of Church

....so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.