

# ADULT LEARNING AT ZION

Starting  
Fall 2021



## SMALL GROUP STUDIES

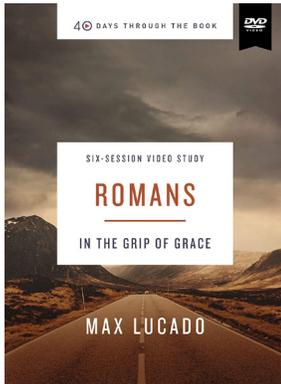
### Romans: In the Grip of Grace by Max Lucado

Starting the week of **September 13** we will begin a six-week small group study entitled: *Romans: In the Grip of Grace* by Max Lucado. In this video Bible study, based on his bestselling book, *In the Grip of Grace*, author and pastor Max Lucado will guide us through Paul's letter to the Romans, revealing what the apostle's words meant to his original readers and how they apply to you today. Find the comfort, wisdom, healing, and wholeness that come from discovering that even in your failings, you are always in the grip of God's grace.

Small groups will meet Monday afternoons, Tuesday mornings (via Zoom), Wednesday morning and Wednesday evening, and Thursday afternoon (via Zoom). You can sign up for a small group and buy the book at the front desk for \$10.

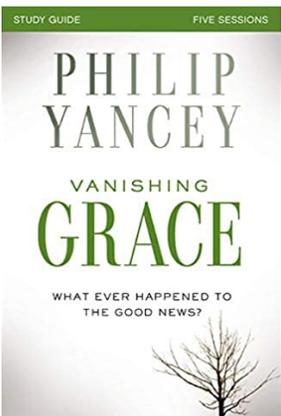
Here's the schedule:

- Week of Sept 13: The Problem we Face (Romans 1-2)
- Week of Sept 20: The Gift We've Been Offered (Romans 3-5)
- Week of Sept 27: The Battle We Fight (Romans 6-8)
- Week of Oct 4: The Story We've Joined (Romans 9-11)
- Week of Oct 11: The Path We Follow (Romans 12-13)
- Week of Oct 18: The Fellowship We Find (Romans 14-16)



### Vanishing Grace by Philip Yancey

Starting the week of **November 1** we will begin a five-week small group study entitled: *Vanishing Grace* by Philip Yancey. In his landmark book *What's So Amazing About Grace?*, Philip Yancey issued a call for Christians to be as grace-filled in their behavior as they are in declaring their beliefs. He now returns to this vital subject, asking why Christians continue to lose respect, influence, and reputation in modern culture. Yet people everywhere still thirst for grace. How can Christians present truly Good News amid the changing landscapes of our time? Why do so many people dislike Christians? How can we communicate faith in an appealing way to future generations? Using his trademark journalistic style (story-filled, compelling, accessible) Yancey explores how grace can bridge the gap between Christian faith and a world increasingly suspicious of it.



#### WELCOME

We invite you to come experience God's love at Zion Lutheran Church.

#### CONTACT US

1601 4th Avenue  
Anoka MN 55303  
763.421.4656  
[www.zionanoka.org](http://www.zionanoka.org)

#### OFFICE HOURS

M-TH: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
FRI: 9:00 AM - NOON  
SUN: 8:00 AM - NOON

# Small Group Studies - cont'd

Small groups will meet Monday afternoons, Tuesday mornings (via Zoom), Wednesday morning and Wednesday evening, and Thursday afternoon (via Zoom). You can sign up for a small group and buy the book at the front desk for \$10.

- **Week of November 1: We've Got Problems**
- **Week of November 8: What Can We Do About It?**
- **Week of November 15: Who Are the Grace Dispensers?**
- **Week of November 22: No Class**
- **Week of November 29: Is It Really Good News?**
- **Week of December 6: Holy Subversives**

## Adult Forum Schedule

Sundays 10 AM

**Starting in September**, Zion's adult forums will be coming back! We will have the forums in the Library at 10:00 am and we have an exciting line up of speakers and topics. Here is the schedule through December:

### **Sep 19: Zion's Oral History Part 1**

As we were preparing for our 150th Anniversary we had some great interviews with some of Zion's members and past members as they shared their stories of Zion's rich history.

### **Sep 26: Stewardship Presentation**

### **Oct 3: Zion's Oral History Part 2**

### **Oct 10 & 17: Dr. Mark Tranvik: Martin Luther and the Called Life**

Dr. Mark Tranvik is a Professor of Reformation History at Luther Seminary. One of the hallmarks of Luther's theology was its concern for daily life. In the midst of debates about justification and salvation, church authority, and the Lord's Supper, he bore a deep concern for daily Christian life. Dr. Mark Tranvik looks at the importance of vocation in Luther's own life and in doing so discovers renewed insights into this important doctrine. Vocation, the called life, is a way of understanding that all of life is under the care and interest of God. All of our activities as a spouse, parent, child, worker, citizen, and church member are a part of a called life.

### **Oct 24 & 31: Dr. Sam Potter: Creation Care**

Sam will talk about evidence for human-caused global warming, projected climate impacts for Minnesota, and the scale of global and Minnesota climate action necessary to prevent catastrophic change. Sam grew up in Todd County. He attended the University of Minnesota, Morris and received a degree in mathematics. Sam went to graduate school at Princeton University, where he got a PhD in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences. After graduate school, Sam and his wife, Caitlin, got married and moved to Seattle, where Sam worked as a climate science postdoctoral researcher at the University of Washington. They moved back to Minnesota after Caitlin got a job at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve. Sam now gives talks, teaches classes, and does original research about the impacts global warming will have on a future Minnesota.

### **Nov 7: Katie Langston: An Unexpected Journey into the Heart of Grace**

Katie Langston is a doubter by nature and a believer by grace. She grew up Mormon in Cache Valley, Utah, and still isn't sure she fits in anywhere sophisticated enough to have a Target. Katie converted to orthodox (little "o") Christianity after a profound experience with God's grace over a decade ago. She spent several years trying to make Mormon teaching fit a grace-based worldview, only to discover they weren't particularly compatible. After a long period of discernment, she was baptized on October 7, 2017. Katie is a writer, preacher, evangelist, and digital communications specialist. She writes and speaks to Christian audiences about Mormonism and to Mormon audiences about Christianity, and is a popular blogger, podcast guest, and presenter. She is a student at Luther Seminary and is planning on graduating in December and hopes to become a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

### **Nov 14: Faithful: Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph – A Carpenter Named Joseph**

We will begin in a four-week DVD study by Adam Hamilton as we learn about Joseph and what we as Christians can learn from him. He started his journey as an unknown carpenter, but Joseph became the earthly father of Jesus. For his part in the nativity story, he faced a situation much like our own - encountering life circumstances he didn't choose or understand. His courageous actions were crucial to the birth of Christ and God's salvation plan for humanity.

### **Nov 21: Faithful: Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph - Whose Child Is This?**

### **Nov 28: Faithful: Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph - Raising a Child Not Your Own**

### **Dec 5: Faithful: Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph - The Journey to Bethlehem**

### **Dec 12 & 19: A History of Carols**

Come and hear about some of our beloved Christmas Carols and then get a chance to sing them as we prepare for Christmas!

## Support Groups

### **• North Metro Grief Support Group**

A special weekly seminar and support group that offers help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. The Grief Support Group will resume its in-person meetings. These meetings are open to anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one, or knows someone who has. Meeting times are at 5:30 PM-9:30 PM and will meet Thursdays, October 14-November 18 at Zion Lutheran.

Contact Pastor Sue Wallager for more information at [swallager@zionanoka.org](mailto:swallager@zionanoka.org)



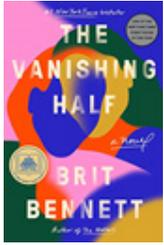
### **• Divorce Care Group - resumes on Monday, October 4**

The group meets Mondays from 7:00-8:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall facilitated by Sandy Wallace.

Contact Sandy L. Wallace for more information at [sandywallace@yahoo.com](mailto:sandywallace@yahoo.com)

## Zion Pages

Zion's book club will meet on Mondays at 6:30 PM via Zoom. See next page for book selections and dates. If you have questions or wish to participate contact Pastor Sue at [swallager@zionanoka.org](mailto:swallager@zionanoka.org).

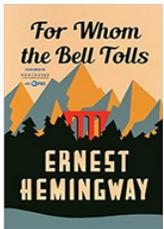
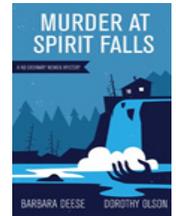


**October 25 - The Vanishing Half: A Novel by Brit Bennett**

The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect? Weaving together multiple strands and generations of this family, from the Deep South to California, from the 1950s to the 1990s, Brit Bennett produces a story that is at once a riveting, emotional family story and a brilliant exploration of the American history of passing. Brit Bennett offers an engrossing page-turner about family and relationships that is immersive and provocative, compassionate and wise.

**November 22- Murder at Spirit Falls (No Ordinary Women Mysteries Book 1) by Barbara Deese (Author), Dorothy Olson**

Perched above Spirit Falls in the lush Wisconsin woodland, Robin Bentley's cabin is remote enough for her and her book club friends to shed the restraints of city living, hike in the woods, take moonlight walks and go skinny dipping under the waterfall. But when a body washes up below the falls, the No Ordinary Women find themselves up to their bifocals in a real mystery. And one of them could be the next victim. Light and fun, unique and profound.

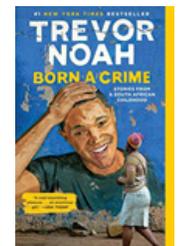


**January 24- For Whom the Bell Tolls by Ernest Hemingway**

In 1937 Ernest Hemingway traveled to Spain to cover the civil war there for the North American Newspaper Alliance. Three years later he completed the greatest novel to emerge from "the good fight" and one of the foremost classics of war literature. For Whom the Bell Tolls tells of loyalty and courage, love and defeat, and the tragic death of an ideal. Robert Jordan, a young American in the International Brigades, is attached to an antifascist guerilla unit in the mountains of Spain. In his portrayal of Jordan's love for the beautiful Maria and his superb account of a guerilla leader's last stand, Hemingway creates a work at once rare and beautiful, strong and brutal, compassionate, moving, and wise. For Whom the Bell Tolls stands as one of the best war novels ever written.

**February 28 - Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood by Trevor Noah**

Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle. Born a Crime is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. Whether subsisting on caterpillars for dinner during hard times, being thrown from a moving car during an attempted kidnapping, or just trying to survive the life-and-death pitfalls of dating in high school, Trevor illuminates his curious world with an incisive wit and unflinching honesty. His stories weave together to form a moving and searingly funny portrait of a boy making his way through a damaged world in a dangerous time, armed only with a keen sense of humor and a mother's unconventional, unconditional love.



**March 28 - The Midnight Library: A Novel by Matt Haig**

Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? In The Midnight Library, Matt Haig's enchanting blockbuster novel, Nora Seed finds herself faced with this decision. Faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one, following a different career, undoing old breakups, realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist; she must search within herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place.

**April 25 - Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past by Diane Wilson (a Minnesota Author)**

Growing up in the 1950s in suburban Minneapolis, Diane Wilson had a family like everybody else's. Her Swedish American father was a salesman at Sears and her mother drove her brothers to baseball practice and went to parent-teacher conferences. But in her thirties, Diane began to wonder why her mother didn't speak of her past. So she traveled to South Dakota and Nebraska, searching out records of her relatives through six generations, hungering to know their stories. She began to write a haunting account of the lives of her Dakota Indian family, based on research, to recreate their oral history that was lost, or repressed, or simply set aside as gritty issues of survival demanded attention. Spirit Car is an exquisite counterpoint of memoir and carefully researched fiction, a remarkable narrative that ties modern Minnesotans to the trauma of the Dakota War. Wilson found her family's love and humor—and she discovered just how deeply our identities are shaped by the forces of history.

