

ADULT LEARNING AT ZION

Winter/Spring
2024



SMALL GROUP STUDIES

"Why? Making Sense of God's Will" by Adam Hamilton

Starting the week of January 15, a study called "Why? Making Sense of God's Will." In this study, best-selling author Adam Hamilton brings fresh insight to the age-old question of how to understand the will of God. Rejecting simplistic answers and unexamined assumptions, Hamilton addresses how we can comprehend God's plan for the world and ourselves. Sign up for this class at the Welcome Desk and purchase book for \$10 at the front desk.

Schedule: • Week of January 15: Why Do Innocent Suffer?

Note: The Monday group starts the week of Jan 22 due to the MLK holiday.

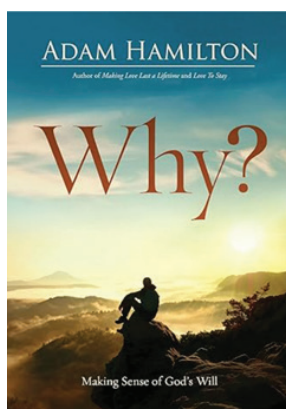
- Week of January 22: Why Do My Prayers Go Unanswered?
- Week of January 29: Why Can't I See God's Will for My Life?
- Week of February 5: Why God's Love Prevails.

A - MONDAYS | 1 PM | LEGACY ROOM - Pr. Sue Wallager

B - TUESDAYS | 8:45 AM | LEGACY ROOM - Ken Johnson, Greg Bergeron & Pr. Brent Campbell

C - WEDNESDAYS | 10:00 AM | LEGACY ROOM - Pr. Connie Tiede

D - THURSDAYS | 1:00 PM | ZOOM - Pastor Jim Barsch and Pastor Amie Odahl



"God Never Gives Up On You" by Max Lucado

Starting the week of February 19. God enacts his perfect plan through imperfect people – including you and me! In this five-session Bible study, you will see how God used Jacob- the misbehaving patriarch who was strong on savvy but weak on conscience – simply because God chose to use Jacob. Jacob's story invites us to believe in a God who sticks with the unworthy until we are safely at home. The books will be on sale starting January 28. They are \$12 each and can be purchased at the front desk.

Schedule: • Week of February 19: Taking Shortcuts

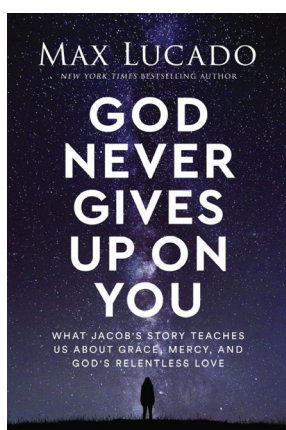
- Week of February 26: Reaping What You Sow
- Week of March 4: Living with Louse
- Week of March 11: Wrestling with God
- Week of March 18: Returning Home

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WELCOME

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

CONTACT US

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Anoka MN 55303
763.421.4656
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



"Acts: The Revolution of Faith"

In this six-session study of Acts, bestselling author and pastor Randy Frazee guides small group members through the growth of the early church. Frazee reveals what the author's words meant to his original readers - and how they apply to us today. The books will be on sale starting April 10. They are \$12 each and can be purchased at the front desk.

Schedule:

- Week of April 8: Here's the Church / Acts 1:1-6:7
- Week of April 15: Sticks and Stones / Acts 6:8-9:31
- Week of April 22: Saints Among Us / Acts 9:32-12:24
- Week of April 29: The Power of Grace / Acts 12:25-16:5
- Week of May 6: Elephant or Virus? / Acts 16:6-19:20
- Week of May 13: Cry Uncle / Acts 19:21-28:31

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Adult Forum Schedule

Sundays 10:00 AM
Fellowship Hall

January 21: Selena Fischer from World Vision will be presenting a forum on child sponsorship. You can be an answer to a child's prayer and bring hope to a child in need.

January 28: Pastor Brent Campbell will be presenting.

February 4: Part one of a two-part series called: "Belonging: What the Samaritan Woman at the Well Teaches Us About Following Jesus". Dr. Karoline Lewis, Professor and the Marbury E. Anderson Chair of Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary will be presenting. Sitting at the well with the Samaritan woman and Jesus in John 4, we learn key characteristics of what it looks like to follow Jesus. These sessions will have us listen in on this extraordinary conversation and invite us to think in new ways about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

February 11: From birth to death, through times both joyous and filled with pain, congregations bear us up. Belonging to a congregation fills our need for community, gives us identity, and adds meaning to our lives. Faith communities offer us celebration and solace, spiritual growth, and moral direction. With calls and cards, casseroles and cakes, congregations shepherd us through the many transitions of life, including illness. Yet people suffer in loneliness and shame the physical, spiritual, and emotional ravages of addictive behaviors – their own and those of others. The Zion Addiction Recovery Team is starting a ministry to combat the effects of addiction. During this forum the team will share its ministry and offer time to complete a brief survey which will help shape the direction of this ministry.

February 18: Part two of "Belonging: What the Samaritan Woman at the Well Teaches Us About Following Jesus" by Dr. Karoline Lewis.

February 25: Annual Meeting

March 3, 10 & 17: "The Inclusive Church: Becoming a More Hospitable Congregation". The three-part presentation by Linda Peterson will open our eyes to discover how many things in our congregation such as our building, worship and language can seem "normal" but can be huge obstacles for others with disabilities.

March 24: No Forum, Palm Sunday

March 31: No Forum, Easter

April 7 & 14: Rachel Circle will have a two-part forum on eldercare and abuse. What do we need to know about being a caregiver? What are the mental and emotional challenges for us and for our aging loved one

Support Groups

Divorce Care Group - Mondays | 7:00-8:30 PM | Legacy Room

Facilitated by Sandy Wallace. Contact Sandy for more information at sandywallace@yahoo.com.

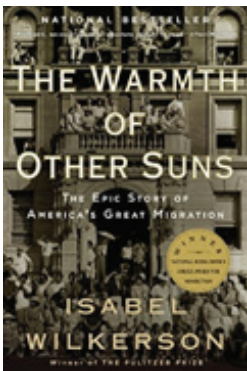
Zion Pages Book Group

**4th Monday; 6:30 PM
Theater**

January 22, 2024 - The Warmth of Other Suns:

The Epic Story of America's Great Migration

by Isabel Wilkerson

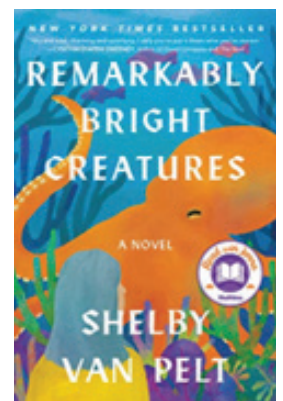


From 1915 to 1970, this exodus of almost six million people changed the face of America. Wilkerson compares this epic migration to the migrations of other peoples in history. She interviewed more than a thousand people, and gained access to new data and official records, to write this definitive and vividly dramatic account of how these American journeys unfolded, altering our cities, our country, and ourselves. With stunning historical detail, Wilkerson tells this story through the lives of three unique individuals: Ida Mae Gladney, who in 1937 left sharecropping and prejudice in Mississippi for Chicago, where she achieved quiet blue-collar success and, in old age, voted for Barack Obama when he ran for an Illinois Senate seat; sharp and quick-tempered George Starling, who in 1945 fled Florida for Harlem, where he endangered his job fighting for civil rights, saw his family fall, and finally found peace in God; and

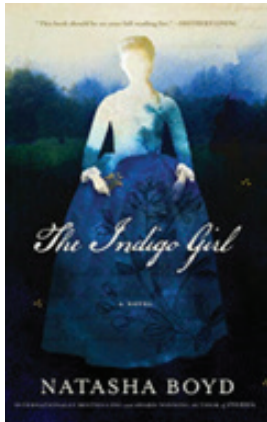
Robert Foster, who left Louisiana in 1953 to pursue a medical career, the personal physician to Ray Charles as part of a glitteringly successful medical career, which allowed him to purchase a grand home where he often threw exuberant parties. Wilkerson brilliantly captures their first treacherous and exhausting cross-country trips by car and train and their new lives in colonies that grew into ghettos, as well as how they changed these cities with southern food, faith, and culture and improved them with discipline, drive, and hard work. Both a riveting microcosm and a major assessment, *The Warmth of Other Suns* is a bold, remarkable, and riveting work.

February 26, 2024 - Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago. Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors—until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova. Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late. We are reminded that sometimes taking a hard look at the past can help uncover a future that once felt impossible.



March 25, 2024 - **The Indigo Girl: A Novel** by Natasha Boyd

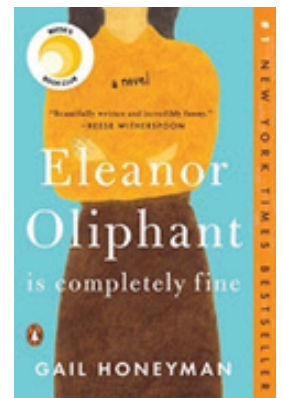


The year is 1739. Eliza Lucas is sixteen years old when her father leaves her in charge of their family's three plantations in rural South Carolina and then proceeds to bleed the estates dry in pursuit of his military ambitions. Tensions with the British, and with the Spanish in Florida, just a short way down the coast, are rising, and slaves are starting to become restless. Her mother wants nothing more than for their South Carolina endeavor to fail so they can go back to England. Soon her family is in danger of losing everything. Upon hearing how much the French pay for indigo dye, Eliza believes it's the key to their salvation. But everyone tells her it's impossible, and no one will share the secret to making it. Thwarted at nearly every turn, even by her own family, Eliza finds that her only allies are an aging horticulturalist, an older and married gentleman lawyer, and a slave with whom she strikes a dangerous deal: teach her the intricate thousand-year-old secret process of making indigo dye and in return—against the laws of the day—she will teach the slaves to

read. Based on historical documents, including Eliza's letters, this is a historical fiction account of how a teenage girl produced indigo dye, which became one of the largest exports out of South Carolina. This book is set between 1739 and 1744, with romance, intrigue, forbidden friendships, and political and financial threats weaving together to form the story of a remarkable young woman whose actions were before their time: the story of the indigo girl.

April 22, 2024 - **Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine: A Novel** by Gail Honeyman

Meet Eleanor Oliphant: She struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she's thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka, and phone chats with Mummy. But everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling and deeply unhygienic IT guy from her office. When she and Raymond together save Sammy, an elderly gentleman who has fallen on the sidewalk, the three become the kinds of friends who rescue one another from the lives of isolation they have each been living. And it is Raymond's big heart that will ultimately help Eleanor find the way to repair her own profoundly damaged one. This uplifting story of an out-of-the-ordinary heroine is soon to be a major motion picture produced by Reese Witherspoon.



If you have questions or wish to participate contact Pr. Sue Wallager at swallager@zionanoka.org.

