

Important Dates

Monthly Shabbat Service (1st one on Sept 28)
Learn the Value of the Month

Fall Beginning with High Holy Days
Conversations among congregants
preparing for November 11

Tuesday, November 6
Election Day (Vote!)
Find your polling location: pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/

Sunday, November 11, 9:45 – 12:15 p.m.
Open Meeting at Mount Zion -
After the elections and our conversations, what ways can we come together to put our Jewish values to work for *tzedek* in our state?

Sunday, December 9, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
JCA (Jewish Community Action) & ISAIAH
A public meeting with Governor Dayton and select legislators.
(Location TBD)

Friday, January 18
Shabbat service during Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend. Food for Thought speakers and Pulpit Guest TBD

Sunday, March 10, 9:30 - 12:15 p.m.
Torah in Action: Mitzvah Day at Neighborhood House

If you are interested in joining others to plan and implement the congregation's *tzedek* efforts, please plan to attend the Tzedek Committee meetings in the coming months at Mount Zion on Mondays, 7:00-8:30 p.m. - September 24, October 22, November 26.



*Living is not the private affair of the individual.
Living is what a person does with God's time,
what a person does with God's world.*
-Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, z'l

If you have comments, concerns, questions, or ideas, please contact Michael Kuhne, Tzedek Committee Chair (michael.kuhne@minneapolis.edu).

Mount Zion Temple
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Cover photo: A successful Black-Jewish Dialogue group in the mid-1980s led to the posting of this sign.



A Year of Tzedek

Mount Zion Temple
2012-13 / 5773



Tzedek=Justice We will make a difference.

What will we accomplish in a year of *tzedek*:

Individual Level: During 5773, each person at Mount Zion will think more deeply about her/his commitment to improving our wider community and will understand the Jewish values that motivate us to act to create a just world.

Congregational Level: During 5773, congregants, many of whom have not been involved, will connect with each other in powerful ways to affect positive change in Minnesota.* * While we live in many cities most of us live in Minnesota, and thus the state will be the level of our focused action.

Community Level: During 5773, we will work collaboratively with other faith communities on central issues facing our state.

“What will success look like? If we strengthen a conversation within Mount Zion about our values and commitments to justice, this will be more than talk; it will be transformative. Why? Our state and country desperately need reasoned, compassionate voices about the society in which we want to live.”

– Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker

What drives you to work for a better world?

What part of your life story motivates you? What values speak to you?

Focusing on Values each Month

The Motivations for Tzedek:

1. יציאת מצרים *Yitziat Mitzrayim* - We were redeemed from Egypt; we know what it is like to be the stranger. (September)
2. בצלם אלהים *Tzelem Elohim* - We are all created in the image of God. (October)
3. תיקון עולם *Tikkun Olam* - The world was created imperfectly; we partner with God to repair it. (November)

The Results of Tzedek:

- דרך ארץ *Derech Eretz* - Common Decency (Dec. / Jan.)
- צדקה *Tzedakah* - Righteous Giving (February)
- הכנסת אורחים *Hachnasat Orchim* - Hospitality (March)
- פיקוח נפש *Pikuach Nefesh* - Saving a Life (April)
- Hillel's Questions: If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am not for others, what am I? And if not now, when? (May)
- שלום בית *Shalom Bayit* - Peace in the Home (June/ July)
- צדק צדק תירדוף *Tzedek, Tzedek Tirdof* - Justice, Justice You Will Pursue (August)

TZEDEK

TALK: Have an in-person conversation *panim el panim* about what drives you to work for a better world.

ZONE: Do you think locally? Globally? At the state level? In schools? Other?

ENGAGE: Find a place to connect with your tzedek goals and ground them in Jewish values.

DO: Take action.

EVALUATE: Think about the impact you made. Was it effective? Could you do things differently/more?

KEEP IT GOING.



Justice is not a partisan issue. It is not the sole property of any one political party or philosophy, of any one organization or individual. All of us regardless of our political bias are commanded: "Justice, justice shall you pursue." (Deut. 16:20) and the prophet Amos exhorts us to "Let justice well up like water,/ Righteousness like an unfailing stream" (5:24). All of us are called to this work, and many hands make the lifting lighter.

Our year-long efforts build upon Mount Zion's history and commitment to tzedek. Our Board in 2004 agreed after hundreds of conversations among congregants to support three partners: the Jeremiah Program, Neighborhood House, and Jewish Community Action. Mount Zion has also been active in the Mitzvah Food Shelf, Project HOME emergency family homeless shelter, the Red Cross Blood Drive, and Promise Neighborhood. More recently, the Board also passed a resolution opposing the Marriage Amendment, which would constitutionally define marriage as solely between a man and a woman. Justice work is part of this congregation's history, and there is much yet to learn and do.