

November 17th, 2020

## Good Day Friends of Zion,

We have re-opened the church for Worship Services and Church meetings and we want to remind everyone to still be careful, take precautions, and be safe!

# ZION IS OPEN FOR INDOOR WORSHIP!!

**Please Note:** The leadership at Zion continues to monitor the recent surge in COVID incidence. Safety measures will be maintained and it is our hope to stay open. Zion has incorporated CDC's recommendation to open windows to improve indoor air quality; therefore, some windows are opened during services. Due to the open windows, the temperature in the nave is slightly cooler than usual so be advised in case you want to wear an extra layer of warmth.

Due to our low church attendance our balcony area has remained *empty*. **Young families -please note!** At this time a family could easily take up one portion, and they would be far from others. If there is interest, we can designate this 'family area. '

We feel that we have been successful in safely opening the church. It is awesome to visit with our fellow congregants, share the Word and Sacrament. In addition, we enjoy the blessing of live music and the reverence of simply being in our sacred sanctuary. Please consider joining us.

If anyone wants more information about Zion's COVID compliance feel free to call Lois Ahalt at 301-514-5735

### Worship opportunities at Zion thru December 31<sup>st</sup>

Indoor Services are held each Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. The live streaming begins at 5:45 p.m. on Saturdays and at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays. To view the Worship Services which will be available only live at that time just go to the link on the center of the home page of our website or to: <https://vimeo.com/zionlutheranchurch>

## **“The Stories”**

Join us this fall as we will share a worship and learning sequel series to “The Story”. Each week we will celebrate the life and ministry of a key person of faith in the Bible. There will be (online) Bible studies each week as we share helpful insights into these founders of the faith. A recorded session of the weekly study will also be made available via our website (available at any time). Join “The Stories”

Bible Study Zoom Meeting live (Sundays at 11am, Tuesday at 7pm, Thursday at 10am).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87021213846> or dial **301 715 8592**

and use meeting ID: **870 2121 3846**

### **November 22 Peter “God’s not done with me yet”**

There will be a live Zoom presentation each Sunday at 11am. The same study will also be available on Zoom on Tuesdays at 7pm & Thursdays at 10am. A recorded session of the weekly study and print summary will also be made available via our website (*available at any time*).

## **Worship and Music Ministry Leadership Needed!**

Zion is in need of an individual willing to lead one of our important Ministries. Worship and Music Chair Anna Beth Fowler has moved to Colorado. It is imperative that we find someone to fill this vacancy as soon as possible. Contact the church office or the Pastors if you can assist with this need. 301-371-6500

## **Volunteers for Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild has recently lost several members. Right now we are not performing a number of the activities that we usually do because of Covid-19. As a result we are getting by with the members that are currently on the Altar Guild. However, at some point we will be performing all the Altar Guild activities that are required to support the Church. And we will need more members. So why not sign up now when things are a little slow and you have time to learn new things! Seriously, being on the Altar Guild does not take a whole lot of your time and you get to work with a great group of ladies. Men are welcome too! Please consider joining our group; we need you. If you are interested please contact Jo Ann Poffinberger ([joannbp66@comcast.net](mailto:joannbp66@comcast.net) or 301-797-8967) or Shirley Ferguson ([sferguson12@comcast.net](mailto:sferguson12@comcast.net) or 301-662-7775).

## **Christmas Decorations**

It’s that time of year again! Altar Guild members will be decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas on December 1 at 9:00 a.m. We could use a little help if you have some free time.

All you have to do is show up and we will put you to work.

Decorating the Church is certainly a worthwhile and meaningful experience.

***And we always have fun decorating so hope you can join us!***

### **Poinsettia Orders and Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Monetary Gifts**

The Altar Guild will be accepting poinsettia orders and LWR Monetary Gifts through November 29, 2020. All poinsettia orders and LWR gifts must be in by **November 29**. Order forms for poinsettias and LWR gifts are available on the website and on the table in the Handicap Ramp. Please complete the appropriate form and mail it with your check to the church or drop it off at the office during the week or on Saturday evening or Sunday morning after the service.

**Online Giving Information** - Online giving is much easier and cost effective. Sign up online or contact our Treasurer, Deb Reichelt, who can easily help set it up if desired. Reach her at [treasurer@zionmiddletown.org](mailto:treasurer@zionmiddletown.org) or leave a message at 301-371-6500.

**We want to thank all those who have continued to contribute during this crisis.  
Your offerings are a blessing in this time of need. THANK YOU!**

### **Ushers, Lectors, and Audio Visual Persons Needed**

Please click the link below to volunteer your much needed services as we open the church for Services on Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 10 a.m.

**November sign-ups** - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4faaa623aafcc61-worship1>

**December Sign-ups** - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4faaa623aafcc61-worship2>

### **Call Committee Update**

The Call Committee will be meeting this Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. via Zoom. The call process continues!

### **The Clothes Closet has Re-Opened!**

Zion's Middletown Clothes Closet reopened on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Sorting will occur on Monday Mornings 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. The Clothes Closet will be open on Saturdays 9a.m. – 11a.m. for both storefront and sorting.

They could use your help! To volunteer, email [closet@zionmiddletown.org](mailto:closet@zionmiddletown.org) or go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4ba5a62eabf5ce9-clothes>

## **Adopt-a-Family 2020**

Hi Zion Members, the holiday season is fast approaching. As in the past, Zion Church has always been a generous contributor to MVPHP for the Adopt a Family for Christmas. This year, as in the past, we will be providing Christmas joy to about 200 local children. With the COVID-19 pandemic, our assistance and distribution will be quite different than in the past. This year, we will be giving gift cards to the parents, in good faith, for them to purchase gifts for their children instead of receiving bags of toys and clothing already purchased for them to give. We will gladly accept monetary donations made payable to MVPHP Christmas Fund or Gift cards. **Please have your generous donations in by November 23, 2020.** We will pass out the Christmas joys to our families on Thursday, December 3rd, 2020. May God continue to bless each of you and keep you all safe. Many thanks for your continued support. Merry Christmas to you all and may 2021 be better. Questions? Contact Donna Jean Brandenburg 301-371-5139 till 9pm only. [djb6025139@gmail.com](mailto:djb6025139@gmail.com)

### **Zion Recorded Worship Service Viewing:**

To view our weekly recorded Worship Service anytime during the week after noon on Sunday, you can just click on the web page link at [www.zionmiddletown.org](http://www.zionmiddletown.org) and it will take you directly to the recording of the service.

### ***Zion Prayer List 11-17-2020***

*Requests remain on the prayer list for 30 days unless requested otherwise.*

Jim Pearson, Laurie Lamb, Cathy Smith, Cathy Kehoe, Ruby Pyles, Morissa Travers, Charles Pearl, Trish Tollefson, Jackie Bello, Paula Pearson, Ruth Davis, Cindy Keller, Francis Moats, Randy Andersson, Jessica Catechis, Heidi Witmer, Sherri Myers, Fletcher Robinson, Janet Young, Glen Burris, Matthew Schaffert, Mike Mauro, Mike Lawrence, Naomi Hayes, Ray Murphy, Janice Wisner, Ricky Routzahn, Priscilla Hughes, Gene Appleby, Addison Hopson, Tristan Vail, Kira Wynne, Kevin Kinna, Marianna Bere, Amii Fritz, Mitchell Bidle, David Shupe, Ashley Dixon, Deb Kahihikolo

*Please be sure the church is notified if you are hospitalized and if you wish to be placed on the prayer list or would like visitation.*

Be Safe and have a Blessed week,

***The Pastor and Staff of Zion Lutheran Church***