

August 12, 2020

Good Day Friends of Zion,

With the re-opening our church, we want to remind everyone to still be careful, take precautions, and be safe! **Please take advantage of the opportunities we offer to stay connected with Zion. We have moved all the links to the bottom of the letter.**

Special Congregation Meeting on August 23 at 10:45 AM

Plan to be a part of Zion's rich history. Cast your ballot for the new Constitution and By-Laws which haven't been updated since January 1993. A special congregational meeting is scheduled to start at approximately 10:45 AM on August 23rd immediately after the worship service. We request that those attending the worship service to remain in your seats for this abbreviated meeting which should last no longer than 15 minutes. For those who wish to vote but not enter the sanctuary, we request that you remain in your vehicles and listen on the FM provided station. We ask that you vote yes by turning on your headlights when requested. **Absentee ballots may be requested by contacting the church office.** Please mark your calendars for this historic vote.

Worship opportunities at Zion thru September 1, 2020

Our latest (fourth) indoor worship service was successful with ever increasing attendance. Including staff and ushers, there were 38 in attendance and everyone abided by the rules and were very pleased with the service. We feel that the heat has gotten too intense for outdoor worship and we believe that we now have the necessary precautions in place to hold indoor worship as safely as possible. We will continue to offer virtual worship opportunities - but will pause outdoor worship for the month of August due to excessive heat. **NOTE: We will offer one indoor worship service every weekend in August, alternating between Saturday evenings at 5 pm and Sunday mornings at 10 am.**

**The upcoming worship schedule is: Saturday, August 15 at 5p.m. -
Sunday, August 23 at 10a.m. - Saturday, August 29 at 5p.m.**

Property Committee update

Repair and replacement of the roof on the 1928 edition and the overhang on the rear entrance will take place in the coming weeks followed by the encasement of the 40 outer window frames in that section as well. The Freeze board on the 1993 addition and 5 outer door jambs will be encased as well.



Middletown Valley Ministerium Community Day of Service – September 12, 2020

Due to the Covid-19 virus, Middletown's Community Day of Service team has made a change for our September Day of Service. Instead of assisting our neighbors on personal home projects, we are planning a town clean-up project. Each individual or family that would like to be involved in Community service and would like to participate for an hour or two in helping clean up our town can sign up at the sign-up link listed below. Please Join volunteer's and friends from Middletown churches as we come together to ensure our towns beauty while keeping to all safety regulations.

To volunteer please sign up with our Sign-up genius at:

. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4EAAA2EAAF49-clean>

For help with Sign-up genius, contact Renee Huffer at aquatictraining@aol.com

Church Offering Envelopes

Together with the Stewardship Generosity team, Zion is changing how we distribute offering envelopes. Instead of one box provided in the beginning of each year, we will be mailing offering envelopes bi-monthly to each member's personal residence. In order to implement this process for 2021, we need to create a good working Database account with Church Budget envelope company.

Needed – All families/individuals with envelope #'s less than 225 need to contact Deb Reichelt (Treasurer) at 301-371-6500 in order to update giving status and information. All those with envelope #'s greater than 225 and would like to start receiving bi-monthly envelopes, please contact Deb Reichelt as well. This information needs to be provided by **August 17, 2020** in order for all members to receive envelopes for the 2021 year.

Sunday School/Faith Formation Task Force

Zion's Congregation Council met to discuss the need to focus on the restart of our Sunday School/Faith Formation program. They discussed the need to form a task force to develop the structure as well as consideration of new starting times for the earlier service to provide more time for the Sunday School and between services. **The recent Outreach Survey identified that 88% of the respondents identified this topic as important or very important.** If you would like to volunteer to lead this important taskforce or be a member of this team please contact the Zion office. **Note: All meetings will use Zoom Meeting Software so there would be no risk of Covid-19 exposure, nor a need to leave your home to participate. WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Zion's Summer Office Hours
9a.m.-4p.m. Mon. – Thur. & 9a.m.-noon on Friday.

Pastor Bob's Bible Study is taking a break until September

NEEDED: Used tablets or iPads

Some of our members in retirement centers would like to view worship or participate in Bible studies. Many facilities have wi-fi available. At least 9 - 10 inches screen sizes are preferred. Please let the church office know if you can help. 301-371-6500

To Reach the Pastors for Pastoral Care

These are challenging times. Would you like to have a visit with either Pastors Bob or Karl? All details are kept confidential. **Just call Pastor Bob at 301-357-4569 to set up a meeting.**

Zion Worship Service Viewing:

To view our weekly recorded Worship Service, you can just click on the web page link at www.zionmiddletown.org and it will take you directly to the recording of the service.

Stay Connected with your friends at Zion during this time of Social Distancing by Clicking on the links found at the bottom of the page under the Zion Prayer List

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

Make use of our online giving mobile app GIVE+, or take advantage of the give option on our web page. Both online options are secure and easy to use. Find the links to these options below:

GIVE+ mobile solution for smartphones and tablets

Go to the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) and search "[give plus church](#)"

Giving via our Website

<https://gp.vancopayments.com/gpo/#/donateNow/4157f915-5b29-4435-8f1f-fc1312f>

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!

Zion Prayer List 08-12-2020

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

Francis Moats, Cindy Keller, Chuck Rapp, Diane Summers, Walter Gordon, Cheryle McKee, Trish Tollefson, Donna Zaitz, Nancy Stroup, Sherri Myers, Fletcher Robinson, Bill Williams, Gary and Nancy Daley, Ruby Pyles, Skippy Zimmerman, Janet Young, Glen Burris, Matthew Schaffert, Eva Dean, Mike Mauro, Mike Lawrence, Naomi Hayes, Ray Murphy, Jackie Bello, Janice Wisner, Ricky Routzahn, Priscilla Hughes, Gene Appleby, Addison Hopson, Tristan Vail, Kira Wynne, Kevin Kinna, Marianna Bere, Amii Fritz, Mitchell Bidle, Doris Currier, 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.

Links for Call-In or Virtual Gatherings

Sunday Morning Coffee Hour Via Zoom Sundays 10:00 a.m.

Watch: <https://zoom.us/j/628483092>

Call in: Call: 301 715 8592 and use meeting ID: 628 483 092

Wednesday Morning Coffee Hour Via Zoom Wednesday 9:00 a.m.

Watch: <https://zoom.us/j/99784283699>

Call in: Call: 301 715 8592 and use meeting ID: 997 8428 3699

Be Safe and have a Blessed week, The Pastors and Staff of Zion Lutheran Church