

September 15, 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!

### **Worship opportunities at Zion thru November 1, 2020**

We had 45 worshipers at our indoor Saturday afternoon/evening service on September 12<sup>th</sup>, not our highest number, but pretty good non-the-less. The really good news is that we had eight (8) first-time attenders from Zion and seven (7) visitors who had not attended a previous indoor service. We will continue to offer virtual worship opportunities and will resume outdoor worship for the months of September and October every other week. (weather permitting) We will continue our Saturday 5p.m. indoor worship each week as well.

**The upcoming worship Services with Communion this Saturday September 19 at 5p.m. will be held in the sanctuary! The Sunday Morning Worship Service will take place outdoors at 10:00 a.m. We will be streaming the Saturday evening Service beginning at 4:50p.m. To view the Worship Service just go to:**

**<https://vimeo.com/zionlutheranchurch>**

### **The schedule for September -October**

**Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup> at 5p.m. - Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 10a.m. – Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup> at 5p.m. – Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5p.m. - Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup> at 10a.m. – Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup> at 5p.m. – Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup> at 5p.m - Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup> at 10a.m. – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> at 5p.m. – Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup> at 5 p.m. - Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup> at 10a.m.**

### **“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. This is a unique approach. Most studies examine one book of the Bible at a time. In this series we will have opportunity to “get to know” these bold women & men who knew Jesus the Christ in a comprehensive way.

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).

- October 4 **Matthew** “Sacrificial living”
- October 11 **Barnabas** “More Blessed to Give”
- October 18 **Luke** “Receiving through Giving”
- October 25 (Reformation) What Luther learned from **Paul**
- November 1 **Martha** “A time to speak; a time to listen”
- November 8 **Woman at Well** “Ask and you shall receive”
- November 15 **Mark** “Let the children come”
- November 22 **Peter** “God’s not done with me yet”

### **Faith Formation Classes for Youth**

We are excited to announce that this Sunday, September 20th we will have Faith Formation for children of all ages! Immediately following our 10 a.m. outdoor worship service, Jamie Derr and Alyssa Minchoff will lead a fun faith-based activity at the Green Street lawn. The activity will be approximately 20-30 minutes, parents are encouraged to attend with their children.

### **Blessing of the Backpacks, devices and masks!**

This Sunday, September 20th at the 10 a.m. outdoor worship service we will offer a blessing and a gift for all! Be sure to join us!

In October, we share our generosity stewardship emphasis titled:

### **Giving Generously - “Excel in the Grace of Giving.”**

Jesus said, *“It is more blessed to give than to receive”* (Acts 20:35). Jesus wanted us to know that the act of giving returns more to us than what we give. We reap what we sow (2 Corinthians 9:6). If we sow generously, we will reap much. God uses our generosity to build his kingdom and to strengthen and bless us as givers. Giving is a privilege and a joy that can change our lives. When we practice first fruits giving and give generously, we **excel in the grace of giving.**



What we do with God’s money demonstrates our spiritual maturity. Some of us share sacrificially with God and others, others give proportionately from our incomes, and still others hoard what we receive. God wants us to be channels of many blessings and enriches us so we can be blessings to others.

*“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God”* (2 Corinthians 9:11).

If we do not share, we become terminals who hoard, rather than channels who share God's gifts. We get no satisfaction except for fleeting happiness in possessing the things of this world. By refusing to share, we deprive ourselves of the joy of giving.

**Prayer:** Lord, Your Word tells me that I reap what I sow. Grant me faith so I will continually honor you with my thoughts, words, and actions. Help me to do your will by being obedient to your Word. Help others see you through me. In Christ's name I pray. **Amen.**

### **Blessings on your stewardship journey!**

#### **GriefShare Support Group**

Zion will be offering a GriefShare Support Group beginning Monday, September 14, 2020. The 13-week session will conclude on Monday, December 7, 2020. Meetings will be held each Monday from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and will meet in the church chapel at Zion Church. As we come together for this cycle of GriefShare, we will be abiding by the COVID-19 safety guidelines. In addition to the practice of social distancing, each participant and the leaders will be required to wear a face mask. Please direct any questions about GriefShare to our church office and a GriefShare leader will make contact with you.



#### **Middletown Valley Ministerium Community Day of Service took Place on September 12, 2020**

The Community Day of Service Ministerium team would like to thank all the volunteers who participated in our first Middletown clean-up effort. It was estimated that around 129 volunteers assisted with well over 30 bags of garbage collected. Twelve bags were collected from downtown Main Street alone. Please see the memo from Middletown's burgess John Miller: "What a great day it was! Wonderful sights of people on the streets taking care of their community! The effort was tremendous and the outcome is beautiful! Many thanks to our Ministerium and volunteers whose idea this was and whose organization brought great pride and results for our beautiful town. The feeling afterward of helping each other and working together and caring for your town is hard to match. A great day all around!"

#### **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.**

**The roofing work has been completed on the 1928 addition to the Church and to the overhang on the handicap ramp doors from the parking lot!**

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

To view our weekly recorded Worship Service, 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.

**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](mailto:treasurer@zionmiddletown.org) or leave a message at 301-371-6500.

*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 09-09-2020***

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

Diane Summers, Caroline Kishimoto, Charles Pearl, Walter Gordon, Trish Tollefson, Jackie Bello, Bill Williams, Paula Pearson, Ruth Davis, Ruby Pyles, Cindy Keller, Francis Moats, Randy Andersson, Jessica Catechis, Heidi Witmer, Nancy Stroup, 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, 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.*

### ***THANK YOU!***

The family and I want to thank you for all that has been done for my wife (Patti) and I during the years while she was homebound and during her recent passing. From the visits by the pastors and members, to the gifts and cards to cheer her (and me), meals, and prayers, all were greatly appreciated. She appreciated everything over the years here with Zion!!

*Doug Davis*

Be Safe and have a Blessed week,

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