

January 13, 2021

Good Day Friends of Zion,

Zion has suspended indoor worship due to the elevated Covid-19 numbers in the county and we look forward to re-opening the sanctuary for indoor worship as soon as it is safe to do so!!

Please Note: The leadership at Zion continues to monitor the recent surge in COVID case incidence. Safety measures will be maintained and it was our hope to stay open, but we must suspend indoor worship for the time being. Zion's church office will remain open for the time being as we continue to monitor the case numbers in the county and state. For more information about Zion's COVID compliance feel free to call Lois Ahalt at 301-514-5735.

Worship – January 17, 2020 at 10 a.m.

This is an exciting Sunday service as we will hear our pastoral couple candidates lead worship, preach and offer a children's message.

This week's Worship Service will be live streamed on our Vimeo site beginning at 9:45 a.m. We will also be transmitting it on our FM transmitter: channel 88.9 – you will need to be in close proximity of the church in order to listen in through your radio. This is an exciting Sunday service as we will hear our pastoral couple candidates lead worship, preach and offer a children's message. After the worship service we will be holding a congregational meeting to vote on the couple – this meeting will be done via Zoom and also transmitted on FM channel 88.9

Details below the meet and greet information will give specific details of the meeting.

Meet and Greet Sessions – January 16th Limited Times Available

Be sure to sign up by Wednesday, January 13th to participate in a Meet and Greet with the pastoral couple pastoral candidates for Zion. The remaining time spots available are:

1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

There will be no more than 8 participants on each call and each session will last 30 minutes. Everyone is encouraged to sign-up to meet the pastoral candidates.

Contact the church office to sign up: office@zionmiddletown.org or 301-371-6500 before Wednesday January 13th.

Congregational Meeting – Sunday, January 17th at 10:45 a.m.

The next step in the Call process is for us to hold a Congregation Meeting to call for a vote to accept this Clergy Couple to receive our Call. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we will not be able to hold this meeting in person. The Clergy Couple will preach our Sunday, January 17, 2021 church service at 10 a.m. through our Vimeo live stream feed and transmitted on our FM transmitter, listening in your car in the church parking lots on channel 88.9

Following the service, our Synod coordinator, Pastor Robin Simpson-Litton, Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership and Mobility, along with Shelly Gladhill, Church Council President, will jointly run a congregational meeting for the sole purpose of voting on the Call of the Clergy Couple. This meeting will be conducted via Zoom. A link for members to log in on their computers or call in by phone will be sent out prior to the meeting and is listed below.

After the meeting is called, all members of the congregation will have one-hour to drive to our church parking lot and place their ballots for the vote on the Clergy Couple in voting bins that will be located at the church. These bins are large enough that you will be able to drive up and simply place your ballots in them without leaving your vehicle. Members of the congregation are required to bring their own ballot for the vote. No absentee ballots are allowed and a member of the church staff will be present to verify membership for all individuals prior to placing their ballots in the voting bins.

After the one-hour time limit has passed, two members of the congregation who are pre-selected by the church council will count the ballots and report the results. These results will be reported live via Zoom.

January 17th Congregational Zoom Meeting Information:

Time: Jan 17, 2021 10:45 AM

To Join the Meeting online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81497607649>

Meeting ID: 814 9760 7649

Passcode: 124046

To dial in via telephone:

301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 814 9760 7649

Passcode: 124046

Staff Re-alignment at Zion

As of January 1, 2021, Wendi Kishimoto began her new role as Church Administrator/Youth and Family Director. Jim Hoover started in his new role of Facilities Administrator looking after the properties and overseeing contracts etc. Jim will continue to be involved in Social Media and Audio/Visual needs. His new role has reduced working hours in preparation for his full retirement on December 31st, 2021.

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 or leave a message at 301-371-6500

Church Offering Envelope update!

The Church Offering Envelopes have been mailed. Members should have received their envelopes for the first quarter of 2021. Going forward they will arrive in an earlier time frame since this was the initial mailing and we are experiencing postal service delays!

Year-End Giving Statements

Giving statements for 2020 have been mailed out this week. If you have any questions please contact the Church Office: 301-371-6500

Thank you Note From Janet Young

To all my friends at Zion: Thank you so much for all of my birthday and Christmas cards. I really appreciated and enjoyed them. It's so nice to be remembered. -Janet Young

Volunteers for Altar Guild

The Altar Guild has recently lost several members. Currently 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. 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 or 301-797-8967) or Shirley Ferguson (sferguson12@comcast.net or 301-662-7775).

Middletown Clothes Closet Update and New Email Address!

The Clothes Closet Store Front will operate on an appointment only basis in order to ensure the safety of volunteers and those seeking assistance at Zion's Clothes Closet.

Beginning January 1, 2021, those wishing to visit for the Store Front will need to make an appointment by emailing pstaples9395@gmail.com or calling/texting Patricia Staples at 301-606-0041. There are many volunteers who live in Middletown and are happy to meet anyone who would like to visit. Donations will continue to be accepted. If a donation receipt is needed, email Patricia at pstaples9395@gmail.com or text/call. Volunteers who would like to continue to assist with Sorting at the Clothes Closet are encouraged to continue to volunteer when able. It is not necessary to only volunteer on Monday mornings. THANK YOU to all volunteers.

Zion 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 and it will take you directly to the video.

Zion Prayer List 01-13-2021

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

Skippy Zimmerman, Haley Bergman, Marty Appleby, Ronnie Butler, Glenn Stroupe, Dennis Kim, Donna Jean Brandenburg, Greg, Jim and Paula Pearson, Liz Kurtz, Christa Grunwald, Matthew Perkins, Cathy Smith, Cathy Kehoe, Ruby Pyles, Carolyn Albright, Morissa Travers, Jackie Bello, Ruth Davis, Randy Andersson, Jessica Catechis, Heidi Witmer, Sherri Myers, Fletcher Robinson, Glen Burris, Matthew Schaffert, Mike Mauro, Mike Lawrence, Naomi Hayes, Ray Murphy, Janice Wisner, Ricky Routzahn, Priscilla Hughes, Gene Appleby, Addison Hopson, Tristan Vail, Kevin Kinna, Marianna Bere, Amii Fritz, Mitchell Bidle, David Shupe, 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.

Have a Blessed Week,

The Pastor and Staff of Zion Lutheran Church