

THE BEACON

A MINISTRY OF ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
FALL 2024 EDITION

Returning



Upcoming Events

First Sunday of the Month	Confirmation from 4-6 p.m. (First session is October 6)
First Sunday of the Month	Youth Group from 6-8 p.m. (First meeting is October 6)
First Thursdays of Month	Table Talk at the Main Cup at 6 p.m.
Second Monday of the Month	Council Meeting
Third Wednesday of the Month	JOY Luncheon from 12-2 p.m.
Last Monday of the Month	Hope to Faith at 3 p.m.

September 1	Stained Glass Window Heritage Class begins at 10 a.m.
September 2	Office Closed
September 5	Choir Rehearsal Resumes at 7 p.m. (Tentatively)
September 7	Community Day of Service
September 7 & 8	Bible Blessing and Presentation at all Worship services
September 8	FootPrints at 9 a.m. and Kids' Choir Practice at 10 a.m.
September 10	GriefShare resumes at 6 p.m.
September 11	Wednesday Bible Study begins for the Fall at 6:30 p.m.
September 15	Kids' Sunday School Classes begin
September 21	Quilt and Fiber Show
September 22	Zion Church History Class begins at 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study resumes at Valley Ho Farm at 6:30 p.m.
September 28	Heritage Days Festival in Middletown (No Saturday Night Worship)
October 2	Museum of the Bible Trip
October 3	DayOff Program
October 13	Book of Romans Class begins at 10 a.m.
October 6 & 13	First Communion Gatherings (both for new kids and refresher) at 12:30 p.m.
October 6	Confirmation Class Resumes and Youth Group at Valley Ho Farm
October 13	FootPrints at 9 a.m. and Kids' Choir Practice at 10 a.m.
October 26	Apple Butter Making
October 27	Joint Worship for Reformation Sunday and FootPrints with a Potluck Meal following worship
November 2 & 3	All Saints Sunday Worship
November 5	DayOff Program
November 10	FootPrints at 9 a.m. and Kids' Choir Practice at 10 a.m.
November 24	Christ the King Special Worship
November 28 & 29	Office Closed

Share Christ's Love, Grow in Faith, and Serve Others



Our Mission

As a people of God, we share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others

Our Vision

At Zion we strive to provide a sanctuary for prayerful and Joyous worship within a respectful and welcoming environment and to meet the spiritual needs of our intergenerational congregation and community, using Christian ideas and values.

Our Top Ministry Priorities for 2024

- **Leadership**

We will work on developing new and existing leaders to carry on the mission of the gospel and the congregation who effectively plan, execute, and communicate. In addition, discern the God-given mission and vision of Zion through prayer, planning and future-thinking. We intend to develop and better utilize our committees and ministry teams to deal with the needs and challenges of the congregation so that council can focus on the mission and visionary work.

- **Communication**

We will strengthen our communication strategies and techniques to make sure we keep the congregation and other vested parties informed of our work and plans. For example, the encouragement of timely two-way communication at all levels of congregational life.

- **Relationship Building**

United around Jesus, we will strengthen relationships among ministry teams, committees, and individuals in the congregation to foster mutual care and support of one another such as aiding in conflict resolution when it arises.





A WORD FROM PASTOR DIANE

Ecclesiastes 3:1- For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

We associate this text usually with funerals much like we do Psalm 23. However, it tells us a great deal about life on a day-to-day basis not just as a recollection of one's years on earth. I am really resonating with the thought of seasons in our lives lately. The Day Family is at quite a new season in our life together as Isaiah joins Thomas in PreK at the elementary school and James and Joseph who have been with us every day now take Isaiah's spot at daycare. I personally am able to focus more on work tasks that for a season I was able to do but not with the detail I once did while I was acutely mothering babies.

As with all these changes, there comes a multitude of feelings. There is joy at growth physically and mentally for our boys. There is sadness at saying goodbye to stages that will never be returned to—there will be no more babies in our household. There is anxiousness of what is to come and new schedules and activities. There is confusion and

discernment as we try to prioritize our schedules between work, school, daycare, and family time. And of course, these are just a few of the thoughts and feelings!

In addition to leaning into the thought of seasons, I am leaning into the feeling of being energized at the moment. All of this is a lot of change to manage, but I am feeling energized by the opportunities that are before us that we have not been able to be a part of for a time or that are absolutely new. As much as looking at the Fall calendar is overwhelming in my color-coded glory, I see new opportunities for my own growth in my various vocations.

As we enter this Fall, please know I am holding you all in prayer. Yes, even those of you who think it is just another Fall in your life of so many. Seasons come upon all of us and sometimes yes, they may look quite a bit the same but the truth is, we are not the same from season to season. We are always changing and growing. I am praying that you may be energized as well to see something anew whether it's a relationship or a learning opportunity as the Fall comes



upon us. And if you feel anything but energized, please know that I also understand that and am praying for you to be upheld and strengthened as you enter this season. God's richest blessings and presence be with you all!

Blessings,

Pastor Diane Ray



A WORD FROM PASTOR MATT

It was the end of the first night of Vacation Bible School and I was sitting on the couch in the Garden's Edge trying to get caught up on some computer work and make sure we were ready to go for tomorrow night. Two of the parents were sitting on the other couch waiting for VBS to finish up. I did not look very pastoral at all. I was wearing shorts and my neon green VBS t-shirt. If anything, I just looked like a leader for VBS. The two moms, not knowing I was the co-pastor, were talking very honestly about how much they were enjoying the VBS program this year. Of course this made me smile knowing that they had no idea who I was and I really appreciated hearing their honest feedback. And then one of the moms said, "And I can't believe they serve dinner every night and don't charge

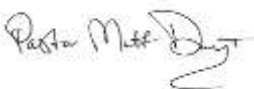
for that. That is so nice." I finally piped up—"No child will ever go hungry in a congregation I serve."

When Jesus shows up, nobody ever leaves hungry. I am amazed that in a community as wealthy as our community is, there are still children among us that go to bed hungry every night; if it wasn't for free and reduced lunches at school and feeding programs like the Backpack Program at MUMC that we support, many more children would go hungry. When a child is hungry, they cannot concentrate on learning or concentrate on building relationships. When a child, or anyone for that matter, does not know where their next meal is coming from, how can they expect to ever be fully engaged in life?

When Jesus entered a deserted place, the gospel of John tells us that 5,000 people followed him. And his disciples were afraid that they might have a riotous group on their hands if Jesus didn't send them away to get something to eat. Yet, his reply to Philip was, "No, you give them something to eat." And of course, Philip's reply to Jesus is that would cost about 6 months' wages, or in today's figures—\$15,000, to feed this many people. And Philip isn't wrong. That works out to be about 3 dollars a person. You can't go to McDonalds anymore for \$3 and get a meal. But Philip either doesn't realize or he forgot that when Jesus shows up, nobody ever leaves hungry. And from five loaves of bread and two fish, 5,000 people left with full bellies and enough food was

leftover to fill 12 baskets. This is not just a miracle about sharing food. I know some pastors have made that analogy but we need to remember that sharing is not a miracle. And to be honest, we don't do a very good job sharing today. Do you know how much food is thrown out today? To be honest, what happened in that deserted place was a miracle but miracles like that one happen today.

When Jesus shows up, nobody ever goes away hungry. I believe that we experience this each week when we gather for worship. Jesus shows up and we leave our seats full. But worship isn't the only time we gather in this sacred place. We gather here for things like funerals and meetings. We gather here for Bible Study, fellowship, and education. When we gather, we need to make sure that nobody leaves hungry—both spiritually and physically. If we believe that Jesus is present in our sacred places, then we need to make sure nobody leaves hungry. If you see someone who is hungry, the command from our Lord remains the same for us today—you give them something to eat. The world might say there is no such thing as a free meal, but the church has been feeding people for the last 2,000 years. Our job is to make sure people leave here full because our job is to give the world Jesus. And when Jesus shows up and is present, nobody ever leaves hungry.

In 

So, what's been happening?



Confirmation Sunday and more!

In May, we celebrated and welcomed three of our young adults into full membership through the Rite of Confirmation: Levi Derr, Addison Shupe, and Danica Stup. Our Confirmation program runs roughly three years and is a mix of education and formation. Confirmation is one way we raise up our baptized members into the body of Christ by teaching them the basics of the faith using the Small Catechism and the Bible as our guide for

teaching. We meet on the first Sunday of each month from October to May. Each confirmand is given a gift of a Harper Collins Study Bible as well as a hand picked confirmation verse. In addition to Confirmation, we baptized Kielle, Esben, and Corbin Sparks. It was truly a blessing to be there and witness God on the move!



Work Day

After worship on Pentecost, a group of about 30 people stayed after to tend to some projects around the church. The work mostly consisted of throwing out years of accumulated items throughout the church as well as moving furniture to different areas of the church. We threw out so much stuff that we filled up the dumpster twice! Thanks to a Thrivent Action Team Grant, we were able to purchase lunch for everyone. But the greatest gift was getting to know each other and work together towards a common mission!



Church Picnic

The weather was perfect on June 9th as we packed the Pavilion and enjoyed an old fashion picnic including hot dogs, tons of sides, and even more desserts. It was a great time to get to know people, meet new friends, and enjoy the gift of God's creation!



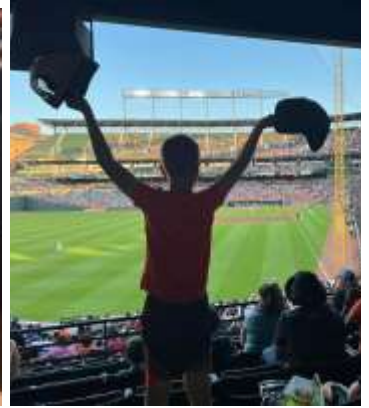
Park Vespers

A long time tradition at the Church Picnic is the Vespers service. Last year, some of our lay leaders took on this holy work and it was very well received. So, we tried it again this year. It is a beautiful thing to sit outside and pray among nature. God's song is sung not just by the humans, but by the birds of the air as they sing their evening song.



Take me out to the ball game!

On a very beautiful night in June, we took our trusty van on a trip down to Baltimore to enjoy a baseball game at Camden Yards. And this year, the O's won after an 8th inning 2 run homer! We had some great seats to watch the game which made the night even better! And the best part was that we ran out of space in the van! Thankfully, we had a few extra drivers to help get everyone down safely to the ballpark.



Kids' Choir

You have probably noticed that we have a bunch of kids running around our hallways lately. It was time to bring back the Kids' Choir, and thanks to a generous donor, we were able to hire Emily Hopson to lead them for a year. They practice the second Sunday of the month at 10 a.m. The picture to the left is from when they sang on Pentecost Sunday. We are planning to resume practices this fall beginning September 8th. All kids are welcome!

A DayOff from school!

In the middle of May, both Washington County and Frederick County had a day off of school so we took a group of kids down to Baltimore to visit Christ Lutheran Church to learn about how they serve their community in South Baltimore and then we wrapped up the day at the Maryland Zoo. Special thanks to Christ Lutheran Church Staff who not only showed us around their campus, but also bought us lunch too. We should also note that just a few weeks after our visit, they suffered a major fire in the shelter we toured. Yet, that fire has not stopped them from serving their community. We continue to keep them in our prayers as they rebuild!



At the beginning of May, we wrapped up our program year with a end-of-year picnic for the Youth Group. On the right, Eryn shows off her marshmallow roasting skills while some of the boys try to “catch” dinner. While Eryn was successful in roasting the most perfect hot dog, the boys came back empty handed. Luckily, we had enough hot dogs to feed them and a small army.



The Ladies' Spring Fling!

The Ladies' Spring Fling this past May was one for the record books. We had a near sell-out crowd gather in our Social Room for a night of feasting and painting. The men of the church served a meal of fried chicken, mashed potatoes, and all the fixings. After dinner, the ladies enjoyed a guided paint experience while the kids joined Pastor Diane and Kaylyn Luther for some special craft time. Special thanks to everyone who made this night possible!



After all the fun of May, a group of people finished up some cleaning and organizing of the kitchen. Church kitchens seem to always accumulate a lot of random things over the years. The group here found things they didn't even know we had. A lot of work like this happens behind the scenes that many of us don't see. Thank you to all our volunteers who work silently behind the scenes to make the ministry of Zion possible!!!



Vacation Bible School 2024

Celebrating the Gift of God's Creation at VBS

After months of planning and even more planning, we welcomed almost 50 kids plus their parents into our halls to learn how God continues to create and use us to make the world a better place. It took around 35 people to make VBS happen. Every night we served a meal, sang songs, learned about God, got our hands dirty, and ran off some energy! We even welcomed a few "special" guests each night.



So Many Chickens!

This year we asked the VBS kids to bring in a special offering so that we could buy chickens through the ELCA's Good Gift program. ELCA Good Gifts works with families, communities, and people in developing nations to get the help and support they need for sustainable farming and food practices. We set a goal of 200 chicks at \$1 a chick. On Tuesday, we blew past our goal, so we doubled it to 400 chickens. On the final night, 458 chickens had been donated and as of the end of August, 630 chickens have been collected. As a way to visualize how many chickens we raised, we had the kids color in sheets every time they turned in a dollar. Way to go kids!

Worship Opportunities



Mark your calendars!

October 27, 2024

10am

Reformation Sunday

We will celebrate God's Word living, moving and breathing in our community with special music including both choir and orchestral music, recognition of 50-year members, and celebrating those who will be taking Holy Communion for the first time.

**Sola Scriptura | Sola Fide | Sola Gratia
Solus Christus | Soli Deo Gloria**

"From the beginning of my Reformation I have asked God to send me neither dreams, nor visions, nor angels, but to give me the right understanding of His Word, the Holy Scriptures; for as long as I have God's Word, I know that I am walking in His way and that I shall not fall into any error or delusion." - Martin Luther

27 OCT

REFORMATION

POTLUCK

BRING A DISH TO SHARE!

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP ON OCTOBER 27

WE HAVE A LOT TO CELEBRATE THIS DAY: 50-YEAR MEMBERS, FIRST COMMUNION RECIPIENTS, AND GOD'S EVER ABIDING WORD LIVING AMONG US!

Michaelmas



The Feast of
St. Michael
and All Angels

Sunday, September 29
at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Michael the archangel, captain of the heavenly hosts, is remembered on this day along with the other angels and archangels. The word "angel" means messenger in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. A festival dedicated to the honor of the archangel Michael arose in the fifth century in Rome. Michael is not a saint, but in Jewish angelology, one of the four archangels who carry out the will of God. The stories about Michael are war scenes situating him within the final battle between good and evil. The focus of the day has broadened to include thanksgiving for all the angels who are seen as messengers of the word and will of God.

On this day, we will sing hymns about angels and give thanks to God for the work of all angels still happening today.

Worship Services

Saturday:


5 p.m. Casual Worship

Sunday:

9 a.m. Contemporary

Worship

11 a.m. Traditional Worship



All Saints Worship

November 2nd and 3rd

We remember those blessed saints who died this past year and now reside in God's care as well as those who have died but remain influential to us today.

Zion Worship Service

Viewing Options:

To view our weekly recorded worship service any time during the week, click on the webpage link at www.zionmiddletown.org and it will take you directly to the video. The link for the livestream can be found on our website; click the link and it will take you directly to the video.



Donuts and coffee

Every Sunday
at 10 a.m.



CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

A Journey through the Seasons

A special liturgy on Sunday, November 24, at both our worship services to help us wrap up the liturgical year and remind us of all that we have seen, heard, and learned.

3 OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOW
Generosity

Give today either by check or online. Make sure you write in the memo line where you wish to be generous. **And thank you!**

WE GOT A DAY OFF!

3-4 times a year, we invite children from our congregation and community to join us on their day off from school. We spend the day playing games, exploring, and having fun. These events are offered free but do come at a cost. Are you interested in sponsoring a child in the Day Off Program? It only costs \$50 to sponsor one child. Perhaps your kids have all grown up. Give a gift today and make sure the next generation has the same amazing opportunities your children did. Got a parent who is hard to shop for at Mother's Day, Father's Day or a birthday? Sponsor a child in their honor.

Camp Scholarships

Mar-Lu-Ridge is an amazing place where relationships are formed each and every summer between other campers and with our Lord. At Zion, we offer a \$200 scholarship to anyone connected with Zion to go to camp. Last year, we sponsored 6 kids. This year, even more kids from Zion are going to camp which is amazing! You have an amazing opportunity to make Summer Camp at Mar-Lu-Ridge possible for a child here at Zion. Just like the Day Off Program, you can give in honor of someone, make it a gift for that hard-to-shop-for member of your family, or simply to make an impact in the life of a young person.

VBS



A week before the start of VBS last year, we had 30 kids registered, but by the end of that week, those numbers doubled! VBS is a great mission and ministry of Zion. We make sure every child who comes through our doors is welcome, fed, and included. We offer VBS free to everyone interested in participating, but that doesn't mean there isn't a cost.

It costs about \$50 a child to make VBS possible. Make a contribution today and help make sure VBS remains a central and important ministry here at Zion. Give the gift of VBS today and help ensure that VBS remains a place where all children can learn, grow, and feel welcome.

Being the Church...

An interview with Frank and Becky Ropp by Mary Ann Marcantonio



Farming was a principal occupation in the Middletown Valley since the first settlers arrived around 1735. And as suburbia creeps even closer to our precious Valley, fewer farms remain. Many of these farms have been family owned for generations, for Frank, he was the sixth generation to work on his family's farm. But for the Ropps the saying goes "you can take the boy (or girl in Becky's case) off the farm...but you can't take the farm out of the boy". This couldn't be any truer for Frank and Becky.

Frank grew up in a family of seven children, he being the only boy, was very happy to tag along with his dad and leave his six sisters to do what girls will do. His love of farming was inspired in those early years, learning the trade from his father, Ralph Schlosser Ropp and his grandfather, William Franklin Ropp. But in those early years it was not just learning the trade but the passion and pride of loving the land and the animals that a farmer cares for is what was instilled in Frank. As we shared our time together it was very apparent that Frank had a very close relationship with both his dad and grandfather, but his grandfather he greatly admired. He was a veteran of World War I and lost his arm due to a combat wound. The government fixed him up with an artificial limb that was more of a nuisance than help and most times hung on a hook in the barn. One would think that might make anyone incapable of the chores of a dairy farmer but not this determined man. Frank witnessed a man that was not necessarily good in the field but the care he offered his animals, and at times the tender care when a cow was struggling, left a very impressionable impact on him...one that continues to live in Frank.

Becky had a very different story, where Frank had many siblings and cousins nearby, Becky had one brother with extended family all over the country. Born Rebecca Van Westenberg, her first two years were in Rockville, the town of her birth. Her family moved to Middletown Valley when she was two years old where her father was engaged in farming. But life would soon change for the Van Westenberg family. At the age of twelve Becky's mother had passed away. Although a loving father and brother, they were in new and unfamiliar territory of raising a teenage girl. While many of her friends were mooning over the latest in fashion and the latest celebrity, Becky took over many of the household chores, cooking and cleaning after a day at school. But in these difficult times, Becky had one stalwart presence in her life, her Aunt Lucile. Becky looked forward to Saturday morning phone calls with her aunt many times lasting hours or many weekend visits to her aunt's home. Her Aunt saw to it that she always got what she needed, especially at back-to-school time when her father never understood teenage fashion. Her Aunt was that female presence for Becky in her very male world.

Both Becky and Frank graduated from Middletown High School and while in school Becky was close

friends with one of Frank's sisters. As teenagers do, she had many sleepovers at the Ropp house where she was treated as if she was one of them. Even on a couple of occasions when they got into trouble, Becky got the same lecture as her friend. Eventually, the family that Becky loved became her own when she and Frank got married in July of 1976 at Zion by Rev. Hoover.

What was it like living in the Valley when you were young? Their two faces lit up as they recalled the days past. The five and dime store and the Acme grocery store; you could find most of what you ever needed right here in Middletown. Becky recalled going to Farmers Co-op and inspecting the feed sacks for the prettiest material and if it so happened to be on the bottom of the pile, the attendant was always gracious enough to dig it out for her, even if it meant one bag after another was lifted to free the desired bag. This is community!

Over the years, Frank and Becky have worked on a few different farms. The farm where they live currently is the Van Westenberg farm that her father purchased when Becky was small. They now have hung up their muckers and turned the farm over to their three kids, Mary, Will and Earl (Pete). Although not fully retired, they help when they can, mentoring and assisting the next generation of farmers. Now that those early milkings are behind them, they have the time and energy to spoil their three wonderful grandkids!

We in many senses have lost that community feel because our world today is no longer simple. We desire bigger and better, outdoing our neighbor and getting ahead in life. All of which may not be bad things but when it becomes more important than caring for our neighbor and each other, than these things get in the way of that community feel. Frank learned early through his grandfather that caring even for the weak of the herd makes the whole herd stronger and Becky learned through the tender love of her Aunt how to be mindful of the needs of others. This they practiced in raising their three children.

My take away was this: life is never easy! Hard work and persistence along with a strong faith is how we all survive. Frank, a sixth generation of Lutheran-believers raised here in the Valley, has taught faith through the examples of the generations before him and Becky. Although not born in the Valley, she had the influence of the Baptist Church in her upbringing. But life does become easier when we live a Christ-centered life. We are all not meant to be ministers, but we are all meant to live and share the gospel. Our mission field is wherever our two feet land. For all of us, our mission field is the home. The place where faith begins is in the home. We desire to give our children the very best, why would we hold the best from them...sharing Christ's love!

Becky and Frank attend the Sunday 9:00 a.m. service. They are two quiet people but what fun I had getting to know them. Thanks Becky and Frank!

Community Events

Heritage Day Luncheon

The annual Heritage Day Luncheon at Zion will be held on Saturday, September 28th from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Soup, sandwiches, desserts and drinks will be available. We are limiting the dessert items at the luncheon because of the restrictions placed on us from the Health Department. Based on this, we are asking for your help to make and donate certain desserts to go along with the luncheon.

****Your homemade donations are greatly appreciated.**

***** All desserts have to be Nut & Peanut Butter free.**

The desserts we are asking for are:

Fruit Pies: Apple, Peach, Blueberry, Cherry, Raspberry

Cakes: White, Yellow and Chocolate

Icings: Coconut, Chocolate, Vanilla or White Frosting

Cookies: Chocolate Chip, Oatmeal Raisin, Snickerdoodles or Sugar only

Brownies: Plain Brownies, no brownies with nuts

Food donations may be dropped off between **7 a.m. and 9 a.m. on**

Saturday, September 28th in the **Social Room.**

Thank you so much for your help! Any questions, call Deb Reichelt at the church office at 301-371-6500

Middletown Evangelical Lutheran Church Zion
Heritage Day Luncheon Committee

Heritage Day - September 28, 2024

Desserts, Desserts and You or Just You are needed!

Your help would be greatly appreciated to assist with Zion's Heritage luncheon, our booth, or both.

Please consider helping at our Heritage Day Activities. **Even just for one hour would be greatly appreciated.**

Desserts needed for Heritage Day Luncheon

Cakes, Pies, Cookies and Brownies
(see sign up by office)



Any questions, please call Deb Reichelt at the church @ 301-371-6500

A Fiber Show at Heritage Days!



The Zion Quilters are hosting a Fiber Arts Expo which will feature antique, modern, specialty quilts as well as some quilting demonstrations. Included will be examples of other fiber arts to include knitting, crocheting, sewing and counted cross stitch, both traditional and modern. A star quilt raffle will be held to benefit the local food bank. Fiber Arts show will be held during September 21 from 9-2 a.m. in the Chapel and Library areas. Please come and enjoy!!

Music Ministry

LOOKING FOR CHOIR MEMBERS

If you have a passion for singing, join us!

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT
FROM 7-8:30 P.M.

No Experience Necessary



Zion's Music Ministry



A little update on our Music Ministry program. Dr. Avery Staples, Bobby Staples wife, was awarded the third/Associate Principal position with Virginia Symphony. This is a one-year contract which means that Bobby and Avery will be living in Norfolk for at least a year while Avery performs for the Virginia Symphony. Bobby asked Council for a leave of absence for at least a year. This means, we have some significant gaps in our Traditional Music Ministry. We are working hard to fill those gaps but it might mean we will have to rethink how we do Traditional Music at Zion. We do have someone lined up to take over playing the organ for a year, but we are still searching for people to handle the choir, handbells, and coordinating the orchestra. If you know someone who might be interested, please have them contact Pastor Matt or Pastor Diane. In the meantime, let us celebrate with Bobby and Avery and pray for our next music leaders.



We are always looking for new musicians and sound techs who have a passion for playing and leading our Contemporary Worship Service in song.

Rehearsals happen on Sunday morning. Speak with Matt Puziss to see how we might use your gifts!



Handbell Rehearsal

Reasonable music-reading fluency is required in both rhythm and notes. Treble or bass clef space is available if desired. Rehearsals are from 7pm to 8pm during the academic year. Visitors and interested persons are welcome to stop by at any rehearsal if interested in finding out what we're all about!



Orchestra Rehearsal

The Orchestra leads us in worship three times a year: Reformation, Christmas Eve, and Easter. If you play a bass, woodwind, or percussion instrument, we could use you and your skill to help lead us in song and worship!

Christian Education

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Grow in faith and help prepare for the coming week's lessons

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT
6:30 P.M.
IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM

We will be looking at the upcoming week's lessons for worship plus some other fun facts and tidbits that Pastor Diane and Pastor Matt don't normally get to share about the appointed readings for worship.

First Communion Gatherings

Each week we celebrate the gift of Holy Communion as a way of reminding us that Jesus is truly present in the wine/grape juice and wafers. On Sunday, Oct. 6th and 13th, we will be hosting classes around Holy

Communion at 12:30 p.m.. This is for those who are ready to receive their First Communion, those who are exploring but not yet ready, and a refresher course for those who already receive. We will start with a pizza lunch at 12:00 p.m. and then talk and do an activity ending by 1:30 p.m. Those who will be receiving their First Communion will be recognized on Oct. 27th. **Please**

RSVP to the Church Office by Oct. 1st if you will be joining us.

Sunday Mornings



ADULT EDUCATION
MEETS IN THE FOOTPRINTS
ROOM AT 10:00 A.M.
&
MUTUAL CARE AND SUPPORT
MEETS IN THE LIBRARY
AT 10:00 A.M.

Unless otherwise noted, Sunday morning Christian Education is always available! Grab a cup of coffee, a doughnut and join in the conversation, no matter your age!

SUNDAY SCHOOL EDUCATION

SUNDAYS AT 10 A.M.

ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, &
HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

Theology and Bible

TABLE TALK



Food and Drink

FIRST THURSDAY
OF THE MONTH

6pm at the Main Cup

BIBLE
Women's
STUDY

Topic: Forgiving what you can't forget
Sept 22-Oct 27
at Valley Ho Farms Pavilion
6:30-8:00pm



Contact Jamie Derr at
fmrgrl17@aol.com

Adult Sunday School

10:00 AM Chapel

Topic/Facilitator Schedule

Meet in Sanctuary

Date	Topic	Facilitator
June/July/August	Presence of God Hymns and Prose	Sheri Huckleberry
August 11	East Africa Ministry Trip	Dave Baker Lois Ahalt
August 18	East Africa Ministry Trip	Dave Baker Lois Ahalt
August 25	TBD	Diane Baker
September 1	Zion Stained Glass Window Heritage Part 1: Be the Light!	Donna Huffer
September 8	Part 2: West Side Sanctuary Windows	Donna Huffer
September 15	Part 3: East Side Sanctuary Windows	Donna Huffer
September 22	Zion Church History Part 1: Early Zion	Mary Ann Marcantonio
September 29	Part 2: An Unexpected Visitor!	Mary Ann Marcantonio
October 6	Part 3: Post Civil War Zion	Mary Ann Marcantonio
October 13	What Must I Do to Be Saved? Romans 3:9-31	Bruce McIntosh
October 20	Saved By Grace.... Isn't That Too Good to Be True? Romans 5:1-11	Bruce McIntosh
October 27	Combined Worship Service	//////////
November 3	If What I Do Does Not Save Me, Does It Matter How I Live? Romans 6:1-23	Bruce McIntosh
November 10	Where is God When We Suffer? Romans 8:18-39	Bruce McIntosh
November 17	How Can I Keep from Singing? Romans 10:1-21	Bruce McIntosh
November 24	What Does God Want from Us? Romans 12:1-21	Bruce McIntosh
December 1	James Study Guide by Todd Linn <i>You're Either Walking the Walk or Just Running Your Mouth</i>	Donna Huffer
December 8	James	Donna Huffer
December 15	James	Donna Huffer
December 22	James	Donna Huffer
December 29	James	Donna Huffer

The Christian Formation Ministry Team has been hard at work discerning and supporting the formation opportunities currently provided at Zion and implementing what may need to change to better serve our growth as disciples. The Team has formed two task forces to specially focus on youth and adult formation. In conjunction with the Council's 2024 Priorities of leadership, communication, and relationship building, topics and themes for formation opportunities have been chosen that better help us remember who we are, know more about the place we call home at Zion, and practice what it means to live out our faith in community. Please pay close attention to your weekly announcement bulletins and e-mails to see upcoming Sunday School topics and themes for all ages that will be changing throughout the Fall.

If you are interested in helping us grow in faith, whether that's through a class or service opportunity for any age group, please speak with Jeff Derr or one of the pastors to become a part of this rejuvenating group.



YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Confirmation

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH
FROM 4-6PM
AVAILABLE BOTH IN-PERSON AND ON ZOOM

**First Confirmation Class begins October 6
in the Conference Room**

IGNITE YOUR FAITH

YOUTH NIGHT

**YOUTH GROUP WILL MEET
ON FIRST SUNDAY OF
MONTH FROM 6-8 P.M.**

**YOUTH GROUP IS OPEN TO 5TH
GRADERS, ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH
SCHOOL AGE KIDS!**

An opportunity for the youth to grow in spirit through worship, prayer, good food, fun games, and amazing company!

Youth Group starts back up Sunday, October 6 at 6:00 p.m. for a camp fire, smores, and hot dogs at Valley Ho Farm.

WE GOT A DAY OFF!

The first DayOff this Fall Is Scheduled for
Thursday, October 3
at 9 a.m.

We are taking a trip up to Gettysburg, PA to go on a tour of the town and the battlefields. We plan to take a Bus Tour in the morning followed by a lunch and tour of the Seminary.

This is open to Elementary, Middle and High School Kids.
Extra chaperones are always needed and appreciated!!!!

SCAN
ME! >>>



DAYOFF PROGRAM
REGISTRATION



WE GOT A DAY OFF!

The Second DayOff this Fall Is Scheduled for
Thursday, November 5
at 9 a.m.

We are going to explore the Crystal Grottos Caverns, lunch in Boonsboro, and then spend the afternoon in Hagerstown playing Duck Pin Bowling!

This is open to Elementary, Middle and High School Kids.
Extra chaperones are always needed and appreciated!!!!



Know someone who is interested in joining our Ministry Team? We are actively seeking a part-time Director of Youth and Family Ministry. This role focuses on fostering faith formation, community building, and service initiatives. Grounded in relationship-building with God, one another, and the broader community, the position requires strong interpersonal skills, the ability to manage multiple tasks and projects, and maintain confidential information. Effective communication and collaborative relationships with Staff, congregation members, Church Council, and committee members are essential. For more details or a comprehensive job description, please contact Bruce McIntosh at macbru@comcast.net, chair of the Personnel Committee.



2024 Footprints Upcoming Dates

September 8th

October 13th

October 27th

November 10th

Join us on the second Sunday of each month at the 9:00 a.m. service for Footprints! Youth of all ages will gather together after the Prayer of the Day for a lesson and activity.

We will return to worship in time for communion.

If we have a 10 a.m. Combined Worship then we will also have Footprints at that service.

Bible Presentation - September 8th



We will be handing out new Bibles on Sunday, September 8th to all Kindergarteners (and 1st and 2nd graders who haven't received one yet), 3rd graders and new Confirmation students. We will also have Bibles for adults if you are in need of one!



New Members and Baptisms

Every week, we are all reminded of our mission: As a people of God, we share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others. To be a member of Zion means committing oneself to that mission. This past spring and summer, we officially welcomed a number of new families and individuals into membership through baptism and affirmation of baptism. If you see these new faces, welcome them to the family!



Interested in becoming a member? Speak to a pastor or council member about officially joining our congregation.

Mar-Lu-Ridge

Zion showed up at Mar-Lu-Ridge!

Last year, we had 6 kids participate at Mar-Lu-Ridge. This year, Zion really showed up at Mar-Lu-Ridge by sending 15 kids to camp. A big hinderance for summer camp is the cost but we have been blessed with many generous people throughout the years to help create a fund to provide scholarships for kids to attend camp. For many of the kids that went this year, it was the first time being away from home and on their own. They learned about God, how to care for themselves, and created lasting memories!



This year, Mar-Lu-Ridge asked Pastor Matt, along with other leaders throughout our synod, to come and assist with staff development. Pastor Matt did a class on the basics of Lutheranism and got to show off not only the Small Catechism but his ability to climb on top of tables.



We have an incredible relationship with Mar-Lu-Ridge. Come out on September 22 to hear how you can continue to partner with Mar-Lu-Ridge and make Mar-Lu-Ridge accessible to all people.

Despite our desire for Mar-Lu-Ridge to be a place that welcomes all people, some of our spaces do not reflect this commitment. Unintentionally, some areas of our buildings limit accessibility and full participation. Increasingly we turn guest groups away because we are unable to meet their accessibility needs. This is not the hospitality we claim and does not reflect our aim in welcoming all people to engage in this sacred place. As we plan for the future of MLR and the next generation of outdoor ministry, we are committed to be good stewards of our spaces and resources by:

- improving accessibility for all visitors and guests
- refreshing spaces within our existing footprint that will honor our commitment to conservation while better serving our ministry
- clearing the remaining debt for the reservoir to position MLR for strong financial footing

Project List

As contributions to the With Open Arms Campaign are received, we have prioritized the following improvements to increase MLR's hospitality, inclusion, and accessibility for all people:

1. We will make the Ridge Inn fully accessible for all guests and visitors. An elevator will be installed so that guests with mobility needs may easily and safely access the top floor. Adding public restrooms on the lower level and installing automated doors will expand our hospitality in new ways.
2. Next, we plan to improve Cabin 3—our most-requested, most-used cabin—with an accessible restroom and a refreshed interior. Siding will replace the log exterior to prevent further decay from pests.
3. Carpenter bees have damaged a significant portion of Potomac Lodge's exterior log structure. New concrete siding will be added to protect this building.
4. Cabins 1 and 2 are beyond repair and are no longer in use. These buildings will be removed to allow for increased green space. The old swimming pool at Area 3 is no longer serviceable. We plan to remove this feature and level the ground for group gathering space. This area is in near-constant use thanks to renovations and upgrades by MLR staff. In time, we will develop this space with an accessible pavilion.
5. In 2020, MLR secured the main camp water reservoir, which was leaking. Gifts to the With Open Arms Campaign will help to quickly clear the remaining \$220,000 debt acquired for the reservoir development.

A Letter from our Executive Director

Friends of Mar-Lu-Ridge,

God is moving through and among this ministry. For scores of summer campers, youth, adults, and families, Mar-Lu-Ridge is a place of sanctuary. It is a place where the noises and distractions of the world fall away, allowing space to engage with God's created world, to hear God's reassuring promises.



What a welcome gift in these times! We are a community with a rich legacy. Our retreat groups and campers are diverse and faithful. As we build on the commitments of leaders and supporters from the last **63 years** and position Mar-Lu-Ridge for a strong and vibrant future, we are renewing our efforts to provide a safe and inclusive environment which reflects the lessons Jesus taught us: To love one another, even as I have loved you. (John 13:34)

Renovating Ridge Inn for increased accessibility and hospitality is a big step for Mar-Lu-Ridge, but one that will have even greater return on our investment in welcoming people to encounter God's love through sacred hospitality, deepening relationships, and care for creation. Through this plan, we will be able to serve people in ways we are unable to at this time – especially groups and individuals with mobility needs. When these campaign initiatives are completed, the manner in which we welcome people will be more fully realized.

I am energized by the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of youth and adults of every walk of life and by the restoring messages of God's grace and love which will frame the way we think of each other and of ourselves. The impact of Mar-Lu-Ridge lives on in generations of campers, retreat guests, staff alumni, and our congregations.

I hope you'll join in this campaign for Mar-Lu-Ridge—for the future of our ministry throughout the region and beyond.

God's peace,
Sarah Lefler, Executive Director



Mar-Lu-Ridge will be with us on September 22 to talk about how we can partner with them to make their dream a reality. To learn more about their campaign, visit, www.mar-lu-ridge.org/with-open-arms-capital-campaign/

Ministry Updates

Food donations are needed now more than ever!

Food items in demand include: Canned tomatoes diced or crushed, Rice-a-Roni, Canned peas, Canned fruit, Sugar, Tea bags, Small cans of coffee, Crackers, jam or jelly, Jell-O or pudding mix, Salad dressing, & Instant potatoes



Donations can be dropped off in the Ramp or taken directly to the Food Bank on Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m.



WEEKEND BACKPACKS

Hunger doesn't take the weekend off

Our Backpack Ministry will be meeting the needs of students on the weekends when they do not receive food at school.

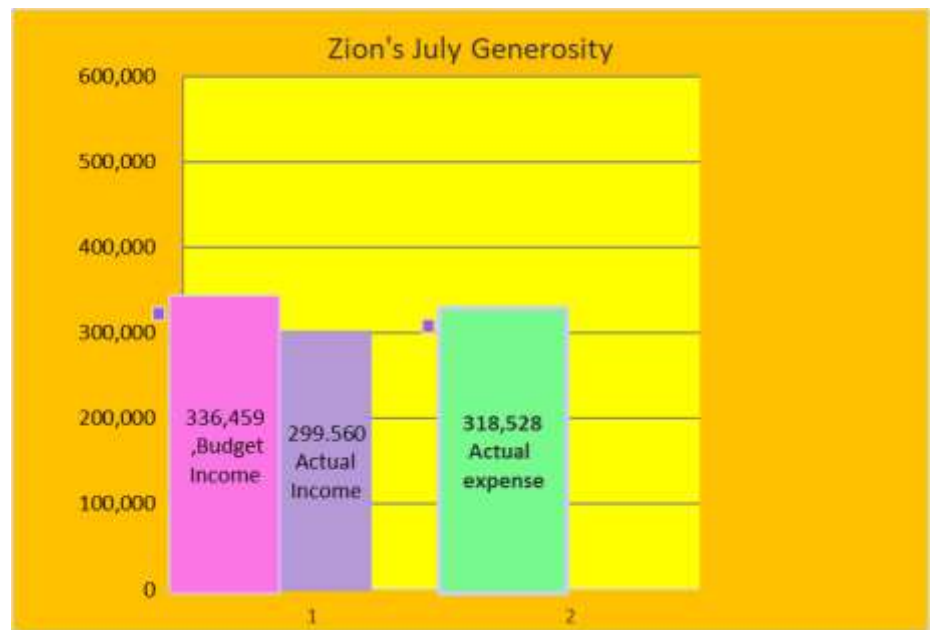
September—Individual Cereal including oatmeal

October—canned spaghetti and ravioli

November—Canned tuna and chicken

December—instant ramen, canned chicken noodle soup and canned tomato soup

Please consider donating a food item or writing a check to Zion to show your support. Make sure you write "Weekend Backpack" on the memo line to help children throughout the school year.



Budget/Income Information-YTD as of July 31, 2024

YTD Proposed Budget income \$336,459.

vs YTD Actual Income \$299,560.

YTD Proposed Budget Expense \$352,783. vs

YTD Actual Expenses \$318,528.

Actual YTD Income is less expenses in July 2024 by \$18,968.



Did you know that the number one most needed item of the homeless is a clean pair of socks? Socks provide a layer of warmth that could be worsened by smoking which constricts blood vessels making toes more susceptible to damage by cold. The homeless are susceptible to severe frostbite which could lead to amputation. Zion quilters are sponsoring a Socktoberfest drive again this year for the month of October. A box will be located in the ramp area at Zion Lutheran, Middletown MD for new clean packages of socks. Please help us beat our last year collection of 706 socks. All donations will be taken to the Religious Coalition for distribution to the needy.



JOY +50 (Just Older Youth) Lunch

J.O.Y. 50+ seniors have been enjoying lunch and programs/bingo for the past few months. The J.O.Y 50+ meets on the third Wednesday at noon for lunch and a fun program or a rousing game of bingo. We have fun-we share, eat, remember, learn and LAUGH! Monthly luncheons include a time to dine together, fellowship and enjoy some special entertainment or speaker.



The upcoming dates for the rest of 2024 are:

September 18

Oct 16

Nov 20 – Thanksgiving/Christmas Combo Dinner

This group is not just for the Lutheran community. Everyone in the Middletown Valley community is welcome! Cost is \$10 per person. Advance reservation is a must for planning purposes, please call the Zion's office at 301-371-6500 or Alexa 301-514-4479 or email Alexa at amasser202@comcast.net.



Community Day of Service

September 7, 2024

Did you know that since 2016 the National Day of Service occurs every year in September? National Day of Service (in remembrance of Sept 11, 2001 attacks) is a time set aside for volunteers to make a difference in their community.

This year, due to low project sign ups, Day of Service will be concentrating our efforts in helping to break down the metals collected through the community metal scrap drive. Proceeds from this provide funds for our organization Day of Service as well as other charitable contributions in the Community. No experience needed.

The storage barn is located at 6113B and 6113 Broad Run Road (Rt. 383) Go left at the Y and keep the cornfield on your left to see the barn. Please consider volunteering just a little of your time. The event is from 9-12pm. You decide the time even if only for one hour. The more hands we have the lighter the load! Just go to this sign-up link, <https://rb.gy/n195h1>



Hope

To

Faith

Hope to Faith

If you have experienced a loss recently or at any time in your life, please know that you are welcome to attend for a time of fellowship and food!

Contact Dixie Eichelberger at 301-667-7586
for more information.

Noisy Offering Updates



May—Hearty House	\$344.10
June—Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$263.51
July—Middletown Vol. Fire Department	\$286.71
August—Global Refuge (Formerly L.I.R.S.)	\$226.35

Thank you to all who donated!

Upcoming Noisy Offerings

September 15 th and 16 th	Lutheran Disaster Relief
October 19 th and 20 th	Frederick Rescue Mission
November 16 th & 17 th	ELCA World Hunger
December 14 th & 15 th	Religious Coalition

Zion's Car Magnet Available!

Support Zion by displaying this magnet on your car!



Magnets are available in the Welcome Center—there is no cost, but donations are appreciated. All donations will go towards wrapping the van in a Zion logo.

Clothes Closet Update

We are open for donations on Saturday mornings from 9 - 11 a.m. If you need to drop off after hours, there is a drop location below the front porch. Thank you!



Lee Ropp is Crushing Cans for Our Youth!

Lee Ropp has crushed and recycled 242,110 Aluminum cans for the benefit of Zion's Youth and Family Ministry! Cans can be dropped off on the deck of the Clothes Closet.

Lee says "Keep em' Coming"



We have some great features on the member page. Visit www.ZionMiddletown.org/members-area

Check out the website!

Decorate a Window in the Sanctuary

Individuals, families and/or groups within our church are invited to decorate windowsills in the Sanctuary!

Decorations will be on display from September 17th through November 26th. The sills will be covered to protect the paint.

Decorate anytime before September 17th. Displays will need to be removed by November 27th.

Display size is approximately 16" deep by 54" wide

Contact the Church Office to reserve your spot! Windows will be reserved on "first-come, first-served" basis.

Don't miss this opportunity to be creative, have fun and work together to decorate the church!



Operation Christmas Child

October 15-November 12

How might you demonstrate God's love and share the gospel of Jesus Christ? Every shoebox gift placed into the hands of a needy child provides that opportunity.

Filling a shoebox with age appropriate school supplies, hygiene items and toys is a wonderful way to involve our children/grandchildren or neighborhood youngsters in caring for others less fortunate than ourselves. Praying for the child who will receive the gifts, including a note and photo is also encouraged.

Our main drive this year will be October 15th to November 12th. Our goal is 200 boxes. \$10 per shoebox donation is requested to defray international shipping and other processing costs. It also goes toward providing The Greatest Journey, a 12-lesson follow-up discipleship program for shoebox recipients. More than 2.4 million boys and girls made decisions for Christ in 2022.

Brochures detailing packing information (what and what not to include) will be available, as well as empty shoeboxes for you to take home; fill and return. Monetary gifts are also welcome. Donation boxes will be available at the Welcome Center.

There is the option to shop at the Shoebox Supply House in Shippensburg, PA, where for \$17.50 you can fill a box which includes the \$10.00 shipping fee. Linda Sanders and Linda Huckleberry will be going there the last part of October if you'd like them to shop for you.

Let's be the hands of Jesus as we pack one or more shoeboxes for needy boys and girls, knowing we will be bringing joy to the hearts of God's children. Any questions please contact, Linda Huckleberry at 301-371-6677 or email huckhuff@gmail.com. Or Linda Sanders at 301-676-3272 or email lfnelson76@gmail.com



The Fall cycle of GriefShare begins on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 and ends on Tuesday, December 3, 2024. Each session is offered from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the Living Library at Zion Lutheran Church, Middletown.

When a loved one dies, we often feel alone. People who have not experienced the death of a loved one may not understand how painful and isolating grief can be. At GriefShare, you'll find a safe, comforting place where you can meet and talk with others about your grief. GriefShare provides support, direction, and guidance on how to navigate the journey of grief.

Each week there is a 30-minute video that discusses the topic for the session. There is group discussion and a time to share one's grief journey. The third feature of GriefShare is the personal work that is done at home, in between the sessions. A Personal Workbook provides guidance as you deal with your grief in your own time.

If interested in joining the Fall cycle, please contact the church office at 301-371-6500. One of our GriefShare leaders will contact you and answer any questions you may have. There is no pre-registration required to attend.

GriefShare[®]

Fall Session begins September 10th



The new library invited us to share a small exhibit about what is happening at Zion. Be sure to check it out the next time you visit the library.



Property Announcement

Please email property@zionmiddletown.org for all notifications of property concerns or repairs.

Woolly Retreat 2024

Are you a knitter, crocheter or even sewer? Consider joining the knitters to craft hats that



will be donated to local cancer and hospice patients or make premie hats. Bring your own needles and yarn on Nov 2, 2024 at 9:00 – 3:00 p.m. to Zion's Social Room. You can stay all day or leave when you want. Enjoy great fellowship and know that you are giving those cancer patients warmth and comfort. Contact Shelly Gladhill 301-788-7585 or Alexa Masser 301-514-4479 with questions.

Crafting Retreat



The Quilters are having their annual fall Crafting Retreat on Nov 15 & 16, 2024. Any craft is WELCOME. Knitting, crocheting, cross stitch, scrapbooking, quilting...you name it. The fun starts in the Church

Social Room. Come and set up your craft on a table and keep your table set up both Friday & Saturday. Retreat will start at 8:00 a.m. on Friday and close down Friday evening about 8:00 p.m. We will begin again at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday and close down at 3:00 p.m. Crafters are encouraged to come and go as needed. Plenty of food, snacks and games will be available. Free-will offering will be encouraged with funds raised going to Historic Preservation Fund – Steeple. For more information call Alexa at 301-514-4479 or amasser202@comcast.net.



2024 Pledge and Commitment Card	I will serve/am interested in serving in the following ministries:	I will practice the spiritual discipline of giving.
Name: Address:	Committees, Ministries, Musical Ensembles, Special Events- (Check on back for ideas!) _____ _____ Other (List other ideas of ministries you would be interested in participating in!) _____ _____	I intend to give \$_____ of my/our gifts each week/month/year (circle one) for 2024 Current Ministry Expenses and Benevolence. *Please note you are pledging to the Current Ministry Expenses and Benevolence. All other Offerings to other areas are greatly appreciated. We will be tracking and reporting back to you your Offerings given to the Current Ministry Expenses and Benevolence.

Pledge Cards

The Stewardship Ministry team is working on getting pledge cards out this September to a mailbox near you. Every year we ask members to prayerfully consider different ways to be generous over the coming year. You matter to

the ministry here! Consider how you might be able to invest in the ministry here at Zion today through the giving of your time, talents and treasures. And thank you!!!



A Trip to Visit the Museum of the Bible Wednesday, October 2 Leaving Zion at 9 a.m.

The cost is \$35 per person which includes admission into the museum, parking, and other transportation fees. We will take the church van from Zion down to DC and tour the Museum. We will grab lunch at the museum's restaurant - Manna. After touring the museum, we will have a discussion with Pastor Matt. To RSVP to the event, please sign up in the church office. Space is limited in the van so sign up early.

Apple Butter -The Tradition!

Are you interested in helping with the Zion Tradition of making Apple Butter?
Contact Dixie Eichelberger at 301-667-7586 or luvthosecows@aol.com



The following are the dates that help is needed:
Tuesday, 10/15/24 – Sorting jars at 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday, 10/22/24 – Washing Jars at 8:00a.m.
Apple Butter making is 10/26/24 at 5:00 a.m.



If interested in purchasing Apple Butter, contact Bryan Black at 301-676-3095 or email at bcblack@comcast.net, starting September 15, 2024. Orders will be taken until October 18, 2024.
Don't Miss Out - Orders will be taken and filled on a first come basis due to limited quantities.

Updating our Key Management Systems and Process

In July, the Council approved an updated policy involving the Key and Lock Control systems at Zion. After a lengthy project to clean up and organize all the keys to our building, we now need to take steps to better secure the building. Currently, there are a lot of our keys in possession of members. It is our hope that we can create a list of who has what keys as well as collect keys that you might no longer need. Also, we have created new keypad access levels that might make you having copies of church keys no longer necessary. So, please look at your key ring and if you have some keys for Zion, stop by the Office and let us know or turn them back in and apply for a keypad access.



WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2024 AT 15:00

Sour Beef Dinner

400 E Lexington St, Baltimore, MD, United States, Maryland 21202

Zion Church in Baltimore holds a Sour Beef Dinner every year. This Dinner has been a long tradition in Baltimore and it is delicious! Tickets are around \$25 and well worth the money which also includes some entertainment. Plus, it is going to support a sister congregation. If you are interested in going, let us know in the Church Office and we might be able to organize a trip. Pastor Matt will handle the driving. You can find the sign up sheet in the Church Office or speak to Pastor Matt.

A WORD FROM THE VALLEY

A PODCAST FROM ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
MIDDLETOWN, MD

A Word from the Valley is a our podcast that features Pastor Diane and Pastor Matt's sermons as well as some other special content that we will produce throughout the year. You can learn more by visiting our website, or search for "Word from the Valley" wherever you download your podcasts.



I wish to thank all of the folks that sent me birthday cards celebrating my 99th year. They were so very, very beautiful and appreciated. They will be viewed frequently. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Adrienne Rhoderick



The family of Doris Taylor wishes to express our thanks to everyone who has supported us since our loved one's death on July 10th. We appreciate the visits, cards, flowers and memorial donations to Zion. Also, thanks to the Quilters for the luncheon after the Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving. Lindsay, Lynn, Chris and Val

Friends of Zion,
Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, and calls and beautiful flowers. My surgery went well and I am recovering. I am unsure of what treatment might lie ahead for me but it is comforting to know I have so many friends at Zion.
God bless you all, Carol O'Brien



Corbin Patrick Sparks
Kielle Cecilia Sparks
Esben Hulebake Sparks
Maxwell Spessard
Elizabeth Savannah Haller
Clark Cevallos
Cameron Greco
Iona Triantos
Carson Triantos
Murphy Spillman

With Sympathy



With our deepest sympathy we keep in our thoughts and prayers the families of:

Ron Trusty
Cathy Baker
Anna Kepler
Nancy Newkirk
Linda Crummit
Dick Greenawalt
Marianna Bere
Paul Blickenstaff
Russell Main
Doris Taylor
Darlah Adams

New Members

Chris, Chelsea, Maeve and Cameron Greco
 John and Maria Lain
 Greg and Kaitlyn Leone
 Gerald, Stefanie, Hadley, Peyton,
 and Maxwell Spessard
 Levi Derr
 Addison Shupe
 Danica Stup



Bobby Staples and
Avery Pettigrew
George Best and Emily Kirk



Ron Reaves, Katana Lewis, Evelyn Hawker, Debby Knipple, Larry DiGiulio, Ken Young, Carol O'Brien, Pat McIntosh, Junior Wiles, Mike Fath, Janice Wisner, Kris Marcantonio, Tim Quinn, John Lettiere, Jr., Mike Lingertot, Janet Rhinecker, Ruth Kuhn, Ursula Powell, Diane Elizabeth, Pat Hansen, Jane Nalborczyk, Lucretia Reaves, Eric Kinna, Ronnie Kinna, Tex and Linda Stottlemeyer, Anita, Gary, Kay Wachter, Michael Easton, Tristan Vail, Beth Smith, Lorene Huffer, Bruce Albright, Marty Appleby, Judith Smith, Jim Pearson, Jackie Bello, Trish Tollefson, Skippy Zimmerman, Sarah Gladhill, Ruby Pyles, Addison Hopson, Kevin Kinna, 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. For the most up-to-date prayer list, visit our website and look under the member's tab.

News to share?
Please let us know of important events, births, deaths, etc. that have happened over the past few months. Email or call the Church Office.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Zion
107 W Main Street
Middletown MD 21769

www.ZionMiddletown.org



The work and mission at Zion can only happen through your gifts of time, talent and treasure. We cannot do our work without your support. To give financially, please give either online or drop your Offering in the offering plate as the ushers come up and down the pews. You can also scan the QR code to be taken to our online giving portal.

AND THANK YOU!