



THE BEACON

A Ministry of
Zion Lutheran Church
2022 Holiday Edition

UPCOMING

Reoccurring Events and Service Opportunities

September 12 - December 5, 2022

GriefShare

**Mondays
6:00pm**

November 28, 2022

Hope to Faith

2:00pm

Wednesdays (Nov. 30th - Dec. 21st)

Midweek Advent Meal

6:00pm

Wednesdays (Nov. 30th - Dec. 14th)

Midweek Worship & Children's Activities

7:00pm

December 1, 2022

Table Talk at Main Cup

6:00pm

December 13, 2022

JOY Luncheon

11:30am

December 21, 2022

Blue Christmas Worship & Children's Activities

7:00pm

4:00, 7:00 and 10:30 pm

Christmas Eve Services

Dec. 25th & Jan 1, 2023

Christmas Day Virtual & New Year's Day Combined

10:00am

Nov. 24th, Nov. 25th, Dec. 26th-30th, Jan. 2nd

Church Office Closed

Visit our website for more upcoming events
WWW.ZIONMIDDLETOWN.ORG

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Zion Lutheran Church Middletown, MD

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



24For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? 25But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Romans 8:24-25

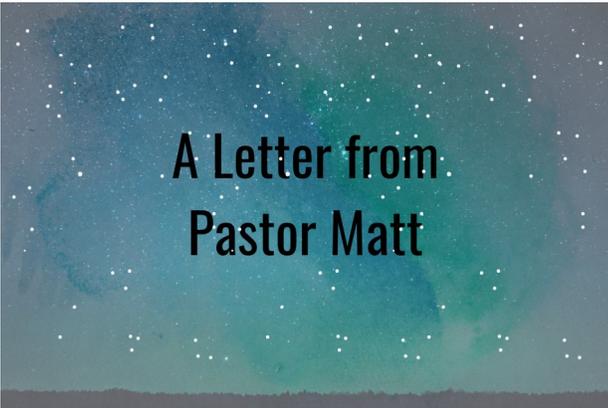
Hope. It's that feeling that we have as we anticipate something. Something better. Something joyous. Something changing. We hope for new jobs, new relationships, new surprises, new opportunities. We hope for not only ourselves, but those we love, those we know vaguely, those who are hurting, and or this whole world. If there is any emotion that we need right now after so much change and disorientation over the past few years, it is hope.

Advent is a season of hope. But what are we hoping for? No, not just Christmas. Advent is far too big for JUST that. We are hoping for something better. Something joyous. Something changing. We are awaiting our Savior, the one who will make all things right, bring unexperienced joy, change the way we are hurting now. Advent is a season of hoping for Jesus to come again. Yes, we will remember him coming historically as a little baby but we also remember that he comes among us now and will come again to make this world the place God always wanted it to be without hurt and pain on that last day. In this season, we hear words of comfort in knowing that things are not yet right. We also hear words calling us to the work of repentance and change that we might reorient our lives into God's ways that glimpses of God's kingdom may be known through us. We are a people of hope already and not yet. We are waiting in words and actions of hope. For this we have been saved and in this we put our trust.

On Christmas Eve and in the Christmas season, we will sing these words: "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." I cannot think of a better way to sum up why Christmas matters and should matter for the faithful. Yes, this is the promise we are hoping for and trusting that the one who took on our own flesh and knows our experience came, continues to come, and will come again. We hope throughout this season and wait as we look forward to celebrating the good news that God comes into our midst in Jesus Christ to redeem that which is not right and needs changing. This hope is for all of us. Christmas is not just for the kids. It isn't just for those who have enough money to make the grandest celebration possible. Christmas is hope for all of us and we get to encounter this hope again and again, year after year.

As we prepare in Advent (both physically and spiritually), I invite you to pray with me: O Lord Jesus, come. Send your Spirit to help us live in the hope of abundant life now. Help us to know and share your comfort as the sin of the hurt and pain is inflicted upon and by us. May we hope in the promise you bring of a world at peace for each and everyone of us and this world you so love. In the Triune God, we pray. Amen.

Pastor Diane Ray



A Letter from Pastor Matt

Dear friends in Christ,

As many of you all have probably heard, we are being blessed with not just one baby, but two. While the initial shock has diminished, it is still overwhelming to think that our family will double in size in 2023. Having two babies on top of two other “babies” (who are not babies anymore, but that doesn’t mean I don’t miss those days) is daunting, but we have been so blessed by your prayers and support. Apparently, twins are a thing here at Zion. Leading up to our announcement, we learned that there have been a number of twins born at Zion. We are not alone and we

greatly appreciate your prayers and support.

Somehow, another year has flown by and we are approaching the start of a new Church Year. This is when I would typically insert some cliché line about how fast the year has gone by and how we need to do all we can to get ready for Advent. I have said something like that year after year. Instead, I think I will save my hand because you all know how important the season of Advent is. You all know how Advent is not about getting ready for a baby—Jesus already has been born so there really isn’t a reason we need to prepare for the arrival of baby Jesus. In a decade of ordained ministry, I have planned and prepared for 10 of these seasons with mixed success. Every year, I wonder what can we do differently that will get more people to participate and get the most out of Advent? You know, I think I am done with looking at this season in that way. Instead, I am going to leave the ownership of participation on you. The only way you can deepen your spirituality this Advent and Christmas season is to participate. Otherwise, you will miss out. You know, my doctor tells me every time I see her that the only way to be healthier is to actually live healthier. Well, the same is true for faith. The only way for you to grow in your faith and explore this gift of faith is for you to actually partake in spiritual exercise.

Zion has some great spiritual exercises and resources available for you this Advent. Our Sunday morning worship is going to focus on the prophecy being told in the book of Isaiah. Our Wednesday evening programming is going to focus on our hymnody for Advent. We have also adapted our worship on Wednesday evenings to explore some other forms of worship that are a bit new to us, but are still grounded in our Lutheran tradition and theology. What I love the most about Wednesday night is the fellowship time. December is a busy month and this is one night where you can come, get a great meal, and not have to do the dishes. If you come for no other reason, come and don’t worry about the dishes. Wendi is also gearing up for Christmas in the Valley as well as the Christmas pageant. We will also have Advent calendars, Advent devotionals, ELCA Good Gifts Tree Ornaments (great for that person who already has too much stuff...) on top of our normal worship. Advent is what you make of it, so make it a good one!

Last year was the first time we had in-person Christmas Eve worship in two years. It was also our first Christmas with you as your pastors. It was a crazy time last year (one that I hope to not repeat anytime soon) but what I remember the most about Christmas Eve worship, was that despite all that didn’t go the way we expected it, Christ was preached and Christ was present. It was a holy night and we look forward to welcoming you that night again as we worship and give thanks for God pitching a tent in our world so that God might be present.

This year, Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. The Council made the decision to not hold in-person worship citing past attendance patterns, but to hold a virtual worship service instead because we had such a great success with our online Lesson and Carols worship last year. That will happen Sunday, December 25, at 10 a.m. on both YouTube and Facebook.

In the new year, we will be getting ready for our Annual Meeting where we are going to spend some time talking about future ministry work here at Zion. Our mission, despite all that we have been through these past few years, remains and we all play a part in that mission work.

Blessings,



Being the Church...

An Interview with Christa Grunwald



We all took history in school and learned about the horrible things that happened in Hitler's Germany but Christa Grunwald, a member of Zion, lived it! She was born in East Germany and raised during the reign of Hitler and his Third Reich. As a young child, there was no escape from fear of what the future held for her and her family. This fear came to a climax when she was about 16 years old. 1,100 people in her community were loaded onto a train and waited, what seemed like an eternity not knowing their destination. They did not know

if they were bound for Russia or the West. When the train slowly rolled away from the platform, the silence was almost deafening. It wasn't until the train made a turn and they could see the setting sun as it shone through the train windows that they realized they were bound westward towards the British-occupied zone of Germany. The train cars erupted with joy. As Christa lays a hand on her left arm above her elbow, she recalls a vivid memory she holds in her heart still today. They were required to wear a white arm band and along with her 1,100 companions on the train, they threw them out the windows making the countryside appear as white as snow.

Her beloved Edgar, now deceased, lived in Poland and his family was separated when Poland was invaded; Edgar, at age 17, was required to join the German army. His mother was imprisoned in a Polish concentration camp for 3 ½ years before she was liberated, and his father was also imprisoned in a Polish concentration camp where he died of starvation. He was never brought food, not one morsel. (Please pause here and pray that the hearts of all are turned towards love and reject hate!)

After the war, Edgar settled in western Germany and met Christa. Because of the destruction during the war, housing was in short supply and only available to married couples. They were married in 1952 by a Justice of the Peace so that they were eligible to rent, but they did not live together until they were married in the

church in 1954. His mother planted the idea of emigrating to America and it wasn't long before the idea became a reality. A family of three now, Edgar, Christa and their 16 month old son, Frank, applied for permanent residence and soon made their way to the United States. The application required a sponsor and Mr. and Mrs. William Long of Middletown, agreed to take on this responsibility. The Grunwalds made their first home in Middletown at the Butts' Property adjacent to Zion on the east side. (Pictured left, building torn down in 1958)



Christa shared a couple of stories that I found humorous. Shortly after they arrived here, they went to one of the churches in town. "The church service was nothing like we had ever experienced before and I told Edgar that we are not going back there!" Christa asked someone if there was a Protestant church in town and they answered, "Yes, you live right next door to a Lutheran church." Even though a sign hung on the front of the church, not being able to read English was no help to her. Another cute story was an early shopping experience at the local merchandise store across the street from Zion. She was looking for Cream of Wheat to feed her young son and she couldn't make herself understood by the merchant. She tried and tried with no luck. Another shopper, Howard Gross, a member of Zion, heard her and the challenge she was facing. He finally figured out what she was looking for. The people of Middletown were so kind and helpful especially in those early days!

Edgar worked in Rockville, Maryland and on many occasions they spoke to him about moving to Montgomery County or relocation to other places but the answer was always no thank you. Middletown was a community that welcomed them with only kindness and never made them feel inferior because of their Mother Country. Although a heavy German accent and German blood flowing in their veins, their home was Middletown, and they were here to stay.

Christa and Edgar raised their three children in Middletown. They continued to practice their German traditions and spoke the language in their home. Their beautiful home has remnants of the memories of Germany, a country they loved and left behind for new beginnings. They found their church home at Zion where both of them were active in the church. Edgar was involved in securing our earliest sound system and Christa was very involved in the music program, which was the reason this interview was decided on in the first place. If you have attended the late service on Christmas Eve, you have heard Christa sing “*Silent Night*” in German. This tradition of about 50 years now, has meant so much to many because we each get a chance to feel a little German that night.

When this article was complete, I called Christa to verify the facts and we talked a few minutes about the cruelty experienced not only by her and her family but those affected by the war. She commented “I am here!” How easy it would be to reflect on the not so pleasant experiences but that would not be Christa. She is an inspiration! All of which she lived through, her hope was never destroyed. What can we all learn from Christa’s story? There is always hope! The Grunwalds were raised in war torn Europe, and with God given courage they looked forward to a new adventure in a new country. They brought their customs, traditions; integrated into a community where the language was unfamiliar to them and left behind family and the uncertain life as Germany rebuilt after the war. They did not know a single soul! But that did not stop them. They were greeted with kindness and so many who were willing to be helpful. Many of you were here at Zion when the Grunwalds joined and what a beautiful example you have given us. Being kind is not difficult... it is seeing the value in all people, seeing them the way Jesus does. Greeting each other with love and compassion, whether the person is known or unknown is the way to live a life of service. This is our call! As age slows us down and we are not able to do what we did, this is not an excuse for Christa. At 93, she still finds ways to serve, like by singing “*Silent Night*” in German with her two daughters this year. She shows us that as long as we breathe, we have a ministry to live out and nothing is too small to offer our God and those who worship Him! Let’s continue to ‘Be the Church’ in a world that needs hope and more kindness.

Interview by Mary Ann Marcantonio
Zion Lutheran Church Archivist

Worship Opportunities



Christ the King Sunday

A Journey through the Seasons

A special liturgy on Sunday, November 20th, at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services to help us wrap up the liturgical year and remind us of all that we have seen, heard, and learned.



Thanksgiving WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, November 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Christ Reformed United Church of Christ
12 South Church Street, Middletown, MD

Worship Services Schedule

Saturday: 5 p.m. Casual Worship

Sunday Services: 9 a.m. Contemporary Worship & 11 a.m. Traditional Worship

Worship Service Viewing Options:

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

A WORD FROM THE VALLEY

A PODCAST FROM ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
MIDDLETOWN, MD

A Word from the Valley is a new podcast that features Pastor Diane and Pastor Matt's sermons, Pastor Diane's Lectio Divina, 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.



ADVENT



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Midweek Worship for Advent:

Waiting on the Lord: Midweek Worship for Advent

Exploring the Songs of Advent

Each Wednesday evening during Advent we will have our Midweek Advent meal and worship service. The meal begins at 6:00 p.m. and worship is at 7:00 p.m. During the worship service there will be activities for children in the Living Library. Be sure to join us!

Family Advent Event—December 8th

Join us on Friday, December 8th, at 6:00 p.m. for our Family Advent Event. We will begin at 6 p.m. with dinner and after dinner we will have Christmas crafts and a special snack!

Please RSVP to Wendi so we have enough supplies:

wendik@zionmiddletown.org



JOIN US FOR CHRISTMASTIDE

Hope
is born



Christmas Eve Worship

4 p.m.

Family Worship

7 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

Candlelight Worship

*Service of
Lessons & Carols!*

Join us via Facebook Live
on Sunday, December 25th, at 10:00 a.m.
for an online worship service of lessons
and carols.

THERE WILL NOT BE AN
IN-PERSON SERVICE ON
DECEMBER 25TH.

THE NAME OF JESUS

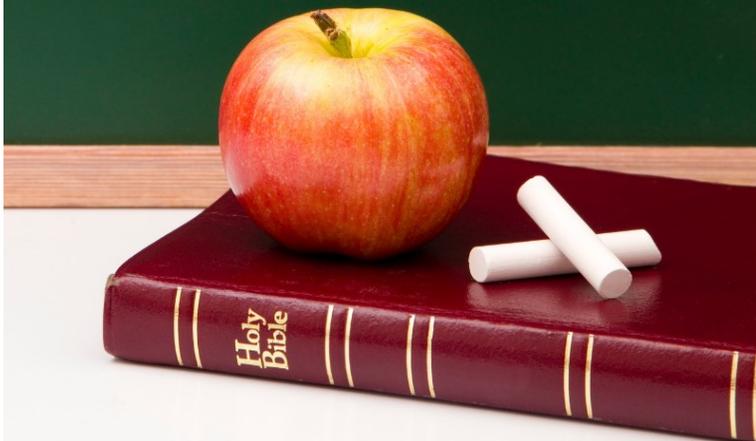
We will have combined
worship on

Sunday, January 1 at 10am
to commemorate Jesus being
taken to the Temple for the
custom of being named.

Worship on Saturday night at
5pm will also be held.

Christian Education

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Don't Forget
Adult Forum—Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Meets in the Chapel

SUNDAY SCHOOL EDUCATION

SUNDAYS AT 10 A.M.

**ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, &
HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES**



Visit our Website:
WWW.ZIONMIDDLETOWN.ORG

Theology and Bible

TABLE TALK

Food and Drink

FIRST THURSDAY
OF THE MONTH

6pm at the Main Cup

Have you ever wanted to explore theology in a way that is not intimidating or hard to understand? Do you enjoy eating out with friends? Do you want to learn more about your faith? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you need to join us for Table Talk!

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

» Footprints «
December 11, 2022

» Family Fun! «
*Family Advent Event
December 9, 2022 at 6:00 pm*
*Christmas Caroling 🎵
December 22, 2022 at 6:00 pm*

» Christmas
Pageant «
*Rehearsals
December 8, 2022 at 6:00 pm
December 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm*
*Pageant
December 18, 2022 at 6:30 pm*

**YOUTH
&
FAMILY**

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, activity and craft. We will return to worship in time for communion. If we have a 10 a.m. Combined Worship—we will also have Footprints at that service. Questions? Contact Wendi: wendik@zionmiddletown.org

2022-2023 Footprints Upcoming Dates

December 11th
January 29th
March 12th

January 8th
February 12th
April 9th

Let's kick off Christmas break with...



CHRISTMAS CAROLING!

Thursday Dec. 22nd • 6-8pm • Welcome All!!

We will meet at the church at 6pm and plan to leave by 6:10, please be on time! Chris Derr will be pulling a hay wagon with his tractor and we will make a few stops per neighborhood to spread Christ's love through carols. Dress warm and bring blankets! We will share cocoa and cookies upon arrival back at church around 7:45 pm.

Questions: Contact Jamie Derr 301-305-9796



READY, GET SET, BAKE!

Cookie Exchange

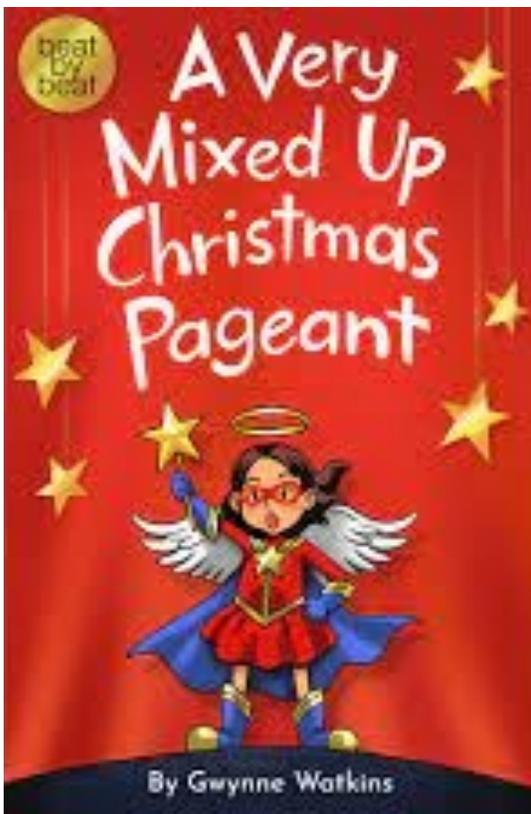
Ladies, come enjoy a fun night with food, drinks, and fellowship!

FRIDAY, DEC. 16, 2022 • 6PM
JILL LIZZI'S HOME
102 PROSPECT ST., MIDDLETOWN

Cookie baking is optional, so please come even if you don't want to exchange cookies.

FOR COOKIE EXCHANGE: Bring 5 dozen cookies of your choice (10 bags with 6 cookies in each bag).

RSVP to Jill Lizzi at 301-514-5736 or jillana.lizzi@gmail.com



You are Invited! **Sunday, December 18th** “A Very Mixed Up Christmas Pageant”

What happens when kids show up to perform a traditional Christmas Pageant...in their Halloween costumes?! That's what happens in this contemporary spin on a traditional nativity play. It's up to their youth director to improvise her way through the story of Jesus' birth in a hilarious and heartfelt way that connects biblical figures with modern day superheroes, villains, and more. In the end, everyone learns that perhaps being a little bit “mixed-up” is something we can all rejoice in. **The show begins at 6:30 p.m.—doors open at 6:00 p.m.**

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Schedule:

December 8th & 15th

6:00 p.m.

Program:
December 18th @ 6:30 p.m.

Rehearsals will begin with dinner and then rehearsal in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to participate! Contact Wendi with any questions.

wendik@zionmiddletown.org

Confirmation

Monthly Confirmation Gathering

Confirmation classes are on the first Sunday of every month from 4:00—6:00 p.m. available both in-person and on Zoom. Stick around for Youth Group and dinner, from 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.



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!

We Need Your Help To Support Our Youth!

Youth events would not be possible without—YOU! We need adults to help with various events throughout the year, interested?

Contact Wendi:
wendik@zionmiddletow.org or
301-371-6500, ext. 203

Footprints



Day Off Program



Community Events

MIDDLETOWN'S 2022 CHRISTMAS IN THE VALLEY

Saturday, December 3, 2022 4 - 8:30 pm

4-5:30pm & 6:30-8:30pm Visit with Santa Outside Town Hall

4 - 7:00pm (every ½ hour) Story Telling with Mrs. Claus
On More's Ice Cream's Porch

4:00pm -7:00pm Photo op w/ Frosty
Middletown Valley Bank



4:30, 5:00, 5:30, 6:30pm ♪ Mr. Jon & Friends ♪ Wren's Nest
104 West Main Street (upstairs)

6:00pm Lighting of the Town Tree
Caroling with MHS Chorus
Santa Comes to Town



7:00pm Holiday Music Program
Zion Lutheran Church
Punch & Cookies (Zion's Social Hall)



Throughout the Evening, on Main Street, enjoy...

The Frederick Catactones Caroling
Donuts at Bobbi Prescott, ReMax Results **6 East Main Street**
Roasting Marshmallows with the Scouts
Making a reindeer treat at **19 WEST MAIN STREET** with MHS's NAHS

Bring a Toy! Get a Santa Sack!

Bring an UNWRAPPED TOY for 12 & Under to Christmas in the Valley
and receive a Santa Sack from **MAIN STREET MIDDLETOWN**



That evening, visit participating businesses between 4-7:00pm
to have your Santa Sack filled with Goodies.

Thanksgiving Day through December

Find the Elves

1. Pick up Entry Ballot at Town Hall
2. Look in businesses' windows in **MAIN STREET Downtown MIDDLETOWN**
3. Drop Off Ballot at Town Hall * For Prizes *

2022 Christmas in the Valley Ornament
16th in the series



This year's collectible ornament depicts the school building at 103 Prospect Street. This was a state-of-the-art public school between 1908 and 1952. Today, it is the home of St. Thomas More Academy.

The cost is \$30
Includes ornament stand & gift box

All proceeds from ornament sales fund the Christmas in the Valley Event

Write a Letter to Santa

1. Please include a SASE to help out the Elves.
2. Mail your letter to Santa at Town Hall on **MAIN STREET MIDDLETOWN**

Christmas in the Valley is

Sponsored by 
the Town of Middletown
<https://www.middletown.md.us>



Christmas in the Valley - Volunteers Needed

Join us in celebrating the beginning of the holiday season at Middletown's annual Christmas in the Valley celebration, **Saturday, December 3rd, at 7:00 p.m.**

We need approximately 10-15 adult volunteers to help at the church. If you can help please contact Wendi Kishimoto:

wendik@zionmiddletown.org or 301-371-6500, et. 203

Ways to Give



Give something **unexpected** this Christmas.

ELCA Good Gifts

These little gifts make the perfect stocking stuffer or the perfect gift for the person who already has everything!

ELCA Good Gifts gives people in developing countries the tools necessary for school supplies, vaccines and farm animals.

Here is how it works: Pick an ornament off the tree (Located in the chapel) and either visit elca.org/goodgifts or drop a check/cash in the offering plate (Make sure you mark that it is for ELCA Good Gifts). 100% of the proceeds to the good gifts program goes directly to the people who need them. Check out the graphic for possible ideas.

God's Global Barnyard

An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell at the market. With one gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.



\$50

Cow

A cow's milk, meat, fertilizer and calves can quickly strengthen a family's financial security.



\$10

Chicks

Chicks begin laying eggs at just a few months old, offering nutritious, protein-rich meals for families who are hungry.



\$50

Goat

Fresh milk from a goat is very nutritious and can be used to make products like yogurt and cheese to sell at the market.



\$20

Honeybees

Bees pollinate plants and boost crop growth — helping the wider community. Soaps and candles can be made from their wax and sold at the local market.



\$30

Pig

Within months after birth, piglets grow to weigh over 200 pounds — bringing a big payoff at the market.



\$250

Fish Farm

A fish farm and training in good business economics can provide a lifetime of meals for a community.

Give through your congregation by visiting

ELCA.org/goodgifts or by sending a check to

ELCA Good Gifts, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.

Please indicate your gift in the memo line of your check.

ELCA.org/goodgifts

ELCAMA1352



WEEKEND BACKPACKS

Hunger doesn't take the weekend off

The weekend Backpack Ministry meets the needs of students on the weekends when they do not receive food at school. The critical need item for November is canned chicken or tuna. For December, it is chicken noddle, tomato soup or ramen noodles. You may drop off your donation in the box outside of the Chapel.

Poinsettia Orders and Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Monetary Gifts

The Altar Guild will be accepting poinsettia orders and LWR monetary gifts through November 27, 2022. You may fill out the order forms below or pick up order forms for poinsettias and LWR gifts outside the Church Office. Please complete the appropriate form and mail it with your check to the church or drop it off at the Church Office after the Saturday evening or Sunday morning services.



2022 POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Poinsettia orders will be accepted through November 27, 2022. Poinsettias are \$10.00 each. Please be sure to indicate below how many poinsettias you will be picking up. You may pick them up after the last Christmas Eve service.

Orders will be accepted by completing the form below and mailing it with a check to Zion Lutheran Church, 107 West Main Street, Middletown, MD 21769. Please mark your envelope "Poinsettia". You may also drop it off at the Church office before or after any service. **Orders must be received by November 27. No orders after that date please.**

2022 Order Form for Poinsettias

Each Poinsettia is \$10.00

Total Amount enclosed \$_____

In Memory of:

Given by:

In Honor of:

Given by:

I will pick up ____ poinsettias (Put in number you are picking up)



**Monetary Gift in Memory or Honor of
Loved One
(Alternative to Poinsettia)**

Zion is providing an opportunity to remember or honor a loved one with a monetary gift to Lutheran World Relief (LWR)—an alternative to purchasing a poinsettia. Each gift is \$10.00. All gifts will be combined to make a purchase from the LWR gift catalog to help a family and/or a community in need.

Monetary gifts will be accepted through November 27, 2022, by completing the form below and mailing it with a check to Zion Lutheran Church, 107 West Main Street, Middletown, MD 21769. Please mark your envelope “Monetary Gift for LWR”. You may also drop it off at the Church Office before or after any service.

2022 Monetary Gift for LWR

Each gift is \$10.00

Total Amount enclosed \$_____

In Memory of:

Given by:

In Honor of:

Given by:



Middletown Valley People Helping People

Adopt a Family

Gift Card

MVPHP is collecting for Christmas holiday assistance again this year, but due to rising costs, we have increased the amount of giving for each family. Gift cards were increased to \$100 for each child and \$100 per family for a grocery card.

If you would like to adopt-a-family, please email Donna Jean Brandenburg at djb6025139@gmail.com, or call MVPHP at 301.371.3119 and leave your name, phone number and the size family you are interested in adopting.

If you would rather donate toys, hats, gloves or general gift cards, that would greatly appreciated too! Gift cards should be received by Wednesday, December 7, 2022. Donations can be dropped off either at the Middletown Town Hall next door to our church during their regular business hours M-F 8am to 4pm or in front of the Safeway on Sunday, November 27, 2022, between 1:30pm to 4pm to a MVPHP member.

Many thanks for your continued support and generosity!
~Donna Jean Brandenburg



Operation Christmas Child— Update!

Thank you for your continued support of this program each year at Zion. Linda Huckleberry and Linda Sanders coordinated this ministry for Zion and as of November 18th we collected 108 filled shoe boxes. Stay tuned to the weekly announcements for the final shoe box count and photos of the delivery of boxes! Zion's continued support is greatly appreciated!

Music Ministry

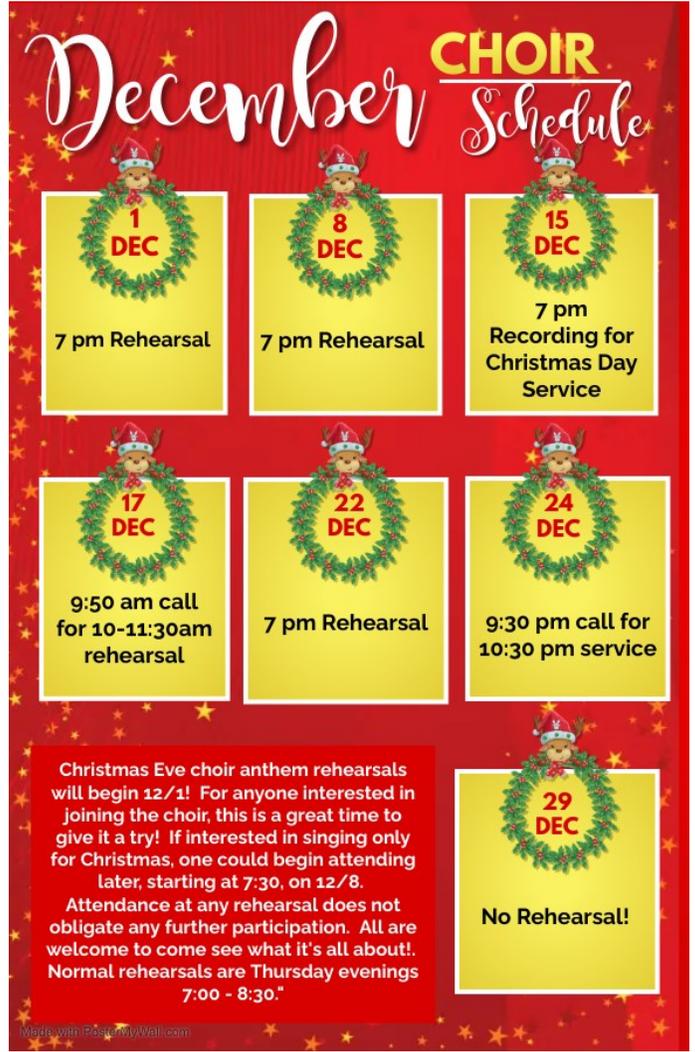


Handbell Schedule

11/22	7 PM
12/6	7 PM
12/13	7 PM
12/20	7 PM
12/24 (Perform)	7 PM

Current Members: Clinton Appleby, Doug Davis, Chris Derr, Linda Huckleberry, Pat McIntosh, Bruce McIntosh, Mary Ann Marcantonio, Lori Odell, Olivia Rogers, Bobby Staples, and Cindy Unangst

A new schedule for next season will be posted soon!



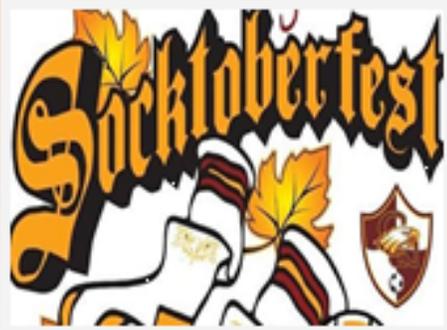
December **CHOIR** Schedule

1 DEC 7 pm Rehearsal	8 DEC 7 pm Rehearsal	15 DEC 7 pm Recording for Christmas Day Service
17 DEC 9:50 am call for 10-11:30am rehearsal	22 DEC 7 pm Rehearsal	24 DEC 9:30 pm call for 10:30 pm service
<p>Christmas Eve choir anthem rehearsals will begin 12/1! For anyone interested in joining the choir, this is a great time to give it a try! If interested in singing only for Christmas, one could begin attending later, starting at 7:30, on 12/8.</p> <p>Attendance at any rehearsal does not obligate any further participation. All are welcome to come see what it's all about!. Normal rehearsals are Thursday evenings 7:00 - 8:30."</p>		29 DEC No Rehearsal!!

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Ministry Updates



Zion Quilters would like to thank the congregation and the community for supporting us in our sock drive during the month of October!

We delivered *633 socks* to the Frederick Rescue Mission, who received with much gratitude! Our heartfelt **THANKS** to everyone!

Lee had crushed, counted, and recycled...

204,890 cans...

before his machine broke!!

But don't worry, he's getting a new one and he'll be back to crushing for our youth activities' fund real soon!!

As always Lee says, "Keep em' coming!"



Are you looking for a gift this Christmas? Consider giving your time!



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS PLEASE READ!

Bre Bybel works hard to put together our S.I.G.H. (Servants in God's House) schedules, and we are so grateful for her!! You can stay on top of the current assigned jobs by simply accessing the [Member Page](#) of our website. Scroll down to Worship Assistant Information, and click on the service time that you usually attend. This will bring you to our most up-to-date schedule for that week.

We are trying to do our best to keep up with changes to the schedules, but bulletins are sometimes printed as early as Wednesday. If you have a conflict, please let either Bre or the Office know as soon as possible.

Thank you so much for your help each week! We really appreciate all of you!! 22



Zion's Prayer Team

Zion's Prayer Team meets Sunday evenings at 6 p.m. via Zoom. All prayer requests are confidential. To submit a request, just fill out a slip of paper by the prayer wall and insert it in one of the slots or you can call the Church Office at 301-371-6500 and they will contact a team participant. You also can contact a team participant directly. Our contact information is in the church directory. As soon as we receive a request, each prayer team participant is contacted immediately and prayers begin! Any updates from you on submitted requests are appreciated. We welcome anyone who would like to join us. Just contact any team participant to get the Zoom information. Team Members: Linda Huckleberry, Trish Tollefson, Karen Hollis, Skippy Zimmerman, Jo Ann Poffinberger, and Diana Baker.



Visitation Ministry Update

I began overseeing Zion's Visitation Ministry on November 1st, as well as being a volunteer for visits myself. My heart has a soft spot for hearing the stories of our elders and I enjoy visits with those who just find themselves in a place in life where it's just not possible to physically worship with their Zion brothers and sisters in person. Our Visitation Ministry is in need of 1-2 more volunteers. Our volunteers typically visit 1 person a month. The visits are usually 1-2 hours. It is not a lot of time, but there is so much JOY to be had through the connecting conversations you will experience. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at

rstaples17@comcast.net or via phone at 301-606-0041 with a text or a call. 2023 is looking bright! See you at Zion!

Be kind and compassionate
to one another, forgiving each other,
just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32



Zion Lutheran Church Social Room

107 West Main Street

Tuesday, December 13th

12:00 p.m.

**Turkey & all the fixings luncheon
with Christmas Music**

\$10/per person

This is an opportunity for 50 years and older Middletown Valley adults to socialize and enjoy a hot meal. Please make reservations for the December 13, 2022 meal by December 8, 2022 to 301-371-6500 or amasser202@comast.net

2023

Beginning January 18, 2023 we invite you to join us on the third Wednesday of each month for a hot meal and fellowship!

Stewardship

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

-I Peter 4:10



Zion Stewardship
2023 Pledge Report as of November 15, 2022

<u>Total # Received</u>	<u>\$ Pledged</u>	<u>Goal of \$ Pledged</u>
63	\$231,514	\$447,297

It's not too late to turn in your cards! Send them to the Financial Secretary or place them in the box in the Sanctuary.

End of Year Contributions

All offerings to be credited for 2022 need to be dated no later than December 31, 2022 and in the church office by January 3, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Statements will go out to all members who contributed in 2022 by the end of January. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Deb Reichelt at treasurer@zionmiddletown.org or Kaye Derr at financialsecretary@zionmiddletown.org or call 301-371-6500.

End of Year Reimbursements

For 2022, all bills and receipts that need reimbursements, please have in the Office by Friday December 31, 2022. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Deb Reichelt at treasurer@zionmiddletown.org or call the office at 301-371-6500

Zion Lutheran Church

COMMEMORATIVE BRICK FUNDRAISER ORDER FORM

These custom engraved bricks will be installed in the Memorial Garden around the cross and the circle area in front of the cross

Your commemorative brick is a wonderful opportunity to leave a lasting legacy Zion Lutheran Church.

Bricks can be engraved with your name, or to honor or remember an important person, event, family, accomplishment, or donated as a special gift.

Each 4 x 8 brick costs \$100.00.

Your inscription must fit into the white boxes below, 1 character per box. Each brick can have a maximum of 15 characters per line. A character is defined as a letter or a number, a space or punctuation mark.

USE UPPER CASE BLOCK LETTERS. PLEASE PRINT CAREFULLY!

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO

Zion Lutheran Church
107 West Main Street
Middletown, MD 21769

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Contact Number _____

Email* _____ *Important

Make checks payable to "Zion Lutheran Church". Include "Brick Fundraiser" in Memo Section.

For more information, please email Wendi Kishimoto: wendik@zionmiddletown.org

HOLIDAY HOURS



Office Hours-Thanksgiving Week

The Church Offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, November 24th—Friday, November 25th. If there is a pastoral emergency, call the Church Office and follow the instructions on the voicemail.

Office Closure-Christmas 2022

The Church Offices will be closed from Monday, December 26th—Friday, December 30th. If there is a pastoral emergency, call the Church Office and follow the instructions on the voicemail.

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. We meet on the last Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot.

*****we will not have a gathering in December*****



GRIEF SHARE

GriefShare Spring February 27 – May 22, 2023

The Spring cycle of GriefShare will begin on Monday, February 27th and will end on Monday, May 22nd. GriefShare is a support group designed to help and provide encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. The program is nondenominational and features biblical concepts for healing your grief. The group meets weekly for 13 sessions and there are three key parts to each session:

- ✦ Video Seminar
- ✦ Support Group discussion
- ✦ Workbook for personal study

Meetings will be held in the Living Library at Zion Lutheran Church and is offered from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. If you have questions about GriefShare and want to talk with one of the leaders, please call Zion Church at 301-371-6500

****Official Notice****

Town Hall and Annual Meeting Dates!

Town Hall—Sunday, January 29, 2023
at 10:00 a.m.

Town Hall—Wednesday, February 1, 2023
at 6:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting—February 5, 2023

Snow Date—February 12, 2023

****stay tuned for annual meeting
information****



**Have you signed up for
Constant Contact?**

Zion has a Constant Contact weekly email that comes out
on Fridays. If you aren't
getting it and want to sign up call or email the Church
Office:

301-371-6500 or
office@zionmiddletown.org

**Church Decorating—
November 29th**

**Altar Guild members will be
decorating the church for
Christmas on November
29th 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. We always
have fun decorating. We
hope you can join us!**

A poster for 'STORIES IN SONG: A Frederick Chorale Christmas'. The background is dark blue with a glowing Christmas tree on the right and musical notes floating in the air. A photo of the chorale performing is in the center. Text includes dates and times for December 4 and 5, the church address, and contact information for the chorale.

**STORIES
IN SONG**
A Frederick Chorale Christmas

DECEMBER 4 • 4 p.m.
DECEMBER 5 • 7:30 p.m.
St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
118 E. 2nd St. • Frederick, MD 21701

FREE ADMISSION
Donations Welcome

**THE
Frederick
CHORALE**
EST. 1977

info@frederickchorale.org
www.frederickchorale.org



Upcoming Noisy Offerings

**November 19th & 20th—to
benefit ELCA World Hunger**

**December 17 & 18th—to
benefit Frederick Rescue Mission**



*We remember those who died
this past year...*

Shawn Armstrong
Jacqueline Bandy
Phyllis Beachley
Josephine Bole
Ruth Davis
Amy Dean
John Graybeal
Elizabeth Graybeal
Flo Harrison
Gene Ifert
Joan King
Brendan Kinna
Glenn Kinna
Frances Lantz
Tony Magturo
CJ Minnick
Ken Olander
Gertrude Reichelt
Don Reineke
Robin Rezash
John Thomas Routzahn, Jr.
Beth Sakemiller
Matthew Schaffert
Don Shafer
Susan Stuart
Richard "Rick" Summers
Phyllis Thompson
Rick Unangst
Osborne "Oz" Wachter
Clinton Wimsatt

With Sympathy



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

**Jacqueline Bandy
Phyllis Beachley
Josephine Bole
Amy Dean
Flo Harrison
Glenn Kinna
Frances Lantz
Tony Magturo
Richard "Rick" Summers
Osborne "Oz" Wachter
Clinton Wimsatt**

*All Saints' Day
November 1*

**Dear holy saints of God, we join our prayers of
praise to yours this day.**

**With you, we sing of God's goodness, rejoice in
God's mercy and celebrate God's incredible
love.**

**Teach us to live as you lived—always thinking of
others, always recognizing our weaknesses,
always rejoicing in God's gifts, always closely
following Jesus.**

**Blessed are you, happy are you, all you holy
saints of God. Pray for us that we, too, may
someday be among God's Holy Ones.**

Amen.

*Celebrating 50 years of
Membership at
Zion Lutheran Church*

*Ike Ahalt
Lois Ahalt
Debbie Fox
David Huffer
Kathy Huffer
Dale McAllister
Ann Pond*



FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATED ON
OCTOBER 30, 2022

Eva Grace Gordon

Caroline Rose Kearney

*Welcome
baby girl!*

Jana and Matthew Horne Welcomed

Daisy Joyce Horne

On October 24, 2022 at Virginia Hospital Center

Welcomed by siblings:

Lily, Jack, Timothy, Rosie & Denali

Grandparents: Ike and Lois Ahalt

Great Grandfather: John Burrier



2023 Daily Texts

Devotionals are available at the Welcome Center for a \$10 donation.

Flower Chart 2023

The 2023 flower chart will be posted outside the Living Library the weekend of November 26, 2022. Unfortunately, due to rising costs Bloomers is increasing the cost of the altar flowers to \$62.00 (which includes two arrangements and delivery), effective January 1, 2023. Thanks to everyone who signed up for altar flowers this past year. They are always appreciated and enjoyed by the Congregation and by those that we deliver them to after the services.



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 2022

- **Engagement and Outreach**
- **Education**
- **Stewardship**

Zion Financial Update

Zion's Giving Update: Year to Date ~ October 31, 2022



Budget/Income Information– YTD as of October 31, 2022

YTD proposed budget income \$507,651.16. vs YTD Actual Income \$481,018

YTD proposed budget expenses \$533,612. vs YTD Actual Expenses \$516,379

**** Actual income is less expenses by \$35,361 ****



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!