

THE BEACON

A Ministry of Zion Lutheran Church

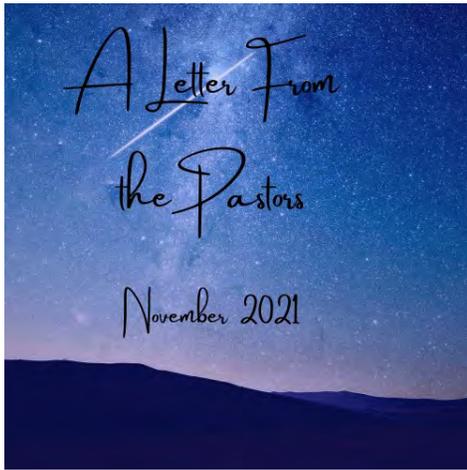
Winter 2021 Edition

Upcoming Events and Service Opportunities

- **Sunday, November 21st** at 7:00 p.m.— Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Transfiguration Church
- **Wednesday, November 24th—Friday, November 26: *Church Offices Closed***
- **Wednesday, December 1st** at 6:00 p.m.—Midweek Advent Meal
- **Wednesday, December 1st** at 7:00 p.m.—Midweek Advent Worship and Children's Activities
- **Thursday, December 2nd** at 5:30 p.m.—Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- **Thursday, December 2nd** at 6:00 p.m.— Table Talk at Main Cup
- **Saturday, December 4th** at 7:00 p.m.— Christmas in the Valley Program at Zion
- **Wednesday, December 8th** at 6:00 p.m.— Midweek Advent Meal
- **Wednesday, December 8th** at 7:00 p.m.—Midweek Worship and Children's Activities
- **Thursday, December 9th** at 5:30 p.m.—Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- **Wednesday, December 15th** at 6:00 p.m.— Midweek Advent Meal
- **Wednesday, December 15th** at 7:00 p.m.—Blue Christmas Worship Service and Children's Activities
- **Thursday, December 16th** at 5:30 p.m.—Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- **Sunday, December 19th** at 6:30 p.m.—Christmas Pageant
- **Wednesday, December 22nd** at 6:00 p.m.—Midweek Advent Meal
- **Wednesday, December 22nd** at 7:00 p.m.—Midweek Advent Worship and Children's Activities
- **Friday, December 24th:** Christmas Eve Services at 4:00, 7:00 and 10:30 p.m.
- **Sunday, December 26th** at 10:00 a.m.— Virtual Worship Services
- **Monday, December 27th-Friday, December 31st—*Church Offices Closed***

Zion Lutheran Church Middletown, MD

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



Dear friends in Christ,

I went back and looked at past newsletter articles that I wrote for the last few years and I noticed a common theme on why we should bother with Advent, especially when the rest of the world doesn't seem to be bothered by Advent at all. Pumpkin spice lattes are available in August, why can't we just sing Christmas music as we go trick or treating? For all the fuss that we make about Christmas, it is really a minor feast day in our liturgical calendar when compared to say Easter. Christmas is only 12 days where Easter is celebrated for 50 days. Advent, when you compare it to Christmas, is a much longer liturgical season, yet we often want to skip it and move right to the "good stuff." Though, I am not sure what the good stuff exactly is: The savior of the world was born in a stable/barn/cave because nobody in the town had the room or was willing to make the room for a woman with a child. "Good" is a relative term.

Advent is the perfect counter-cultural, gospel-like thing to do in the world today. I have always been curious why the world tells us we should not bother with Advent. "Oh pastor, just let us sing Christmas carols in December; what harm will it do?" "Pastor, just make the 12 days of Christmas before December 25 and not after; that way more people will participate." Why is the world afraid of us celebrating Advent? Why the need to rush to Christmas before I finish eating my kid's Halloween candy?

Advent is not the time we prepare for Christ's birth. I hate to burst people's bubbles, but Jesus has already been born. That happened two thousand years ago and the preparations that humanity took were pretty lousy. The world was not ready for the birth of Jesus and we did a lousy job welcoming Jesus. I really don't know how we could do a better job a second time around. Yes, Advent is that time when we prepare, but we prepare for our Lord's coming again, not his birth. We prepare by reading prophetic and apocalyptic texts to help us talk about the return of our Lord. They might not be the most enjoyable things we read but they are important, especially in a world that focuses on instant gratification. What does it mean to wait?

Advent is also not the time we prepare for Christmas. We don't need a month to prepare for Christmas. Let's be honest. It doesn't take us a month to hang Christmas decorations. These days, you can do all your shopping from your phone and have it delivered right to your doorstep. If you go to Disney World, they go from Halloween to Christmas in less than a few hours. We don't need a month to prepare for Christmas. I am always stunned to learn that we spend one trillion dollars a year globally on Christmas, which is fascinating to think when you read the story and learn just how poor Jesus and his family was. All the stuff we do to "get ready" for Christmas, I often wonder if any of it brings us closer to God? One trillion dollars later, are we any closer in our relationship with God? Advent stands in stark contrast to the ways of the world. Advent beckons us to focus not on the superficial things, but on the things that matter. What does it mean that Christ will come again? What implications does this belief really have on you and the way you are living?

So, I hope you participate in Advent this year. Do a daily devotional. Make yourself an Advent wreath and light it each day. To be honest, the Advent Wreath was originally a home devotional tool that the church took and began to use in corporate worship. In doing this, I think the Advent Wreath lost the power it had as a home devotional tool. So, bring it back to your homes this year. At Zion, we have some wonderful resources such as a devotional and Advent Calendars that you can use. And if you need some gift ideas, I really encourage you to purchase from ELCA Good Gifts. Listen, we all got a lot of stuff. I don't need any more stuff in my life. However, there are many people in the developing world that can use some chickens, goats, cows to make their lives better, their community better and eventually, make the world better. You can give the gift of chickens, goats, cows, etc. and make a significant impact on someone else this Advent and Christmas season. Last year, I gave out a number of these to my friends and family. They were a huge hit! My favorite part about the ELCA Good Gifts program is that 100% of what you donate goes to the people in need. That is because congregations support the ELCA through mission support. Part of our mission support dollars that we give every year goes to cover the administrative costs associated with ELCA Good Gifts. There will be a display with all Advent Devotionals, calendars, and information about the ELCA Good Gifts in the chapel. Be sure to check it out and take advantage of all that we have to offer this Advent season.

Blessings,



Pastor Matt



Pastor Matt got the fun theological reflecting time on Advent, so I get the nuts and bolts of what tools we have here as a community of Zion to prepare for our Lord's coming. Oh where to begin!

Advent Calendars- Who doesn't love an Advent Calendar? It's always so fun to pull back those windows as each day passes. We'll be handing those out to our young ones on November 28th during worship. We'll put the extras out in Chapel the week after if you want one too!

Advent Devotionals- For some, Advent is a great time to prepare our hearts by being attentive to scripture. This year's devotionals come from ELCA World Hunger. They tell stories of how the work we do as the ELCA effects the daily lives of people around the globe. They also provide questions to help us think about how God is calling us to live out our identity as disciples every day. Look for these eye-opening resources in the Chapel.

ELCA Good Gifts Tree- As Pastor Matt shared, Good Gifts are the perfect gift for someone who has it all but more importantly, they are gifts that give life every day to those in need. From warm blankets to PPE supplies, there is a meaningful, helpful gift that is needed somewhere in this world. There will be a tree in the Chapel with ornaments that you can give as a memento to let people know what you have bought them in their honor. Please consider how you can honor beloved friends and family by giving life to others.

Sunday Worship- We will have some of our beautiful traditions of lighting the Advent Wreath and having our beautiful Chrismon trees thanks to the Altar Guild. We will also have the theme of *Voices in the Wilderness* calling us to preparation by using some different modes of learning as part of the sermon and continuing into the Adult Faith Connection time. This will be especially helpful if you don't always learn best by listening. If you are more a hands-on learner or you learn best by making connections to things you do every day, this is going to be a blast for you!

Midweek Dinner, Children's Activities, and Worship- The cooks are in the kitchen! Please join us on Wednesday nights at 6:00pm for dinner provided by many of our kind groups here at Zion. At 7:00pm we will have activities for our children and we will have Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary. Our theme for Wednesday nights is *Prepare the Royal Highway*. If life is making you feel a bit lost or you're looking for direction, you might want to join us to think about how God can help with that this season.

These are just a few of the ways we as a community at Zion will prepare for our Lord's coming this Advent season. We hope that this season amidst what can be a very chaotic time will also provide moments of stillness to recall what is really important and not just be about the trimmings and trappings. We wish you a blessed Advent and we look forward to celebrating our Lord's coming! Maranatha!

Pastor Riane Ray



Christ the King Sunday

A Journey through the Seasons

A special liturgy on Sunday, November 21st 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.

Worship Services

Saturday:

5 p.m. Casual Worship

Sunday Services:

**9 a.m. Contemporary
Worship**

11 a.m. Traditional Worship

A Community Service of Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 21st, 2021, 7:00 P.M.

The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration

6909 Maryland Avenue • Braddock Heights

The evening's offering will go to support Middletown Valley People Helping People.

(All current mitigation measures will be followed, including masked singing by both choir and congregation)

Zion 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.

Daily Texts

2 0 2 2

Rejoice...Pray...Give Thanks...



For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you!
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Bible texts selected annually by the Moravian Church and shared worldwide since 1731.

SUNDAYS IN ADVENT...

VOICES IN THE WILDERNESS

Reconnect this Advent season as we explore four different themes: Endgame, Prophecy, draw, and blessed. There will be different activities each week to help us explore the word of God.



**2022 Daily Devotionals Daily Texts
Devotionals are available at the
Welcome Center for a \$10.00 donation.**

RECONNECT THIS DECEMBER



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
IN ADVENT
**PREPARE
THE ROYAL
HIGHWAY**

Every Wednesday in
Advent beginning
December 1
Dinner at 6 p.m.
Evening Prayer &
Children's Activity
at 7 p.m.



THE
JOURNEY
to Bethlehem

**Worship with us on
Christmas Eve...**

Family Service 4:00 p.m.
Candlelight Liturgy with orchestral music at 7:00 p.m.
Candlelight Liturgy with choir music at 10:30 p.m.
*All services will be livestreamed to our Facebook page
Zion Lutheran Church Middletown*



Blue Christmas
A service of Healing and
Hope for all who mourn
at Christmas

Wednesday,
December 15
at 7pm
at Zion Lutheran
Church

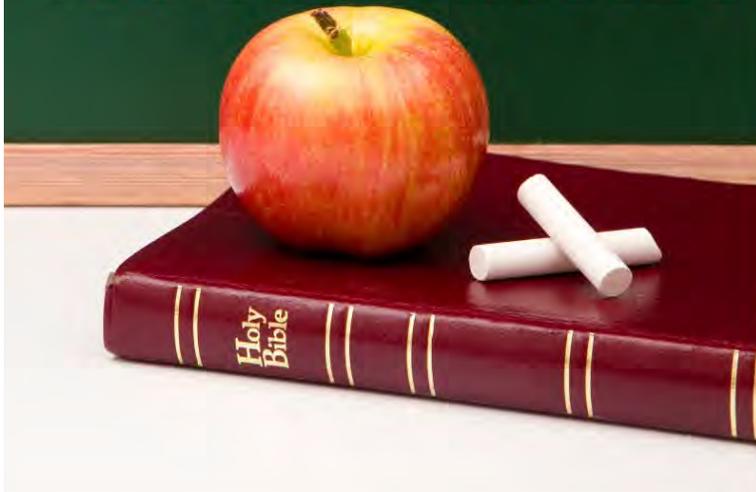
www.ZionMiddletown.org



*Service of
Lessons & Carols!*

*Join us via Facebook Live
on Sunday, December 26th at 10:00 a.m. for
an online worship service of lessons and carols.
THERE WILL NOT BE AN
IN-PERSON SERVICE ON
DECEMBER 26TH.*

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Don't Forget

Adult Forum—Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Meets in the Chapel Every Sunday

Bible Study in January and February



The Revised Common Lectionary (the cycle of readings we use for worship) sometimes provides us with an opportunity to run through parts of some of the books of the Bible. This upcoming January and February, we are welcomed into the community of Corinth. Join Pastors Diane and Matt January 9th through February 1st during the Faith Connection time on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom to learn about Corinth and some of the realities and theology they were learning as they began to be a community following Jesus.

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!



R@D Trip

January 21-23, 2022

Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel Ocean City, MD

Our high school youth will have the opportunity to travel to **Ocean City, Maryland** to participate in a weekend of service projects, faith-filled discussions, and relationship-building in small groups. We will also worship with brothers and sisters in Christ from throughout our Synod. Come make new friends and renew friendships with attendees from throughout our synod! You're invited to learn how God is speaking to and through you – to the world. The cost of the trip is \$125 per student. Registration forms can be found on the Youth and Family bulletin board. For details contact Wendi: wendik@zionmiddletown.org or 301-371-6500, ext. 203



2021-2022 Schedule

Sunday, December 12th
 Sunday, January 9th
 Sunday, February 13th
 Sunday, March 13th
 Sunday, April 10th
 Sunday, May 8th
 Sunday, June 12th

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.

Questions? Contact Wendi:
wendik@zionmiddletown.org



Christmas Pageant

Once a year on Christmas Eve, a special flight departs from Dulles International Airport, EmmanuAir flight 1224. Join us for our children's **Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m.** to see all of the action on the flight...a journey to Bethlehem on the "Nativity Express"

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Schedule:

December 2, 9 & 16

5:30-7:00 p.m.

Program:

December 19th @ 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

2022 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

boundless

GOD BEYOND MEASURE

JULY 24 - 28, 2022 | MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Are you ready for the gathering?

We are bound. Bound by our sin, by the expectations of others, by poverty, by -isms that try to divide us, and by so much more. **In a life that often feels as if it has young people in a suffocating grip, we want them to imagine the boundlessness of God: boundless love, boundless mercy, boundless freedom, boundless creation, boundless strength.** All offered from a gracious and loving God who knows and adores them. All so abundant and endless it cannot be measured. What are the stories of God's people, both in Scripture and modern-day, that share the awe and wonder of just how vast our God is? What does it mean, what does it look and feel like to live a life "filled with all that God is"? How can young people find themselves within the boundlessness of Christ's love?

Are you in 8th grade or High School?

Then you are eligible to participate in the Gather! Seriously, you should come. It will change your life!!!

How Much Does it Cost?

Between \$1500-\$2000, **HOWEVER** we will be offering scholarships and fundraising opportunities to lower the cost. **DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE COST!** If you are willing to work with us, we will work with you!

When does registration start?

Early-bird registration opens September 22. Let Wendi Kishimoto know you are interested and she will get you registered! wendik@zionmiddletown.org

I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is.

EPHESIANS 3:19 CEV

fb.com/youthgathering twitter.com/elcagathering www.elca.org/gathering

#ELCAYG2022



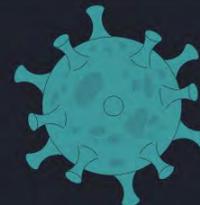
Confirmation

Monthly Confirmation Gathering

Confirmation youth are invited to the monthly gathering on the first Sunday of the month from 4-6 p.m. with dinner provided. Middle School and High School classes meet each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the lower level study lounge across from the preschool room.



COVid-19 UPdate



Zion's Safety Protocols

These protocols are designed to help keep everyone safe!

- CDC currently recommends use of facemasks indoors
- Unvaccinated individuals are required to wear facemasks
- Maintain physical distancing of 6 feet
- If you are unable to maintain physical distancing and are in close contact for more than 15 minutes, please wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status

The COVID taskforce continues to regularly meet to monitor the pandemic progression and make decisions about Zion's operations. It is a tedious balance in considering returning to normal and being mindful of the burden of disease to our members. The following questions have been asked:

- Why are all the windows open in the balcony during the services (despite the weather)? Multiple studies have shown that good ventilation is one of our best assets in promoting a healthy space and preventing the spread of COVID. This practice will continue so you may want to consider wearing an extra layer to church services.
- Should latex gloves be worn by those administering the communion elements? Research studies show that COVID is transmitted by air droplets and rarely by hand/fomite methods. Use of hand sanitizer before distribution is adequate.
- Why is there such variation in mask usage? Our governing agencies do not fully agree on this. CDC recommends mask usage in indoor settings. However, our local government has no mandates. Mask usage needs to be based on vaccination status, risk of severe disease to an individual and personal comfort level.

COVID-19

Am I eligible for a booster shot?

Who?

If you received a Pfizer or Moderna series:

- > 65 years and older
- > Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings
- > Age 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- > Age 18+ who work or live in high-risk settings

If you received a J&J vaccine:

- > Age 18+

When?

- > At least 6 months after Pfizer or Moderna
- > At least 2 months after J&J

Which booster shot do I get?

- > You may have a preference, but you can get any booster shot.



FIND OUT MORE AT [CDC.GOV](https://www.cdc.gov) & [VACCINES.GOV](https://www.vaccines.gov)



106530-01

HOLIDAY HOURS



Office Hours-Thanksgiving Week

The Church Offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday from Wednesday, November 24th—Friday, November 26th. If there is a pastoral emergency, call the Church Office and follow the instructions on the voicemail.

Office Closure-Christmas 2021

The Church Offices will be closed from Monday, December 27th—Friday, December 31st. If there is a pastoral emergency, call the Church Office and follow the instructions on the voicemail.



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.



Cow

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

\$50



Chicks

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

\$10



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.

\$50



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.

\$20



Pig

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

\$30



Fish Farm

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

\$250

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/MSJ

ELCA.org/goodgifts

MINISTRY UPDATES

Property
Committee
News
WINTER
2021

The Property Committee has been busy overseeing all the HVAC issues and is pleased to report that the HVAC Systems for the Chapel have been replaced and are functioning as expected. We have met with Warner Services in regard to the installation of the sanctuary system, as well as the Office area and back of the Social Room/Gardens Edge air conditioning systems. The heat functions in all these areas. The units in question will be installed within the month or so, weather permitting.

We have the needed parts in house to fix the light on the west side of the steeple and will correct that issue shortly. We will run the heat in the Sanctuary a bit warmer to help offset the need for the balcony windows to be open for COVID safety. It will be lowered once the balcony windows are not required to be open.

There have been some minor plumbing issues that have been addressed and continue to be monitored on a weekly basis. The heater has been reinstalled in the Living Library to provide warmth through the winter.

The fence on the west side of the Memorial Garden will be installed in the coming weeks, and we are investigating replacement of the benches in the garden in the Spring. **We are still interested in adding a few more members to the committee as the committee will oversee many of the items that the Facilities Administrator took care of during 2021.**



Clothes Closet News!

The Middletown Community Clothes Closet is in need of storefront volunteers on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Storefront volunteers open the doors and stay with the "shoppers" while they shop. No sorting is involved (unless you want to).

PLEASE contact Patricia Staples at rstaples17@comcast.net or via cell at 301-606-0041 ASAP. You do NOT need to be available on a regular basis. Emails are sent out once a month to ask for volunteers for the next month. You sign up if it works for your schedule.

~ Patricia and Savannah Staples





The Safety and Security Committee met on November 15th to discuss the best ways to re-implement the protocols that were abandoned due to the closing and partial reopening of the church due to COVID. We discussed opening the front doors to the church but decided due to the lack of usher and greeter volunteers at this time, we would put off the opening of the front doors until spring 2022. Members can always exit through these doors, just be sure the door is pulled shut upon exiting. There will be a video of proper safety and security procedures produced and posted to the website. This video will be emailed to all ushers and greeters. We also discussed the purchase of a limited plan cell phone to be

carried by the head usher which will allow greeters and Safety and Security personnel to be in contact with the usher in the sanctuary should there be an issue.

Also discussed was the use of the building by outside groups and committees and them propping open the security doors. This practice puts the building and occupants in harm's way, so we will post at the entrances signage reminding folks to not bypass our security systems that are there to protect them. The security system reports entries via the keypad and notes when it is propped open for an event.

We are in need of a few more members to properly implement the protocols needed to fully reopen the church and hope to have some new members in time for the planned spring full reopening of the church. If you are willing to help with safeguarding our congregation, please contact Jim Hoover at ejhoove@msn.com

Christmas in the
Valley



Christmas In The Valley **Saturday, December 4th**

Zion will be hosting the program for the annual Christmas in the Valley event on Saturday, December 4th. Be sure to bring your whole family to Main Street for activities beginning at

4 p.m. and the tree lighting at 6 p.m. followed by the program at Zion at 7 p.m.

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 4th at 7:00 p.m.** We need approximately 10 adult volunteers to help at the church. If you can help please contact Wendi Kishimoto: wendik@zionmiddletown.org or 301-371-6500, et. 203

Scrap Metal Drive Needs Your Help

The weekly scrap metal collection drive needs your help. They collect weekly on Sundays at Holy Family with the proceeds to benefit the Community Day of Service. The donations are increasing and with that there is a need to have a barn/storage space that can be used to break down and sort the donated items each week. There are also times where an extra trailer is needed to haul the items to the scrap metal yard each week (currently Fridays). If you can help, call the Church Office 301-371-6500.

Visitation MINISTRY

ARE YOU INTERESTED
IN MAKING A
DIFFERENCE IN THE
LIVES OF OUR
HOMEBOUND
MEMBERS?
THEN WE NEED YOU!

Consider joining our visitation ministry. It requires only a few hours of visits each month. Training is available!

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT
FRAN TAYLOR, PASTOR DIANE, OR
PASTOR MATT

Help Needed

Community Day of Service



Make a difference—get involved

Your Community & Zion needs your help.

Would you be willing to join Middletown's Ministerium Day of Service team? We are looking for extra hands on our planning committee. Each church in the valley has representatives that plan, organize and initiate projects that help our community and neighbors in need of assistance on home projects.

Examples: painting projects, yard work cleanup, small home repair projects, etc...

Please contact Deb Reichelt at 301-371-6500 with any questions and for further information.



WEEKEND BACKPACKS

Hunger doesn't take
the weekend off

School is back in session and students are back in their buildings. Our Backpack Ministry will be meeting the needs of students on the weekends when they do not receive food at school. The critical need item for November is individual pasta meals, such as ravioli or spaghetti o's. Please consider donating one of those or writing a check to Zion and put Weekend Backpack on the memo line to help children throughout the school year.

THE CHASUBLE



A less common vestment used in church today is called the chasuble. The chasuble is a eucharistic garment meaning that it is only used for communion services. The garment itself originated from the traditional clothing of the day. In the late Roman Empire, it resembled a casula or “little house” and looked like a poncho. Like many liturgical garments and elements, they all served a practical purpose before the church took them and used them in worship.

The principle idea behind the chasuble is not so much for the pastor to stand out, but to blend into the background. Now, you might ask how that is possible since it is typically very ornate and noticeable by many in the congregation. Notice in the picture on the right just how well the pastor blends into the background. All you really see his face and hands. The rest of his body fades into the background. This is done on purpose as it reminds us that it is not so much the pastor speaking but God speaking through the pastor. In a sense, the chasuble allows God to have all the glory while at the same time, use the pastor to proclaim God’s word through the bread and the wine.



In the 16th century, the design of the chasuble changed slightly to be less poncho like and more shaped like a rectangle. This style of chasuble is called “fiddleback.” Along with their distinct shape, these garments are usually more ornate with imagery like the example on the left. This style of chasuble never really took off with Lutherans in America though other Lutheran bodies throughout the world do use them from time to time. American Lutherans tend to wear the gothic style that resembles a poncho.

Why wear a chasuble? So often worship and the church get associated with the pastor. Is the pastor a good preacher? Can the pastor relate to the congregation? But the church and worship are much bigger than the pastor. Worship is a time when we get to witness God working and speaking through our leaders. God speaks to us through his word in the reading of our lessons by our assigned readers. God speaks through our pastor through the gospel and proclamation. It is comforting to know that it is not by the pastor’s own ability but through the work of God that simple elements of bread and wine can

become the body and blood of Christ despite even our actions that mess it up. This simple little garment reminds us that God is much bigger than any of us and we are the vessels that God uses to bring the gospel.



LIVING A STEWARDSHIP

Life

It is all about your heart...
Everything we have is a gift from God
that we are to use to help others.

Thank you all so very much for walking together as we started reclaiming stewardship as a daily spiritual discipline in our stewardship focus this fall. Thank you to all those who also returned their pledge cards with their commitments of time, talent, and treasure. The Stewardship Committee will be doing our best to followup with you and making sure our committees and ministries here at Zion know of your intentions. WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING PLEDGE CARDS! All of us at Zion will be continuing in this theological reclamation project. May God strengthen us in being good stewards of all that we have been entrusted every day!



Zion Stewardship 2022 Pledge Report as of November 15, 2021

<u>Total # Received</u>	<u>\$ Pledged</u>	<u>Goal of \$ Pledged</u>
113	\$384,385.19	\$442,567.00

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

End of Year Contributions

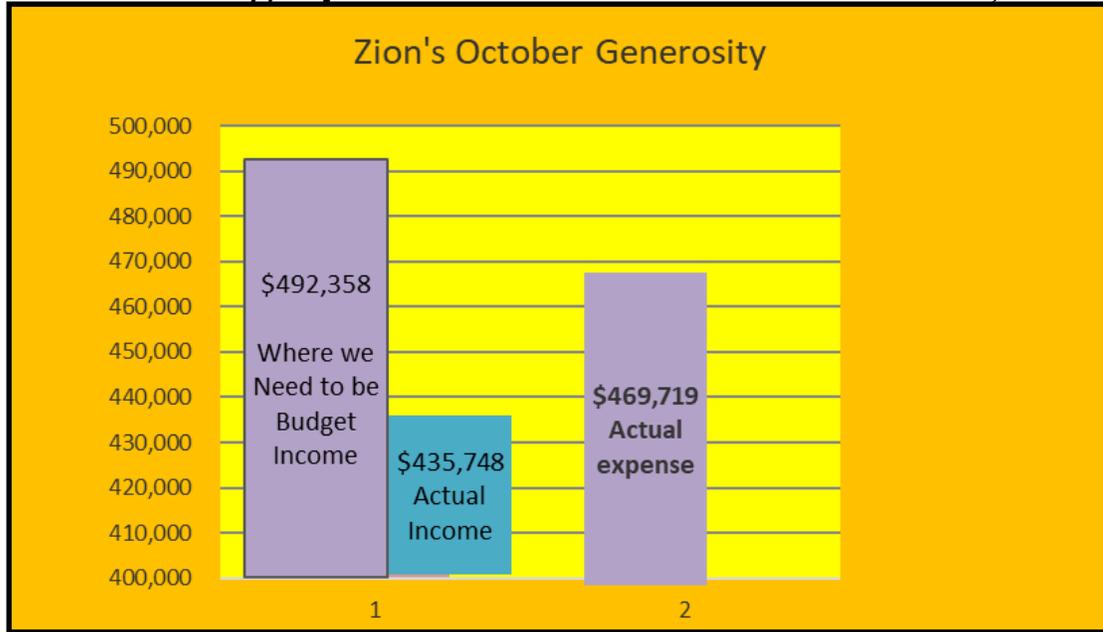
All offerings to be credited for 2021 need to be dated no later than December 31, 2021 and in the church office by January 3, 2022 10:00 a.m. Statements will go out to all members who contributed in 2021 by the end of January. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Deb Reichelt at treasurer@zionmiddletown.org or Kaye Derr at financialsecretary@zionmiddletown.org or call 301-371-6500.

End of Year Re-imbursements

For 2021, all bills and receipts that need re-imbursements, please have in the office by Friday December 31, 2021. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Deb Reichelt at treasurer@zionmiddletown.org or call the office at 301-371-6500

Zion Stewardship

Zion's Giving Update: Year to Date ~ October 31, 2021



Budget/Income Information– YTD as of October 31, 2021

YTD proposed budget income \$492,358.16. vs YTD Actual Income \$435,748.24.

YTD proposed budget expenses \$500,467.08. vs YTD Actual Expenses \$469,718.59

****Actual income is less expenses by \$33,970.35 ****



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 white box next to the bulletins. You can also scan the QR code to be taken to our online giving portal.

AND THANK YOU!

Poinsettia Orders and Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Monetary Gifts

The Altar Guild will be accepting poinsettia orders and LWR monetary gifts through November 28, 2021. All poinsettia orders and LWR gifts must be in by November 28. The forms are below. You may also pick up order forms for poinsettias and LWR gifts outside the Church Office or in the ramp area. Please complete the appropriate form and mail it with your check to the Church or drop it off at the Office on Saturday evening or Sunday morning.



**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. 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 28, 2021, 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.

2021 Monetary Gift for LWR

Each gift is \$9.00	Total Amount enclosed \$_____
In Memory of:	Given by:
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
In Honor of:	Given by:
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



2021 POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Poinsettia orders will be accepted through November 28, 2021. Poinsettias are \$9.00 each. Please be sure to indicate below how many poinsettias you will be picking up. Poinsettias will be available for pick up after the last Christmas Eve service. Any that are left after the service on December 26 will be placed in the church ramp for pick up.

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 28. No orders after that date please.**

2021 Order Form for Poinsettias

Each Poinsettia is \$9.00	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)





From the Archives

50 YEARS AGO...

On January 8th, 2022 Zion will mark the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of our church library. The idea of a library was born in the minds of Pastor Hoover and Peggy Alexander, the church's first librarian, and was located in the lower level below the present day library. Prior to the opening of the library, the books were stored in the Pastor's Study and in the Sunday Church School Office. As recorded in the 1972 Annual Report, "the library was opened with a fine collection of books, recordings and historical items of the church," and the shelving could hold 2,000 books.

Shortly after, tapes and tape recorders were added to the collection. The total cost of the project was \$2,370.72 of which was all donated by the generous members and with the purchase of books and tapes of \$822 from the Rally Day Offering, the library was open for business. Pastor Hoover invested 150 hours of planning for its opening in ordering and checking on books not including the many books he himself had donated from his own personal collection. He writes in his letter for the annual report, "many borrowings of inspirational books and recordings have taken place in our church library."

Mrs. Samuel Remsburg, as a memorial to her late husband, donated a complete set of Martin Luther's Works. It was given the name the "Worker's Library". This room served the congregation until the addition when the current library moved to the main floor occupying the space known as the Men's Bible Class; doubling the size of the first. In 1998, the library was given a face lift with new shelving and a new door. The stained glass window in the door has ten small Biblical scenes each representing a child of the Dillard and Mary House family who have invested in both time and resources to the libraries. A few years after, the library began to face some neglect and became more of a storage closet and not very inviting as to serve as a church library. In 2010 the library was reclaimed for its intended purpose adding furniture for comfort and taken on a new name, "The Living Library."

As COVID is slowly waning and things are beginning to open back up the library could use someone to care for it. The amount of time is minimal, and MaryAnn Marcantonio will be happy to show how easy it is. To learn more about this ministry and how you can serve, please call the Church Office.



Library Historical Display



Adopt *a* Family FOR CHRISTMAS

MVPHP Adopt-A-Family

Middletown Valley People Helping People will be collecting gift cards so families can purchase the gifts. PLEASE also include the activation slip with the card. Gift cards from Walmart, Target, Amazon, Safeway, Giant Eagle, and Weis Markets are acceptable. Cash donations are welcomed so we can purchase the gift cards. A donation box will be located on the table outside of the Church Office. The families will pick up their cards on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, between 3 to 6 p.m.. If you need Christmas assistance, please call MVPHP 301-371-3119 before November 22, 2021. Leave a clear message and phone number. Many thanks for your generous support. Any question, please contact me at 301-371-5139. I take calls til 8pm. Thanks again Donna Jean Brandenburg.



Zion's Handbell Choir Seeking New Members

The Zion handbell ringers are seeking new ringers to fill two upcoming retirements beginning in 2022. Rehearsals are typically every other Tuesday from 7:00 - 8:00. p.m. Only basic music-reading is needed, specifically reading rhythms. If you've ever played an instrument that reads from notated sheet music, you'll likely be able to do well. Positions are available in either clef. If interested, please email rstaples93@gmail.com. Attending a rehearsal doesn't oblige further participation. Feel free to come try a rehearsal or two! Rehearsals will be held December 7th, 14th, and 21st, with new ringers welcome at any time.

Christmas Eve Orchestra Membership Open

Zion's Christmas Eve orchestra has been taking shape lately. Any interested players who have not yet received an email inquiring about their participation, please email rstaples93@gmail.com. In particular, string players are needed this year. Rehearsal will be similar to previous years, held the Saturday before, December 18th from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.



Town Hall and Annual Meeting Dates!

Town Hall—Sunday, January 30th
at 10:00 a.m.

Town Hall—Wednesday, February 2nd
at 6:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting—February 6, 2022

**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



Hope to Faith

**If you have experienced a
loss recently or at any time
in your life, please know
that you are welcome to at-
tend for a time of fellowship
and food! Contact Dixie
Eichelberger at 301-667-
7586 for more information.
We meet on the last Mon-
day of the month at 1:30
p.m. in the parking lot.**



Upcoming Noisy Offerings

November 20th & 21st—to
benefit Habitat for Humanity

December 18th & 19th—to
benefit Frederick Rescue Mission

All Saints Sunday

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

Mitchell Bidle
Lewis Bidle
Glen Burriss
Murray Bussard
Ronnie Butler
Paul Dean
Michael Foy
Betty Harne
Naomi Hayes
Anita Higy
John Holmes
Stephen Hoover
Priscilla Hughes
P. Geraldine "Geri" Keller
Paul Lutz
Harold Martz, Sr.
Christie Miller
Ray Murphy
Deborah Powers
Catherine Stockman
Kenneth Walker
Kurt Witt
Carla Yeager
Corky Ziegler
Barbara Zimmerman

With Sympathy



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

**Lewis Bidle
Paul Dean
Ray Murphy**

*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 our
50 year members*

Paulela Burchill	Amy Lowery
Donnie Dean	Chuck Rapp
P. Keller Dean	Loretta Rapp
Dixie Eichelberger	Ralph Ropp
Rich Fulton	William Routzahn
Susan Harne	Blaine Shatzer
Jim Holder	Mary Shatzer
Lois Holder	Kate Stevens
Joy Howard	Rosella Wilson
Donna Huffer	



Arlo Franklin Bybel
September 23rd
Son of Branan and Matt Bybel
Grandson of Sharon Finley and
Nancy and Ted Bybel
Welcomed by Big Sisters: Fiona and Penelope

Edwin Lee Lichtenberger
September 29th
Son of Stephanie and Ethan Lichtenberger
Grandson of Dana and Ken Lichtenberger

Bradley Urban Bello
October 21st
Son of Michaela and Steven Bello
Great-Grandson of Jackie and Vince Bello



FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATED ON
OCTOBER 31, 2021

Zachary Evan Derr
Eryn Rylee Kline
Zackery Ryan Kline
Owen Page Minchoff
Lucy Noelle Saxton

You are a child of
God, you are
wonderfully made,
dearly loved and
precious in his
sight. -Psalm 139



News to share?

**Please let us know of important events
that have happened over the past few
months? Email or call Wendi:
wendik@zionmiddletown.org
301-371-6500, ext. 203**

Evangelical Lutheran Church Zion
107 W Main Street
Middletown MD 21769

Non-Profit Org.
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Frederick, MD
Permit No. 2205

www.zionmiddletown.org

Treasurer



Thank you to all those that have given to Zion and its ministries over the years. Zion has offered electronic giving for many years, but, did you know it has increased by 300%?

Online Giving Totals

2019—\$47,390	2020—\$174,579	2021—YTD \$192,420
Increase from 2019-2020—280%		Estimated Increase from 2019-2021—over 300%

If you would like to give by bank account or credit card, using your phone, you can do so by downloading Vanco Mobile app or at Zion's website.

To download the Vanco Mobile app, go to the App Store or google Play to download for free. To give using the Vanco Mobile app: search for Zion Lutheran Church, Middletown. Select the amount, fund and frequency for your donation. Enter your payment method (save for future use). Choose if you want to cover the processing fees and then click submit to complete your transaction.

If you need assistance or have any questions, please contact Deb Reichelt at treasurer@zionmiddletown.org or 301-371-6500, ext. 204