



Zion Lutheran Church

A Beacon in the Middletown Valley
www.zionmiddletown.org

Upcoming Events and Service Opportunities

Community Day of Service: Saturday, September 11th

Footprints Sunday: Sunday, September 12th

Syncing-In Sunday: Sunday, September 12th

GriefShare Begins: Monday, September 13th

Start of Sunday School: Sunday, September 19th

Bible Presentation: Sunday, September 19th

Heritage Day: Saturday, September 25th

Confirmation Meeting: Sunday, September 26th

Ushers, Greeters and Lector Training: October 3rd

Installation of the Pastors: October 9th

Reformation Sunday: October 31st

Special Adult Forum: Sunday, November 7th, 14th & 21st

Zion Lutheran Church Middletown, MD

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



My Friends in Christ,

What an amazing summer we had here at Zion. We held VBS for the first time since the pandemic started and we took this opportunity to change our format. Instead of meeting for one week, we met weekly which enabled our outreach to families that were traveling. Instead of being a rockstar for just a week, I got to be a rockstar for 6 weeks!

We also had the opportunity to work with Breanna Myers—a seminarian at ULS completing her CPE experience. I appreciate that Zion really took her in and made sure she was able to learn and practice pastoral care. She completed her program at the beginning of August and is starting her internship on September 1. I have to admit, I really enjoyed working with Vicar Bre this summer and miss her presence around Zion.

What seminarians usually lack in ministry experience, they usually have a plethora of some really great ideas. It was great being able to share some wisdom but also hear some new wisdom!

I am grateful that we were able to be away for two weeks in August. As this pandemic continues to rage and rear its ugly head, having some time to not think about contingency plans and statistics around Covid was a real blessing. I know that being able to take two weeks off carries a certain amount of privilege that many do not enjoy, but our Lord did command us to rest and make rest a priority. Even Jesus took a nap a time or two. So, as your co-pastor, I encourage you to make sure you take a break. Kids still need to be fed, cows still need to be milked, lesson plans still need to be written, but you still matter more than all of those things.

However, I do find it a bit silly to talk about rest as we begin to start a very busy fall season. I hope you are able to participate in Syncing-In Sunday on September 12. What we have heard over the past 19 months is that many people feel that their lives are out of sync. So, we are calling this day Syncing-in Sunday because we are hoping to help everyone begin getting their faith-life back in sync. On this Sunday, we plan to share some of our hopes and plans for the next year. Breakfast and lunch will be served. At 10 a.m., we plan to talk about our Fall programming including Sunday School, adult forum topics, confirmation, youth gathering, and other ministry activities. At noon, we will have an open forum time where we want to talk about our future and where you feel the Holy Spirit is moving us. I hope you have this date on your calendar and more importantly, I hope you share an invitation with a friend or a neighbor.

Did you know that the most effective way to do evangelism is personal invitation from you? People are more likely to come to church if they know someone at the church. Studies have shown that the hardest area to overcome in regards to visitors is having them walk from their car to their seats in the sanctuary. Many of these same studies have noted that first-time visitors will not even make it halfway to the worship space because they get lost or confused inside the building. Adding greeters and signs are the some of the easiest and most effective way to help people feel welcome. However, The best way to retain visitors is for them to know someone at the particular church they are visiting In a study done in 2018, 55% of Lutherans say that they are least likely to say they've invited at least one person to church. Nationwide, church participation and membership are down across denominations, but that doesn't mean that people need God any less. It is our job to show the world how much we need Jesus.

I want you to get involved and make us a part of your routine because when you come, our community better. We sing stronger, we pray stronger, we act stronger. Without YOU, we are not complete. We have both in-person and virtual options for renewing your faith this year. Turn on the computer or come through our doors and experience the power of the Holy Spirit and this life-altering gospel.

In Christ,

Pastor Matt Dwyer

**Take a Moment
and Ponder
This!!**



LITURGY (From the Greek, “work of the people”); more than a set form of service or one particular service, the liturgy is the whole body of texts and music used for the worship of God.

*From the Glossary of The Manual on the Liturgy,
Lutheran Book of Worship written by Philip H.
Pfatteicher and Carlis R. Messerli p. 389*

Lutheran churches fall under the category of liturgical churches. This means we follow a fairly regular set pattern of parts of our worship service as compared to non-liturgical churches which have a less regular or prescribed order of service. For those of us left-brained folks who like things methodically done, this is quite comforting. We know what to expect and who is doing what when we come to worship. However, there's something that those of us who like our straightforward, prescriptive, "we know what we are gonna get" worship might be missing as part of our worship experience.

The worship we do should be a collective endeavor to be gathered together as God's people, hear God's word, join in a nourishing meal of faith, and be sent out in the world to share God's love in our words and actions. When we gather together on a Sunday morning, we are doing a part of the work of being God's people. We are not just coming to the Pastor Diane and Pastor Matt Good News Hour or the Worship Band Concert or Bobby's Organ Recital. We are coming to ALL take part in a significant time where our words and our actions are giving God thanks for all God has done for us and continues to strengthen us to do the work of being God's people.

"Well Pastor, that's what I'm doing on Sunday. I don't understand why you're bringing this up. " Worshipping together on a Sunday morning takes more than just the administrative staff, pastor, or musicians. It takes many others to welcome people to the sanctuary, equip people for worship, speak the Word, usher to the Table, make sure those at home receive the Word through the internet, just to name a few of the ways worship happens. We are all invited to worship and we do, but there are elements of our worship experience where we need to help make them happen or they just do not. We need to hear different voices sharing the Word. We are such a big congregation with such a big building that we need many hands to help people know where to go, to have the bulletins they need to worship, and to receive the Lord's Supper. It is our work and we are called to make it happen each week.

It is astonishing how the work of the people has changed over time. We have gone (and in some communities this still continues!) from a home-based worship service to worshipping in elaborate churches and now even today to worshipping online. Doing the work of the people is an important part of who we are as Christians. It is a part of our calling that not only supports our immediate community but also our home-bound members, as well as people who have never heard of Jesus. Please know that Zion is a place for you to strengthen your faith but also a place where you are called to strengthen the faith of others. Please help doing so by being a worship assistant whether that is a greeter, an acolyte, a lector, an usher, a sound and technology assistant, and/or a Visitation/ Eucharistic Minister. If you have not been trained yet, please ask and we will make sure you have what you need to take part in doing your work as a person of God worshipping here at Zion. You can sign up to be a worship assistant in the sanctuary near the bulletin and Offering table or talk with one of the pastors. Let us do the work of God's people with gratitude for God's gracious love in all the we do! Amen!

Pastor Reane Ray

Growing in your FAITH



Small Group Ministry

OUR COMMITTEE ON WELCOME AND ENGAGEMENT WILL TALK ABOUT OUR NEW APPROACH TO BUILDING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

OPEN FORUM AT 12PM

WHERE DO YOU FEEL THE HOLY SPIRIT NUDGING YOU? WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS FOR ZION? COME AND JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION. GET IN-SYNC WITH ALL THE GOOD THINGS HAPPENING AT ZION AND SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

Fall Stewardship Drive Kickoff

Sunday School Kick Off

STARTS AT 10AM. COME MEET YOUR TEACHERS AND GET A TASTE OF WHAT WE WILL BE LEARNING THIS YEAR

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROVIDED

Our Committee on Christian Fellowship will make sure you do not go hungry at all!

Come and be a part of this amazing thing God is doing here at Zion

SYNCING-IN

Sunday

Getting in-sync with our faith, community, and discipleship

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
STARTING @ 10AM

Growing In Faith Together

#SyncInZion



Welcome back to Sunday School! We encourage you to join us Sunday, September 12, for Syncing-In Sunday. In between our two services, please join us downstairs to meet your teachers and have a Continental Breakfast. Starting Sept. 19th and through the remainder of September and October, our youth will all be together learning about the spiritual discipline of stewardship and how it plays a role in living out following Jesus every day. For our young-at-heart adults, we will have a discussion around the same biblical texts as our little ones are, helping us articulate what it means for us to be stewards every day. **Please join us at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays for this time to grow together in our faith.**

Confirmation

Parent and Student Planning Meeting

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH AT 5PM

DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED--AVAILABLE BOTH IN-PERSON AND ON ZOOM

Please have your school schedules and personal schedules as we will plan the dates for the coming year.

Bible
Presentation



Bible Presentation - September 19th

We will be handing out new Bibles on Sunday, September 19th to all

Kindergarteners (and

1st and 2nd Graders who haven't received one yet), 3rd Graders and new Confirmation students.

FACING THE END OF LIFE

Join Pastors Diane and Matt during a special adult forum class at 10 am throughout the month of November as we talk about faithful practices we can all take around grief, dying, and being prepared. In 2021, our faith community was rocked by some untimely deaths. During the month when we spend our worship time talking about the end of time and celebrating the lives of the saints who are no longer with us, let us also talk about how we can be better prepared for death.

TOPICS

The Communion of Saints Nov 7

Understanding and Working through Grief and Loss Nov 14

Putting Affairs In Order Nov 21

Growing In Faith Together
#SyncInZion



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!

Throughout the fall, we are going to spending some time talking about the basics of our Lutheran Faith. We will be looking at some of the original source material in the Book of Concord in order to better understand who we are, and we will do it through good food and fellowship.



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



@elcagathering

www.elca.org/gathering

#ELCAYG2022



Will Safe House start up for the 2021-2022 school year?

The Safe House staff is working closely with the administrative staff and the school system to determine when Safe House can reopen. There are a lot of what-ifs right now that we are evaluating to determine when and how to safely open our Middle School program. Please let us know if your middle schooler is interested in attending this program and/or if you have a high schooler who would like to be a mentor.

Inquiries can be sent to wendik@zionmiddletown.org Stay tuned for further details and information!

Peace,
Jenny Perry and Wendi Kishimoto
Safe House Co-Directors



Join us on Sunday, September 12th at the 9:00 a.m. service for the return of Footprints! The lesson will be based on Mark 8:27-38 and we will learn about taking up the cross and following Jesus. Youth of all ages will go to the social room, immediately after the first song and return to worship in time for communion. Questions? Contact Wendi: wendik@zionmiddletown.org

Worship Services

Saturday:

5 p.m. Casual Worship

Sunday Services:

9 a.m. Contemporary
Worship

11 a.m. Traditional Worship

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.

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

COVID-19 Task Force News



Since Frederick County is not under a mask mandate at this time and hospitalizations remain low, the Committee has us remaining at Level 1 on our matrix. We would like to remind everyone to please stay safe and use the precautions with which you are most comfortable. While you are in the building, remember to practice social distancing. If you cannot stay 6 feet apart and will be in close contact for more than 15 minutes, please wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status. **If you are not feeling well or have been exposed to someone that has COVID, please take care of yourself and stay home!!** The COVID-19 Taskforce will continue to monitor the situation. If you have any concerns please call Lois Ahalt,

BE THE LIGHT 

**CALLING ALL
LECTORS,
GREETERS, AND
USHERS!**

OCTOBER 3 AT 2PM

The most common, ordinary jobs sometimes are the most holiest and important. Those who read the scriptures to us, greet people as they come to through our doors, and assist them with finding a seat are all vital to our mission here at Zion.

IF YOU SERVE IN ONE OR ALL OF THESE VITAL AREAS OR ARE INTERESTED IN DOING SO, PLEASE JOIN US VIA ZOOM (LINK WILL FOLLOW CLOSER TO THE DATE) FOR A BRIEF WORKSHOP TO MAKE SURE WE ALL ON THE SAME PAGE IN THIS VITAL WORK.



**You are invited to celebrate
the installation of**

**THE REV. DIANE L. DAY
& THE REV. MATTHEW A. DAY**

Co-Pastors at Zion Lutheran Church

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 9, 2021
WORSHIP STARTS
AT 3PM**

107 W. MAIN STREET
MIDDLETOWN, MD 21769

ROSTERED LEADERS OSSD
MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO VEST
AND PROCESS. THE COLOR OF
THE DAY IS GREEN.

keeping
in
touch

Enjoying this newsletter?

**In an effort to increase
communication with our
members, we will be producing
The Beacon every three months
for 2021. We are using our bulk
mail to send them via USPS and
also emailing them to all
members who have an email on
file. Let us know what you
think and if you have an article
you would like included for the
next Beacon!**

**Mark Your Calendars
October 31, 2021
at 9 am and 11 am
Reformation
Sunday**

We will celebrate God's Word living, moving
and breathing in our community.

We will also recognize those who have been
members for 50/51 years at Zion.

Finally, we will welcome to the table those
baptized Christians who are ready to receive
the Eucharist 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*



Have You Noticed the Price of Apples?

Unfortunately there is an apple shortage which means we will not have the apples to make apple butter this year. This decision was a very difficult one to make but it was the only option. If you placed an order already, please consider keeping your order for 2022.

Heritage Day Luncheon

The Annual Heritage Day Luncheon at Zion will be held
Saturday, September 25th from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Soup, sandwiches, desserts and drinks will be available.

We will be selling specific desserts at the luncheon. 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 help from you to make certain desserts for us to go along with our lunch. We really do need your help!

The desserts we are asking for are:

Pies: Apple, Peach, Blueberry, Cherry, Raspberry, Pumpkin, and Custard

Cakes: White, Yellow, and Chocolate.

Icings: Peanut Butter, Coconut, Chocolate, and Vanilla or White Frosting. We know there are nuts in the peanut butter icing, but have made arrangements for that provision.

Cookies: Chocolate Chip ONLY

Brownies: Plain Brownies, NO brownies with nuts or other ingredients.

Food donations may be dropped off between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. on Saturday, September 25th, in the Social Room.

Thanks so much for your help!

Middletown Evangelical Lutheran Church Zion
Heritage Day Luncheon Committee

*Property
Committee
News*
FALL 2021

We have completed the outside renovation of the church including a new roof on the 1928 edition and the parking lot overhang as well as the repair and repainting of the exterior doors (22) of the entire building. The damaged wall on the back parking lot and the seam between the rear parking lot and sidewalk have been repaired. The Clothes Closet HVAC system is completed and functioning well and the building is now in excellent shape. The heating systems in the church building are old, but are in good condition and maintenance of the units has been completed.

As you know we have experienced an aging out of the 10 A/C units throughout the church with 8 of them out of commission and needing replacement (Sanctuary 30-ton, Music Room and offices 7.5-ton, Gardens

Edge, rear of Social Room and Archives 7.5-ton, east and west side upper classrooms 2x 3.5-ton, lower classrooms west side 3.5-ton and both Chapel units 2x 3-ton) The remaining two are functioning properly at this time, but will need replacement as well.

The Sanctuary system was installed in the 1980's and the other units installed during the 1993 renovation of the rear of the church. These units have performed way past their life expectancy and have served us very well, but it is now time to replace these units. There will be a considerable energy savings going with the new more efficient units. We have contracts on the Sanctuary system (October install) and the Music Room office area (November install) We are receiving bids on the two Chapel units and the Gardens Edge/rear Social Room unit. The remaining units we will seek bids at the end of the year for springtime installation.

While this is a costly endeavor it is a long-term energy efficient solution to our future air conditioning needs. If you want to help with this expensive undertaking, please give to the Building Fund designating for A/C.



Clothes Closet Update

First and foremost, THANK YOU to all of my volunteers! I'm giving special shout out to Alyssa Minchoff and Shelly Gladhill. These two ladies go above and beyond! In July we held two Super Sorting weekends and FINALLY made it to the bottom of our donations. Since the Clothes Closet has started accepting donations again, I'm in need of MORE Sorters. Sorting can be done ANY TIME that it works into your schedule. Training takes 15 minutes and as I tell all volunteers, there is no wrong answer. You make a decision and go with it. For example, where does this shirt with no tag in it belong? You choose and

it will not be wrong. Promise!

For families who need to "shop", we are open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Sorting can also happen at this time so PLEASE help even if for an hour. Storefront volunteers (those who show our "shoppers" where to sign in) are always there on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

For any questions regarding donations, or volunteering as a Storefront Greeter/Sorter, contact me at rstaples17@comcast.net or on our Middletown Community Clothes Closet Facebook page or via cell at 301-606-0041 (call/text). Be sure to like/share our page. Recently someone donated a Wii gaming system by contacting me at the Clothes Closet. While it wasn't needed at the Clothes Closet, it has found a happy home with our youth program at Zion! I also found a home for a brand new stroller that was left at our Clothes Closet through Facebook and actually met my new Wolfsville neighbor.

Photos of Savannah and Steeler are included in this update. Both Savannah and Steeler donate their time to their community AND both make each other and us smile! Hope to see you soon at our Clothes Closet. Where you can be God's hands and feet to those in our community who need clothing for FREE!

Patricia and Savannah Staples





Choir Season Starting Up!

The Worship Choir will begin again in September and wishes to extend an invitation to any interested members to come and join in making music each week. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings at 7:15 p.m., beginning September 2nd. The first Sunday this year will be September 12th.

Handbell Ringers Needed

The handbell choir seeks members interested in ringing in the Fall of 2021. Only rudimentary music-reading is necessary in either clef. Rehearsals are every other Tuesday, tentatively beginning September 7th. All skill levels welcome! Contact Bobby Staples if you are interested in choir or handbells!

Contemporary Worship Team Musicians Needed

The Worship Team is looking for musicians and singers to participate one or more times a month. The team is open to anyone of high school age or above. At least an intermediate level of musicianship is required. We are in particular need of a bass player and a drummer. Other instruments are fine too, if they fit with contemporary worship. Matt is willing to teach any guitarist of intermediate skill level, who is interested in learning to play bass. No bass is required, the church has one. Please contact Matt at mattpuziss@gmail.com for a no pressure audition. I just need to hear you sing or play for a few minutes. You can even send me a clip on a voice recorder app to my cell phone if you prefer.



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 19th through November 27th. The sills will be covered to protect the paint.

- ✦ Decorate anytime before September 18th. Displays will need to be removed by November 29th.
- ✦ Display size is approximately 16" deep by 54" wide
- ✦ Contact Wendi Kishimoto: wendik@zionmiddletown.org or 301-371-6500, ext. 203 to reserve a window. 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!

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.



**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



Community Day of Service

Volunteers Needed (Especially Those With Carpentry Skills) Middletown Ministerium is looking for volunteers to help our neighbors in need. Commemorating the 20 year anniversary of 9-11-01, we assist with general yard work, light painting, basic carpentry work, and more. Meet in the parking lot of Christ Reformed Church starting at 8:00 a.m. for a continental breakfast and send off. We will be on job sites from about 9 a.m. - mid early afternoon. The sign-up link is on Zion's website on the homepage.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4eaaaa2eaaf49-dayofservice_911



**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 September is individual fruit or pudding cups. 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.



GriefShare Class Begins Monday, September 13th

GriefShare is a ministry that offers support, help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. This program is non-denominational and features biblical concepts for healing from your grief. GriefShare meets weekly for 13 weeks and is led by experienced grief leaders. It is a caring environment and offers a place and an opportunity

to come and walk with others in the long journey of grief and allow healing to take place. There are three key components to your GriefShare experience.

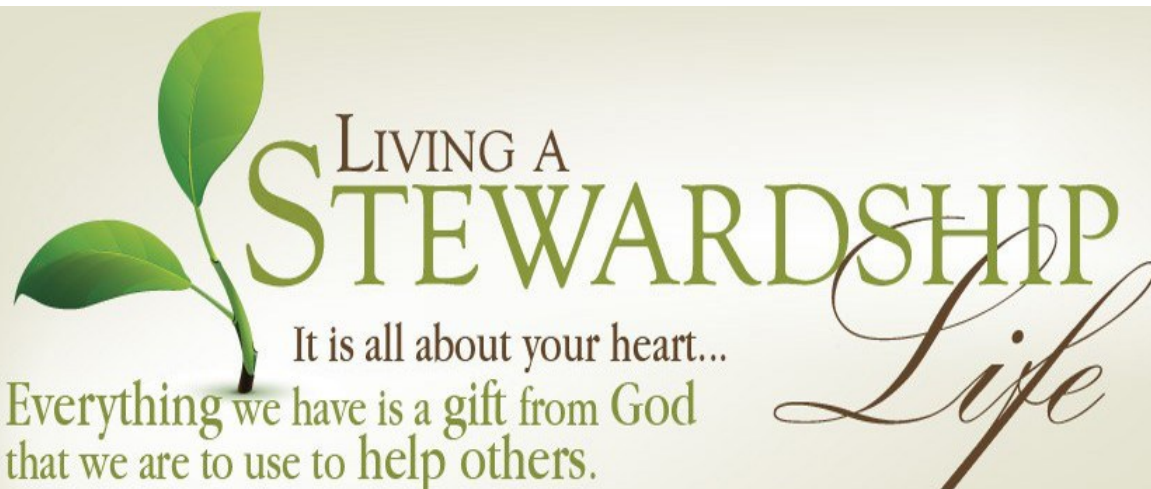
1. Video seminar: videos that feature leading grief recovery experts.
2. Support Group: Group discussion about the weekly video content.
3. Workbook: Journaling and personal study exercises that reinforce the weekly session topics.

Zion Lutheran Church will be offering GriefShare ministry beginning Monday, September 13, 2021 and ending Monday, December 6, 2021. The meeting time is 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the church. If you wish to sign up for the upcoming cycle, or have any questions, please call Zion at 301 371-6500. You will be referred to one of the GriefShare leaders who will return your call.



A Service of Remembrance, Reflection and Prayer Sunday, September 19th at 4:00 p.m.

After a very difficult year with the deaths of dear friends and loved ones and many other losses in our lives, it is important to take some time to remember and reflect as we were not able to do so during the pandemic. In the near future, Zion will be hosting a service, on **Sunday, September 19th at 4:00 p.m.**, to give thanks for the lives of those who died during the pandemic, as well as to acknowledge those losses we have experienced. This service is open to the community and offers time for prayer, remembrance, and reflection. Please join us on September 19th for this time to honor those we love and support one another in these days ahead.



Our renewed commitment to being good stewards of all God has blessed us with is our focus in the months of September and October. Following Sync-In Sunday, September 12th, you will receive a letter in the mail telling you more about our familiarization with stewardship not only as a financial matter but also a part of every element of our lives. The week of September 19th, you will receive your stewardship cards by mail. There should be two for EACH member of your household. Yes, even your kids! We are all stewards and need to practice this spiritual discipline of stewardship. If you did not receive enough, please let us know and we will get you more cards. We encourage you to pray about your stewardship through these months and keep your cards in a place where you see them daily. Our worship and Sunday School opportunities will all focus on the Bible texts of stewardship and the prayer you see below throughout these months. On October 31st, we ask you to return your cards and we will pray over them as a part of worship. If you are unable to attend in-person, feel free to mail your card in or place it in the basket at worship starting October 3rd. We look forward to growing together in this spiritual discipline this Fall.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions.

*Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.*

-Offering Prayer from Evangelical Lutheran Worship



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 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 1:30p.m. in the parking lot. **The next meeting to be determined******

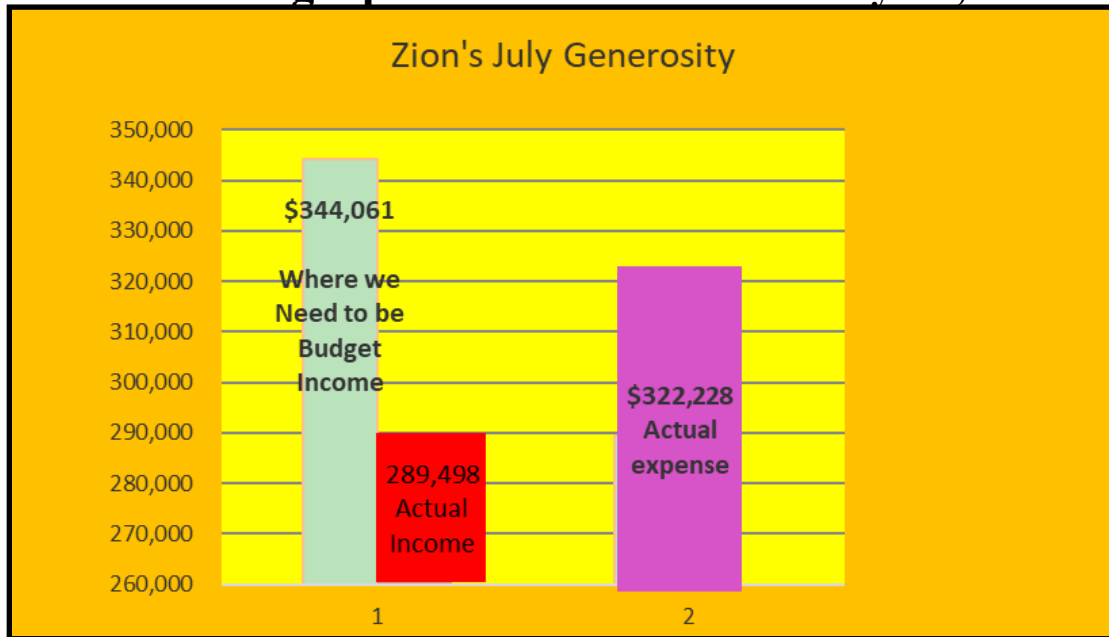


Noisy Offering is BACK!!

On the 3rd Sunday of each month we will be collecting loose change (or paper money) to benefit a different organization. Our next Noisy Offering will be on September 18th/19th, to benefit Lutheran Disaster Relief for the Haiti earthquake.

Zion Stewardship

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



Budget/Income Information— Year to Date as of July 31, 2021

YTD Proposed Budget income \$344,061.32. vs YTD Actual Income \$289,498.02
YTD Proposed Budget Expense \$349,282.20. vs YTD Actual Expenses \$322,288.11

****Actual Income is less expenses by \$32,790.09****



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!



Have you admired Zion's Memorial Garden?

Did you know that the Memorial Garden was established in 1983? We have a dedicated group of people who work hard to maintain the garden, weeding, planting and mulching. There is a lot to maintain and they could use some help. Please consider donating your time to help maintain this Zion icon. If you are interested in helping and want to learn how you can help, contact the Church Office: 301-371-6500



Did you know that the number one most needed item of the homeless is a clean pair of socks? People donating clothing rarely donate new 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 for the month of October. A box will be located in the ramp area for new clean packages of socks. Please help us meet our goal of 500 socks. All donations will be taken to the Religious Coalition for distribution to the needy.

With Sympathy



With our deepest sympathy we keep in our thoughts and prayers those we lost in 2021 and their family and friends:

**Glen Burris
Naomi Hayes
Anita Higy
Steve Hoover
Priscilla Hughes
Harold Martz, Sr.
Christine Miller
Deborah Powers
Kurt Witt**



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**



2021 Baptisms

Faye Margaret Ely

Daughter of

Jack Gringrich Ely, III &
Heather Linn Crummitt



Paige Elizabeth Ahalt

Daughter of

Matthew & Beth Ahalt

"Trust in the Lord
with all your heart;
don't rely on your
own intelligence. Know
him in all your paths,
and he will keep
your ways straight."

PROVERBS 3:5-6



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www.zionmiddletown.org

Treasurer



Thank You to all those that have donated to the Building Fund. Here is some Building Fund Trivia.

	Offering Received	Expenses
2019	\$17,309.01	\$37,334.05
2020	\$30,189.79	\$62,030.76
2021	<u>\$17,818.25</u>	<u>\$25,241.54</u>
Total	\$65,317.05	\$124,606.35

There have been many repairs to Zion over the years. Things like wall, window, roof, lot & masonry repairs along with new carpet & laminate in sanctuary and new entry lock system. We have made significant improvements, but they come at a significant expense. And let us not forget the Furnace and Air Conditioner repairs over the years. Stayed tuned for further Treasurer Trivia facts. If you have any questions and would like the answers posted in Treasurer Trivia, contact Deb Reichelt at treasurer@zionmiddletown.org