Worship Opportunities

Watch for the upcoming spring issue of the Beacon for all your Lenten and Easter Worship Opportunities

More Opportunities on page 3

Service Opportunities

An Opportunity to serve Zion

In the New Year are you thinking of volunteering your time? See some suggestions on page Five!

More Opportunities on page 5

Faith Formation Opportunities

Mark Your Calendar: Bible Study with Pastor Kathy continues!

How about starting off the new year with a re-commitment to growing in faith as a way of life?

More Opportunities on page 4

Youth and Family Opportunities

Day off program January 20th
Snow tubing at Ski Liberty!
Sign up by Friday January 17th!
For full detail see p. 6

More Opportunities on pages 6-9

Member News and Thank You’s See pages 10-11

Zion Lutheran Church, Middletown, MD
In Case you missed this letter from Pastor Kathy:

Dear Friends in Christ,

After devoted time of prayer and discernment I have accepted the call to serve St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Hanover Pennsylvania as their lead pastor. I submit this letter of resignation with a deep sense of gratitude for the 12 plus years that I have had the privilege of serving you as senior pastor. Together we have experienced God’s grace in the little and big events of our congregation and our relationships. I have come to know the power of the gospel to both comfort and challenge in the mission set before us. So many of you have courageously stepped up to the call Christ set before you. It is with a heavy heart that I come to the last weeks of my ministry with you.

In July of 2007 I wrote a pastor’s letter to you that acknowledged the way God’s timing was at work when I was to begin. I wrote this:

For just such a time as this! Have you read the story of Esther lately? It is a fascinating account of the improbable ways God is at work in the history of the world. In this biblical story we meet Mordecai and Esther who tune into God’s timing and change the course of events to save the Jewish people from destruction. For just such a time as this, God worked through the unlikely person, Esther to bring relief and deliverance for the Jews. See Esther 4:14.

Now, these years later, for such a time as this, I believe that God’s timing is now calling for a new leader for a new time. The future for our congregation is hope-filled as you listen to God, one another and those within your reach for whom you are called to serve. For such a time as this, I believe that God is calling me to a new congregation where my gifts and experience will effectively advance their mission and faithfully support the growing ministries.

I realize that this letter comes to you shortly after Pastor Ron and Pastor Marv have chosen to resign from their part-time positions as assistant pastors. I believe that it is important for our congregation to honor their desire to be fully retired to devote to their family and wellbeing. In the weeks ahead, you will receive more information regarding the process for contracting pastoral leadership for the interim time as you prepare to call your next pastor. Our Bishop Bill Gohl and staff are confident that they will be able to provide excellent interim pastoral leadership and support.

My last day will be Sunday, February 16th. This gives us six weeks together for ongoing ministry and good-byes. In the meantime, my prayers are with our beloved and loving community. We are blessed with an excellent staff and congregational leaders who will be faithful through this time of transition.

Yours in Christ,

[Signature]
Worship Opportunities

Saturday Service:
6 p.m. Informal Worship

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

Faith Formation Classes are held on Sundays at 10:00 am.

Watch for the upcoming spring issue of the Beacon for all your Lenten and Easter Worship Opportunities

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Annual Congregational and Town Hall Meeting Dates Set

Town Hall Meetings will take place on Sun. Jan. 26th at 10 a.m.
and Tue Jan. 28th at 7 p.m.
The Annual Meeting will take place on Sun. February 2nd
following the 10:00 a.m. combined Worship Service
Faith Formation Opportunities

Bible Study with Pastor Kathy continues!

How about starting off the new year with a re-commitment to growing in faith as a way of life? It’s not too late to join a class!

We have a means to this growth, and it is the Bible. Let's be honest, however. The Bible is difficult to understand as it relates to us now. This class will be a place to explore how the Bible makes sense, in what ways it is the source of life, how it speaks to current concerns and what it means for our lives as Christians. Using Adam Hamilton's book, Making Sense of the Bible, as a resource, Pastor Kathy is teaching this six-week class on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. & 7 p.m. & Sundays at 10 a.m. Please join us!

SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION CONTINUES

Faith Formation for Children: From Birth Through 5th Grade

Attention Parents! Sunday Morning Faith Formation Classes continue on Sunday Mornings at 10:00 a.m.

Attention Middle School Youth and Parents!

Confirmation classes continue Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. with all 6th 7th and 8th graders meeting in the upstairs Confirmation Classroom. There are also Sunday Evening Youth Gatherings monthly at 5 p.m. Join us February 9th and March 8th for the next gatherings. For more information please contact Intern Pastor Karl Muhlbach at kmuhlbach@zionmiddletown.org or 301-371-6500

Attention High School Students!

Come to your Sunday morning class in the lower level classroom across from the pre-school room. Your teacher is Cheryl Miller with Vicar Karl Muhlbach filling in at times.

Zion Daughters

The Zion Daughter’s class will continue its study of Philippians followed by Hebrews, 1 John, James and Revelations. The class is led by Bruce McIntosh and meets in the Chapel.

Adult Faith Formation

The Adult Faith Formation Bible Study “Making sense of the Bible” takes place in the Social Room.
Service Opportunities

An Opportunity to serve Zion
In the New Year are you thinking of volunteering your time? These positions are needed:
   Prayer Minister for 9 a.m.
   Altar Guild members (3 retirements)
If you are interested, please contact the church office 301-371-6500 or office@zionmiddletown.org.

Super Bowl Sub Sale
Super bowl is just around the corner – Go team!! The Zion Quilters will hold a Super Bowl Sub Sale, on Sunday, February 2nd 2019. Pickup will be before or after the Annual Meeting in the Social Room. Sub varieties will be ham & cheese, cold cut and turkey. All subs are 8” and will include lettuce, tomato, onion, pickles and mayo. Sub cost is $6.00. All subs MUST be preordered by 1/29/2019. Call 301-514-4479 or 301-371-6500 or email amasser202@comcast.net. Funds raised will go to the Zion Building Fund.

Frederick Cold Weather Shelter Needs
Zion Knitters are collecting scarves, mittens and socks for the shelter. Anyone who wants to donate (store bought or hand made). We are also collecting paper goods, soap, cleaning supplies and styrofoam cups. The collection box is in the ramp area.

2020 Flower Chart - lots of dates available!
The 2020 Flower Chart is now posted outside the Living Library. Please sign up if you would like to provide altar flowers during 2020. We appreciate the congregation's support in always making sure flowers are on the altar every week.

Clothes Closet News!
The Clothes Closet needs warm clothes and coats for all sizes and gently-used and new towels and bed sheets. Donations can be dropped off on Monday and Saturday mornings from 9-11 a.m.

Weekend Back Pack Ministry
The beginning of the new school year brings with it a renewed need for your help with the Weekend Backpack Ministry. Your donations of specific food items ensures these students receive proper nutrition. Weekends are long when you are hungry. The critical need food items for January is Juice Boxes. Thank you for your continued support of this much needed ministry.

Valley Seniors and Friends
The next Valley Seniors and Friends Luncheons will start up again on March 19th. Please contact Gene Appleby (301-371-6166) by the Monday before the meal to reserve your meal.
Youth and Family Opportunities

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
DAY OFF PROGRAM

Zion is offering day programs for elementary and middle school aged children (K-8th) on days when FCPS schools are closed. Join us for structured crafts and other activities.

On January 20th We will be going to Ski Liberty for Snow Tubing!

Bring your lunches with you!

Who: Elementary and Middle School aged youth (K-8th Grades)

Who else: YOUR FRIENDS!

When: Monday, January 20, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Cost: $20/Child

(Checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church)

RSVP: Advanced sign-ups are REQUIRED by Friday January 17th for this event because we will be traveling to Ski Liberty.

Kids will be snow tubing. Please send them with warm clothes.

Please return forms and money to:

Zion Lutheran Church
Attn: Wendi Kishimoto
107 West Main Street  Middletown, MD 21769

Contact the Wendi Kishimoto with questions: 301-371-6500, ext. 203

Watch for future Day Off Program dates
Youth and Family Opportunities

2020 Dates -
January 31st
February 28th
March 27th
April 24th
May 29th
September 11th

January 31st
Featuring >

On the Second Sunday of each month we will offer faith-based activities during worship at the 9 a.m. service. Kids of all ages are welcome, nursery care will be available for little ones!

After the activity kids will join their parents in worship! If you have any questions please contact Wendi at wendik@zionmiddletown.org or 301-371-6500, ext. 203

Upcoming Spring and Summer 2020 Dates:

February 9th - March 8th - April 5th—changed due to Easter
May 10th - June 14th - October 11th
November 8th - December 13th
Youth and Family Opportunities

Mar-Lu-Ridge Summer Camp

Mar-Lu-Ridge Summer Camp is a safe, faith-centered outdoor experience for your camper, and a super fun way to connect with new friends and grow in faith and confidence. We offer residential camps for ages 6-17, Day Camp on-site for ages 6-10, and Mobile Mar Lu Day Camps for congregations. There are full week and half week options for our residential campers, and a variety of specialty programs as well as traditional camps from which to choose. Scholarships are available for Zion Youth. Camp forms are available on the youth and family bulletin board. For scholarship information, contact Wendi Kishimoto at wendik@zionmiddletown.org. Send in your registration and $130 deposit prior to February 18, 2020 and receive $35 off your total camp cost.

Safe House

Looking for a place to meet friends, have a snack, study, play games or re-lax? Safe House is a free after school program for middle school aged youth on Thursday afternoons from 3:00—5:30 p.m. Transportation from Middletown Middle School is provided. All adult volunteers have completed a background check. For more information visit: www.zionmiddletown.org or email Intern Pastor Karl Muhlbach - kmuhlbach@zionmiddletown.org
A 100 YEARS AGO...

This test was presented in January of 1920, to the congregation by our pastor, Rev. Charles M. Teufel in Zion’s newspaper, then called, “The Tidings.” As we start a new decade, this same test could be taken today and be relevant.
I was Wondering:

Now that the Historic Preservation is completed what is the Property committee looking at as we move into 2020?

Items to be addressed:

- Repair to the Stain Glass windows in the doors going into the sanctuary contracted for repair in January 2020.
- Refinish and repaint lower vestibule doors (East, West, and Gardens edge)
- Remove the screens on the windows in the ramp area.
- Painting the façade around the rear overhang.
- Repair of door leading into the Social Room.
- Upgrading the HVAC in the Living Library.
- Repair of bricks etc. at the lower west entrance.
- Installation of the Thermostat lock boxes in the common areas.

The replacement of the steam pipes under the front vestibule has been completed. The examination of the remaining pipe runs cannot be completed until the asbestos has been removed. We are waiting on an estimate for the asbestos removal before moving forward with other inspect/repairs of the steam pipes.

We are looking for a few more folks to join the Property committee and welcome all members to join us.

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. Contact Dixie Eichelberger at 301-371-4232 for more information. We meet on the last Monday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the rear parking Lot. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 27th.

Thank You’s

The Safety and Security Committee would like to express their thanks to those who helped our efforts during the holiday Season. We would also like to thank the Church members for their understanding and acceptance of our efforts to make Zion a safe and secure place to worship our savior without distraction or interruption.

Thank You!

Your Safety and Security Committee
Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank You! We truly appreciate your gift of $916.67 in congregational benevolence. On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff, I would like to convey my thanks and appreciation for this gift in support of our outdoor Ministry.

God’s Peace,
Sarah Lefler

First Communion
Fiona Bybel - Penny Bybel
Levi Derr - Blake Gordon
Leah Gordon - Trent Saxton

Members Currently Deployed
Lt. Michael Adams,
Afghanistan

Members and Friends of Zion Church,

Our family has been blessed by your comforting cards, kind words of sympathy, and prayers. We especially thank those of you who sent a memorial in Betty’s name. She would have been as touched by your thoughtful gestures as we are.

Sincerely,
Bill Williams and Family

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

Charles Poffenberger
Betty Williams
Katherine Aquino
Howard McCarney
Lori Specht
Katherine Marker
Don’t want to be STUCK by the television watching John Wayne now that Super Bowl Weekend is over….Join us at the Crafting Retreat on Feb 28 & 29, 2019. Any craft is WELCOME. Knitting, crocheting, cross stitch, scrapbooking, quilting...you name it. The fun starts in the Church Social Room. Come and set up your craft on a table and keep your table set up both Friday & Saturday. Retreat will start at 9:00 a.m. on Friday and close down Friday evening at 11:00 p.m. We will begin again at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday and close down at 5:00 p.m. Crafters are encouraged to come and go as needed. Plenty of food, snacks and games will be available. Free will offering will be encouraged with funds raised going to the Zion Building Fund.

For more information call Alexa at 301-514-4479 or amasser202@comcast.net.