

November 22, 2020 – Christ the King



Introducing Zion's Season of Connection! Even with the challenges of 2020, there is so much beauty to be found and so many ways to connect and reflect God's love in the Season of Advent and Christmas. Besides weekly online worship services, Zion has six additional opportunities for connection during the month of December. Please see the information at the end of this bulletin to learn more.



We have received 40 pledges totaling \$183,000. We would really like to solve the mystery of the three anonymous pledges! If any of these descriptions sound like your pledge, please contact the church office or John Rustwick, Financial Secretary, at 908-638-6339. 1. Pledge received on October 30th for \$5,000. 2. Pledge received in early November for \$100/month (or \$1,200 annually). 3. Pledge received this past week for an adjustment to electronic giving to \$200/month. (This cannot be done without a name.) If one of these is yours, please come forward! Thank you.



Please continue to support the ministries of Zion with your offerings and prayers. Financial contributions can be mailed to the Parish Office at P.O. Box 41, Oldwick, NJ 08858.

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

¹¹Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.' ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

PRAYER CONCERNS

Members

- + **Donna Gorky**, *who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.*
- + **Linda Herder**, *who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.*
- + **Donna Hunter**, *who has been diagnosed with breast cancer and is exploring treatment options.*
- + **The family of Jean Rinehart**, *who are mourning Jean's passing.*
- + **Bonnie Summer**, *who is undergoing rehabilitation and recovering at home.*
- + **Ted Talis**, *who is recovering at home.*
- + **Paul Zerfas**, *who received a stem cell transplant to combat his multiple myeloma.*

Friends and Family

- + **The family of Jeff Berking**, *brother-in-law of Robbin Lamo, who are mourning Jeff's passing.*
- + **Leo Cruise**, *friend of cousin of Marjorie Mitchell (friend of Zion), who is in the hospital with a brain bleed that could affect his eyesight.*
- + **Bill Gibbs**, *relative of the Formalarie family, who has ALS.*
- + **Rita Gorky**, *mother of Paul Gorky, who is recovering from a stroke.*
- + **Sally Kohl**, *mother of Stacey Rothermel, who is in long-term care and struggling with Parkinson's disease.*
- + **Greg Minerowicz**, *son of John and Wendy, who is recovering from a stroke.*
- + **Jim Price**, *friend of Jim & Linda Dierking, who suffered an allergic reaction to immunotherapy for a malignant melanoma. He is in rehab working to regain strength so he can have surgery to remove the tumor.*
- + **Martin Simon**, *friend of the Kunkel and Wintemute families, who is recovering from a stroke.*
- + **Mary Ann Wilmoth**, *relative of Judy Formalarie, who has been diagnosed with Lymphoma.*

Those in the Armed Services

Lindsay Carrick, Daemon Durham, Christopher Grinnell, Robert Heinke, Erik Lindquist, Hunter MacKenzie, David Maravel, Cody McAleer, Gilbert Mercedes, Patty Oelschlager, Kurt Rossi, Elizabeth Snyder, Daniel Wort, Joshua Wort

Suggested prayer for those with health concerns:

Almighty and merciful God, you are the only source of health and healing; you alone can bring calmness and peace. Grant to our sisters and brothers an awareness of your presence and a strong confidence in you. In their pain, weariness, and anxiety, surround them with your care, protect them by your loving might, and grant to them once again the gifts of health and strength and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Suggested prayer for military members:

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces, and all who serve this country at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils that surround them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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- 1. The Giving Tree** - This year, we are continuing our tradition of the Giving Tree to benefit the children of Family Promise of Hunterdon County. Family Promise families are facing additional challenges this year and could really use some help in providing a little Christmas magic for their children. Zion has adopted 30 children who need presents under the tree. Please sign up using the link emailed from the church office to provide one or more of the gifts the children have asked Santa to bring. Gifts should be placed in a gift bag (rather than wrapped) and delivered to the Christian Education Building (CEB) by December 6th. If you prefer to order a gift online and have it shipped directly to Zion, please have it delivered to 18 Miller Avenue, Oldwick, NJ 08858, and the Social Ministry committee will provide the gift bag. Please send us an email to let us know your gift is on its way so we can be on the lookout for it. Contact Rebecca Melick at 908-229-3744 or rrmelick@gmail.com with any questions.
- 2. Advent Parish Night** - This wonderful tradition has to look a little different this year but will be lots of fun nonetheless! Please plan to come by the CEB between 4 pm and 6 pm on Sunday, December 6th to enjoy the bonfire, roast marshmallows, and pick up your take-home craft supplies! Craft supplies are being donated, so there is no cost to participate. This year's craft is a pinecone wreath (or centerpiece if you prefer). Just assemble, decorate, and add your personal touches to your masterpiece at home -- and then share photos on Zion's Friends and Family Facebook page if you would like. Please RSVP using the link that was emailed from the church office. Scheduled pick-up of craft kits will be at the CEB on Sunday, December 6 between 4PM and 6PM; however, if you need to pick up at an alternate time, we are happy to make other arrangements. Please contact Shellie Evers at 804-678-8993 or shellie.eversafe@gmail.com for more information, to request additional kits, or to arrange contactless delivery to your home.
- 3. Oldwick Holly Day and Tree Lighting** - Come join us for a fun day in Oldwick volunteering at the Zion tent or just enjoying the fun. Five houses in town will be specially decorated, crafts and hot chocolate provided, and the Oldwick Christmas tree will be lit. This event will be from 12 pm until 5 pm on Saturday, December 12th. Rain date is Sunday, December 13th. Contact Shellie Evers at 804-678-8993 or shellie.eversafe@gmail.com for more information.
- 4. Alternative Giving** - Another unique Zion tradition that is a wonderful way to connect to others - especially those on your list who are impossible to buy for. As usual, there are four charities to choose from, and each donation comes with a handmade item to give along with a card explaining the work of that charity. Please place your orders using the link emailed from the church office and contact Linda Held at 908-399-8892 or heldover4@comcast.net for more information.
- 5. Women of Zion Cookie Exchange** - The WOZ Cookie Exchange will focus on spreading God's grace to others this year. Calling on all Zion bakers to make 2 dozen cookies! We will bake cookies to be shared with the Good News Home staff and Zion's homebound/elderly members. Sign up using the link sent from the church office to bake, assemble boxes, and/or deliver. Cookies should be delivered to the CEB by December 14th. Assembly date is December 16th at the CEB at 9 am. Any questions, contact Debra Kaufman 703-402-2158 or dkaufman1977@yahoo.com.
- 6. Grocery Delivery and Gift-Wrapping Service** - Know someone who doesn't feel comfortable going out, or is unable to get to the store? Know someone who needs help wrapping Christmas gifts? We can help! Contactless delivery and pick up. All free, of course! Contact Shellie Evers at 804-678-8993 or shellie.eversafe@gmail.com for more information.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
OLDWICK, NJ · SINCE 1714

1 **The Giving Tree**

Donations accepted until December 6th

4 **Alternative Giving**

Nov. 24th– Dec. 18th

SEASON OF CONNECTION

2 **Advent Family Parish Night**

*Bonfire and craft pick-up
December 6th at CEB*

5 **Women of Zion Cookie Exchange**

December 16th by Zoom

3 **Oldwick Holly Day and Tree Lighting**

December 12th in Oldwick

6 **Grocery Delivery & Gift Wrapping**

On-going until Dec 31st



Connecting Zion congregants, local kids and families in need, the broader community, and the world — with God's grace!