

January 10, 2021 – Baptism of Our Lord



The 2021 Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place on February 7th at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. The congregation will vote to approve the 2021 budget, accept the 2020 Annual Report, and elect the incoming class of council members. A Budget Q&A session will be held on January 31st via Zoom.



For the first time, Zion's youth will be participating in the national Souper Bowl of Caring event. Souper Bowl of Caring was launched in 1990 with a simple prayer said by Reverend Brad Smith at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." This simple prayer inspired a youth

group to raise awareness of hunger in America and to collect food donations for the hungry. In 2020 (the 30th anniversary), Souper Bowl of Caring saw nationwide participation of 5,143 groups working together to collect \$10,631,850 in cash and food items that were donated to local food pantries, soup kitchens and food banks. This year (2021), Zion's youth will be hosting a food drive of non-perishable foods (any type of food and drinks that are canned, boxed, packaged, bagged, etc. – no glass) beginning on Sunday, January 24th and ending on Sunday, Feb. 4th. All are invited to help with this food collection. A bin will be placed in the entryway of the CEB labeled with the Souper Bowl of Caring logo to hold the donations. All donations will be divided between the Flemington Food Pantry and the Open Cupboard Food Pantry in Clinton. The youth are still in the planning process, so please stay tuned for further announcements on this important event!



Faith Kitchen Annual Coffee Drive – a Zion tradition continues! Let's support our friends at Faith Kitchen, who continue to serve meals to 70-100 people each day, even during the pandemic. Please drop off your cans of coffee at the CEB any time between now and the end of February. Thank you for your support of Faith Kitchen.



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.

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, 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: Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied — ⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

PRAYER CONCERNS

Members

- + **Linda Herder**, *who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.*
- + **Donna Hunter**, *who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.*
- + **Ted Jermansen**, *who is recovering from surgery.*
- + **Eleanor Kover**, *who is recovering from breast cancer surgery.*
- + **Bonnie Summer**, *who is undergoing rehabilitation and recovering at home.*
- + **Ted Talis**, *who is recovering at home.*
- + **Paul Zerfas**, *who is undergoing his second stem cell transplant.*

Friends and Family

- + **Kathy Dolder**, *friend of the Schroeder family, who is hospitalized with health issues.*
- + **Marianne Evanouskas**, *sister-in-law of Eleanor Kover, who is recovering from intestinal surgery.*
- + **Marianna Evanouskas**, *sister-in-law of Eleanor Kover, who is recovering from a mastectomy.*
- + **Chris Fetner**, *friend of Marjorie Mitchell (friend of Zion), who has cancer.*
- + **Bill Gibbs**, *relative of the Formalarie family, who has ALS.*
- + **Rita Gorky**, *mother of Paul Gorky, who is recovering from a stroke.*
- + **Judy Graham**, *friend of Marjorie Mitchell (friend of Zion), who has breast cancer.*
- + **Nancy Kastrup**, *friend of Kathy Rustwick, who is recovering from surgery.*
- + **Sally Kohl**, *mother of Stacey Rothermel, who has tested positive for COVID-19.*
- + **Susan Miluk**, *sister of Jim Dierking, who is undergoing treatment at Memorial Sloan Kettering for multiple myeloma.*
- + **Preston**, *friend of the Schroeder family, who has tested positive for COVID-19 and is undergoing a lung transplant.*
- + **Jim Price**, *friend of Jim & Linda Dierking, who is awaiting surgery for a malignant melanoma.*
- + **Martin Simon**, *friend of the Kunkel and Wintemute families, who is recovering from a stroke.*
- + **Mary Ann Summer**, *mother of former Zion pastor Mark Summer, who is now negative for COVID-19.*
- + **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.