

# January 17, 2021 – Second Sunday after Epiphany



The 2021 Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 11 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 will be held at 11 a.m. on January 31<sup>st</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> and ending on Sunday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>. 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.



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.

## CROSS ROADS CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

Join us for Wednesdays Away, a time of spiritual renewal one Wednesday a month from September through June. This upcoming year we will continue to gather virtually from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Zoom. Our time together includes prayer and conversation, led by a spiritual director and focusing on a different spiritual practice or theme each month. The cost is \$10 per gathering. These monthly retreats are open to all people interested in exploring new faith practices. Attend one or attend all – and be sure to invite friends to join you. Visit [www.crossroadsretreat.com](http://www.crossroadsretreat.com) to find out more and to register.

*All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called "the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-20**

<sup>1</sup>Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

<sup>2</sup>At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup>the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

<sup>4</sup>Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup>and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup>The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."

<sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup>The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup>Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." <sup>11</sup>Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. <sup>12</sup>On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup>For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. <sup>14</sup>Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

<sup>15</sup>Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. <sup>16</sup>But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." <sup>17</sup>Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." <sup>18</sup>So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him."

<sup>19</sup>As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup>And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

<sup>12</sup>"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. <sup>13</sup>"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup>And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." <sup>17</sup>But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup>Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup>For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

## **Gospel: John 1:43-51**

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup>And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

### ***Members***

- + **Marilyn Forster**, *who has entered hospice care.*
- + **Linda Herder**, *who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.*
- + **Donna Hunter**, *who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.*
- + **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***

- + **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 been ill with COVID-19 for four weeks and continues to fight the virus.*
- + **Susan Miluk**, *sister of Jim Dierking, who is recovering from COVID-19 and will soon resume treatment 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 recovering from surgery for a malignant melanoma.*
- + **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