

News from Old Zion/Alt Zion Lutheran Church



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September 2020

Jeremiah 29:11-12

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.”

“Denn ich allein weiß, was ich mit euch vorhabe: Ich, der Herr, habe Frieden für euch im Sinn und will euch aus dem Leid befreien. Ich gebe euch wieder Zukunft und Hoffnung. Wenn ihr dann zu mir ruft, wenn ihr kommt und zu mir betent, will ich euch erhören.”

A word from Pastor:

A Prayer for our new year:

Heavenly Father, in this strange time when we are threatened still by a pandemic, we at Old Zion nevertheless want to take up again as much as possible our full schedule of activities. We ask that You would hold our congregation in Your loving hands. Send Your Holy Spirit to guide all our committee-members, enrich our worship services with Your Word and Sacrament, and fill our hearts with thanksgiving for all that You have given us and with zeal for the work of Christ's Church. And we earnestly implore You, gracious Lord, to end the threat of coronavirus speedily, so that we as a congregation can again take up Your work in the best and most complete ways according to our abilities. We pray this in the holy name of Christ Jesus, Your Son and our Lord. Amen.

From Luther's Large Catechism: Concerning Baptism: The 3rd Commandment

“Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.”

Luther has just made the point that we do NOT keep the Lord's Day “holy” simply by refraining from physical labor. That part of the ceremonial Law no longer applies to Christ's people. Instead, we keep His day holy by hearing His Word.

For the Word of God is the sanctuary above all sanctuaries, yea, the only one which we Christians know and have. For though we had the bones of all the saints or all holy and consecrated garments upon a heap, still that would help us nothing; for all that is a dead thing which can sanctify nobody. But God's Word is the treasure which sanctifies everything, and by which even all the saints themselves were sanctified. At whatever hour, then, God's Word is taught, preached, heard, read or meditated upon, there the person, day, and work are sanctified thereby, not because of the external work, but because of the Word which makes saints of us all. There I constantly say that all our life and work must be ordered according to God's Word, if it is to be God-pleasing or holy. Where this is done, this commandment is in force and being fulfilled



keep up with changes on our web site especially the new Old Zion History blog, and check out our posts on Facebook!

<http://oldzionlutheran.org>

Word from Pastor cont.

News from the ELCM

--Thanks to the initiative of our talented chaplains, the Ministerium of the ELCM has begun to hold monthly “Winkel” (German for “corner”) meetings via ZOOM, during which they are able to share thoughts about theology and talk about their ministries.

--Former Old Zion member Mike Anderson has been reactivated by the Navy and is headed for Japan where he will serve for three years. We wish Mike the Lord’s richest blessings.

Our full schedule, with some changes! In the month of September, we again pick up our regular schedule of congregational activities. This year, however, mostly because of the threat of the coronavirus, we will do some things a bit differently. We will again have German services on the first three Sundays of each month. However, in order to facilitate our efforts to “live-stream” our worship, our German services will be at 9:00am each Sunday, before the English services. In addition, Frauenverein will meet only on an ad hoc basis. Also, those who serve on our various committees should look for communiques from their chairpersons.



Pick your favorite hymn! Once again, for the Season of Trinity we have brought back the custom started by Pastor Schmutzler according to which you—our members—pick your favorite hymns to be included in our services. Request-forms have been placed on the tables by each entryway into the sanctuary. The Pastor will try to include your requests during the remaining months of the Trinity season.

Bible Study is postponed

Due to the threat of the corona virus, our monthly Bible Study will be postponed at least until after Christmas. We will re-evaluate things at that time.

Back to school!

We wish all our students a great beginning and much success in the new school year!

Please remember our sick and shut-ins in your prayers!!

A call, a card or a few encouraging words are always appreciated.

A word of Thanks

From the congregation and friends of Old Zion a heartfelt Thank You to Pastor Metzger, John Paul Meyer and Jaye Green for their work of continuing to live-stream our services every Sunday. To members and friends who are enjoying watching these services in their homes, Thank You for your continuing support of our congregation by donating either by mail or on-line.

Altar Flowers

**Altar flowers needed for September: 9/28 - (1)
There are many opportunities to order Altar flowers in October, November and December!**

- 9/2 - Amenia Murphy
- 9/3 - Susan Reiser
- 9/4 - Roswitha Siegman
- 9/7 - Michael Reiser
- 9/21 - Elke Plaxton
- 9/25 - Tyler Reiser





New members

Please meet and welcome our new members, Joseph and Elena Kauffman. Joe and Elena were married at our church and received into membership on July 26, 2020.

We pray that Old Zion may be a rich blessing to them!

August 2020

Old Zion Frauenverein

For reasons explained in the following letter to members of our Frauenverein, it was necessary to make changes. We will sorely miss our fellowship, the meditations and presentations from Pastor Metzger, and the warm welcome we received from Ruth and Helmut. We are thankful for what we had and will look forward to a new way of fellowship with each other and working for the good of our congregation.

To the members of Old Zion's Frauenverein.

Greetings to you all,

It is my responsibility to advise you of the plans that have been talked about pertaining to the future of our Frauenverein.

First of all my sincerest sympathy to Helmut and his family. The death of Ruth has saddened us all. Ruth was an integral part of Frauenverein, as Secretary, hostess and friend. Together with Helmut she welcomed us into her home for our monthly meetings for many years which we gratefully accepted.

I have consulted with several Frauenverein members and Pastor Metzger about our situation, and it was agreed, that Frauenverein, as it was, is no longer sustainable. The fact is, that we have no meeting place at the moment except for Church, and understandably many are uncomfortable coming into Philadelphia especially during this time.

So, the thought is that for now we form an ad-hoc committee to be in charge of any congregational social events. We can communicate by phone, e-mail or in person and we can hold meetings at church after services when needed as we did when planning our last Christmas dinner.

I would like to arrange a meeting, around mid September if circumstances permit, so we can get together and work out the details.

Please feel free to voice your opinion, I would love to hear from you!

Blessings, Betty

Old Zion Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall Rental Opportunities

Now that we have incorporated climate control elements into our lovely Fellowship Hall, the council of **Old Zion Lutheran Church** has made the Fellowship Hall available to members, friends, and those in the greater community on a rental basis for various functions, meetings, and events.

The Fellowship Hall is ideal for meetings and classes, small cabaret performances or recitals, and personal celebrations (anniversaries, birthdays, etc). The hall can be rented on an hourly basis at \$150 per hour, or for a larger block of time at a discounted rate (4 hours for \$500). Ongoing rentals can also be considered.

Aside from both heating and cooling to meet your needs, the Fellowship Hall has space for approximately 70-90 people. We can provide tables and chairs to accommodate your guests, easy access to bathrooms, and space to put out any refreshments you may wish to serve. Basic wifi is provided, as is a large projector screen that can be pulled down for your convenience. We ask that any decorations be approved prior to use.

For more information, please see our new "Space Rental" page on the website by visiting *www.oldzionlutheran.org/rental*, or by searching for **Old Zion Lutheran Church** on the Philadelphia Space Finder (*philly.spacefinder.org*). For more direct information, please feel free to communicate with **Pastor Metzger** or **Jaye Green**, the head of our leasing committee.