

CROSSROADS  
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

*"I am bringing you good news of  
great joy for all people."  
- Luke 2:10*

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### Celebration in Times of Change

By now, we all know the trends and statistics. That the decline of the number of Christians in every denomination is continuing at a rapid pace. In the last ten years, the number of Protestants in the North East has declined by nearly 20%. 11 Episcopal parishes in CT have closed or merged in the past 9 years. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford has recently closed 26 CT parishes and merged 144 reducing their overall number of parishes from 212 to 127. At Zion we have not been immune to the shrinking of our numbers. When we look around our sanctuary on a Sunday morning, we may feel some sadness; for those who are no longer with us, for those who for a variety of reasons cannot come to church on a Sunday morning, and for those who no longer recognize the value of gathering as disciples of Christ.

In his talk to convention, Bishop Ian Douglas acknowledged our dismay over the shrinking of the church and reminded us that God has had, since Jesus and the first Pentecost, and God will always have, the Body of Christ (the Church) that God needs to be about God's mission in the world. But this may mean that we need to make changes in the months and years ahead- as we look to how we can best continue use our resources to do God's work in the world. At Zion we have much to celebrate. God is as alive as ever and continues to inspire God's people to living into the good news of God's love for all people.

God is not finished with us yet my friends. We still have so much joy, so much faith, and so much hope to give to the glory of God and for the benefit of our fellow human beings. I am excited for all the ways we will see God at work around us, among us, and through us in the months and years ahead.

Yours in Christ,  
Lucy+

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As you all are aware, the Sunday morning attendance has been down. We were hoping that after the summer session ended that the attendance would bounce back but that has not happened. It has become difficult to find enough people to serve for two liturgies on Sunday mornings.

Rev. Lucy, Diane Iglesias and I have been in discussion about the possibility of switching to a single 9:00 am service throughout the entire liturgical year. We have discussed this with vestry and we would like input from the Congregation as well. We will hold a discussion meeting in between services on **Sunday December 15th**, to hear your input and concerns. Please reach out to me, Diane or Rev. Lucy to discuss this further.

Thank you,  
Lisa Latham,  
Senior Warden

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**Zion's annual Holiday Fair  
is Saturday, November 23rd  
from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.**

On Sunday, October 13, we held a meeting to discuss ideas for our upcoming Zion Holiday fair. Many good ideas were shared. We had a mug craft night November 5 and are having a Turkey Pretzel Making Night **Wednesday, November 13** from 7 pm - 8 pm. to work items to be sold at the fair. White Elephant items may be brought in at any time and stored downstairs in the Erna conference room. Please remember that clean items sell faster.

On **Thursday, November 21**, we will begin setting up for the fair at **6:30 pm**. We will need help setting up tables both upstairs and downstairs. On **Friday, November 22, at 6:30 pm**, we will continue setting up and putting everything out on the tables including downstairs in the back rooms. We will also be working in the kitchen peeling and slicing apples for the apple crisp we will be selling at the fair.

The Fair date is **Saturday, November 23**, and we will be looking for donations of cookies for the cookie walk, baked goods including, breads, pies, cupcakes as well as jams and jellies, and any crafts you would like to donate to sell at the fair. Sign-up sheets for helpers are up on the double doors in the hall. We really need your help to make this work. The Zion church fair is a wonderful time for fellowship and to welcome the local community. Please consider helping out, even if you only have a little time to give. All help is appreciated.

Thank you, Lisa Latham

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### CROPWALK

The Betsy & Clyde Work Memorial Cropwalk was held on **Sunday, October 6**. Zion walked this year and had a slightly smaller group than last year. This year we raised **\$525** of our \$1500 goal for Cropwalk. The entire walk raised \$2,358.

Because of Zion's involvement in Cropwalk the Food Pantry of North Branford has been given thousands of dollars from the proceeds each year.

### Celebrating the Zion Community!



Celebration Sunday at Zion was marked with a pancake breakfast between services. Thank you to cooks Phil Bujalski and Dave LaRocca.



### "Dinner And" plans in the works



In November, we had 'Dinner and Bingo'. We are hoping to offer a no-cost dinner with some kind of activity at Zion once per month- preferably we can get into a rhythm of Second Saturdays. The possibilities are limitless- craft night, game night, a speaker...what ideas do you have? Please speak to Rev. Lucy if you would like to plan a 'Dinner And.'

## **THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE WANTS YOU!**

This year's annual meeting will present nominations for Vestry. This person should have a desire to help and a perspective about our parish. We need people with varied experiences who can attend a monthly meeting and participate in some activities of the parish.

Our Vestry members receive a training session with our veterans and we are blessed with a faithful group that takes risks to participate in God's mission through Zion. We hope you will speak to us about any potential members. Please don't forget to consider *yourself!* Contact Senior Warden, Lisa Latham, or Junior Warden, Diane Iglesias.

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### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

The Zion contact list needs updates as more and more people have dropped their land-lines. Please update your contact information with parish administrator, Debbie Anderson.

Please see Debbie for more information and parishioner rate if you are looking to use the hall for a personal event. Hall use forms are available on the bulletin board in hall or on the church website.



### **Annual Appeal Drive**

This year's pledge drive concluded on Sunday, November 10. Please prayerful complete your pledge card and return it any Sunday. We will put our pledge cards on the altar.

Thank you for your generosity which enables Zion to gather for worship, serve God in the community and region, and offer our space for ministries to children and those in recovery. Your pledge for 2020 will determine how much we can do.

## **STORIES FROM GOD'S PEOPLE ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER**

Chuck Sharp recently spent a month at the U.S. border in Arizona as part of a mission trip from St. James, New London. He will share the powerful stories of migrant people at Zion on **Wednesday, December 4th at 7:00 p.m.**



*A cross marking the place where a migrant died in the desert.*

### **MUSIC NEWS**

As usual, the very dedicated Zion choir continues to work hard every week to prepare music for worship. Right now, we are practicing music for Advent and Christmas. The fourth Sunday in Advent, we will be presenting the Christmas pageant "Beneath a Shining Star" which will include the Zion choir and family members. We are excited to share this fun, family musical during the 10 a.m. service on December 22.

Christmas Eve the choir will present anthems and lead familiar carols for a half hour before the service. We have several family members who will be joining the choir as we celebrate in song.

We are so blessed to have several instrumentalists to add to our music. This year we will have flute, viola, guitar, bass, mandolin, piano, and organ accompany our worship.

If you would like to participate in the pageant or in the choir for Christmas, please speak with me, or any of the Zion choir members for more information.

Blessings,  
Ralene K. Goff



## CALENDAR FOR CHRISTMASTIDE AND EPIPHANY

### **Sunday, December 22: ADVENT IV**

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Christmas pageant "Beneath a Shining Star"

### **Monday, December 23**

6:00 p.m. Soup supper followed by decorating the church.

### **Tuesday, December 24: The Eve of the Nativity**

4:30 p.m. Carols and Anthems with Choir

5:00 p.m. Festal Holy Eucharist

### **Wednesday, December 25: The Nativity of our Lord: Christmas Day**

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Music and Carols

### **Sunday, December 29: The First Sunday after Christmas**

9:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist

### **Sunday, January 5: The Second Sunday after Christmas**

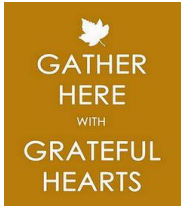
8:00 & 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist



## Christmas Flower Memorials

Those wishing to make donations for Christmas poinsettia altar flowers in memory of loved ones may use the offering envelopes found in the pews. You can also send the list via email to Debbie Anderson. Please list the names exactly as you wish them to appear in the special insert of the Christmas bulletin. Make out your checks to Zion, earmarked "*Christmas Flowers*"





This year, Zion will host a free **Community Thanksgiving Dinner** on Thursday, November 28th at 1:00 pm. The Food Pantry of North Branford will be providing all the turkeys. Please let Rev. Lucy know if you will be participating on Thursday or can help set up the evening before. There will be many ways to participate! Cooking, set up, clean up, EATING!, socializing etc.



### Decorate Our Tree...With Hats & Gloves

Beginning the first Sunday of Advent, December 1<sup>st</sup> and throughout the Advent season, we will be collecting hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and socks to benefit Loaves & Fishes. A Christmas tree will be set up in the parish hall where we'll place the hats/gloves/mittens and there will be a box for the scarves and socks. This is an all ages collection: men, women and children. All items will be brought to Loaves & Fishes before the New Year begins. Thank you so much in advance for your generous spirit!



### The Bible Challenge

Have you ever thought about reading the Bible – the whole Bible – in one year? I have, many times. I've probably read it all at some point: New Testament one year, Old Testament another. I have not, however, intentionally read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, in one year. And as a New Year's resolution for 2020, I would like to try again. And I think that one way to accomplish this would be to have some company along the way. So what do you say – why not join me on this journey of faith and see where it leads us?

All you need is a Bible (there are plenty at Zion for you to use), and 15-20 minutes a day to read the day's appointed readings. In December there will be a material available that will indicate each day's appointed passages. Then beginning on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, we can meet at 9:00 to talk about what we've read and share our experiences – How did the week go? Was it a challenge to read every day? What was your favorite passage for the week? What was your least favorite? Anything challenge you? Where might you have seen God this week?

An interest sheet will be going up December 1<sup>st</sup> in the parish hall. I hope you'll help me by taking on this challenge with me and together we can journey through amazing, thought-provoking words of the Bible! If you have any questions, please see me at church.

Jane Chick

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### Zion Parishioner Stories



I am not a life-long church goer. Whether steeped in family tradition or finding God for the first time, I believe a person's choice to worship is an extremely personal one, as it should be. And this same sentiment I apply to stewardship. My offering is between me and God....well, maybe my conscience is in there too – but we'll say that God and my conscience share the same space. This idea hasn't change for me. But something else has.

The first annual meeting I attended at Zion was only 3 years ago but it changed my thinking forever. I distinctly remember Zion Treasurer Phil Bujalski getting ready to present the budget and me bracing for boredom. But that didn't happen! At the end of the "numbers" presentation, Phil revealed his thoughts on church finance. He reflected on the difficulty he had, in the beginning of his tenure as treasurer, coming to terms with the fact that sometimes more was spent than taken in. He shared his realization that the purpose of the treasurer was NOT to fill the church coffers with offerings. Offerings were meant to be USED for God's work! In this case, spending more was a true act of faith. Give! Give! Give! God will provide!

This idea for me really solidified my offering commitment. When I turn in my commitment card, I know that Zion truly honors my offering and uses it to its fullest for God's work. For me, that's an amazing feeling!

Tracy Sadlon, Vestry member



Hello Everyone,

Fall is officially upon us! As the temperature continues to drop please remember to dress your child for the colder weather. We go outside everyday unless it's raining. Also, remember to update their change of clothes in their backpack.

Order your cookies, coffee cakes and pies from Nursery on Notch Hill for Thanksgiving! Order forms are due by Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Orders will be delivered and ready for pickup on Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. If you are available during the day and would like to help organize the orders, please let me know. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

On Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> the Branford Lions Club will be at Notch Hill providing free vision screening to our students in Ms. Donna's class. This is a voluntary program that we are offering. Permission slips will be sent home this week. Unfortunately, the Lions Club did not have time available in their schedule to screen the students in Ms. Betsy's class.

This month Ms. Donna's class will be busy preparing for their Thanksgiving Feast! Our Feast is scheduled for Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at noon. Family and friends are welcome to attend.

We would like to wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving. It is a great time to reflect on all we have to be thankful for. We are thankful for the opportunity to spend your day with your children.

## November Snack Helpers

Week 1 (11/4) Martin and P. DiLungo

Week 2 (11/11) Ryalls and S. DiLungo

Week 3 (11/18) Saulino and Gargiulo

Week 4 (11/25) No helpers -Thanksgiving week

Thank you to all our snack helpers! The State of CT requires us to write down the snack you will be contributing one week prior. The calendar for November is posted and is located on the bulletin board next to our daily sign in sheet. Thank you for your help!

## Dates to Remember

- Fundraiser Order Forms due by **Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> Delivery** date is Thursday, **November 21<sup>st</sup>**
- School is in session on Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> for Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving Feast for the MWF class is Monday, **November 25<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon**
- **CLOSED November 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving!**



## Reminder:

**The State of CT requires all children in a state licensed preschool to receive their flu shot. Please remember to get your child's flu shot by December 31<sup>st</sup>.**

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## Classroom News

During this month, our classes will be talking about being thankful!

The children will be working on Thanksgiving activities to help them appreciate all the wonderful things in their lives.

Ms. Betsy's themes will be, fall leaves and the meaning of Thanksgiving.

Ms. Donna's class will be working on fall activities and practicing for the Thanksgiving Feast.

## Food for Thought

**Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our Thanksgiving.**

## November/December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<i>All Saints' Sunday</i> HE 8& 10 a.m.	Yoga			Yoga AA	AA	6 p.m. Hot dogs and beans 7:00 BINGO
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<i>Pentecost 22</i> Vestry Meeting HE 8& 10 a.m. AA	Yoga			Yoga AA	AA	
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<i>Pentecost 23</i> Worship & Music meeting HE 8& 10 a.m. AA	Yoga			Fair set up AA	Fair set up AA	Holiday Fair
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<i>Christ the King Sunday</i> 9:30 Godly Play HE 8& 10 a.m. AA	Yoga			Thanksgiving AA	AA	
<b>DECEMBER 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<i>Advent 1</i> HE 8& 10 a.m. Guest Preacher, George Black AA	Yoga		7 p.m. Stories from the Southern Boarder	Yoga AA	AA	Rental 11-4
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<i>Advent 2</i> Vestry Meeting HE 8& 10 a.m. AA	Yoga			Yoga AA	AA	NONH Santa breakfast Rental
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<i>Advent 3</i> HE 8& 10 a.m. AA	Yoga			Yoga AA AA	AA	
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<i>Advent 4</i> Christmas pageant HE 8& 10 a.m. AA	6 p.m. Soup supper followed by Christmas decorating	<b>Christmas Eve</b> 4:30 p.m. Choir anthems & carols HE 5 p.m.	<b>Christmas Day</b> HE 9 a.m.			
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				
<i>First Sunday after Christmas</i> 9 a.m. Lessons and carols AA						

**ZION EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

www.zionepiscopalchurch.org

**Vicar: The Rev. Lucy LaRocca**  
email

**Parish Office: 203-488-7395**

**Administrator:** Debbie Anderson:

**Music Director:** Ralene Goff:

**Officers**

**Senior Warden:** *Lisa Latham*

**Junior Warden:** *Diane Iglesias*

**Treasurer:** Phil Bujalski

**Clerk:** Jane Chick

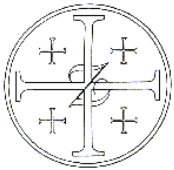
**Pledge Clerk:** Susan LeGeyt

**Vestry:** *Ann Harriman, Ann McGloin, Andrew Parfitt, Tracy Sadlon and Rita Smith.*

*\*italics means rotating off vestry in 2020*

**\*Holiday Fair (See page 2.)**

**\*Advent Community Outreach (see page 5.)**



Zion Episcopal Church  
326 Notch Hill Road  
North Branford, CT 06471  
zionepiscopalchurch.org

