THE PARISH VOICE

JANUARY 2024



<u>Sunday worship</u> - 10:30 am virtually; and in person with masks and socially distant seating, alternating locations between Zion/St. Mark; and 8:00 am rebroadcast on local tv channel

<u>For online access information:</u> Zion: Beth Deskins St. Mark: the LeRoy and Smith families

<u>Prayer requests</u> – parish office <u>zionstmk@swva.net</u> or 745.2096

Please let us know if there is any way we may be of assistance to you

Pastor Wanda Childs – 304.920.5965

"The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don't wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope." -- Barack Obama

To the People of the Floyd-Willis Parish,

The season of Christmas is followed by the season of Epiphany also known as the season of light. It begins on January 6th, the last of the 12 days of Christmas. Epiphany is sometimes referred to as Three Kings Day, celebrating the three wise men who used a star to find baby Jesus Christ to bring him gifts.

The word Epiphany literally means "to reveal all or to make known." On this day and throughout Epiphany we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations.

An ancient practice which is part of church history is the custom of blessing homes at the New Year. A family would hold a short service of prayer to ask God's blessing on their dwellings and on all who live, work with and visit them. It is simply a way to intentionally & formally invite Jesus to be a "guest" in your home, a listener to each conversation, and a blessing in times of thanksgiving.

I would love to do this with you! Reach out to me if you'd like me to visit your home and lead in this sweet Service of Blessing.

We use the season of Epiphany to think about the ways Jesus appears in *our* lives **every day** – through a kindness done by us or for us, through the way we attend to another's needs and see our own needs filled. We see the love of God flow through us, from us and to us. You'll hear stories of **Jesus' divine identity and earthly role made known** to the people of his time when you come to worship on Sunday mornings during Epiphany!

> In Christ's Powerful Light, Pastor Wanda

Contact Us

FLOYD WILLIS LUTHERAN PARISH

PO Box 37, Floyd, VA 24091 Parish Office – 540.745.2096 or zionstmk@swva.net

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

5655 Floyd Hwy South, Willis, 24380

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

135 Needmore Lane, Floyd, VA 24091

PASTOR WANDA CHILDS

Pastor Wanda will be happy to meet with you by phone or in person. Please contact her to set up a time. She also has weekly office hours. 304.920.5965 wandalchilds@gmail.com

MUSIC/CHOIR DIRECTOR

Vickie Sowers vsowers@swva.net

Alive in Christ, Christ alive in us

St. Mark Council Members

Susan Paris, President Laura LeRoy Mike Smith Vickie Sowers

Zion Council Members

Marty Holliday, President BJ Bauermeister Michael Daiber Bill Gardner Linda Fox Jack Wall Marjorie Wells

Joint Council

Bill Gardner, President BJ Bauermeister, Treasurer Mike Smith, Secretary

Committees

Altar Guild St. Mark – Beth Smith Altar Guild Zion – Marty Holliday Cemetery/Columbarium-Bill Gardner

Community Cares – Kamala Bauers Prayer Shawls – Linda Fox RIC – Linda Fox Social Justice – Marty Holliday Zoom Services – Marty Holliday Webmaster – Tom Roemhildt

FLOYD WILLIS LUTHERAN PARISH

PO Box 37 Floyd, VA 24091

<u> Funny Bone –</u>

- Youth is when you're allowed to stay up for New Year's. Middle age is when you're forced to.
- What did the cat say on New Year's Eve? "Meow."
- What's the luckiest band on New Year's Day? Black-Eyed Peas.
- What's a New Year's resolution? Something that goes in one year and out the other.
- "Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties."
 Helen Keller

Parish Lunch at St. Mark Friday, January 12th and 26th, Noon. Bring your lunch and a friend!

January Worship Services

Sunday Worship In-Person and Virtual, Re-broadcast of services on local television, Sundays, 8 am

7– Zion, 10:30 Sunday Worship Noisy Offering for Plenty Farm/Food Bank Fund, Congregational Meeting

14 – St. Mark, 10:30 Sunday Worship Congregational Meeting

21-Zion, 10:30 Sunday Worship Noisy Offering for Community Care Fund

28 – St. Mark, 10:30 Sunday Worship

"when I let go of what I am, I become what I might be." -Lao Tzu

Prayers for the People

Wayne Pennell, husband of BJ Bauermeister

Michael Daiber

Nadine Rutrough

Jay Bower, nephew of Daniel Bower

(prayer requests/deletions- parish office voice mail 745.2096 or email zionstmk@swva.net) <u>Tithes and Offerings</u> <u>can be mailed to:</u>

<u>Zion -</u> Floyd Willis Lutheran Parish, PO Box 37, Floyd, VA 24091

<u>St. Mark-</u>Nadine Rutrough, 952 Christiansburg Pike, Floyd, VA 24091

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" <u>2 Corinthians</u> 5:17

Birthdays

3-Leslie Shelor

9-Barbara Triplett, Chesley Mercado

15-Lola and Mindy Farley

20-Lee Ann Farley

27-Daniel Bower

Thank you to Marty Holliday for all the ways she serves the parish. She leads the Virtual Service team to ensure everyone has access to the online services; she oftentimes prepares and delivers sermons when the Pastor must be away; she heads up the Altar Guild at Zion; she is active in serving the Synod with event participation; she is the chair of the Social Justice Committee; she manages requests/approvals for the committee reviewing Zion and Oak Grove Pavilion use; she coordinates food provider volunteers for numerous funerals, service groups and other events as they arise and she currently serves as President of the Zion Council. Prior to Covid, she led a Vacation Bible School for the parish and led the Children's Sunday School during services. She continues to contribute an amazing amount of time and talent. We are so grateful for her leadership and dedication to the Floyd Willis Lutheran Parish!



January 12th-14th 2024 – Wild Women's Retreat

Join a cozy and adventurous retreat focused on friendship, wine, and worship. This year's theme is "Laugh your way to Grace - Laughter and bread go together, and wine gives sparkle to life" -Ecclesiastes 10:19. Enjoy craft sessions, joke sharing, and fun games. Saturday features a scenic hike, lunch with wine cider tastings, and exploring a local winery. Sunday includes silent meditation and a church-like service. Retreat ends at noon. To register <u>click here</u>.

January 26th-28th 2024 – Beer Reformation Retreat

The weekend event includes various activities such as a prayer hike, beer art, adventure games, and recipe sharing. Participants can attend for the whole weekend or a day. The focus this year is on food pairings and brewing an English Style ESB and other surprise recipes. The schedule includes meals, prayer hike, brewery visit, beer adventure games, music jam time, and worship service. Participants can also sample and take home some of the brews. To register <u>click here</u>.

Questions?

Email heidi@carolinefurnace.org or call the office at (540) 449-0012

Zion needs volunteers to sign up to serve as Usher/Greeters, Readers and Fellowship Hosts. There are sign-up sheets on the kitchen counter. Please consider making this valuable contribution of time to your church.