Welcome!



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

101 N. Greenwood Street, Tamaqua, PA 18252 (570) 668-2180 - Email: zionlcof@verizon.net

Our Mission: Empowered and Inspired by God to bring others to Christ.

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024 ~ 9:00 am

The Liturgy of Word and Sacrament

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

*Congregation please stand

The Pre-service Music

~ The Gathering ~

* The Confession and Forgiveness

BLESSED BE THE HOLY TRINITY, + ONE GOD, ALIVE IN THE WORLD, REVIVING CREATION, ARRIVING SOON.

Amen.

LET US CONFESS OUR SIN IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND OF ONE ANOTHER.

Please kneel if able.

GOD OF MERCY.

we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

GOD OF MIGHT,

we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

GOD IN OUR MIDST.

we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A RIGHTEOUS BRANCH SPRINGS FORTH: IT IS CHRIST THE LORD, OUR SAVIOR, IN WHOM WE HAVE FORGIVENESS, LIFE, AND MERCY. BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, RECEIVE THE GRACE AND FORGIVENESS OF GOD THROUGH + CHRIST JESUS, WHOSE DAY DRAWS NEAR.

Amen.

* The Gathering Hymn

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

No. 29

* The Greeting

THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE REFINING FIRE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND THE PEACE OF GOD, WHICH SURPASSES UNDERSTANDING, BE WITH YOU ALL.

And also with you.

* The Kyrie Eleison (music on page 57 of LBW)

IN PEACE, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

(Sung) Lord, have mercy.

FOR THE PEACE FROM ABOVE, AND FOR OUR SALVATION, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

Lord, have mercy.

FOR THE PEACE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE CHURCH OF GOD, AND FOR THE UNITY OF ALL, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

Lord, have mercy.

FOR THIS HOLY HOUSE, AND FOR ALL WHO OFFER HERE THEIR WORSHIP AND PRAISE, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

Lord, have mercy.

HELP, SAVE, COMFORT, AND DEFEND US, GRACIOUS LORD.

Amen.

* The Prayer of the Day

THE LORD BE WITH YOU (Sung) And also with you.

LET US PRAY:

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

~The Word~

The First Lesson Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

(After the reading)

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Thanks be to God.

The Candle Lighting

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

PRAISE TO YOU, O GOD, WHO HOLDS OUR JOY AND SORROW. YOU BRING WATER TO PARCHED GROUND AND LIFE OUT OF DEATH. BLESS US AS THIS LIGHT GROWS AND SEND SORROW AND SIGHING TO FLEE AWAY. GIVE US STRENGTH AND PATIENCE, TRUSTING THAT YOU ARE TRUE TO YOUR PROMISES. TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF ALL WHO SUFFER WITH YOUR WONDERS NEAR AT HAND.

Amen.

Light the third candle.

Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

The Second Lesson Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

(After the reading)

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Thanks be to God.

* The Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia Verse LWB p. 62)

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life, Alleluia, Alleluia.

* The Holy Gospel St. Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

(Before the Gospel)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE THE 3RD CHAPTER: (sung) Glory to you, O Lord.

(After the Gospel)
THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD
(sung) Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

Pastor Cindy White

*The Hymn of the Day "Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn" WOV No. 633

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.

Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! The Child of our longing.

Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,

He opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing, His humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing; Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving-kindness, The thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.

In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing, As morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring. Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder, The weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless, The rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless. Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story; May God fill ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory.

* The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

* The Prayers of Intercession

AS WE PREPARE FOR EMMANUEL, GOD-WITH-US, LET US PRAY FOR ALL PEOPLE AND PLACES THAT LONG FOR GOD'S PRESENCE.

A brief silence.

GOD WHO REFORMS, FILL YOUR CHURCH WITH COURAGE TO DO YOUR WILL. EMPOWER YOUR PEOPLE IN TAKING RISKS THAT BEAR FRUIT. RAISE UP LEADERS WHO WILL PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY,

receive our prayer.

GOD WHO CREATES, YOU HOLD IN BALANCE DIVERSE ECOSYSTEMS. ENCOURAGE EFFORTS TO PROTECT WILD LANDS FROM DEVASTATION. CARE FOR ANIMALS AND PEOPLE IN THE PATH OF DESTRUCTIVE FIRES, STORMS, AND OTHER DISASTERS. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY,

receive our prayer.

GOD WHO LEADS, THIS WORLD CRIES OUT FOR TRUE JUSTICE. GUIDE LEGISLATURES, JUDGES, AND LAWYERS IN ACTIONS STEEPED IN LOVE AND RESTORATION. INCREASE THE DESIRE TO ADVOCATE FOR ALL WHO ARE CONFRONTED WITH DISCRIMINATION AND OPPRESSION BASED ON RACE, GENDER, SEXUALITY, CLASS, OR AGE. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY,

receive our prayer.

GOD WHO EMBRACES, HELP US NOTICE THE PLACES WHERE YOUR PEOPLE ARE HURTING OR SICK ESPECIALLY JAMES, STEVE, CHRISTINE, EDDIE, GEORGE, JAN, RALPH, AND ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND. SHOW YOUR COMPASSION AND REMEMBER YOUR PEOPLE IN LOVE. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY,

receive our prayer.

GOD WHO ABIDES, YOU DWELL AMONG THE PEOPLE OF THIS CONGREGATION. DEEPEN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH ONE ANOTHER, AND MAKE US AWARE OF THE DIVERSE TALENTS AND GIFTS PRESENT HERE. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY,

receive our prayer.

GOD WHO CONSOLES, WE THANK YOU FOR THE TIME WE HAVE HAD WITH LOVED ONES WHO HAVE DIED. COMFORT US WITH THE PROMISE OF EVERLASTING LIFE IN YOU. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY,

receive our prayer.

GOD OF GRACE AND MERCY, (PLEASE SHARE ANY PERSONAL PRAYER PETITIONS) HEAR OUR PETITIONS THAT WE SPEAK OUT LOUD AND THE ONES THAT WE HOLD IN OUR HEARTS. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY,

receive our prayer.

SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME, AND RECEIVE THESE PRAYERS AND THE PLEAS OF OUR HEARTS, IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST.

Amen.

* The Peace of Christ

THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE WITH YOU ALWAYS.

And also with you.

~The Meal~

The Offering and Offertory

Zion members, please use your envelopes for contributions so that your offering may be officially recorded. Please mail your envelopes to Zion Lutheran Church 101 N. Greenwood Street Tamaqua, PA 18252 or visit ziontamaqua.com for our Vanco option.

* The Offertory Procession Tune: "O Come Lord Jesus"

Oh, come Lord Jesus, be our guest and let your gifts to us be blest.

Keep us forever in your sight and be our joy, our hearts delight.

Oh, come Lord Jesus be our guest and let your gifts to us be blest. Come deep within our hearts to dwell that we may all your goodness tell.

* The Offertory Prayer

LET US PRAY: CREATOR GOD, YOU MADE THE WHOLE WORLD, EVEN THE FARTHEST STARS, AND YOU DRAW NEAR TO FEED US. WE PRAISE YOU FOR THESE GIFTS OF BREAD AND WINE. STRENGTHEN US WITH THIS FOOD THAT WE MAY LIVE IN EXPECTATION FOR THE ADVENT OF YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

Amen.

* The Great Thanksgiving

* The Preface and Sanctus (music on page 68 of LBW)

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

(Sung) And also with you.

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS.

We lift them to the Lord.

LET US GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OUR GOD.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

IT IS INDEED RIGHT......THEIR UNENDING HYMN: (LBW page 69)

(Sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

* The Prayer of Thanksgiving

HOLY ONE, THE BEGINNING AND THE END, THE GIVER OF LIFE: BLESSED ARE YOU FOR THE BIRTH OF CREATION...BLESSED ARE YOU FOR YOUR SON JESUS, THE WORD MADE FLESH.

IN THE NIGHT IN WHICH HE WAS BETRAYED, OUR LORD JESUS TOOK BREAD, AND GAVE THANKS...DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

AGAIN, AFTER SUPPER, HE TOOK THE CUP, GAVE THANKS...DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

LET US PROCLAIM THE MYSTERY OF FAITH:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

WITH THIS BREAD AND CUP WE REMEMBER YOUR WORD DWELLING AMONG US, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH. WE REMEMBER OUR NEW BIRTH IN HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION. WE LOOK WITH HOPE FOR HIS COMING.

Come, Lord Jesus.

HOLY GOD, WE LONG FOR YOUR SPIRIT. COME AMONG US. BLESS THIS MEAL. MAY YOUR WORD TAKE FLESH IN US. AWAKEN YOUR PEOPLE. FILL US WITH YOUR LIGHT. BRING THE GIFT OF PEACE ON EARTH.

Come Holy Spirit.

ALL PRAISE AND GLORY ARE YOURS, HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL, WORD OF GOD INCARNATE, POWER OF THE MOST HIGH. ONE GOD. NOW AND FOREVER.

Amen.

* The Lord's Prayer

JESUS, REMEMBER US IN YOUR KINGDOM: AND TEACH US TO PRAY:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

* The Invitation to the Holy Meal

GOD FEEDS US WITH TENDER MERCY. COME TO THE TABLE.

* The Agnus Dei "Lamb of God" (LBW page 72)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

The Distribution

All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present in the Sacrament are welcome to commune when we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Zion members, please complete a Communion card once a year for our records.

* The Post-Communion Blessing

THE BODY AND BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST STRENGTHEN YOU AND KEEP YOU IN HIS GRACE.

Amen.

* The Post Communion Canticle "Magnificat"

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.

For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

He hath showed strength with his arm; He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, He hath put down the mighty from their seats and exalted them of low degree.

He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; as he spake to our fathers, to

Abraham and to his seed forever. Glory be to the Father: and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

* The Post Communion Prayer

LET US PRAY: GENEROUS GOD, WE THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF LIFE, FOR THE BREAD OF SALVATION. WE THANK YOU FOR COMING AMONG US, FOR LEADING US INTO PEACE. WE THANK YOU FOR SHOWERING US WITH MERCY, FOR SENDING US INTO THE WORLD. COME, LORD JESUS, AND GO WITH US AS WE FEED THE HUNGRY IN YOUR NAME.

Amen.

The Senior Choir Anthem "Is Your Heart Prepared for a King" - Lau

~The Sending~

* The Blessing

GOD OF ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS, GOD IN THE DARKNESS AND THE LIGHT, GOD, OUR HOPE FOR THE JOURNEY, + BLESS AND KEEP YOU NOW AND FOREVER.

(Spoken) Amen.

* The Sending

GO IN PEACE. PREPARE THE WAY FOR EMMANUEL.

Thanks be to God.

* The Sending Hymn

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

ELW No. 250

Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free and raises up new hope for us: a Branch from David's tree. So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.

With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall, the oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all; that we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise, in holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.

My child, as prophet of the Lord you will prepare the way, to tell God's people they are saved from sin's eternal sway. Then shall God's mercy from on high shine forth and never cease to drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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December 22, 2024 readings are: Micah 5:2-5a Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-55

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 14-15, 2024

*If you need assistance, please see one of the ushers in the back of the church; Large Print Bulletins are available. Grape juice is available in the tray for those who wish not to partake of the wine. Please Silence your cell phones during service. A Family Room is available for use during or after services, located across from the office. A changing station is available for your convenience in the restroom across the hall from the Family Room. We respectfully ask that you refrain from taking photos during the service. Opportunities are always available after the service. Welcome visitors please sign our guest book. Thank you.

GIFTS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

THE ALTAR CANDLES are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Rose Miller Smith, Robert "Pap" & Madeline "Gram" Trakes by Mike & Kathy Miller & family

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Joseph Coleman by the Coleman family

THE BULLETINS are given to the Glory of God and

For the prosperity of our church in our hometown & community by Stacei Faust & Emily Stahler

Please remember the following in your prayers: James Bynon, Steve Ristila, Christine Zimmerman, Eddie Smith, George Weaver, Jan McRoberts, Ralph Derr, and all our members who are homebound.

Welcome!!

Parish office phone and fax is 570-668-2180.

Parish office email address is <u>zionlcof@verizon.net</u>

Parish website is www.ziontamaqua.com

Parish Office Hours- Monday & Wednesday: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm Tuesday& Thursday: 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Zion's 2024 Church Council officers: Michael Haspe, President, Brian Lawfer, Vice-President, Ernie Henritzy, Secretary, Dave Gensure, Treasurer, and Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary. Other members of Council include Arlene Derr, Glenn Fritzinger, Thomas Graham, Carol Hartung, Amanda Hascin, Steve Ristila, Brittany Scalfani and Mary Ruth Taylor; if you have suggestions or concerns, please seek out a member of Council so that we can promptly address the needs of the congregation.

This Week in Our Church

SUNDAY, December 15, 2024, 3rd Sunday in Advent

9:00 The Service of Word & Sacrament

10:15 Christian Education

10:15 Narcan Information/ Social Hall

11:00 Confirmation Class

MONDAY

5:45 Property Meeting

6:30 Council Meeting

THURSDAY

7:00 Senior Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY

5:30 Diaper Depot Prep

SATURDAY

9:00 Diaper Depot Distribution 6:00 Saturday Evening Worship

SUNDAY, December 22, 2024, 4th Sunday in Advent

9:00 The Service of Word & Sacrament/ Ministry of Music

10:15 Holiday Potluck

Supporting Zion's Ministries

"Empowered and inspired by God to bring others to Christ"

Received 12/8/24 in support of Zion Ministries:

From our gifts \$39.00 From Thrift Store \$0.00 From Endowment (other) \$0.00

Received for Endowment: \$0.00 Received for Capital Campaign: \$0.00

Received year-to-date for Zion's mission/ministries:

From offering/gifts/memorials: \$137,754.21
From Thrift Store: \$8,920.59*
From Endowment: \$22,006.00
From Culinary: \$16,865.00

Year-to-date total for Zion's mission/ministries: \$185,545.80

Thank you for your gifts. Your gifts allow us to share the word of God and the love of Jesus with our congregation and our community.

^{*} Thrift Store donates half of income to Outreach total income - \$17,841.18

Upcoming Events

December 15 – Narcan Information Seminar 10:15 Social Hall
 December 22 – Holiday Fellowship Potluck
 December 24 – Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 & 9:00 pm
 January 1 – New Year Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner

Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsors needed for 2025 - The Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsor list for 2025 is on the bulletin board. The costs of the flowers are \$42.40 and individuals will be billed from the florist. The cost of the bulletin sponsorship is \$16.00 and monies are due when you place your name on the list. You can also sponsor the Candles for the month at \$40. Please remember to fill out a card with your honorarium or memorial, this information is needed for the bulletin. Please do not sign up without filling out a form. These sponsorships are on a first come first serve basis; this is to ensure that everyone has equal opportunity to sponsor these memorials. Please contact the church office if you have questions. Thank you in advance for your sponsorship!

Attention Committees:

All committee chairpersons are reminded to submit a report outlining the activities of your committee in 2024 for the annual report. These reports are to be submitted to the church office no later than January 12, 2025. You can e-mail the church office at zionlcof@verizon.net or stop by the office. Thank you for your co-operation.

A Holiday Fellowship Potluck will be held on Sunday, December 22nd, following the morning worship service. Sign-up sheets are available in the gathering room. Hope to see you there!

A reminder that both a record of communion AND a record of contribution is necessary to maintain voting active member status. Please remember to complete a communion card and to use your offering envelopes. Thank you, Church Council

Please note that the church office will be closed December 25th 26th, January 1st and 2nd. If you are in need of assistance please leave a message, the answering machine will be checked periodically. Thank You!

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

A REMINDER FROM THE TREASURER AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY...

The financial books of Zion will close on Sunday, December 29, 2024

Remember, All contributions RECEIVED after that date will be credited to your 2025 financial statements

Happy New Year 2025 - Zion will host a Community Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner New Year's Day, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm or when all dinners are given out. Dinners will be served, eat in or take-out. You can order a dinner beginning December 8. Orders can be placed by calling Mary Ruth at 570-668-4451. Watch the Zion webpage and Facebook to order dinners online. A Free will offering will be accepted. Everyone Welcome!!

Donations of gallon and quart freezer bags are urgently needed for the kitchen. Please put them on the counter in the kitchen or give them to a member of culinary. Thank you for your donations!

