



*December 2024/ January 2025*

Newsletter for the Congregation  
And Friends of

**ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

101 N. Greenwood Street, Tamaqua, PA 18252

(570) 668-2180 ~ FAX (570)668-2181

Pastor ~ Cindy White

Melody Gensure ~ Parish Administrator - Email~ [zionlcof@verizon.net](mailto:zionlcof@verizon.net)

Parish website ~ [www.ziontamaqua.com](http://www.ziontamaqua.com)

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

*Blessings one and all,*



*The Nativity is now up in our gathering room. The children are practicing their music. Our alter colors are blue. These are all indications that the advent season upon us. Please plan to spend the next four weeks with us in fellowship. It promises to be an*

*enlightening and melodious time, as we journey through this time of anticipation and wonder. The words for our advent candle are hope, peace, joy and love. I would like to suggest a challenge for all of us. What if each one of us chose one of these words to focus on for the next year? Perhaps the one you need or wish for. It is amazing the difference one word can make in our lives. The expression “from our lips, to God’s ears” comes to mind.*

*We have had an amazing year at Zion. All of our outreach ministries are thriving. The culinary team just completed making potato stuffing with a smooth pick up day. They will be preparing breakfast for us after our fiscal meeting December 1<sup>st</sup>. They already have their 2025 calendar penciled in. Blessings thrift shop is full to brimming for our December sale. We receive more items than you can imagine. We are most grateful. Our Sunday school continues to grow. I cannot thank all of the people that enable these ministries to thrive.*

*I hope that all of us can take the time to enjoy this season. Come in and sit in front of the nativity scene and experience the peace it can bring. Contemplate each word, each week. Do consider one to be your companion throughout the New Year.*

*Isaiah’s 9:6 “For unto us a child is born” rings sweetly in my ears as I listen to this piece from Handel’s Messiah. I truly hope the music and message can ring in your hearts and minds as well. Stay warm and safe children of God. I so look forward to spending this season with you.*

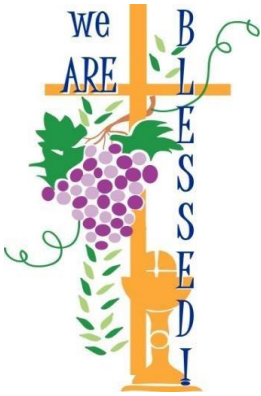
*May your Advent season and Christmas be filled with good health and joy,*

*Love,*

*Pastor Cindy, Gabriel and Hardy*

**Morning Prayer on Facebook and Website:** Rev. Cindy White reads a selected Bible verse and offers a brief message or song Wednesdays at 9 a.m. Individuals with specific prayer requests can email those requests to Pastor White at [zionlutheranrev@gmail.com](mailto:zionlutheranrev@gmail.com).

# 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion



This year 6 young people have participated in the preparatory classes for First Holy Communion. They received their first Sacrament of Holy Communion on November 24, 2024.

Evelyn Carter  
Charlotte Paul

Alana Edmonds  
Quinn Shemansik

Leah Hope  
Sophia Shirvinski

May you always know the peace of Jesus, the light of his love, and the joy of his life within you.

Zion's choir has been invited to sing for the Christmas festival at Station Square. It will involve three familiar carols and Silent Night. The time is Friday, December 6, at 6:00 PM at the Station Square. We would like everyone from the congregation to please join us that evening. We will only be singing the melody to those familiar carols. No rehearsals are needed, just show up and join us to sing. Let's begin the Christmas season with this quick, joyful ministry. We hope to see you there.



*Happy New Year 2024* - 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!!

# Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

You are invited to join us for our Christmas Eve services on Sunday, December 24, 2024 at 4:00 pm & 9:00 pm. Both services will include the Liturgy of Word and Sacrament, Carols, Prayer and Candlelight. Please join us for the observance of the Nativity of Our Lord.

## 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

From Zion Council and the Parish Staff may you and your family have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.





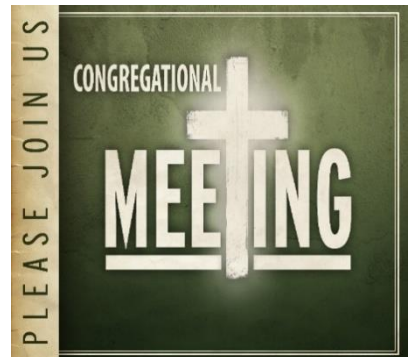
**A Holiday Fellowship Potluck will be held on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, following the morning worship service. Sign-up sheets are available in the gathering room. Hope to see you there!**

**Zion's Blessings Thrift Shop sale is on Friday, December 6, 2024 from 9 am to 5 pm. The sale features gently used clothing for all ages, toys, books, and general household items. Come take a look! Limited Take-Out Menu. Thank you all for your continued support!**



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

**A** *nnual Fiscal Meeting Announcement* - The Annual Fiscal Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 1, 2024 immediately following the service. The agenda items will be restricted to the establishment of a 2025 budget, and the election of Church Council members. The meeting will be brief, but your participation is **Very Important** as a quorum needs to be met. Copies of the budget will be available in the Gathering room.





## Upcoming Events

- December 1** – Church Advent Breakfast
- December 1** – Annual Fiscal Meeting
- December 8** – Family Christmas Event
- December 12** – Hoagie Sale - **Canceled**
- 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

## 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](mailto:zionlcof@verizon.net) or stop by the office. Thank you for your co-operation.



## Inclement Weather Policy

If we get inclement weather preceding a worship service, members of our congregation will be able to get information by the doing the following:

- Check out our website at [www.ziontamaqua.com](http://www.ziontamaqua.com) and our Facebook page
- Listen to WLSHAM 1410 and WMGH FM 105.5





# Sunday Church Advent Breakfast

December 1, 2024

10:30 AM TO 12:00 Noon



TO BEGIN THE ADVENT SEASON CULINARY WILL BE HOSTING A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP ADVENT BREAKFAST. MENU: SCRAMBLED EGGS, SAUSAGE OR BACON, AND TOAST. A FREE-WILL OFFERING WILL BE ACCEPTED.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



*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!*



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

**Looking for a way you can help serve your church,** but don't have a lot of extra time? Are you able to commit to a half hour, on a day you will already be here? We are looking for greeters to welcome people to the church on Sunday mornings, hand out bulletins, and answer questions from visitors. We would like to have enough people to make up at least 6 teams, with 2 people per team. Please text or call Brian Lawfer at 570-952-5966 for more information.



Tree of Remembrance - It's time to collect photos for the tree! Photos should be cut square and be 1.5in. x 1.5in. Photos should be placed in an envelope and placed in the Tree of Memories box in the gathering room. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Thompson at [njflip62@gmail.com](mailto:njflip62@gmail.com) or by calling 570-778-2604.



# Christmas Extravaganza

A free community program by kids, for kids.

Activities  
Crafts  
Fellowship  
Games

Make Your Own Sundae  
& Visit with Santa!

December 8, 2024

2:00 - 4:00pm

**Help Us Help Others:**

If you are able, please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to The People's Pantry! A free community food cupboard.

**All are welcome!**

## Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

101 N. Greenwood Street - Tamaqua, PA. 18252



HAVE A HAPPY  
*Thanksgiving*

### **Community Thanksgiving Service**

Trinity UCC

Tuesday, November 26, 2024, 7:00 pm

**Sponsored by the Tamaqua Ministerial Association**

# CHRISTMAS 2024

## POINSETTIA PLANTS and MEMORIAL GIFTS

Christmas poinsettia plants will decorate the Church on Christmas Eve. Plants ordered through the church office are \$9.00. December 9<sup>th</sup> is the last day to order your plants. **This is a firm deadline; no orders will be taken after that date.** Please return the bottom of this form with all monies no later than December 9, 2024; all checks should be made out to Zion Evangelical Church. All Plants and Monetary Christmas memorial gifts will be listed in the handout on Christmas Eve. Monetary gifts should be in the church office **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>**. **PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW** and return it to the church office, be sure to indicate whether monetary gifts go to **Endowment fund, Current fund, Cemetery, Fuel, Capital Campaign** or towards the candles that decorate the sanctuary. Extra order forms are available by the bulletin Board.

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

BY \_\_\_\_\_

POINSETTIA (\$9.00)

MONETARY GIFT TO: Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Red @ \$9.00

\_\_\_ Current

\_\_\_ Endowment

\_\_\_ Cemetery

\_\_\_ Fuel

\_\_\_\_\_ Total

\_\_\_ Candles

\_\_\_ Capital Campaign

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_



**Zion's 2024 Church Council officers:** Michael Haspe, President, Brian Lawfer, Vice-President, Ernie Henritzky, Secretary, Dave Gensure, Treasurer, and Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary. Other members of Council include: Arlene Derr, Glenn Fritzingler, 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.

**P**lease note if you have recently become a member or feel there are changes in your membership information please fill out a membership packet located in the Gathering Room. If you need them sent to you, please contact the church office. Thank you for keeping our records up to date.

Would you like to make a gift to our Capital Campaign today? Do you need an envelope for your gift? Blank envelopes can be found in the rear of the church on either side. Please just write your name and Capital Campaign on the envelope so we can give you credit; and place the envelope in the boxes found on the wall on either side at the back on the sanctuary. For information on our Capital Campaign, please visit our website at <http://www.ziontamaqua.com/capital-campaign/>



**Gebert Society** - If you know of someone who has remembered Zion in their will/estate with a gift (past and present), please contact the office with that information which will be used in the annual report. Names can be added to the Gebert Society at any time. Thank you.

**Please Join Us!**  
**Saturday Worship - 6:00 pm**  
**Sunday**  
**Worship - 9:00 am**  
**Christian Education - 10:15 am**  
**Confirmation - 11:00 am**

**DEADLINE:** All information for the February **2025** issue of the “**Herald**” is due at the church office no later than **Monday, January 20, 2025**. You may e-mail your information to [zionlcof@verizon.net](mailto:zionlcof@verizon.net) or stop in during regular office hours. Thank you for your co-operation!

**Hospitalizations** - If you or someone you know is hospitalized, please call the church office at 668-2180. Due to HIPAA Law names are no longer published in the newspaper and we are not contacted by the hospital unless the patient requests it, when admitted, let them know you are a member of Zion Lutheran church. Zion Lutheran Church Lehigh Valley System Hospital Code is 356; If you are admitted to a hospital in the Lehigh Valley Hospital system (not St. Luke’s/ Miner’s) and you want our church and Pastor to be notified, provide Zion’s Code # 356 when you provide admission information.



**Office Hours** ~  
Monday & Wednesday  
12:00 – 5:00 pm  
Tuesday & Thursday  
8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Please use door located on Mauch  
Chunk Street, ring bell

**Luke 2:13-14**  
And suddenly there  
was with the angel a  
multitude of the  
heavenly host, praising  
God and saying,  
“Glory to God in the  
highest heaven,  
and on earth peace  
among those whom he  
favors!”



Please continue to use your Boyer's key tag every time you shop in any Boyer's Markets. If you do not have a Boyer's tag, they are located in the Gathering room. Please use the swipe card, the receipt does not need to be turned in. Thank you for your participation in this program. Keep using those cards!

**We are collecting Redner's receipts.** Please put them in the container in the Gathering room or mail them to the church office. Please note if you are turning in Redner's receipts please do not cut off the Save a tape portion of the receipt, this makes it invalid and we cannot turn them in, thank you and keep saving!

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**Sharing your story** - As part of an ongoing emphasis on Zion's impact, we'd like to share ways in which Zion has made a difference in the lives of its members and its community. Please respond to any **ONE** of these questions and include **your name** at the end. Send your response to [zionlcof@verizon.net](mailto:zionlcof@verizon.net) (subject line "Impact story" or Zion Lutheran, 101 North Greenwood St., Tamaqua, PA 18252 Attention: Impact

1. How has Zion made a difference in your life? OR
  2. What impact has Zion had on your life the last 2 1/2 years? OR
  3. What is your vision for the future of Zion's ministry? OR
  4. How has serving in a Zion ministry made a difference in your life?
- 



**Do you like to clean?** Some people really like to clean--honest! If you do, why not join the Cleaning Angel team? We are looking for about 2 or 3 more members to add to the team. Cleaning Angels are members of the congregation who each week clean the Sanctuary, Gathering Room and Library. When two people do that cleaning, it can take 2-3 hours. Being a Cleaning Angel is not intended to be a lifelong commitment and so we thank those who have served and "retired." That means there are openings in the cleaning schedule for other members of the congregation to step up and help keep the church clean. This is a great opportunity to serve your church. The hours are flexible and there's lots of great fellowship involved. Please contact any member of the Property Committee or Cleaning Sexton Kim Eckert or Parish Administrator Melody Gensure.

## *November Memorials*

### *GIFTS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD*

***THE ALTAR CANDLES*** are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Larry Brennan & my mother, Jane Springer love, Judy

***THE ALTAR FLOWERS*** are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of my dad, Chico Ciccozzi & William Beltz by Sheri Beltz & family

In loving memory of her parents, Russ and Fern Rudenko by Debbie Rudenko

In loving memory of my mother and father's anniversary, Beauty and Jim White by Pastor Cindy.

***THE BULLETINS*** are given to the Glory of God and

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

***IMPROVEMENT FUND DONATIONS*** are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of loved ones by John & Carol Dietrich & family

In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Carl W. Koch Sr. by John & Carol Dietrich & family

In loving memory of her Aunt Dorothy Price for her November birthday by John & Carol Dietrich

In honor of their son, John B. Dietrich on his November 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday by Dad & Carol

***CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND DONATIONS*** are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Cheryl Crawford by Ells & Gail Davis

In loving memory of Rev. F. Peter Muhr by Ells & Gail Davis

***CURRENT FUND DONATIONS*** are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Dr. Neil Mastellone by Elizabeth Yorke

In honor of the baptism of Sawyer James Montecalvo by Debra Linkhorst

In loving memory of my cousin, Margie DeMorel by Elizabeth Yorke

In honor of Beth Marcavage on her birthday, November 14<sup>th</sup> by Suzanne Cunningham

Our ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held Sunday, February 9, 2025, following the 9:00 am Service. Our agenda will consist of the approval of the 2024 Annual reports for all committees and organizations. As always, we encourage all members to attend this meeting as a quorum needs to be met.





# NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## A Call to Serve: Bishop deForest on Living Faithfully in Today's World

*"I may be saved for all eternity, just like all of you [in worship this morning]. But I want my first moments in eternity to be surrounded more by people I helped than by people I hurt; by more celebration than condemnation; and by a Jesus more glad at me than mad at me."*

This excerpt from Bishop Christopher deForest's sermon, preached during a service at Maiden Creek in Blandon on November 10, captures the heart of his message.

The Gospel lectionary for November 10 was Mark 12:38-44, where Jesus observes people putting money into the temple treasury, noticing a poor widow contributing two small copper coins—all she had to live on. Jesus explains to his disciples that the widow has put in more than all the others, as she gave out of her poverty, while they gave out of their wealth.

Bishop deForest focused his sermon on Lutheranism, particularly since that Sunday was also Martin Luther's birthday. "Martin Luther himself would likely say that this story from the Gospel of Mark is a great example of the kind of things that got Luther all worked up in the first place," said Bishop deForest. He argued that Jesus would not want us just to "be like the widow" or celebrate "sacrificial giving" or "cheerful givers" as illustrated by the widow. Rather, he pointed out that Jesus was expressing strong anger at a system that ignored the plight of the poor and those harmed by economic inequalities and injustice. Bishop deForest compared Jesus' angry response in the Gospel of Mark to the time when Jesus overturned the tables in the temple.



Bishop Christopher deForest preaching and worshipping at Maiden Creek, Blandon on Nov 10, 2024

He also paralleled the recent election with Jesus' reaction to the widow's offering. "Lots of people voted, in similar anger. They – or someone they love, care about, feel concern for – are being forgotten," he noted. He reminded us that regardless of political affiliations, Christ died and came to save all of us. Quoting John 3:16, he said, "God so loved the world, that God gave God's only son, that everyone who believes in him, may not perish but may have eternal life." He emphasized, "Eternal life. Forever. Which I will spend, with these same folks. On all sides." That includes the widows and the scribes. The elites and the forgotten. The celebrities and the nobodies.



Bishop deForest concluded his sermon with a call to action: "While we're still here, and we can still offer love like Jesus, healing like Jesus, and side-by-side engagement like Jesus – with our friends and enemies, strangers and neighbors – well then, Jesus calls us out, the same as all his disciples – to get to work, while we can."

To read Bishop Christopher deForest's full sermon in his recent "On The Way" blog visit [godslove.org/onthewaynov11](https://godslove.org/onthewaynov11)

*Submitted by: Stacey Burke, NEPA Synod Communications & Growing Young Coordinator*

# Learning Ministries' Day



Sponsored by the NEPS Faith Formation Resource Ministry Team

January 25, 2025  
8:30am-3:30pm

Jordan Lutheran Church, Orefield

[godslove.org/LMD](https://godslove.org/LMD)

*"What does it mean to be a Christian in a culture that challenges our faith?"*

Registration information available soon



# Christmas

## Birth of Jesus Word Search

N K H F O S H I N I N G Z I P  
C C I D R J G W T V R K M V P  
T Q H V A A K G A B R I E L W  
C W Q W M A N G E R S N S N L  
D X O L E Y P K L Z T G S M C  
O L J L H N R G I F T S I Q U  
I W O E E K I R S N G W A S W  
N T R G L M E J H C C Y H D I  
N U S N H S O K E G J E S U S  
K R R A T S X N P F E K N L E  
E F C A E Q S I H P Q N X S M  
E Z B P B U O G E A Y O V A E  
P L H V S Q Y H R M Q D R E N  
E F G L Q K G T D Q H Y B A B  
R D O G F O N O S I O R N M M

ANGEL  
BABY  
BETHLEHEM  
CENSUS  
DONKEY  
EAST  
FRANKINCENSE

GABRIEL  
GIFTS  
GOLD  
INNKEEPER  
JESUS  
JOSEPH  
KINGS

MAGI  
MANGER  
MARY  
MESSIAH  
MYRRH  
NIGHT  
SHEEP

SHEPHERDS  
SHINING  
SON OF GOD  
STABLE  
STAR  
STRAW  
WISE MEN

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 N. Greenwood Street  
Tamaqua, PA 18252

Return Service Requested

This Newsletter was prepared  
Especially for:

