



The Herald

February 2024

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

Parish website ~ www.ziontamaqua.com

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

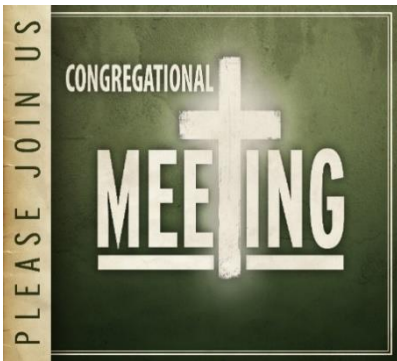
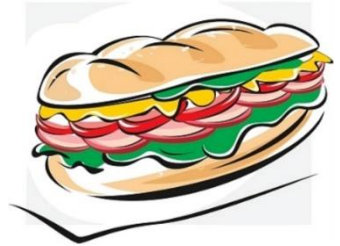


Beloved friends and families of Zion,

Blessings to you all and Happy Valentine's Day. *Pastor Cindy*

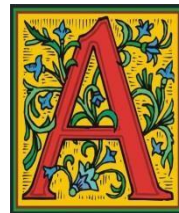
Morning Prayer on Facebook and Website: Rev. Cindy White reads a selected Bible verse and offers a brief message or song Wednesdays at 9 a.m. Individuals with specific prayer requests can email those requests to Pastor White at zionlutheranrev@gmail.com.

Hoagie and Pierogi sale - The Culinary Team is holding a hoagie and pierogi sale. Regular Hoagies are \$7 each. Fresh Pierogies are \$6.00/dozen and are homemade by the Raczka group from Minersville. Order by February 4th, at <https://www.ziontamaqua.com> or by calling 570-668-4451. Pick up is Saturday, February 10th from noon until 2:00 pm.



Our ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held Sunday, February 11, 2024, following the 9:00 am Service. Our agenda will consist of the approval of the 2023 Annual reports for all committees and organizations. As always, we encourage all members to attend this meeting as a quorum needs to be met. There will be a potluck dinner in the fellowship hall following the annual meeting.

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14, 2024. A worship service will be held at Zion beginning at 7:00 pm. with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes.



Ash
Wednesday



Zion's Blessings Thrift Shop sale is on Friday, March 1st 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!

Altar Flower and Candle Sponsors are needed for 2024 - The Altar Flower and Candle Sponsor list for 2024 is on the bulletin board. The cost of the flowers are \$42.40, and individuals will be billed from the florist. 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. Please contact the church office if you have questions. Thank you in advance!



Upcoming Events

- February 10** – Hoagie and Pierogi Sale
- February 11** – Annual Congregational Meeting/ Potluck
- February 14** – Ash Wednesday Service
- February 16, March 8 & 15** – Lenten Dinner
- March 1** – Blessings Thrift Sale

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 and our Facebook page
- Listen to WLSHAM 1410 and WMGH FM 105.5



2023 financial statements have been mailed. The IRS requires us to only send statements to those who contributed \$75 and above. Please be advised that we will be following the IRS requirement and will send statements only to those who have contributed \$75 and above. If you did not meet the IRS requirement but would still wish to receive a statement, please contact the church office as soon as possible at 570-668-2180 or zioncof@verizon.net and a statement will be sent to you.

HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?

PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH YOUR NEW ADDRESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. When mail is returned to the church office due to an address change, the church must pay .92 cents per piece of mail returned. You can help us to eliminate this charge if you notify us when your address changes.

...Thank you for your cooperation!



Thank You to Deb Davies and Carol Dietrich for addressing the Christmas Cards that were mailed to Zion member households!



ATTENTION GRADUATING CONFIRMED ZION MEMBERS: CLASS OF 2024

Before you know it graduation will be here! Please submit a photo with information on high school graduating from, where you will be attending school or what your future plans may be, major, parents' names and how you were involved with Zion. You may submit a photo now with more information to follow later to the church office. Thank you.

Zion Lenten Fish Dinner

February 16, March 8 and 15

4:00 PM to 6:00 PM or sell-out

Adult \$13.00 – Children up to age 10 \$7.00

Take-Outs Available

Menu includes Baked Haddock, Crab Cakes or Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, Cole Slaw and Dessert.

Combinations and ala carte are not available. Dinners may be pre-ordered on the website (www.ziontamaqua.com) or by calling 570-668-4451. Deadline to order dinners is **February 14th, March 6th & March 13th**. Walk-ins welcome. Hope to see you there!



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.



Zion is on Instagram. Go to the website or Facebook for complete instructions or scan the QR code.



We extend our Christian Love and Sympathy to the family and friends of:

Mildred Koch, who passed away on December 11, 2023.

Marion Klein, who passed on January 4, 2024.

We ask God to comfort the family at this time. Please keep them in your prayers.

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



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: Judy Brennan, Arlene Derr, Glenn Fritzinger, Thomas Graham, Carol Hartung, 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.

Please 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 – 5:30 pm
Sundays
Worship – 9:00 am
Christian Education – 10:15 am

DEADLINE: All information for the **March/ April 2024 issue of the “Herald”** is due at the church office no later than **Monday, February 19, 2024. Please note that this is a combined issue.** You may e-mail your information to zioncof@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
Pastor’s Office Hours ~
Wednesday
11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Please use door located on Mauch
Chunk Street, ring bell

Psalms 13:5

But I trusted in your
steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in
your salvation.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES 2024

St. John's and Zion will once again hold combined Mid-Week Lenten Services at 7:00 pm. The service will follow the Holden Evening prayer from the ELW.

You don't want to miss it. Lent is such a sacred time in the church year. Let's walk these weeks together in faith.

February 14, 2024, Ash Wednesday, Individual Services

February 21, 2024 - Zion

February 28, 2024 - St. John's

March 6, 2024 - Zion

March 13, 2024 - St. John's

March 20, 2024 - Zion

March 27, 2024 - Individual Services

If Tamaqua school district has early dismissal or cancels school, the mid-week lent service - Wednesday night is cancelled.



Easter Gifts

Easter is generally a time when gifts and memorials are presented. While we would welcome and appreciate a special gift to any of our funds most Easter gifts usually arrive as Endowment Fund, Capital Campaign Fund or Easter lilies. Please fill out the form below and return it to the Church office. **This Form must accompany your contributions so that the office knows if your memorial is to be placed in the Easter Sunday handout.**

Easter lily/ Endowment Fund/ Capital Campaign (Circle one)

In Honor of _____ Or

In Memory of _____

By: _____

Number of Lilies: _____ Amount: _____



Cost is \$9.00 per Lily. Endowment Gifts and other gifts can be any amount. Please return this form to the office no later than Monday, March 4, 2024. This is a firm deadline please have your orders in by the due date so that the lily order can be placed.



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!

Keep saving your Redner's receipts and 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!

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 (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.

ZION FINANCIAL AS OF DEC 31, 2023

Greetings:

It has been recommended by several church consultants that a congregation be kept informed of the church's finances on a regular basis—not just once a year. Consultants suggest four times a year with reports issued months having a fifth Sunday. Here is our report to the Zion congregation for the final quarter of 2023. If you have any questions, please address a member of the Finance Committee.

CHURCH BUDGET INCOME

OFFERING AND GIFTS	143,087.35
CULINARY EVENTS	12,560.00
BLESSING THRIFT SALES	10,485.72
ENDOWMENT	41,459.00
TOTAL BUDGET INCOME	207,592.07

CHURCH BUDGET EXPENSES

SALARIES/REMUNERATION	115,745.61
OIL	24,653.14
POSTAGE	987.65
TAXES	3,167.93
PHONE	1,369.43
MAINT & REPAIR	1,575.09
WATER, SEWER	2,673.80
INTERNET	1,863.37
ELECTRIC	5,910.87
INSURANCE	18,744.00
OTHER MISC EXPENSES	25,261.39

TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES 201,952.28

Yours in Christ,

Zion Finance Committee:

Bob Jones, Chair; Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary; Dave Gensure, Treasurer;
Walter Weston, Endowment Coordinator; Matt Warden; Rochelle Evanousky; Steve
Ristila; Sam Caley; George Taylor.

December/ January Memorials

GIFTS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

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

In loving memory of Rose Miller & Pap Trakes and in honor of Samantha Miller's graduation from Nursing school by Mike & Kathy Miller

In loving memory of my husband, the Rev. David Knoebel, by Beverley Knoebel

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

In loving memory of William Beltz & Florida Ciccozzi and in honor of the birthday of Sandra Ciccozzi by daughter/wife, Sheri Beltz

In loving memory of the December 13th birthday of McKayla Ann Wall by Lauren, Jesse, Nicholas & Kallia

In honor of Samantha Miller on her graduation from Nursing school by Mike & Kathy Miller

In loving memory of Ida Piccin by the Congregation of Zion

In honor of Tiffany Warden on her 38th birthday today, January 7th by mom, Matt and Kinsley Warden

In loving memory of my mother, Ella Gerber by daughter, Marlene McLaughlin and family

In honor of Tiffany Warden for her birthday on January 7th and Kinsley Warden for her 8th birthday on January 20th love mom/ nanny

In loving memory of her brother, Stanley Huegel whose birthday is January 23rd by Fern Rudenko

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

In loving memory of brother, Kevin on his birthday by Lori & Bill Krell

In loving memory of Ton & Ardith Shea by Andy & Lori Ryan

In loving memory of Joseph Coleman and family by the Coleman families

In loving memory of loved ones by Bob and Terri Livingston

For the prosperity of our church in our hometown & community, Stacei Faust & Emily Stahler (Rust & Dust LLC)

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

In loving memory of Marlin Tirpak by John & Carol Dietrich

In loving memory of our loving granddaughter, McKayla Ann Wall on her December 13th heavenly birthday love, Gram & Pap (Louise & Dave Schock)

In loving memory of Marlin Tirpak by Dave & Louise Schock

In loving memory of Marlin Tirpak by Ells and Gail Davis

In loving memory of our granddaughter, McKayla Ann Wall on her December 13th heavenly birthday by Gram & Pap (Louise & Dave Schock)

In loving memory of Marion Klein by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mehalko

A birthday remembrance for Mr. E.A. Follweiler from his children and families

In loving memory of Marion Klein by Sharon Haldeman

In loving memory of Marion Klein by Jim & Cheri Voth

In loving memory of Marion Klein by John & Lynn Kanahan

In loving memory of Marion Klein by Ells & Gail Davis

In loving memory of Marion Klein by the senior choir

In loving memory of Marion Klein by Suzanne Cunningham

In loving memory of Marion Klein by Grayson and Sheila Krauss

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

In honor of Sonia Brode by Mom

In loving memory of Marlin Tirpak by Virginia & Michael Tatusko

In loving memory of Marlin Tirpak by Paul & Elizabeth Dombrosky

In loving memory of Marlin Tirpak by Beverly & David Beahm

In loving memory of Marlin Tirpak by Cathy & Larry Fritzingler

In loving memory of Marlin Tirpak by Jim & Rhonda Bienkowski

In loving memory of Marlin Tirpak by Marilyn & David Henninger

In loving memory of Glen N. Lawson by Michelle Valentine

In honor of Jan & Roger Snyder by Jan & Jim McRoberts

In loving memory of my parents, Ted & Eulalia Weston by the Walter Weston Family

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

In loving memory of Carol Moyer by Judy

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

In loving memory of Marlin Tirpak by Irene & Paul Pecha

In loving memory of the Berner and Clark family by Margaret Clark

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

In loving memory of Marion Klein love, Judy

In loving memory of John Leipold love, Judy

Christmas Memorials 2023



We thank everyone who helped decorate the church this Christmas Season. May you and your family have a very blessed Christmas.

Our thanks to all the acolytes, altar servers, and everyone who assisted this evening to make our service so special.

The Altar Candles are given to the *Glory of God and*

In loving memory of Rose Miller & Pap Trakes and in honor of Samantha Miller's graduation from Nursing school by Mike & Kathy Miller

The Altar Flowers are given to the *Glory of God:*

In loving memory of Ida Piccin by the Congregation of Zion

The Bulletins are given to the *Glory of God and*

In loving memory of loved ones by Bob and Terri Livingston

The Poinsettia Plants are given to the *Glory of God:*

In loving memory of my husband, Karl C. Miller on Christmas Day by wife, Katherine I. Miller

In loving memory of Dorothy & William Linkhorst by Jean Linkhorst

In loving memory of Laura, Allen, & Robert Weyhenmyer by Jean Linkhorst

In loving memory of Justin King, Finn Montecalvo & Jessica Linkhorst by Jean Linkhorst

In loving memory of Bob & Gertrude Fritzingler by Glenn & Lorie Fritzingler

In loving memory of McKayla Ann Wall by "Mom & Dad" Lauren, Jesse, Nicholas & Kallia Wall

In loving memory of Frank (Flip) Thompson by wife Nancy Thompson & daughter Brenda Hill

In loving memory of Richard Dreisbach by Bob & Terri Livingston
In loving memory of my dearest husband, Richard by Darlene Skasko
In loving memory of granddaughter, Kendall McLaughlin by grandparents, Barry and Marlene McLaughlin and uncles,
Chris and Eddie
In loving memory of parents, Clair and Ella Gerber by daughter, Marlene McLaughlin and family
In loving memory of loved ones lost so dear by Kris & Frank Rudy & family
In loving memory of his sister, Marsha Bynon by Mark and Charlene Valentine
In loving memory of my grandparents, Jane and Eugene Springer by Sonia Brode
In loving memory of my grandparents, Robert and Anna Brode by Sonia Brode
In honor of my mom, Judy Brennan for her outreach and love by Sonia Brode
For all my loved ones and friends by Sonia Brode
In celebration of my Dad's December 12th birthday and my brother's birthday December 8th by Sonia Brode

Christmas Memorial Gifts to the Capital Campaign Fund are given to the Glory of God:

In loving memory of family and friends by Carol & John Dietrich

Christmas Memorial Gifts to the Candle Fund are given to the Glory of God:

In loving memory of Jack & Betty Davies by Beth & Olivia Lattanzi

In loving memory of loved ones lost so dear by Kris & Frank Rudy & family

Christmas Memorial Gifts to the Scholarship Fund are given to the Glory of God:

In loving memory of Mildred Koch by Judy

In honor of Sonia, Lisa, and Brian's birthdays in January. Love, Judy

Christmas Memorial Gifts to the Helping Hand Fund are given to the Glory of God:

In loving memory of Charles "Chunky" and Pauline Schissler by Barry and Marlene McLaughlin and sons

Christmas Memorial Gifts to the Organ Fund are given to the Glory of God:

In loving memory of Marlin Tirpak by Sandy Scott

Christmas Memorial Gifts to the Current Fund are given to the Glory of God:

In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. E. A. Follweiler from their children and their families

In loving memory of Michael Cappos by his wife, sons, and families

In loving memory of Jay Follweiler by his brother and sisters

In loving memory of my husband, Karl C. Miller on Christmas Day by wife, Katherine I. Miller

In loving memory of my brother-in-law, Karl C. Miller on Christmas Day by sister-in-law, Charlotte Scheidly

In loving memory of our parents, Louis & Ruth Markel and Francis (Murph) Arner by Fran and Joyce Arner

In loving memory of his sister, Diane Miller by Fran and Joyce Arner

In loving memory of their great-niece, McKayla Wall by Fran and Joyce Arner

In loving memory of Joan Wall by Fran and Joyce Arner

In loving memory of Carol Ann Moyer by Fran and Joyce Arner

In loving memory of Charles Linkhorst by Jean Linkhorst

In loving memory of John Carl Casler Jr. by mom and sisters, Ashly, Alesia, and Alyssa

In loving memory of Brian Fetterman, love Ashly, Aubry, and Camdyn

In loving memory of Mary Kemner Hebert and my loving companion, Elaine Martzen by Jon Hebert

In loving memory of McKayla Ann Wall by Gram & Pap (Louise & Dave Schock)

In loving memory of my husband, John Lattanzi, on our 40th wedding anniversary on December 17th by Beth

In loving memory of Shayne T. Livingston by the Family

In loving memory of brother, Carl Gerber by sister, Marlene McLaughlin and family

In loving memory of my parents, Martha & Dan Zeigler by Gerry Zeigler

In loving memory of family & friends by Dave & Darlene Fetterman

To the glory of God by Zion Senior Choir

In honor of Gabrielle Goho's First Holy Communion and in loving memory of Gary Marcavage and all my family members by Beth Marcavage

Christmas Memorial Gifts to the Endowment Fund are given to the Glory of God:

In loving memory of my mother, Shirley L. Becker by Suzanne Cunningham
In loving memory of his parents, Marvin & Agnes Ristila & her father, Stanley Karnish by Mr. & Mrs. Steven Ristila
In loving memory of her parents, Dorothy & Jasper Collura, by Ann Marie & David Hadesty & family
In loving memory of his mother, Gayle Hadesty, by Ann Marie & David Hadesty & family
In loving memory of John Lattanzi by Beth & Olivia Lattanzi
In loving memory of family and loved ones by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mehalko
In loving memory of Marlin Tirpak by the Pester Family
In loving memory of Carl W. and Mary Koch Sr. and Carl W. Koch Jr by Carol, John, Jeff, and Johnny
In loving memory of family & friends by John & Carol Dietrich
In loving memory of parents/ grandparents, Carl and Mary Koch by Carol, John, Jeff, and Johnny
In loving memory of her brother, Carl W. Koch Jr by Carol and John Dietrich
In loving memory of his parents, James and Kathleen Valentine by Mark & Charlene Valentine
In loving memory of her parents, Joseph and Mary Dakes by Mark and Charlene Valentine
In loving memory of Carl & Fannie Wolfe by daughters, Beverly & Nancy & their families
In loving memory of Lawrence Kabana by wife, Nancy, sons, Kevin & John & their families
In loving memory of John & Amelia Agnor by son, Bob, daughter-in-law, Beverly & their families
In loving memory of John & Helen Kabana by daughter-in-law, Nancy & her family
In loving memory of Jack & Jesse Agnor by brother, Bob, sister-in-law, Beverly & their family



Artificial Christmas Trees: As Christmas comes to a close please remember we are collecting artificial Christmas Trees for use at Vacation Bible School this summer. Contact Michael at zionlutheraneducation@gmail.com. Thanks for your support of Vacation Bible School.

Zion's Blessing Thrift

101 N. Greenwood Street, Tamaqua

 **Friday, March 1** 

9:00 to 5:00 PM

Items Available:

Clothing (*Newborn to Adult*)
Coats / Jackets / Sweaters
Dresses / Skirts / Hoodies
Houseware Items / Books

Limited Take-Out Menu
Something for Everyone!

Prices:

Tall Kitchen Garbage Bag for Clothes: \$20

Other Items as Marked

Connect with your church!

Listen to Zion worship services on your phone.

Learn more by calling the number below.

It's free!



570-393-2180

A ministry of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tamaqua, Pa.

www.ziontamaqua.com

570-668-2180/zionlcof@verizon.net



This year Daylight Savings Time will begin on Sunday, March 10th. Don't forget to set your clocks one hour ahead before you go to bed March 9th.



Instead of giving up smoking, sweets, or something like that during Lent, why not give something else up, the most valuable thing you have--YOUR TIME! Volunteer to do something for your Church, your neighbor, your community. You might find that giving yourself brings back rewards that you just never imagined. And then, keep on doing it long after Lent, make it a lifestyle.

It takes a lot of volunteers to keep Zion running smoothly why not consider helping out. You'll be glad you did! Some of Zion's many volunteers...



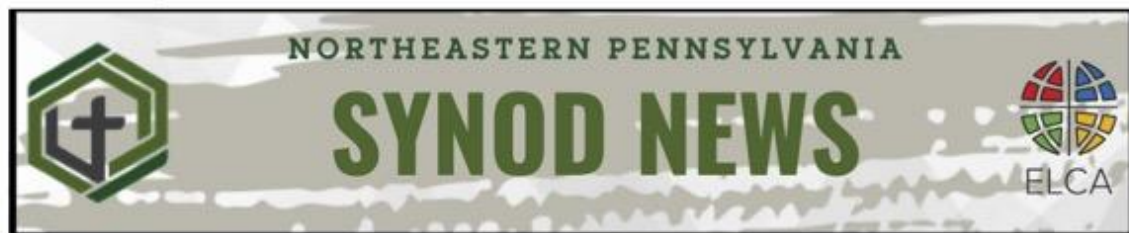


Sandy Mehalko leads a dress rehearsal for the children's presentation of the Nativity story presented during the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service. What a wonderful job!



Christmas Palooza event hosted by the Congregational Life team. Well done everyone!





Advent Shares: **Hope Out Loud**

Support from the HOL! (Hope Out Loud!) Capital Campaign saw Advent members participate in dozens of projects – some new, some one-time; some existing ministries were expanded or refreshed. The dedicated members of Advent who truly care about people in need were very active and supportive. One member shared: “When I had some tough years, my church came through for me! That experience changed me in big ways. I vowed that I would get involved more and & pay it forward”. Helping others has made me a happier Christian.” There are so many completed (and ongoing!) projects. These ministries are wide-ranging and varied – food, clothing, shelter, blankets, books, and prayers. Cookies at Christmastime.

Advent members help men, women, babies, children, people in prison, people in recovery from addictions, hungry people – in our community, our country, and around the world. Members have said that they feel joy in providing the services and the looks on the faces of the recipients reinforce joy there too. Some of the projects receive seed money from Thrivent Action Teams. Some of our favorite ministries and activities are Bombas Socks donations, books and Bibles for Berks County Prison, Christmas Cookies for Common Ground, the Hungry Yard Sale, Family Promise, our Little Free Library and Little Free Pantry, the (new in 2020) Prayer Team, and the many clothing drives.

As one example of the positive impact in the community: The Little Free Pantry was filled and emptied on the same day. We cannot keep it filled fast enough. Through our \$250.00 Thrivent Action Team sponsorship by members of different committees, we can grocery shop and fill our shelves in Advent’s grocery shelves. We fill up my grocery cart three times a week and go outside to our Little Free Pantry. Within hours it had been emptied. Praise God for Thrivent and Advent’s church members in helping fill our community’s bellies with happiness through our wonderful blessed giving! Another goal of the HOL! The campaign was to increase the use of technology in our church life. In the middle of the pandemic, we premiered a fresh, beautiful, new website to tell people about Advent – reaching out in a modern way to share God’s word and work with our neighbors, friends, and people who want to learn about God. This new website increases our visibility in the community and provides valuable information for members and visitors alike. Seeing new people attend and join our church brings



joy, creating more of a sense of “community”. We continue to be inspired by: 1) Jesus’ examples of sharing, healing – “love our neighbor as ourselves”, (2) a thirst for learning about our faith through study and worship, (3) the need for support in our local and global community, (4) Reflection on our blessings and those less fortunate, (5) and, socializing with others while providing service. Members think Advent’s sermons and services explicitly help to keep us inspired and filled with the joy of serving.



Reconsiderations Task Force for Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust

The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly authorized two reconsiderations of the social statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust. A task force will begin working in 2024 to lead this five-year process of discernment. Information is available about the reconsiderations and task force expectations. Apply or nominate



ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 N. Greenwood Street

Tamaqua, PA 18252

Return Service Requested

This Newsletter was prepared
Especially for:

***February 2024
Newsletter***

