



June/ July/ August 2023

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.*

*Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is
Your name in all the earth, who have
displayed Your splendor above the
heavens. Excerpt from Psalm 8*



Beloved of Zion and friends,

We have just given thanks for all of the men and women that lost their lives to ensure the bounteous gifts that this country offers us. I pray that your Memorial Day weekend included a quiet time for remembrance and thanksgiving. Summer is quickly approaching. I hope you all have some special time set aside for attending church, spending time with family and friends and enjoying the incredible beauty of God's earth. I am overwhelmed by the magnificence of the changing seasons of N.E. Pennsylvania. We are indeed blessed to be within a few hours' drive to go to a beach. We only have a short drive to be in the mountains. We actually get to see them every day. Thanks be to God.

Vacation bible school is coming up from June 12-16th. Its theme is "Hero Hotline" this year. It promises to be so much fun. Please let people know about it. It is from 5:30 to 8:00. Learning about our triune God can be a very exciting thing. The children will learn new songs, dance, create crafts, and learn about science and so much more. Please sign up online or call the church for information.

Please look forward to Vicar Dillon Epler's ordination. He received his call to ministry while being a member here at Zion. Our sister church, Saint John's Lutheran has called him to serve God's people there. We are thrilled that he is staying local. Keep an eye out for the date. We must wait to hear from the Bishop to discern his availability. His ordination will be here at Zion.

One last reminder.... our Blessings thrift shop is this coming Friday June 2nd from 9:00-5:00. We have many new items that you won't want to miss. Please enjoy the beauty of the summer. Let us count our blessings. I will look forward to seeing you in church.

With love and appreciation for serving God's church here with the people at Zion,

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.

Salutes 2023 graduates

*“For I know the plans I have
for you,” declares the Lord,
“plans to prosper you and
not to harm you, plans to give
you hope and a future.”*

Jeremiah 29:11



Brayden Dombrosky is the son of Richard Dombrosky and Annette Kromer. He will graduate from Tamaqua Area High School and begin an electrical apprenticeship with Tri-M Company.



Gabriel Coleman is the son of Brandey and Michael Coleman. He will graduate from Tamaqua Area High School and plans to enter the military. Gabriel has helped with Zion Culinary functions.



Kelly Ehrig is the daughter of Jennifer and Robert Ehrig. She will graduate from Tamaqua Area High School and Schuylkill Technology Center. Kelly will be attending Metro Beauty Academy this fall to pursue a certification as a nail technician. Kelly has served as an acolyte and as a VBS volunteer.

ZION EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Salutes 2023 graduates

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McKenna Ehrig is the daughter of Jennifer and Robert Ehrig. She will graduate from Tamaqua Area High School and Schuylkill Technology Center with honors. McKenna will be attending LCCC and then St. Luke's Health Network's School of Nursing. McKenna has served as an acolyte and as a VBS volunteer.



Kailey Richards is the daughter of Mary and Bryce Richards and is graduating from Tamaqua Area High School. She will attend Pa. College of Technology for radiology. At Zion, Kailey has served as an acolyte and on church council. She has also helped out at Culinary dinners.



Hailey Williams is the daughter of Devon and Darvin Faust. She will graduate from Tamaqua Area High School and attend Norwich University for health sciences and be in the Corps of Cadets to become an officer. Hailey has served Zion as an acolyte, VBS volunteer, senior choir and soloist singer and special music trumpeter.

Not Pictured – Michael Benderawicz graduated from Tamaqua Area High School.

Post High School Graduates...

Jacob Rudy graduated from Misericordia University on Saturday, May 13th. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (BSN) and a minor in Healthcare Management with the honor of Magna Cum Laude.

Jacob will be working at LVHN-Schuylkill in the emergency room. He also is continuing his education towards his DNP (Doctor of Nursing) in the Fall at Misericordia University.



Zion's Blessings Thrift Shop sale is on Friday, June 2nd, July 7th and August 4th 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.

The Church office will be closed Monday, July 3rd and Tuesday, July 4th in Observance of Independence Day. Have a safe Holiday!



Bear Creek Camp information is available in the Gathering Room. More information is available on their website at bearcreekcamp.org. Funds are available for those wanting to attend through our "campership fund".

Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsors needed for 2023 - The Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsor list for 2023 is on the bulletin board. The costs of the flowers are \$40.00 (**please note price increase**) 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!

Reminder: If you have sponsored Altar Flowers, Candles or Bulletins for 2023, please fill out the information cards in the gathering room. The information is needed for the bulletin and the Florist. If payment for the bulletin/candle sponsorship is not received prior to the date, the information will not be printed in the bulletin, please pay and fill out a form when you add your name on the list. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Please note: if you have signed up for Altar Flowers, the cost of the arrangement will increase to \$40. Edwards is closing and we are now using Petal Pushers in Hometown. If you would like to cancel your sponsorship, please contact the Church office. Thank you.

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.



Summer Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday 12:00 – 5:00 pm

Tuesday 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Thursday & Friday – Closed

If you need assistance, please call and leave a message. Please note that office hours are flexible due to vacations and leave so please call ahead to ensure that someone will be in the office.



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



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

Ida Piccin, who passed away on May 17, 2023.

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

JULY ICE CREAM SOCIAL BENEFIT

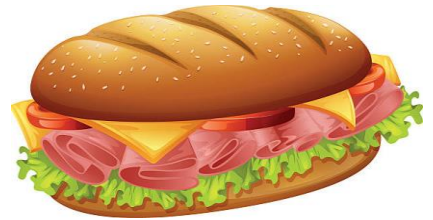
Zion's Culinary Team is hosting an ice cream social on July 20, 2023 to benefit the Tamaqua Rescue Squad. Time and cost TBA. All proceeds will go to the Tamaqua Rescue Squad. Please help spread the word. Let your friends, neighbors and relatives know about this special community event. Please contact Glenn at 570-645-6361 or Mary Ruth at 570-668-4451 for more information. We hope to see you there!



Mark your calendar! Zion's Strawberry Festival will be held Thursday, June 22, 2023 from 4:00 until 6:00 pm or sell-out! There will be delicious Strawberry shortcake which includes cake and ice cream topped with strawberries. Cost – TBA. Please contact Glenn at 570-645-6361 or Mary Ruth at 570-668-4451 for more information.

Culinary Hoagie Sale

The Culinary Team is holding a hoagie sale. Regular Hoagies are \$7 each. Order by July 23rd, at <https://www.ziontamaqua.com> or by calling 570-668-4451. Pick up is Thursday, July 27th from noon until 3:00 pm. Thank you for your support!!



Peach Social - Thursday, August 17, 2023
4:00 until 6:00 or sellout
Cake, Ice cream, and Fresh Peaches – Cost TBA
Additional food items will be available.

Please contact Glenn at 570-645-6361 or Mary Ruth at 570-668-4451 for more information. We hope to see you there!

Zion's 2023 Church Council officers: Michael Haspe, President, Brian Lawfer, Vice-President, Ernie Henritz, Secretary, Dave Gensure, Treasurer, and Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary. Other members of Council include: Judy Brennan, Arlene Derr, Glenn Fritzinger, Carol Hartung, Darien Moyer, Kailey Richards, Steve Ristila 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/>



Come Join Us!

Saturday Worship – 5:30 pm

Sunday Worship – 9:00 am



DEADLINE: All information for the **September 2023 issue of the "Herald"** is due at the church office no later than **Monday, August 21, 2023.** You may e-mail your information to 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 the 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.



Come join us for a Summer picnic June 3rd following the Saturday service. Come enjoy some Picnic style food and some fellowship.

Office Hours ~
Monday & Wednesday
12:00 – 5:00 pm
Tuesday
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

Luke 21:30

as soon as they sprout
leaves you can see for
yourselves and know
that summer is
already near.

Celebration of Baptism



Please welcome Alaina Koren Oliphant, daughter of Kyle V. Oliphant and Madeline L. Coccio, as a member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. Alaina's Godparents are Sydney Clouser and Michael Kostecky. She received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on May 7, 2023 during our Sunday morning worship service; May the blessing of our Lord be upon the parents and godparents in nurturing this child in the light of faith. Please welcome family and friends who join us to celebrate.



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.

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.

May Memorials

GIFTS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

THE CANDLES are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of the May 22nd Anniversary of my mother & father, Mr. & Mrs. Carl W. Koch Sr. by John, Carol & Jeff

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Albie Coccio by the family

In loving memory of Fred & Lesley Bommer, loving parents & grandparents love, Melissa & Alexander D'Alonzo.

In honor of all graduates by Bill & Lori Krell

In loving memory of the birthday of her father, Clair Gerber by daughter, Marlene McLaughlin and family

MOTHERS DAY FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of his mother, Kathleen Valentine and her mother, Mary Dakes by Mr. and Mrs. Mark Valentine

THE BULLETINS are given to the Glory of God and

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

In loving memory of Fred & Lesley Bommer, loving parents & grandparents love, Melissa & Alexander D'Alonzo.

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

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

ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Joseph A. Coleman by Gary & Lynn Myers

In loving memory of their Uncle Joe Coleman by Mr. & Mrs. Steven Ristila

In loving memory of Joe Coleman & Ida Piccin by Mark & Charlene Valentine

In loving memory of Ida Piccin by Ells & Gail Davis

CURRENT FUND DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of the birthday of Mrs. E. A. Follweiler from her children and their families

In loving memory of Mrs. E. A. Follweiler for Mother's Day from her children and their families

In loving memory of Mr. E. A. Follweiler for Father's Day from his children and their families

In loving memory of our mothers, Mary L. Koch & Dorothy Dietrich on Mother's Day by John & Carol Dietrich

In loving memory of the May 18th birthday of her mother Mary L. Koch by Carol, John, Jeff, & Johnny

In loving memory of Joe Coleman by Bob & Terri Livingston

In loving memory of my aunt, Mary L. Koch on her first birthday in heaven May 18, 2023, by Ann Starry

In loving memory of Joseph Coleman & family by Judy Coleman

In loving memory of Ida Piccin by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Mehalko

In loving memory of Ida Piccin by Melody & Dave Gensure

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

SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Chris Huegel love, Judy

In loving memory of Jane, Grace & Eugene Springer Love, Judy & Sonia

IMPROVEMENT FUND DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of the May 22nd double Anniversary of her parents, Carl & Mary Koch & her aunt & uncle, George & Bernice Althoff by John & Carol Dietrich & family

An Altar Candle sponsor is needed for July.
Altar flower sponsors are needed for July 9th, 23rd, August 6th and 20th.
Bulletin sponsors are needed for July 9th, 30th, August 13th and 27th.
Please sign up on the church bulletin board.

Planning to revise your Will sometime soon? Please consider including Zion Evangelical Lutheran in that new document. Your generosity will ensure our ministries will continue to serve our members, community and beyond.

May 21, 2023 we recognized our graduating acolytes who have served faithfully since seventh grade: Brayden Dombrosky, McKenna Ehrig, Kelly Ehrig, and Kailey Richards. We offer our thanks for their service and offer prayers for God's blessing as their lives continue to unfold after graduation.

The Blessings Thrift Store Committee was blessed by generating \$1,824.66 at the May 5th sale. After many questions about the amount listed in the bulletin, here is an explanation, the monies we receive are split between the Outreach Fund, which helps with our Outreach Programs and funds the programs we support in and out of our community, and the Current Fund, which helps pay Zions everyday bills. We would like to thank the helpers, donors, and the shoppers for our continued success. Most of all we thank God for all the Blessings this ministry gives us. Any questions please ask anyone on the Outreach committee, Thank you.



PLEASE WELCOME OUR CONFIRMAND – Elaina Mae Coleman affirmed her baptism May 28, 2023 through the Rite of Confirmation. Please give thanks for the commitment she is making to God and to the Church. We congratulate her on this special day and an important step in her life journey. Please welcome her personally.

Confirmation

Join us for HERO Hotline VBS! Vacation Bible School is June 12 – 16, 2023 from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The 2023 Theme is Cokesbury's Hero Hotline. Your continued support is appreciated. Donations to VBS should be marked "Vacation Bible School".



Hotline Verse:

"So let's strive together for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up." Romans 14:19

Daily Hotline Tips:

Heroes are called to **FOLLOW JESUS**

Heroes are called to **HELP OTHERS**

Heroes are called to **WORK TOGETHER**

Heroes are called to **LISTEN TO GOD**

Heroes are called to **SHOW GRACE**

In the depths of a colorful underground cave, is the beating heart of the hero community, the Hero Hotline Headquarters where everyone's gifts are valued and every hero has a role to play. Each day at the Hero Hotline Headquarters, superheroes of all ages and abilities answer the call and join the Professor and veteran hero, Super Meer the Meerkat, to provide expert assistance and solutions to Hero Teams everywhere.

When Heroes in the field call in, the Professor, Super Meer, and our team of heroes will spring into action and explore the ultimate Hero Handbook -the Bible- to discover how all Heroes can follow the examples set by a cast of supporting Bible Heroes in stories from the Old and New Testaments, who work together to bring peace, build each other up, and share the great story of God's love for us where they are and with the whole world.

As kids (called Heroes) experience these stories through music, drama and storytelling, games, arts and crafts, science, and even snacks, they'll learn that Heroes are called to Follow Jesus, Help Others, Work Together, Listen to God, and Show Grace! And, best of all, they'll be invited to answer this call at VBS, at church, at home, and every area of their lives.

To register online visit: <https://ziontamaqua.mycokesburyvbs.com/> Registration forms are also available in the gathering room. Please contact Michael Haspe for more information. zionlutheraneducation@gmail.com.

Everyone is Welcome!! Invite a Friend!

Zion's Blessing Thrift

101 N. Greenwood Street, Tamaqua

Friday, June 2
9:00 to 5:00pm

Summer Sale

Clothing (*Newborn to Adult*)

Bathing Suits /Sandals

Sneakers / Sports Shoes

Kids Bikes & Helmets

Boxed Favors for:

Wedding Supplies, Boys & Girls

Limited Take-Out Menu

Something for Everyone!

Prices

Tall Kitchen Garbage Bags: \$20

(For clothing only)

All other items as marked

Join Us for a Memorial Butterfly Release!



When: Wednesday June 14, 2023

Time: 5:30 P.M.

*Where: E. Franklin Griffiths Funeral Home
& Cremation Services
655 East Broad Street
Tamaqua, PA 18252*

*Sign Up: Call 570-668-2550 by June 2, 2023
Weekdays 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.*

Butterflies represent hope, new life, peace, and a connection to nature. This event is open to the public; you need not be affiliated with the funeral home to sign up to release a butterfly in memory of loved ones or to attend.



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

SYNOD NEWS



**STORIES
OF FAITH**
IN ACTION
2022-2023

**YOUR
MISSION SUPPORT
GIFTS AT WORK**

WE MATTER TO THE WHOLE CHURCH: A STORY FROM OUR SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD

Being a member of a congregation council is significant in the life of a disciple. Serving as a leader in a congregation is rewarding, terrifying, awe-inspiring and messy. You are among friends, family and your community of believers, and are chosen to lead in your congregation. It's just a few times a month, but as Barbara Nugent, a synod vice president, shares, "Then life happens, and you find out the reporting required. Situations occur; personalities clash; decisions need to be made. Who do you go to for direction?"

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod provided that direction in February when it offered training to 70 congregational lay leaders that strengthened each person's skills and faith. From evangelism to the ELCA constitution and bylaws, they gathered to meet the passions and needs, offering workshops with special breakouts for presidents, vice presidents, secretaries and treasurers that covered such topics as worship and music, communications, advocacy, stewardship and social justice/anti-racism. The day started with Bishop Kurt Kusserow encouraging these valued leaders to keep the focus on our purpose:

“Your leadership in the life of your congregation ought always to bear in mind that your congregation finds its fulfillment in the universal church, and that the universal church exists in and through congregations such as yours. I think this means addressing local questions and concerns in the life of your congregation as if they matter to the whole church (because they do).”

Everyone was hungry to gather ideas, consider future steps but also have an opportunity to connect, be empowered, feel valued and cared for and remember the excitement of being church. Rev. Melissa Stoller, director for evangelical mission, said it this way: “The day was a very visible yet not necessarily quantifiable force that we are church together. Wandering but not alone. Feeling worry, power, uncertainty, and joy as one.” Central to this gathering was living into the mission of this synod “to serve, connect and equip congregations of the SWPA synod to tell the story of Jesus.” Everyone knew that the synod was there for the congregations with staff, volunteers and greater church support, not only this day but in the days to come, and synod staff are supported through the generous mission support of congregations allowing them to be there for our leaders. One leading Scripture for the day reminded each leader of their value: “Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word” (Acts 6:3-4). Hoping each of our synods are seeking ways that work for them to encourage and empower congregational leaders. Knowing that we are church together, church that supports each other across the whole church prayerfully, financially, emotionally and with a hope for renewal.



Our Synod has PRIDE



June is Pride Month which celebrates LGBTQIA+ folx and their many achievements.

Although injustices and prejudices still exist within our society, we have made great strides since the Stonewall Riots in 1969, attaining marriage equality. However, as previously mentioned, we still have a long way to go in the struggle for equal rights. By learning about LGBTQ Pride/History Month, congregational members are more likely to have an understanding and acceptance for all individuals, no matter what they look like, what gender they do or don't identify as, and who they love. Consider celebrating PRIDE in your congregation!

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 N. Greenwood Street

Tamaqua, PA 18252

Return Service Requested

This Newsletter was prepared
Especially for:

*June/ July/ August 2023
Newsletter*

God Bless



...land that I love.