

# ***ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH***

## ***TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA***



**Sunday School – 1875/ Organized – 1876/ Incorporated - 1899**

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

**ANNUAL BROCHURE OF REPORTS FOR 2025**

**Annual Meeting, February 8, 2026**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

REPORT	PAGE
Agenda	3
Parish Staff/Parish Council/Parish Leaders	4
Congregational Meetings Minutes	5-7
Pastor's Report	8
President's Report	9
Parish Statistics	10
Parochial Report	11-12
Property Committee Report	13-14
Endowment	15
Finance Report	16-17
Budget	18-21
Outreach	22-26
Worship & Music Committee Report	27
Christian Education	28-29
Generosity Committee	30-32
Giving Step Report	33
Capital Campaign	34
Mission Statement	35

**ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Tamaqua, PA 18252**

**Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda**

Meeting Date: Sunday February 8, 2026

☐Regular

☒Special Meeting

**CALL TO ORDER**

- Devotions – Rev. Cindy L. White
- Establishment of Quorum – All attendees must sign in. 30 voting members are required for meeting.
- Welcome & Introduction of Church Council & Staff
- 

**COUNCIL SECRETARY**

- Minutes – Adoption of Minutes of February 2025, & December 2025 Congregational Meetings

**RECEPTION OF FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- Treasurer – Dave Gensure
- Financial Secretary – Ann Marie Hadesty
- Audit
  - Motion to accept Financial Reports

**RECEPTION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Committee Chairs – Some brief 2025 highlights
- Comments and/or questions, Information to add
  - Motion to accept Committee Reports

**STATE OF CONGREGATION**

- Attendance Report
- 2025 Summary

**OLD BUSINESS/DISCUSSION**

- Capital Campaign/Building Restoration
  - Corner tower and window gable areas are complete!
- Licensed Lay Minister Updates
  - Minister Michael Haspe has completed the Licensed Lay Ministry program and has been approved to serve at Christ Lutheran in Mahanoy City. Installation will be February 8<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm, at Christ Lutheran Church. Minister Michael's license also authorizes him to preside at Zion, if Pastor Cindy is unavailable.

**NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

# ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - PARISH STAFF 2026

Rev. Cindy L. White – Pastor  
 Melody Gensure – Parish Administrator  
 Sandra Mehalko – Parish Musician  
 David Gensure – Treasurer  
 Ann Marie Hadesty – Financial Secretary  
 Minister Michael Haspe - Christian Education Director  
 Kimberly Eckert & Sandra Graham – Sextons  
 Cemetery Secretary – Judy Brennan

## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL:

NAME:	TERM	ENDING	POSITION/COMMITTEE /SERVICE TO CHURCH
Brian Lawfer	2 <sup>nd</sup>	12/31/26	President / Greeter Coordinator/ Property / Youth/ VBS
Amanda Hascin	1 <sup>st</sup>	12/31/27	Vice-President / VBS
Shelly Woodring	1 <sup>st</sup>	12/31/27	Secretary/ Culinary/ VBS
Sheri Beltz	1 <sup>st</sup>	12/31/28	Choir
Brian Costenbader	1 <sup>st</sup>	12/31/28	Property
Arlene Derr	2 <sup>nd</sup>	12/31/26	Culinary / People's Pantry / Outreach
Laura Fulmer	1 <sup>st</sup>	12/31/28	Choir
Thomas Graham	1 <sup>st</sup>	12/31/26	Youth Advocate/ Acolyte
Brittany Scalfani	1 <sup>st</sup>	12/31/26	TBD
George Taylor	1 <sup>st</sup>	12/31/28	Outreach / Property / Audio Visual Tech
Michelle Valentine	1 <sup>st</sup>	12/31/27	Narcan Ministry/ Outreach

## COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP CONTACTS:

<b>Altar Guild</b>	Pastor Cindy White	<a href="mailto:loupastor4@gmail.com">loupastor4@gmail.com</a>
<b>Acolyte Director</b>	Joe Ansbach	717-466-3901
<b>Blessings Thrift Sale</b>	Judy Brennan	<a href="mailto:jdymatteo@yahoo.com">jdymatteo@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Capital Campaign</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	
<b>Catechetical /First Holy Communion</b>	Minister Michael Haspe	<a href="mailto:zionlutheraneducation@gmail.com">zionlutheraneducation@gmail.com</a>
<b>Christian Education Director</b>	Minister Michael Haspe	<a href="mailto:zionlutheraneducation@gmail.com">zionlutheraneducation@gmail.com</a>
<b>Congregational Life</b>	Deb Davies	<a href="mailto:debdavies@yahoo.com">debdavies@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Culinary</b>	Glenn Fritzinger	<a href="mailto:Frit5157@ptd.net">Frit5157@ptd.net</a>
<b>Endowment</b>	Sandy Mehalko	<a href="mailto:joesan@ptd.net">joesan@ptd.net</a>
<b>Finance</b>	Bob Jones	<a href="mailto:Rjones4621@aol.com">Rjones4621@aol.com</a>
<b>Generosity</b>	George Taylor	<a href="mailto:Gtay200@verizon.net">Gtay200@verizon.net</a>
<b>Mutual Ministry</b>	Pastor Cindy White	<a href="mailto:Loupastor4@gmail.com">Loupastor4@gmail.com</a>
<b>Narcan Ministry</b>	Michelle Valentine	<a href="mailto:azaleamichelle02@gmail.com">azaleamichelle02@gmail.com</a>
<b>Outreach</b>	George Taylor	<a href="mailto:Gtay200@verizon.net">Gtay200@verizon.net</a>
<b>Property</b>	Minister Michael Haspe	<a href="mailto:zionlutheraneducation@gmail.com">zionlutheraneducation@gmail.com</a>
<b>Worship &amp; Music</b>	Sandy Mehalko	<a href="mailto:Joesan@ptd.net">Joesan@ptd.net</a>
<b>Vacation Bible School</b>	Minister Michael Haspe	<a href="mailto:zionlutheraneducation@gmail.com">zionlutheraneducation@gmail.com</a>
<b>Youth Group</b>	Brian Lawfer	<a href="mailto:Bripa99@hotmail.com">Bripa99@hotmail.com</a>

**ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Tamaqua, PA 18252**

**Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda**

Meeting Date: Sunday March 2, 2025

☐Regular

☒Special Meeting

**CALL TO ORDER**

- Devotions – Rev. Cindy L. White
- Establishment of Quorum – A quorum was met with 40 members attending.
- Welcome & Introduction of Church Council & Staff

**COUNCIL SECRETARY**

- Minutes – Adoption of Minutes of February 2024, & December 2024 Congregational Meetings Motion to approve made by Laura Fulmer. seconded by Sharon Haldeman. All in favor. None opposed.

**RECEPTION OF FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- Treasurer – Dave Gensure
- Financial Secretary – Ann Marie Hadesty
- Audit
  - Motion to accept Financial Reports-Motion made by Mark Valentine, Seconded by Darlene Fetterman. All in Favor. None opposed.

**RECEPTION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Committee Chairs – Introduce Yourself, & 2024 Highlights and/or future goals
  - Brief presentations from committee chairs and ministries included:
    - Brian Lawfer- Acting Property Chair
      - Spoke briefly about some of the church and cemetery maintenance to be completed, in the coming year.
    - Bob Jones- Finance Chair
      - Finances at Zion are currently stable
    - Sandy Mehalko- Worship and Music Chair, Endowment, Capital Campaign
      - Endowment currently has a balance of \$499,902 and has received \$3,512 in gifts over the past year.
      - Capital Campaign has a balance of approximately \$123,000
    - Michael Haspe- Christian Ed Director
      - Zion is one of four churches selected as a test church for 2026 Bible School curriculum by Cokesbury
    - Glenn Fritzinger- Culinary
      - Culinary served nearly 3,400 meals in 2024
- Comments and/or questions, Information to add
  - Motion to accept Committee Reports- Motion made by Glenn Fritzinger, Seconded by Arlene Derr. All in favor. None opposed.

**STATE OF CONGREGATION**

- Attendance Report
- Giving Step Report
- President's 2024 Summary
- President's 2025 Goals

- Would like to see the formation of short term “Action Teams”, to tackle specific projects within the church.
- Motion to accept Attendance and Giving Step Reports- Motion made by Joe Voelpel. Seconded by Gerri Ziegler. All in favor. None opposed

## **OLD BUSINESS/DISCUSSION**

- Capital Campaign/Building Restoration/DeGruchy Bids for Restoration Project
  - Brian Lawfer explained options for the next phase of the project, along with financing options.
  - Zion can obtain a loan from Synod with the balance coming from Endowment.
- Licensed Lay Minister Candidate Updates
  - Michael will be serving at Christ Lutheran in Mahanoy City on 1 Sunday/month to obtain experience needed for licensing.
  - Would still like to explore adding a Contemporary Service.

## **NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION**

- Pastor’s Goals 2025
  - Pastor Cindy White briefly discussed her goals for 2025
- Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Loan Opportunity – Building Restoration
  - Opportunity for a \$100,000 loan from Synod at 3% interest rate over 7 years to help cover the cost of the next phase of the project.
- Vote for Building Restoration Next Steps
  - Written vote taken to approve the scope of the project.
    - Option 1: Completing corner tower and adjoining gable (window area at rear of sanctuary)- 38 in favor
    - Option 2: Completing corner tower alone- 2 in favor
    - Option 3: Completing gable work alone- 0 in favor
  - Written vote taken to apply for the loan.
    - 35 in favor of applying for the loan.
    - 1 opposed.
    - 4 abstained.
- Zion will move forward with Option 1 and apply for the loan from the Synod.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

- Motion to adjourn made by Joe Voelpel. Seconded by Roanne Harvilla. None opposed.

## **CLOSING DEVOTIONS – Rev. Cindy L. White**

# **ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Tamaqua, PA 18252**

## **December 2025 Annual Fiscal Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: Sunday December 7, 2025

Regular ( ) Special meeting (X)

### **CALL TO ORDER - Called to order by Michael Haspe**

- Devotion: Prayer led by Pastor Cindy
- Roll Call: A sign in sheet was passed around to the congregation.

### **AGENDA**

- Budget 2026
- Revenue Budget
- Election of Council Members

### **Budget 2026**

- Money was added for mowing the cemetery as a precaution.
- The floor was opened up for questions regarding the regular budget. No questions were asked.
- A motion was made to accept the budget by Joe Ansbach. It was seconded by Brian Lawfer. All present were in favor.

### **Revenue Budget**

- A question was raised if the revenue budget was available.
- Rochelle Evanousky pointed out that it is just a projection.
- Brian Cosrenbader made a motion to accept the revenue budget. It was seconded by Mark Valentine. All present were in favor.

### **Election of Council Members**

- Council positions - 3 openings due to end of term and 1 unable to continue.
- The following congregation members have been nominated to fill the positions: Brian Cosrenbader, Sherri Beltz, Laura Fulmer and George Taylor.
- Michael Haspe asked to vote by acclamation in lieu of a paper ballot. Darlene Fetterman made the motion. It was seconded by Mark Valentine. All present were in favor.
- Rochelle Evanousky made a motion to accept the new members. It was seconded by Roxeanne Harvilla. All present were in favor.

### **Adjournment**

- Mark Valentine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sherri Beltz seconded the motion. All present were in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Hascin, Council Secretary

## **Pastor's Report For 2025**

My Goals for 2025 included:

1. An emphasis will be placed on our Building restoration next phase. I will support all efforts to ensure we can accomplish what needs to be done to make sure we can continue all of our ministries here.
2. Continue to support Michael Haspe and Nancy Meiser, the two LLM candidates that I am supervising.
3. Work in supporting all committees' visions and goals.
4. Select a new mutual ministries committee.

**My goals for 2025 were completed with the exception of #4 which will be included for my 2026 goals. Michael and Nancy have completed their LLM programs. We are thankful to God for their accomplishment.**

My Goals for 2026:

1. Organize a committee for the 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration of our congregation. I would like to see an event every month in 2027.
2. Ensure Confirmation class continues to run smoothly under Minister Michael's leadership.
3. Work toward and support sending youth the ELCA youth gathering in 2027. It does take a year of planning and fundraising to ensure this happens.
4. Select a new mutual ministries committee.

2025 was a year of many blessings. We completed the next phase of our building restoration. Our outreach ministries are thriving. Our Christian education program continues to grow and develop new leaders for the church.

**Let us continue to share the good news and serve God with a joyful heart.**

With mutual love in Christ,

Pastor Cindy





# Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

101 N Greenwood Street • Tamaqua, PA 18252 • 570.668.2180 • zionlcof@verizon.net

January 20, 2026

Fellow Members of Zion,

Thank you to each one of you that is involved in our ministries. Some are doing the work that allows us to continue to gather and worship in our beautiful building, some are making sure we stay afloat financially, and some are reaching out into the community to help spread God's word. All these ministries are interconnected, some in more obvious ways than others, and not one of them can stand alone and be effective. In whatever way you are involved, we are thankful for your generosity in contributing to Zion's mission.

**Please take the time to review the information contained in this packet, and come to the meeting on February 8, prepared with any questions. This ensures we are as efficient as possible.**

Over the course of this year, if you have any questions, concerns, or even ideas in how we can expand our reach, please don't hesitate to contact me or any member of council.

Thank you,

Brian Lawfer  
Congregational Council President  
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
(570)952-5966  
bripa99@hotmail.com

## PARISH STATISTICS

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Baptized Membership	764	769	777
Confirmed Members	390	392	394
Members received by Baptism (Child)	9	6	7
Members received by Baptism (Adult)	2	1	0
Baptized Newly Confirmed Members	1	4	1
New First Communicants	6	6	4
Members received from an ELCA Church by Transfer			
(Baptized)	3	2	0
(Baptized/Confirmed)	3	2	0
Members received from a Non-Lutheran Church or by			
Affirmation of Faith (Baptized)	14	6	8
(Baptized/Confirmed)	10	3	8
Reinstatement/ Statistical Adjustment	0	0	0
Members who left by Transfer (Baptized)	1	3	0
(Confirmed)	1	3	0
Members who left by Commendation (Baptized)	0	0	0
(Confirmed)	0	0	0
Members who left by Withdrawal (Baptized)	2	3	0
(Confirmed)	2	1	0
Member Removed Statistical Adjustments (Confirmed)	0	0	0
Members who were taken by Death	10	4	7
Non-Member Deaths	1	0	1
Marriages	1	1	1

# Parochial Report - 2025

## Baptisms

Date	Name	Parents
3/2/25	Wyatt Jasper Hadesty	Jonathan & Alissa (Hollenbach) Hadesty
4/6/25	Maverick David Hadesty	Matthew & Karina (Derr) Hadesty
5/4/25	Alaina Nicole Boyer	Alyssa Casler & Ryan Boyer
5/25/25	Abigail Jean Smith	Nikolas & Sabrina Smith
7/20/25	Bryson Allen Linkhorst	Derek & Amber (Heffelfinger) Linkhorst
8/3/25	Evan Gregory Slick	Desiree Schuler & Andrew Slick
8/31/25	Kole Everett Hill	Derek & Amber (Linkhorst) Hill

## Marriages

Date	Names
12/13/26	Andrew Slick & Desiree Schuler

## Funerals and Member Deaths

Date of Death	Member/ Non-Member	Name	Age	Date of Funeral
2/3/25	Member	Sandra J. Ciccozzi	90	2/7/25
3/1/25	Member	Paul Pecha Jr.	89	3/8/25
3/17/25	Member	Richard Fethers	82	3/21/25
4/19/25	Member	Ralph R. Derr	84	4/25/25
5/28/25	Member	Nancy L. Kabana	85	6/3/25
6/8/25	Member	Elizabeth M. Jones	94	Private
7/14/25	Member	Margaret Clark	84	Private
8/12/25	Non-Member	Thomas F. Hewitt Jr.	76	8/25/25

## Confirmations

Date	Name
10/26/25	Gavin Thomas Edmonds

### **First Holy Communions**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
11/23/25	Jacob Baddick
	Jackson Faust
	Axel Matalavage
	Elijah Tirpak

### **Affirmation of Faith**

**Re-**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Formerly</b>
4/27/25	Nikolas & Sabrina Smith	
6/15/25	Jessica Thomas	
6/15/25	Shawn Schuler	

### **Affirmation of Faith**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Formerly</b>
6/15/25	Andrew Slick, Desiree Schuler, Izabella Schuler & Zaidyn Schuler	



## 2025 PROPERTY REPORT

As you can see, 2025 was a busy year for the Property Committee. Much of the year was focused on the successful completion of the next phase of the exterior restoration. While there is still work to be done to complete the entire building, both towers have now been rehabilitated, and water intrusion into the interior of the sanctuary has ceased. Thank you to everyone who has helped with or contributed to this project in any way. If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with any member of the Property Committee.

### JANUARY

- Reviewed updated estimates for exterior restoration project, and discussed options.

### FEBRUARY

- Presented options for the next phase of exterior restoration to the congregation at the annual meeting.

### MARCH

- Mark Valentine has contacted DeGruchy Masonry about scheduling exterior work. Mark also contacted a contractor regarding the louver work to be done in the corner tower when scaffolding is in place.
- Zion has applied for a \$100,000 loan from the Synod. In addition, \$225,000 will be borrowed from the Endowment Fund to pay for the next phase of the restoration project.
- A meeting was held with Stick Figure Fundraising about a fundraising proposal. Michael Haspe reports water damage in his back corner office.
- George Taylor is seeking proposals for a digital sign to be installed on the existing foundation at the corner door.

### APRIL

- Cemetery cleanup has begun.
- Roman (louver and roof contractor) looked at damaged areas on the Greenwood Street side of the church and Michael Haspe's office area. The office area damage could be caused by a small roof issue, or by water coming in through the walls.
- The Stick Figure consulting team will present Zion with a grocery list of fundraising options. We will select which options meet our needs. A flat fee will be charged.

### MAY

- Mowing and trimming are under way at the cemetery. Flags replaced for Memorial Day.
- Exterior restoration work is scheduled to begin June 23.
- Fundraiser proposal discussed; questions raised; to be further discussed at council.
- Stewart Signs offered projected cost of \$9,500 if we install a digital sign on the existing foundation at the corner door; \$12,000 if they install. No action taken.
- Approved a request by Darien Moyer for an Eagle Scout project of refreshing the mulch around the church and building and installing a small library kiosk near the People's Pantry.
- Boiler needs a new expansion tank before start of heating season.

### JUNE

- Michael Haspe is contacting Oliver Fire Protection to have enunciator installed in parsonage so pastor would know if the fire alarm went off.
- George Taylor reports that a Summit Hill church had Bartush Signs of Orwigsburg install a digital sign and base for \$29,000. We would use existing base.
- Mauch Chunk middle doors need attention. Mark suggested contacting Muncy locksmiths in Hazleton about repairs. Mark removed the weather strips on both doors for the summer.

## JULY

- Brian Lawfer reports weather keeping cemetery mowing behind schedule. More help is needed.
- Mark has contacted Muncy of Pottsville and Ebling of Schuylkill Haven about three door projects: work on the middle doors on Mauch Chunk Street (weather stripping and closer); installing a window in Michael Haspe's office door; and replacing the closer on the church entrance door on the parsonage porch. Muncy gave the lower estimate: \$795 for the three projects. Ebling: \$1,500.
- Pastor's office AC not working. Approved purchase of portable unit. Mark Valentine will get estimates on replacing older units.
- Vestibule discussion – Better lighting. Less clutter. Perhaps find a new home for the past pastor gallery.

## AUGUST

- Michael Haspe suggested that Zion return to a paid service to take care of routine mowing and trimming.
- Exterior restoration-Discussion about addressing protective coverings on stained glass windows. DeGruchy reports that tower roof has issues that need to be addressed. Mark said he would have Roman look at the situation when he is here installing louvers.
- Boiler repairs-Reigel will have work done before heating season in October. Currently waiting for welder to schedule work.

## SEPTEMBER

- Cemetery mowing services – Put \$5,000 in 2026 budget due to lack of help.
- Glenn Fritzing installed AED in downstairs worship area.
- Exterior restoration – Early October completion expected; Roman installing louvers Sept. 22; will do tower roof after that.
- Office air conditioner-Mark Valentine has called McCullion regarding replacement unit; no reply. Table purchase until next spring.

## OCTOBER

- Maintenance – DeGruchy needs to repair previous work done on the parsonage porch.
- Exterior restoration – DeGruchy appears to be finished. Roman nearly finished. Working on downspout. Scaffolding could be up awhile as company is very busy, Mark reports.
- Mauch Chunk St. middle doors – Weather strip installed
- Interior door projects – Michael Haspe's office door window installed. Exterior and interior work total \$795. Train room door replacement estimate \$2,569 - tabled

## NOVEMBER

- Interior tower – Pastor will check on people from Conyngham congregation who might be willing to repair the corner tower staircase ceiling and walls.

## DECEMBER

- Michael Haspe will assume duties as chair of the Property Committee once his Council term is up this month.
- Roto Rooter was called to unclog one of the drains from the corner tower. The drain was full of rocks and sand.
- Standing lights were purchased to light both the vestibule and corner stairwell. Mark Valentine also checked with All Phase Electric for suggestions to improve the lighting in those areas.
- Church Council approves a \$5,000 budget for exterior restoration fundraising which will more than likely take place during Zion's celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the building during 2027.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Lawfer  
Acting Property Chairperson 2022-December 31, 2025

# ENDOWMENT FUND 2025 REPORT



The fund was started to conservatively invest money, mainly donated in members' wills and current donations in honor/memory of loved ones. We thank you for gifts this year of \$7,522.17.

Our funds are invested by Mauch Chunk Trust Company Trust Department, in Certificates of Deposit and in a small checking account.

Looking at historical data

Fund start value	4/12/2000	\$309,693
Fund end value	12/31/2025	\$331,018
Previous Distribution to Zion		\$566,431
Our gift to Zion in 2025		\$22,905

For the year 2025, our total net result was loss of (-\$200,734). That loss came from the loan we took from the endowment fund to pay for the exterior restoration. That loan (from ourselves) was for \$225,000.00. When we have finished paying off our loan to the Synod, we fully intend to repay this loan to the endowment fund, just as we have for stages 1 & 2 of the exterior restoration.

What can you do? Consider leaving something to Zion in your will. It does not need to be a specific amount, as we never know what our end of life will be like. You can leave a percentage of your assets because even 1 or 2% would help our endowment fund grow to keep Zion strong in the future.

The endowment committee consists of Walter Weston, Rochelle Evanousky, Robert Jones and Sandra Mehalko.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Mehalko

## **Zion Finance Committee Report 2025**

Zion's Finance Committee is comprised of Robert Jones, Chairperson; Dave Gensure, Treasurer; Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary; Pastor White; George Taylor; Walter Weston; Rochelle Evanousky; Sandy Mehalko and Sam Caley.

Through a combination of prayer, faithfulness, hard work and fiscal responsibility God has blessed our Church with a budget balance for 2025 in the amount of \$19,086.20

### **Budget Contributions 2025**

\$190,433.00

### **Budget Expenses 2025**

\$171,346.80

AHEAD \$19,086.29

### **Income 2025**

\$699,798.03

### **Expenses 2025**

\$682,280.17

AHEAD \$16,977.86

### **Income 2025 with Campaign Removed**

\$225,858.41

### **Expenses 2025 with Capital Campaign Removed**

\$209,280.17

AHEAD \$16,578.24

Included in Income for 2025 are two loans for Capital Campaign to finance the recently completed exterior renovation. These loans were recommended by Church Council, voted on and approved by the Congregation.

A Capital Campaign loan from Endowment for \$225,000.

A Capital Campaign loan from the Synod for \$100,000.

Also included in Income for 2025:

Endowment gave \$22,905.00 to pay for the Church's insurance. Finance thanks the Endowment Committee for managing the Church's assets.

Culinary Team. A total of \$18,180 was contributed to the church by Culinary activities. We thank them for all their dedication and hard work.

Thrift Store. This ministry contributed \$9,063.81 to the church and an equal amount, \$9,063.81 to Outreach for a total of \$ 18,127.62 this past year. Thank you for all you do!



Capital Campaign: \$59,583.57

Through the Thrivent Choice Dollar program Zion received \$1,558.00 last year. We thank all of our Thrivent members for what they have done to help the Church throughout the past year.

The Church received \$715.48 from Boyers cards. Please remember to use these cards when shopping.

From Redner's the Church received \$156.54. Please remember to turn in your Redner's receipts.

The people of Zion are blessed to have received so much but keep in mind without the financial contributions listed above we would not have been able to pay our bills. The weekly offerings and other income would not have been enough to cover our expenses.

We have a hard working, dedicated Finance Team and I thank everyone for all the effort they put into our work this past year. I especially want to thank Dave, Ann Marie and our Parish Administrator Melody for the exceptional work they do.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Jones, Finance Committee Chairperson

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH BUDGET 2026							
		Budget 2024	Actual 2024	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Budget 2026	Notes
ELCA Benevolence Committed		\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$6,000.00	
Haz./Leh. Mission Dist.		\$180.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	
Donations		\$350.00	\$50.00	\$350.00			
Total Commitment		\$6,530.00	\$6,050.00	\$8,850.00	\$4,500.00	\$8,500.00	
<b>Pastor Expenses</b>							
Pastor Salary		\$38,390.00	\$28,167.88	\$22,480.00	\$16,923.00	\$23,154.00	
Pastor Transportation Allowance		\$1,000.00	\$20.10	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	
Pastor Life Insurance		\$545.00	\$313.74	\$156.00	\$41.68	\$166.00	
Pastor Health Insurance		\$22,454.00	\$9,419.89	\$2,106.00	\$1,717.11	\$2,190.00	
Pastor H S A		\$1,200.00	\$513.34	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Pastor Pension		\$5,450.00	\$3,364.88	\$3,123.00	\$2,342.34	\$3,318.00	
Pastor Social Security Allowance		\$3,534.00	\$2,810.47	\$2,316.00	\$1,753.80	\$2,368.00	
Pastor Continuing Education		\$400.00	\$41.42	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	
Pastor Housing Equity		\$1,030.00	\$1,030.00	\$1,030.00	\$0.00	\$1,030.00	
Vacation Supply		\$500.00	\$450.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$700.00	
Total Pastor Expenses		\$74,503.00	\$46,131.72	\$33,111.00	\$22,777.93	\$34,326.00	
<b>Lay Staff Exp</b>							
Parish Administrator		\$20,000.00	\$19,970.00	\$20,600.00	\$15,840.80	\$21,218.00	
Organist/Choir Dir.		\$9,995.00	\$9,994.92	\$10,195.00	\$7,834.51	\$10,399.00	
Maintenance Sexton/Snow Removal		\$1,224.00	\$0.00	\$1,224.00	\$0.00	\$1,224.00	
Sexton (general cleaning)		\$6,420.00	\$5,951.48	\$4,680.00	\$3,600.00	\$4,774.00	
Financial Secretary		\$2,836.00	\$2,836.08	\$2,893.00	\$2,243.16	\$2,951.00	
Treasurer		\$3,547.00	\$3,546.92	\$3,618.00	\$2,780.27	\$3,690.00	
Cemetery Secretary		\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	
Director Christian Education		\$600.00	\$599.00	\$600.00	\$300.00	\$612.00	
Total Lay Staff Exp		\$44,822.00	\$42,898.40	\$44,010.00	\$32,598.74	\$45,068.00	

		Budget 2024	Actual 2024	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Budget 2026	
<b>Administration</b>							
Office Supplies		\$700.00	\$667.51	\$700.00	\$536.27	\$700.00	
Office Equipment		\$3,000.00	\$1,645.93	\$3,000.00	\$1,338.86	\$3,000.00	
Mailings		\$1,500.00	\$312.00	\$1,500.00	\$468.00	\$1,500.00	
Equipment Maint/Inspection		\$700.00	\$435.33	\$700.00	\$296.00	\$700.00	
Accounting Fees-H&R Block		\$1,700.00	\$1,535.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,315.00	\$1,700.00	
Advertising & Media		\$200.00	\$33.75	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	
Synod Assembly Expenses		\$600.00	\$390.00	\$600.00	\$100.00	\$600.00	
Total Adm. Exp.		\$8,400.00	\$5,019.52	\$8,400.00	\$4,054.13	\$8,400.00	
<b>Property</b>							
Fuel Oil		\$35,000.00	\$22,394.50	\$35,000.00	\$18,292.75	\$35,000.00	
Electricity		\$5,000.00	\$6,017.29	\$6,500.00	\$4,325.87	\$6,500.00	
Phone		\$480.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Included in internet
Internet		\$1,200.00	\$2,056.91	\$1,900.00	\$1,425.99	\$1,900.00	
Property Repairs/Maintenance		\$7,500.00	\$3,698.44	\$7,500.00	\$7,118.19	\$7,500.00	
Equip. Purchase		\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	
Sexton Supplies		\$150.00	\$223.71	\$200.00	\$86.76	\$200.00	
Water, Sewer, Refuse		\$2,800.00	\$2,671.40	\$2,800.00	\$2,074.26	\$2,800.00	
Cemetery/Mower Expenses		\$2,000.00	\$64.95	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	
Total Property		\$54,630.00	\$37,127.20	\$55,400.00	\$33,323.82	\$59,400.00	
<b>Insurance</b>							
Employer Share Taxes		\$5,500.00	\$3,235.80	\$5,000.00	\$2,470.85	\$5,000.00	

			Budget 2024	Actual 2024	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Budget 2026	
Insurance			\$18,000.00	\$13,338.00	\$16,000.00	\$13,639.21	\$16,000.00	
Workman's Comp			\$1,000.00	\$1,309.00	\$1,350.00	\$542.00	\$1,350.00	
Total Insurance			\$24,500.00	\$17,882.80	\$22,350.00	\$16,652.06	\$22,350.00	
<b>Worship and Music</b>								
Music			\$75.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	
Licenses/Copyrights			\$2,300.00	\$3,716.09	\$3,000.00	\$2,157.99	\$3,000.00	
Communion Supplies			\$800.00	\$599.27	\$800.00	\$895.48	\$800.00	
Candles			\$500.00	\$108.35	\$500.00	\$1,166.81	\$1,000.00	
Flowers/Palms			\$400.00	\$823.20	\$500.00	\$304.50	\$500.00	
Bulletins			\$900.00	\$1,618.49	\$1,200.00	\$822.01	\$1,500.00	
Acolytes			\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	
Baptism/Confirmation Supplies			\$350.00	\$345.83	\$350.00	\$375.08	\$350.00	
Ministry Materials			\$250.00	\$232.75	\$250.00	\$351.77	\$500.00	
Piano/Organ Maint.			\$850.00	\$990.00	\$850.00	\$560.00	\$850.00	
Worship Materials			\$500.00	\$761.14	\$700.00	\$171.66	\$500.00	
Music Vacation Supply			\$400.00	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	
Web Cast			\$1,300.00	\$2,518.56	\$1,300.00	\$0.00	\$1,300.00	
Total Worship & Music			\$8,725.00	\$11,913.68	\$10,025.00	\$7,205.30	\$10,875.00	
<b>Christian Education</b>								
Sunday School Curriculum & Supplies			\$400.00	\$404.92	\$1,000.00	\$258.69	\$1,000.00	
Adult Education			\$300.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	
Youth Education			\$200.00	\$19.06	\$1,200.00	\$752.42	\$1,200.00	
Church Council/Executive Council			\$100.00	\$94.62	\$100.00	\$70.52	\$100.00	
Vacation Church School				\$1,314.12	\$2,000.00	\$1,861.95	\$2,000.00	
Total Christian Education			\$1,000.00	\$1,832.72	\$4,500.00	\$2,943.58	\$4,500.00	
<b>Stewardship &amp; Evang</b>								
Offering Envelopes			\$2,000.00	\$2,522.94	\$2,400.00	\$2,147.86	\$2,600.00	
Stewardship			\$500.00	\$319.74	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	

Total Stewardship & Evang			\$2,500.00	\$2,842.68	\$2,900.00	\$2,147.86	\$3,100.00	

		Budget 2024	Actual 2024	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Budget 2026	
<b>MISC BUDGETED ACCOUNTS</b>							
Bank Charges		\$300.00	\$419.97	\$400.00	\$229.68	\$400.00	
Special Events		\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$69.21	\$300.00	
Health Benefit Account							
Miscellaneous		\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	
<b>Total Misc Budgeted Accounts</b>		<b>\$700.00</b>	<b>\$419.97</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>	<b>\$298.89</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTALS BUDGETED ACCOUNTS</b>		<b>\$226,310.00</b>	<b>\$172,118.69</b>	<b>\$190,346.00</b>	<b>\$126,502.31</b>	<b>\$197,319.00</b>	Weekly needed <b>\$3,794.60</b>
<b>Non-Budgeted Misc Accts</b>							
ELCA Benevolence			\$237.00		\$156.00		
World Hunger			\$2,163.00		\$1,561.00		
LWR			\$307.00		\$141.00		
Missionary/Joyful Noise			\$1,420.40		\$860.38		
Seminary Scholarship			\$0.00		\$0.00		
Annuity Expense			\$0.00		\$0.00		
Harvest Home			\$0.00		\$0.00		
Tree of Remembrance Expense			\$0.00		\$0.00		
Loaves & Fishes Ministry Expense			\$2,016.84		\$0.00		
Congregational Life Expense			\$4,532.90		\$0.00		
Misc Pass Through Expense			\$3,324.87		\$344.89		
<b>Total Non-budgeted Misc Accts</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$14,002.01</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$3,063.27</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	

		Budget 2024	Actual 2024	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Budget 2026	
<b>FUND EXPENSES NON-BUDGETED</b>							
Culinary Expenses			\$8,601.37		\$4,849.60		
Helping Hands Expense			0		\$335.00		
Ministerial Expense			\$500.00		\$175.74		
Outreach Expense			\$13,100.05		\$7,231.89		
Senior Choir Expense			\$445.36		\$0.00		
Scholarship Fund Expense			0		\$0.00		
Library Fund Expense			0		\$0.00		
Campership Expense			0		\$0.00		
Capital Campaign Expenses			\$65,000.00		\$345,266.00		
Cap. Camp. Repay Endowment			0		\$0.00		
Interest Paid on Endowment			0		\$0.00		
Mission Fund Expense			0		\$0.00		
Zion Diaper Fund Expense			\$1,326.46		\$852.20		
Organ Repair Expenses		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$364.40		
Improvement Expenses		\$0.00	\$2,928.00	\$0.00	\$3,712.00		
<b>Total Fund Expenses Non-Budgeted</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$91,901.24</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$362,786.83</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL ALL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$226,310.00</b>	<b>\$278,021.94</b>	<b>\$190,346.00</b>	<b>\$492,352.41</b>	<b>\$197,319.00</b>	

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH REVENUE BUDGET 2026						
		2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
<b>Weekly Offerings</b>						
*Envelopes		\$99,000.00	\$117,656.62	\$110,000.00	\$116,167.61	\$114,500.00
Plate		\$8,000.00	\$8,560.25	\$8,000.00	\$8,962.57	\$8,000.00
Sunday School		\$100.00	\$750.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Total Weekly Offerings		\$105,100.00	\$124,966.87	\$116,100.00	\$123,130.18	\$120,600.00
<b>Special Gifts</b>						
Reformation		\$100.00	\$49.00	\$100.00	\$81.00	\$100.00
Birthdays		\$500.00	\$434.00	\$500.00	\$482.00	\$400.00
All Saints		\$130.00	\$102.00	\$130.00	\$72.00	\$130.00
Thanksgiving		\$150.00	\$430.00	\$150.00	\$239.00	\$300.00
Ash Wednesday		\$250.00	\$329.00	\$325.00	\$297.00	\$325.00
Lenten Gifts		\$825.00	\$1,283.00	\$1,000.00	\$534.00	\$750.00
Maundy Thursday		\$250.00	\$153.00	\$175.00	\$434.00	\$300.00
Good Friday		\$200.00	\$234.00	\$200.00	\$124.00	\$200.00
Easter		\$2,000.00	\$2,524.00	\$2,200.00	\$2,121.00	\$2,200.00
Ascension		\$200.00	\$177.00	\$200.00	\$102.00	\$150.00
Pentecost		\$200.00	\$587.00	\$300.00	\$90.00	\$350.00
Advent		\$350.00	\$200.64	\$350.00	\$363.64	\$300.00
Christmas		\$2,500.00	\$2,591.00	\$2,700.00	\$2,456.00	\$2,600.00
New Year		\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$175.00	\$150.00
Memorials/Honorarium		\$2,000.00	\$8,790.63	\$2,500.00	\$1,293.52	\$2,500.00
Energy		\$2,000.00	\$2,900.92	\$2,000.00	\$1,764.92	\$2,000.00
Boyers Cards		\$550.00	\$672.57	\$600.00	\$715.48	\$700.00
Amazon Prime		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Redners Receipts		\$100.00	\$317.11	\$125.00	\$156.54	\$150.00
Total Specials Gifts		\$12,355.00	\$21,824.87	\$13,605.00	\$11,501.10	\$13,605.00
		2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
<b>Designated Gifts</b>						
Cemetery Fund		\$500.00	\$710.00	\$500.00	\$970.00	\$500.00
VBS		\$200.00	\$389.00	\$150.00	\$1,113.60	\$200.00
Endowment Gift		\$20,000.00	\$22,006.00	\$24,000.00	\$22,905.00	\$15,000.00
Total Designated Gifts		\$20,700.00	\$23,105.00	\$24,650.00	\$24,988.60	\$15,700.00
<b>Facilities Rental &amp; Services</b>						
Facilities Rental		\$360.00	\$340.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Good's N Stuff/Thrift Store		\$6,000.00	\$9,792.90	\$7,000.00	\$9,063.81	\$7,500.00
Total Facilities Rental & Services		\$6,360.00	\$10,132.90	\$7,300.00	\$9,063.81	\$7,600.00
<b>Reimbursements and Other</b>						
Initial Envelopes		\$360.00	\$500.00	\$450.00	\$440.00	\$450.00
Flowers		\$300.00	\$530.00	\$300.00	\$595.50	\$300.00
Bulletins/Herald		\$600.00	\$73.00	\$600.00	\$544.63	\$600.00
Radio Spots			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Candles		\$200.00	\$560.00	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$200.00
Music and Licenses		\$275.00	\$0.00	\$275.00	\$0.00	\$275.00
Thrivent		\$600.00	\$564.00	\$600.00	\$1,558.00	\$600.00
Miscellaneous		\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Total Reimbursements Other		\$2,435.00	\$2,257.00	\$2,525.00	\$3,538.13	\$2,525.00
Total Annual Projected Revenue Budget		\$146,950.00	\$182,286.64	\$164,180.00	\$172,221.82	\$160,030.00



## The Importance of Outreach

Outreach ministries provide a direct path for Zion members to live out their Christian faith through action and strengthen the local community fabric while fostering spiritual growth and unity among members. The congregation views every member as part of the outreach ministry, encouraging everyone to use their unique talents to serve others and "advance God's kingdom."

- **Fulfilling a Core Mission:** The congregation's mission is to be "enabled and inspired by God to bring others to Christ" and to walk with and serve the "hungry, hopeless, and disregarded". Outreach is seen as fulfilling Jesus' command to love and care for others, demonstrating Christian values in tangible ways that go beyond traditional worship services.
- **Meeting Tangible Community Needs:** Zion Lutheran actively addresses specific local needs, which builds trust and a positive perception of the church within the community. Some specific programs include:
  - **The People's Pantry** offers immediate, dignified, 24/7 emergency food access, meeting growing community hunger needs, fostering connections, and embodying the congregation's faith-driven mission to serve neighbors with respect, providing essentials like food and pet supplies, and becoming a local hub for compassion and community support.
  - **Diaper Ministry** fills a significant, unmet need in the Tamaqua community by providing free diapers to families in the school district, as SNAP benefits don't cover them, offering tangible relief, demonstrating Christian love, and embodying the church's mission to welcome and heal the vulnerable, fostering community connection and a tangible way for the congregation to serve.
  - **Culinary Ministry** serves as a cornerstone of fellowship, community outreach, and fundraising. It embodies the church's values of hospitality and service, creating strong bonds both within the congregation and the wider Tamaqua area. The annual free pork and sauerkraut dinners on New Year's Day, a Pennsylvania Dutch tradition, serves hundreds of meals and shares "luck and love" with the community. Lenten Friday fish dinners and sales of homemade halupkis and hoagies invite the public into the church and provide a tangible service.
  - **Blessings Thrift Ministry:** A vital ministry because it provides affordable goods, fosters community connection, offers spiritual fulfillment for volunteers, and generates funds supporting the church's broader outreach (like food/diaper pantries), creating a tangible way for the congregation to serve neighbors, share God's love, and sustain the church's mission in Tamaqua.
  - **Youth Programs:** Historically establishing the community's first youth soccer program and hosting events like an annual "Trunk or Treat" and Vacation Bible School.
  - **Disaster Relief and Global Support:** Supporting wider efforts through organizations like Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response, which provides a connection to a broader mission.
- **Strengthening Congregational Bonds:** Serving together in ministry provides shared experiences that help members get to know one another better, build relationships, and grow closer as a church family. Members are encouraged to use their diverse talents (culinary, technical, organizational, etc.) in service, which allows each individual to find their place and purpose within the church community.

- **Embodying Faith in Action:** For volunteers, the ministry is an expression of their faith and a way to serve God's people. It allows them to use their skills in cooking and organizing to embody the Christian values of welcome and hospitality central to their beliefs, living out their faith in a practical and impactful way.
- **Providing Hope and Support:** Through acts of compassion, outreach programs offer not just physical aid but also emotional and spiritual support to the community, especially during difficult times like grief or the holidays (e.g., "Blue Christmas" services). This demonstrates the church's genuine care for people as individuals, not just as potential attendees.
- **Ensuring Future Relevance:** By engaging actively in the community and meeting modern needs, the congregation ensures the church remains a vital and relevant part of the Tamaqua area for generations to come, continuing a history of over 225 years of service.

## CULINARY MINISTRY

As 2025 ended, a huge thank you to all those that made 2025 possible in culinary here at Zions. 3424 served which exceeded 2024. We would also like to thank all those who supported our ministry during the year and look forward to serving you again with our many events during 2026. *Glenn Fritzinger*

By the numbers

January 1 <sup>st</sup>	New year's Community Dinner	154 served	(103 take out)	\$409 Donations
February 9,	hoagies sale	288 sold		\$2550
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Lenten dinner	144 served		\$1809
March 28 <sup>th</sup>	Lenten dinner	145 served		\$1858
	Plus 71 dozen pierogies sold			\$487
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Lenten dinner	131 served		\$1732
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	hoagie sale	220 sold		\$1778
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	hoagie sale	219 sold		\$1729
June 16,17,18,19,20	served Meals for VBS			
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	hoagie sale	288 sold		\$2350
Aug 7 <sup>th</sup>	hoagie sale	276 sold		\$2243
Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup>	hoagie sale	274 sold		\$2139
Oct. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	halupki sale(made 365)	358 sold		\$1407
Oct. 24 <sup>th</sup> .	Made 20 quarts of halupki soup for hunger campaign			
Oct. 30 <sup>th</sup>	60 heads of cabbage make into sauerkraut			
Nov. 1 <sup>3th</sup>	hoagie sale	228 sold		\$1858
Nov. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Advent breakfast	60 served		\$89 donations
Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup>	hoagie sale	276 sold		\$ 2221
	Total served	2988		
	Total income			

## BLESSING THRIFT SHOP MINISTRY

Blessing Thrift supplies much needed items in the area we live for affordable prices. We are able to outreach to a large area. Blessings has four regular workers who spend several days each week unpacking, sorting, pricing and displaying items to make each monthly sale a success. We also have another six volunteers who regularly help on the sale days. Others provide some of the sale day food items we offer. Still others provide their Thrivent Action Cards which enable us to purchase supplies: storage containers; tags for clothing; tape; glue; garbage bags; wrapping paper; and markers. All that being said, we would welcome more help to spend a morning or two a week working with us preparing for the sale. Blessings is a great outreach of our church. We also give things to people in need, like those affected by a fire. When pastors from other churches call with needs, we help them as much as we can. We have also provided items to other organizations when the items have been on our shelves too long. Blessings is truly a much-needed ministry in our community and surrounding area. We welcome others to this vital ministry. *Judy Brennan*

### By the numbers

March 7 – 177 shoppers; \$2,488.22\*

April 4 – 174 shoppers; \$1,703.22

May 2 – 139 shoppers; \$1,611.15

June 6 – 153 shoppers; \$1,807.60

July 11 – 69 shoppers; \$821.12

Aug. 1 – 105 shoppers; \$1,113.75

Sept. 5- 114 shoppers; \$1,212.83

Oct. 3 – 163 shoppers; \$2,026.30

Nov. 7 – 167 shoppers; \$2,014.92

Dec. 5, 6 – 232 shoppers; \$2,875.13

2025: 1,493 shoppers; \$17,674.24

\*Half the proceeds from a Blessings sale go to Zion's general operating fund. The other half is used to support various Outreach programs and projects.

### DIAPER DEPOT MINISTRY REPORT

Zion's diaper ministry began in 2018 as a community pantry of the Greater Philadelphia Diaper Bank. Diapers were initially picked up in Easton at the former Dixie Cup plant. When the diaper bank leadership changed, we made trips to Philadelphia to pick up diapers every other month. We are now a pantry of the Lehigh Valley Diaper Bank. We thank all those Zion members who have worked as Friday evening bundlers and Saturday morning distributors over the years and those who have provided funds to purchase supplies. *George Taylor*

### By the numbers

Month	Requests	Delivered	Kids served	Diapers given
January	32	26	27	1,260
February	29	24	32	1,630
March	26	23	30	1,350
April	28	26	35	1,650
May	29	23	34	1,310
June	27	21	27	1,050
July	28	25	30	1,280
August	27	20	23	1070
September	26	22	26	1150
October	27	23	28	1320
November	27	23	26	1240
December	29	26	30	1290
2025 totals	335	282	348	15,600
Since start	3,504	2,934	3,802	173,690

### JOYFUL NOISE

Joyful Noise gifts are a combination of offerings from the congregation and additional money from the Outreach fund which is generated by Blessings Thrift Sale proceeds. Thank you for your generosity.

MONTH	ORGANIZATION	OUR GIFT
January	American Kidney Fund	\$200
February	World Kitchen	\$1,000
March	Feed America	\$200
April		
May	ELCA Good Gifts-Seminary leaders	\$200
June	Tamaqua Library	\$200



July	ELCA Disaster Relief	\$1,000
August	Zion organ fund	\$500
September	Doctors Without Borders	\$300
October	Tamaqua Hunger Walk	\$1,000
November	LV Diaper bank	\$2,000
December	Zion's People's Pantry (Reverse Advent Calendar)	

## KIVA

Zion Outreach participates in KIVA Microfinancing, a non-profit organization that connects lenders (everyday people) with borrowers (underserved entrepreneurs) for crowdfunded loans, often starting from \$25. KIVA's mission is to expand financial access for people to start businesses, attend school, or improve their homes, addressing poverty and inequality. Lenders, like Zion Outreach, fund loans, and as borrowers repay, the funds become available to lend again, creating a revolving loan system.

KIVA helps touch lives by providing funds for someone to start a business and support their families in the communities where they live. Over the years, KIVA has distributed \$827,356,850 in loans from 1,394,336 lenders to 1,928,760 borrowers. A total of 1,036,558 loans have been funded through the program. The average loan size is \$411.26. The average KIVA borrower has had 10.17 loans. KIVA's current repayment rate for all its partners is 99.1 percent. *The Outreach team*

## ZION ONLINE WEBCASTS 2024

The numbers below represent 'views.' They do not mean that a 'viewer' watched the entire service or streamed event. Our largest viewership comes through Facebook. Additional views come from YouTube and our website. *George Taylor*

By the numbers

MONTH	MORNING PRAYER	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
January	1,125	89	1,900
February	1,322	78	1,666
March	1,219	80	2,037
April	1,494	17*	1,838
May	872	284	1,371
June	746	79	1,776
July	809	115	1,098
August	765	109	1,469
September	910	93	1,394
October	1,219	83	1,503
November	733	50	1,259
December	2,121	146	1,126
2025 totals	13,335	1,223	17,437
2024 totals	11,131	1,226	15,761

HOLY WEEK	PALM SUNDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	EASTER
	451	384	448	427	497	491
BACCALAUREATE	1,406 views					
CHRISTMAS EVE	4 PM: 534	9 PM: 535				

## PHONELIVESTREAM SERVICE REPORT

Discontinued in June due to a lack of use. No longer cost effective.

- 4 people subscribed and got called
- 2 were heavy users
- 2 were light
- Average 2-3 people listen to a webcast

## PEOPLE'S PANTRY

The People Pantry is a 24/7 emergency food source for residents of the Dutch Hill area as well as much of Tamaqua. It is one of four pantries that benefit from the Tamaqua Hunger Campaign each fall, but most of the food items come from Zion members and other area residents who recognize the needs of our community and stock the pantry on their own.

2025 was a very busy year for our little emergency pantry. The need in Tamaqua has tripled since last year. We have heavy traffic to our pantry. I'm very thankful to the people of Tamaqua who help keep our pantry going. Many bring food to place in the box instead of taking. We have a young woman who puts together birthday cake kits including balloons and a card. She has done this on two occasions. They're beautiful and very much appreciated. In 2025 through the Tamaqua Hunger Campaign, we partnered with Boyer's for bags of grocery items that were sold for a \$10 donation and then given to community pantries. It was a great success. So, "Thank You" to everyone who donates in any way. *Arlene Derr-Davison* 🙏

## ZION WEBSITE

Software updates by our website host resulted in display issues that needed to be addressed this past year. We contacted the services that did the website redesign back in 2023, and they were able to restore changes made by the updates. We have not yet been able to restore the capacity to show us accurate statistics but we are working on it.

# WORSHIP and MUSIC--2025

It is a joy to be the parish musician at Zion church. It is a privilege to have a “job” that you love and to feel supported by so many people. So, let me begin by saying a heartfelt thank you to everyone who takes part in Zion’s music and liturgy program. The reliability, the talents, the offering of their time ---all are gifts of praise and glory given to God and to our church.



The Senior choir is the foundation of our music program. They share their message in song through both old and new anthems. The Sunday school choir sings 6 times a year and learns a Christmas Eve program. Thank you to the teachers who allow me time to work with these youth before their lesson. The soloists offer their talents in the summer, and the instrumentalists help at special liturgies. The lectors, cantors, and communion assistants are all dependable and prepared to do their part in our church service. Thank you seems such a small word for all they do and for how much I appreciate their work---but it is what I can say, and I know the congregation also offers their thanks for your leadership.

This year the organ had a complete overhaul and some pipes that had been water-damaged were repaired. Thank you to Bob and Gail Jones for funding this large project. We have a lovely instrument at Zion, and it is important to me and to the future to keep the organ in good working order.

If you read my other reports in this brochure (Endowment and Capital Campaign), you will notice a theme. What can I do? We are always looking for people to join us in the choir. You do not need to be a trained musician—we spend several weeks learning each anthem. We can always use lectors to read, cantors, or communion assistants. It is a small offering of your time and provides a big service.

This year we are looking for help in two specific areas. We need one or two people to change the paraments (the coverings on the altar, lectern and pulpit). It is a job that would take about 20 minutes and happens about 8 times a year. You can easily do it after a church service when the season changes or anytime during the week. I will provide the dates for the color change.

Also, we are looking for one or two people to change the numbers on the hymn board each Sunday and change the eternal candle on the altar. That is also a job that only takes a few minutes and can be done after a church service or any time during the week.

If you can help in any way, please let me know. You can always find me sitting on the organ bench. Keeping the worship at Zion vibrant and meaningful takes many hands. Be part of this valuable ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Mehalko



# Christian Education 2026 Annual Report

Minister Michael Haspe – Christian Education Superintendent

**Sunday School:** Total Enrollment: 20

Teachers: Minister Michael Haspe, Susan Lawfer, Julia Lawfer

Time: 10:15 am -11 am

The children had another great year of learning about God's love for creation, and the grace found in Jesus. The children were also actively involved in worship services including singing at several services, presenting a successful "Youth Sunday" service, and were active participants in the Christmas service.

**Confirmation:** Total Enrollment: 7

Teacher: Minister Michael Haspe

Time: 11 am - 12:30 pm

Students engage on a 2-Year program of study with focus on Lutheranism 101, Luther's Small Catechism, and Biblical Study. The students spent the fall learning about Martin Luther and the New Testament. Students are also learning about "service to the church" by being involved with church projects. 1 student received The Rite of Confirmation during Reformation Sunday (Gavin Edmonds). 4 students will be confirmed on Pentecost 2026 if all requirements of the program are satisfied. (Belle Hascin, Hudson Henritzy, Darvin Faust, and Thad Matalavage)

**First Holy Communion:** Total Enrollment: 4

Teacher: Minister Michael Haspe

Date(s)/Time: November 2, November 9, November 16, 2025, from 11 am – 12:30 pm

4 students studied for their First Holy Communion using "Come to God's Table". 4 students received the sacrament of First Holy Communion on Christ the King Sunday on November 23. Elijah Tirpak, Jackson Faust, Axel Matalavage, and Jacob Baddick

**Vacation Bible School:** Snowball Mountain Challenge

Director: Minister Michael Haspe

Evening Program: June 16-20, 2025, from 5:30 pm- 8:30 pm

Evening Program Enrollment: 35

Day Program: July 21-25, 2025, from 11 am -2 pm

Day Program Enrollment: 30

We had an outstanding year for Vacation Bible School in 2025. We were 1 of 4 churches selected in the nation to be a "Pilot Church" to test Cokesbury's 2026 VBS Curriculum "Snowball Mountain Challenge". The program centered around our "Mountain Motto" from Philippians 4:13 – "I can do ALL things through HIM who strengthens me!". Each session the kids learned empowering daily "lift lessons", which were "I can" statements which tied into the brave people of the Bible. "I can share my gifts!", "I can be brave!", "I can give my all!", "I can pray!", and "I can hope!". The evening program was so successful we decided to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> VBS and presented it as a day program.

Students participated in Music, Crafts, Bible Explorations, World Mission, and Games. Each child and volunteer that attended was served a Hot Meal.



Our children's programs make a difference in the lives of children in our community. Having grown up in the congregation, I can personally attest to this. I have good memories of being a Zion Kid and want you to know that our programs aren't possible without **YOU!**

Thank you for your generosity! We are building the next generation of leaders!

It is my sincerest hope we can continue to make Zion a fun place for children to develop their faith!

Thank you for your support, and investment into Zion's Children's Ministries!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Michael Haspe". The signature is stylized with loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Minister Michael Haspe  
Christian Education Director

***Faith as small as a mustard seed can move mountains – Matthew 17:20***

## **GENEROSITY: a reflection of mission and faith**

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church's mission emphasizes serving others, sharing the Gospel, and bringing people to Christ. Serving and giving — in time, talent, and financial resources — flows out of that call. That vision includes *walking with and serving the hungry, hopeless, and disregarded*, showing that generosity is not just encouraged but is integral to *living out our faith in concrete ways*.

In Lutheran theology generally, generosity is seen as a *response to God's grace* — Christians give not to earn favor, but out of gratitude for the gifts they've already received in Christ. This reflects a biblical understanding of stewardship, where all we have is entrusted to us by God and shared with others as a joyful act of worship. (This is a common Lutheran perspective even if not specific to Zion Tamaqua)

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### **Supporting ministry, outreach, and community service**

Generosity at Zion Tamaqua supports local ministries and outreach efforts. For example:

- Members organize and fund community activities like pantry programs, outreach dinners, thrift boutique support, and safe community events (such as Trunk or Treat and a free New Year's dinner).
- Financial gifts help maintain the church building and facilities that host worship, fellowship, and service.
- The congregation also engages in giving beyond the church — such as donations from events (like an ice-cream social) to support local fire police and emergency services year after year.

This shows generosity is lived out not just internally, but also toward the wider Tamaqua community.

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### **Building a sense of shared purpose and community**

Generosity at Zion creates *shared purpose and mutual care*. When members give — whether financially, through volunteer time, or by offering skills — it builds deeper connection within the congregation and fosters a sense that everyone participates in the church's mission. This aligns with the church's value of compassion, respect, teamwork, and service as part of their identity.

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### **Sustaining the life and future of the Church**

Like many congregations, Zion relies on the faithful generosity of its members to sustain worship, education, youth programs, ministries, and outreach. Without that support, it would be harder to maintain programs, care for members, and be a visible presence in the community. Generosity helps ensure the congregation can continue its work now and into the future.

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### **How we live our 'generosity'**

**People's Pantry (Emergency Food Assistance)** Zion operates a People's Pantry that provides food access 24/7 for people in need in Tamaqua. This is especially important in the context of local hunger efforts — for example, the Tamaqua month-long hunger campaign supports this pantry along with others in the area.

**Free New Year's Day Dinner** Each year on January 1, Zion hosts a free community pork & sauerkraut dinner, welcoming everyone in the community to come eat — dine-in or take-out — with a free-will offering accepted. This meal service brings people together and ensures no one starts the year hungry or alone.

**Annual Trunk or Treat** For several years, Zion held a Trunk or Treat & Safe Halloween event, a family fun community event where people could celebrate safely, build relationships, and offer a welcoming space for children and parents of all backgrounds.

**Blessings Thrift Boutique** Blessings Thrift Boutique offers low-cost clothing and household items — helping those who need affordable basics while also raising funds for ministry work.

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## Community outreach & volunteer leadership

Over the years, members of Zion have helped start or support community programs such as:

- Meals on Wheels in Tamaqua
- The community's first youth soccer program
- The Tamaqua Area Faith Fellowship Network (TAFNN) which sponsors events like the Community Advent Breakfast and Hunger Walk to raise awareness and support for food ministries across area churches.

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## Community engagement through events & organizations

Zion members have been active leaders in local civic and service organizations (e.g., fire companies, playground groups, booster clubs, Lions/Rotary), demonstrating generosity beyond church walls and helping shape *broader community life*.

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## Why these matter

All of these activities show how generosity at Zion isn't just about giving money — it's about sharing time, compassion, resources, and welcome with anyone who walks through the door or needs a hand in the community. These ministries help meet practical needs (food, clothing, safe events), build relationships, and express the church's vision of serving the hungry, hopeless, and disregarded through action rooted in faith.

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## Ways members get involved

Volunteering, donating, and serving the community shows how generosity isn't just a belief but a lived practice of faith.

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## Serve in community ministries

Zion lists several ministries where members volunteer their time and talents — you can contact the listed leaders or the church office to join or help:

### Examples of volunteer ministries:

- **People's Pantry** — Members help stock and maintain the emergency food pantry, provide non-perishable food donations, and assist neighbors facing food insecurity.
- **Blanket ministry** — Volunteers sew and distribute blankets to local shelters and support services.
- **Blessings Thrift ministry** — Members operate and support the thrift shop, which provides affordable items to the community and raises funds for church ministries.
- **Culinary crew** — This group hosts community events, meals, and fundraisers (like socials) that raise money for local ministries and support outreach efforts.
- **Diaper ministry** — Volunteers support families in the Tamaqua Area School District by providing free diapers and formula to those in need.
- **Prayer shawl ministry** — Members create prayer shawls and other textiles as comfort gifts for those experiencing illness, loss, or hardship.
- **World & community mission ministry** — Volunteers explore and promote *mission opportunities*, both locally and globally.

**How to get involved:** The church's Serve in the Community page lists contacts for each ministry and encourages people to reach out to the Parish Office if they are interested in serving.

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## Donate goods & support the People's Pantry

- **Food & Goods Donations:** Members and community supporters can bring canned and dry goods for the People's Pantry — which is available 24/7 on Greenwood Street — helping neighbors facing hunger.
- **Special Drives:** Involved members often coordinate participation in broader community drives, like the *Tamaqua Community Hunger Campaign*, where churches collect food and funds to support local food pantries (including Zion's).

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## Support events & fundraisers

Members generously give time and resources to events that benefit others:

- **Ice cream socials & benefit events:** Proceeds from community events (like an annual ice cream social) get donated to local emergency services (e.g., fire companies and rescue squads) year after year — showing how teamwork and generosity extend beyond the church walls.
- **Community meals & fellowship:** Church-hosted meals (such as the free New Year's Day dinner) rely on volunteers and donations to feed and welcome everyone in the community.

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## Engage through prayer, fellowship & spiritual gifts

Generosity at Zion also includes:

- **Prayer Support:** Members share prayer requests and lift up others in prayer as a form of spiritual service.
- **Fellowship Opportunities:** Participating in worship, Bible study, and fellowship groups helps build community, support one another, and grow spiritually together — an often-understated but powerful form of generosity of spirit.

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## Get Connected

If you want specific volunteer opportunities or to start something new, Zion encourages individuals to:

- Call the Parish Office at 570-668-2180
- Email the church to express interest, ask about needs, or propose new ministry ideas.

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## In Summary

For members of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church:

- Generosity is a spiritual response rooted in gratitude for God's gifts.
- It empowers ministry, outreach, and service to both the congregation and the local community.
- It strengthens fellowship and shared mission among members.
- It sustains the church's presence and impact now and for future generations.

Members of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church can live out generosity by:

- Volunteering in established ministries (food pantry, thrift shop, prayer shawls, etc.).
- Donating food, goods, and funds to support neighbors in need.
- Organizing and serving at community events and fundraisers.
- Offering prayer, fellowship, and spiritual care.

All of these avenues provide meaningful ways to share time, talent, and treasure in service to others — reflecting the church's mission to love God and neighbor through action.



**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church - Tamaqua PA**  
**Giving Step Report: 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2025**

Giving Range		Total Given
<b>\$0.00 - \$0.00</b>	Count: 166	\$0.00
<b>\$0.01 - \$52.00</b>	Count: 39	\$1,059.63
<b>\$52.01 - \$104.00</b>	Count: 16	\$1,321.25
<b>\$104.01 - \$156.00</b>	Count: 10	\$1,307.00
<b>\$156.01 - \$208.00</b>	Count: 6	\$1,154.64
<b>\$208.01 - \$260.00</b>	Count: 7	\$1,639.00
<b>\$260.01 - \$312.00</b>	Count: 2	\$595.68
<b>\$312.01 - \$364.00</b>	Count: 5	\$1,703.47
<b>\$364.01 - \$416.00</b>	Count: 8	\$3,028.12
<b>\$416.01 - \$468.00</b>	Count: 2	\$856.94
<b>\$468.01 - \$520.00</b>	Count: 3	\$1,496.00
<b>\$520.01 - \$780.00</b>	Count: 13	\$8,536.96
<b>\$780.01 - \$1,040.00</b>	Count: 4	\$3,700.00
<b>\$1,040.01 - \$1,300.00</b>	Count: 4	\$4,818.72
<b>\$1,300.01 - \$1,560.00</b>	Count: 8	\$11,336.74
<b>\$1,560.01 - \$2,080.00</b>	Count: 11	\$20,666.16
<b>\$2,080.01 - \$2,600.00</b>	Count: 3	\$6,782.40
<b>\$2,600.01 - \$3,120.00</b>	Count: 5	\$13,867.21
<b>\$3,120.01 - \$3,640.00</b>	Count: 5	\$16,562.96
<b>\$4,160.01 - \$4,680.00</b>	Count: 1	\$4,600.00
<b>\$4,680.01 - \$5,200.00</b>	Count: 3	\$14,368.88
<b>\$5,200.01 - \$5,720.00</b>	Count: 2	\$10,806.32
<b>&gt; \$6,240.01</b>	Count: 4	\$36,584.25

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ANNUAL REPORT 2025

What a year of faith this has been for the Capital Campaign Committee and the congregation of Zion. The committee wishes to begin by **thanking** each of you who continue to support this fund.

This year, the members of Zion voted to continue with the restoration of our exterior by tackling the largest portion. The high tower and a large part of the side on Mauch Chunk Street were finished.

This project was funded by gifts you have already given to Capital Campaign and by two loans. One loan was from the Synod. It was for \$100,000.00 at 3% interest for a term of 7 years. We will try to pay it off earlier by making extra principal payments when we have the funds to do so. The other loan came from our own Endowment Fund. \$225,000.00 was taken from the fund to pay toward the restoration project. It is our full intention to repay this loan after the Synod is paid in full.

When we did Phases 1 & 2 of the restoration, we also borrowed from the Endowment Fund. Both of those loans from Zion's funds were paid back in full, with 2% interest. It is our prayer that we can do the same with this \$225,000.00.

How can you help? Along with the giving that you already so generously are doing, you can spread the word to others you know, who may have an interest in Zion. Do you know a former member who has moved away, but still has fond thoughts of Zion? Did you know we got a \$1,000.00 check from a person in the Wilkes-Barre area who had no connection to our church but read about our project in the newspaper and wanted to support it. Spread the word to everyone.

Would you consider sharing part of your tax refund or IRA distribution? Do you have a creative fund-raising idea?

The committee is looking into historical grants for churches and any other avenue we are aware of. We are also looking for people who would like to be part of our committee. You are welcome to join us at any time. Talk to George Taylor or myself and we will bring you on board.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Mehalko

# ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Mission:

Empowered and inspired by God to bring others to Christ.

## Vision:

United in faith we walk with and serve the hungry, hopeless, and disregarded.

Together we respect and care for the diversity of all God's people and the enormous gift of God's creation.

Speaking the Gospel of forgiveness and grace in our words and actions, we welcome all into the joy that is found in, with, and under Jesus Christ.

Humbled by Christ's sacrifice we strive to bring God's kingdom to earth and advocate for justice, mercy, and peace in our community, and throughout the world.