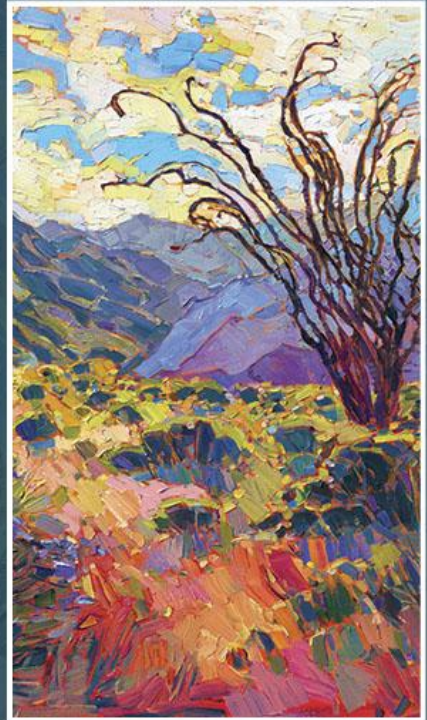


*Welcome!*

The  
desert shall  
**rejoice**  
and  
**blossom**

ISAIAH 35:1



## *Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church*

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

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

# The Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2025 ~ 9:00 am

## The Liturgy of Word and Sacrament

*A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.*

*\*Congregation please stand*

### The Pre-service Music

### ~ The Gathering ~

#### \* The Confession and Forgiveness

BLESSED BE THE HOLY TRINITY, ✚ ONE GOD, WHOSE HOME IS HEAVEN AND EARTH, WHOSE SALVATION IS SURE.

**Amen.**

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

*Please kneel if able.*

LONG-EXPECTED GOD,

**we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

GOD JUDGES US NOT AS WE DESERVE, BUT ACCORDING TO GOD'S OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS.

✚ YOU ARE FREED AND FORGIVEN, SAVED BY GRACE, AND READY TO WELCOME THE SAVIOR.

**Amen.**

#### \* The Gathering Hymn      *"Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn"*      WOV No. 633

**Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! The Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,  
He opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.**

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

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

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

**\* The Greeting**

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

**And also with you.**

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

IN PEACE, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

*(Sung)* **Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Amen.**

**\* The Prayer of the Day**

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

*(Sung)* **And also with you.**

LET US PRAY:

**Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**  
**Amen.**

**~The Word~**

**The First Lesson Isaiah 35:1-10**

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

*(After the reading)*

THE WORD OF THE LORD

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Candle Lighting**

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

MARY WILL BEAR A SON, AND YOU ARE TO NAME HIM JESUS, FOR HE WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS." ALL THIS TOOK PLACE TO FULFILL WHAT HAD BEEN SPOKEN BY THE LORD THROUGH THE PROPHET: "LOOK, THE VIRGIN SHALL BECOME PREGNANT AND GIVE BIRTH TO A SON, AND THEY SHALL NAME HIM EMMANUEL," WHICH MEANS, "GOD IS WITH US." WE LIGHT THREE CANDLES AND KNOW THE TIME OF THE HOLY BIRTH DRAWS NEAR, WHETHER WE ARE READY OR NOT. WE WELCOME YOU, EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US, AND PRAY FOR YOUR LOVING PRESENCE TO STAY WITH US.

**Amen.**

*Light the third candle.*

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

## **The Second Lesson James 5:7-10**

*In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.*

*(After the reading)*

THE WORD OF THE LORD

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## **\* The Holy Gospel St. Matthew 11:2-11**

*John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.*

*(Before the Gospel)*

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW THE 11<sup>TH</sup> CHAPTER:

*(Sung)* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(After the Gospel)*

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

*(Sung)* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

*Pastor Cindy White*

## **\*The Hymn of the Day**

***"Blessed Be the God of Israel"***

ELW No. 250

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

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

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

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

## **\* The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with**

the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### \* The Prayers of Intercession

IN OUR WAITING AND WATCHING, WE COME TO YOU IN PRAYER, O GOD, TRUSTING YOUR PROMISE TO RENEW THE CHURCH, THE NATIONS, AND THE WHOLE CREATION.

*A brief silence.*

GOD OF POWER AND MERCY, WE PRAISE YOU FOR JESUS AND HIS ACTS OF HEALING AND LIBERATION. LEAD US TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION, THAT ALL MAY PLACE THEIR HOPE IN YOU. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

WHEN LANDS ARE PARCHED AND DRY, BRING RAIN AND SNOW; WHERE WILDERNESS IS BARREN, SOW SEEDS OF LIFE. FILL THE LANDS WITH TREES THAT GROW, PLANTS THAT FLOWER, AND CREATURES THAT THRIVE, AS NATURE PROCLAIMS THE WONDER OF YOUR WORKS. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

WHEN THERE IS INJUSTICE OR CORRUPTION AMONG NATIONS AND LEADERS, ROOT IT OUT. TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO INEQUITY AND THE CRIES OF THE POOR. INSTILL A DEEPER SENSE OF COMPASSION AND CARE IN ALL WHO GOVERN. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

WHEN BODIES WEAKEN AND HEARTS GROW FEARFUL, SPEAK YOUR BLESSING. WE PRAY ESPECIALLY FOR PAM, BETTY, WALTER, FORREST, STEVE, CHRISTINE, EDDIE, GEORGE, JAN, AND ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND. IN UNCERTAIN TIMES, REMIND US OF THE PROMISE SPOKEN TO OUR ANCESTORS IN FAITH. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

WHEN PEOPLE ARE IMPRISONED OR HELD CAPTIVE, BREAK THE CHAINS AND OFFER RELEASE. STRENGTHEN THE WORK OF THE CHURCH IN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, BREAKING CYCLES OF POVERTY, AND WELCOMING THE IMMIGRANT. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

AS WE AWAIT YOUR COMING, WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE FAITHFUL WHO HAVE LIVED AND DIED IN FAITH. MAY THEIR BOLDNESS OF FAITH INSPIRE OUR WITNESS AND WORK. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

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

**hear our prayer.**

DRAW NEAR TO US, O GOD, AS WE COMMEND ALL FOR WHOM WE PRAY, TRUSTING IN YOUR MERCY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, EMMANUEL.

**Amen.**

**\* The Peace of Christ**

THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE WITH YOU ALWAYS.

**And also with you.**

<p>~The Meal~</p>
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**The Offering and Offertory**

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

**\* The Offertory Procession** Tune: “O Come Lord Jesus”

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

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

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

**Come deep within our hearts to dwell that we may all your goodness tell.**

**\* The Offertory Prayer**

LET US PRAY: NOURISHING GOD, YOU ARE WATER IN THE WILDERNESS AND STREAMS IN THE DESERT. THROUGH THIS MEAL, SATISFY OUR PARCHED PLACES, THAT WE MAY REJOICE AND BE FOR THE WORLD SIGNS OF YOUR KINGDOM COME.

**Amen.**

**\* The Great Thanksgiving**

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

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

*(Sung)* **And also with you.**

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

LET US GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OUR GOD.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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

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

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

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

**\* The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

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

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

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

LET US PROCLAIM THE MYSTERY OF FAITH:

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

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

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

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

**Come Holy Spirit.**

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

**Amen.**

**\* The Lord's Prayer**

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

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

**\* The Invitation to the Holy Meal**

HERE IS LIFE. GOD IS WITH US. COME, RECEIVE WHAT GOD HAS PROMISED.

**\* The Agnus Dei “Lamb of God”** (*LBW page 72*)

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

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

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

**The Distribution**

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

**\* The Post-Communion Blessing**

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

**Amen.**

**\* The Post Communion Canticle “Magnificat”**

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

**For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.**

**For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.**

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

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

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

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

**He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; as he spake to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever. Glory be to the Father: and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;**

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

**\* The Post Communion Prayer**

LET US PRAY: GOD OUR HOST, AT THIS TABLE YOU HAVE FED US WITH JOY AND GLADNESS. SEND US FORTH, EAGER TO SHARE THE FEAST, WELCOME THE STRANGER, AND BEAR GOOD FRUIT IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

**Amen.**

**The Senior Choir Anthem “Even So, Lord, Quickly Come” – Wagner**

## ~The Sending~

### \* The Blessing

MAY GOD WHO COMES AMONG US, FATHER, † SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT, GRANT YOU PATIENCE IN WAITING, PEACE IN THE DARKNESS, AND GOOD NEWS TO SHARE TODAY AND ALWAYS.

(Spoken) Amen.

### \* The Dismissal

GO IN PEACE. KEEP AWAKE.

Thanks be to God.

### \* The Sending Hymn

*“Prepare the Royal Highway”*

No. 26

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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**First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10 – Not Printed**

**Second Reading: James 5:7-10 – Not Printed**

**Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup> “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

**December 21, 2025 readings are:** Isaiah 7:10-16  
Matthew 1:18-25

Romans 1:1-7



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

*December 13-14, 2025*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In loving memory of our parents by Rochelle & Joseph Evanousky

In honor of Culinary Crew by Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Fritzinger

*Please remember the following in your prayers: Pam, Betty Ann Waidell, Walter Weston, Forrest, Steve Ristila, Christine Zimmerman, Eddie Smith, George Weaver, Jan McRoberts, and all our members who are homebound.*

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

## **Welcome!!**

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

Parish office email address is [zionlcof@verizon.net](mailto:zionlcof@verizon.net)

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

Parish Office Hours- Monday & Wednesday: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Tuesday & Thursday: 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

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

# This Week in Our Church

## **SUNDAY, December 14, 2025, *The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent***

9:00	The Service of Word & Sacrament
10:15	Christian Education
11:00	Confirmation Class
6:00	Downtown Caroling

## **MONDAY**

5:45	Property Meeting
6:30	Council Meeting

## **THURSDAY**

7:00	Senior Choir Rehearsal
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## **SATURDAY**

6:00	Saturday Evening Worship
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## **SUNDAY, December 21, 2025, *The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent***

9:00	The Service of Word & Sacrament
10:15	Christian Education
11:00	Confirmation Class

### **Supporting Zion's Ministries**

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

Received 12/7/25 in support of Zion Ministries:

From our gifts	\$4,786.00
From Thrift Store	\$1,245.50
From Endowment (other)	\$0.00
From Culinary	\$0.00

Received for Endowment: \$195.00

Received for Capital Campaign: \$1,143.00

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

From offering/gifts/memorials:	\$128,028.87
From Thrift Store:	\$8,642.62*
From Endowment:	\$22,905.00
From Culinary:	\$17,180.00

Year-to-date total for Zion's mission/ministries: \$176,756.40

\* Thrift Store donates half of income to Outreach total income - \$17,285.24

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

**Acolyte practice for those serving on Christmas Eve will be on  
Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.**

## Upcoming Events

**December 14** – Downtown Caroling

**December 24** – Acolyte Practice

**December 24** – Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 and 9:00 pm

**January 1** – New Year Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner

**ADVENT KINDNESS** - We invite all members of Zion to follow the Reverse Advent Calendar. The items that you collect while shopping in the coming weeks will be used in our People's Pantry during the holiday season. You can imagine that our pantry is well-used during this time of great concern. You can bring your items to worship or drop them off during regular parish office hours. Copies are available in the Gathering Room. Acts 20: 34-35 ***"You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands to support myself and my companions. In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"***

**Zion's Blessings Thrift Shop** – There will be no sale in January or February. The next sale will be on March 6, 2026. We **ARE NOT** accepting donations of any kind until further notice. Please watch the bulletin in February for updates on what we will accepting at that time. Thank you all for your continued support!

***Please Join us!!*** O come all ye who like to sing and share the good news of our Savior's birth. Join a group of singers on Sunday, December 14th at 6:00 PM as we sing throughout the downtown. Tell Sheri Beltz (Sheri.beltz11@gmail.com), Laura Fulmer or Mary Ruth Taylor or sign the sheet in the gathering room. You may also contact Mary Ruth at [frautay208@aol.com](mailto:frautay208@aol.com) or 570-668-4451.



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!

**CHRISTMAS 2025** – All Monetary Christmas memorial gifts will be listed in the handout on Christmas Eve. Monetary gifts should be in the church office **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>**. Please return the form with all monies no later than December 15, 2025; all checks should be made out to Zion Evangelical Church.

***Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsors needed for 2026 - The Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsor list for 2026 is on the bulletin board. The costs of the flowers are \$42.60 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!***

***Happy New Year 2026*** - Zion will host a Community Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner New Year's Day, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm or when all dinners are given out. Dinners will be served, eat in or take-out. You can order a dinner beginning December 8 - **limit 2 per order**. Orders can be placed by calling Mary Ruth at 570-668-4451. Watch the Zion webpage and Facebook to order dinners online. A Free will offering will be accepted. Everyone Welcome!!

# Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

You are invited to join us for our Christmas Eve services on Sunday, December 24, 2025 at 4:00 pm & 9:00 pm. Both services will include the Liturgy of Word and Sacrament, Carols, Prayer and Candlelight. Please join us for the observance of the Nativity of Our Lord.