



December 2022/ January 2023

Newsletter for the Congregation
And Friends of
ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 N. Greenwood Street, Tamaqua, PA 18252

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

Pastor ~ Cindy White

Melody Gensure ~ Parish Administrator - Email~ zionlcof@verizon.net

Parish website ~ www.ziontamaqua.com

Our Mission: *Zion proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament as Gospel messengers in the community. We seek to be instruments through which God transforms lives and strengthens relationships within families and within our community of believers.*

For Unto us a child is born unto us a son is given.....Isaiah 9:6

Dear friends, families, and members of Zion,

It seems as though we are often waiting. We wait in the grocery store, the doctor's office, the important piece of mail, the perfect time to purchase a car or a house, the results of a test etc. I quote Mother Teresa who says "At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern." (or might we tire from the waiting) I have a suggestion. Have you ever noticed that when we serve others.....that which we are waiting for comes so much quicker? I would ask that we open our hearts to the unexpected opportunity for our light to shine for another. There are more people alone during the holiday season than we might imagine. Let us hold those we love closely and give God thanks. Let us welcome someone into our hearts and/or homes to honor the precious gift of our Savior.



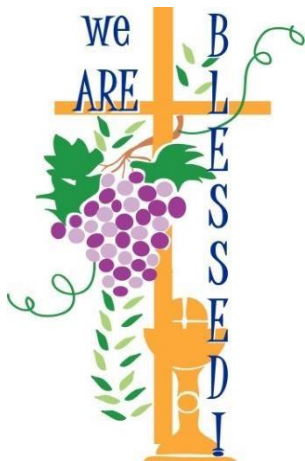
Stanley Hauerwas, a brilliant writer and theologian, says "Advent is patience, it's how God made us a people of promise, in a world of impatience". I love this! We know that the Christ child WILL come. Let's make this in between time something special. Invite someone to our children's Christmas event this coming Sunday from 2:00-4:00. Attend our Christmas Eve services and bring a neighbor. Bring someone to our January 1st pork and sauerkraut meal after church that Sunday. The gift of time spent with someone is priceless.....as is OUR baby Jesus.

These are some of the ways we can share God's promise and connect with someone in Christ's name. I pray each one of us finds a way to share the joy that is Christmas. It could make a world of difference to someone. Stay well and safe and please come and make a Joyful noise in this beautiful sanctuary. We are indeed blessed.

*God's peace from my family to yours...with love,
Pastor Cindy*

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

1st Holy Communion



This year 3 young people have participated in the preparatory classes for First Holy Communion. They received their first Sacrament of Holy Communion on November 20, 2022.

Alexander D'Alonzo
Peyton Faust

Liberty Coleman

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



Holiday season is here- Remember to shop with the **AmazonSmile program**. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to **Zion** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support Zion by shopping at **smile.amazon.com**. Just go to our website and click the link. Thanks in advance for your support!!



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

Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

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

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

A REMINDER FROM THE TREASURER AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY...

The financial books of Zion will close on

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Remember, All contributions RECEIVED after that date will be credited to your
2023 financial statements

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



Tree of Memories



We are looking for your memories to adorn snowflake ornaments on the tree in the Gathering Room. Memories can be that of a loved one who has gone to God, or photo of a significant memory or life event that is important to your family. Photos should be cut square and be 1.5 in. x 1.5 in. If you need assistance printing or reducing the size of a photo please let us know, we'd be happy to try to help. If you submitted photos in past years they will be placed on the tree again this year. The Tree of Memories project was a generous gift to Zion from the congregation of the Former Advent Lutheran Church in Tuscarora. This tree symbolizes that we are one together in Christ. Snowflake Memory Ornaments are FREE of charge. Photos for the tree should be placed in an envelope and placed in the Tree of Memories box in the gathering room. If you

have any questions, please contact Nancy Thompson at njflip62@gmail.com or by calling 570-778-2604.

Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsors needed for 2023 - The Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsor list for 2023 is on the bulletin board. The costs of the flowers are \$31.80 (please note price increase) and individuals will be billed from the florist. The cost of the bulletin sponsorship is \$16.00 and monies are due when you place your name on the list. You can also sponsor the Candles for the month at \$40. Please remember to fill out a card with your honorarium or memorial this information is needed for the bulletin. Please do not sign up without filling out a form. These sponsorships are on a first come first serve basis; this is to ensure that everyone has equal opportunity to sponsor these memorials. Please contact the church office if you have questions. Thank you in advance for your sponsorship!



Happy New Year 2023 - Zion will host a Community Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner (New Year's Day, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm or sell-out. A Free will offering will be accepted. Everyone Welcome!!



Upcoming Events

December 4 – Family Christmas Event

December 4 – Annual Fiscal Meeting

December 8 – Hoagie Pick-up

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service 4:00 & 9:00 pm **No** 5:30 pm Service

December 25 & January 1 – 9:00 am Service

January 1 – New Year's Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner

Attention Committees:

All committee chairpersons are reminded to submit a report outlining the activities of your committee in 2022 for the annual report. These reports are to be submitted to the church office no later than January 9, 2023. You can e-mail the church office at zionlcof@verizon.net or stop by the office. Thank you for your co-operation.



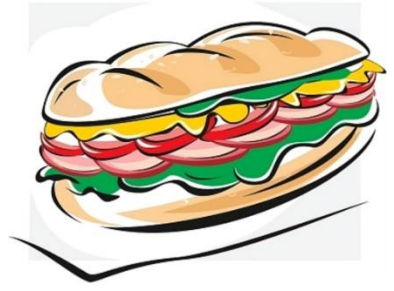
Inclement Weather Policy

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



- Check out our website at www.ziontamaqua.com and our Facebook page
- Listen to WLSH AM 1410 and WMGH FM 105.5
- Call the church office to hear a recorded message on our answering machine. (570-668-2180)

Hoagie sale - The Culinary Team is holding a hoagie sale. Regular Hoagies are \$7 each. Order by December 4th, at <https://www.ziontamaqua.com> or by calling 570-668-4451. Pick up is Thursday, December 8th from noon until 3:00 pm. Thank you for your support!!



Family Christmas Event

Sunday, December 4, 2022

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm



Come enjoy the movie *Santa Claus is Comin' to Town*, refreshments, crafts, and games and of course Santa will make an appearance. Children of all ages are welcome as well as those who are young at heart. Please Call Deb Davies at 570-778-2731 to register. Please bring a

new toy which will be donated to Toys for Tots.

Annual Fiscal Meeting Announcement - The Annual Fiscal Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2022 immediately following the service. The agenda items will be restricted to the establishment of a 2023 budget, and the election of Church Council members. The meeting will be brief but your participation is **Very Important** as a quorum needs to be met. Copies of the budget are available in the Gathering room.

Zion's 2022 Church Council officers: Michael Haspe, President, Brian Lawfer, Vice-President, Tiffany Warden, Secretary, Dave Gensure, Treasurer, and Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary. Other members of Council include: Judy Brennan, Sam Caley, Arlene Derr, Ernie Henritzy, Glenn Fritzinger, Steve Ristila, and Mary Ruth Taylor; if you have suggestions or concerns, please seek out a member of Council so that we can promptly address the needs of the congregation.

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

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



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

Please Join Us!

Saturday Worship – 5:30 pm

Sundays

Confirmation Class – 8:00 am

Worship – 9:00 am

Christian Education – 10:15 am

DEADLINE: All information for the **February 2023 issue of the “Herald”** is due at the church office no later than **Monday, January 23, 2023. Please note that this is a combined issue.** You may e-mail your information to zionlcof@verizon.net or stop in during regular office hours. Thank you for your co-operation!

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



Office Hours ~
Monday & Wednesday
12:00 – 5:00 pm
Tuesday & Thursday
8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Pastor's Office Hours ~
Wednesday
11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Please use door located on Mauch
Chunk Street, ring bell

Please note if you have
signed up for Altar
Flowers, Bulletins or
Candles please fill out a
sponsor form. Forms
should be filled out
when placing your
name on the sign-up
sheet. Thank you.

“And this will be a sign
for you: you will find a
baby wrapped in
swaddling cloths and
lying in a manger.”

Luke 2:12

CHRISTMAS 2022

POINSETTIA PLANTS and MEMORIAL GIFTS

Christmas poinsettia plants will decorate the Church on Christmas Eve. Plants ordered through the church office are \$9.00. December 11th is the last day to order your plants. Please return the bottom of this form with all monies no later than December 11, 2022; all checks should be made out to Zion Evangelical Church. All Plants and Monetary Christmas memorial gifts will be listed in the handout on Christmas Eve. Monetary gifts should be in the church office **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 11th. PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW** and return it to the church office, be sure to indicate whether monetary gifts go to **Endowment fund, Current fund, Cemetery, Fuel, Capital Campaign or towards the candles that decorate the sanctuary.** Extra order forms are available by the Church Communication Bulletin Board.

IN MEMORY OF _____

BY _____

POINSETTIA (\$9.00)

_____ Red @ \$9.00

_____ Total

MONETARY GIFT TO: Amount: _____

___ Current ___ Endowment

___ Cemetery ___ Fuel

___ Candles ___ Capital Campaign

SIGNATURE _____

PHONE NUMBER _____





In talking with the people John says in Luke 3:11 *“Whoever has two tunics should share with him who has none, and whoever has food should do the same.”* This is a reminder that the People Pantry is used heavily and in need of donations. While grocery shopping, pick up an extra item to share with our less fortunate community neighbors. *“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”* 2 Corinthians 9:7



“Serving people at the Blessing Thrift sales has shown me the great need that people have for the simple things which most of us take for granted. It is a blessing to see the joy that people have upon leaving with their purchases and knowing that I helped to make their lives better.” - Lori Krell

There are many ways we can serve. Do you have an hour per week to spare? An hour per month? Is Wednesday a free night? An hour on Sunday, after

church? As we prepare for the new year, we are looking forward to the many ministries that our church will provide to its members and to the community. In order to continue to meet our vision, like we do with the Blessing Thrift Shop, we need to keep our building in good condition. This involves things as simple as doing a little mopping, dusting, or vacuuming, to more complex things like wiring and lighting upgrades.

If you can help, please reach out to Mark Valentine, or call the parish office at 570-668-2180, for more information.

Attention old acolytes or anyone else who would like to try to serve. I need more acolytes than the ones we have for both Christmas Eve services. If you would be willing, either 4 pm or 9 pm, call Melody with your name, telephone number, and time of service. I will get back to you. Thank you, Art

Volunteers Needed! We are in need of lectors and communion assistants and cantors. If you are able to read a lesson or pour the wine for the distribution of communion, or even if you are interested in singing the small parts done by the cantor, please contact Sandy Mehalko (570) 668-4101, or stop by the organ on Sunday mornings. I try to do the schedule for an entire year, but will certainly find person to fill in if you are unable to serve your scheduled date. The lessons are sent to you ahead of time so you can look over them. Please consider serving in one of these ministries. Thank you, Sandy.

Holiday World Ministry

Santa's helpers (Beth Marcavage, Judy Brennan, Sharon Haldeman and Carol Hartung) ready Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child boxes for their trip to a Hazelton distribution center. The boxes will be sent to children in countries where they are desperately needed. The boxes include paper, pencil sharpeners, crayons, combs, hand towels, hair ties, bracelets, stuffed animals and toys and items made by vacation bible school children. The children receiving them treasure even the boxes. "I would like to thank people for their donations and the vacation bible school children for getting them together," said Judy Brennan, project organizer. "Please pray for the boxes to bless the children who receive them."



Worship director Sandy Mehalko leads a practice session with Zion Sunday Schoolers as they prepare for a Ministry of Music Service on Christmas Day.

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT MAKING EVENT AT ZION



November Memorials

GIFTS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

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

In loving memory of loved ones by Terri and Bob Livingston.

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

In honor of the 1st anniversary of Brandon Taylor and Neha D'Silva by George and Mary Ruth Taylor

In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Springer by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Springer

In loving memory of the birthdays of Eugene and Jane Springer love, Judy

In loving memory of her sister, Joyce Olencki on her November 20th birthday by Fern Rudenko

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

In loving memory of all my family members & thank you to all the great volunteers we have. I

am blessed to celebrate another spin around the Sun with everyone! By Beth Marcavage

In loving memory of Bernice Ferris on her 116th birthday by Sandy Scott

In loving memory of Anna and her Girl's by Gerry Zeigler

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

In loving memory of loved ones by Gail and Ells Davis

In loving memory of John Woodring on his 100th birthday on November 2nd by his family

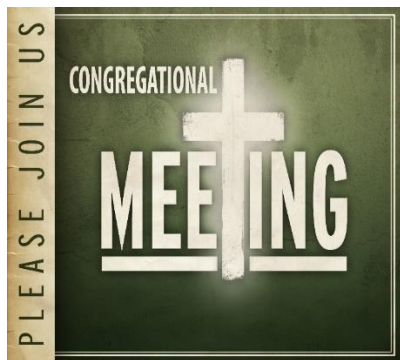
In honor of our grandson, Nicholas Wall on his November 7th birthday love, Gram & Pap, Dave & Louise Schock

In honor of the baptism of Owen Reed Montecalvo by Lauri & Kevin Price

In loving memory of Jane Springer's birthday love, Judy

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

In loving memory of special friends, Velma Mantz, Kermit Mantz and Betty Davis by June Seeds



Our ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held Sunday, February 12, 2023, following the 9:00 am Service. Our agenda will consist of the approval of the 2022 Annual reports for all committees and organizations. As always, we encourage all members to attend this meeting as a quorum needs to met.

Our Blessing Thrift Store will be closed in December and January and will re-open February 2023. We would like to thank all the people that helped make this Outreach a success from the generosity of the donations that we receive, to the helpers who organize the goods, and the people who bake and donate food items. Please keep this Outreach in your prayers. And have a Blessed Holiday Season. Thank you, Outreach Committee





This is My Church

from the Fishwrapper

It is composed of people just like me.

It will be friendly if I am.

It will do great work if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am generous.

It will bring others into fellowship if I bring them.

Its seats will be filled if I fill them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of faith and service,
If I who make what it is, am filled with these.

Therefore, with God's help, I dedicate myself to the task of being
all these things I want my church to be.

Memorial Tree Tribute

Who: Anyone!! No affiliation with our funeral home is needed to participate.

What: Remember and honor your loved ones by bringing an ornament to be added to our outdoor tree; pick up a luminary bag to decorate or we can make one for you.

When: Thursday December 8, 2022 5:30 PM

Where: E. Franklin Griffiths Funeral Home
655 East Broad Street
Tamaqua, Pennsylvania 18252

Why: Many who have lost a loved one experience mixed emotions at the holidays. Remember and honor your loved ones at this family- based seasonal event.



Ornaments and luminaries will be accepted at the funeral home through December 2, 2022. We will place the luminaries and adorn the tree to be enjoyed by all on December 8, 2022, 5:30 PM. Please drive by or view the photos we will place on our website under events. We will also include a list of families participating.

Please call **570-668-2550** to register - Monday through Friday 9:00-4:00 - there is no cost to participate.

BUILDING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY UPDATE

What inspiring worship services we shared Nov. 20 and Nov. 27 here at Zion as we offered commitments for the 2022 Generosity Appeal. The legacy of this congregation over the decades is life-giving. And we're not done yet. We're excited about the impactful ministries this appeal will help make possible.

Letting our church leaders know what we intend to give in 2023 allows them to plan better for the future of Zion ministries. Completing an intent card also allows us to plan our giving for the coming year in an intentional, disciplined manner. It also reflects a growth in faith.

When do we stop giving and growing in giving? We don't. Growth in generosity is an ongoing journey.

If our giving is to be blessed and joyful, it must continue to grow and expand. For each person, that growth may look different. Some are motivated by a biblical tithe and then to grow to the concept of offerings. During our Building a Culture of Generosity planning, I learned that an "offering" is actually defined as anything given beyond the tithe hence the often-heard phrase "your tithes and offerings."

I have come to realize that the tithe is probably an unreachable goal for my family and for most of us, but that gradually increasing our giving on a yearly basis is quite doable and spiritually satisfying.

Some of us may seek to grow by a percent a year and never stop our giving. While still others may have the challenge to find a process to be more generous even in cases where their income has declined.

In each case, once we have experienced the joy of good and generous giving, we will want to keep on growing.

Building a Culture of Generosity is a process -- not a once and done stewardship program; it is an ongoing effort on the part of our church to help all of us members grow spiritually, and its ministries reach far more people for Christ.

We will gladly accept intent cards for several more weeks. Here are some ways you can let us know your support plans for the coming year:

- place your intent card in the offering plate during a worship service
- send your intent card to, or drop it off at, the church office
- email your plans for support to Parish Administrator Melody Gensure at zionlcof.verizon.com
- complete the online form at <https://www.ziontamaqua.com/generosity-intent-card-response/>

As of Tuesday, Nov. 29, we have received 35 intent cards; 28 of those cards reflect a growth in generosity. Our goal is 60 cards returned and when we reach 60, \$2,000 in challenge gifts will be released to Zion for several ministries including Christian Education and Stephens Ministries.

We thank the members who are making that challenge gift a reality and we thank you for prayerfully considering how you answer the call to generosity.

George Taylor, member of the Zion Generosity Team

Team members: Rochelle Evanousky, Martha Zellner, Brian Lawfer and Jim McRoberts

PS - You can learn more about our Building a Culture of Generosity program at our website (www.ziontamaqua.com) or Facebook page.



O HOLY NIGHT

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

ANGEL
ANIMALS
BABY
BETHLEHEM
DONKEY
FRANKINCENSE

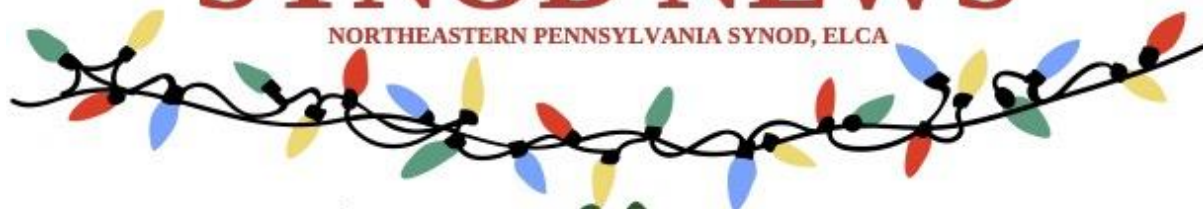
GIFTS
GOLD
JESUS
JOSEPH
MANGER
MARY

MYRRH
PEACE
SAVIOR
SHEPHERD
STAR
WISE MEN



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



Merry Christmas

Dear Friends and Christ,

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Creator and from Jesus Christ! On behalf of the Northeastern PA Synod Staff and Bishop Christopher deForest we wish you the merriest Christmas and a blessed and fruitful new year!

This year the NEPA Synod accomplished a cornucopia of ministry in all corners of the NEPA territory. Your love for God in Christ fed the hungry, built relationships with the downtrodden and outcast, diapered babies, shared the love of God in Christ, and much more...

Christmas reminds us of the length God goes to build relationships with us. God comes all the way down to a dirty stable in Bethlehem... an unexpected, messy beginning for the Messiah. Jesus is exactly the Messiah we needed without understanding why we needed him.

Christmas is an opportunity to reflect on the ways God comes to us unexpectedly -- It's an opportunity to meditate on the reality that Christ comes to us as an infant, totally reliant on his parents... Christ comes in the most usual way, and yet he's the one foretold in the prophets of old, he saves the people from sin and death, and he keeps coming to us. Jesus comes to us in bread and wine, in baptism, through prayer and thanksgiving, and when we gather together around God's Word.

Continue to be the Body of Christ in the world. Keep serving, preaching, proclaiming, worshipping, and sharing the good news of what God has done for us!

Yours in Christ,
NEPA Synod Staff



Register Now!

Join us!

LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY

January 28, 2023

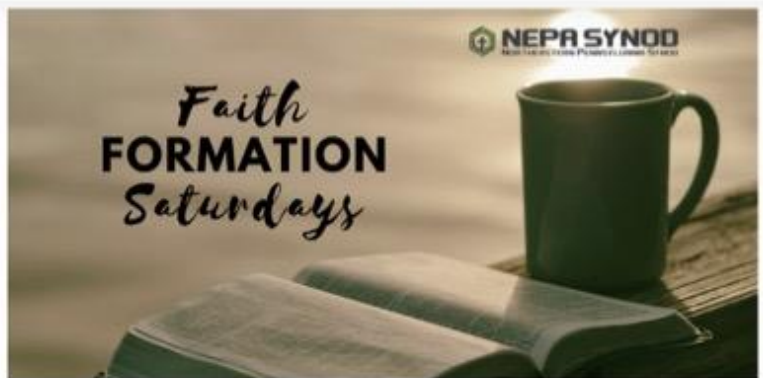
[WWW.GODSLOVE.ORG/
LEARNINGMINISTRIESDAY](http://WWW.GODSLOVE.ORG/LEARNINGMINISTRIESDAY)



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**SYNOD
ASSEMBLY
2023**

**JUNE
1-3**



Faith Formation Saturdays

Date: Monthly (2nd Saturday)

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm EST



ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 N. Greenwood Street

Tamaqua, PA 18252

Return Service Requested

This Newsletter was prepared
Especially for:



***December 2022/
January 2023
Newsletter***