

*Welcome!*

You are to name him  
**Jesus**

**MATTHEW 1:21**



## *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 Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025 ~ 9:00 am

## *The Liturgy of Word and Sacrament*

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

*\*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      *"People, Look East"*

WOV No. 626

**People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.**

**Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.**

**People, look east, and sing today - Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.**

**Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.**

**People, look east, and sing today - Love, the Rose, is on the way.**

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,**

**Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.**

**People, look east, and sing today - Love, the Star, is on the way.**

**Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.**

**Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.**

**People, look east, and sing today - Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

**\* 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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**~The Word~**

**The First Lesson Isaiah 7:10-16**

*An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!*

*(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.**

WHEN HEROD THE KING HEARD THIS...HE INQUIRED OF THEM WHERE THE CHRIST WAS TO BE BORN. THEY TOLD HIM, "IN BETHLEHEM OF JUDEA; FOR SO IT IS WRITTEN BY THE PROPHET: 'AND YOU, O BETHLEHEM, IN THE LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE RULERS OF JUDAH; FOR FROM YOU SHALL COME A RULER WHO WILL GOVERN MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.:'" WE LIGHT FOUR CANDLES AND KNOW THAT, AS JESUS WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM, HE IS BORN IN OUR HEARTS NOW. LET OUR LIVES BE AN EXAMPLE OF YOUR LOVE FOR US.

**Amen.**

*Light the fourth candle.*

**Oh, come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

## **The Second Lesson Romans 1:1-7**

*Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.*

*(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 1:18-25**

*Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."*

*(Before the Gospel)*

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW THE 1<sup>ST</sup> CHAPTER:

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

*(After the Gospel)*

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

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

## **The Ministry of Music**

***"Emmanuel"*** – Goemanne

***Senior Choir***

***"The Holy Child Will Come"*** – arr. Liebergen

***"Mary Did You Know?"*** – arr. Hayden

***"Tell the Good News"*** – Williams

***"How I Wish"*** – McMahan

***Sunday School Choir***

***"Hear the Sounds of Christmas"*** – Allen

***Combined Choirs***

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

***"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"***

**WOV No. 632**

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came, With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame;  
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary, Most highly favored lady." Gloria!**

**"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be, All generations laud and honor thee;  
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, Most highly favored lady." Gloria!**

**Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name." Most highly favored lady, Gloria!**

**Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!**

## \* 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.*

IN THE ANTICIPATION OF THESE DAYS, PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR YOUR ARRIVAL. STIR OUR SPIRITS THROUGH THE GIFTS OF ARTISTS, MUSICIANS, POETS, AND PREACHERS, AS TOGETHER WE PROCLAIM YOUR ADVENT AMONG US. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

THE EARTH BREAKS FORTH IN SINGING AS IT HERALDS THE MESSIAH'S COMING. FILL OUR HEARTS WITH WONDER AS WE JOIN HEAVEN AND NATURE IN ANNOUNCING THIS HOLY BIRTH. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

YOU SEND YOUR SAVING GRACE AND PEACE TO THE NATIONS. LEAD US IN WORK FOR JUSTICE AND CARE FOR THE COMMON GOOD. MAY WE MEET THE CHRIST-CHILD WE SEEK IN THE FACES OF OUR NEIGHBORS. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

WHEN TEARS OF GRIEF, EXHAUSTION, OR LONELINESS COME, OR PHYSICAL OR EMOTIONAL HURT OVERWHELMS US, COME TO OUR AID. UPHOLD ALL WHO ARE ANXIOUS, WHO KNOW THE CHALLENGES OF DEPRESSION, OR WHO ARE ILL ESPECIALLY FOR PAM, BETTY, WALTER, FORREST, STEVE, CHRISTINE, EDDIE, GEORGE, JAN, AND ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

SURROUND EXPECTANT PARENTS AND THOSE SUFFERING FROM INFANT LOSS WITH COMMUNITIES OF SUPPORT. BLESS YOUNG CHILDREN AND NEW PARENTS. GUIDE US IN WAYS THAT PROVIDE SAFETY FOR ALL CHILDREN AND THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

WE GIVE THANKS FOR ALL WHO HAVE TREASURED THE GOSPEL AND LIVED IN FAITHFUL SERVICE. STRENGTHEN OUR EARTHLY JOURNEYS UNTIL, AT THE LAST, YOUR FACE SHINES UPON US AND WE ARE HELD IN YOUR LOVE. 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> |
|-------------------|

**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](http://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 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**

*“He Came Down”*

ELW No. 253

**He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.**

**He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light; hallelujah forevermore.**

**He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forevermore.**

**He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forevermore.**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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**December 28, 2025 readings are:**

Isaiah 63:7-9  
Hebrews 2:10-18

Psalms 148  
Matthew 2:13-23



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

*December 20-21, 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 Ida Piccin by a friend

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

In honor of the birth of Jesus and in loving memory of loved ones by Bob & Terri Livingston

**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 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

## WEDNESDAY, *Christmas Eve*

10:00 Acolyte Practice

4:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight/ Communion Service

9:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight/ Communion Service

## SATURDAY

6:00 Saturday Evening Worship

## SUNDAY, December 28, 2025

9:00 The Service of Word & Sacrament

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

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

Received 12/14/25 in support of Zion Ministries:

From our gifts \$0.00

From Thrift Store \$0.00

From Endowment (other) \$0.00

From Culinary \$0.00

Received for Endowment: \$0.00

Received for Capital Campaign: \$0.00

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.**

***Desserts are needed for the sauerkraut dinner on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Please contact Mary Ruth (570 668 4451) to donate. Cakes, pies and cookies would be nice. Please bring them to kitchen December 30, 830-10:00 am or the day of the dinner (9-11 am). Your participation is greatly appreciated by the culinary staff.***

# Upcoming Events

December 24 – Acolyte Practice

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

January 1 – New Year Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner

January 4 – Installation

*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!*

**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 accept at that time. Thank you all for your continued support!

## ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

A REMINDER FROM THE TREASURER AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY...

The financial books of Zion will close on Sunday, December 28, 2025

Remember, All contributions RECEIVED after that date will be credited to your  
2026 financial statements

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



*Please note that the church office will be closed December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are in need of assistance please leave a message, the answering machine will be checked periodically. Thank You!*

**Installation:** January 4, 2026, will be installation of new council members as well as recognition of departing members during the 9:00 am worship service. Welcome new members and thank you for your dedication to Zion.

**Attention Committees:** All committee chairpersons are reminded to submit a report outlining the activities of your committee in 2025 for the annual report. These reports are to be submitted to the church office no later than January 12, 2026. You can e-mail the church office at [zionlcof@verizon.net](mailto:zionlcof@verizon.net) or stop by the office. Thank you for your co-operation.

**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!!

