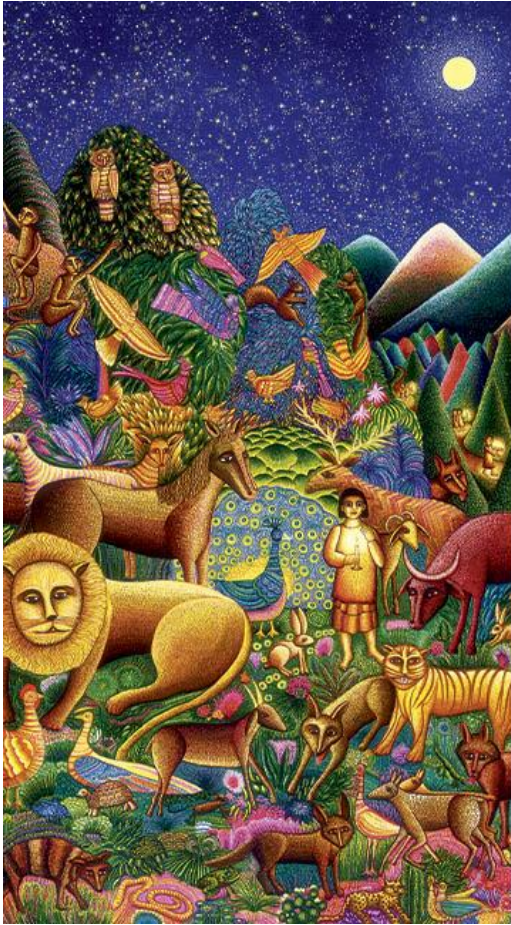


*Welcome!*



A little  
child  
shall lead  
them

ISAIAH 11:6

## *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 Second Sunday in Advent

December 7, 2025 ~ 9:00 am

## *The Liturgy of Word and Sacrament*

*At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.*

*\*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

*“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”*

Add. Hymnal No. 2

**Come, thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.**

**Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a king;  
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

#### \* 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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 11:1-10**

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

(*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'S HUSBAND JOSEPH, BEING A RIGHTEOUS MAN AND UNWILLING TO EXPOSE HER TO PUBLIC DISGRACE, PLANNED TO DIVORCE HER QUIETLY. BUT JUST WHEN HE HAD RESOLVED TO DO THIS, AN ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO HIM IN A DREAM AND SAID, "JOSEPH, SON OF DAVID, DO NOT BE AFRAID TO TAKE MARY AS YOUR WIFE, FOR THE CHILD CONCEIVED IN HER IS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT. THIS WEEK WE LIGHT TWO CANDLES AND THINK ABOUT ALL THE WAYS GOD CALLS US TO PARTNERSHIP. WE LIGHT THESE CANDLES IN GRATITUDE FOR COMPANIONS IN THE PILGRIMAGE ON EARTH.

**Amen.**

*Light the second candle.*

**Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

## **The Second Lesson Romans 15:4-13**

*God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.*

*(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 3:1-12**

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

*(Before the Gospel)*

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW THE 3<sup>RD</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**

***“On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry”***

No. 36

### **\* 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.*

**WITH WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, INSPIRE THE FAITHFUL AROUND THE WORLD. UNITE HEARTS AND MINDS IN WORK TO ADDRESS POVERTY, ACCESS TO HOUSING, AND EQUITY AMONG PEOPLES. GOD OF GRACE,**

**hear our prayer.**

WITH COUNSEL AND MIGHT, MOVE US TO CARE FOR CREATION. AS WE DREAM OF THE DAY WHEN ALL CREATURES WILL FLOURISH ALONGSIDE ONE ANOTHER, GUIDE US IN WAYS HUMANITY AND ALL CREATION WILL MUTUALLY THRIVE. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS AND FAITHFULNESS, ENCOURAGE NATIONS TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH ONE ANOTHER. WE PRAY FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND TEACHER EXCHANGES, FOR OUR PARTNER CHURCHES, AND FOR THE SHARED MISSION OF LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF AND LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

WITH STEADFASTNESS AND ENCOURAGEMENT, STRENGTHEN THOSE WHO HAVE LOST HOPE IN THE FACE OF GRIEF, DEPRESSION, OR DISEASE ESPECIALLY PAM, BETTY, WALTER, FORREST, STEVE, CHRISTINE, EDDIE, GEORGE, JAN, AND ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND. RENEW THE SPIRITS OF THOSE RECOVERING FROM SURGERY AND MEDICAL PROCEDURES. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

WITH WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY, EMBOLDEN US IN OUR SHARED MINISTRY TO OVERCOME ALL THAT DIVIDES. IN ACTS OF REPENTANCE, RECONCILIATION, AND REPARATION, MAY WE SERVE IN THE WAY OF CHRIST. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

WITH JOY AND PEACE, WE REMEMBER OUR ANCESTORS IN THE FAITH. FILL US WITH THE HOPE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT NOW AND INTO THE AGES OF AGES. 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.**

## **~The Meal~**

### **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 Cantic “*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 “*We are Waiting*” – Althouse

### ~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

*“All Earth is Hopeful”*

WOV No. 629

All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!  
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:  
This, the labor of people who struggle to see how  
God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.

People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:  
“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel”;  
She conceived him, “God with us,” our brother, whose birth  
Restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

**Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;  
New highways opened, new protocols declared.  
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!  
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!**

**We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.  
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live  
In our world; he is present, in neighbors we see  
Our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.**

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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**First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10 – Not Printed**

**Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13 – Not Printed**

**Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12 -** <sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” <sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

**December 14, 2025 readings are:** Isaiah 35:1-10  
Matthew 11:2-11

James 5:7-10



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 6-7, 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 Gordy and Margaret Emma and their daughter, Margaret Elizabeth Clark by the family

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

In loving memory of my parents, Carl & Mary Koch by John & Carol Dietrich & Jeff & Johnny

***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 Hadeisty, 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 7, 2025, The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

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

## MONDAY

7:00	Finance Meeting
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## THURSDAY

11:00	Hoagie Pick-up until 1:00
7:00	Senior Choir Rehearsal
5:30	Hoagie Pick-up until 6:45

## FRIDAY

4:30	Diaper Depot Prep
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## SATURDAY

9:00	Diaper Depot Distribution
2:00	Wedding
6:00	Saturday Evening Worship

## 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

**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.'"***

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### **When submitting Redner's receipts:**

1. You must have a Redner's card & swipe the Redner's card upon checkout so the save a tape amount is on the receipt.
2. Please do not cut the information with the save a tape code off the receipt.
3. Please hand in the receipt to our container in the gathering room or mail them to the church office.

If you have any questions, please see Beth Marcavage. Thank you and keep saving!

## Upcoming Events

**December 7** – Annual Fiscal Meeting

**December 11** – Hoagie Sale

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

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

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

**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!

**Culinary Hoagie Sale** December 11<sup>th</sup> - deadline to order is December 7<sup>th</sup> - Regular Hoagies are \$8 each. Pick up is from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm and 5:30 – 6:45 pm. Order at <https://www.ziontamaqua.com> or by calling 570-668-4451. Thank you for your 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!

***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!***

**CHRISTMAS 2025** - Christmas poinsettia plants will decorate the Church on Christmas Eve. Plants ordered through the church office are \$10.00. December 8<sup>th</sup> is the last day to order your plants. **This is a firm deadline; no orders will be taken after that date. Order forms are available by the bulletin board.** Please return the form with all monies no later than December 8, 2025; 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 15<sup>th</sup>.**

***Annual Fiscal Meeting Announcement*** - The Annual Fiscal Meeting will be held today immediately following the service. The agenda items will be restricted to the establishment of a 2026 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.

# 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.

