

# Welcome!



Who is  
my neighbor?

LUKE 10:29

## *Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church*

101 N. Greenwood Street, Tamaqua, PA 18252

(570) 668-2180 - Email: [zionlcof@verizon.net](mailto:zionlcof@verizon.net)

*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*

# The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 10, 2022 ~ 9:00 am

## The Liturgy of Word and Sacrament

*To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.*

*\*Congregation please stand*

### The Pre-service Music

## ~ The Gathering ~

### \* The Confession and Forgiveness

BLESSED BE THE HOLY TRINITY, ✚ ONE GOD, WHOSE STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

MERCIFUL GOD,

**we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.**

HEAR THE GOOD NEWS! GOD DOES NOT DEAL WITH US ACCORDING TO OUR SINS BUT DELIGHTS IN GRANTING PARDON AND MERCY. IN THE NAME OF ✚ JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN. YOU ARE FREE TO LOVE AS GOD LOVES.

**Amen.**

### \* The Gathering Hymn

*“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”*

No.250

### \* The Greeting

THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE LOVE OF GOD AND THE COMMUNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BE WITH YOU ALL.

**And also with you.**

### \* The Kyrie *(ELW Hymn No. 154)*

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy; have mercy, O Lord.**

### \* The Hymn of Praise *“Gloria” (ELW Pg. 176)*

**Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!**

**Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!**

**And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.**

**And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God!**

**\* The Prayer of the Day**

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

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

LET US PRAY:

**O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

~The Word~

**The First Lesson Deuteronomy 30:9-14**

*Moses calls the people who are about to enter the promised land to renew the covenant God made with their ancestors. Through this covenant God gives life and asks for obedience. God's commandment is neither burdensome nor too far off, but dwells in the people's hearts.*

*(After the reading)*

THE WORD OF THE LORD

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Psalm 25:1-10** Tune *"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"* No.294

**To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. I trust you, God, to make me whole.**

LET ME NOT BE PUT TO SHAME, NOR LET MY ENEMIES TRIUMPH OVER ME. LET NONE WHO LOOK TO YOU BE PUT TO SHAME; LET THEM BE ASHAMED WHO ARE WANTONLY TREACHEROUS.

**Show me, O Lord, the way to go; Teach me your righteous paths to know.**

LEAD ME IN YOUR TRUTH AND TEACH ME, FOR YOU ARE THE GOD OF MY SALVATION. I ALWAYS TRUST IN YOU.

**In steadfast love remember me. Your paths of goodness let me see.**

REMEMBER NOT THE SINS OF MY YOUTH AND MY TRANSGRESSIONS. ACCORDING TO YOUR STEADFAST LOVE REMEMBER ME FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR GOODNESS, O LORD.

**To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. I trust you, God, to make me whole.**

BECAUSE THE LORD IS RIGHTEOUS AND GOOD, HE TEACHES SINNERS THE PATH THEY SHOULD FOLLOW. HE LEADS THE HUMBLE IN THE RIGHT WAY AND TEACHES THEM HIS WILL.

**Show me, O Lord, the way to go; Teach me your righteous paths to know.**

ALL THE PATHS OF THE LORD ARE STEADFAST LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS TO THOSE WHO KEEP HIS COVENANT AND HIS DECREES.

**In steadfast love remember me. Your paths of goodness let me see.**

**The Second Lesson Colossians 1:1-14**

*The letter to the Colossians was written to warn its readers of various false teachings. The first part of the letter is an expression of thanks for the faith, hope, and love that mark this community, including a prayer for strength and courage.*

*(After the reading)*

THE WORD OF THE LORD

**Thanks be to God.**

**\* The Gospel Acclamation** *(ELW Pg. 179)*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia!**

**\* The Holy Gospel St. Luke 10:25-37**

*Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.*

*(Before the Gospel)*

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE THE 10<sup>TH</sup> CHAPTER:

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

*(After the Gospel)*

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

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

**The Sermon**

*Pastor Cindy White*

**\* The Hymn of the Day**

*“My God, How Wonderful Thou Art”*

No. 524

**\* The Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\* The Prayers of Intercession**

UNITED IN CHRIST AND GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT, WE PRAY FOR THE CHURCH, THE CREATION, AND ALL IN NEED.

*A brief silence.*

GOOD AND GRACIOUS GOD, YOU HAVE PLACED YOUR WORD OF LOVE IN THE HEART OF YOUR CHURCH. FILL YOUR CHURCH WITH COMPASSION, THAT WE BEAR THE FRUIT OF YOUR HEALING MERCY TO A BROKEN WORLD. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

YOU CREATED THE EARTH WITH SEEDS SPROUTING UP TO NEW LIFE. WE PRAY FOR THE FLOURISHING OF FRUIT TREES AND ORCHARDS, VINES AND BUSHES. PROSPER THE WORK OF THOSE WHO PLANT, TEND, HARVEST, AND GATHER. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

SHOW US YOUR WAYS AND TEACH US YOUR PATHS OF JUSTICE AND LOVE. RAISE UP COMMUNITY AND NATIONAL LEADERS TO CHALLENGE AND DISMANTLE SOCIETAL STRUCTURES THAT PERPETUATE ETHNIC, RACIAL, AND RELIGIOUS PROFILING AND DISCRIMINATION. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

COME NEAR TO ALL IN NEED. ORCHESTRATE KINDNESS IN THE FACE OF CRUELTY, HOPE WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, LOVE IN THE FACE OF NEGLECT, COMFORT WHERE THERE IS DEATH, AND HEALING IN ILLNESS ESPECIALLY CINDY, ROBERT, GEORGE, PAT, DEREK, ELIZABETH, MARY, CHRIS, NANCY, RALPH, JOSEPH, EVA, JOHN, AND ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

TURN THIS COMMUNITY TOWARD NEIGHBORS IN NEED. BRING AID AND SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO ARE POOR, BEATEN DOWN, ABUSED, FORGOTTEN, SILENCED, OR AVOIDED. GOD OF GRACE,

**hear our prayer.**

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE SAINTS WHO REVEALED YOUR LOVE AND MERCY IN THIS LIFE. INSPIRED BY THEIR WITNESS, STRENGTHEN US TO LIVE IN HOPE. 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.**

GOD OF EVERY TIME AND PLACE, IN JESUS' NAME AND FILLED WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, WE ENTRUST THESE SPOKEN PRAYERS AND THOSE IN OUR HEARTS INTO YOUR HOLY KEEPING.

**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 myEoffering option.*

**\* The Offertory Procession Tune: "Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring" WOV No. 759**

**Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place upon your table.**

**We do not worship as we ought but only as we're able.**

**The vines were planted, seeds were sown. They grew in your good pleasure.**

**What once was common, daily food becomes a holy treasure.**

**\* The Offertory Prayer**

LET US PRAY: GOD OF ABUNDANCE: YOU HAVE SET BEFORE US A PLENTIFUL HARVEST. AS WE FEAST ON YOUR GOODNESS, STRENGTHEN US TO LABOR IN YOUR FIELD, AND EQUIP US TO BEAR FRUIT FOR THE GOOD OF ALL, IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

**Amen.**

**The Special Music - Hannah Betz**

**\* The Great Thanksgiving**

**\* The Preface and Sanctus (ELW Pg. 180)**

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

*(Spoken)* **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 our thanks and praise.**

IT IS INDEED RIGHT.....THEIR UNENDING HYMN: (ELW Pg. 181)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power; holy is the Lord.**

**Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power; holy is the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.**

**Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.**

**Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**\* The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

HOLY, MIGHTY, AND MERCIFUL LORD, HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY.....POUR OUT UPON US THE SPIRIT OF YOUR LOVE, O LORD, AND UNITE THE WILLS OF ALL WHO SHARE THIS HEAVENLY FOOD, THE BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD; TO WHOM, WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE ALL HONOR AND GLORY, NOW AND FOREVER.

**Amen.**

**\* The Lord's Prayer**

MAKE US BOLD, O MERCIFUL GOD, TO ADDRESS YOU AS OUR ABBA AS WE 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**

IN CHRIST'S PRESENCE THERE IS FULLNESS OF JOY. COME TO THE BANQUET.

**\* The Agnus Dei "Lamb of God" (ELW Pg. 182)**

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

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

**O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace, grant us your 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 Prayer**

LET US PRAY, LIFE-GIVING GOD, THROUGH THIS MEAL YOU HAVE BANDAGED OUR WOUNDS AND FED US WITH YOUR MERCY. NOW SEND US FORTH TO LIVE FOR OTHERS, BOTH FRIEND AND STRANGER, THAT ALL MAY COME TO KNOW YOUR LOVE. THIS WE PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

**Amen.**

## ~The Sending~

### \* The Blessing

THE GOD OF PEACE, FATHER, + SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT, BLESS YOU, COMFORT YOU, AND SHOW YOU THE PATH OF LIFE THIS DAY AND ALWAYS.

*(Spoken)* Amen.

### \* The Sending

GO IN PEACE. LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR.

**Thanks be to God.**

### \* The Sending Hymn

*“For the Fruit of All Creation”*

WOV No.760

**For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.**

**For these gifts to ev’ry nation, thanks be to God.**

**For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,**

**Future needs in earth’s safe-keeping, thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor, God’s will is done.**

**In the help we give our neighbor, God’s will is done.**

**In our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,**

**In the harvests we are sharing, God’s will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.**

**For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.**

**For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,**

**Most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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### **First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:9-14**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, <sup>10</sup>when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. <sup>11</sup>Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. <sup>12</sup>It is not in heaven, that you should say, “Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?” <sup>13</sup>Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, “Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?” <sup>14</sup>No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

## **Second Reading: Colossians 1:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, <sup>2</sup>To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

<sup>3</sup>In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup>for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup>because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup>that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. <sup>7</sup>This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, <sup>8</sup>and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit. <sup>9</sup>For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup>so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup>May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup>He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## **Gospel: Luke 10:25-37**

<sup>25</sup>Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>26</sup>He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" <sup>27</sup>He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." <sup>28</sup>And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." <sup>29</sup>But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" <sup>30</sup>Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup>Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup>So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup>But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' <sup>36</sup>Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" <sup>37</sup>He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

**July 17, 2022 readings are:**

Genesis 18:1-10a

Psalms 15

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 9-10, 2022

*\*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 the hall 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 CANDLES** are given to the Glory of God and

In honor the July birthdays of Noah, Mike, & Ollie & in loving memory of pap by Kathy & Mike Miller

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

In loving memory of loved ones by Frank & Kris Rudy & family

*Please remember the following in your prayers: Cindy Collura, Robert Dolbin, George Bozosi, Pat Brown, Derek Hill, Elizabeth Zimmerman, Mary Richards, Mrs. Chris Miller, Nancy Betz, Ralph Derr, Joseph Harvilla, Eva (Mitzi) Koomar, John Lattanzi, and all our members who are homebound.*

We are also in need of Altar sponsors for July 24<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>  
and a Bulletin sponsor for July 31<sup>st</sup>.  
Please sign up on the bulletin board.

## **Welcome!!**

Parish office phone 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: 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Zion's 2022 Church Council officers:** Chris Henritz, President, Michael Haspe, 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 Henritz, Glenn Fritzing, Brian Lawfer, 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.

# This Week in Our Church

## SUNDAY, July 10, 2022

9:00 The Service of Word & Sacrament

## TUESDAY

9:30 Work Session

## WEDNESDAY

6:00 NA Meeting

## THURSDAY

9:30 Work Session

## FRIDAY

5:30 Diaper Depot Prep

## SATURDAY

9:00 Diaper Depot Distribution

5:30 Saturday Evening Worship

## NEXT SUNDAY, July 17, 2022

9:00 The Service of Word & Sacrament/ Joyful Noise Offering

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### COMMITTEE CONTACT PEOPLE

Altar Guild	Sandy Graham - 570-449-1092
Finance	Bob Jones - <a href="mailto:rjones4621@aol.com">rjones4621@aol.com</a>
Endowment	Walter Weston - <a href="mailto:gutww@verizon.net">gutww@verizon.net</a>
Capital Campaign	Dave Fetterman - <a href="mailto:dfet@ptd.net">dfet@ptd.net</a>
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Culinary Crew	Glenn Fritzingler - <a href="mailto:frit5157@ptd.net">frit5157@ptd.net</a>
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Christian Education/Sunday School	Michael Haspe - <a href="mailto:mhaspe@aol.com">mhaspe@aol.com</a>
/ VBS	
Acolyte Director	Art Connely - (570) 668-5370
Worship and Music/Choir	Sandy Mehalko - <a href="mailto:joesan@ptd.net">joesan@ptd.net</a>

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July's Joyful Noise offering (collected the third weekend of the month) is for Kisses for Kyle Foundation, a nonprofit organization supporting families fighting childhood cancer in the Delaware Valley. The organization provides over 20 programs and services and emotional support for affected families.

We welcome Molly Betz as our guest pianist today while Sandy is away and also welcome Hannah Betz as our guest soloist. We thank them for sharing their talent with us.

### Upcoming Events

**July 20** – Ice Cream Social

**July 23** – Christmas in July, 5:30 worship service

**July 28** – Hoagie Sale

**August 14** – Summer Celebration

**August 18** – Peach Social

**Hoagie sale** - The Culinary Team is holding a hoagie sale. Regular Hoagies are \$7 each. Order by July 24<sup>th</sup>, at <https://www.ziontamaqua.com> or by calling 570-668-4451. Pick up is Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup> from noon until 3:00 pm. Thank you for your support!!



### JULY ICE CREAM SOCIAL BENEFIT

Zion's Culinary Team is hosting an ice cream social July 20<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 pm to benefit the East End Fire Company, all proceeds will go to the fire company. Please help spread the word. Let your friends, neighbors and relative know about this special community event.

**S**ummer Celebration, an evening of music, fellowship, and ice cream, will begin at 7 p.m., August 14<sup>th</sup> at Trinity UCC, 22 Lafayette Street, Tamaqua. The event features the Blue Mountain Community Church Praise Band. A free-will offering will be taken. The Summer Celebration is hosted by TAFFN and the Tamaqua Ministerial Association. All are welcome.

The recent Strawberry Social hosted by Zion's culinary crew was attended by approximately 175 people. Those attendees were able to taste quality food and enjoy a time of fellowship with friends and family. The next outreach event hosted by culinary is the Ice Cream Social to benefit the East End Fire Company on July 20. If you wish to help culinary with this project, call Mary Ruth at 668-4451. Monetary donations toward this event can be sent to Zion office, attention OUTREACH.

# *What Does the Bible Say about Giving?*

A friend of mine, Gilbert Davis, tells about a “defining moment” he had in seminary. One day an elderly gentleman he had never met stopped Gilbert in the hallway. “Young man, are you studying to be a minister?” the man asked.

When Gilbert replied that he was, the stranger asked if he might talk with him a few minutes. Although unsure of what he was getting into, Gilbert consented. (Several weeks later, he learned that Arthur A. Everetts owned what at that time was the largest jewelry store west of the Mississippi.) After leading Gilbert into an empty classroom, Everetts asked him whether he preached tithing in his student church. Before Gilbert could reply, Everetts gave him a forceful set of arguments for the value of tithing, especially for a young minister who ever hoped to amount to anything for Jesus Christ. At the end of that several-minute sermon, Everetts issued an altar call. Would Gilbert begin giving 10 percent of his income to God’s work?

Finally getting a chance to speak, Gilbert drew himself up to his full theological stature at that youthful age and said, “But, sir, we are Christians *now*. We are New Testament people, not Old Testament. We are not under the Law; we are under Grace.”

The old man replied with a question: “Young man, can you show me a verse in the New Testament that says less commitment is expected of a Christian under Grace than of a Jew under the Law? If you can, I will gladly subscribe to your position.”

Since Jesus spoke so often about the power of money to distract us from God, why do the four gospel writers report Jesus saying so little about tithing? He did not need to. Jesus spoke primarily to Jewish people who for a thousand years had assumed that they should give 10 percent of their incomes to God.

However, in the one New Testament verse where Jesus mentions the tithe, he affirms its value. Upbraiding the Pharisees because they think they are “super-spiritual,” Jesus calls them hypocrites. They carefully gave God 10 percent of everything—even their garden produce like dill, mint, and cumin. Yet, they failed to give their neighbors love, justice, and mercy. “These you ought to have practiced,” Jesus says, “without neglecting the others” (Mathew 23:23), referring to the tithe.

The Christian faith is an attitude of the heart, not just a keeping of regulations. We give our money as an act of worship. We give our money as a way of seeking God’s spiritual kingdom first, not because a rule requires us to give it. Yet, if Jesus assumes that giving 10 percent of your income is important, does it not seem wise for each of us to consider its value in strengthening our spiritual connection with God?