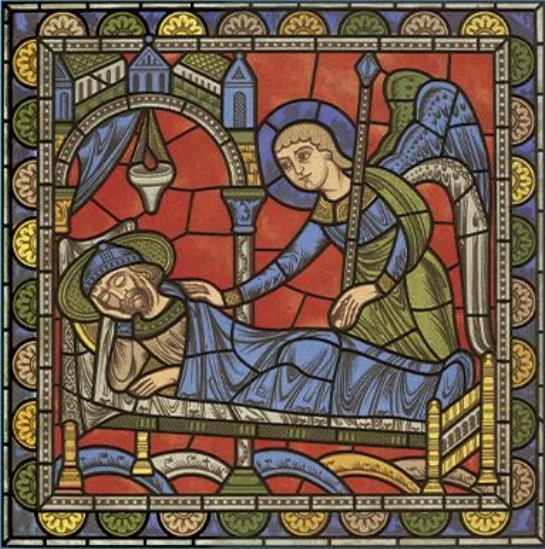


Welcome!



She
will bear
a **SON**, and
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

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 Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022 ~ 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 LORD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL, WHO ALONE DOES WONDROUS THINGS.

Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

BELOVED, NOW IS THE TIME TO WAKE FROM SLEEP. LET US CONFRONT OUR SINS, AND CONFESS THEM TO THE ONE WHO IS MERCIFUL AND JUST.

Silence is kept for reflection.

GOD OF NEW BEGINNINGS,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

PEOPLE OF GOD, A NEW THING IS GROWING IN OUR MIDST, A TENDER BRANCH, A LIVING SIGN. BY WATER AND THE SPIRIT YOU ARE JOINED TO THIS WONDER. YOU HAVE PUT ON ✚ CHRIST, AND YOUR SINS HAVE BEEN WASHED AWAY. REJOICE IN THE WAY OF THE LORD.

Amen.

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

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

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

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

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

*** The Greeting**

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

And also with you.

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

IN PEACE, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

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

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

*** The Prayer of the Day**

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

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

LET US PRAY:

Stir up 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

choir only **All creation lies in waiting, in the stillness of the night,
With hope anticipating the Advent of Eternal Light.**

ADVENT IS A TIME TO PRAISE.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

DURING ADVENT WE REMEMBER GOD'S PAST FAITHFULNESS

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

DURING ADVENT WE REMEMBER GOD'S PRESENT GOODNESS.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

DURING ADVENT WE REMEMBER GOD'S FUTURE PROMISES.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

THIS MORNING WE LIGHT FOUR CANDLES. THE FIRST CANDLE REMINDS US THAT DURING ADVENT WE WAIT UPON THE PROMISES OF THE LORD. THE SECOND CANDLE REMINDS US

TO WATCH FOR GOD'S PRESENCE WITH EXPECTANT EYES AND ANXIOUS HEARTS. THE THIRD CANDLE REMINDS US TO PREPARE OURSELVES TO RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE PROMISED SAVIOR. AS WE LIGHT THE FOURTH CANDLE, WE ARE REMINDED THAT ADVENT IS A TIME TO GIVE PRAISE FOR WHAT GOD HAS DONE, FOR WHAT GOD WILL BRING TO COMPLETION. AS THE LIGHT OF ADVENT GROWS BRIGHTER, IT REMINDS US THAT WE MOVE CLOSER TO RECEIVING THE GIFT OF A SAVIOR.

Sung All: **We praise with hope for the morning Light,
for the love of Christ to illuminate the night.
We praise with joy for the Savior's birth;
we praise with hope for peace on earth.**

GOD IN HEAVEN, WE LOOK TO YOU AMIDST A WORLD FILLED WITH DARKNESS. HELP US TO SEEK THE LIGHT OF YOUR TRUTH, AS WE REMEMBER YOUR PROMISES AND OFFER OUR PRAISE TO YOU.

Amen.

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 1ST 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

"Even So, Lord, Quickly Come" – Wagner

Senior Choir

"Advent Bell Carol" – Wagner

"A Manger Gloria" - York/Paige

"Shine, Advent Candle, Shine" – Shafferman

Sunday School Choir

"Do Not Find Me Sleeping" - Martin

"Celebrate Jesus, the King!" - Williams

* **The Hymn of the Day**

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

No. 34

* 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

AS WE PREPARE FOR THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST'S PRESENCE, LET US PRAY FOR A WORLD THAT YEARNs FOR NEW HOPE.

A brief silence.

GOD OUR SHEPHERD, LET YOUR SPIRIT MOVE WITH POWER THROUGHOUT THE CHURCH. GIVE DISCERNMENT AND WISDOM TO OUR BISHOPS, PASTORS, DEACONS, AND LAY LEADERS. TAKE AWAY OUR FEAR, SO THAT WE SERVE AND LOVE, CONFIDENT THAT YOU ARE GUIDING US. GOD, IN YOUR MERCY,

hear our prayer.

GOD OUR SOURCE, AWAKEN US TO THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH AND THE MARVELOUS VARIETY OF LIFE. UNITE HUMANKIND IN REPAIRING AND CARING FOR YOUR CREATION. PROTECT CREATURES AND HABITATS IN PERIL DUE TO RISING SEAS AND WARMING TEMPERATURES. GOD, IN YOUR MERCY,

hear our prayer.

GOD OUR VISION, RAISE UP LEADERS IN EVERY NATION WHO DREAM OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE FOR ALL PEOPLE. WE PRAY FOR THE WORK OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROMOTE PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS. GOD, IN YOUR MERCY,

hear our prayer.

GOD OUR HELPER, COME TO THE AID OF ALL WHO CRY OUT TO YOU. SHELTER MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND THOSE FLEEING WAR AND FAMINE. BRING RELIEF TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HUNGER, HOMELESSNESS, OR IMPOVERISHMENT. COMFORT ANY WHO ARE ISOLATED OR LONELY. GOD, IN YOUR MERCY,

hear our prayer.

GOD OUR EMMANUEL, YOU ARE WITH US IN OUR LIFE TOGETHER. WE GIVE YOU THANKS FOR GATHERING US IN WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP, AND WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO CANNOT BE PRESENT. WATCH OVER THOSE WHO TRAVEL. HEAL THE SICK AND SPEED THEIR RECOVERY ESPECIALLY THE FAMILY OF JAMES BATMAN, KATHRYN, CAROLYN, MARLIN, KIM, JOHN, DENA, TIM, CINDY, ROBERT, GEORGE, PAT, DEREK, ELIZABETH, MARY, CHRIS, NANCY, RALPH, JOSEPH, EVA, AND ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND. GOD, IN YOUR MERCY,

hear our prayer.

GOD OUR HOPE, YOU BRING LIFE OUT OF DEATH, AND YOU PROMISE TO BE OUR GOD FOREVER. SHINE UPON THE FAITHFUL WHO NOW REST IN THE FULFILLMENT OF YOUR PROMISE AND BRING US ALSO INTO YOUR BLESSED REIGN OF PEACE. GOD, IN YOUR MERCY,

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, IN YOUR MERCY,

hear our prayer.

GOD OF OUR LONGING, YOU KNOW OUR DEEPEST NEEDS. BY YOUR SPIRIT, GATHER OUR PRAYERS AND JOIN THEM WITH THE PRAYERS OF ALL YOUR CHILDREN. IN JESUS' NAME WE PRAY.

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 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: ETERNAL GOD, YOU MAKE THE DESERT BLOOM AND SEND SPRINGS OF WATER TO THIRSTY GROUND. RECEIVE THESE SIMPLE GIFTS OF BREAD, WINE, AND MONEY, AND MAKE US MESSENGERS OF YOUR MERCY AND LOVE FOR ALL IN NEED OF YOUR HEALING AND JUSTICE. WE ASK THIS THROUGH CHRIST OUR SAVIOR.

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**

BE STRONG, DO NOT FEAR! HERE IS YOUR GOD, WHO HAS COME TO SAVE YOU.

* **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: FAITHFUL GOD, IN THIS MEAL YOU HAVE REMEMBERED YOUR MERCY, BRINGING HEAVEN TO EARTH IN THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST. AS WE WAIT FOR THE DAY WHEN ALL YOUR PROMISES WILL BE FULFILLED, SUSTAIN US AND STRENGTHEN US BY THIS HOLY MYSTERY. GUIDE US TOWARD YOUR PROMISED FUTURE, COMING TO BIRTH IN JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOR AND LORD.

Amen.

~The Sending~

*** The Blessing**

GOD THE ETERNAL WORD, WHO DWELLS WITH US IN JESUS, AND WHO HOLDS US IN THE GRACE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ✚ BLESS YOU NOW AND FOREVER.

(Spoken) Amen.

*** The Sending**

GO IN PEACE. CHRIST IS NEAR.

Thanks be to God.

*** The Sending 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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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December 25, 2022 readings are: Isaiah 62:6-12

Titus 3:4-7

Psalm 97

Luke 2:1-20

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 17-18, 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 loving memory of Rose Miller & “Pap” Trakes by Mike & Kathy Miller & family

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of my mother, Margaret Leader on her December 15th birthday by Sharon Haldeman

THE BULLETINS are given to the Glory of God and

In honor of the faithful helpers with Diaper Depot: Skip, Martha, Judy, Roxanne, Beth, Marilyn, Joe, and Pastor by George and Mary Ruth Taylor

The 2023 sponsorship sign-ups are now on the bulletin board.

Please remember the following in your prayers: The family and friends of Jim Batman, Dr. Kathryn Kropp, Carolyn and Marlin Tirpak, Kim and John Eckert, Dena and Tim Phillips, 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.

Welcome!!

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

Parish office email address is zionlcof@verizon.net

Parish website is 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: 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 Henritz, Glenn Fritzing, 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, December 18, 2022, The Fourth Sunday in Advent

- 8:00 Confirmation Class
- 9:00 The Service of Word & Sacrament / Ministry of Music
- 10:15 Christian Education

MONDAY

- 6:30 Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY

- 6:00 NA Meeting

THURSDAY

- 7:00 Senior Choir Rehearsal

SATURDAY, December 24, 2022, Christmas Eve

- 4:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight/ Communion Service
- 9:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight/ Communion Service

NEXT SUNDAY, December 25, 2022, Christmas Day

- 9:00 The Service of Word & Sacrament

Supporting Zion's Ministries

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

Received 12/11/22 in support of Zion Ministries:

From our gifts	\$3,945.34
From Thrift Store	\$0.00
From Culinary	\$0.00
From (other)Senior Choir	\$450.00
Received for Endowment:	\$473.00
Received for Capital Campaign:	\$358.40

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

From offering/gifts/memorials:	\$124,985.73
From Thrift Store:	\$7,725.66
From Endowment:	\$44,000.00
From Culinary:	\$11,145.00
From Schlitzer Fund:	\$3,295.09

Year-to-date total for Zion's mission/ministries: \$191,151.48



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

GIFTS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

CURRENT FUND DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of my husband, Carl W. Koch Sr. and my son, Carl W. Koch Jr. by Mary L. Koch

ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In honor of The Culinary Crew by Sandy Scott

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

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In honor of our granddaughter, Nicole Dietrich by John and Carol Dietrich

In loving memory of Aunt and Uncles, Harold and Dorothy Price and Jerome and Lavern Murphy by John and Carol Dietrich

Upcoming Events

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

We extend our Christian Love and Sympathy to the family and friends of James Batman. We ask God to comfort the family at this time. Please keep them in your prayers.

Tree of Memories - Memories can be 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 1.5in. x 1.5in. Photos 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.

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. No Take outs - Eat -in only. A Free will offering will be accepted. Everyone Welcome!!

"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.

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!

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.

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.

Generosity update - So far, we've had 42 intent cards returned and 33 of those cards reflect an increase in generosity during the coming year. We need 18 more cards to unleash that \$2,000 challenge gift to Zion to support ministries like Christian Education and Stephen Ministries. Your card counts. Learn more about our generosity project on our website and Facebook page.

Thank God and thank you for your continuous giving to the Capital Campaign. We have successfully paid back the entire amount we borrowed from our Endowment Fund. \$175,000.00 was borrowed for the second stage of our restoration on 9/17/2019 and on 12/03/2022 it has been completely paid back plus \$5,480.14 in interest to the Endowment fund. While we take this moment to celebrate, we pray that you will continue to fulfill your pledge and offerings to the Capital Campaign Fund. The future money given to the fund will be used as "seed money" for the next step in restoration.

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