

Welcome!



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.*

Christmas Day

December 25, 2022 ~ 9:00 am
Lessons and Carols

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

**Congregation please stand*

The Pre-service Music

~ The Gathering ~

* The Gathering Hymn

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

No. 60

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

(Refrain) **Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *(Refrain)***

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *(Refrain)***

* The Confession and Forgiveness

BLESSED BE THE HOLY TRINITY, ✚ ONE GOD, THE WORD MADE FLESH, OUR LIFE AND OUR SALVATION.

Amen.

TRUSTING THE GOODNESS AND LOVINGKINDNESS OF GOD OUR SAVIOR, LET US CONFESS OUR SIN.

Silence is kept for reflection.

GOD OF LIFE,

you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

HEAR THE GOOD NEWS: WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND HEIRS OF GOD'S PROMISES THROUGH THE OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. IN † JESUS WE ARE FORGIVEN AND REDEEMED. SING WITH JOY, FOR ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH SHALL KNOW THE SALVATION OF GOD.

Amen.

*** The Greeting**

TODAY CHRIST IS BORN: ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! 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 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 Hymn of Praise** (*music on page 58 of LBW*)

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND PEACE TO HIS PEOPLE ON EARTH.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*** The Prayer of the Day**

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

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

LET US PRAY:

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

* The Bidding Prayer

BELOVED IN CHRIST, THIS DAY IT IS OUR DUTY AND DELIGHT TO PREPARE OURSELVES TO HEAR AGAIN THE MESSAGE OF THE ANGELS, AND TO GO IN HEART AND MIND TO BETHLEHEM, AND SEE THIS THING WHICH HAS COME TO PASS, AND THE BABE, LYING IN THE MANGER. THEREFORE, LET US HEAR AGAIN FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE THE TALE OF THE LOVING PURPOSES OF GOD FROM THE FIRST DAYS UNTIL THE GLORIOUS REDEMPTION BROUGHT US BY THIS HOLY CHILD; AND LET US MAKE THIS HOUSE OF PRAYER GLAD WITH OUR CAROLS OF PRAISE. BUT FIRST, BECAUSE THIS OF ALL THINGS WOULD REJOICE JESUS' HEART, LET US PRAY TO HIM FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WHOLE WORLD, AND ALL HIS PEOPLE; FOR PEACE UPON THE EARTH, HE CAME TO SAVE, FOR LOVE AND UNITY WITHIN THE ONE CHURCH HE DID BUILD; FOR GOODWILL AMONG ALL PEOPLES. AND PARTICULARLY AT THIS TIME, LET US REMEMBER THE POOR, THE COLD, THE HUNGRY, THE OPPRESSED; THE SICK AND THOSE WHO MOURN, THE LONELY AND THE UNLOVED; THE AGED AND THE LITTLE CHILDREN; AND ALL WHO KNOW NOT OUR LORD JESUS, OR WHO LOVE HIM NOT, OR WHO BY SIN HAVE GRIEVED HIS HEART OF LOVE. LASTLY LET US REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHO REJOICE WITH US, BUT UPON ANOTHER SHORE AND IN A GREATER LIGHT, THAT MULTITUDE WHO NO ONE CAN NUMBER, WHOSE HOPE WAS IN THE WORD MADE FLESH, AND WITH WHOM, IN THIS LORD JESUS, WE FOR EVERMORE ARE ONE.

Amen.

~ The Lessons and Carols ~

The First Lesson: Who are these angels who come to earth?

A Reading from Luke

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

No. 50 Stanzas 1,4

**Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

The Second Lesson: Who are these shepherds who run to see?

A Reading from Luke

“There's a Star in the East”

No. 645

**There's a star in the East on Christmas morn, rise up, shepherd, and follow.
It will lead to the place where Christ was born, rise up, shepherd, and follow.**

(Refrain) **Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow,
Follow the star of Bethlehem, rise up, shepherd, and follow.**

**If you take good heed to the angel's words, rise up, shepherd, and follow.
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds, rise up, shepherd, and follow. *(Refrain)***

The Third Lesson: Who is this child, so small, so slight?

A Reading from Hebrews

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

No. 44

**Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!**

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!**

The Fourth Lesson: Who is this king, a manger his throne?

A Reading from Isaiah

“Holy Child Within a Manger”

WOV No. 638 Stanza 1,2

**Holy Child within the manger, long ago yet ever near;
Come as friend to ev'ry stranger, come as hope for ev'ry fear.
As you lived to heal the broken, greet the outcast, free the bound,
As you taught us love unspoken, teach us now where you are found.**

**Once again we tell the story - how your love for us was shown,
When the image of your glory wore an image like our own.
Come, enlighten with your wisdom, come and fill us with your grace.
May the fire of your compassion kindle ev'ry land and race.**

The Fifth Lesson: Who is this God who sends a Son?

A Reading from John

“Of the Father's Love Begotten”

No. 42 Stanzas 1,5

**Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.**

**Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory
evermore and evermore! Amen.**

~The Offering and Prayers~

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 Hymn

“What Child is This?”

No. 40 Stanza 3

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!**

* The Prayer of Intercession

WITH WONDER AND THANKSGIVING FOR CHRIST’S COMING INTO THE WORLD, WE PRAY FOR THE CHURCH, THE LIFE OF THE EARTH, AND THE WHOLE HUMAN FAMILY.

A brief silence.

THE CHURCH IN EVERY LAND MAKES A JOYFUL NOISE TO HERALD YOUR COMING, O GOD. WE GIVE THANKS FOR POETS, MUSICIANS, AND HYMN WRITERS WHO GIVE VOICE TO OUR PRAISE, AND FOR ALL WHO LEAD THE CHURCH’S WORSHIP. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

THIS DAY DAWNS WITH NEW HOPE FOR ALL LIVING THINGS, AND FROM OCEAN DEPTHS TO MOUNTAIN PEAKS THE EARTH REJOICES. INSPIRE IN US AN URGENT ZEAL TO PROTECT THE PLANET AND RENEW ITS RESOURCES. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

BRING HEAVENLY PEACE TO THIS WORLD AND AN END TO ARMED CONFLICT. RAISE UP LEADERS IN EVERY NATION WHO WILL HONOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND ESTABLISH EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL PEOPLE. GIVE COURAGE TO ALL WHO SPEAK OUT AGAINST OPPRESSION AND ADVOCATE FOR THE POWERLESS. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

GUARD THE LIVES OF ANY IN DANGER, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO WORK TO PROTECT OTHERS. LEAD ANY WHO ARE IN DESPERATE CIRCUMSTANCES TO SANCTUARY, HELP, AND SAFETY. GRANT REST TO THE WEARY AND SOOTHE THOSE WHO ARE TROUBLED. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

BLESS ALL WHO GATHER TO WORSHIP ON THIS HOLY DAY. BE PRESENT AT OUR TABLES AND CELEBRATIONS, AND WATCH OVER THOSE WHO TRAVEL. SUSTAIN CHARITIES, OUTREACH MINISTRIES, AND FOOD PANTRIES THAT GIVE GENEROUSLY TO PEOPLE IN NEED. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

IN CHRIST WE HAVE BEHELD YOUR GLORY, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH. WE GIVE THANKS FOR THOSE IN EVERY GENERATION WHO REFLECT THE LIGHT OF CHRIST. MAY THEIR WITNESS SHINE FORTH IN OUR TIME. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

PONDERING THE MYSTERY OF ETERNAL LOVE MADE FLESH IN CHRIST JESUS, WE COMMEND ALL FOR WHOM WE PRAY TO THE MERCY OF GOD.

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 Sending~

*** The Benediction & Dismissal**

GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU, + JESUS GRANT YOU GRACE AND TRUTH, AND THE SPIRIT SEND PEACE UPON YOUR HEARTS, NOW AND FOREVER.

(Sung) Amen! Amen! Amen!

CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN! GO IN PEACE. PROCLAIM THIS GOOD NEWS.

Thanks be to God.

*** The Recessional Hymn**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

No. 55

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Liturgical material reprinted from: SUNDAYSANDSEASONS.COM Copyright 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24607. License sponsored July 2022 to July 2023 by Mrs. James A. Valentine; Bill and Marianne Jones; In honor and memory of loved ones by Jon and Deb Davies and family; In honor of loved ones by Robert Fisher ONELICENSE #A-708066 (for sung portions of the liturgy not covered by the Augsburg Fortress License) sponsored in 2022 by Art and Sharon Connely, in loving memory of Arthur and Betty Connely

January 1, 2023 readings are:

Numbers 6:22-27

Psalm 8

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:15-21



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

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 her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Sinn and her brother, Vernon Sinn by Ida Piccin

THE BULLETINS are given to the Glory of God and

In honor of the greatest gift ever... For unto us a child is given by the Livingston family.

Upcoming Events

January 1 – 9:30 am Service (Please note time change)

January 1 – New Year’s Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner

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!!

Thank You to Deb Davies and Carol Dietrich for addressing the Christmas Cards that were mailed to Zion member households!

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.

WHY COMPLETE AN INTENT CARD? Besides freeing the \$2,000 challenge gift that will go to Zion ministries including Christian Education and the proposed Stephen Ministry, completing and returning your card demonstrates your caring for the future of all Zion ministries. Our leaders can better administrate our ministries when giving is planned, consistent and progressive. Completing and returning your intent card reflects your ability to plan your giving for the coming year. Your giving is intentional, not accidental or spur of the moment. Using our new giving page on our website and Facebook page allows your giving to be consistent on a weekly or monthly basis, especially when you are unable to attend worship. As we move along our discipleship journey, our giving is progressive and increases as our faith increases. As of Sunday, Dec. 18, we have received 49 intent cards. Forty of those cards express an increase in generosity for the coming year. We need 11 more cards by January 1 to reach our goal of 60 and free that challenge gift. Blank intent cards are available on the bulletin table, on the Gathering Room table or by asking an usher. Your card matters to us. We hope you find that it matters to you, too. God Bless and Merry Christmas, The Zion Generosity Team