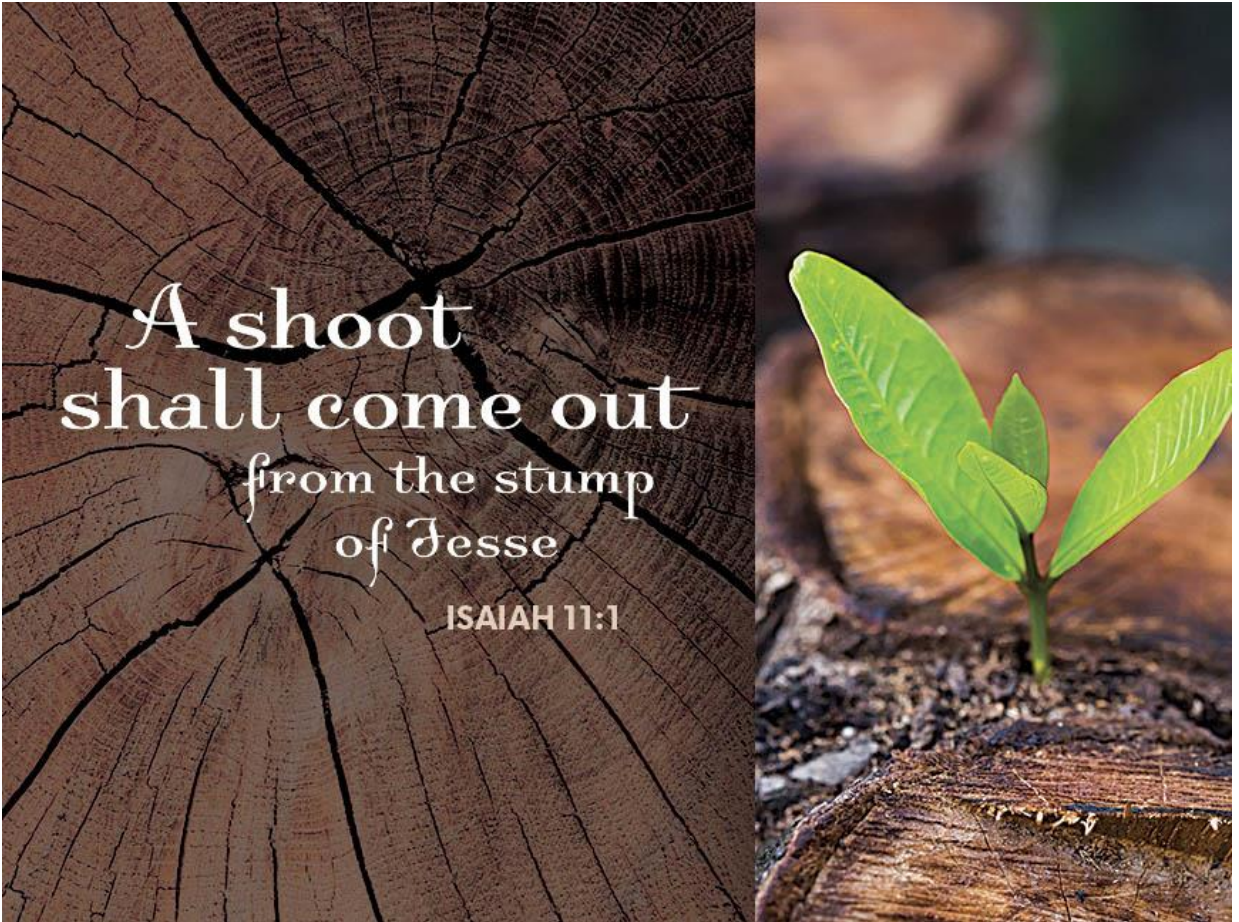


# Welcome!



## *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 Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022 ~ 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 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

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

No. 36

### \* 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

*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 WATCH.

**We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.**

DURING ADVENT WE WATCH FOR HOPE IN THE MIDST OF DESPAIR.

**We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.**

DURING ADVENT WE WATCH FOR FORGIVENESS IN THE MIDST OF REBELLION.

**We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.**

DURING ADVENT WE WATCH FOR PEACE IN THE MIDST OF CONFLICT.

**We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.**

DURING ADVENT WE WATCH FOR THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN THE MIDST OF A  
FALLEN WORLD.

**We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.**

THIS MORNING WE LIGHT TWO CANDLES. THE FIRST CANDLE REMINDS US THAT ADVENT IS A TIME OF WAITING. WE WAIT IN ANTICIPATION FOR GOD TO FULFILL EVERY PROMISE SET FORTH IN THE BIBLE. THE SECOND CANDLE REMINDS US THAT ADVENT IS ALSO A TIME OF WATCHING. WE WATCH WITH EXPECTANT EYES, TRUSTING THAT GOD IS ACTIVE, PRESENT, AND CONSTANTLY AT WORK, LEADING ALL OF CREATION TOWARD THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION. AS WE LIGHT THE SECOND CANDLE, WE ASK FOR FAITH TO WATCH FOR GOD'S PRESENCE AND OPEN EYES TO SEE ALL THAT GOD IS DOING.

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

GOD IN HEAVEN, AS WE LEARN TO WAIT IN FAITH, HELP US NOW TO WATCH IN EXPECTATION. OPEN OUR EYES THAT WE MIGHT SEE THE WAYS YOU ARE AT WORK AROUND US, WITHIN US AND THROUGH US.

**Amen.**

## **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**

***“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”***

No. 29

### **\* 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, YOU RENEW THE CHURCH IN EVERY AGE. WE GIVE THANKS FOR HYMN WRITERS AND THEOLOGIANs. INSPIRE TEACHERS, WRITERS, AND MUSICIANS TO DELIGHT AND INSTRUCT YOUR PEOPLE. GOD, IN YOUR MERCY,**

**hear our prayer.**

**YOU GIVE US A VISION OF CREATION IN HARMONY, WHEN HURTING AND DESTRUCTION WILL BE NO MORE. TEACH US TO BE STEWARDS OF THE EARTH AND COMPANIONS TO ITS**

CREATURES. RESTORE TO BALANCE AND WHOLENESS WHAT HUMAN GREED HAS HARMED. GOD, IN YOUR MERCY,

**hear our prayer.**

YOU DEFEND THE CAUSE OF ALL WHO ARE POOR AND OPPRESSED. RAISE UP LEADERS WHO WILL GOVERN WITH EQUITY AND SERVE THE COMMON GOOD. GUIDE JUDGES, LAWMAKERS, AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF THOSE WHO CANNOT ADVOCATE FOR THEMSELVES. GOD, IN YOUR MERCY,

**hear our prayer.**

YOU DELIVER THOSE IN NEED FROM SUFFERING AND FEAR. COME TO THE AID OF ANY WHO ARE EXPLOITED OR ABUSED, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN, ELDERS, AND VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING. PROVIDE SAFETY AND HELP TO OUR NEIGHBORS WITHOUT SHELTER, REFUGEES, AND THOSE FLEEING VIOLENCE. GOD, IN YOUR MERCY,

**hear our prayer.**

YOU URGE YOUR PEOPLE TO WELCOME ONE ANOTHER AS YOU HAVE WELCOMED US. NURTURE MINISTRIES OF HOSPITALITY AND CARE IN THIS AND EVERY CONGREGATION. WE PRAY FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMEBOUND, HOSPITALIZED, OR SEPARATED FROM LOVED ONES ESPECIALLY THE FAMILY OF RICK BACHMAN, 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.**

YOU EMBRACE ALL WHO HAVE DIED TRUSTING IN YOUR PROMISES, AND WE GIVE THANKS FOR THEIR FAITHFUL WITNESS. SUSTAIN US IN HOPE UNTIL WE ARE UNITED WITH THEM IN THE JOY OF YOUR ETERNAL PRESENCE. 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](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: 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 Senior Choir Anthem “Say He Will Come” – Lau**

## ~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

*“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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**December 11, 2022 readings are:** Isaiah 35:1-10  
James 5:7-10

Psalm 146:5-10  
Matthew 11:2-11



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 3-4, 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 honor of all our great volunteers & also the great job the children always do! By Beth Marcavage

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

In loving memory of James J. Bynon II by Mark & Charlene Valentine & family

**CEMETERY FUND DONATIONS** are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Rick Bachman by Mark & Charlene Valentine

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

In honor of our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on November 28<sup>th</sup> by John & Carol Dietrich

In honor of our son John B. Dietrich on his November 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday by Dad & Carol

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

*Please remember the following in your prayers: The family of Rick Bachman, 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](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:** 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 Henritzy, Glenn Fritzingler, 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 4, 2022, The Second Sunday in Advent

8:00 Confirmation Class  
9:00 The Service of Word & Sacrament  
10:15 Christian Education  
10:15 Annual Fiscal Meeting  
2:00 Family Christmas Event

## MONDAY

6:00 Property Meeting  
7:00 Finance Meeting

## TUESDAY

Office Closed

## WEDNESDAY

Kitchen Reserved  
6:00 NA Meeting  
7:00 Senior Choir Rehearsal

## THURSDAY

12:00 Hoagie Pick-up Sale

## SATURDAY

5:30 Saturday Evening Worship

## NEXT SUNDAY, December 11, 2022, The Third Sunday in Advent

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

Please note if you have signed up for Altar Flowers, Bulletins or Candles please fill out a sponsor form. Forms should be filled out when placing your name on the sign-up sheet. Thank you.

### Supporting Zion's Ministries

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

Received 11/27/22 in support of Zion Ministries:

From our gifts	\$3,046.00
From Thrift Store	\$0.00
From Culinary	\$0.00
From (other)	\$0.00

Received for Endowment: \$10.00

Received for Capital Campaign: \$845.00

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

From offering/gifts/memorials:	\$118,388.48
From Thrift Store:	\$7,725.66
From Endowment:	\$44,000.00
From Culinary:	\$11,145.00
From Schlitzner Fund:	\$3,295.09

Year-to-date total for Zion's mission/ministries: \$184,554.23

*Thank you for your gifts. Your gifts allow us to share the word of God and the love of Jesus with our congregation and our community.*

## Upcoming Events

**December 4** – Family Christmas Event

**December 4** – Annual Fiscal Meeting

**December 8** – Hoagie Pick-up

**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

**Hoagie sale** - The Culinary Team is holding a hoagie sale. Regular Hoagies are \$7 each. Order by December 4<sup>th</sup>, at <https://www.ziontamaqua.com> or by calling 570-668-4451. Pick up is Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from noon until 3:00 pm. Thank you for your support!!

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

**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](mailto: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!!

Our Blessing Thrift Store will be closed in December and January and will re-open February 2023. We would like to thank all the people that helped make this Outreach a success from the generosity of the donations that we receive, to the helpers who organize the goods, and the people who bake and donate food items. Please keep this Outreach in your prayers. And have a Blessed Holiday Season. Thank you, Outreach Committee

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*“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.

**Family Christmas Event** - Sunday, December 4, 2022 from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Come enjoy the movie **Santa Claus is Comin' to Town**, refreshments, crafts, and games and of course Santa will make an appearance. Children of all ages are welcome as well as those who are young at heart. Please Call Deb Davies at 570-778-2731 to register. Please bring a new toy which will be donated to Toys for Tots.

**A** **nnual 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 2023 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.

**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.

*We extend our Christian Love and Sympathy to the family and friends of Rick Bachman, who passed away on November 24, 2022. We ask God to comfort the family at this time. Please keep them in your prayers.*

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**We're halfway there!** -We'll be collecting intent cards until the end of this year. Advent and Christmas is a good time of year to make a commitment to Zion ministries for the coming year. As of Nov. 28, we have 35 cards returned: 28 indicate an increase of generosity. Please call the church office (570-668-2180) if you have any questions and we'll get back to you. Here are some ways you can let us know your support plans for the coming year:

- place your intent card in the offering plate during a worship service
- send your intent card to, or drop it off at, the church office
- email your plans for support to Parish Administrator Melody Gensure at [zionlcof@verizon.com](mailto:zionlcof@verizon.com)
- complete the online form at <https://www.ziontamaqua.com/generosity-intent-card-response/>