

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.

The First Sunday of Christmas

January 1, 2023 ~ 9:30 am

The Liturgy of Word and Sacrament

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

**Congregation please stand*

The Pre-service Music

~ The Gathering ~

* 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 Gathering Hymn

"The Bells of Christmas"

No. 62 Stanzas 1,2,3,6

* The Greeting

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:

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, 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 63:7-9

God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.

(After the reading)

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm 148 Tune "*As for Gladness Men of Old*" No.82

HALLELUJAH! PRAISE THE LORD FROM HEAVEN!

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Let his praise be heard on high.

PRAISE HIM, ALL YOU HOSTS OF HEAVEN! PRAISE HIM, SUN AND MOON! PRAISE HIM, SHINING STARS AND ALL THE FIRMAMENT!

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Let his praises fill the sky.

LET THEM ALL PRAISE THE NAME OF THE LORD! HE COMMANDED AND THEY WERE CREATED; BY HIS COMMAND THEY WERE FIXED IN THEIR PLACES; THEY CANNOT DISOBEY.

Hallelujah! Glory be, To the Lord eternally!

HALLELUJAH! LET THE EARTH JOIN HIS PRAISE: THE SEAS AND ALL THAT DWELL THEREIN, THE FORCES OF NATURE THAT OBEY HIS COMMAND; HILLS AND MOUNTAINS, TREES AND FORESTS, BIRDS AND ANIMALS OF EVERY KIND.

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Let his praise be heard on earth.

LET THE PEOPLE PRAISE THE LORD--RULERS AND SUBJECTS, MEN AND WOMEN, THE OLD AND THE YOUNG ALIKE. LET THEM ALL PRAISE THE NAME OF THE LORD!

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! All creation, tell his worth.

HIS NAME IS GREATER THAN ALL OTHERS; HIS GLORY IS ABOVE EARTH AND HEAVEN. HE BLESSES ALL WHO ARE HIS OWN, SO THAT ALL MAY PRAISE HIM.

Hallelujah! Glory be, To the Lord eternally!

The Second Lesson Hebrews 2:10-18

Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because he has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives.

(After the reading)

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Thanks be to God.

*** The Gospel Acclamation (Celtic Alleluia ELW 174)**

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

*** The Holy Gospel St. Matthew 2:13-23**

In a dream, Joseph is warned to flee to Egypt to protect the infant Jesus from the jealousy of Herod.

(Before the Gospel)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW THE 2ND 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**

“Love Has Come”

ELW No. 292

Love has come—a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:

Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.

See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying?

Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas; Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP)

*** 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

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.

MERCIFUL GOD, BROADEN THE CHURCH'S HOSPITALITY AND WELCOME. OPEN OUR HEARTS TO ANY IN NEED OF REFUGE AND HELP, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED. PROSPER THE WORK OF LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

LIFE-GIVING GOD, RESTORE THE HEALTH OF THE SOIL, THE SEAS, AND THE AIR. INCREASE THE JOY AND PRAISE OF ALL LIVING THINGS. IN THE COMING YEAR STRENGTHEN LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT FURTHER HARM TO THE ENVIRONMENT. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

LIBERATING GOD, DELIVER YOUR PEOPLE FROM CRUEL OPPRESSION. INCREASE JUSTICE IN EVERY NATION AND KEEP THE DREAM OF FREEDOM ALIVE. IN THIS NEW YEAR BRING THE BLESSING OF PEACE AND PUT AN END TO VIOLENT CONFLICT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

UPLIFTING GOD, RAISE ALL WHO ARE BOWED DOWN BY TROUBLE AND NEED, ESPECIALLY INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES LIVING IN POVERTY. PROTECT AND NURTURE ALL CHILDREN. SUSTAIN THOSE WHO PARENT, TEACH, AND CARE FOR THE YOUNG. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

ABIDING GOD, ACCOMPANY THIS COMMUNITY IN THE COMING YEAR. INCREASE OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER AND THE NEIGHBORS WE SERVE. ENRICH OUR WORSHIP AND DEEPEN OUR FAITH. SUSTAIN OUR PASTOR AND ALL WHO MINISTER IN YOUR NAME. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

LOVING GOD, THE HOLY INNOCENTS WHO PERISH IN EVERY GENERATION ARE SAFE IN YOUR KEEPING. WE GIVE YOU THANKS AND PRAISE FOR THE ALL THE FAITHFUL WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US INTO EVERLASTING LIFE WITH YOU. 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.

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 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 “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 Offertory Prayer

LET US PRAY: GOD OF ABUNDANCE, RECEIVE AND BLESS THESE GIFTS WE HAVE OFFERED. JOIN OUR HEARTS WITH THE SONG OF THE ANGELS, AND GATHER US AT YOUR TABLE OF CELEBRATION. STRENGTHEN US TO SHARE WITH ALL THE WORLD THE ABUNDANCE OF YOUR GRACE UPON GRACE, POURED OUT IN JESUS CHRIST, THE WORD MADE FLESH.

Amen.

* 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: *(ELW No. 193)*

(Sung) **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:**

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

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* 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**

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST! COME TO THE TABLE OF PEACE.

*** The Agnus Dei “Lamb of God” (ELW No. 195)**

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, 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 (music on page 72 of LBW)**

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*** The Post Communion Prayer**

LET US PRAY: GOD OUR REDEEMER, YOU HAVE FED US AT THIS TABLE WITH GIFTS OF GRACE, TRUTH, AND LIFE. AS YOU HAVE GATHERED US IN JOY, SEND US FORTH AS MESSENGERS OF YOUR PEACE. MAKE US SHINE WITH THE GOOD NEWS OF YOUR GLORY, BORN TO US IN JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR AND LORD.

Amen.

The Senior Choir Anthem “A Song of Christmas” – Williams/ Martin

~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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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First Reading: Isaiah 63:7-9 – Not Printed

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:10-18 – Not Printed

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23 - ¹³Now after [the wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” ¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation,

Rachel weeping for her children;

she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

January 8, 2023 readings are:

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 1, 2023

**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 Robert Fritzingler III by Glenn and Lorie Fritzingler

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of the January 4th birthday of John Carl Casler Jr. by his mom, and sisters, Ashly,

Alesia, & Alyssa, nieces, Aubry, Adalynn & Ava & nephews, Bradlee & Camdyn

THE BULLETINS are given to the Glory of God and

In honor of Sonia and Lisa's birthday and in loving memory of Larry love, Judy

An Altar flower sponsor is needed for January 8th and 15th

and a Bulletin Sponsor is needed for January 15th.

Please contact the church office or sign up on the bulletin board.

Prayer List Updates - We Periodically refresh our parish prayer list to keep it up to date. Please contact the office to keep someone's name on the list; we will be refreshing our list on January 22, 2023. Remember that it is always good to get permission from the person before adding a name.

Please remember the following in your prayers: 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 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, January 1, 2023, New Year's Day

9:30 The Service of Word & Sacrament
11:00 Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner

MONDAY

Office Closed

WEDNESDAY

6:00 NA Meeting

SATURDAY

5:30 Saturday Evening Worship

NEXT SUNDAY, January 8, 2023

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

Please note that the church office will be closed January 2nd. If you are in need of assistance please leave a message, the answering machine will be checked periodically. Thank You!

DEADLINE: All information for the **February 2023 issue of the "Herald"** is due at the church office no later than **Monday, January 23, 2023. Please note that this is a combined issue.** You may e-mail your information to zionlcof@verizon.net or stop in during regular office hours. Thank you for your co-operation!

Our ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held Sunday, February 12, 2023, following the 9:00 am Service. Our agenda will consist of the approval of the 2022 Annual reports for all committees and organizations. As always, we encourage all members to attend this meeting as a quorum needs to be met.

Attention Committees: All committee chairpersons are reminded to submit a report outlining the activities of your committee in 2022 for the annual report. These reports are to be submitted to the church office no later than January 9, 2023. You can e-mail the church office at zionlcof@verizon.net or stop by the office. Thank you for your co-operation.

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

GIFTS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS are given to the *Glory of God and*

In loving memory of loved ones both family and friends at Christmas by Sharon Haldeman

In loving memory of loved ones by Irene and Paul Pecha

In loving memory of Mary Kemner Hebert, Aunt Jane & Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Kemner by Jon Hebert

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

In loving memory of Mae Bittner by Judy

Upcoming Events

January 1 – 9:30 am Service

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!!

“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.

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.

Tamaqua's October Community Hunger Campaign, sponsored by the Tamaqua Area Faith Fellowship (TAFFN) and the Tamaqua Area Partnership, raised \$16,000 through donations, a soup sale, a hunger walk and a Dine Out Against Hunger Night hosted by four Tamaqua restaurants: Tommy's Italian Specialty Shop; the Beacon Diner; the Station Restaurant; and Sisters Cantina.

Eight churches participated in the community soup sale: American Primitive Methodist; Bethany ECC; Trinity UCC; St. John XXIII Roman Catholic Church; St. John's UCC; St. John's Evangelical Lutheran; Stokes Ministry; and Zion Evangelical Lutheran. One hundred thirty-three quarts of soup were sold.

Eight \$25 gift certificates were raffled off to restaurants participating in the Dine Out Against Hunger Night promotion courtesy of a grant from Thrivent Financials' Live Generously program. M & T Bank also provided major funding for the campaign.

Eighty-three boxes of food were collected during the campaign from churches, businesses, and individuals: Bethany ECC; Silberline; St. John's UCC; St. John's Lutheran; Little People's Day Care; Child Development; Hidden River Credit Union; Tamaqua Area HS Student Council; and St. Luke's Rehabilitation Center, Hometown.

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. The Zion Generosity Team