

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 Baptism of Our Lord

January 8, 2023 ~ 9:00 am
The Liturgy of Word and Sacrament

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

**Congregation please stand*

The Pre-service Music

~ The Gathering ~

* The Confession and Forgiveness

BLESSED BE THE HOLY TRINITY, ✚ ONE GOD, WHO MAKES ALL THINGS NEW, WHOSE MERCY ENDURES FOREVER.

Amen.

TRUSTING IN GOD'S MERCY, LET US CONFESS OUR SIN.

Silence is kept for reflection.

HOLY ONE, SOURCE OF OUR RENEWAL,

we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

THUS SAYS OUR GOD: "THE FORMER THINGS HAVE COME TO PASS AND NEW THINGS I NOW DECLARE." GOD'S MERCY MAKES US NEW. WE ARE FORGIVEN IN THE NAME OF ✚ CHRIST OUR SAVIOR.

Amen.

* The Gathering Hymn

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

WOV No. 646

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

(Refrain) **Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
West-ward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

**Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again;
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. *(Refrain)***

**Frank-incense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, gladly raising worshiping God Most High. *(Refrain)***

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom,
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *(Refrain)***

**Glorious now behold him arise, King of God and Sacrifice;
Heav'n sings alleluia; alleluia the earth replies. *(Refrain)***

* The Greeting

THE BOUNDLESS GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE WISDOM OF GOD, AND THE LIGHT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BE WITH YOU ALL.

And also with you.

* **The Kyrie** (*ELW Hymn No. 154*)
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy; have mercy, O Lord.

* **The Hymn of Praise** “*Gloria*” (*ELW Pg. 176*)
Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!
Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!
And on earth peace to God’s people. Glory to God.
And on earth peace to God’s people. Glory to God!

* **The Prayer of the Day**
THE LORD BE WITH YOU
(Spoken) And also with you.
LET US PRAY:

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, 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 42:1-9

God’s servant is endowed with God’s spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant’s task. God’s old promises have been fulfilled; the servant’s new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

(After the reading)

THE WORD OF THE LORD
Thanks be to God.

The Psalm 29 Tune “*Holy, Holy, Holy*” No.165

ASCRIBE TO THE LORD, O HEAVENLY BEINGS, ASCRIBE TO THE LORD GLORY AND STRENGTH. ASCRIBE TO THE LORD THE GLORY DUE HIS NAME; WORSHIP THE LORD IN HOLY SPLENDOR.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!

THE VOICE OF THE LORD IS UPON THE WATERS; THE GOD OF GLORY THUNDERS, AND HIS VOICE ECHOES OVER THE OCEANS. THE VOICE OF THE LORD BREAKS THE CEDARS, EVEN THE CEDARS OF LEBANON; HE MAKES LEBANON SKIP LIKE A CALF, AND MOUNT HERMON LIKE A YOUNG WILD OX.

All thy works shall praise thy name, In earth and sky and sea.

THE VOICE OF THE LORD IS A POWERFUL VOICE; THE VOICE OF THE LORD IS A VOICE OF SPLENDOR.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

THE VOICE OF THE LORD FLASHES FORTH IN FLAMES OF FIRE; THE VOICE OF THE LORD SHAKES THE WILDERNESS; THE LORD SHAKES THE WILDERNESS OF KADESH. THE VOICE OF THE LORD SHAKES THE OAKS, AND STRIPS THE FOREST BARE, WHILE EVERYONE IN HIS TEMPLE SHOUTS, "GLORY TO GOD!"

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

THE LORD SITS ENTHRONED OVER THE FLOOD; THE LORD SITS ENTHRONED AS KING FOREVER.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our songs shall rise to thee.
MAY THE LORD GIVE STRENGTH TO HIS PEOPLE!
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
MAY THE LORD BLESS HIS PEOPLE WITH PEACE!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

The Second Lesson Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

(After the reading)

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Thanks be to God.

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

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

*** The Holy Gospel St. Matthew 3:13-17**

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

(Before the Gospel)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW THE 3RD CHAPTER:

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

(After the Gospel)

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

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

The Sermon

Pastor Cindy White

*** The Hymn of the Day *“Remember and Rejoice”***

ELW No. 454

Remember and rejoice, renewed by floods of grace.
We bear the sign of Jesus Christ, that time cannot erase.

In life, in death, we trust in God's most holy name,
forever traced by water sign, and sealed by Spirit flame.

We pledge ourselves anew to flee the lures of hell,
to cling to Christ's community, in justice, peace to dwell.

God, bless us by your grace; remind us of your care.
Renewing Spirit, fill us now, inspire our work, our prayer.

Remember and rejoice, renewed by floods of grace.
We bear the sign of Jesus Christ, that time cannot erase.

* The Apostles' Creed

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

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

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

* The Prayers of Intercession

CALLED TOGETHER TO FOLLOW JESUS, WE PRAY FOR THE CHURCH, THE WORLD, AND ALL IN NEED.

A brief silence.

CALLING GOD, YOU SPEAK WITH POWER TO YOUR CHURCH. OPEN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS TO THE NEW THINGS YOU ARE DECLARING. STRENGTHEN BISHOPS, PASTORS, DEACONS, LAY LEADERS, AND TEACHERS OF THE FAITH. EQUIP THE BAPTIZED FOR YOUR RECONCILING AND REDEEMING WORK. MERCIFUL GOD,

receive our prayer.

RENEWING GOD, YOU PROVIDE THE WATERS OF THE EARTH AND IN JESUS' BAPTISM YOU REVEAL THE WATERS OF LIFE. CLEANSE AND PROTECT OCEANS, RIVERS, AND WATERSHEDS. BRING RELIEF TO PARCHED LANDS AND TO COMMUNITIES WITHOUT ACCESS TO SAFE WATER. MERCIFUL GOD,

receive our prayer.

RIGHTEOUS GOD, YOU NEVER WEARY OF ESTABLISHING JUSTICE. INCREASE COOPERATION AND CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN NATIONS. GUIDE LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES TO GOVERN WITH EQUITY, VISION, AND INTEGRITY. WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN MILITARY SERVICE, FOR PEACEMAKERS, AND FOR OUR ENEMIES. MERCIFUL GOD,

receive our prayer.

ABIDING GOD, YOUR MERCY IS STEADFAST. GIVE SANCTUARY TO PEOPLE WHO FLEE FROM OPPRESSION, WAR, POVERTY, AND FAMINE. SUSTAIN HEALTH CARE WORKERS, CAREGIVERS, FIRST RESPONDERS, COUNSELORS, AND ALL WHO HELP AND HEAL. COMFORT THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING OR EXPERIENCING CRISIS ESPECIALLY 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. MERCIFUL GOD,

receive our prayer.

BLESSING GOD, IN CHRIST YOU GATHER THE BELOVED COMMUNITY. KINDLE THE GIFTS OF YOUR SPIRIT IN YOUR PEOPLE. ACCOMPANY THE NEWLY BAPTIZED, THOSE RECENTLY ORDAINED, AND ANY BEGINNING A NEW MINISTRY. INSPIRE SYNODICAL LEADERS AND CONGREGATIONAL COUNCILS TO SERVE WITH IMAGINATION AND WISDOM. MERCIFUL GOD,

receive our prayer.

PROMISING GOD, YOUR FAITHFULNESS ENDURES THROUGHOUT ALL GENERATIONS. WE GIVE THANKS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED IN CHRIST, TRUSTING THAT WE WILL BE UNITED WITH THEM AND ALL THE SAINTS IN CHRIST'S RESURRECTION LIFE. MERCIFUL GOD,

receive 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. MERCIFUL GOD,

receive our prayer.

WE BRING TO YOU OUR NEEDS AND HOPES, O GOD, TRUSTING YOUR WISDOM AND POWER REVEALED IN CHRIST CRUCIFIED.

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 myEoffering option.

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

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

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

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

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

*** The Offertory Prayer**

LET US PRAY: LIBERATING GOD, YOU BREAK THE BONDS OF INJUSTICE AND LET THE OPPRESSED GO FREE. RECEIVE THESE OFFERINGS IN THANKSGIVING FOR ALL YOUR WORKS OF MERCIFUL POWER, AND SHAPE US AS PEOPLE OF YOUR JUSTICE AND FREEDOM. YOU WE MAGNIFY AND ADORE, THROUGH JESUS OUR SAVIOR,

Amen.

*** The Great Thanksgiving**

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

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

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

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS.

We lift them to the Lord.

LET US GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OUR GOD.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

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

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

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.

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

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.

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

* **The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

HOLY 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**

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

* **The Invitation to the Holy Meal**

COME AND TASTE THE JOY OF GOD!

* **The Agnus Dei “Lamb of God” (ELW Pg. 182)**

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

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

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

The Distribution

All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present in the Sacrament are welcome to commune when we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Zion members, please complete a Communion card once a year for our records.

* **The Post-Communion Blessing**

THE BODY AND BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST STRENGTHEN YOU AND KEEP YOU IN HIS GRACE.
Amen.

*** The Post Communion Prayer**

LET US PRAY: HOLY ONE, WE THANK YOU FOR THE HEALING THAT SPRINGS FORTH ABUNDANTLY FROM THIS TABLE. RENEW OUR STRENGTH TO DO JUSTICE, LOVE KINDNESS, AND JOURNEY HUMBLY WITH YOU.

Amen.

~The Sending~

*** The Blessing**

THE GOD WHO FAITHFULLY BRINGS FORTH JUSTICE AND BREAKS THE OPPRESSOR'S ROD
✚ BLESS, STRENGTHEN, AND UPHOLD YOU, TODAY AND ALWAYS.

(Spoken) Amen.

*** The Sending**

GO IN PEACE. FOLLOW THE WAY OF JESUS.

Thanks be to God.

*** The Sending Hymn**

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

No. 90

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9 – Not Printed

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43 – Not Printed

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

January 15, 2023 readings are:

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 7-8, 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 BULLETINS are given to the Glory of God and

In honor of the January birthday of Bob Jones by George and Mary Ruth Taylor

CURRENT FUND DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In honor of the baptism of Owen Montecalvo by Debra Linkhorst

An Altar flower 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 Henritzky, 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 8, 2023

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

WEDNESDAY

- 6:00 NA Meeting

SATURDAY

- 5:30 Saturday Evening Worship

NEXT SUNDAY, January 15, 2023

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

Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsors needed for 2023 - The Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsor list for 2023 is on the bulletin board. The costs of the flowers are \$36.80 (please note price increase) and individuals will be billed from the florist. The cost of the bulletin sponsorship is \$16.00 and monies are due when you place your name on the list. You can also sponsor the Candles for the month at \$40. Please remember to fill out a card with your honorarium or memorial this information is needed for the bulletin. Please do not sign up without filling out a form. These sponsorships are on a first come first serve basis; this is to ensure that everyone has equal opportunity to sponsor these memorials. Please contact the church office if you have questions. Thank you in advance for your sponsorship!

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

Upcoming Events

January 23 – Newsletter Deadline

February 3 – Blessings Thrift Sale

February 12 – Annual Congregational Meeting

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.

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

Please welcome Molly Betz as our guest pianist today while Sandy is away. We thank her for sharing her musical talent with us.

Inclement Weather Policy

If we get inclement weather preceding a worship service, members of our congregation will be able to get information by the doing the following:

- Check out our website at www.ziontamaqua.com and our Facebook page
- Listen to WLSH AM1410 and WMGH FM 105.5
- Call the church office to hear a recorded message on our answering machine.
(570-668-2180)

A reminder that both a record of communion AND a record of contribution is necessary to maintain voting active member status. Please remember to complete a communion card and to use your offering envelopes. Thank you, Church Council

Zion's Blessings Thrift Shop sale is on Friday, February 3rd from 9 am to 5 pm. The sale features gently used clothing for all ages, toys, books, and general household items. Come take a look! Limited Take-Out Menu. Shoppers must wear masks and maintain social distancing.

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.

YOUR CARD MATTERED

As of Saturday, December 31, we received 62 intent cards. Forty-six of those cards expressed a definite increase in generosity for the coming year. The Generosity Team thanks the 62 individuals and families who returned their cards and reminds all members that generosity is an essential part of our faith journey.

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 grows and strengthens.

The Zion Generosity Team