



June/ July/ August 2025

Newsletter for the Congregation
And Friends of
ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 N. Greenwood Street, Tamaqua, PA 18252

(570) 668-2180 ~ FAX (570)668-2181

Pastor ~ Cindy White

Melody Gensure ~ Parish Administrator - Email~ zionlcof@verizon.net

Parish website ~ www.ziontamaqua.com

Our Mission: Empowered and inspired by God to bring others to Christ.

Blessings, friends and families of Zion.

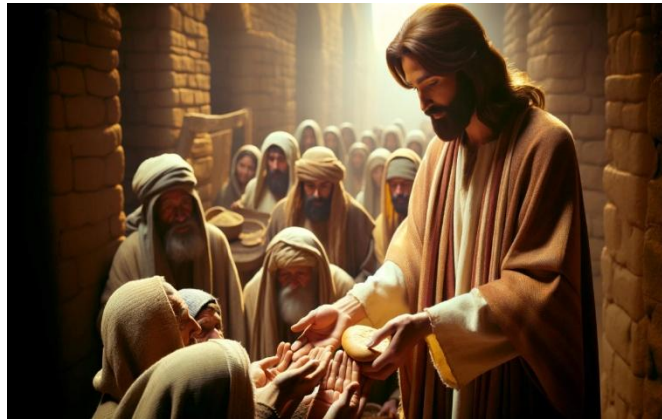
I've been greatly inspired by several stories that I have heard over this Memorial Day weekend. They have all been about sacrificial service for one's country, community and family.

We give thanks to the men and women that gave their lives so that we can live experiencing all of the freedoms this country has to offer.

Jesus might ask us.... Who are WE serving? What are we serving? In Mark 10:45 Jesus says "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many. Jesus is preaching about what he did for us. He certainly did not intend for us to seek martyrdom.

We have three months of summer ahead of us. When we serve others we serve our triune God. I encourage each one of us select a ministry of service. Many of us already have at least one way we serve God's Kingdom here on Earth. Let us be intentional about opening our hearts to the Holy Spirits leadings. God speaks to us in so many ways. Many times in unexpected ways.

I will specifically pray that we all can find a way to serve throughout these summer months. Perhaps Vacation Bible School, diaper ministry or the blessings thrift shop are in your future? Choir starts up again in September. It's easy to sit back and rest during these months, but as long as there are people in need physically, emotionally, spiritually, financially WE are called too be of service. Let our hearts continue to be joyful as we pray for continued direction in our service for others. Have a safe and enjoyable summer beloved children of God. I look forward to seeing you in church.



With mutual love in Christ,
Pastor Cindy

Morning Prayer on Facebook and Website: Rev. Cindy White reads a selected Bible verse and offers a brief message or song Wednesdays at 9 a.m. Individuals with specific prayer requests can email those requests to Pastor White at zionlutheranrev@gmail.com.

ZION EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Salutes 2025 graduates

*"For I know the plans I have
for you," declares the Lord,
"plans to prosper you and
not to harm you, plans to give
you hope and a future."*

Jeremiah 29:11



Cooper Ansbach is graduating from Tamaqua Area High School. He is the son of Crissy Ansbach and Jeff Erle. He is undecided about his choice of college but he plans to major in education. At Zion, he has been an acolyte and has helped at Culinary events.



Avery Deitrich is graduating from Tamaqua Area High School. She is the daughter of Andrew Deitrich and Ashleigh Urban. She will attend West Chester University to major in nutrition/dietetics, doing their five-year accelerated program to get her master's degree. At Zion she served as an acolyte.



Julia Lawfer is graduating from Tamaqua Area High School. Her parents are Susan and Brian Lawfer. She will be attending LCCC in the fall, majoring in biology. At Zion, Julia served as an acolyte, Sunday School teacher and Bible School leader.



Darlen Moyer is the son of Sandra Dailey and Anthony Moyer. He will graduate from Panther Valley High School and has enlisted in the U.S. Air Force where he will study HVAC. At Zion, Darlen served as an acolyte.



Kimberly Rudy is the daughter of Kristine and Francis Rudy. She will graduate from Tamaqua Area High School and enroll at Misericordia University to major in occupational therapy and play on the women's soccer team. At Zion, Kimberly served as acolyte and crucifer and assisted with VBS and other church events.

VBS

Zion Lutheran Church
 101 N Greenwood Street - Tamaqua, PA 18252
 570-668-2180

June 16-20, 2025
5:30-8:30pm

Register Online:
ziontamaqua.mycokesburyvbs.com

Questions?
 Email:
zionlutheraneducation@gmail.com

Hot Meal Provided!
 5:30-6pm
 All Children Welcome!

Games Music
 Bible Explorations
 Crafts science

I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH HIM WHO STRENGTHENS ME.
PHILIPPIANS 4:13, NRSV



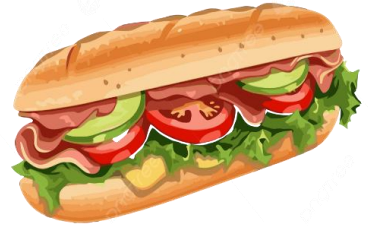
Zion's Blessings Thrift Shop sale is on Friday, June 6th, July 11th and August 1st from 9 am to 5 pm. The sale features gently used clothing for all ages, toys, books, and general household items. Come take a look! Limited Take-Out Menu. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE DONATIONS OUTSIDE BY THE HANDICAP ENTRANCE.** Thank you all for your continued support!

The Church office will be closed Thursday, July 3rd in Observance of Independence Day. Have a safe Holiday!



Culinary Hoagie Sales

- July 17th - deadline to order is July 13th
- August 7th – deadline to order is August 3rd



Regular Hoagies are \$8 each. Pick up is from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. Order at <https://www.ziontamaqua.com> or by calling 570-668-4451. Thank you for your support!!



Zion is on Instagram. Go to the website or Facebook for complete instructions or scan the QR code.

As of May 22, we have dropped our subscription to PhoneLive Stream. Too few people were using the service on a regular basis to allow it to be cost effective. We will continue to live stream all services and Wednesday Morning Prayer on our website and Facebook page.

Upcoming Events

June 6, July 11 & August 1 – Blessings Thrift Shop

June 16-20 – Vacation Bible School

July 17 – August 7 – Hoagie Sale

August 18 – Newsletter Deadline

August 20 – Peach Social



Peach Social

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

4:00 until 6:00 or sellout

Cake, Ice cream, and Fresh Peaches –\$6.00

Additional food items will be available.

The culinary crew is asking for your help in providing plain white or yellow cakes with no icing. Help will be needed on Tuesday, August 19th to prepare for the social time TBA. Please contact Glenn at (484) 560-8211 or Mary Ruth at 570-668-4451 for more information. We hope to see you there!



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

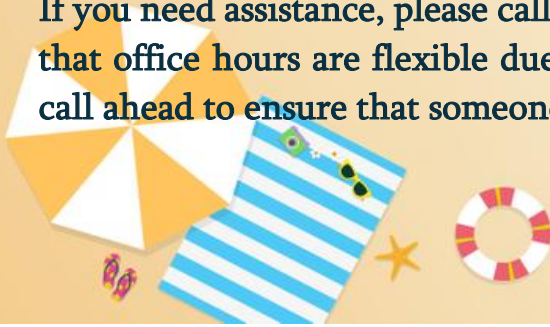
Summer Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday 12:00 – 5:00 pm

Tuesday 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Thursday & Friday – Closed

If you need assistance, please call and leave a message. Please note that office hours are flexible due to vacations and leave so please call ahead to ensure that someone will be in the office.



Celebration of Baptisms



✠ Alaina Nicole Boyer, daughter of Alyssa Casler and Ryan Boyer, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism during our Sunday morning worship service on May 4, 2025. Alaina's Godparents are Ashly Lux, Alesia Casler, Matthew Miller and Tyler Schaeffer.

✠ Abigail Jean Smith, daughter of Nikolas and Sabrina Smith, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism during our Sunday morning worship on May 25, 2025. Abigail's Godparents are Kyle and Kayla Fredericks.

May the blessing of our Lord be upon the parents and godparents in nurturing these children in the light of faith.

Reminder: If you have sponsored Altar Flowers or Candles for 2024, please fill out the information cards in the gathering room. The information is needed for the bulletin and the Florist. If payment for the sponsorship is not received prior to the date, the information will not be printed in the bulletin, please pay and fill out a form when you add your name on the list. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Looking for a way you can help serve your church, but don't have a lot of extra time? Are you able to commit to a half hour, on a day you will already be here? We are looking for greeters to welcome people to the church on Sunday mornings, hand out bulletins, and answer questions from visitors. We would like to have enough people to make up at least 6 teams, with 2 people per team. Please text or call Brian Lawfer at 570-952-5966 for more information.



Bear Creek Camp information is available in the Gathering Room. More information is available on their website at bearcreekcamp.org. Funds are available for those wanting to attend through our "campership fund".

In talking with the people John says in Luke 3:11 *“Whoever has two tunics should share with him who has none, and whoever has food should do the same.”* This is a reminder that the People Pantry is being used heavily and in need of donations. While grocery shopping pick up an extra item to share with our less fortunate community neighbors. *“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”* 2 Corinthians 9:7



DID YOU KNOW ...Zion is now a Tamaqua Narcan distribution site? You may be wondering what is Narcan? Narcan is a life-saving medication used to reverse the effects of accidental opioid overdoses.

This medication is good to have on hand because:

1. You could end up saving a friend or neighbor in need. You never know when you'll encounter someone in need of this life-saving medication. Keep it in your purse or your car for when you might need it.
2. Parents with teenagers are encouraged to keep naloxone in their homes.
3. Senior citizens can mistakenly overdose on medications. Having more of this life-saving drug in the community is important.



Narcan kits are available free of charge. Feel free to grab one off the table. Our Parish Administrator will pass on Narcan requests to Michele Valentine who is heading this ministry.



equal opportunity to sponsor these memorials. Please contact the church office if you have questions. Thank you in advance for your sponsorship!

Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsors needed for 2025 - The Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsor list for 2025 is on the bulletin board. The costs of the flowers are \$42.60 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. 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

Zion's 2025 Church Council officers: Michael Haspe, President, Brian Lawfer, Vice-President, Amanda Hascin, Secretary, Dave Gensure, Treasurer, and Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary. Other members of Council include Arlene Derr, Glenn Fritzing, Thomas Graham, Carol Hartung, Brittany Scalfani Mary Ruth Taylor, Michelle Valentine; and Shelly Woodring; if you have suggestions or concerns, please seek out a member of Council so that we can promptly address the needs of the congregation.

Please note if you have recently become a member or feel there are changes in your membership information please fill out a membership packet located in the Gathering Room. If you need them sent to you, please contact the church office. Thank you for keeping our records up to date.

Would you like to make a gift to our Capital Campaign today? Do you need an envelope for your gift? Blank envelopes can be found in the rear of the church on either side. Please just write your name and Capital Campaign on the envelope so we can give you credit; and place the envelope in the boxes found on the wall on either side at the back on the sanctuary. For information on our Capital Campaign, please visit our website at <http://www.ziontamaqua.com/capital-campaign/>



Gebert Society - If you know of someone who has remembered Zion in their will/estate with a gift (past and present), please contact the office with that information which will be used in the annual report. Names can be added to the Gebert Society at any time. Thank you.

Please Join Us
Saturday Worship -
6:00 pm
Sunday Worship -
9:00 am



DEADLINE: All information for the **September 2025 issue of the “Herald”** is due at the church office no later than **Monday, August 18, 2025.** You may e-mail your information to zionlcof@verizon.net or stop in during regular office hours. Thank you for your co-operation!

Hospitalizations - If you or someone you know is hospitalized, please call the church office at 668-2180. Due to HIPAA Law names are no longer published in the newspaper and we are not contacted by the hospital unless the patient requests it, when admitted, let them know you are a member of Zion Lutheran church. Zion Lutheran Church Lehigh Valley System Hospital Code is 356; If you are admitted to a hospital in the Lehigh Valley Hospital system (not St. Luke's/ Miner's) and you want our church and Pastor to be notified, provide Zion's Code # 356 when you provide admission information.



NEPA SYNOD
NORTHERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD

Synod E-News - E-News is a weekly e-newsletter for rostered leaders (pastors and deacons), congregational leaders and members, and anyone interested in keeping up to date with happenings across the Synod and around the ELCA.
nepasynod.org/e-news/

Office Hours ~
Monday & Wednesday
12:00 – 5:00 pm
Tuesday
8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Please use door located on
Mauch
Chunk Street, ring bell

YOU ARE THE
salt
OF THE EARTH.

YOU ARE THE
light
OF THE WORLD.

MATTHEW 5:13-14





Summer BLAST Program

June 17 - August 14

**Tuesdays & Thursdays
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**Southward Playground
Oak & Penn Streets, Tamaqua, PA**

Entering Grades: 1st-6th

Registration:

**Scan
Here** →



Or Call: (570) 622-1995

Activities Include:

- Nature Exploration
- Educational Workshops
- Arts & Crafts
- Discovery Projects
- Team Sports & Games
- Mindfulness & Stress Management
- Ice Cream Party

Special Features:

- Experienced Staff
- Healthy Snacks and Lunch Provided
- Special Guest Workshops
- Free BLAST Gear - T-shirts, sunglasses, bags, etc.

SCD&A
Schuylkill County Drug and Alcohol
570.621.2890 • CRISIS 877-993-4357

SCA
*SCHUYLKILL COMMUNITY
ACTION*

**For More Information,
Call: (570) 622-1995**



Please continue to use your Boyer's key tag every time you shop in any Boyer's Markets. If you do not have a Boyer's tag, they are located in the Gathering room. Please use the swipe card, the receipt does not need to be turned in. Thank you for your participation in this program. Keep using those cards!

When submitting Redner's receipts:

1. You must have a Redner's card & swipe the Redner's card upon checkout so the save a tape amount is on the receipt.
2. Please do not cut the information with the save a tape code off the receipt.
3. Please hand in the receipt to our container in the gathering room or mail them to the church office.

If you have any questions, please see Beth Marcavage. Thank you and keep saving!

Sharing your story - As part of an ongoing emphasis on Zion's impact, we'd like to share ways in which Zion has made a difference in the lives of its members and its community. Please respond to any **ONE** of these questions and include **your name** at the end. Send your response to zioncof@verizon.net (subject line "Impact story" or Zion Lutheran, 101 North Greenwood St., Tamaqua, PA 18252 Attention: Impact

1. How has Zion made a difference in your life? OR
 2. What impact has Zion had on your life the last 2 1/2 years? OR
 3. What is your vision for the future of Zion's ministry? OR
 4. How has serving in a Zion ministry made a difference in your life?
-



Do you like to clean? Some people really like to clean--honest! If you do, why not join the Cleaning Angel team? We are looking for about 2 or 3 more members to add to the team. Cleaning Angels are members of the congregation who each week clean the Sanctuary, Gathering Room and Library. When two people do that cleaning, it can take 2-3 hours. Being a Cleaning Angel is not intended to be a lifelong commitment and so we thank those who have served and "retired." That means there are openings in the cleaning schedule for other members of the congregation to step up and help keep the church clean. This is a great opportunity to serve your church. The hours are flexible and there's lots of great fellowship involved. Please contact any member of the Property Committee or Cleaning Sexton Kim Eckert or Parish Administrator Melody Gensure.

May Memorials

GIFTS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

THE ALTAR CANDLES are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Fritzingler and Turrano family members by Glenn and Lorie Fritzingler

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and

In honor of the baptism of Alaina Nicole Boyer by her family

In honor of all mothers, living and deceased by Glenn and Lorie Fritzingler

In loving memory of the birthday of her father, Clair Gerber by daughter, Marlene McLaughlin and family

In honor of all the graduates by Pastor Cindy

MOTHERS DAY FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of his mother, Kathleen Valentine and her mother, Mary Dakes by Mr. and Mrs. Mark Valentine

THE BULLETINS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Fritzingler and Turrano family members by Glenn and Lorie Fritzingler

In loving memory of her mother, Mary L. Koch, on her May 18th birthday love Carol & John Dietrich & family

In honor of the baptism of Abigail Smith by Nikolas and Sabrina Smith

CURRENT FUND DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of our mothers, Mary L. Koch and Dorothy Dietrich on Mother's Day by John & Carol Dietrich

In loving memory of Ralph Derr by John & Carol Dietrich

In loving memory of Paul Pecha by Lori & Bill Krell

In loving memory of Ralph Derr by Lori & Bill Krell

In loving memory of our mother, Dorothy Rother Epler, on Mother's Day from daughters, Francis, Joan & Carol

In loving memory of Mrs. E. A. Follweiler for Mother's Day from her children and their families

In loving memory of Mr. Michael Cappos for Father's Day from his children and their families

In loving memory of Mr. E. A. Follweiler for Father's Day from his children and their families

OUTREACH FUND DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Ralph Derr

ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Ralph Derr by Joe & Rochelle Evanousky

In loving memory of Ralph Derr by David & Ann Marie Hadesty

In loving memory of Ralph Derr by Sharon Haldeman

In loving memory of Ralph Derr by Marilyn Leipold

In loving memory of Ralph Derr by Irene Pecha

In loving memory of Ralph Derr by Diane & Michael Derr, Jr.

In loving memory of Ralph Derr by Mark Charlene Valentine

In loving memory of our great-aunt, Mary L. Koch, on her 100th birthday on May 18th by Kelly, Jason, and Joel Smith

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

In loving memory of Ralph Derr by Roxanne Harvilla, and Tiffany, Matthew and Kinsley Warden

In loving memory of our mothers, Olga Pecha and Edith Billman by Irene Pecha

DIAPER DEPOT FUND DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In honor of Samuel Scott Sneddon by Lisa and Brian Sneddon

ORGAN FUND DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Ralph Derr by Ross & Mary Kay Davis



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Bishop's Staff Changes for 2025

To view the full "Strategic Intent" document in detail, visit godslove.org/2025-strategic-intent

Written by: Bishop Christopher deForest of the Northeastern PA Synod

"Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2)



Our gracious God is in our midst, transforming all of us, as St. Paul writes in his epistle to the Romans. In fact, Chapter 12 of that amazing letter has been our guide, not just for this upcoming Synod Assembly, but also for the past year of being church together. As the Holy Spirit does this work of transformation on us – our church, our communities, our very selves – we recognize more than ever our need to live and work together; in fact, to become more connected than ever before.

To this end, in this past year we have been guided by this statement of purpose – Connecting congregations for life-giving mission and ministry: so they can love like Jesus, heal like Jesus, and engage like Jesus – growing young, gaining strength, and going beyond death to life.

Strategic Goals



1. Ensure and encourage that every congregation can be in partnership with other congregations of their choice, centered around mission and ministry in their communities for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ and grounded in our Lutheran tradition, commonly expressed in our three Values and Lanes.



2. Empower and encourage the roles of all believers in this NEPA Synod, especially lay persons and with particular focus on younger people, to live out their baptismal callings and to love and serve God together in this church and their communities.



3. Make it possible for every congregation in this synod to have a pastor, a deacon, and a licensed lay minister.



4. Strengthen and secure the opportunities for rostered ministers and licensed lay ministers to serve congregations in this synod – faithfully, healthfully, and safely.



5. Reduce the need for congregations to close.



6. Engage and encourage all people – especially those who have been marginalized, harmed, or under-represented – to live and serve and lead well in this synod.



7. Train, inform, onboard, communicate, track and evaluate better, to better achieve these goals.



8. Evaluate and revise our governing documents, structures, and policies to better achieve these goals.



9. Align the roles, responsibilities, goals and evaluation of the bishop and bishop's staff to better achieve these goals and create a more efficient and satisfactory working environment.



10. Engage and encourage individuals, congregations, and partners to deepen their support of these goals – through the sharing of their time, talents, and resources.

Bishop's Staff – New Roles and Changes

Lead Servant for Leader Support: This service area includes support for rostered ministers (pastors and deacons), active and retired; licensed lay ministers (LLMs); candidates discerning calls to lay or rostered ministry; and leaders serving roles as officers and council members in congregations. **Search begins May 16.**

Lead Servant for Congregation Support: This service area includes support for our current congregations, especially those in transition (in search of a new rostered leader). We will also conduct a search for this Lead Servant; however, the roles will be transitioned with care over time, as we work with our current seven Associates of the Bishop and our Committee of nine Mission District Deans to maintain strong and ongoing support. **Search begins May 16.**

Lead Servant for Growing Young and Emerging Ministries: This service area includes support for ministries to youth, young adults and families; and the new and existing special ministry communities designated as "Synod Authorized Worshipping Communities" (SAWCs) and "Synod Authorized Outreach Communities" (SAOMs). This Lead Servant will help us take our "Growing Young" initiatives into new ministries and new directions. **Search begins May 16.**

Lead Servant for Gaining Strength and 6261: This service area includes support for our rostered minister development groups known as "Gaining Strength Cohorts"; and our 6261 Ministry Communities. **This Lead Servant role will be filled by our current Director for Evangelical Mission, Deacon Kat Tigerman.**

Each of these Lead Servants will be the "go-to" person on staff for each service area. They will work alongside:

Director of Operations: With support from administrative staff, this role will be responsible for human resources, onboarding new staff, evaluation processes, calendar, facility needs, staff meetings, and inner-staff communication. This will include the creation of an electronic planning platform and "dashboard" system for keeping track of key goals and metrics. **Eric Gombert will continue in this role.**

Director of Communications: Reporting to the Director of Operations, this role will continue to coordinate all our internal and external communications. **Stacey Burke is continuing in this role.**

Administrative Coordinators and Contract Support: Reporting to the Director of Operations, our two Administrative Coordinator positions will continue: **Laurie Christman as Leadership Support Coordinator; and Debbie Skinner as Mission Support Coordinator.** Pastor Jira Albers will continue as our part-time LLM Coordinator. We will be adding a third, part-time administrative support for 6261 and LLM. And we will continue to work with as-needed support from Pastor Doug Hill for our Gaining Strength Cohorts; and Pastor Dave DeRemer as a 6261 Coach.

In depth details are available in the "Strategic Intent" document found at godslove.org/2025-strategic-intent.

If you have additional questions, please call or email Bishop Chris deForest at (610) 266-5101, bishopd@nepsynod.org, or contact our Director of Communication, Stacey Burke, at (610) 266-5101, stacey@nepsynod.org.

And stay connected to our monthly SYNOD NEWS or our synod website, www.godslove.org

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 N. Greenwood Street

Tamaqua, PA 18252

Return Service Requested

This Newsletter was prepared
Especially for:

June/ July/ August 2025

Newsletter

God Bless



...land that I love.