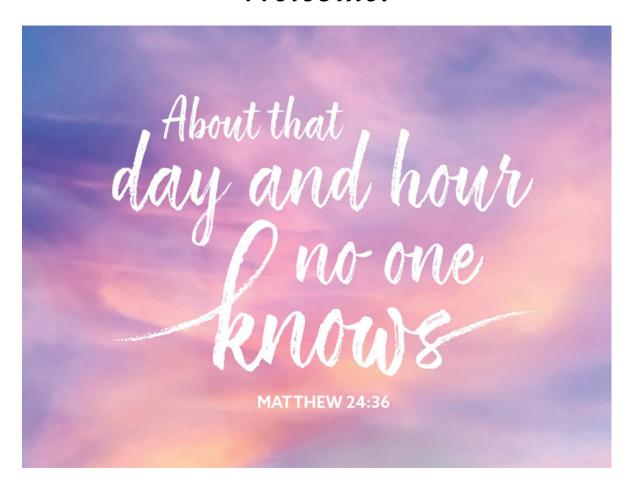
Welcome!



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

101 N. Greenwood Street, Tamaqua, PA 18252 (570) 668-2180 - Email: zionlcof@verizon.net

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

The First Sunday in Advent

November 30, $2025 \sim 9:00$ am

The Liturgy of Word and Sacrament

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

*Congregation please stand

The Pre-service Music

~ The Gathering ~

* The Confession and Forgiveness

BLESSED BE THE HOLY TRINITY, + ONE GOD, WHOSE HOME IS HEAVEN AND EARTH, WHOSE SALVATION IS SURE.

Amen.

LET US CONFESS OUR SIN IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND OF ONE ANOTHER.

Please kneel if able.

LONG-EXPECTED GOD,

we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

GOD JUDGES US NOT AS WE DESERVE, BUT ACCORDING TO GOD'S OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS.
YOU ARE FREED AND FORGIVEN, SAVED BY GRACE, AND READY TO WELCOME THE SAVIOR.

Amen.

* The Gathering Hymn

"My Lord, What a Morning"

WOV No. 627

(Refrain) My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning; Oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.

You'll hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground, Looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. (Refrain)

You'll hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground, Looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. (Refrain)

You'll hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground, Looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. (*Refrain*)

* 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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

~The Word~

The First Lesson Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

(After the reading)

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Thanks be to God.

The Candle Lighting

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

NOW THE BIRTH OF THE JESUS THE MESSIAH TOOK PLACE IN THIS WAY. WHEN HIS MOTHER MARY HAD BEEN ENGAGED TO JOSPEH, BUT BEFORE THEY LIVED TOGETHER, SHE WAS FOUND TO BE PREGNANT FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT. BABY JESUS, YOUR ARRIVAL WILL CHANGE EVERYTHING. WITH MARY, WE KNOW WE'RE NOT READY YET. WE LIGHT ONE CANDLE AND TAKE COMFORT THAT WE STILL HAVE TIME TO PREPARE.

Amen.

Light the first candle.

Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times once gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel

The Second Lesson Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future. (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 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

(Before the Gospel)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW THE 24TH 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

"Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying"

No. 31

* 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

IN OUR WAITING AND WATCHING, WE COME TO YOU IN PRAYER, O GOD, TRUSTING YOUR PROMISE TO RENEW THE CHURCH, THE NATIONS, AND THE WHOLE CREATION.

A brief silence.

GOD OF THE PEOPLE, WE COME SEEKING WISDOM AND INSTRUCTION. UPHOLD AND STRENGTHEN LAY LEADERS, TEACHERS, DEACONS, PASTORS, AND BISHOPS. TEACH US YOUR WAYS AND LEAD US IN YOUR PATHS. GOD OF GRACE.

hear our prayer.

GOD OF THE EARTH, WE SEEK YOUR GOODNESS IN THE GRANDEUR OF CREATION. EMPOWER US TO CARE FOR FORESTS AND OCEANS, AS WE SEE YOU IN THE WORLD AROUND US. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

GOD OF THE NATIONS, GRANT WISDOM TO LEADERS, JUDGES, AND MEDIATORS. CAST OUT WORDS OF HATE AND TRANSFORM THEM INTO WORDS FOR BUILDING UP COMMUNITY. REMAKE IMPLEMENTS OF WAR TO SOW PEACE. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

GOD OF HEALING, BRING COMFORT AND STRENGTH. WE PRAY FOR OUR KINDRED AND COMPANIONS WHO ARE ILL OR DESPAIRING ESPECIALLY PAM, BETTY, WALTER, FORREST, STEVE, CHRISTINE, EDDIE, GEORGE, JAN, AND ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND. SURROUND ALL WITH CARE AND CONSOLATION. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

GOD OF NEW POSSIBILITIES, WHEN ADDICTION WOUNDS, JEALOUSY TEARS DOWN, AND RELATIONSHIPS FRAY, SHOW US HOW TO JOURNEY WITH ONE ANOTHER. NURTURE THERAPISTS, COUNSELORS, AND SPONSORS IN THEIR CARE FOR OTHERS. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

GOD OF ALL TIME, BUILD UP OUR LIVES THAT WE WOULD REFLECT YOUR GRACE. AT THE LAST, BRING US WITH ALL THE SAINTS TO YOUR HOLY CITY WHERE PEACE AND GOODNESS MAKE A HOME. 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.

DRAW NEAR TO US, O GOD, AS WE COMMEND ALL FOR WHOM WE PRAY, TRUSTING IN YOUR MERCY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, EMMANUEL.

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 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: NOURISHING GOD, YOU ARE WATER IN THE WILDERNESS AND STREAMS IN THE DESERT. THROUGH THIS MEAL, SATISFY OUR PARCHED PLACES, THAT WE MAY REJOICE AND BE FOR THE WORLD SIGNS OF YOUR KINGDOM COME.

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 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

HERE IS LIFE. GOD IS WITH US. COME, RECEIVE WHAT GOD HAS PROMISED.

* 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: GOD OUR HOST, AT THIS TABLE YOU HAVE FED US WITH JOY AND GLADNESS. SEND US FORTH, EAGER TO SHARE THE FEAST, WELCOME THE STRANGER, AND BEAR GOOD FRUIT IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

Amen.

The Senior Choir Anthem "We'll Welcome Him" - Schram

~The Sending~

* The Blessing

MAY GOD WHO COMES AMONG US, FATHER, + SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT, GRANT YOU PATIENCE IN WAITING, PEACE IN THE DARKNESS, AND GOOD NEWS TO SHARE TODAY AND ALWAYS.

(Spoken) Amen.

* The Dismissal

GO IN PEACE, KEEP AWAKE,

Thanks be to God.

* The Sending Hymn

"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"

No. 25

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5 – Not Printed

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

December 7, 2025 readings are: Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 29-30, 2025

*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 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 ALTAR CANDLES are given to the Glory of God and In loving memory of my parents and brother by Martha Zellner

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Ed Haldeman, one year that you left me, by Catherine Haldeman

THE BULLETINS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of my grandmothers, Anna Kohler and Ida Rebecca Zeigler by Gerry Zeigler

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

In loving memory of his parents and brother, Phil by Paul Wolfe

Please remember the following in your prayers: Pam, Betty Ann Waidell, Walter Weston, Forrest, Steve Ristila, Christine Zimmerman, Eddie Smith, George Weaver, Jan McRoberts, and all our members who are homebound.

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

Welcome!!

Parish office phone number and fax is 570-668-2180.

Parish office email address is <u>zionlcof@verizon.net</u>

Parish website is www.ziontamaqua.com

Parish Office Hours- Monday & Wednesday: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm Tuesday & Thursday: 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Zion's 2024 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 Fritzinger, 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.

This Week in Our Church

SUNDAY, November 30, 2025, The 1st Sunday in Advent

9:00 The Service of Word & Sacrament

10:30 Advent Breakfast

WEDNESDAY

7:00 Senior Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY

9:00 Blessings Thrift Store

SATURDAY

9:00 Blessings Thrift Store

6:00 Saturday Evening Worship

SUNDAY, December 7, 2025, The 2nd Sunday in Advent

9:00 The Service of Word & Sacrament

10:15 Annual Fiscal Meeting

10:15 Christian Education

11:00 Confirmation Class

Supporting Zion's Ministries

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

Received 11/16/25 in support of Zion Ministries:

From our gifts \$2,657.00

From Thrift Store \$0.00 From Endowment (other) \$0.00

From Culinary \$0.00

Received for Endowment: \$0.00 Received for Capital Campaign: \$814.00

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

From Offering/gifts/memorials: \$120,034.89
From Thrift Store: \$7,240.30*
From Endowment: \$22,905.00
From Culinary: \$15,280.00

Year-to-date total for Zion's mission/ministries: \$165,460.19

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.

^{*} Thrift Store donates half of income to Outreach total income - \$14.480.60

Upcoming Events

November 30 – 1st Sunday in Advent/ Advent Breakfast

December 5 & 6 – Blessings Thrift Store

December 7 – Annual Fiscal Meeting

December 11 – Hoagie Sale

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 and 9:00 pm

January 1 – New Year Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner

Zion's Blessings Thrift Shop is on Friday, December 5th from 9 am to 5 pm and Saturday, December 6th from 9 am to 2 pm. The sale features gently used clothing for all ages, toys, books, and general household items. Come take a look! Limited Take-Out Menu. Thank you all for your continued support!

Culinary Hoagie Sale December 11th - deadline to order is December 7th - Regular Hoagies are \$8 each. Pick up is from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm and 5:30 — 6:45 pm. Order at https://www.ziontamaqua.com or by calling 570-668-4451. Thank you for your support!!

Reminder: If you have sponsored Altar Flowers or Candles, please fill out the sponsorship information forms next to the sign-up sheets. Please do not put your sponsorship information on the sign-up sheet. 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.

Sunday Church Advent Breakfast today from 10:30 am to 12:00 Noon. A Time of Fellowship – Join us as we begin the Advent season with a special breakfast hosted by the Culinary Crew. Menu: Scrambled eggs, sausage or bacon, and toast. A free will offering will be accepted. Hope to see you there!

CHRISTMAS 2025 - Christmas poinsettia plants will decorate the Church on Christmas Eve. Plants ordered through the church office are \$10.00. December 8th is the last day to order your plants. This is a firm deadline; no orders will be taken after that date. Order forms are available by the bulletin board. Please return the form with all monies no later than December 8, 2025; all checks should be made out to Zion Evangelical Church. All Plants and Monetary Christmas memorial gifts will be listed in the handout on Christmas Eve. Monetary gifts should be in the church office NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 15th.

Annual Fiscal Meeting Announcement - The Annual Fiscal Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2025 immediately following the service. The agenda items will be restricted to the establishment of a 2026 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 will be available in the Gathering room.

