



The Herald

September 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.

Thank you for all the kind thoughts, cards and prayers as I continue to heal from surgery. I plan to be back for the services on the weekend of September 6th and 7th.

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 Construction Update: The work on the tower and gable is now well underway. The crew has made significant progress in the last month and is now beginning the repointing and restoration work. While we aren't able to provide a definite completion date, as that can change based on weather conditions, it looks like mid-October is a reasonable estimate. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you, Brian Lawfer, Acting Property Committee Chair

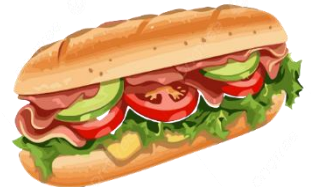


Zion's Blessings Thrift Shop sale is on Friday, September 5th from 9 am to 5 pm. The sale features gently used clothing for all ages, toys, books, and general household items. Come take a look! Limited Take-Out Menu. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE DONATIONS OUTSIDE BY THE HANDICAP ENTRANCE.** Thank you all for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



God's Work, Our Hands will be Sunday, September 7, 2025 at 12:00 noon. How will you participate this year? Zion is planning three ways: (1) Do something for the church; (2) Do something for Zion members who need help; and (3) Do something for the community. If you do not wish to participate in one of these organized activities, you are encouraged to do something for someone else. Signup sheets are available in the Gathering Room.

Culinary Hoagie Sale September 11th - deadline to order is September 7th - 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!!



Choir rehearsals will begin on Thursday, September 4th at 7:00 PM. Anyone who enjoys singing is welcome to join us. We hope to see you there! Thanks, Sandy



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

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

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.



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

Christian Education News

FALL CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 21, 2025!

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Sunday School begins on September 21, 2025. Sunday School follows our Morning Worship Service from 10:15 – 11:00 am. While we don't have attendance "requirements" for children in Sunday school, it is important to send your child(ren) as often as possible. While we understand the children are involved with other commitments, the lessons taught in Sunday School are essential in preparing them for their Catechetical education. (Confirmation).

CONFIRMATION - Confirmation begins on September 21st from 11:00 am -12:30 pm. Students entering 7th grade (or above) are eligible to begin Confirmation. The program is a 2 year period of study which prepares the student to affirm their baptismal covenant, and take over responsibility for their faith journey. The program is flexible and is spread over two years to ensure even if minimal time is missed, the student is prepared to accept this responsibility.

FIRST COMMUNION - Classes are held on three Sunday mornings: Sunday, November 2, 9, & 16, from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm. Children who are in 5th grade or older and who have been baptized (or who would like to be baptized) are eligible for First Holy Communion. A parent or relative who is a member of Zion Lutheran Church is required to accompany them to classes and worship. First Communion is scheduled for Sunday, November 23, 2025, during the 9:00 am worship service. Parents, please register your child (ren) now by calling 570-668-2180.

Registration forms for all educational opportunities are on the Gathering Room table. Questions & requests for additional information can be directed to zionlutheraneducation@gmail.com



Harvest Home will be celebrated on Saturday October 11th at 6:00 pm and Sunday, October 12th at 9:00 am. Your gifts of non-perishable items will help stock Zion's Pantry serving our neighbors on Dutch Hill. Please bring items as soon as possible. There is a table set up in the gathering room for them. Thank you for your generosity.

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



Celebration of Baptisms



✠ Bryson Allen Linkhorst, son of Derek and Amber (Heffelfinger) Linkhorst, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism during our Sunday morning worship service on July 20, 2025. Bryson's Godparents are Derek and Amber Hill.

✠ Evan Gregory Slick, son of Desiree Schuler and Andrew Slick, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism during our Sunday morning worship service on August 3, 2025. Evan's Godparents are Shannon Zellner and Bryn Zellner.

✠ Kole Everett Hill, son of Derek and Amber (Linkhorst) Hill, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism during our Sunday morning worship service on August 31, 2025. Kole's Godparents are Derek and Amber Linkhorst.

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

Please welcome our new members Andrew Slick, Desiree Schuler, Izabella Schuler, Zaidyn Schuler, Evan Slick, Jessica Thomas and Shawn Schuler. They were received into membership on June 15, 2025. May they be blessed by their commitment to God and their participation in this faith family.



**We extend our Christian Love and Sympathy to the
family and friends of:**

Nancy Kabana, who passed away on May 28, 2025

We ask God to comfort the family at this time.

Please keep them in your prayers.

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.



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.

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 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.

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
Christian Education - 10:15 am
Confirmation - 11:00 am

DEADLINE: All information for the **October 2025 issue of the "Herald"** is due at the church office no later than **Monday, September 22, 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
NORTHEASTERN 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 & Thursday
8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Please use door located on
Mauch
Chunk Street, ring bell

Psalms 25:5
Lead me in your
truth and teach me,
for you are the God
of my salvation; for
you I wait all day
long.



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 zionlcof@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.

June/ July/ August Memorials

GIFTS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

THE ALTAR CANDLES are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of family and friends by Gerry Zeigler

In honor of the July birthdays of Mike, Ollie and Noah's 5th and in loving memory of Pap by Mike & Kathy Miller

In loving memory of her parents, Arlington & Yustina Hawk by Dave & Darlene Fetterman

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and

In honor of our 41st anniversary by Brian and Karen Costenbader

In loving memory of my father, James B. White Jr. by Pastor Cindy

In honor of our second wedding anniversary by Mr. and Mrs. Jay Hollenbach Sr.

In Thanksgiving for a fun and spirit filled Vacation Bible School by Pastor Cindy

In loving memory of my dad, James B. White Jr. by Pastor Cindy

In loving memory of Arbutus "Beauty" White- Hargis by George and Mary Ruth Taylor

In honor of Evan's Baptism and in loving memory of Sierra Rose Thomas by the Thomas Family

In loving memory of my brother, Carl Gerber by sister, Marlene McLaughlin & family

In loving memory of Jean Derr for her 100th birthday by daughter and son-in-law, Arlene and Carter Davison.

In honor of my loving wife, Sharon Connely on our 55th wedding anniversary by her husband, Art.

With love for all the children returning to school by Pastor Cindy.

THE BULLETINS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of his mother, Gayle Hadesty on her birthday June 27th by David and Ann Marie Hadesty and family

In loving memory of my sister, Audrey Ferris Drake on her July 7th birthday by Sandy Scott

In loving memory of my father, Clair Gerber, given by daughter Marlene McLaughlin & family

In loving memory of my father's birthday on August 2nd by David & Ann Marie Hadesty & family

In honor of the August 13th birthday of grandson, Sam Smolar by Denise I. Smolar

In loving memory of John & Fern Woodring whose 79th Wedding Anniversary was August 16th by children, Ray, Bob, Shelly, and Jimmy

In loving memory of Shayne Titus Livingston by his family.

In honor of my mother's 89th birthday and in loving memory of my mother-in-law's birthday both on August 30th by Roxanne Harvilla.

FATHER'S DAY GIFTS are given to the Glory of God

In loving memory of his father, Rucker Fisher and her father, Warren Schaeffer by Robert Fisher

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

In loving memory of Ralph Derr by Bob & Gail Jones

In honor of the June 9th birthday of George Taylor by Mary Ruth, Brandon, Neha and Michael

In loving memory of my father, Hubert Becker's birthday on June 29th by Bonnie Painter

In loving memory of Margaret Clark by Mr. & Mrs. Joe Mehalko

In loving memory of Tom Hewitt by Mr. & Mrs. Joe Mehalko

HELPING HAND FUND DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of the June 18th birthday of Charles "Chunky" Schissler by Marlene & Barry McLaughlin & sons

CURRENT FUND DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of her parents, Carl & Mary Koch and Aunt Bernice & Uncle George Althoff on May 22nd for their wedding anniversary by John, Carol, Jeff and Johnny

In loving memory of my husband, John Haldeman on what would have been our 50 years together in Holy Matrimony on June 7th by his wife, Sharon with love always in my heart

In loving memory of Ralph Derr by Dave and Darlene Fetterman

In honor of family and friends by John, Carol, Jeff and Johnny

In loving memory of our father's, Carl W. Koch Sr. & Leo Dietrich on Father's Day by John & Carol Dietrich

In loving memory of Ralph Derr by Sandy Scott

In loving memory of Charles Klingaman on his birthday with love by wife, Cathy & daughter, Valerie

In loving memory of Dorothy Rother Epler for her heavenly birthday August 15th by daughters Frances, Joan & Carol

SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In honor of the 2025 graduates

ORGAN FUND DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In honor of all 2025 graduates by John & Carol Dietrich and family

In loving memory of Tom Hewitt by Glenn & Lorie Fritzinger

In honor of all those who provide special music with their voices throughout the summer during our Sunday worship services and in honor of Sandy Mehalko, our Worship & Music Director, who provides us with beautiful music on our magnificent pipe organ through her many years of service here at Zion. Thank you with God's blessing to all! By Sharon Haldeman

IMPROVEMENT FUND DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of family & friends by John & Carol Dietrich



**DO NOT PUT BOXES OR BAGS
ON THE HANDICAPPED RAMP**

**CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE
AT 570-668-2180 OR
GREEN DROP AT 888-944-3767**

THANK YOU-ZION OUTREACH



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Spirit-Led Summers at Bear Creek Camp

Written by: Stacey Burke, Communications and BCC NEPA Synod Representative

"I'm always struck by the simple but profound technologies that camp employs to build healthy, loving, Christ-centered community: silly songs and deep conversations, skits and games, shared meals and rituals." These words from Pastor Inge Williams of Friedens Lutheran in Shartlesville, a 2025 summer chaplain at Bear Creek Camp, reflect the deep joy and quiet transformation that unfold in the woods each season.

All Together was the theme this summer, focusing on growing stronger through love and service, grace-filled faith, and belonging and community. Pastor Inge witnessed this connection firsthand early in the summer when she served as one of the camp chaplains during Family Camp. Pastor Inge shared, "On one of the first nights, I saw one of the former youth Synod Council representatives, now serving as a counselor this summer, give a high five to a toddler from Ireland who was running all over the field during a kickball game. The kindness and connection across ages, and even international borders, really exemplified what Family Camp is about."



While chapel time and worship services are typically led by the young adult summer staff, camp chaplains provide spiritual support throughout the week, leading devotions and Bible studies for campers and staff. They offer encouragement, listening ears, and join in the fun that camp has to offer. Throughout the summer, three Northeastern PA Synod pastors brought their time, energy, and Spirit-led presence to Bear Creek Camp as chaplains. Pastor Inge Williams and Pastor Jennifer Heavner of Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church served during Family Camp, while Pastor Liz Koerner of St. John Lutheran in Stroudsburg closed out the season as chaplain during the final week.

The partnership with Bear Creek Camp, shared with the Southeastern PA Synod, is especially meaningful to our synod, as the values of camp and synod closely align. Both are deeply committed to building relationships and belonging across congregations, generations, and diverse communities. As synod, we continue to search for ways to raise leaders who serve with compassion, creativity, and courage in the church and the world, which is why our partnership with Bear Creek Camp is so important. It is prioritizing youth and allowing them space to search for ways to serve others as a natural response to God's love.

Serving others was the theme of one of Pastor Liz's Bible studies during her week as chaplain. When she met with the Junior campers (grades 2–4), she asked how they might take the ways they serve others at camp and apply them at home and in their school communities. Helping others at camp can seem second nature, especially after a full week of being together. However, campers are not only learning how to be kind to one another. They are learning life skills that will stay with them long after the week ends.

Throughout the week, they are learning how to be confident and independent through overnight tent camping experiences. They are learning about teamwork and communication as they encourage each other on high rope activities. They grow spiritually through the guidance of our chaplains, who are a daily presence within the camp schedule and help shape campers' understanding of faith and their connection to God.

We are extremely grateful for the passion and dedication of Pastor Inge, Pastor Jennifer, and Pastor Liz, who devoted their time this past summer, and for the ongoing work of Bear Creek Camp as it builds inclusive community, nurtures faith, and develops leaders who carry their experiences into the world with empathy, joy, and purpose. This certainly could not be accomplished without the hardworking, compassionate summer staff and the leadership of Executive Director Collin Grooms, Program Director Kallie Handlong, and all the other camp leaders who contribute and put youth first.

Camp doesn't end when the summer does. In addition to summer camp, Bear Creek Camp offers retreats and camps outside of the summer timeframe including the upcoming Labor Day Family Camp, Fall Women's Retreat, and Winter Camp. The camp is also open to hosting congregations, committees, or organizational retreats through their facility rentals. All this information and more can be found at bearcreekcamp.org. All together, Bear Creek Camp and our synod continue to walk hand in hand, creating space for love, service, and faith to flourish in every season.



DID YOU KNOW that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod like this one and many other important initiatives? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod's lanes of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the directions of loving like Jesus, healing like Jesus, and engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit godslove.org/missionsupport. Looking to give to Bear Creek Camp directly? Visit bearcreekcamp.org

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

5K TRAIL RUN & WALK
@BEAR CREEK CAMP
9/27/25
BECOME A SPONSOR!

THROUGH THE WOODS

bearcreekcamp.org/5k

This family-friendly BCC event is open to all ages, and every step you take helps support our amazing campers.

**Make an Even BIGGER Difference
by Becoming a 5K Sponsor!**

Whether you're a business, family, or individual, your tax-exempt gift directly supports our camp programming and resources.

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 N. Greenwood Street

Tamaqua, PA 18252

Return Service Requested

This Newsletter was prepared
Especially for:



*September 2025
Newsletter*