



*The
Herald*

December 2023/ January 2024

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.*

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a child is given” Isaiah 9:6



Beloved friends and families of Zion,

These are the words we hear sung from Handel’s Messiah. What a magnificent gift to hear the prophet’s proclamation in perfect harmony. How are we singing our songs this Advent season and for the new year. I find it particularly fitting that the first candle for advent represents HOPE. There is so much turmoil in our world as I write to you. I need to remind you that God keeps God’s promises. Our triune God is in, with and under each and every one of us every day. Let us be particularly intentional about sharing HOPE and healing now and throughout the new year. Bringing God’s Kingdom to earth is a daily gift that WE can offer all of God’s creation. I cannot imagine a better way to honor the birth of Jesus. Our Lord comes amidst the turmoil of his time. It was then and is now **THE GIFT** that changes the world. Let us strive to follow this precious child’s perfect example of Love, compassion, and kindness. It is amazing what we can accomplish in Christ’s name, when we do so in fellowship and sense of purpose. Please be a part of every service that we offer here. Let’s continue to challenge ourselves to continue to serve God in every way we can. Our country and world are weeping for renewal. Each one of us is an integral part of the fabric of intricacy we call life. YOU are a part of the collective spirit of HOPE and Joy that we have in the Lord, here at Zion and abroad. Let us awaken to the peace and anticipation that Advent brings. Come and **sing a joyful noise** with us for our Christmas services. (and every week) We’ve so much to be thankful for.

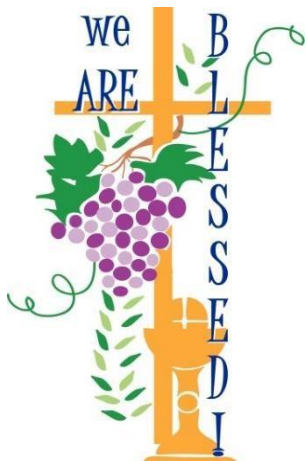
May God grant us all good health and peace that passes all understanding, as we continue to serve God with our whole hearts.

With love and gratitude,
Pastor Cindy

*and family...Corinne & Connor, Corinne & Alec, Makayla & Colin, Hardy & Gabriel.

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.

1st Holy Communion



This year 6 young people have participated in the preparatory classes for First Holy Communion. They received their first Sacrament of Holy Communion on November 26, 2023.

Skylar Ansbach Darvin Faust
Gabriella Goho Belle Hascin
Hudson Henritzky Thaddeus Matalavage

May you always know the peace of Jesus, the light of his love, and the joy of his life within you.



Happy New Year 2024 - Zion will host a Community Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner New Year's Day, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm or when all dinners are given out. Dinners will be served take-out only. Interested people can order a dinner beginning December 8. Orders can be placed at the Saturday night and Sunday services or by calling Mary Ruth at 570-668-4451. Watch the Zion webpage and Facebook to order dinners online. A Free will offering will be accepted. Everyone Welcome!!



Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

You are invited to join us for our Christmas Eve services on Sunday, December 24, 2023 at 4:00 pm & 9:00 pm. Both services will include the Liturgy of Word and Sacrament, Carols, Prayer and Candlelight. Please join us for the observance of the Nativity of Our Lord.

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

A REMINDER FROM THE TREASURER AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY...

The financial books of Zion will close on

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Remember, All contributions RECEIVED after that date will be credited to your
2024 financial statements

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



Zion's Blessings Thrift Shop sale is on Friday, December 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. Thank you all for your continued support!



Annual Fiscal Meeting Announcement - The Annual Fiscal Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 3, 2023 immediately following the service. The agenda items will be restricted to the establishment of a 2024 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.

Altar Flower and Candle Sponsors are needed for 2024 - The Altar Flower and Candle Sponsor list for 2024 is on the bulletin board. The cost of the flowers are \$42.40, and individuals will be billed from the florist. 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. Thanks to a generous donation the bulletins have been sponsored for 2024. Thank you in advance!



Kiva Re-lending Loans: We started Kiva in September 2007 with a \$25 loan. Each person lends \$25 to individuals to start or continue a business. The money paid back is lent again. So far to date we have 64 loans in 32 countries for a total amount lent of \$1,670. Zion has touched many people's lives with this Outreach.



Upcoming Events

December 3 – Church Advent Breakfast

December 3 – Annual Fiscal Meeting

December 7 – Hoagie Sale

December 10 – Family Christmas Palooza

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service 4:00 & 9:00 pm

January 1 – New Year’s Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner

Attention Committees:



All committee chairpersons are reminded to submit a report outlining the activities of your committee in 2023 for the annual report. These reports are to be submitted to the church office no later than January 8, 2024. You can e-mail the church office at zionlcof@verizon.net or stop by the office. Thank you for your co-operation.

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)

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.



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

Celebration of Baptism - Please welcome Atlas Isaac Weikel, son of Audrey Rehnert and Kaeleb Weikel, as a member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. Atlas's Godparents are Francene and Brian Gulla. He will receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism during our Saturday, November 18th worship service.

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



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

*Marlin Tirpak, who passed away on November 15, 2023.
Carol Ann Moyer, who passed on November 23, 2023.*

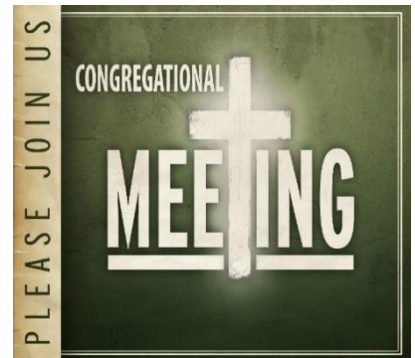
*We ask God to comfort the family at this time.
Please keep them in your prayers.*

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



Please note that the church office will be closed December 25th and January 1st. If you are in need of assistance please leave a message, the answering machine will be checked periodically. Thank You!

Our ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held Sunday, February 11, 2024, following the 9:00 am Service. Our agenda will consist of the approval of the 2023 Annual reports for all committees and organizations. As always, we encourage all members to attend this meeting as a quorum needs to be met.



Our Blessing Thrift Store will be closed January and February 2024 and will resume March 1, 2024. We would like to thank all the people that helped make this Outreach a success from the generosity of the donations that we receive, to the helpers who organize the goods, and the people who bake and donate food items. Please keep this Outreach in your prayers. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE DONATIONS OUTSIDE BY THE HANDICAP ENTRANCE.** Thank you, Outreach Committee

The November 3rd Thrift store collected \$2,585.00 This amount will be split between Current and Outreach. Thank you for your continued support!!



Sunday Church Advent Breakfast

December 3, 2023

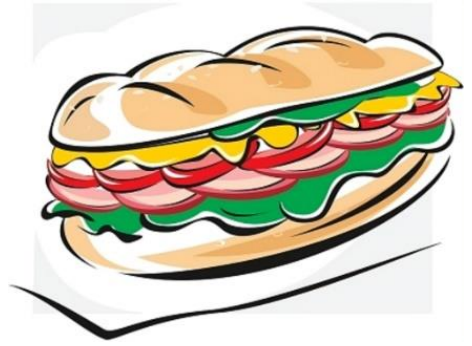
10:30 AM TO 12:00 Noon



TO BEGIN THE ADVENT SEASON CULINARY WILL BE HOSTING A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP ADVENT BREAKFAST. MENU: SCRAMBLED EGGS, SAUSAGE OR BACON, AND TOAST. A FREE-WILL OFFERING WILL BE ACCEPTED.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Hoagie sale - The Culinary Team is holding a hoagie sale. Regular Hoagies are \$7 each. Order by December 3rd, at <https://www.ziontamaqua.com> or by calling 570-668-4451. Pick up is Thursday, December 7th from noon until 3:00 pm. Thank you for your support!!



Family Christmas Palooza

Sunday, December 10, 2023

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Come enjoy crafts, candy making, Christmas card making and movies. Make your own sundaes and other refreshments. Santa will make an appearance. Lots of photo opportunities. Children of all ages are welcome as well as those who are young at heart. Please Call Deb Davies at 570-778-2731 to register.



Zion's 2023 Church Council officers: Michael Haspe, President, Brian Lawfer, Vice-President, Ernie Henritzky, Secretary, Dave Gensure, Treasurer, and Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary. Other members of Council include: Judy Brennan, Arlene Derr, Glenn Fritzing, Carol Hartung, Darien Moyer, Kailey Richards, 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..

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 – 5:30 pm
Sundays
Worship – 9:00 am
Christian Education – 10:15 am

DEADLINE: All information for the **February 2024 issue of the "Herald"** is due at the church office no later than **Monday, January 22, 2024.** You may e-mail your information to zioncof@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.



Office Hours ~
Monday & Wednesday
12:00 – 5:00 pm
Tuesday & Thursday
8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Pastor's Office Hours ~
Wednesday
11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Please use door located on Mauch
Chunk Street, ring bell

Luke 2:10-11

But the angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid; for see — I
am bringing you good news
of great joy for all the
people: to you is born this
day in the city of David a
Savior, who is the Messiah,
the Lord.



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!

Keep saving your Redner's receipts and put them in the container in the Gathering room or mail them to the church office. Please note if you are turning in Redner's receipts please do not cut off the Save a tape portion of the receipt, this makes it invalid and we cannot turn them in, 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

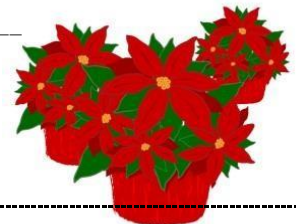
church clean This is a great opportunity to serve your church. The hours are flexible and there's lots of great fellowship involved. Please contact any member of the Property Committee or Cleaning Sexton Kim Eckert or Parish Administrator Melody Gensure.

CHRISTMAS 2023

POINSETTIA PLANTS and MEMORIAL GIFTS

Christmas poinsettia plants will decorate the Church on Christmas Eve. Plants ordered through the church office are \$9.00. December 11th is the last day to order your plants. **This is a firm deadline; no orders will be taken after that date.** Please return the bottom of this form with all monies no later than December 11, 2023; 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 18th**. **PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW** and return it to the church office, be sure to indicate whether monetary gifts go to **Endowment fund, Current fund, Cemetery, Fuel, Capital Campaign** or towards the candles that decorate the sanctuary. Extra order forms are available by the bulletin Board.

IN MEMORY OF _____	
BY _____	
POINSETTIA (\$9.00)	MONETARY GIFT TO: Amount: _____
____ Red @ \$9.00	____ Current ____ Endowment
	____ Cemetery ____ Fuel
_____ Total	____ Candles ____ Capital Campaign
SIGNATURE _____	
PHONE NUMBER _____	



November Memorials

GIFTS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

THE ALTAR CANDLES are given to the *Glory of God* and

In loving memory of loved ones and Zion's faithfully departed by Ross and Mary Kay Davis

In loving memory and in honor of all who faithfully serve our God and Country by Ross and Mary Kay Davis

In honor of the First Communicants and their Zion family by Ross and Mary Kay Davis

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the *Glory of God* and

In honor of the 87th birthday of Janis Beidleman by Brian and Karen Costenbader

In honor of their wedding anniversary by Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ristila

In Thanksgiving of faith, family, and friends by Ross and Mary Kay Davis

In loving memory of her sister, Joyce Olencki on her November 20th birthday by Fern Rudenko

In loving memory of the birthday of my grandmother, Anna by Gerry Zeigler

THE BULLETINS are given to the *Glory of God* and

In loving memory of Tom & Ardith Shea by Andy & Lori Ryan

In loving memory of Tom & Ardith Shea by Andy & Lori Ryan

In loving memory of the November 20th birthday of my gram Springer by Sonia Kim Brode

In loving memory of James and Kathleen Valentine by Mark & Charlene Valentine

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

In loving memory of the Kemner family by Jon Hebert

In loving memory of our dear mother and grandmother, Mary L. Koch by Carol, John, Jeff and Johnny

In honor of the 21st birthday of Nicholas Wall on November 7th, by Gram & Pap (Louise & Dave Schock)

In loving memory of Charles Linkhorst by Jean Oprindick (Jaime & Nick Montecavlo's grandmother)

In loving memory of Allen Mace by James & Sally Beck

In honor of our son, John B. Dietrich, on his November 22nd birthday by Dad & Carol

In loving memory of Marlin Tirpak by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mehalko

In loving memory of Marlin Tirpak by Dave & Darlene Fetterman

In loving memory of Marlin Tirpak by Ann Marie & David Hadesty

In loving memory of Marlin Tirpak by Sharon Haldeman

In loving memory of Marlin Tirpak by Melody & Dave Gensure

In loving memory of my dearest friend & companion Elaine Metzger by Jon Hebert

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

In loving memory of Jane & Eugene Springer love, Judy & Sonia

In loving memory of Dolores Guis by Judy

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

In honor of Skylar Ansbach's 1st Holy Communion Love, Nan

In loving memory of Marlin Tirpak by Mark & Charlene Valentine

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

In honor of Charlotte Ford's 2nd birthday by Martha Zellner

Congratulations Eagle Scout Thomas Graham!

We're all very proud of you.

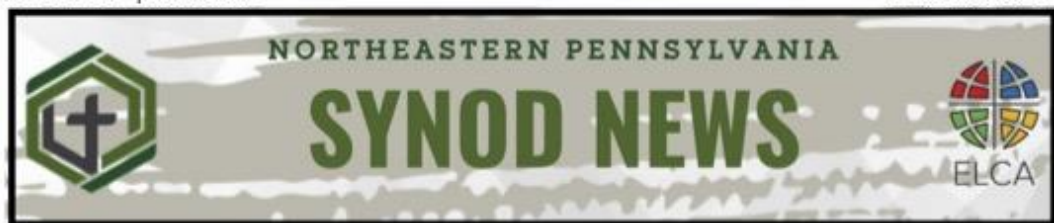


We saw you at the Christmas ornament making event on November 19th hosted by Congregational Life. Great refreshments by Ells Davis.



Jack O Lantern Jamboree - October 29, 2023





Young Adult in Global Mission: A Year in Senegal

Asalaa maalekum. May God's peace be upon you.

My name is Quentin Bernhard. I recently served with the ELCA program Young Adults in Global Mission—YAGM—in Senegal. My time with YAGM came to an end in July, and Senegal country cohort peers and I returned to the United States. We are among the 23 young adults from the 2022-2023 year who served in accompaniment in four different country programs.

I live in New Tripoli in Lehigh County, and I'm a member of New Life Lutheran Church in New Tripoli. Many individuals and congregations from our synod supported me in my YAGM year. Thank you for your support of my time in Senegal and for the opportunity to be in continuing relationship after my time abroad.

My coming to the United States, to the communities I grew up in in Pennsylvania, was also my leaving a community I grew in—a community I grew in as a Lutheran and as a young person, one I have good friends in. I lived in Yeumbeul Bene Baraque, in western Senegal, for ten months. I lived with a host family in a community. I saw friends every day, many when at my placement site. Connected with our partner organization Senegalese Lutheran Development Services—SLDS—I worked in a community center that serves the community in numerous ways, splitting my time between the library and the mutual fund credit union.

My friends and family in Senegal continue to send me voice messages, reminding me that I am also Maguette Ndiaye, my Senegalese name, and reminding me that we are still connected, even if connected in a different way now. Our relationships and our future—all of our future—is unknown to us. Our faith—and our trust in one another—can allow us to take steps and leaps in that future.

Quentin Bernhard

FINDING HOLY FOCUS IN HUNGERING TIMES

BISHOP'S CONFERENCE 2024

FEBRUARY 6-7, 2024

REGISTER
NOW!

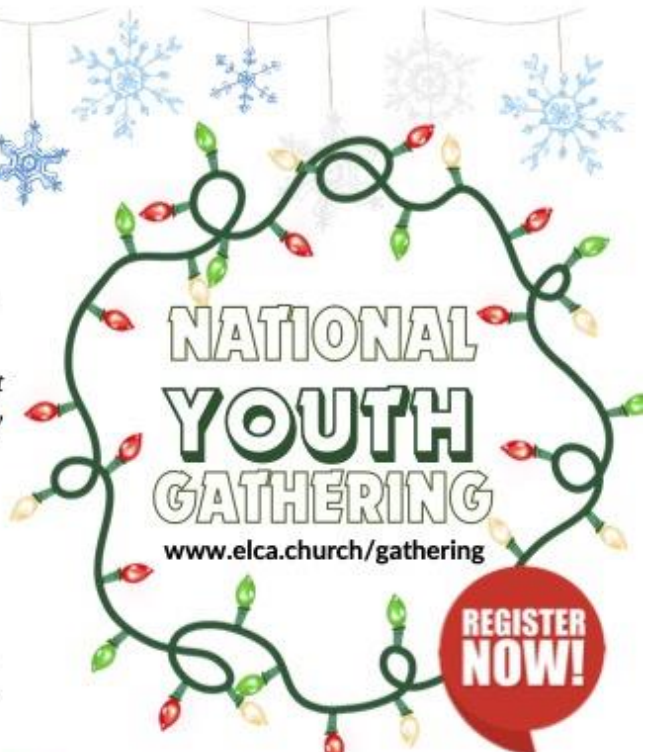
PRESENTED BY:
NEPA SYNOD

**FOR ALL ROSTERED LEADERS AND SYNOD AUTHORIZED LAY MINISTERS

God of Goodness, We give you praise for the ordinariness of Christmas - that the day comes the same as any other day. We give you praise that there is no sign in the heavens, and no bright star but the light of your presence in the ordinary birth of the child. We give you praise that unobtrusively you are in the center of human affairs, involved in the struggle of life, and sharing human experience.

We give you praise that out of compassion you take our part, and open to us a new way of life. We pray that this day we shall be able to see its true glory."

— Caryl Micklem





O HOLY NIGHT

A D N H P W P J Q B T G F F S Q V
Y D M Q M I A A S T A R R L G F R
F X F A G R D O N K E Y A S Q L J
F S B U G S A V I O R M N F W U W
H H E A X W I X H Z I E K J A C B
E E T M B Y J R S N M V I N Z X I
M P H I N Y R O A E H H N U G L B
I H L B K Y P G S Z B N C Z O Q J
W E E Z M Z N I M E U Q E X L M E
K R H I M Z W F M E P S N P D N S
Z D E R A S K T A B A H S L D Y U
G N M Q J J J S N Y I A E S R V S
V A N F Q F A T G F T G I A Z T X
N J C U R Z Z X E U N O M N G L Z
B K Y M W I H F R A P E A C E G W

ANGEL
ANIMALS
BABY
BETHLEHEM
DONKEY
FRANKINCENSE

GIFTS
GOLD
JESUS
JOSEPH
MANGER
MARY

MYRRH
PEACE
SAVIOR
SHEPHERD
STAR
WISE MEN



ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
101 N. Greenwood Street
Tamaqua, PA 18252

Return Service Requested

This Newsletter was prepared
Especially for:



***December 2023/
January 2024
Newsletter***