

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 of Advent

December 1, 2024 ~ 9:00 am

The Liturgy of Word and Sacrament

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

**Congregation please stand*

The Pre-service Music

~ The Gathering ~

*** The Confession and Forgiveness**

BLESSED BE THE HOLY TRINITY, † ONE GOD, ALIVE IN THE WORLD, REVIVING CREATION, ARRIVING SOON.

Amen.

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

Please kneel if able.

GOD OF MERCY,

we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

GOD OF MIGHT,

we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

GOD IN OUR MIDST,

we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A RIGHTEOUS BRANCH SPRINGS FORTH: IT IS CHRIST THE LORD, OUR SAVIOR, IN WHOM WE HAVE FORGIVENESS, LIFE, AND MERCY. BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, RECEIVE THE GRACE AND FORGIVENESS OF GOD THROUGH † CHRIST JESUS, WHOSE DAY DRAWS NEAR.

Amen.

*** The Gathering Hymn**

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

No. 25

*** 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 alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

~The Word~

The First Lesson Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

(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.**

PRAISE TO YOU, O GOD, OUR SALVATION WHO IS NEAR. YOU HOLD US IN OUR WAITING AND KEEP US AWAKE TO THE WORLD. YOU SHOW UP IN OUR LIVES AT UNEXPECTED TIMES. BLESS US AS WE LIGHT THIS CANDLE TO KEEP VIGIL FOR YOUR ARRIVAL. WE TRUST THAT EVEN THOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW THE DAY OR THE HOUR, YOU HURRY TO GATHER ALL PEOPLE TO YOUR PEACE.

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 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy’s report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

(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. Luke 21:25-36**

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

(Before the Gospel)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE THE 21ST 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 Reception of New Members~

Introduction of New Members: Tyler, Kaitlyn & Dillon Sherman & Lacy & Lincoln Redcay

DEAR FRIENDS, WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE GIFT OF BAPTISM AND FOR THESE PEOPLE, ONE WITH US IN THE BODY OF CHRIST, WHOM WE WELCOME AS NEW MEMBERS INTO THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THIS CONGREGATION.

* **The Apostles' Creed**

WITH THE WHOLE CHURCH, LET US CONFESS OUR FAITH.

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

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

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

Address and Questions

IN BAPTISM, WE ARE WELCOMED INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST AND SENT TO SHARE IN THE MISSION OF GOD. WE ARE CALLED TO LIVE AMONG GOD'S FAITHFUL PEOPLE, TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD AND SHARE IN THE LORD'S SUPPER, TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD IN CHRIST THROUGH WORD AND DEED, TO SERVE ALL PEOPLE, FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS, AND TO STRIVE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE IN ALL THE EARTH.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST, DO YOU INTEND TO CONTINUE IN THE COVENANT OF YOUR BAPTISM AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE IN THIS PLACE?

(New members) **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

PEOPLE OF GOD, DO YOU PROMISE TO SUPPORT AND PRAY FOR THESE NEW MEMBERS IN THEIR LIFE IN CHRIST?

(Congregation) **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Welcome

LET US WELCOME THESE NEW BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST TO THIS COMMUNITY OF FAITH.

(Congregation) **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

*** The Prayers of Intercession**

AS WE PREPARE FOR EMMANUEL, GOD-WITH-US, LET US PRAY FOR ALL PEOPLE AND PLACES THAT LONG FOR GOD'S PRESENCE.

A brief silence.

GOD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, YOUR PEOPLE LIVE IN HOPEFUL EXPECTATION OF YOUR COMING. FILL YOUR CHURCH WITH RENEWED PASSION FOR OUR SHARED MISSION, AND DEEPEN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS AND OTHER FAITH TRADITIONS IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY AND ACROSS THE WORLD. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY,

receive our prayer.

GOD OF THE COSMOS, ALL CREATION SHOWS THAT YOUR PRESENCE IS NEAR. HELP US SENSE YOUR GOODNESS AND LOVE IN THE SUN AND MOON, IN SPROUTING LEAVES AND BARE BRANCHES, IN THE ROARING SEA AND QUIET BREEZE. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY,

receive our prayer.

GOD OF THE NATIONS, YOUR REIGN EXTENDS OVER ALL PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS. GIVE LEADERS AND ALL IN AUTHORITY HEARTS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE. ENCOURAGE EFFORTS TO ENACT POLICIES THAT BENEFIT THE COMMON GOOD. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY,

receive our prayer.

GOD OF CHANGE, YOU ACCOMPANY US THROUGH LIFE'S TRANSITIONS. BE NEAR TO ALL WHO ARE CHANGING JOBS, MOVING, WELCOMING CHILDREN, OR FACING THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES. SUSTAIN THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR SUFFERING ESPECIALLY JAMES, STEVE, CHRISTINE, EDDIE, GEORGE, JAN, RALPH, AND ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND. IN TIMES OF CHANGE, REMIND US OF YOUR STEADFAST LOVE. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY,

receive our prayer.

GOD OF COMMUNITY, YOUR SPIRIT HOLDS US TOGETHER. SUSTAIN OUR CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER. INSPIRE US TO SEEK NEW WAYS TO LIVE TOGETHER AND TO EMBRACE THE DIVERSITY OF THOUGHT AND IDENTITY IN OUR COMMUNITIES. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY,

receive our prayer.

GOD OF MEMORY, WE GIVE YOU THANKS FOR FAITHFUL ONES WHO HAVE DIED. TEND TO OUR GRIEF AND SORROW WITH RENEWED TRUST IN YOUR PROMISE OF ABUNDANT AND ETERNAL LIFE. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY,

receive our prayer.

GOD OF GRACE AND MERCY, (PLEASE SHARE ANY PERSONAL PRAYER PETITIONS) HEAR OUR PETITIONS THAT WE SPEAK OUT LOUD AND THE ONES THAT WE HOLD IN OUR HEARTS. LORD, IN YOUR MERCY,

receive our prayer.

SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME, AND RECEIVE THESE PRAYERS AND THE PLEAS OF OUR HEARTS, IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST.

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: CREATOR GOD, YOU MADE THE WHOLE WORLD, EVEN THE FARTHEST STARS, AND YOU DRAW NEAR TO FEED US. WE PRAISE YOU FOR THESE GIFTS OF BREAD AND WINE. STRENGTHEN US WITH THIS FOOD THAT WE MAY LIVE IN EXPECTATION FOR THE ADVENT OF YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

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.

HOLY 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, 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**

GOD FEEDS US WITH TENDER MERCY. COME TO THE TABLE.

* **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: GENEROUS GOD, WE THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF LIFE, FOR THE BREAD OF SALVATION. WE THANK YOU FOR COMING AMONG US, FOR LEADING US INTO PEACE. WE THANK YOU FOR SHOWERING US WITH MERCY, FOR SENDING US INTO THE WORLD. COME, LORD JESUS, AND GO WITH US AS WE FEED THE HUNGRY IN YOUR NAME.

Amen.

The Senior Choir Anthem “Ready, My Lord” – Lewis

~The Sending~

*** The Blessing**

GOD OF ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS, GOD IN THE DARKNESS AND THE LIGHT, GOD, OUR HOPE FOR THE JOURNEY, ✠ BLESS AND KEEP YOU NOW AND FOREVER.

(Spoken) **Amen.**

*** The Sending**

GO IN PEACE. PREPARE THE WAY FOR EMMANUEL.

Thanks be to God.

*** The Sending Hymn**

“The King Shall Come”

No. 33

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Gospel: Luke 21:25-36 - [Jesus said:] ²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

December 8, 2024 readings are: Malachi 3:1-4 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 30 – December 1, 2024

**If you need assistance, please see one of the ushers in the back of the church; Large Print Bulletins are available. Grape juice is available in the tray for those who wish not to partake of the wine. Please Silence your cell phones during service. A Family Room is available for use during or after services, located across from the office. A changing station is available for your convenience in the restroom across the hall from the Family Room. We respectfully ask that you refrain from taking photos during the service. Opportunities are always available after the service. Welcome visitors please sign our guest book. Thank you.*

GIFTS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

THE ALTAR CANDLES are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Rose Miller Smith, Robert “Pap” & Madeline “Gram” Trakes by Mike & Kathy Miller & family

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of my dad, Chico Ciccozzi & William Beltz by Sheri Beltz & family

THE BULLETINS are given to the Glory of God and

For the prosperity of our church in our hometown & community by Stacey Faust & Emily Stahler

DIAPER DEPOT DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In honor of the birthday of my granddaughter, Charlotte by Martha Zellner

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Beauty White by Scott Herring

Please remember the following in your prayers: James Bynon, Steve Ristila, Christine Zimmerman, Eddie Smith, George Weaver, Jan McRoberts, Ralph Derr, and all our members who are homebound.

Welcome!!

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

Parish office email address is zionlcof@verizon.net

Parish website is www.ziontamaqua.com

Parish Office Hours- Monday & Wednesday: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Tuesday & Thursday: 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Zion's 2024 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 Arlene Derr, Glenn Fritzinger, Thomas Graham, Carol Hartung, Amanda Hascin, Steve Ristila, Brittany Scalfani and Mary Ruth Taylor; if you have suggestions or concerns, please seek out a member of Council so that we can promptly address the needs of the congregation.

This Week in Our Church

The 2025 Candle, Altar Flower, and Bulletin sponsor sheet is available on the bulletin board.

Please fill out a form when putting your name on the list. Thank you!

SUNDAY, December 1, 2024, 1st Sunday in Advent

9:00 The Service of Word & Sacrament
10:15 Fiscal Meeting/ Advent Breakfast

THURSDAY

7:00 Senior Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY

9:00 Blessings Thrift Store
6:00 Station Square Christmas Festival

SATURDAY

6:00 Saturday Evening Worship

SUNDAY, December 8, 2024, 2nd Sunday in Advent

9:00 The Service of Word & Sacrament
10:15 Christian Education
11:00 Confirmation Class
2:00 Christmas Extravaganza

Supporting Zion's Ministries

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

Received 11/24/24 in support of Zion Ministries:

From our gifts \$2,414.55
From Thrift Store \$0.00
From Endowment (other) \$0.00

Received for Endowment: \$25.00

Received for Capital Campaign: \$583.95

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

From offering/gifts/memorials: \$135,667.76
From Thrift Store: \$8,558.38*
From Endowment: \$22,006.00
From Culinary: \$15,465.00

Year-to-date total for Zion's mission/ministries: \$181,697.14

* Thrift Store donates half of income to Outreach total income - \$17,116.76

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.

Please welcome our new members Tyler, Kaitlyn & Dillon Sherman & Lacy & Lincoln Redcay. May they be blessed by their commitment to God and their participation in this faith family.



Upcoming Events

December 1 – Church Advent Breakfast/ Annual Fiscal Meeting

December 8 – Christmas Extravaganza

December 12 – Hoagie Sale – **Canceled**

December 15 – Narcan Information Seminar 10:15 Social Hall

December 22 – Holiday Fellowship Potluck

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

January 1 – New Year Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner

Zion's Blessings Thrift Shop sale is on Friday, December 6th 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!

Donations of gallon and quart freezer bags are urgently needed for the kitchen. Please put them on the counter in the kitchen or give them to a member of culinary. Thank you for your donations!

Christmas Extravaganza, Sunday, December 8, 2024, from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. A free community program by kids, for kids. Come enjoy activities, crafts, games, make your own sundaes and other refreshments. Santa will make an appearance. Help us help others, if you are able, please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the People's Pantry. Children of all ages are welcome!

Tree of Remembrance - It's time to collect photos for the tree! Photos should be cut square and be 1.5in. x 1.5in. Photos should be placed in an envelope and placed in the Tree of Memories box in the gathering room. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Thompson at njflip62@gmail.com or by calling 570-778-2604.

Annual Fiscal Meeting Announcement - The Annual Fiscal Meeting will be held today immediately following the service. The agenda items will be restricted to the establishment of a 2025 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 are available in the Gathering room.

Sunday Church Advent Breakfast, today, from 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!

A Holiday Fellowship Potluck will be held on Sunday, December 22nd, following the morning worship service. Sign-up sheets are available in the gathering room. 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

Christmas poinsettia plants will decorate the Church on Christmas Eve. Plants ordered through the church office are \$9.00. December 9th is the last day to order your plants. Extra order forms are available by the bulletin Board or in the Newsletter.

Zion's choir has been invited to sing for the Christmas festival at Station Square. It will involve three familiar carols and Silent Night. The time is Friday, December 6, at 6:00 PM at the Station Square. We would like everyone from the congregation to please join us that evening. We will only be singing the melody to those familiar carols. No rehearsals are needed, just show up and join us to sing. Let's begin the Christmas season with this quick, joyful ministry. We hope to see you there.