



The Herald

February 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.*

The Greatest of these is Love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

Blessings for February Friends and families of Zion,

Paul's words remind us to love one another. These are exciting times for Zion. We will be deciding whether or not to continue with our next building restoration phase. One of the best ways to love God is to ensure we have a safe place to worship and conduct our ministries. Our beautiful stained-glass window in the rear of the sanctuary is experiencing rain damage. Rain is coming into the church during rainstorms and damaging the back pews. The bell tower necessitates considerable repair. I encourage you to attend our annual meeting on Sunday February 9th immediately following the 9:00 service. You will want to know the proposal for the repairs. The council and finance committee have voted to move forward with this project. We now need to hear from all of you. You need to be here in person to vote. I have no doubt that we can accomplish goals that we set for this project with prayer and God's help. I will look forward to seeing you for this important meeting.

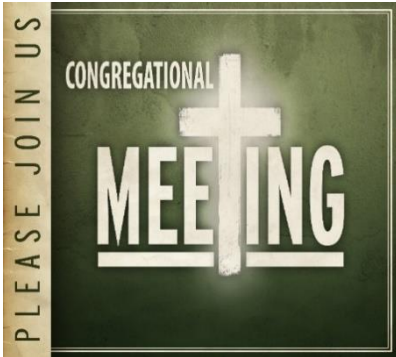
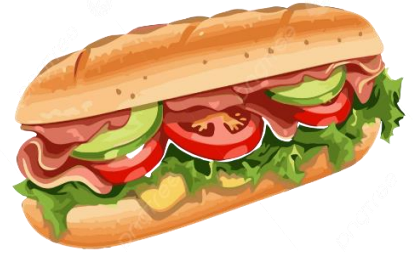


I pray that your February is filled with people that you love and affords you opportunities to share the Good News whenever you can. We have so many things to be grateful for in this congregation. Be well and safe sisters and brothers in Christ. I hope to see you soon.

I am thankful for all of you,
Sincerely,
Pastor Cindy

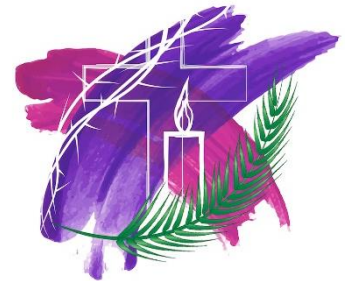
Morning Prayer on Facebook and Website: Rev. Cindy White reads a selected Bible verse and offers a brief message or song Wednesdays at 9 a.m. Individuals with specific prayer requests can email those requests to Pastor White at zionlutheranrev@gmail.com.

Hoagie Sale - The Culinary Team is holding a hoagie sale; Regular Hoagies are \$8 each. Pick up is on Saturday, February 8th from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. Order by February 2nd, at <https://www.ziontamaqua.com> or by calling 570-668-4451. Thank you for your support!!



Our ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held Sunday, February 9, 2025, following the 9:00 am Service. Our agenda will consist of the approval of the 2024 Annual reports for all committees and organizations. As always, we encourage all members to attend this meeting as a quorum needs to be met. Copies of the Annual Report are available in the Gathering Room.

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5, 2025. A worship service will be held at Zion beginning at 7:00 pm. with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes.



2024 financial statements have been mailed. The IRS requires us to only send statements to those who contributed \$75 and above. Please be advised that we will be following the IRS requirement and will send statements only to those who have contributed \$75 and above. If you did not meet the IRS requirement but would still wish to receive a statement, please contact the church office as soon as possible at 570-668-2180 or zioncof@verizon.net and a statement will be sent to you.

Our Blessing Thrift Store will be closed January and February 2025 and will resume March 7, 2025. 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



CPR Class - February 22, 2025, from 8:30-12:30.

We encourage our youth to participate. There is a Sign-up sheet in gathering room or Contact Art Connely at 570-778-7710 or Glenn Fritzinger at 484-560-8211. Deadline for sign-ups is February 16th.

Upcoming Events

February 8 – Hoagie Sale

February 9 – Annual Congregational Meeting

February 22 – CPR Class

March 2 – Lenten Bible Study

March 5 – Ash Wednesday Service

March 7 – Blessings Thrift Store



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.

Inclement Weather Policy



If we get inclement weather preceding a worship service, members of our congregation will be able to get information by doing the following:

- Check out our website at www.ziontamaqua.com and our Facebook page
- Listen to WLSH AM 1410 and WMGH FM 105.5

HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?

PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH YOUR NEW ADDRESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. When mail is returned to the church office due to an address change, the church must pay .92 cents per piece of mail returned. You can help us to eliminate this charge if you notify us when your address changes.

...Thank you for your cooperation!



Thank You to Deb Davies and Carol Dietrich for addressing the Christmas Cards that were mailed to Zion member households!



ATTENTION GRADUATING CONFIRMED ZION MEMBERS: CLASS OF 2025

Before you know it graduation will be here! Please submit a photo with information on high school graduating from, where you will be attending school or what your future plans may be, major, parents' names and how you were involved with Zion. You may submit a photo now with more information to follow later to the church office. Thank you.

Zion Lenten Fish Dinner

March 14, 28 and April 11

4:00 PM to 6:00 PM or sell-out

Adult \$13.00 – Children up to age 10 \$7.00

Take-Outs Available

Menu includes Baked Haddock, Crab Cakes or Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, Cole Slaw and Dessert.

Combinations and ala carte are not available. Dinners may be pre-ordered on the website (www.ziontamaqua.com) or by calling 570-668-4451. Deadline to order dinners is **March 11, 25 & April 8**. Walk-ins welcome. Hope to see you there!





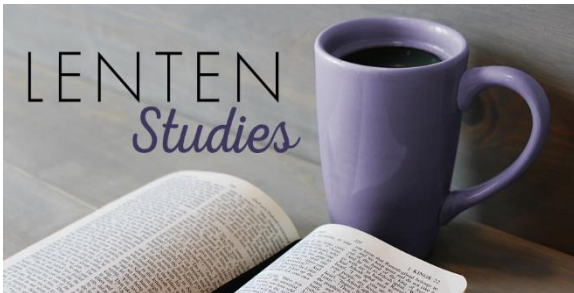
Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsors needed for 2025 - The Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsor list for 2025 is on the bulletin board. The costs of the flowers are \$42.60 and individuals will be billed from the florist. The cost of the bulletin sponsorship is \$16.00 and monies are due when you place your name on the list. 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. Thank you in advance for your sponsorship!



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

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.



Lenten Bible Study: Sunday Afternoons - March 2nd - April 6th from 12:30-2pm in the Choir Room - Join us for **"The Last Days of Jesus"** 6-Session Bible Study! From Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to His glorious resurrection, the **Last Days of Jesus** Bible study provides a fantastic overview of six major events surrounding Jesus' death and resurrection! Hosted by Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Licensed Lay Minister Candidates Michael Haspe, & Nancy Meiser. Pre-

order enough materials. Please email zionlutheraneducation@gmail.com, or sign up in the Gathering Room. We hope to see you there!

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 **March/ April 2025 issue of the "Herald"** is due at the church office no later than **Monday, February 17, 2025. Please note this is a combined issue of the newsletter.** 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.



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 94:18

When I thought,
"My foot is
slipping,"
your
steadfast love, O
LORD, held me up.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES 2025

St. John's and Zion will once again hold combined Mid-Week Lenten Services at 7:00 pm. The service will follow the Holden Evening prayer from the ELW.

You don't want to miss it. Lent is such a sacred time in the church year. Let's walk these weeks together in faith.

March 5, 2025, Ash Wednesday, Individual Services

March 12 - St. John's

March 19 - Zion

March 26 - St. John's

April 2 - Zion

April 9 - Zion

April 16 - Individual Services

If Tamaqua school district has early dismissal or cancels school, the mid-week Lenten service - is cancelled.



Easter Gifts

Easter is generally a time when gifts and memorials are presented. While we would welcome and appreciate a special gift to any of our funds most Easter gifts usually arrive as Endowment Fund, Capital Campaign Fund or Easter lilies. Please fill out the form below and return it to the Church office. **This Form must accompany your contributions so that the office knows if your memorial is to be placed in the Easter Sunday handout.**

Easter lily/ Endowment Fund/ Capital Campaign (Circle one)

In Honor of _____ Or

In Memory of _____

By: _____

Number of Lilies: _____ Amount: _____



Cost is \$10.00 per Lily. Endowment Gifts and other gifts can be any amount. Please return this form to the office no later than Monday, March 30, 2025. This is a firm deadline please have your orders in by the due date so that the lily order can be placed.



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. **We just received a check for \$361.96.** 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. **We just received a check for \$154.04.** Thank you and keep saving!

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

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



Do you like to clean? Some people really like to clean--honest! If you do, why not join the Cleaning Angel team? We are looking for about 2 or 3 more members to add to the team. Cleaning Angels are members of the congregation who each week clean the Sanctuary, Gathering Room and Library. When two people do that cleaning, it can take 2-3 hours. Being a Cleaning Angel is not intended to be a lifelong commitment and so we thank those who have served and "retired." That means there are openings in the cleaning schedule for other members of the congregation to step up and help keep the church clean. This is a great

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



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

*Dodie Whitenight who passed away on November 28, 2024.
James Bynon, who passed away on December 15, 2024.*

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

Please welcome our new members Tyler, Kaitlyn & Dillon Sherman & Lacy & Lincoln Redcay. They were received on December 1, 2024. May they be blessed by their commitment to God and their participation in this faith family.



This year Daylight Savings Time will begin on Sunday, March 9th. Don't forget to set your clocks one hour ahead before you go to bed on March 8th.



Instead of giving up smoking, sweets, or something like that during Lent, why not give something else up, the most valuable thing you have--YOUR TIME! Volunteer to do something for your Church, your neighbor, your community. You might find that giving yourself brings back rewards that you just never imagined. And then, keep on doing it long after Lent, make it a lifestyle.

**Altar flower sponsors are needed for February 16th and 23rd.
Bulletin sponsors are needed for February 9th and 23rd.
Please sign up on the Church Bulletin Board.**

December/ January Memorials ***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

In honor of the birthday of my brother, Brandon Brode and in loving memory of the 80th birthday of my dad, Roger Brode love, Sonia

In loving memory of Joseph Coleman by the Coleman family

In honor of Dad Hargis by Pastor Cindy

In loving memory of the January 4th birthday of John Carl Casler Jr. by his mom, sisters, Ashly, Alesia, & Alyssa, nieces, Aubry, Adalynn, Ava, Amelia & Alaina & nephews, Bradlee & Camdyn

In loving memory of granddaughter, Kendall McLaughlin by grandparents, Barry and Marlene McLaughlin and uncles, Chris and Eddie

In honor of Sharon Connely on her birthday by husband, Art

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

In loving memory of my mother, Ella Gerber by daughter, Marlene McLaughlin and family

In loving memory of Robert E. Whitenight for our 48th Anniversary by wife, Ann and daughters

CURRENT FUND DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Dodie Whitenight by Joe and Sandy Mehalko

Birthday remembrance for Mr. E.A. Follweiler from his children and their families

In loving memory of Dodie Whitenight by John & Carol Dietrich & family

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

In loving memory of Jim Bynon by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mehalko

In loving memory of Jim Bynon by David & Ann Marie Hadesty

In loving memory of Jim Bynon by Sandy Scott

In loving memory of Jim Bynon by Gerry Zeigler

In honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Geoge and Mary Ruth Taylor by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Mehalko

In loving memory of Philip Wolfe by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Mehalko

In loving memory of her cousin, Philip (Phil) Wolfe who passed away New Years Day by Fran and Joyce Arner

In loving memory of our dear cousin, Philip Wolfe by Dave & Louise Schock

ORGAN FUND DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Dodie Whitenight by Sandy Scott

DIAPER DEPOT DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

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

In name of Kay & Michael Truchan

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DONATIONS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Beauty White by Scott Herring

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

In loving memory of James Bynon by Mark & Charlene Valentine & family

In loving memory of Dodie Whitenight by Judy & Sonia

In honor of Sonia & Lisa's Birthdays by Judy

In loving memory of Dodie Whitenight by Anne Whitenight

In loving memory of Dodie Whitenight by Mark & Charlene Valentine

In loving memory of my parents, Ted and Eulalia Weston, by Walter Weston

To honor the 50th Anniversary of George & MaryRuth Taylor by Arthur & Shirley Frey

In loving memory of his brother, Phil by Paul Wolfe

In loving memory of James Bynon by Paul & Betty Dombrosky

In loving memory of Dodie Whitenight by Paul & Betty Dombrosky

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of our friends, George & MaryRuth Taylor by Maynard & Susan
Mervine

Connect with your church!

Listen to Zion worship services on your phone.

Learn more by calling the number below.

It's free!



PhoneLiveStreaming

570-393-2180

A ministry of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tamaqua, Pa.

www.ziontamaqua.com

570-668-2180/zionlcof@verizon.net



It takes a lot of volunteers to keep Zion running smoothly why not consider helping. You'll be glad you did! Some of Zion's many volunteers...

Gail, Bob, Bonnie and Alexander delivered nearly 70 pork & kraut dinners on New Years Day.



Thanks to everyone associated with Zion's annual community pork & kraut dinner. Over 160 meals were served.



We saw you at the Christmas Extravaganza Sunday at Zion Lutheran. Thanks everyone for a great family afternoon.





NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Engaging the Stranger Within: The Northeastern PA Synod's Racial Justice Work

Growing up in the American South, much of what was taught about racism dealt with history—slavery, annexation, Jim Crow, and integration. What (and how) we were taught in school, and the ways our community and churches remained unofficially segregated were “just the way things were.” There was a disconnect between the way things were and *why*. Racism was something that had happened, and we were living in the status quo of the Civil Rights Movement. And with that history focused so heavily in the South, it was like racism was somehow localized and intensified in that region, and we were more directly impacted by its legacy.

The privilege of my seminary formation and exposure to different contexts have shown just how limited my awareness of racism's pervasiveness extends. Racism is a part of every community, congregation, home, and heart. It isn't localized more intensely in one place or another. Our communities, workplaces, and churches in Northeastern Pennsylvania face the same legacy and challenges of confronting racist prejudices and practices, even if they expose themselves in different ways.



Cultural isolationism, unawareness of our past and current exploitation of the Lenni Lenape and Delaware peoples, emphasis on the immigrant heritage of our congregations while dismissing immigrant communities across the street, and an apathy to acts of violence against persons of color permeates our pews. Confronting personal, local, regional, and national instances of racial prejudice

is as important now as ever. The gospel gives us the assurance that the way things are is not how God calls us to be. To get from here to there, we need help learning what we don't know, and hearing firsthand from our neighbors how we can work together to resist racism.

Through your Mission Support generosity, our Synod has the opportunity to walk together in more intentional ways as we learn about our communities' and congregations' complicity in racial prejudice and work for racial justice. Loving the land we steward in Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and the people who occupy it, and healing the hurt of our ancestral and contemporary practices, begins with engaging the stranger we do not wish to see in ourselves so that we can better engage the stranger we do not currently see in our neighbors.



Pastor Jennifer Hall and Pastor Samantha Drennan at the 2024 youth pre-gathering event representing the Racial Justice Team

Racial Justice Boundary Training for rostered leaders, Synod Council and Staff, and congregational lay leaders has been an invaluable resource for beginning this work in our Synod. In January, we collaborated with [Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley](#) and our own Synod's [LGBTQ Task Force](#) at the Lutheran Center for a day of worship and action called MLK Jr. Day of Prayer and Service. Partnership with [Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Pennsylvania \(LAMPa\)](#), [Liberty Lutheran's](#) MLK Day of Service, and local ecumenical and interfaith agencies committed to the course of justice in our neighborhood are but a few crucial ways we are already naming and confronting racism together as Christ's church, along with our support of the [ELCA's Truth and Healing Movement](#). All of these endeavors are bolstered by your Mission Support giving, and reflect our shared commitment to growing together as disciples of Jesus who are gospel filled and Spirit led.



Just as the Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed (Psalm 103:6), so too does God charge the people with upholding the cause of justice for those most vulnerable (Deuteronomy 16:19-20; 24:17). To get involved in our shared work of racial justice and reconciliation, [reach out to a member of our Synod's Racial Justice Team](#), participate in local or regional educational opportunities with partnering colleges and universities, confront practices that reinforce barriers based on race and ethnicity, and have conversations with other disciples in your congregation about how your baptized community can work for justice and peace in in the world.

Submitted by: The Rev. Brandon M. Heavner, Weisenberg- New Tripoli, NEPA Synod Racial Justice Team


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 directions of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the values of Loving, Healing, and Engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit godslove.org/missionsupport.

RACIAL JUSTICE

TRAINING



FEBRUARY 8

All Northeastern PA Synod rostered leaders (pastors, deacons, and synodically-authorized lay leaders) are required to have **Anti-Racism** at least once every three years. Training will be presented by The Rev. Carla Christopher.

9:30AM TO 3:00PM
LUTHERAN CENTER
 2354 GROVE ROAD, ALLENTOWN
 For more information & how to register, visit
godslove.org/racial-justice-training

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 N. Greenwood Street

Tamaqua, PA 18252

Return Service Requested

This Newsletter was prepared
Especially for:

For God

so *lo*ved the world,
that he gave his
only
be*g*otten
Son,
that *wh*osoever
beli*e*veth
*i*n him should not perish,
but have *e*verlasting life.



*February 2025
Newsletter*

John 3:16