



March/ April 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.

Dear friends and families of Zion,

It is hard to believe we are now in the season of Lent. The three words above.....fasting, praying and almsgiving are the practices we traditionally follow during these forty days. The publication Living Lutheran explains that “justice toward God, Justice toward one’s self and Justice toward others is the goal.” You may elect to do any of the above. You may also choose to do something that will bring you closer to God in a way that reminds you of the sacrifice God made in giving us God’s self in Jesus. There are people that will read this that have lost a child. YOU are painfully aware of this agony. We are promised that death is not the end. However, these 40 days are a reminder of the sorrows, loss, joys and triumphs of our Lord’s life and eventual death here on this earth.



I challenge us to be creative this Lenten season. I have a friend that writes 40 letters. One for each day to tell the people that have meant a great deal to her what they mean to her. I love this idea as it is a way to self-reflect on someone other than one’s self. It can remind us of the sacrifices they might have made for us. Each letter assumes gratefulness for one’s good fortune at the hand of others. When we think of it, God gives us many undeserved gifts and friendship is just one of them. I’m looking forward to hearing any other ideas you may have for these 40 days. Ash Wednesday is on March 5th at 6:00 PM. I will look forward to seeing you then.

Stay well and safe,
With love in Christ,
Pastor Cindy

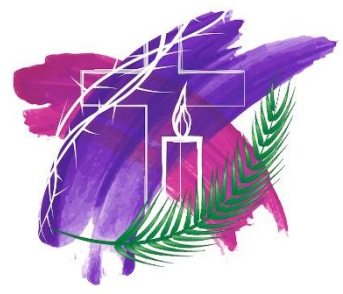
Morning Prayer on Facebook and Website: Rev. Cindy White reads a selected Bible verse and offers a brief message or song Wednesdays at 9 a.m. Individuals with specific prayer requests can email those requests to Pastor White at zionlutheranrev@gmail.com.

PLEASE JOIN US



Our ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held Sunday, March 2, 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 **6:00 pm (Please note time change)** with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes.

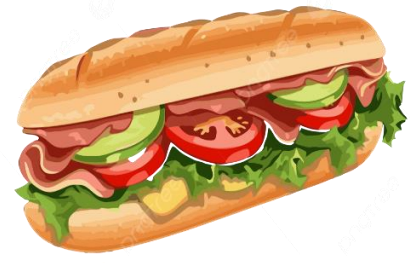


Zion's Blessings Thrift Shop sale

is on Friday, March 7th, April 4th, and May 2nd 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! **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE DONATIONS OUTSIDE BY THE HANDICAP ENTRANCE.**

Thank you, Outreach Committee

Hoagie Sale - The Culinary Team is holding a hoagie sale; Regular Hoagies are \$8 each. Pick up is on Thursday, April 24th from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. Order by April 20th, at <https://www.ziontamaqua.com> or by calling 570-668-4451. Thank you for your support!!



Palm Sunday **Potluck**

A fellowship potluck will be held on Palm Sunday April 13, 2025, following the morning worship service. Sign-up sheets are available in the Gathering Room. Hope to see you there!



Everyone is Welcome!
Sunday, April 13, 2025
After Worship

Zion Holy Week April 13-20, 2025

- †† **Palm Sunday**, April 13th, 9:00 am, Blessing of the Palms
- †† **Wednesday**, April 16th, 7:00 pm, Holden Evening Prayer
- †† **Maundy Thursday**, April 17th, **6:00 pm, (Please note Time Change)**
Foot Washing, Communion, Stripping of the Altar
- †† **Good Friday**, April 18th, 7:00 pm, Good Friday Service
- †† **Holy Saturday**, April 19th, 7:00 pm Easter Vigil, Affirmation of Baptism,
Holy Communion
- †† **Easter Sunday**, April 20th, 9:00 am, Celebration of Christ's Resurrection,
Holy Communion



Come Worship With Us!



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.

Upcoming Events

March 2 – Annual Congregational Meeting

March 2 – Lenten Bible Study

March 5 – Ash Wednesday Service

March 7, April 4 & May 2 – Blessings Thrift Sales

March 14, 28 & April 11 – Lenten Fish Dinners

April 13 – Palm Sunday Potluck

April 24 – Hoagie Sale



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.

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.



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!

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.

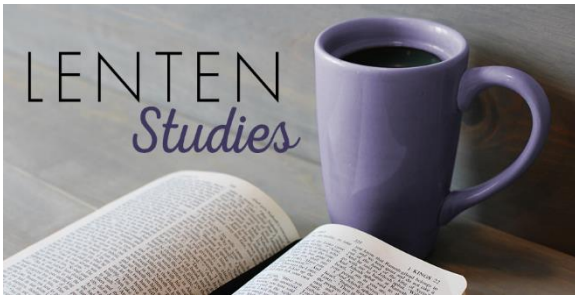
Combinations and ala carte are not available. Dinners may be pre-ordered on the website (www.ziontamaqua.com) or by calling 570-668-4451. Deadline to order dinners is **March 11, 25 & April 8**. Walk-ins welcome. Hope to see you there!



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-

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

ZION FINANCIAL AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024

Here is our report to the Zion congregation for the 4th quarter of 2024. If you have any questions, please address a member of the Finance Committee.

CHURCH BUDGET INCOME

OFFERING AND GIFTS	\$149,865.43
CULINARY EVENTS	\$18,665.00
BLESSING THRIFT SALES	\$9,792.90
ENDOWMENT	\$22,006.00
TOTAL BUDGET INCOME	\$200,329.33

CHURCH BUDGET EXPENSES

SALARIES/REMUNERATION	\$89,030.12
OIL	\$22,394.50
POSTAGE	\$312.00
TAXES	\$3,235.80
MAINT & REPAIR	\$3,698.44
WATER, SEWER	\$2,671.40
PHONE/INTERNET	\$2,056.91
ELECTRIC	\$6,017.29
INSURANCE	\$13,338.00
OTHER MISC EXPENSES	\$29,364.23
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	\$172,118.69

Yours in Christ,

Zion Finance Committee: Bob Jones, Chair; Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary; Dave Gensure, Treasurer; Walter Weston, Sandy Mehalko Endowment Coordinator; Matt Warden; Rochelle Evanousky; Sam Caley; George Taylor.

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 Fritzing, 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 **May 2025 issue of the "Herald"** is due at the church office no later than **Monday, April 21, 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.



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

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin
is death, but the
free gift of God is
eternal life in
Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 - St. John's

April 16 - Individual Services

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



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. 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 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.

February Memorials

GIFTS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

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

In loving memory of McKayla Ann Wall by her parents and siblings, Lauren, Jesse, Nicholas and Kallia Wall

In honor of our wedding anniversary by Judy Brennan

In loving memory of my mom and dad for Valentines Day by Pastor Cindy

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

In honor of our grandson, Noah Valentine's 2nd birthday on February 7th by Mark and Charlene Valentine

In loving memory of her father, Jasper Collura's birthday on February 18th by Ann Marie & David Hadesty & family

In honor of our 45th wedding Anniversary by Mark & Charlene Valentine

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

Donation from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Lansford

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

In loving memory of the February 5th birthday of her brother, Carl Gerber by Marlene McLaughlin and family

In loving memory of Sandy Ciccozzi by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mehalko

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





NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Building Connections, Strengthening Mission: The Impact of Staff Development

Since 2021, when I joined the synod staff, I have felt a deep passion and dedication for the work God is calling me to do. Over the past three years, the relationships I have built, both with synod staff and throughout the synod regions and beyond, have been some of the strongest of my career. I have been a Lutheran all my life, raised in a church and family of faith. So, when the job opened at the synod office, applying felt like a natural choice.



My time on synod staff has shaped my spiritual journey, revealing how God's presence is truly in everyone, including me, in both joyful and challenging times. I often find myself asking, "What is God calling us to do?" "What is God calling *me* to do?" It's funny how sometimes God's answers are loud and clear, while other times, there seems to be silence, much like a parent stepping back to let a child solve a puzzle or get dressed all on their own.

However, God is not silent in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. God is actively working through all of us to move mountains and embody the change Jesus modeled for us. The synod staff have been focusing more intentionally on communication and staff development. Over the past year, the full synod staff, including building staff and the Associates of the Bishop, have gathered for retreats to strengthen our communication. One of these retreats also included the Synod Council, the redesign team, and other key stakeholders around the synod, providing a space for collaboration. Pastor Doug Hill from Abiding Hope in Littleton, Colorado, has helped facilitate some of these retreats, incorporating insights from the Gaining Strength cohorts. Through this work, staff have explored their enneagram numbers, gaining a deeper understanding of how our personalities intertwine and complement one another.

Pastor Rachael Dietz, Associate to the Bishop, comments on the retreat by saying, "*Intentional investment*



in staff help us grow into the disciples God would have us be. We're not static blobs; we're human beings with hearts, hands, feet, and brains. When we practice and learn, we become more aligned and attuned to the Spirit's work in us and the synod. Your mission support then gets turned inside out as we support the mission of congregations: to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, to all."

This investment in staff development is not just about strengthening our internal team, it is about equipping us to better serve the entire synod. As we grow in communication, collaboration, and leadership, we become more responsive to the needs of the congregations, more effective in our ministries, and more connected as a community of faith. By modeling teamwork and intentional growth, we hope to inspire congregations and leaders to do the same in their own contexts. Ultimately, this work is about aligning ourselves more fully with God's call, ensuring that together, as one synod, we continue to move mountains and embody the change Christ has set before us.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Trinity Lutheran Church in Lehighton and St. John's Lutheran Church in Allentown for hosting staff retreats. Your hospitality is deeply appreciated and truly a blessing.

Submitted by: Stacey Burke (she/her) Communications & Growing Young Coordinator

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 godsllove.org/missionsupport.

Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church
Stroudsburg, PA

2025
**Connect
the Dots**
Northeastern PA Synod Assembly

godsllove.org/assembly2025

may
30-31
Registration
opens April 1

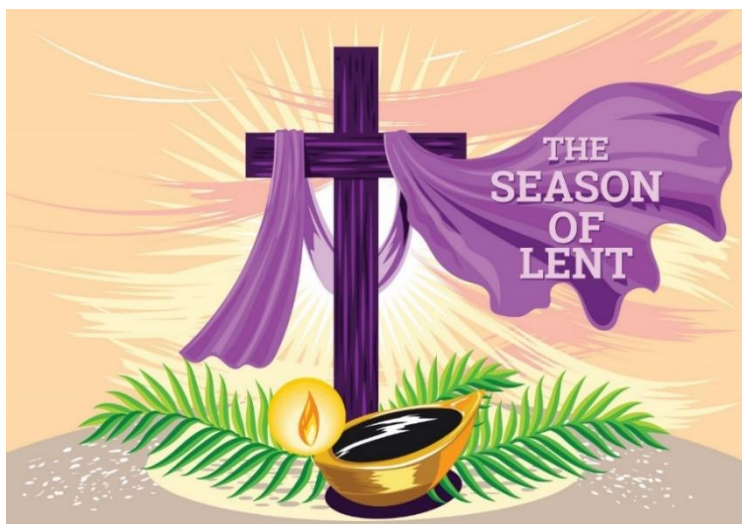
ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 N. Greenwood Street

Tamaqua, PA 18252

Return Service Requested

This Newsletter was prepared
Especially for:



March/ April
2025
Newsletter