



*The
Herald*

March/ April 2026

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.

“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty” John 6:35



Beloved friends and families of Zion,

What might we be hungering or thirsting for this Lenten season? These are days that call for honest reflection, contemplation AND ACTION. We

cannot simply pray for peace. We need to live our lives in ways that promote and encourage peace. If we hunger for justice.....we find ways to ensure that justice can be served in the most loving way possible. If we thirst for a life with greater meaning, we take a leap of faith find a way to serve God by serving others.

We are celebrating the 50th Blessings Thrift Shop sale on Friday March 6th. Thanks be to God. I want to lift up the women that spend countless hours sorting, hanging and distributing items before, during and after our monthly sales. This ministry is a prayerful endeavor and requires a great deal of time and energy. This ministry is a perfect example of prayer AND action. This ministry is in need of more help. Please consider how we can help support this integral expression of Christ's love here at Zion.

We share this bread of life every Sunday during communion. It is spiritual sustenance and grace beyond measure. The book of Ecclesiastes reminds us to ***“Cast our bread upon the waters: for we shall find it after many days”*** Ecclesiastes. 11:1 May we as individuals and as a congregation continue to cast our bread out with joy in our hearts.

Please note that all of the Wednesday night Lenten services are being held at Saint Johns this year at 7:00 PM. If anyone is hungering for connection and God's word.....the Holden Evening Prayer service on Wednesday nights will not disappoint. I hope to see you there.

May this Lenten season challenge us be the very best we can be in, with and through Christ.

With love and appreciation for all of you,
Pastor Cindy

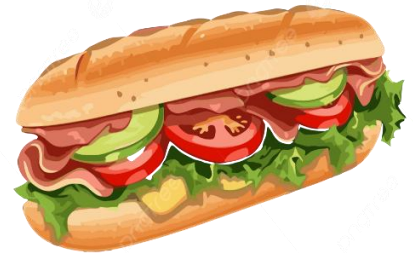
Morning Prayer on Facebook and Website: Rev. Cindy White reads a selected Bible verse and offers a brief message or song Wednesdays at 9 a.m. Individuals with specific prayer requests can email those requests to Pastor White at zionlutheranrev@gmail.com.



Zion's Blessings Thrift Shop sale is on Friday, March 6th, April 10th, and May 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! **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 16th from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. Order by April 12th, at <https://www.ziontamaqua.com> or by calling 570-668-4451. Thank you for your support!!



This year Daylight Savings Time will begin on Sunday, March 8th. Don't forget to set your clocks one hour ahead before you go to bed on March 7th.

Upcoming Events

March 6, April 10 & May 1 – Blessings Thrift Sales

February 27, March 13 & 27 – Lenten Fish Dinners

April 16 – Hoagie Sale



Zion Lenten Fish Dinner

February 27

March 13 and 27

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

Adult \$14.00 – 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 **February 22, March 8 & 22**. Walk-ins welcome. Hope to see you there!



Attention parents: The ELCA Youth Gathering will take place in **Minneapolis, MN, June 28-July 2, 2027!** The Gathering is open to all students who are entering grades 9-12 at the time of the Gathering. If your student is interested in attending, please text Brian Lawfer at (570)952-5966. We need to know how many are interested in attending, so we can begin to plan. We do not need a firm commitment yet, just an idea of who may be interested.

Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsors needed for 2026
- The Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsor list for 2026 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!



ALTAR FLOWER POLICY approved by Church Council: November 9, 2010 - We shall only place flowers on the altar when someone is sponsoring. If there are no sponsors, there will be no flowers placed on the altar. Zion ELC will not pay for flowers that are not sponsored.



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

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



ATTENTION GRADUATING CONFIRMED ZION MEMBERS: CLASS OF 2026



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.

Looking for a way you can help serve your church, but don't have a lot of extra time? Are you able to commit to a half hour, on a day you will already be here? We are looking for greeters to welcome people to the church on Sunday mornings, hand out bulletins, and answer questions from visitors. We would like to have enough people to make up at least 6 teams, with 2 people per team. Please text or call Brian Lawfer at 570-952-5966 for more information.



In talking with the people John says in Luke 3:11 *“Whoever has two tunics should share with him who has none, and whoever has food should do the same.”* This is a reminder that the People Pantry is being used heavily and in need of donations. While grocery shopping pick up an extra item to share with our less fortunate community neighbors. *“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”* 2 Corinthians 9:7



DID YOU KNOW ...Zion is now a Tamaqua Narcan distribution site? You may be wondering what is Narcan? Narcan is a life-saving medication used to reverse the effects of accidental opioid overdoses.

This medication is good to have on hand because:

1. You could end up saving a friend or neighbor in need. You never know when you'll encounter someone in need of this life-saving medication. Keep it in your purse or your car for when you might need it.
2. Parents with teenagers are encouraged to keep naloxone in their homes.
3. Senior citizens can mistakenly overdose on medications. Having more of this life-saving drug in the community is important.



Narcan kits are available free of charge. Feel free to grab one off the table. Our Parish Administrator will pass on Narcan requests to Michele Valentine who is heading this ministry.

Zion's 2026 Church Council officers: Brian Lawfer, President, Amanda Hascin, Vice President, Shelly Woodring, Secretary, Dave Gensure, Treasurer, and Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary. Other members of Council include Sheri Beltz, Brian Constenbader, Arlene Derr, Laura Fulmer, Thomas Graham (Youth Advocate), George Taylor, Michelle Valentine, and Brittany Voelpel; 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 2026 issue of the “Herald”** is due at the church office no later than **Monday, April 20, 2026**. 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.



Synod E-News - U188E-News is a weekly e-newsletter for rostered leaders (pastors and deacons), congregational leaders and members, and anyone interested in keeping up to date with happenings across the Synod and around the ELCA. nepasynod.org/e-news/

Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday
12:00 – 5:00 pm
Tuesday & Thursday
8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Please use door located on
Mauch
Chunk Street, ring bell



John 12:13

So they took branches
of palm trees and
went out to
meet him,
shouting, “Hosanna!
Blessed is the one
who comes in the
name of the Lord—
the King of Israel!”



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. **We just received a check for \$311.33.** Keep using those cards!

When submitting Redner's receipts:

1. You must have a Redner's card & swipe the Redner's card upon checkout so the save a tape amount is on the receipt.
2. Please do not cut the information with the save a tape code off the receipt.
3. Please hand in the receipt to our container in the gathering room or mail them to the church office.

If you have any questions, please see Beth Marcavage. Thank you and keep saving!

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

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



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

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

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES 2026

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. **All Services will be at St. John's. 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 Memory of _____

By: _____

Number of Lilies: _____ Amount: _____



Easter Lilies

Cost is \$13.00 per Lily. Endowment Gifts and other gifts can be any amount. Please return this form to the office no later than Monday, March 16, 2026. This is a firm deadline please have your orders in by the due date so that the lily order can be placed.

February Memorials

GIFTS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

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

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

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

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 Jan McRoberts by Dave & Melody Gensure

In loving memory of Jan McRoberts by Beth Marcavage

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

In loving memory of Jan McRoberts by Joe & Rochelle Evanousky

In loving memory of Jan McRoberts by Glenn & Lorie Fritzinger

In loving memory of Jan McRoberts by Bill & Lori Krell

In loving memory of Jan McRoberts by Bonnie Painter

In loving memory of Jan McRoberts by Carolyn Tirpak

In loving memory of Jan McRoberts by Lorraine Drosdak

In loving memory of Jan McRoberts by Susanne & Warren Nelson

In loving memory of Janet McRoberts by Barry & Salley Ashman

In loving memory of Jan McRoberts by Kenneth Faig

In loving memory of Jan McRoberts by Sara Marks

In loving memory of Jan McRoberts by Linda & Bart Luedeke

In loving memory of Jan McRoberts by Gerry Zeigler

In loving memory of Jan McRoberts by Don and Kay Barr

In loving memory of Fern Woodring on her birthday February 14th, love her family

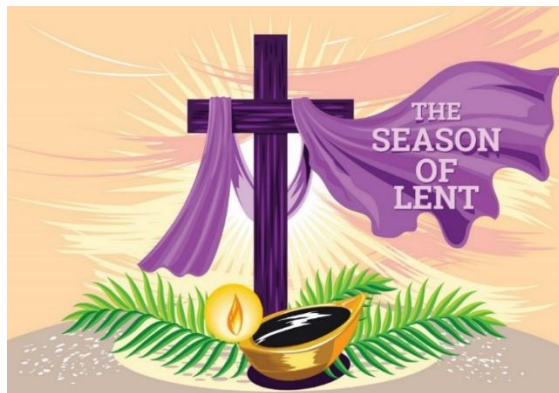
In honor of the Commissioning of Minister Michael Haspe, Licensed Lay Minister. Congratulations on this new ministry! From, Sharon Haldeman


In loving memory of Jan McRoberts by Dave & Darlene Fetterman

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

In loving memory of Jan McRoberts Love, Judy & Sonia

In loving memory of Jan McRoberts by Sandy Scott





Zion Prayer Chain

Please give prayer
requests to
Mary Ruth Taylor
570-668-4451
or online at
www.ziontamaqua.com

Zion Lutheran to Host 50th Blessings Thrift Sale on March 6th

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church will host its first Blessings Thrift Sale of 2026 on Friday, March 6, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This event also marks a special milestone – the 50th Blessings Sale – a ministry that began shortly before the pandemic and has continued to serve the community with great success. Shoppers will find gently used clothing for all ages, along with toys, books, and a wide variety of household items. A limited take-out menu and homemade baked goods will also be available for purchase. Major credit cards are accepted for added convenience.



Those wishing to donate items to Blessings are asked to call the church office at 570-668-2180 with their information, and a volunteer will return the call. All are welcome.



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Feeding Body and Soul at Hope's Table

Written by: April Mulvey, Synod Authorized Outreach Ministry (SAOM) leader at Hope's Table

Hope's Table: 601 N Front St Reading, PA 19601

Every Tuesday the doors open around 4:30 in the afternoon. During those chilly winter months, our guests are greeted by Sara, who pours each a cup of hot chocolate. Anita is back in the kitchen, where the aromas of the night's dinner are wafting through the hallway. Scott is preparing his music and Judy is either mingling with our guests or helping Anita. As I am preparing the table for worship, I am talking with everyone and listening to the chatter in the room. Before dinner is served, I go around the room asking everyone for prayer requests and the guests fill me in on the happenings of the week. Welcome to Hope's Table.

My journey to serving at Hope's Table is slightly unconventional. I did not grow up in the church. In fact, the first time I attended a church service (outside weddings and funerals) I was sixteen years old because I grew up in a dysfunctional family system. My first exposure was when my grandmother took me to her church. I grew up in a home that did not show the love and compassion of the Gospel of Christ, and I carried that into my adult years. I ended up in a 12-Step recovery program, but I was still missing "something."



That "something" was the God piece in my life and it was not until I got involved in a church and with people who loved me unconditionally, and told me God loved me even more unconditionally, did my life drastically change to the path that put me where I am today being the SAOM leader at Hope's Table. My background in life allows me to relate to the guests that walk into the doors of Hope's Table in ways that are truly personal and empathetic, and I can connect with them and their needs in times of pastoral care because I know some of the struggles they endure. I relate to the brokenness, the loneliness, the desperation, because I was once there too, but the power and love of God have done miraculous things! It put me back together.

That is part of my hope for Hope's Table. We are not *just* a food ministry. We not only feed the body, we nourish the soul as well. We come together, even if it for only one hour a week, and break bread together, and although we are not defined as a "congregation" by the ELCA, we are a community of the *ekklesia*. Church, since the pandemic, may need to be redefined and ministries like Hope's Table help pave the way for that re-define.



If someone is curious about how to get involved with Hope's Table, my best advice would be to come and check us out! Show up! Come and see us in action on Tuesday. Come and sit with our guests and get to know them. Come and volunteer to serve dinner and then we can get you scheduled for service work. Come and see just how blessed we are to be in their presence.

Hope's Table has taught me so many lessons about myself and about the world over this past year. I have learned more about the structure of the synod and church this year and how all those smaller cogs in the wheel have to be put into position and work in unison, or the grander machine does not work. It is not just about one single church or ministry; there is a grander picture at play—like a drop in a bucket of water that sends ripples over the surface. There is much, much more to leadership than the worship at Hope's Table. The decisions we make do not just affect us. They affect the synod, and the ELCA, as a whole.

Having support from the synod has left an immense positive effect on me throughout this whole journey. In those moments when I may doubt myself, or not believe in myself, the synod staff have all uplifted me and given me support. The synod has also supported the mission of Hope's Table as vital to the community, proving once again, that God's people are seen and their needs are heard; that they are not ignored except on a Sunday morning. This continues to demonstrate that my service is properly placed.



I am excited to serve as Hope's Table's SAOM leader and the possibilities and doors that will open for us. I am also excited to be attending the Fresh Expressions National Gathering 2026 at the end of February with other colleagues from NEPA Synod in Ocala, Florida. It is proving to be an inspiring year. I have big dreams for Hope's Table! And why should I? I serve an even bigger God who has done amazing things.

Three Gatherings Across the Synod - Each event runs 8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. with three speakers focused on its theme.

Learning Ministry Days



Register at godslove.org/LMD26

 **Mar 7, 26** - *"How Do We Lift Every Voice: Exploring Worship, Music and Family Ministries"* (Atonement Lutheran, Wyomissing)

 **Apr 25, 26** - *"How Can We Walk Together: Mental Health and Spiritual Wholeness"* (Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Emmaus)

 **Sept 19, 26** - *"Who Do We Trust: Truth, Scams and AI"* (Zion United Lutheran, Brodheadsville)



Palm Sunday

Word Search

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

- BLESSED
- BRANCH
- CLOAKS
- DISCIPLES
- DONKEY
- EASTER
- FEAST
- GOSPELS
- HERO
- HOLY WEEK
- HONOR



- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| JERUSALEM | PROCESSION |
| JESUS | ROAD |
| KING OF ISRAEL | ROMANS |
| PALM | SACRIFICE |
| PASSION OF CHRIST | SALVATION |
| PEACE | SCRIPTURES |
| PEOPLE | SUNDAY |
| PRAISE | WORSHIP |

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 N. Greenwood Street

Tamaqua, PA 18252

Return Service Requested

This Newsletter was prepared
Especially for:

