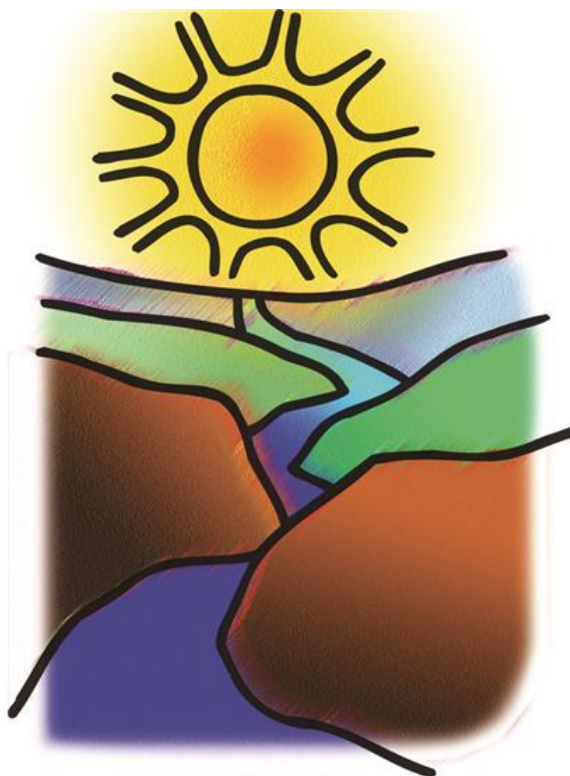


# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*A Service of Word & Sacrament*

*December 13, 2020*



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**85 E. Brandt Boulevard**

**Landisville, PA**

*Connecting with God,  
Connecting with others,  
Connecting others with God*

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**WELCOME TO ZION!** We are glad you have chosen to worship with us with in-person or online. For in-person worshippers, all words and parts of the service will be projected on the screen in the front of the sanctuary. If you prefer a printed bulletin, you may pick one up on the table in the Narthex by the entrance to the Sanctuary. The service contains the four parts of the Lutheran liturgy (The Gathering, The Word, The Meal, and The Sending). Should you have any questions concerning our service, please do not hesitate to talk with Pastor Sell.

### **WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT ZION**

**IN-PERSON:** All are invited to join us for worship at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning. Although the gathering guidelines allow us to have more people in the Sanctuary making only one service possible, pre-registration is still required. Please call or text Anne Rankin (717-945-4585) to reserve seating.

**ONLINE:** The worship service each week is live-streamed. If you are unable or prefer not to watch during the livestream, the recording is available to view any time after the service concludes. The link for the church YouTube channel where you can find livestream and recorded services is: [http://bit.ly/Zion\\_Live](http://bit.ly/Zion_Live)

### **FOR THOSE WORSHIPPING IN-PERSON**

- ❖ Please social distance at all times and sanitize your hands using the hand sanitizer units located on the walls in the hallways, Connection Zone, and Social Room.
- ❖ Please wear masks at all times.
- ❖ A no-touch temperature screening is required by all who enter the church prior to worship.
- ❖ Only one individual may be in restrooms at a time. Please follow the signs on the restroom doors.
- ❖ Children are welcome to be active participants in the worship service. Currently, nursery care is not available.
- ❖ Ushers are located near the front and back of the worship area to direct people to seating and to the offering plates.

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## *A Service of Word & Sacrament*

*P: Pastor A: Assisting Minister C: Congregation*

### ABOUT TODAY'S READINGS

*“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.*

### CHIMES

*The playing of the chimes marks the beginning of a prayerful quiet time prior to the start of the service. This is a time to prepare your hearts and minds for worship. It also helps to reduce background noise when the live-streaming begins.*

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

*Santa Lucia*

T. Cottrau  
arr. by P. Keveren

*Please stand if you are able.*

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**A:** We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord’s coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**C:** **Amen.**

*Light three candles.*

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence for reflection.*

P: Loving and forgiving God,

C: **we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

P: People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free -- free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, † comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## SONG

*People Look East*

ELW 248

*You are invited to hum along to this Advent song.*

## THE GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Lord, into your most holy presence we now come. Calm our anxious spirits. Remove the distractions that would keep us from you here today. Break down the walls of separation that we have built to keep you from our hardened hearts. Lead us in joy and celebration of the only reality worth knowing, that you love us as we are. Free us for joyful obedience to your claim and call on our lives this day and every day. Amen.

C: **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

† **THE WORD** †

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 61:1-4. 8-11

A: <sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING**

1 Thessalonians 5:5; 16-24

A: <sup>5</sup>For you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil. <sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you

entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S CHAT

*Please stand if you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Thy Word*

A. Grant

## GOSPEL READING

John 1:6-8, 19-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

Pastor Melody Sell

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*How Beautiful Upon the Mountains*

J. Stainer  
arr. by R. Lehman

*Please stand if you are able.*

## NICENE CREED

P: Let us profess our faith together.

C: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

A: God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Embed your word in their hearts.

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living.

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions.

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts.

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing.

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love. This week we especially remember Lucy, martyr of the church. Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

### **† THE MEAL †**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **SETTING OF THE TABLE**



## OFFERING PRAYER

- A: Let us pray. May our gifts be as generous as your provision for us, O God. Use them to bear witness to the light you sent in Christ Jesus. Move us and all people to prayer, rejoicing, and thanksgiving. As we give these offerings for their best possible return, keep us faithful to your purposes.
- C: **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

### *The Dialogue*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### *The Preface*

P: It is indeed right and our duty and joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn with these words:

C: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy God, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: *Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.*

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: *This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.*

P: Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: We pray together.

C: **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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat and drink.

C: **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### PARTAKING IN THE BREAD AND CUP OF SALVATION

*The congregation opens the wafer packet.*

P: The body of Christ given for you.

C: **Amen.**

*The congregation opens the cup.*

P: The blood of Christ shed for you.

C: **Amen.**

*Please place communion cups & wrappers in the trash as you exit the Sanctuary.*

### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C:** **Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**A:** Let us pray. Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C:** **Amen.**

*Please stand if you are able.*

### **† THE SENDING †**

### **MUSICAL BENEDICTION**

*God Be With You Til We Meet Again*

W. Tomer

### **BLESSING**

**P:** The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, † now and forever.

### **DISMISSAL**

**P:** As you go forth, prepare for his coming by sharing the gifts of faith, hope, and love that have been poured out by the Holy Spirit and are yours through Jesus Christ.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Canticle of the Turning*

arr. by M. Johnson

## GIVE WITNESS AND REJOICE

The third Sunday of Advent—also known as *Gaudete (rejoice)*—is one in which the church has rejoiced as the advent of the Messiah draws nearer. Whether or not you mark this Sunday with a pink candle on the wreath, the texts for the day echo this rejoicing, this “we’re almost there” excitement, in a multitude of ways. Isaiah couples images of a people restored with images of weddings and springtime and oak trees. The psalmist offers up images of a harvest festival, and Paul urges us to rejoice “always.”

John the Baptist, in his own way, calls for rejoicing by his acknowledgment that he is *not* what we are waiting for. John, like us, has a mission to bear witness, but when he says “I am not,” we hear a clear contrast to all the ways Jesus will identify himself with the Father: “I am the bread of life.” “I am the resurrection.” “I am the good shepherd.” All these things Jesus will be for God’s people, but John’s job is simply to bear witness to the light.

How do we bear witness, while still waiting? Or can joy in the midst of waiting be that very witness? In Advent we are not called to act as though we do not know how this story ends, as though Jesus’ birth and life, death and resurrection, are still before us. But we *do* know that sense of longing for God’s salvation to be fulfilled, and the temptation to imagine that we have to save ourselves, instead of waiting for God’s purposes to be worked out in God’s time. John reminds us that there can be joy in taking our proper place, pointing to Jesus without needing to *be* Jesus.





## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA SPONSORS

Al & Connie Alsedek

*In memory of our parents*

Horst & Lisa Bernhard

*In honor of Andrew & Sara Bernhard*

*In memory of Bob & Charlotte Williams, Andreas Bernhard,  
Esther & Bud Little*

Ed & Cindy Blough

*In memory of Henry & June Duke*

*In memory of Charlie Blough*

Dave & Donna Dumeyer

*To the glory of God*

Diane Gerlach

*In memory of Bruce Gerlach: husband, dad, and "Poppy"*

*In memory of Terry Steinmetz, brother*

*In memory of Walter & Laura Steinmetz, parents*

Joanne Grim

*In honor of my great grandsons, Maddox, Myles, Stephen, & Noah*

Gloria Grube

*In memory of my loving husband, Weidler*

Jim & Millie Gundel

*In memory of our son, Steven Gundel*

Pat & John Hinkle

*In memory of our fathers – Elwood King & John Hinkle, Sr.*

The Kautter Family

*In memory of Patricia Kautter*

Sam & Adele King

*In honor of our children: Alison, Justin, and Jessica*

*In honor of our grandchildren: Alexander, Emerson, and Leia*

*In memory of our parents and grandparents*

*In memory of our friends who died this year: Judy & Mary*

*In memory of Sam's sister, Betty*

Joan Mays

*In memory of Earl Mays*

Joan Oberrender

*Merry Christmas to my Zion family who I am missing this season. Blessings to you all in 2021.*

Madison, Chase, & Hannah Pipkin

*In honor of Mommom*

*In memory of Poppy*

Todd & Suzanne Reed

*In memory of Palma Reed*

Jan Reeves

*In memory of Arlie and our loved ones*

Wife Dawn & Sons Jeff, Kevin, & Mark Reinhart

*In memory of our beloved Chis*

Bob & Cathy Shirk

*In honor of Tyler, Taylor, & AJ – our grandchildren*

*In memory of Dolores Derr and Eugene & Phyliss Shirk*

David & Dottie Wauls

*To the glory of God for the blessings of families: Brett Wauls' family & Heather Wauls Duhart's family*

Laura & Don Wierschke

*In memory of our sons and their families*

Kurt Wildasin

*In memory of Sarah Wildasin*

Bob & Barb Wildasin

*In memory of Robert, Helen, Cork, George, & Bryan Doll*

*In memory of Cleo, Lillian, & Harry Wildasin*

Barb Williams

*In memory of Tom*

Dave & Sue Wise

*In memory of John & Martha Wise*

*In honor of John & Loma Slike*



## **THIS WEEK AT ZION**

### **Sunday, December 13 – *Third Sunday of Advent***

- ❖ The flowers this week are sponsored by the Thompsons in honor of Sarah's birthday.
- ❖ The communion kits are sponsored by Brenda Stover in honor of healthcare workers.

In-Person Worship – 9:00 a.m.

Live-stream Link: [http://bit.ly/Zion\\_Live](http://bit.ly/Zion_Live)

Wired Word Sunday School Class – 10:30 a.m. [Sign on any time after 10:15]

Class Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2283229266>

### **Monday, December 14**

Food Pantry – 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Personnel – 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)

### **Tuesday, December 15**

Bible Study -- 9-10:30 a.m. (Connection Zone)

Scouts – 6:30 p.m. (Social Room, Classrooms, Basement)

### **Wednesday, December 16**

Food Pantry – 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### **Thursday, December 17**

No Community Meal Drive-Thru (Postponed until Jan. 14)

### **Friday, December 18**

### **Saturday, December 19**

### **Sunday, December 20 – *Fourth Sunday of Advent***

In-Person Worship – 9:00 a.m.

Live-stream Link: [http://bit.ly/Zion\\_Live](http://bit.ly/Zion_Live)

Wired Word Sunday School Class – 10:30 a.m. [Sign on opens at 10:15]

Class Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2283229266>

Christmas in A Barn – 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Wittel Farm)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **REMEMBERING OUR SAINTS: St. Lucia (“Lucy”)**

*Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.*

### **ADVENT BANNERS**

*As we prepare for the coming birth of Jesus, the anticipation builds as a banner in front of the Sanctuary is added each week. The 3<sup>rd</sup> banner design is of an angel holding a heart above its head with swirls ascending, extending upward to God and the heavens. The 2<sup>nd</sup> banner has a candle with a heart in its flame and a swirl rising upward symbolizing prayer and commitment to God. This banner represents our turning to God. The 1<sup>st</sup> banner has a large, open hand of God with a heart in the middle of the hand and a swirl descending to us. The idea is that God chooses us in grace and stirs our hearts in love and power.*

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

*There are 2 Christmas Eve services scheduled at this time -- 7pm and 10pm. Please register to worship in-person by tomorrow (Monday, December 14) so a 3<sup>rd</sup> service could be added if needed. Please email, call, or text to register (adminzalc@comcast.net or 717-945-4585). For those who are not able to attend in-person, the 7:00 service will be livestreamed; the recording will be available on the website, Facebook, and YouTube link ([http://bit.ly/Zion\\_Live](http://bit.ly/Zion_Live)) if you want to view it at a later time.*

### **WIRED WORD CLASS**

*The WW class meets via Zoom each Sunday morning at 10:30. You can sign on any time after 10:15. If you want to hear more about the class, contact Sue W. (swoogle53@aol.com) or Barb G. (bmgerke@gmail.com). The link for the class is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2283229266>*

### **2021 SPONSORSHIPS**

*You can now sign up to sponsor flowers, bulletins, and communion elements for 2021. Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex for those who come to in-person worship. If you do not come to the church to sign up, you may still do so by emailing Anne the date you would like to sponsor, what you would like to sponsor, and the occasion for which you would like to have noted in the bulletin.*



## **2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

*Offering envelopes for next year have been distributed into church mailboxes in the Narthex. If you attend worship in-person, please pick yours up then. If you do not come to worship, contact Anne to arrange a time to stop by the church office.*

## **CHRISTMAS IN THE BARN**

*All are invited to experience Christmas In A Barn at the Wittel Farm next Sunday, December 20 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Be sure to dress warm! Questions? Contact the Lutheran Camping Corporation office (717-677-8211).*

## **MINISTRY TEAMS**

*The deadline to get your ministry team's year-end report to Anne is December 21. If you have questions about this, talk with others on your team or you can ask Anne. Please email your report to [adminzelc@comcast.net](mailto:adminzelc@comcast.net).*

## **AIR FILTRATION SYSTEM UPDATE**

*The bipolar ionization air filtration system has been installed and doing its job to help keep the air in the Sanctuary as clean as possible. The Property Team hopes that this upgrade to the HVAC system will offer an increased safety and comfort to those coming to in-person worship. Thank you to the anonymous donor who paid for the system.*

## **COMMUNION CARDS**

*If have not filled out a communion card yet this Advent season, please do so today after you commune. Please place the card in the offering plate at the front of the sanctuary next to the baptismal font when you leave at the end of worship. If you have participated in communion during the service at home, let Anne know so your record can be updated.*

## **WINTER YOUTH RETREAT**

*All kids in grades 3-9 are invited to register for the Winter Youth Retreat at Kirchenwald. This year it will be held on Saturday, January 9 (9a.m.-7p.m.) & Sunday, January 10 (9a.m.-4p.m.). For more information and to register (\$80/person), visit the Lutheran Camping website: <https://www.lutherancamping.org/event/winter-youth-retreat-2021/>*

## **WINTER FUN DAY**

*Everyone is invited to come for an afternoon of winter fun at Kirchenwald on Sunday, January 17. There will be a variety of activities, including (but not limited to!) going down the award-winning toboggan run, ice-skating on the lake, or drinking hot chocolate in the lodge. There is no cost...just come and have fun!*

## **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE FROM DARRELL GERKE**

*Before I get to the 2021 final report figures, I want to remind those of you who pledged for 2020 to please review your pledge amount and try to fulfill your pledge to the best of your ability. I am asking all members to look at your personal finances and see what you can comfortably contribute to Zion for 2020. The financial health of Zion is dependent upon your support.*

*For 2021, 34 giving units have pledged \$141,542. This continues the trend of decreasing giving units and a lesser total amount pledged. We all know how this has been a difficult year for all of us in different ways. For the church, the fact that we cannot worship as we did in the pre-pandemic times has hurt our church attendance and therefore, the offerings.*

*Unfortunately, our church attendance, offerings and yearly pledging have all followed the same trend for the past four years. Our core members are still loyal to Zion and the mission of the church. Even though we may be shrinking in numbers, we still have spirit!*

*Zion's financial outlook is a grim reality -- if we continue to function by using more and more money from our Endowment Fund until it is depleted, we will have to close the doors. Our only hope is that a new minister is called who can reverse the current trends.*

*I am asking all of you to pray daily about our situation and what you can do with the Lord's help to support our ministry in any way you can. All is not lost. God works in many ways. We just have to be prepared to act as He calls us.*

## **COMMUNITY MEAL UPDATE FROM MARY HETRICK**

*The weekly Community Meal continues to be successful. There has been an average of 90 meals served per week using the drive-thru, takeout process. During the months of November and December, we have been blessed to have our partner churches and community groups sponsor the meals.*

*Due to recent pandemic recommendations and availability of volunteers, the meal will be suspended through January 7. I have begun to assemble a schedule of meal sponsors for 2021, beginning on January 14. Many of our partner churches and community groups have already scheduled dates to serve next year. Zion will be sponsoring a meal every other month as we had done previously. I have had two members of Zion offer to sponsor meals. There are seven open dates remaining on the schedule thru June. We need to fill these dates to keep providing the Community Meal on a weekly basis without interruption.*

*Please prayerfully consider partially or fully sponsoring a meal. If you have contacts in the community who might be interested in participating, please have them contact me (psuocn92@comcast.net or 717-333-6173). Your support of this ministry is appreciated!*

## **PRAYER LIST**

### ***FOR HEALING***

Kathleen Gorlaski	Dave Albin	Richard Olson
Cher Callahan	Thelma Pearson	Marvin Ruch
Kate Donnan	Barbara Williams	Dave Wise
Don Heartter	Joe Adams	Judie Ingersoll
Lucy Davis	Bill Grove	Kay Crawford
Holly Hoover	Janet & Harry Musselman	
LaVon Harnish (Friend of Jeanette Bomberger)		
Homer Dietz (Brother-in-law of Harry Musselman)		
Ron Sahd (Friend of Dave Wise)		
Loma Slike (Mother of Sue Wise)		
Mike LaFata (Son-in-law of Bill & Julia Grove)		
Lesli LaFata (Daughter of Bill & Julia Grove)		

### ***FOR COMFORT, PEACE, STRENGTH, & SAFETY***

Betty Stoner	Arlene Miller	Deb McCartney
Marlin Zimmerman	Bette Geibel	
Charlotte & George Potts		
Richard and Marilyn Heim		
Arlene Wise (Sister-in-law of Dave Wise)		
Vaun Hile (Father of Lynda Sherwood)		
Jennifer Kready (Daughter of Dave & Donna Dumeyer)		

### ***FOR PROTECTION FOR MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDERS***

Christopher Wright	Chris Andrew	Thom Whitesel
Ryan Stitzel	Doug Kautter	Justin Gorlaski
Corey Landis (Nephew of Jesse & Pat Landis)		
David Adams (Son-in-law of John & Kathleen Hay, and husband of Liz)		

### ***IN CELEBRATION***

#### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

13<sup>th</sup> – Sarah Chapman, Nina Laliberte  
14<sup>th</sup> – Christian Benedict  
15<sup>th</sup> – Nathan Bear, Kaylyn Langseth, Ted Symonds  
18<sup>th</sup> – Diane Ramer, Nancy Smith, Nate Deibler

## MINISTRY LEADERS

Ministers  
Supply Pastor  
Dir. of Music & Worship Arts  
Parish Administrator  
Worship Technology Assistant  
Lay Ministry Assistant  
Council President  
Council Vice President  
Sextons

Members of the Congregation  
Pastor Melody Sell  
James C. Alfieri  
Anne Rankin  
David Albin  
Diane Gerlach  
Adele King  
David Wise  
Brian Bourassa (a.m.)  
Tom Miller (p.m.)

## WORSHIP, SUNDAY SCHOOL, & CONTACT INFORMATION

In-Person Worship Services	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School Class (Zoom)	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2283229266">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2283229266</a> 10:30-11:15 a.m.
Christmas Eve Services	7:00 & 10:00 p.m.
Live-stream & Recorded Worship	9:00 a.m. <a href="http://bit.ly/Zion_Live">http://bit.ly/Zion_Live</a>
Church Office	717-898-2911
Pastor	570-916-8835
Parish Administrator	717-945-4585
Council President	610-247-1497
Office Email	<a href="mailto:adminzelc@comcast.net">adminzelc@comcast.net</a>
Pastor Email	<a href="mailto:prmsell2@ptd.net">prmsell2@ptd.net</a>
Council President Email	<a href="mailto:adele13@aol.com">adele13@aol.com</a>
Music Director Email	<a href="mailto:zionlandisvillemusic@gmail.com">zionlandisvillemusic@gmail.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.zionhempfield.net">www.zionhempfield.net</a>
Facebook	Zion Lutheran Hempfield
Church Address	85 E. Brandt Blvd. Landisville, PA 17538
Office address	75 E. Brandt Blvd. Landisville, PA 17538

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\* *Offering Prayer from Whispers of God by Lavon Bayler, The Pilgrim Press copyright 1987*

\* *Prayer of the Day & Dismissal from Prayers for Advent & Christmas edited by David N. Mosser with Estee C. Valendy, Abingdon Press, 2012*