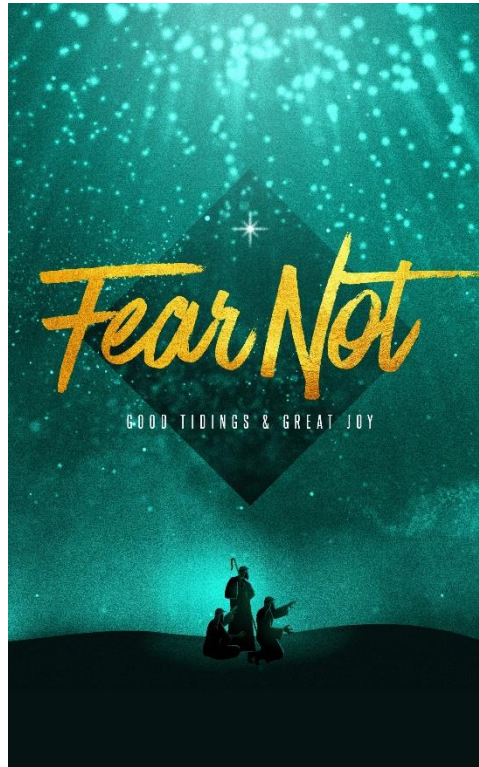


FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A Service of Word & Sacrament

December 20, 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

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A Service of Word & Sacrament

P: Pastor A: Assisting Minister C: Congregation

ABOUT TODAY'S READINGS

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

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

Es Ist Ein Ros

Setting by E. Fruhauf

Please stand if you are able.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

A: We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: **Amen.**

Light four 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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257

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: O God, out of the busyness of this season, we give pause this morning to refocus our lives on you. We invite you into this place and into our hearts. Accept our worship as a humble attempt to glorify and honor you. Hear our prayer, O God.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

† THE WORD †

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

A: ¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” ³Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

A: ²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Please stand if you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Listen, God Is Calling

arr. by A. Lovelace

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-38

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.

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

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Melody Sell

INSTALLATION/REAFFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS & OFFICERS

P: The following people have been elected by Zion to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

Adele King

Denise Haun

Dave Wise

Kim Paternoster

David Dumeyer

Randy Miller

Diane Ramer

Cathy Benedict

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (*1 Corinthians 12:4-7*)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

Council Members: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Congregation please stand if you are able.

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

P: I now declare you installed as council members of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Missus est Gabriel Angelus

J. des Pres
arr. by T. Gibbs

English Translation: *The angel Gabriel was sent to the Virgin Mary, announcing to her the message: "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you; you are blessed among women." Alleluia.*

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: O God, here we are together in this sacred time of worship. May we be attentive to where you would work among us. May we come to experience the stirring and leading of your Spirit as it speaks, as it leads, as it forgives, as it heals, as it convicts.

Declare to us today through word and table the way in which you would have us live. Give us courage to make the hard choices in life, the will to live according to your prompting, and the love to shatter our pretentious illusions.

Make us mindful of the needs of others and stop expecting someone else to take care of the needy, or feed the hungry, or welcome the stranger, or reach out to the prisoner when we certainly have the time and the means to do it ourselves.

Bless, O Lord, the holiday lights and signs of Christmas that surround us. May they be a reminder of God's love given in Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection. Let us give thanks for the light that comes into the world and for our call to share that light.

In this season of giving, help us give. In this season of hope, help us be hopeful. In this season of grace, lead us to graciousness.

Forgive us when we settle for so much less than what you offer. May we come to see as you see, love as you love, work as you work, share as you share, and live as you would have us live.

Bless our hurting, broken, divided world and remove whatever stands in the way of us all, finally realizing that we are, and will forever be, your children.

Fill our congregation with you Holy Spirit that we may have courage and boldness as we look forward to a new year. Guide us as we continue through times of change. In the name of the Incarnate One, we pray.

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. Creator, we are surrounded by your creation and are totally dependent on it. We are grateful, especially during this time of anticipation of the celebration of the birth of your Son, for your gift of him to us. In return, we bring our tithes, gifts, and offerings. May our giving reflect our acceptance of your love.

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 *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth* Central American Tune

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 we go forth, let us expect wonderful things to happen in our lives and in our world, for the One who is coming as the Savior of all is almost here.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

G. F. Handel
arr. by T. Hobson

THOSE WHO HEAR AND DO

Who is God's family? Where is God's home? In the church we often speak of our home parish as a family. Many of us grew up thinking of the church building as God's house. But the readings for this day call us to anticipate that Emmanuel might understand kinship and home in different ways. As we approach Christmas, which in our culture is increasingly a celebration of hearth and home more than a public festival, the inclusiveness of God's promise rings out from these readings.

The temple often stood in the imagination of Israel as the "house of God," but in 1 Samuel God expresses reservations before the temple is even built. The promise made to David is not about the building. Instead of the expected places of wealth and power, God chooses to dwell in a *people* instead of a "house of cedar" (2 Sam. 7:2, 7).

So if God is dwelling in a people, who is included in *that* promise? Although no one disputes that Jesus is born of the "house of David," Luke's gospel stresses Mary's lowliness instead of her bloodlines, reminding us that Christ became flesh in the most unlikely circumstances. Later in Luke's gospel, when someone mentions his family to Jesus, he says his family includes all "who hear the word of God and do it" (8:21). In today's gospel we see Mary acting out that definition of family.



IMAGES IN THE READINGS

In Luke's narratives, **angels** appear in the stories of Jesus' birth and resurrection. In our society, many depictions of angels are unfortunately quite cutesy, rather unhelpful as images of the might of God who strike fear in one's heart. The angel is the divine messenger, the extension of the power and mercy of God, and Gabriel comes to announce the eschatological arrival of God.

The **pregnant woman** can be a symbol of the life that comes from God. In the Bible, many women, from Eve in Genesis 4:1 on, conceive and bear children with the help of God. When we acclaim God as creator, we attest that God is continually creating life on this earth.

In Ancient Near Eastern religious practice, a king maintained a temple as a **house** of God. Most of these temples housed a huge statue of the god or goddess: think of the Lincoln Memorial. Because of the proscription against sculpting images of God, Israel's temple housed the Ark of the Covenant, that sacred chest containing artifacts of the history of the relationship between God and the people. Christian churches are both like and unlike houses of God. In today's readings, Mary becomes the house of God, and in our baptism, so do we all. We marvel not so much at parthenogenesis, as at the presence of God's Holy Spirit in each one of us.

That Mary conceives while a **virgin** has birthed endless Christian imagination, some of which especially Protestants have judged to be an ill-considered debasing of sexual intercourse. Greco-Roman religion included tales of virgin births. Luke did not know how sperm and eggs function: thus we have here no gynecological report, but a theological statement told in narrative, similar to that told in the poetry of John's Prologue, that Jesus comes from God.



Tidings of Comfort and Joy (Part 1)
Luke 1:26-38



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

Ron & Kay Crawford

In memory of our daughter Jennifer Thompson

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

Lynda, Bob, Alec, & MARRISA Martin

In memory of Jennifer Thompson: sister & aunt

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

Frank & Kaylee Thompson

In memory of Jennifer Thompson: wife & mother

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 20 – *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

- ❖ The flowers this week are sponsored by the Hetricks in memory of loved ones.
- ❖ The communion kits are sponsored by Brenda Stover in honor of healthcare workers.

In-Person Worship – 9:00 a.m.

Live-stream Worship – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Link: 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>

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

Monday, December 21

Food Pantry – 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Council – 7:00 p.m. (Zoom)

Tuesday, December 22

Bible Study – 9:00-10:30 a.m. (Connection Zone)

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

Wednesday, December 23

Food Pantry – 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 24

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

In-Person Worship – 7:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Live-stream Worship – 7:00 p.m.

Worship Link: http://bit.ly/Zion_Live

Friday, December 25 – *Merry Christmas!*

Saturday, December 26

Sunday, December 27

In-Person Worship – 9:00 a.m.

Live-stream Worship – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Link: http://bit.ly/Zion_Live

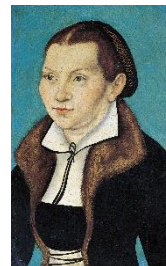
Wired Word Sunday School Class – 10:30 a.m. [Sign on any time after 10:15]

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMEMBERING OUR SAINTS: *Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552*

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.



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 4th banner design of the swirls ascending upward leading to a city with a heart in the middle and a star above. This banner illustrates the journey to Bethlehem. The 3rd banner design is of an angel holding a heart above its head with swirls ascending, extending upward to God and the heavens. The 2nd 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 1st 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.



IN-PERSON CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

You are welcome to join us for Christmas Eve worship! In-person services will be held at 7 & 10 p.m. Due to gathering guidelines, please register by December 23 (adminzelc@comcast.net or 717-945-4585) if you plan to attend either of these services.

LIVE-STREAM & RECORDED CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

You are welcome to join us for Christmas Eve worship virtually! The 7 p.m. service will be live-streamed if you chose to attend in real-time and recorded if you chose to attend at a later time. The link for the service is: http://bit.ly/Zion_Live



COMMUNION CARDS

If you have not filled out a communion card yet this Advent season, please do so today after you commune. Cards can be found on the ushers' table. 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.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Unfortunately, there is no significant progress to report on the call process. The pandemic has probably had some effect, but also, the pastor from the Synod who was assigned to Zion has left the Synod to accept a call to a parish in Maryland. Another pastor from the Synod has now been assigned to lead Zion's search. At this time, the committee has not received any information on potential candidates. We must continue to be prayerfully patient, as the process is the process, and it is currently in the hands of the Synod.



Looking ahead to resuming the Community Meal in 2021, Mary H. has started to create a schedule of meal sponsors beginning on January 14. Many of our partner churches and community groups have already scheduled dates to serve next year, and there are two members of Zion who have offered to sponsor meals. Zion will be sponsoring a meal every other month as we had done previously. There are seven open dates remaining on the schedule thru June. In order to provide the meal on a weekly basis without interruption, these 7 dates need to be filled.

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!

WIRED WORD CLASS

*The WW class meets via Zoom each Sunday morning at 10:30. You can sign on any time after 10:15. **Be ready for some Christmas Trivia in the class today!** 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.

MINISTRY TEAMS

Please be sure to email Anne your year-end reports. Thank you to those who have already submitted them!

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.

As of last week, 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 as we gather and respond to the needs of the church now and in the future, we can reverse these 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.

Stewardship Is...



Love in Action



The Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central Pennsylvania
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

CHRISTMAS IN THE BARN

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



WINTER YOUTH RETREAT



If you did not register your kids, grandkids, nephews, nieces, cousins...for the Winter Youth Retreat, you need to do that promptly as the registration was Friday. This annual retreat is for all kids in grades 3-9. 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!



CHICKEN & WAFFLES



Come on out to camp and enjoy some delicious home-made chicken and waffles on Sunday, January 17 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. If there is snow, you are welcome to bring your sled for some fun winter play! RSVP to the Camping Office (717-677-8211) by January 13.

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!

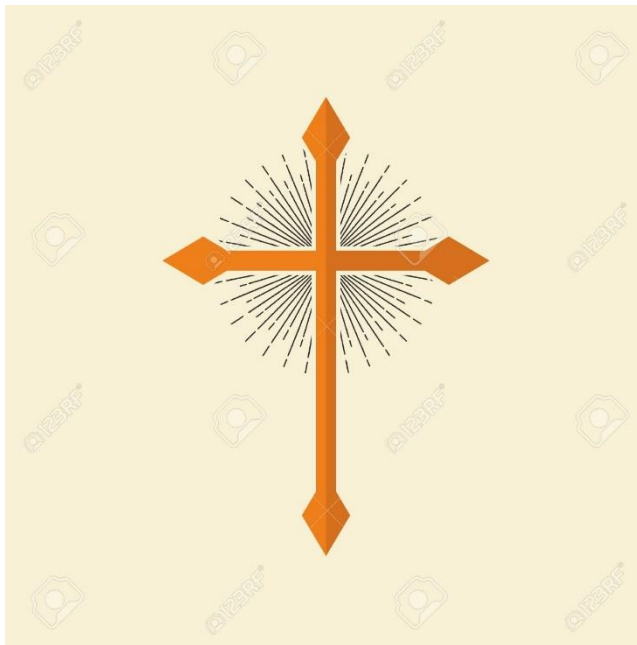
20th – Brenda Stover, Cameron Reed

21st – Todd Reed

23rd – Linda Bear, Don Wierschke

24th – Sue Wise, Holly Hoover

25th – Dave Wauls, Mary Gerlach



MINISTRY LEADERS

Ministers
Interim Pastor
Assisting Minister
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
Doug Rhoads
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) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2283229266>
10:30-11:15 a.m.
Christmas Eve Services 7:00 & 10:00 p.m.
Live-stream & Recorded Worship 9:00 a.m.
http://bit.ly/Zion_Live
Church Office 717-898-2911
Pastor 570-916-8835
Parish Administrator 717-945-4585
Council President 610-247-1497
Office Email adminzelc@comcast.net
Pastor Email prmsell2@ptd.net
Council President Email adele13@aol.com
Music Director Email zionlandisvillemusic@gmail.com
Website www.zionhempfield.net
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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