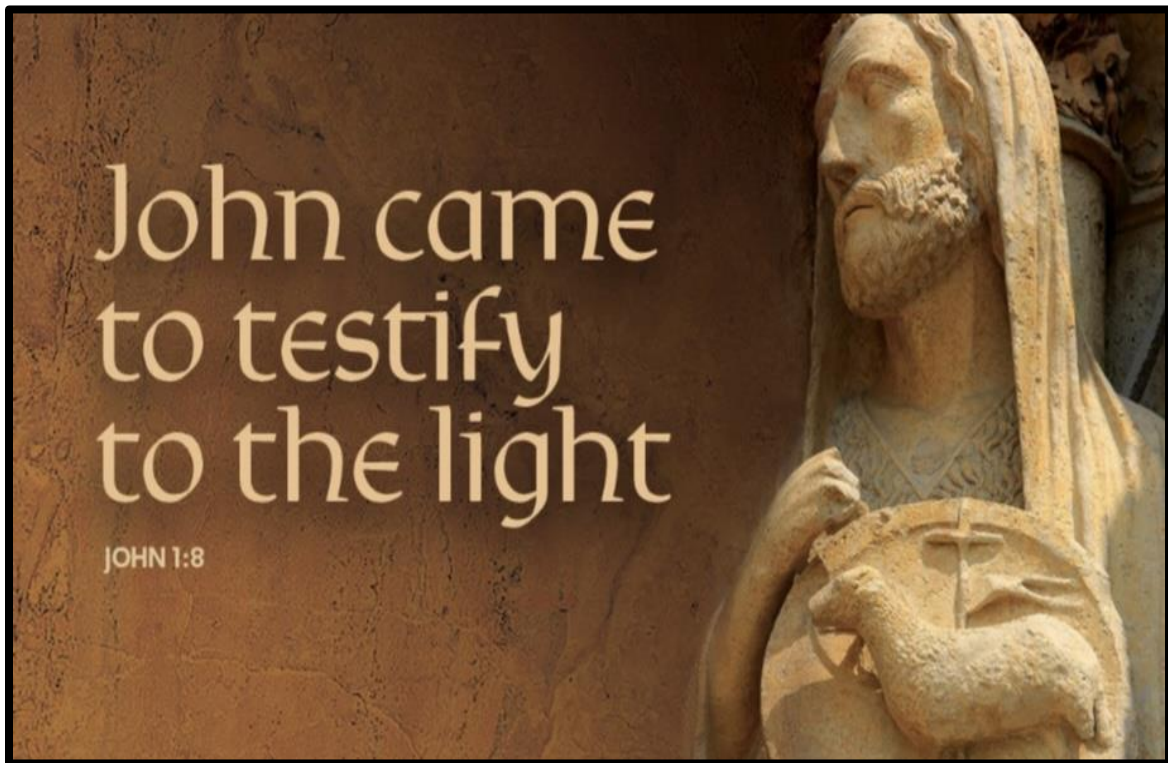


THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A Service of Word & Sacrament

December 17, 2023



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 in-person or online today! 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, they are available 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). If you have any questions concerning our service, please do not hesitate to talk with our pastor, Pastor Tim.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT ZION

IN-PERSON: All are invited to join us for worship at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning.

ONLINE: Indoor worship services are live-streamed on the church YouTube channel: http://bit.ly/Zion_Live. If you are unable or prefer not to watch during the live-stream, the recording is available to view any time after the service concludes. When the service is held outdoors, there will be no live-stream.

FOR THOSE WORSHIPPING IN-PERSON

- ❖ Restrooms are available by the front entrance of the church in the narthex and in the hallway off the back door. Infant changing tables can be found in the women's and men's bathrooms in the hallway off the back door.
- ❖ Children are welcome to be active participants in the worship service. There are bags located at the back of the sanctuary with quiet worship activities and goodies to take home. Currently, nursery care is not available but you may use the parlor as a cry room while also still being able to listen to the service.
- ❖ Ushers are located near the front and back of the worship area to direct people to seating, assist with other matters, and to answer questions.

Third Sunday of Advent

P: Pastor A: Assisting Minister C: Congregation (**bolded**)

† THE GATHERING †

INTRODUCTION

“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.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & GOD-SIGHTINGS

PRELUDE

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Mary McDonald

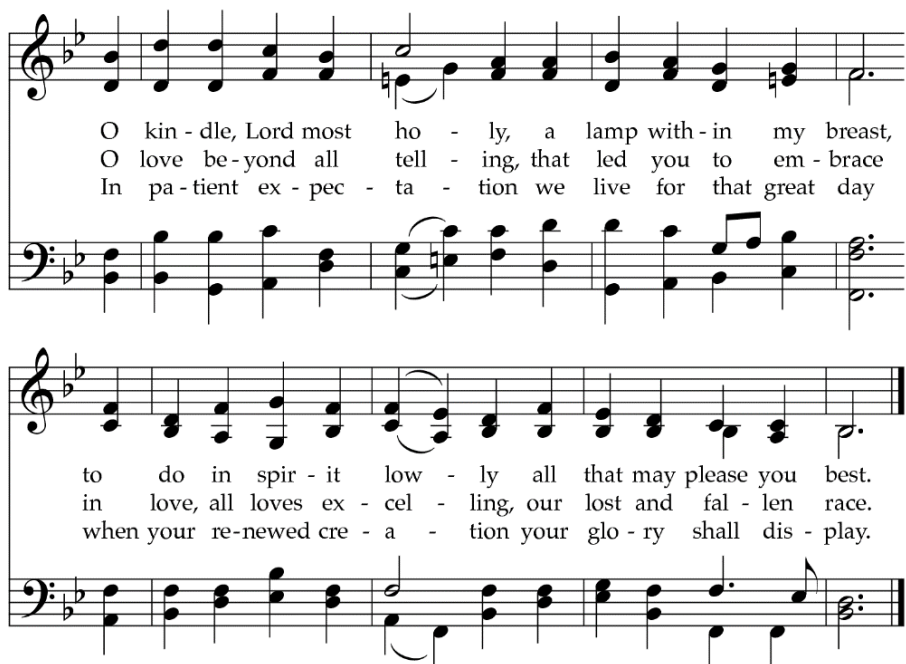
Please stand if you are able.

HYMN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;
3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,
Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.
to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.





O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

C: Amen.

P: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection.

P: Everlasting God,

C: **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

P: Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

C: **Amen.**

KYRIE

Refrain

Kyrie Eleison, on our world and on our way.

Kyrie Eleison ev'ry day.

1. For peace in the world, for the health of the Church.
For the unity of all;
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
Let us pray to the Lord; let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain.*

2. That we may live out your impassioned response
To the hungry and the poor;
That we may live out truth and justice and grace,
Let us pray to the Lord; let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain*

3. For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes,
For friends and family;
For life and for love, for our work and our play,
Let us pray to the Lord; let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain*

4. For your spirit to guide, that you center our lives
In the water and the word;
That you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
Let us pray to the Lord; let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain*

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: Let us pray. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

† THE WORD †

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Righteousness and praise flourish like a garden.

A: ¹The 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; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to 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. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For 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.

⁹Their 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. ¹⁰I 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. ¹¹For 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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126

Please read responsively.

A: ¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

C: ²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”**

³The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Kept in faith until the coming of Christ.

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

²³May 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. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

When Will He Come?

Bill Williams

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING/CHILDREN’S CHAT

R: Today is the Third Sunday of Advent. We light the candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy.

Pastor and R: Say it with us: Christ has come, Christ is coming, and Christ will come again!

C: **Christ has come, Christ is coming, and Christ will come again.**

- R: In Mark 5:18-20, the healed Gerasene begged Jesus that he might be with him: "But Jesus refused and said to him, Go home to your own people, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and what mercy he has shown you." And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone was amazed.
- R: Why was the healed Gerasene given permission to tell others about Jesus when others were supposed to be quiet? Why was he sent home to his home people?
- P: Because the healed Gerasene understood how Jesus was the Messiah. He got it! So Jesus sent the healed Gerasene to tell his people how to follow Jesus.
- R: We light the first three Advent candles with joy, because we have been chosen to tell others about Jesus and his way of becoming "first" and the "greatest." Jesus is the Messiah who says, "Anyone who wants to be first must be last and the servant of all." Let us pray. Come, Lord Jesus. Come quickly! Fill us with your Spirit of joy, the spirit of becoming "first" and becoming the "greatest" by being the "last" and the "servant of all." Amen.

All: (Sing) *I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart
Where?
Down in my heart!
Where?
Down in my heart!
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart
Down in my heart to stay*

All: **We get to be last and first together!**

ADVENT SONG

He Came Down

ELW 252

3. He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
Hallelujah forevermore!

Text: Cameroon traditional; Arr. © 1986
Iona Community, GIA Publications Inc.
Music: HE CAME DOWN,
Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Please stand if you are able.

King of kings and Lord of lords, glory, hallelujah!
King of kings and Lord of lords, glory, hallelujah!
Jesus, Prince of Peace, glory, hallelujah!
Jesus, Prince of Peace, glory, hallelujah!

John 1:1-28

A witness to the light.

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

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

P: ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

MESSAGE

Pastor Timothy Seitz-Brown

John the Baptist

- I'm not the Messiah!
- I'm not Elijah!
- I'm not the prophet!
- I'm the one to "make straight the way" (Isaiah)
- I'm not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.
- I bear witness to the Light.
- I point to the Lamb of God.
- John found joy in pointing to Another.



**John bore
witness to
the One who
turned
darkness
into light!**

Goodness is stronger than evil,
Love is stronger than hate,
Light is stronger than darkness,
Life is stronger than death,
Victory is ours through God who loves us!



**“He
must
increase,
and I must
decrease!”**

John 3:30

**When Jesus
entered the world,
“his own people”
said, “NO”!**

**Who are
“God’s own people”
today?**

**Are “God’s people” today
any different from
“God’s people” then?**



DO YOU KNOW WHAT TURNS
DARKNESS INTO LIGHT?



Love

Darkness;

**When one
people's
dream
becomes**

**another
people's
nightmare.**





LIGHT:

**When our
worst
nightmares**

**are turned
into**

God's Dream!



Please stand if you are able.

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon may to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

A: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration. Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

Let the trees of the field sing your praise. Protect forests, orchards, rainforests, and all wooded areas from disease and deforestation. Keep us grateful for their gifts of oxygen, food, shade, and shelter. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and provoke us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need. Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Empower us as helpers and advocates. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Open our hearts to those who serve as truth-tellers in our church and in our society. Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. Amplify voices of peacemakers, advocates, and especially those whose voices are ignored or marginalized. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

With gratitude we rejoice in the saints who witnessed to your life in all circumstances, in whom your Spirit was not quenched, even in death. Through them, teach us always to hold fast to what is good. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Additional prayers may be lifted up by the congregation and/or pastor.

P: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

C: **Amen.**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

† THE MEAL †

PRAYER

- A: God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C: **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise beyond the stars, beneath the sea, within each cell, with every breath.
- C: **We praise you, O God.**

- P: Generations bless your faithfulness through the water, by night and day, across the wilderness, out of exile, into the future.
- C: **We bless you, O God.**

- P: We give you thanks for your dear Son at the heart of human life, near to those who suffer, beside the sinner, among the poor, with us now.
- C: **We thank you, O God.**

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

- P: 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 for the remembrance of me."

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

- C: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

- P: We pray for the gift of your Spirit in our gathering, within this meal, among your people, throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.
- 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: In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

Please be seated.

PARTAKING IN THE BREAD AND CUP OF SALVATION

All baptized Christians are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament by coming forward to receive the elements. Those who do not or choose not to partake of the sacrament may come forward and receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, please let one of the ushers know and the pastor will come to you.

For those not able to have red wine, there is grape juice in the outer circle of every tray. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers will say: "The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you," to which you may respond: "Amen."

Please use this time for quiet reflection or join in singing the communion song until all worshippers have communed and have returned to their seats.

COMMUNION SONG *Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)*

1. Light of the World, Treasure of Heaven,
Brilliant like the stars in the wintry sky.
Joy of the Father, reach through the darkness,
Shine across the earth, send the shadows to flight.

2. Light of the World from the beginning
The tragedies of time were no match for Your love.
From great heights of glory You saw my story.
God, You entered in and became one of us.



Refrain

Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah!
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done!
Come and adore Him,
Bow down before Him.
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World!

3. Light of the World, crown in a manger,
Born for the cross, to suffer, to save.
High King of Heaven, death is the poorer.
We are the richer by the price that He paid. *Refrain*

4. Light of the World soon will be coming.
With fire in His eyes, He will ransom His own.
Through clouds He will lead us straight into glory.
And there He shall reign forevermore, forevermore. *Refrain*

Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash
CCLI Song #7163734

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Capitol CMG Genesis; Capitol CMG Paragon;
Scott Cash Publishing Designee; We The Kingdom Music

Please stand if you are able.

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: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.
C: **Amen.**

† THE SENDING †

BLESSING

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ☩ remain upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONGS

Build Up

Refrain

Build up, prepare the way!
Remove the obstructions from my people's way.
Build up, prepare the way!
God is near; God is here today.

1. Break the chains of injustice.
Let the oppressed go free.
Share our homes with the homeless,
And our bread with the hungry. *Refrain*

2. God sees all our destruction;
How we get in love's way.
Still God comes and meets us
With a steady, healing embrace. *Refrain*

Bridge

Then, your light will break forth like the dawn,
And your healing will break into song. *Refrain*

CCLI Song # 2329767
Hans Peterson | Larry Olson
© 1996 Dakota Road Music

Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.



2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
Let all their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Refrain

Joy, unspeakable joy!
An overflowing well;
No tongue can tell!
Joy, unspeakable joy!
It rises in my soul, never lets me go!

3. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love!

Refrain

Joy, unspeakable joy!
An overflowing well;
No tongue can tell!
Joy, unspeakable joy!
It rises in my soul, never lets me go!

Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, George Frideric Handel, Isaac
Watts, Matt Gilder
CCLI Song #5607039

Rising Springs Music; Vamos Publishing;
worshiptogether.com songs; Ryan House Music; Wondrously Made Songs

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Sunday, December 17 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

** The flowers are sponsored by Brenda Stover in memory of Nick Schmalhofer, Michael Rutt, Adam Ocker, and Ashley Bukeavich.*

** The communion elements are sponsored by Al Ramer in celebration of Diane's birthday tomorrow!*

Worship – 9:00 a.m. (In-Person & Livestreamed/Recorded)

Livestream/Recorded Link: http://bit.ly/Zion_Live

Adult Sunday School – 10:30 a.m.

Bible Study Class (An Advent Study) – Parlor

Wired Word Class – Zone & Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2283229266>)

Holiday Concert (Hempfield H.S. Chamber Choir – 2 p.m. [**NOTE TIME CHANGE**] (Sanctuary)

Monday, December 18

Food Pantry – 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Council – 7 p.m. (Zone)

Tuesday, December 19

Bible Study – 9 a.m. (Parlor)

Social Outreach – 6 p.m. (HotZ)

Scouts – 6:30 - 8 p.m. (Scout Room, Classrooms, and Social Room)

Wednesday, December 20

Food Pantry – 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Thursday, December 21

Choir – 6 p.m.

Friday, December 22

Saturday, December 23

Sunday, December 24 – 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve

Worship – 9:00 a.m. (In-Person & Livestreamed/Recorded)

Livestream/Recorded Link

Adult Sunday School

Advent Study – 10:30 a.m. (Parlor)

No Wired Word class today or next Sunday (12/31)

Christmas Eve Worship – 7:00 p.m. (In-Person & Livestreamed/Recorded)

Livestream/Recorded Link: http://bit.ly/Zion_Live

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, & EVENTS

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

"For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also".

Luke 12:34

Biblical stewardship is generous.



In the New Testament, Jesus talks a lot about money and possessions. He is blunt: "our hearts follow the money."

***In this season of gifting and getting, are we relying on what is under the tree (or in the checkbook) to save us?
Or are we listening to the voice speaking from the wilderness who points us back to the manger, not the market.***

Where we invest our treasure determines where our ultimate loyalty will be.

As disciples, we seek to be generous so that our hearts will be loyal to Jesus.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

In the spirit of Zion's Stewardship Initiative and being generous followers of Jesus, be sure to pick up your offering envelopes in your church mailbox! [Please note that some envelope numbers have changed in 2024 from what they were in 2023. Make sure you use the correct box number!]

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Thank you, Zion, for contributing 97 pounds of food in October! The pantry is also grateful for financial contributions that help to purchase food items at the Central Penn Food Bank in Harrisburg at below supermarket costs. Financial contributions also allow the managers to purchase food items at local grocery stores and markets such as eggs, fresh produce, meats, dairy products, and other pantry supplies.

In October, the pantry served a total of 1,956 people (544 children, 950 adults, 462 seniors, and 18 new families). Without the 40 volunteers who served over 600 hours, the pantry could not help all these individuals in the community!

In November, the pantry received 3,500 pounds of food from the Boy Scouts Scouting for Food drive and the Hempfield High School food drive collected 2,712 pounds.

Currently, Stauffers (Rohrerstown) is running a food drive for the pantry. *Even with the large amount of food the pantry received in the past months, the following items are still requested: Applesauce, Cereal, Canned Peaches, Canned Pears, Canned Mixed Fruit, Canned Mandarin Oranges, Strawberry and/or Grape Jelly.* Please note that the pantry prefers non-glass containers. Thank you!

~HOLIDAY CONCERT COMING UP~



NOTE TIME CHANGE!



This Afternoon at 2:00 p.m.
Featuring the Hempfield H.S.
Chamber Choir

Contact John L. with questions or if you would like to be a sponsor for next year's concerts!

johnplandis@gmail.com

717-875-6182

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

There are a variety of Advent devotionals on the ushers' table in the narthex. In addition, there are also copies of the Advent Prayer cycle for the Middle East and the Holy Land from the ELCA and her ecumenical partners. Help yourself!

ANNUAL REPORTS: ATTENTION ALL MINISTRY TEAMS!

Now that it's December, it is also Annual Report time! All ministry teams need to email your report about what was accomplished this year and what is on your to-do list for 2024 to Anne (adminzelc@comcast.net).

JOYFUL NOISE

The Joyful Noise offering through December will go to Bethany Christian Services' Safe Families for Children program. For more information about this program, visit: <https://bethany.org/help-a-child/emergency-care/safe-families>.



OUR DAILY BREAD DEVOTIONALS

The December-February devotional booklets are available on the ushers' table in the narthex, on the window ledge in the back hallway, and on the kiosk across from the mailboxes. Advent devotionals are there as well.

COMFORTER MINISTRY

The Comforter Ministry is still collecting colorful clean sheets and fabric! Please place any donations in the blue bin in the narthex!

2024 FLOWER, BULLETIN, AND COMMUNION ELEMENTS SPONSORS

The sign-up sheets for all three of these sponsorship opportunities next year are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex across from the mailboxes. This is a great way to help offset the church's cost for these worship service expenses and a special way to honor, remember, and celebrate someone or an occasion! Cost is \$40 for flowers, \$40 for bulletins, and \$35 for communion elements.

FLOWER VASE DONATIONS

Do you have any altar flower vases from the church? The Altar Guild (and Nancy M. in particular!) would love it if you could return them so they can use them to deliver arrangements to others! ALSO, if you have any clear vases with about a 6-inch diameter that could use a new home, the Altar Guild will be more than happy to take them off your hands! They thank you in advance! Questions about size or type? Talk with Nancy (717-278-1556).



TODAY! HOLIDAY TRIVIA!

Classes will meet together in the Social Room for Holiday Trivia! All are welcome to come join the light-hearted fun (and yes, maybe a little bit of friendly competition)!

** The Wired Word class will meet next Sunday in person and on Zoom.*

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

** The class that meets in the parlor will complete an Advent next Sunday (12/24) and will begin a new study in January...Stay tuned for more information!*

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 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.



First Banner



Second Banner



Third Banner



The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania

Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm

PO Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303

717-677-8211 • www.LutheranCamping.org



Join us at the Wittel Farm for our annual Advent/Christmas night. This year, we'll gather around the outdoor fire and have cookies and cocoa in the barn. Lights and decorations!

December 17
7-8:30 p.m.

Enjoy Kirchenwald in the winter!

Play broom hockey and other games on the frozen pond.

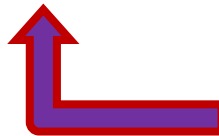
Have fun sledding, playing snow soccer and other winter games.

Creative Bible studies and worship experiences led by our summer camp counselors are an important part of this retreat.

Meet new friends and catch up with your summer camp friends.

Other indoor and outdoor activities may be included, depending on the weather.

January 5-7, 2024
\$170



TODAY!



*ADVENT & CHRISTMAS
AT A GLANCE*

**NOTE
CHANGE OF
TIME!!!**

The concert
is at 2 p.m.
NOT 3 p.m.
as
previously
advertised.

TODAY.

Advent 3

9:00 a.m.: Worship

**10:30 a.m.: Christmas
Trivia (Zone)**

2:00 p.m.: Hempfield H.S.

Chamber Concert

Sun., 12/24.

Advent 4

9:00 a.m.: Worship

7:00 p.m.: Worship

**NOTE
CHANGE OF
TIME!!!**

The concert
is at 2 p.m.
NOT 3 p.m.
as
previously
advertised.

**SPECIAL
CHRISTMAS
EVE
PRELUDE
MUSIC
BEGINS AT
6:30 p.m.**

Jamie Marrs Smith, cello
Lisa Nelson, piano
Lisa Nelson & John Landis,
piano 4-hand duet
John Landis, organ





➤ To everyone who helped decorate the church for the holiday season ... *Thank you! The worship, narthex, and the outside of the church looks absolutely beautiful and message-filled!*

➤ From Lutheran World Relief ... *Thank you for your recent generous gift of \$265.00 to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund! The kindness and love you show your neighbors in Christ is truly transformational. ... LWR is so grateful for the love you are bestowing on our neighbors around the world.*

➤ From Off the Streets ... *Thank you for the gift of \$107 from your Joyful Noise collection! This donation provides the security deposit for our clients to live in a home of their own. Your caring, consideration also enables a person to go from unbelievable living conditions to a life without the stigma of homelessness... Thank you, again, most sincerely. You have made a difference in someone's life.*

➤ To the anonymous donor in the community ... *Thank you for the very generous donation of your \$6,000 year-end bonus to help offset the cost of the food ministries and outreach at Zion.*

**Note: This is the third year that this individual has stopped by the church unexpectedly to give this donation. They do not have any known connections to Zion. Let this example of living in a Christ-like way be a model for us all.*



PRAYER LIST

FOR HEALING

Dave Wauls
Dick Olson
Cindy Blough
Bob Shirk
Jess Barcaro
Sam King
Bill Grove
Connie Alsedek
Joe Adams
Mary Zimmerman
Marvin Ruch
Kate Donnan
Judie Ingersoll
Joan Mays
Holly Hoover
Barb Williams
Kay Crawford
Tom Grzybowski
Dolly Overly
Loma Slike (Mother of Sue Wise)
Ed Illick (Husband of Pastor Pam Illick)
Brook Ross (Friend of Barb Williams)
Walter Thalgott (Brother of Thelma Pearson)
William Hartman (Father of Deb Grube)
Jeff Long (Nephew of Rick & Deb Long)
Mike LaFata (Son-in-law of Bill & Julia Grove)
Jack Taylor (4-year-old son of the niece of Deb Grube)
Harmony & Family (Friends of Kim & Jim Paternoster)

FOR COMFORT, PEACE, STRENGTH, & SAFETY

Thelma Pearson
Lucy Davis
Deb McCartney
George Potts

Ruth Burkett (Mother of Deb Long)
Arlene Wise (Sister-in-law of Dave Wise)
Randy Miller and his family on the death of his father.
Ed & Dotty Sites (Parents of Cathy Benedict)
Jennifer Kready (Daughter of Dave & Donna Dumeyer)
Peggy & Rick Dolly (Relatives of Barb Williams)

FOR PROTECTION FOR MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDERS

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

IN CELEBRATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

18th – Diane Ramer, Nate Deibler
20th – Brenda Stover, Cameron Reed
21st – Todd Reed
23rd – Linda Bear, Don Wierschke
24th – Sue Wise, Holly Hoover

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

17th – Chrissy (Rickert) and Johnny Fenwick



MINISTRY LEADERS

Ministers
Pastor
Music Director
Parish Administrator
Worship Technology Assistant
Lay Ministry Assistant
Council President
Council Vice President
Sextons

Members of the Congregation
Rev. Timothy Seitz-Brown
John Landis
Anne Rankin
David Albin
Diane Gerlach
Kim Paternoster
Denise Haun
Brian Bourassa (a.m.)
Tom Miller (p.m.)

WORSHIP, SUNDAY SCHOOL, & CONTACT INFORMATION

Worship	Sundays @ 9:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve Worship	Sunday, December 24 @ 7 p.m.
Livestream & Recorded Link	http://bit.ly/Zion_Live
Christmas Trivia (Zone)	Sunday, December 17 @ 10:30 a.m. (Zone)
Advent Study Class (Parlor)	Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.
Wired Word Class (Zone & Zoom)	Sundays @ 10:30 a.m. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2283229266
Morning Bible Study	Tuesdays @ 9:00 a.m.
Church Office	717-898-2911
Pastor	717-332-4216
Parish Administrator	717-945-4585
Council President	717-342-3796
Office Email	adminzelc@comcast.net
Pastor Email	zion1517pastor@gmail.com
Council President Email	krpkc@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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** The Stewardship slide is adapted from "A Litany Prayer for Aleppo" by Michael K. Marsh by Rev. Timothy Seitz-Brown.*