

Lutheran Church

Phone: 814-695-0091
Office email:
Website:

Office Hours: 8:30AM-3:30PM Tuesday-Friday
office@zionholidaysburg.org
www.zionholidaysburg.org

**DECEMBER
2023**



Worship

Saturday - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School

9:30 Sunday School for All Ages

Sundays:

9:00 a.m. NOIZ Rehearsal

Wednesdays:

9:00 a.m. Stitch & Sew

Thursdays:

10:00 a.m. ThuMBS

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

12/2: Cookie Walk

12/2 & 16: Pageant Rehearsal

12/3: Advent Begins

12/3: Usher Meeting

12/4 & 17: Serving Squad

12/5, 12, 19: Holden Evening Prayer

12/6: Adult Board Meeting

12/6 & 20: FaithFormers

12/6, 13, 20, 27: Stephen Ministry Training

12/7: Worship Board Meeting

12/8-10: Synod Youth Weekend

12/12: Property Board Meeting

12/13: Cr@zy & Cr@zy Lite

12/14: CPC Meeting

12/14: Communication Board Meeting

12/17: Pageant Presentation

12/19: Ruth Circle

12/21: Blue Christmas Service

12/24: Christmas Eve Day~One Service
9:30

12/24: Christmas Eve Services (5:00, 7:30,
& 10:00)

12/25: Merry Christmas ~ Office Closed

12/30: Theme Night-New Year's Eve Eve

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

1/1: Happy New Year ~ Office Closed

1/8 & 21: Serving Squad

1/12-13: 4-6th Grade Lock-in

December can be a hectic month as we add decorating, baking, shopping, wrapping, traveling, and gathering to our schedules. It is all done in the Spirit of Christmas as we go above and beyond to celebrate with family and friends. This season means something, in part because we have these additional traditions that enrich our lives.

At the risk of overextending your calendars, the church offers several additional practices and services to enhance this Advent and Christmas time:

- 1) We will offer Holden Evening Prayer on the three Tuesdays in Advent. This special prayer service will begin at 6:30 in the sanctuary on December 5, 12, and 19 and will last approximately 30 minutes. It features wonderful music and lots of candlelight.
- 2) On Sunday, December 17 at the 10:45 service the children and youth of the congregation will present the annual Christmas Pageant. This Ryan Custead original screenplay is called "Camp Christmas," and will be a live action performance in the sanctuary. In the afternoon the acting troupe will take the show on the road and perform for the residents at the Lutheran Home at Holidaysburg.
- 3) We are pleased to offer our Blue Christmas Service on Thursday, December 21st at 6:30 in the sanctuary. This service is designed for those who may experience grief and sorrow in the holiday season. It is a comforting reminder that the Light of Christ shines even in our longest night.
- 4) Keep in mind that the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve share the same date this year. Worshipping opportunities will be Sunday morning at 9:30 AM (Advent 4) and Sunday evening at 5, 7:30, and 10 PM as we celebrate Christmas Eve.

I hope that you'll be able to join us for a few of these additional worship opportunities at Zion. While the rest of the holiday season tends to speed us up and add some chaos, these worship service will give you a well-deserved chance at reflection and rest. I promise you that they will not disappoint.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dave



NOTES OF THANKS

Just sending a note of appreciation to all those who have graciously given of their time to cook meals for our homeless population. They have been so appreciated. We thank you for your servants heart. Together, we are making a difference for the Kingdom.

Blessings,

Pam Townsend (Hope Drop-in Center)

Dear Zion Friends,

How thoughtful of you to share the "Afterburner" cookie basket with us. Your generosity was appreciated by all. Thank you for the work you do with our youth!

HASD Administration Office

Dear Zion Family,

Thank you to all who provided, prepared, and delivered the delicious turkey dinner on November 12th. Everything tasted wonderful! It was so nice of you to remember me.

Love to all,

Sallie Barroner

Activities Board,

My sincere "Thanks" to all who helped prepare the delicious Thanksgiving Dinner. What a joy it has always been to be a 71 year member of Zion Lutheran Church.

Wishes of peace and love,

Ginny Erb



Giving Tree Project

Once again the Adult Board will be sponsoring the Giving Tree Project. This project is done in cooperation with the Home Nursing Agency. The tree is up and available to choose a gift tag!

When you take a tag from the tree, be sure to sign the notebook and return your gift to the church by Sunday, December 10th. When you return your gift, place it in the box in the hall that matches the circled number on the front of the tag. If you have any questions please contact Linda Renney or anyone from the Adult Board. Thank you in advance for your kindness!

Outreach Board News

1600+ meals provided to our community to date!

Over the last several months, Zion's Outreach Board has been partnering with the Altoona Hope Drop-in Center.

This organization assists individuals dealing with mental health problems, substance abuse issues and homelessness.

How can you make a difference??

- Donate an item from the giving tree board which is located outside the Library.
- Sign up for our "Serving Squad" which meets twice a month in the church's kitchen to prepare and package meals. The next dates are December 4 & 17 and January 8 & 21.
- Sign up to make the meal at home and return it to the church.

We welcome all the assistance and ideas you have to offer! Making God's grace tangible is a shared responsibility.



A Helping Hand

We are collecting gift cards to have on hand for families going through a rough time. They may be going through a medical situation that requires a lot of travel or just may be having some financial struggles. These families could use a helping hand with things like food and fuel to help ease the burden and give them one less thing to worry about. **If you would like to make a donation, what seems to work the best are Martins, Hometown Market, and Sheetz cards in \$10 to \$25 increments.** Please bring the cards to the church office and we can get them to the families.



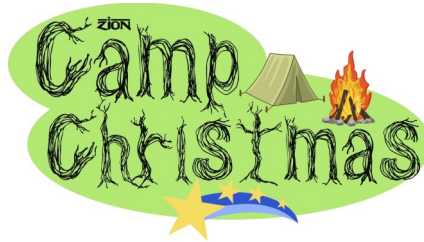
Blue Christmas

*A service of comfort and hope
for those who are hurting
this Christmas.*

Thursday, December 21
at 6:30 p.m.



Christmas Pageant 2023



Believe it or not, it is time to start thinking about Zion's Christmas Pageant for 2023! **We need children, youth, and a few parent/adult volunteers** to make this pageant a success. Participating is a great way to help your child focus on faith in the Advent season. Please let Ryan Custead know at ryncust@gmail.com or at (814)695-0091 if your children will participate. Zion's pageants are always unique and fun, so watch for more info.



Pageant Schedule:

Saturday, December 2nd
from 10:00am-Noon ~ Pageant practice

Saturday, December 16th
from 10:00am-Noon ~ Pageant practice

Sunday, December 17th
@ 10:45am ~ Pageant performance

Worship Times

*Christmas Eve Day
(Advent 4)*

One Service~9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve

5:00, 7:30,
& 10:00 p.m.

Holden Evening Prayer

Celebrate and anticipate the Light of the World with Holden Evening Prayer this December. This Vespers service will begin at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary on Tuesdays, December 5, 12, and 19. Holden Evening Prayer is musically rich and easy to sing. Complement your Advent preparations with this worship opportunity



Saturday, December 2nd
Open from 10:00am-Noon

MINISTRY AND MISSION FUNDRAISER

Walk around our fellowship hall and fill a provided festive container with an assortment of homemade cookies and Christmas goodies!
\$15 per container



Support our youth's growing faith!

500 Allegheny St.
HOLLIDAYSBURG **zion** Lutheran Church
 HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA



2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO BE MYLE
 the Table Young Adult Gathering

ELCA National Youth Gathering

UPDATE for the congregation!

With youth signed up and adults lined up, Zion's group is getting ready for an amazing experience this summer at the **2024 ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans**. Our group will worship with thousands of other young people from across the country, serve the local community in New Orleans, and be encouraged in their faith. National Youth Gatherings have been an important part of our young people's lives here at Zion for generations, and we are so grateful to have this chance this summer. *Watch for opportunities to support the youth in the coming months, and keep us in prayer.* The Gathering is July 16-20.

Christmas Caroling
Wednesday, 12/13
@ 7:00pm



Join Zion's youth and spread some joy!
@ The Lutheran Home, 916 Hickory St.

On Wednesday, December 15th, all are invited to meet at **The Lutheran Home at Hollidaysburg at 7:00pm**. We will be singing some carols for the residents in the community room. Zion's youth groups, Cr@zy and Cr@zy "lite" invite Zion folks of all ages to join them! After singing and visiting with the residents, those who wish can "hit the streets" with us to sing some more carols. We will end back at the Lutheran Home at **8:30pm**.



(Youth group grown ups, drop off and pick up for Cr@zy and Cr@zy "lite" are at the Lutheran Home, 916 Hickory St.)

2024 Night of Prayer



Sunday, January 28th
@ 7:00pm Zion Lutheran Church

500 Allegheny St
Hollidaysburg

Join us in candlelight for a special community service of prayer, scripture, and music.



Pray for those who suffer in our community, for healing in your own life, God's guidance, or for whatever is on your heart. **Come to pray or be prayed for.**

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28



zion FAITHFORMERS

Zion's preschool-3rd Grade group

FaithFormers is a place where children learn about and experience God with fun songs, lessons, games, and more! All **Preschool-3rd Graders** are welcome to start attending any time we meet. FaithFormers meets here at the church every **first and third Wednesday from 4:30pm-5:30pm** of every school-year month. Ryan Custead will lead the group along with volunteers from the congregation. *Children may choose to have a parent or guardian attend with them. Children who are not potty trained **must** have a parent or guardian with them.* Please contact the church office at (814) 695-0091 or email Ryan at ryncust@gmail.com with any questions. *A parent or guardian will need to register their child with a short release form at the church when attending for the first time. Forms will be available at FaithFormers, on the children's bulletin board, and online.

Upcoming dates: (4:30pm-5:30pm):
December 6 & 20
January 10 & 24



YOUTH LOCK-IN DATES

4th—6th Grade Lock-in
January 12-13, 2024

7th—12th Grade Lock-in
April 5-6, 2024

CONFIRMATION COURSES



Courses are for all youth in year 1 and 2 of the Confirmation process. Topics for the courses will range from Catechism, to the Bible, to Church History. Looking forward to seeing you there!

CHANGE FOR 2023-24: All courses will be taught during the Sunday School hour throughout the year. The schedule for 23-24 is as follows:

Sundays

12/3 & 12/10, 9:30 to 10:30 am

1/7 & 1/14, 9:30 to 10:30 am

2/4 & 2/11, 9:30 to 10:30 am



Mark your calendars for CR@ZY! Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. (unless stated otherwise) Zion Youth & friends, 7th-12th Grade are invited for youth group fun, Faith discussions, opportunities to serve, and more!

CR@ZY "Lite"

4th-6th Graders will also be meeting during the Cr@zy hour, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Bible study, games, service work, prayer, and more! This group will follow the Cr@zy schedule.

Upcoming Dates:

12/13 (Caroling~See Ad on Page 4)
NO CR@ZY on 12/27 due to holiday
1/10 & 1/24



4TH-6TH GRADE LOCK IN

Friday, January 12th 7:00pm-
Saturday, January 13th 10:00am

At the church. Games, movies, snacks, "night games", and more!

FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!



A parent/gaurdian will need to sign a release when dropping youth off.

Snow Camp

6th-12th Graders!
February 2-4th
@ Sequanota



All **6th-12th Graders** are invited to join Ryan this February for Snow Camp 2024! Join with youth and leaders from across the Synod at Camp Sequanota for a weekend of outdoor fun, bible study, and sledding (or mud sliding!). Transportation will be available if needed. *Youth should plan to be leaving for camp around dinner time on Friday and returning to Hollidaysburg in the early afternoon on Sunday.* There is no cost to families and friends are welcome! Please let Ryan know at ryncust@gmail.com or at (814) 695-0091 if your youth will be joining us. Registration will be on Sequanota's website, and instructions will be sent as it opens.



Zion Family
Winter Retreat
@ Sequanota
March 1st to 3rd

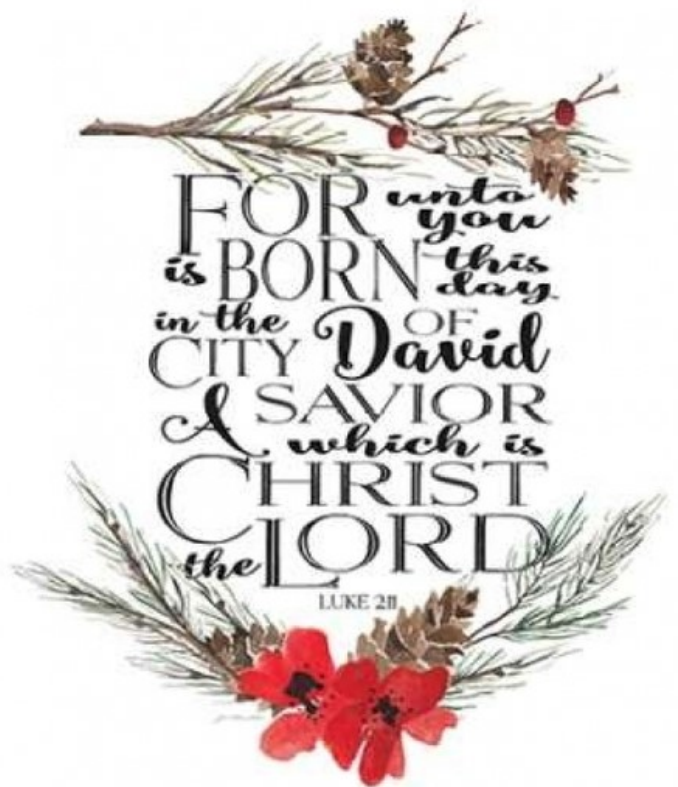
Mark your calendars and watch for more information!

New Year's
Eve Eve
Zion Theme Night



Saturday, December 30th @ 6:00 pm

Join us for another great "New Year's Eve Eve" party at Zion! All ages are welcome. The evening will include fellowship, a "ball drop" countdown (at 7:30 pm), dinner, games, and more. Please consider bringing a dish or two to share.



Zion at Winter Jam 2024 Friday, January 19th

Petersen Events Center, Pittsburgh

Everyone is invited to join Zion as we head to Winter Jam at the Petersen Events Center on **Friday, January 19th**. The concert doors open at 6:00pm, so **we will be meeting at the church at 3:15pm** (or immediately after school dismisses. *We won't leave without anyone!*). We will return to the church somewhere around midnight. We will travel in the church van and a few additional vehicles, so transportation can be provided.

We will have sandwich dinners packed for everyone on the ride there. The cost of admission is covered, but you may want some money for a snack stop on the way home or any band merch. Winter Jam is an annual winter tour featuring a variety of contemporary Christian bands and artists. This is always a great event, and you won't want to miss it! Bands and artists this year include: Crowder, Lecrae, and more!

Please contact the church office at (814) 695-001 or email Ryan at ryncust@gmail.com to sign up with the names of who is joining us!

SIGN UP BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 12TH.

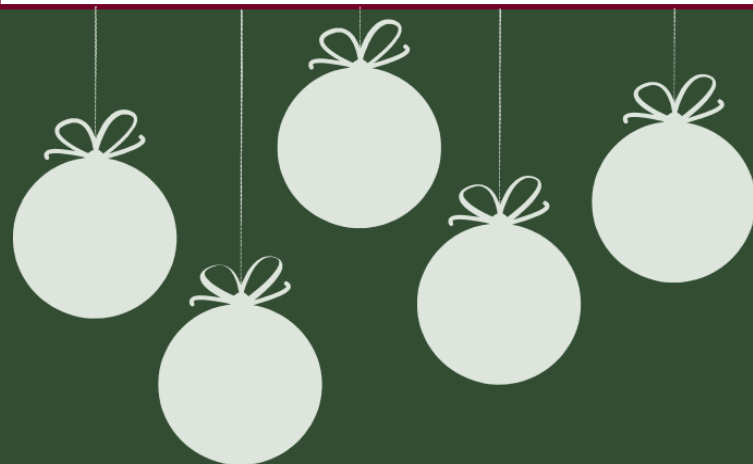


ALTAR FLOWERS

The Worship Board would like to remind the congregation of the sponsorship program for the flowers that are placed on the altar each week. You are welcome to sponsor the flowers in memory of loved ones, in honor of a special event, or in thanks for God's many blessings.

If you are interested in signing up, the sign-up sheet for the new year will be placed on the small bulletin board near the kitchen. Also, when you sign up, be sure to mark the column stating if you want to take the flowers after services.

We are anticipating a price increase for 2024 but have not received official notice from the florist, so we will inform the congregation as soon as we can. Checks can be made payable to Zion or you can include payment in your offering envelope by marking it "Altar Flowers". **Thank you** in advance for participating in this ministry.



Offering Envelopes & Online Giving

2024 offering envelopes will be available mid-December. Please pick them up (and any you might be able to deliver to friends, neighbors and family) in the fellowship hall and **discard any old ones**. Using old envelopes may cause a discrepancy on your giving statement, so please do not use them.

Also a reminder that the church has online giving available for a more streamlined giving option. You can define how your money is distributed just like on your giving envelopes. If you are interested in online giving please contact the church office.

If you cannot find your envelope box or you are a newer or prospective member who has not received envelopes yet, please call the church office and we will make sure you receive them.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers at the 10:45 service to run recording and streaming service equipment. No experience necessary and training is available.

Please contact
Chuck Kormanski
at 814-880-6411 if
you are interested
or have any
questions.



Renew Restore Rejuvenate

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

\$356,729.62 is the current total received towards our Capital Campaign fund. Everyone has been consistent with giving and we appreciate the dedication to the pledges. If the trend continues, the Property board anticipates finalization of designs and securing bids for Phase Two materials and construction in the first quarter of 2024.

FINANCIAL REPORT General Fund

July 1, 2023 thru October 31, 2023

Income (Giving)	\$115,012.60
Expenses	\$110,457.70
Income vs. Expenses (Giving Only)	\$4,554.90

(REMINDER: The above income figure reflects money given in the "Current Expenses" portion of your giving envelopes and undesignated loose offering only. Benevolence and money given to designated funds is not included.)

Edward Jones Investments

E J Account Value as of 10/27/23	\$561,946.81
Less Principal(initial investment)	\$336,214.17
Value over principal as of 10/27/23	\$225,732.64

Zion Lutheran Church
500 Allegheny Street
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648


Return Service Requested

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Glory to
God
in the highest,
and on earth
peace,
good will
toward
men.



Luke 2:14 kjv

© White Gunpowder



Contact Information

CPC Executive Director

Aaron Wagner 814-404-6584

Pastor

Rev. David Bowman 814-330-8025

Director of Faith Formation & Outreach

Ryan Custead 814-695-0091

Church Office

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