

Lutheran Church

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

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

FEBRUARY 2024



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

FEBRUARY EVENTS

2/2-4: Snow Camp

2/5 & 18: Serving Squad

2/7: CCI Meeting

2/7 & 21: FaithFormers

2/7,14,21,28: Stephen Ministry Training

2/8: Communication Board Meeting

2/11: Chili Cook Off

2/13: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

2/13: Property Board Meeting

2/14: Ash Wednesday

2/15: CPC Meeting

2/20: Ruth Circle

2/20 & 27: Taize Tuesday

2/24: Faith Riders

2/25: VBS Volunteer Meeting

2/28: Cr@zy & Cr@zy Lite

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

3/1-3: Family Winter Retreat

3/4 & 17: Serving Squad

3/5,12,19: Taize Tuesday

3/9: Winter Jam

3/10 & 17: First Communion Training

3/23: Easter Egg Hunt (Lutheran Home)

3/24: Palm Sunday

3/28: Maundy Thursday

3/29: Good Friday

3/31: Easter Sunday

Siblings in Christ, grace and peace to you in 2024! We have so much to look forward to this year at Zion. I am excited to be a part of our shared ministry. This year we will teach our children, feed the hungry, worship our Lord, proclaim the resurrection, and much more. Listen for God's voice in the coming months as you are called to minister along with us. Each of you have unique gifts to offer the Church and the community we serve.

As many of you know, I experienced dramatic changes in my and my family's life beginning in the summer of 2022. I found myself in need of a home and much support as I built a new life and pursued my relationship with my children. All of you here at Zion rushed to catch me as the ground shifted. I found a wealth of personal encouragement from you, and the congregation invested in me both physically and spiritually. Simply put, I would never have been able to navigate the last 20 months without you. God surrounded my children and I with a community that made clear His intentions for us. I have much reason to sing "all I have needed His hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me."

While you may know of the trials I experienced, I want to take a moment to update you all. My life has taken a new shape and the Lord has been good to me. After a lengthy and difficult process, I have half time with my boys. It is an adjustment for us, but our life together is everything I could want for us. I have ended up in a house in the borough with plenty of space and room to make a home for years to come. Bedrooms for the boys, a music room full of instruments, a living room full of toys and books, flower beds, and a soft cat named Bruce.

My gratitude list continues to grow, and I am blessed to be able to put the people of Zion Lutheran Church on it. I thank you again, and encourage you all to start your own gratitude lists for 2024 and find reason to say "great is Thy faithfulness"!

Ryan Custead

Director of Faith Formation & Outreach



NOTES OF THANKS

Thank you to the 8 women in the **Stitch and Sew** group for your diligence in making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The total for 2023 was **110!!** Thank you, also, to the congregation for supporting this ministry either by monetary or material donations! Thank you to Dan Summers for packing plus transporting the quilts and personal care kits to the collection site in East Freedom. The quilts and kits were then taken by a trucking firm to the New Windsor, MD warehouse for distribution to those in need throughout the world. The Stitch and Sew group is always in need of more people to help assemble quilts. Also, in November and December we assemble lap robes which are distributed to Children and Youth Services and nursing homes. We meet each Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12 noon. We finish the day with lunch (we bring our own lunches). You may come for the whole morning or as you are available.

Thank you to **Ruth Circle** for sponsoring the LWR Personal Care Kit project. Thank you to all those at Zion who donated kits. The total for 2023 was **88!** All women of Zion are welcome to join us every third Tuesday at 9:00 am except June through August.

Thank you very much for the lovely Poinsettia and for the great bag of goodies. I enjoyed it all. When I do a puzzle or have some candies I'll remember who gave them to me.

Thank you again,
Vivian Dugan

Dear Zion,

Thank you very much for the box of goodies to help with my studying for finals! It was great to have something to snack on.

Derek Clapper

Zion Lutheran Church, Ruth Circle, etc.,

Again I "Thank You" for all you kindnesses, poinsettia, and gifts. "Bless All of You."

Ginny Erb

Dear Zion Family,

The ladies at Hillcrest Apts. thank you for all the kindness and gifts we receive from you. The root beer floats, delicious Thanksgiving Dinner, the Poinsettias and the Christmas gift bags. We are grateful and appreciative.

Blessings,

Phyllis Hultman, Pat Fulton, Ruth Grubb, & Nancy Alwine

Dear Friends of Zion,

Did you get to see all the boxes overflowing with wonderful gifts in our hallway at Christmas? Thank you so much to all those who lovingly chose, purchased, and wrapped special gifts for less-fortunate children of our area. This year more than 135 gifts were given to children ages four months to 18 years. The gifts were distributed to the families by UPMC Home Healthcare (Formerly Home Nursing)

Many hearts and hands went into bringing gladness and joy to children who need a little love. Your willingness to give is indeed a blessing to many.

With sincere thanks,
Your Adult Board

Zion Family,

Thank you for your thoughtfulness for the gifts bag full of goodies and the beautiful poinsettia.

Sincerely,
Harold Fickes

We all would like to thank each and every one of you for making the blankets. I know first hand the kids really appreciate them. It's a great feeling to see a huge smile come across their faces when they get a new blanket. We appreciate them so much. You are all God sends to us at CYS.

Thanks again,
Blair County Children & Youth Services, Children, & Staff (Angie, Tiffany, & Ellen)

Outreach Board News



We would like to begin the new year by thanking the congregation for the outpouring of support the board has received in its first six months. Because of your food donations and meal preparations, **we have served 2,045 meals (woohoo!)** and 1380+ desserts to our partners at the Altoona Hope Drop in Center.

Twice a month we are asking members of the congregation to join us in cooking and packaging meals. There is a **sign-up sheet outside the Library for those who prefer to cook at home**. Also, **there is a giving tree outside the Library for donating grocery items** to be used for the meal.

Please check the sign-up sheets outside the library to learn how you can make a difference in 2024. Looking ahead our dates will be February 5 & 18 and March 4 & 17.

Please contact Lee Augustine for more information.

SHROVE TUESDAY

PANCAKE SUPPER

Free will
donation
collected to
support Zion's
Youth Ministry

FEBRUARY 13TH

SERVED FROM
5:30-7:00PM

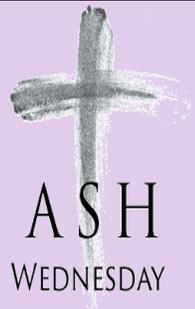
Zion's Youth will be
serving and decorating.
Come see the fellowship
hall turned into New
Orleans!



**Youth and adult helpers will meet at 4:30pm.
Thank you!**

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14th
Holy Communion
with Ashes
12:10 PM and 7:00 PM
in the Sanctuary



TAIZÉ TUESDAY PROGRAM

7:00 to 8:15 p.m.

February 20 & 27, & March 5, 12, & 19

The Lenten Tuesday Program will begin with 45 minutes
of study followed by a brief service of Evening Prayer.

This year's discussion topic will be The Footsteps of Paul; based on themes from Pastor Dave's trip to Turkey & Greece. A Taize style of Evening Prayer will end the night utilizing simple chants, silence, and candles.



First Communion Training

For children in 3rd
Grade or Age 8
& Parents

**March 10th & 17th
12:30 to 2:00**

(following the 10:45 Service)
Lunch will be provided

If you have any questions or special requests,
please contact Pastor Dave or Ryan.

**Annual Chili & Soup
Cook Off!**
February 11th at 12:00
in the Fellowship Hall



Sign up for your group, family, or individually to submit a soup or chili entry to this highly competitive contest!

Guests will impartially determine the winning soup and chili. Sign up quick! When the spaces are gone, so is your opportunity to win the major award!

All congregation members and friends are invited to attend to kick off the Super Bowl in style by participating in the all American custom of eating too much and then sitting in front of the TV!

RULES:

1. Make a soup or chili and bring to Zion in a large pot or crockpot.
2. Share it and eat it.

The sign up will be posted on a bulletin board outside the Library or talk to Sharon Collins.

Please bring an item to donate to Zion's food pantry or American Rescue Workers ~ Canned Food, Non-perishable Food items, and Personal Care Items are all appropriate.

**Salvation Army
Altoona Adult
Rehabilitation Center**
**Care packages and gifts
(collecting \$ donations)**



Zion is again hosting the men from the Altoona Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center for a dinner and worship program with Zion youth, families, and Outreach Board members on Friday, March 15th. We need to collect and raise about \$1000 to purchase gift items and care packages for the 40 men from our congregation. We will be collecting from now until March 1st. Donations may be made to the church office or placed in the offering boxes (marked "Salvation Army"). Thank you for your support of these men!



Zion Family Winter Retreat 2024
March 1st-3rd at Camp Sequanota



Take time to grow in faith with us at the 2024 Family Winter Retreat at Camp Sequanota! Attendees will stay in the comfortable Bowersox Center ("hotel style" private rooms and bathrooms) as we play games, worship around a fire, enjoy the outdoors, and more. Families (or individuals), sign up today. Arrival and "move in" time at Sequanota is **Friday evening from 7:00-8:00pm.**

At 8:00pm we kick things off with group activities and **finish after a 10:30am brunch on Sunday.** You may remain at camp afterwards to enjoy the outdoors for a while afterward.

We will spend time together with group activities, bible study, and worship. There will also be lots of free time for exploring camp, relaxing inside, and playing games. **If there is snow, plan on some great sledding and winter fun!**

Price is \$50 for adults, \$15 for children and youth in rooms with parents, and kids 4 and under are free. (Price includes room and all meals) Watch your email for online registration, sign up in the bulletin, or call the church office at 814-695-0091. Contact us with any questions or if you have a Zion youth who would be interested in attending without family.



Please make checks payable to "Zion Lutheran Church". Payment must be received prior to attending the event.

**VBS Volunteers
Meeting**
**Sunday, 2/25 after
10:45am worship**



We are starting to get ready for "Camp Firelight": Vacation

Bible School 2024 on June 2nd-6th, 5:15-8:15pm each evening here at Zion. We are looking for station leaders, crew leaders, extra adult help, youth helpers, decorating team, etc. There are ways to help with VBS that mean attending the program and working with children, and there is plenty of behind the scenes help needed too. VBS at Zion is a wonderful opportunity for us to help kids grow in relationship with God, have fun, and learn great lessons!

All interested volunteers should plan to attend a VBS Volunteers meeting on **Sunday, 2/25 directly after the 10:45am worship service** (about 11:50am). This should be a 30-40 minute meeting.

Please contact the church office or Ryan Custead at ryncust@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering or helping but can not attend the meeting.

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):
February 7 & 21
March 6 & 20

zion CR@ZY

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:

2/28 (2/14 No Cr@zy - Ash Wednesday)
3/13 (3/27 No Cr@zy - Holy Week)

zion Lutheran Church
HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA



7TH-12TH GRADE LOCK IN

Friday, April 5th 7:00pm-
Saturday, April 6th 10:00am



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

FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!



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



CONFIRMATION COURSES

zion

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

Winter Jam 2024 Saturday, March 9th

Bryce Jordan Center, State College

Everyone is invited to join Zion as we head to Winter Jam at the Bryce Jordan Center on **Saturday, March 9th**. The concert doors open at 6:00pm, so **we will be meeting at the church at 3:30pm**. 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!

TO SIGN UP BY FRIDAY MARCH 1ST, Please send an email to Ryan Custead at ryncust@gmail.com with the subject "Winter Jam" and the number of people you have coming or contact the church office with the same information at (814) 695-0091.



Sequanota Summer 2024!

Learn more about Sequanota's opportunities this summer for children, youth, and adults and register for a camp experience this summer at www.sequanota.com

Please talk to Ryan Custead or Pastor Dave if you have specific questions about which program may best, when Ryan or PD will be there*, when other Zion members are registered, etc.

Zion is covering the "Tier 11" fee for Sequanota-led camp programs for our children, youth, and friends. You will be able to indicate this during registration.

Camping programs are available for **K-12** and **adults**. There are day programs, overnight, half week, and full week options. **Programs run from the week of June 10th until the week of July 28th.** Camps include: Day camp, sampler camp, cabin camping, theme weeks, Sequanota family camp, and more!

**Ryan Custead will be at Theme Week this summer with many of Zion's campers (Week 8: July 28-August 2)*

The "Tend" Festival Weekend (formerly WELL), **June 20-23**. All ages with music, activities, speakers, forums, educational opportunities, and more! Ryan has been working this year with Pastor Nathan from Sequanota and other church leaders to start this new program at camp. Go to www.sequanota.com and watch for more information!

& Zion Family Camp: July 5-9. (Watch for more info on this Zion summer program)

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

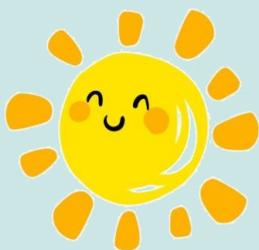
TO BE MYLE
the table Young Adult Gathering

**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.

Zion Adult
Retreat
@ Sequanota
August 22nd to 25th



Mark your calendars!



A Note from the Bridge of Hope Committee: (12/13/23)

I haven't communicated to you in several months & many changes have taken place. Here's an idea of the community effort that goes toward the BOH family we support. First & foremost our family is almost ready for Christmas, are you? A member provided a Christmas tree, we gathered some light's & ornaments, delivered the box the first week of December. A week later I received a photo of the daughter standing beside the decorated tree.

In another week we are going to drop off gifts that you, the whole church, including our youth, provided. Thank you.

Going back into time I'll start with several members who donated house hold items to the family once they were provided a house to live in. There's nothing like sleeping in a real bed so I thank you for the donations. Then the refrigerator died in the apartment so we provided a few coolers until we could regroup. We found an appliance company in Altoona who donated a refrigerator for free, we needed to provide our own transportation & that problem was solved. The fall season started to cool down so I talked to our sewing club about a few quilts that they donated for free. Thank you sewing club, you are awesome people! This is a great venue to donate to, time or talents.

I was watching the news one night & caught an ad from the Jaffa Mosque about hosting a two day job fair so I sent that info to our dad who was unemployed at the time. He was able to have 4 interviews & two follow up. Our dad is now fully employed. Thank you Jaffa members.

Our outreach board has made a connection with the ARW food distribution center in Holidaysburg. Our members are now making meals for the Hope drop in center located in Altoona & one of our committee members is taking a meal over to the BOH family. Thank you outreach members for your efforts in the kitchen.

Thank you for your support everyone.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Renew
Restore
Rejuvenate

The Capital Campaign total has reached \$373,229! The total includes all donations through January 16, 2024. With Phase I expenditures of approximately \$275,000 deducted, there is now about \$98,229 available for Phase II.

Phase II is a complete renovation of the Kitchen, plus repairs and updates to the Men's and Woman's restrooms on the first floor. Phase III entails renovations to restrooms in the basement and on the 2nd floor. It's a lot, so the Property Board is still in the process of researching options and working every angle to make sure every dollar is well allocated.

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 participating, the sign-up sheet for 2024 is located

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.

There has been a price increase for 2024 with the new price being \$70. Our last price increase was in 2020. 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.

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund

July 1, 2023 thru December 31, 2023

Income (Giving)	\$191,348.00
Expenses	\$167,910.46
Income vs. Expenses (Giving Only)	\$23,437.54

(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 12/31/23	\$639,689.05
Less Principal(initial investment)	<u>\$336,214.17</u>
Value over principal as of 12/31/23	\$303,474.88

Zion Lutheran Church
500 Allegheny Street
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

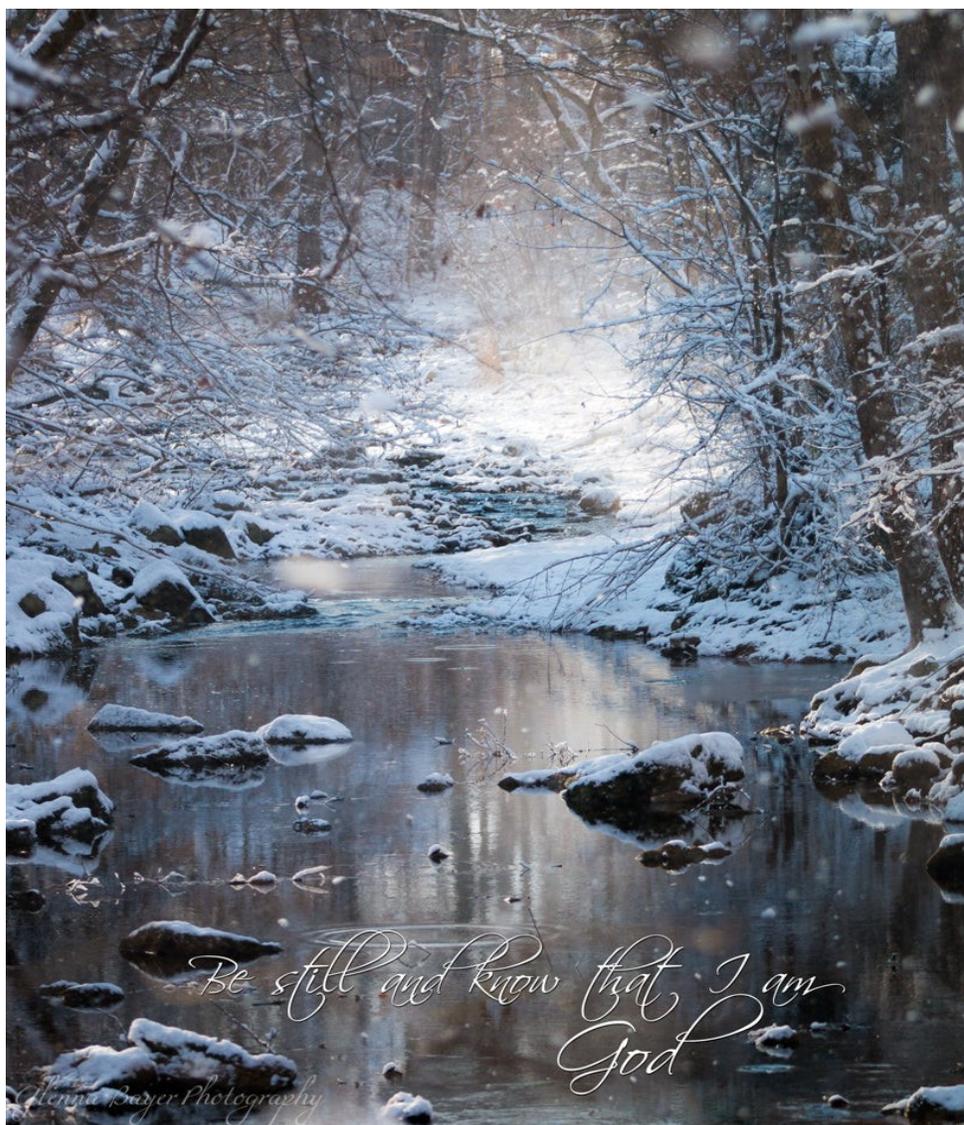
Return Service Requested

NON PROFIT

US POSTAGE

PAID

Altoona, PA
Permit No. 50



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

Phone 814-695-0091

Email: office@zionhollidaysburg.org

