

Lutheran Church

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

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

DECEMBER
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

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

12/3,10,17: Holden Evening Prayer

12/4 & 18: FaithFormers

12/6-8: Synod Youth Weekend

12/10: Property Board Meeting

12/11: Cr@zy & Cr@zy Lite

12/12: Communication Board Meeting

12/14: Kitchen Demolition Day

12/14 & 21: Pageant Rehearsal

12/17: Ruth Circle

12/19: CPC Meeting

12/20: Blue Christmas Service

12/22: Pageant Presentation

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

12/25-31: Merry Christmas ~ Office Closed

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

LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY

1/1: Happy New Year ~ Office Closed

1/8 & 22: Cr@zy & Cr@zy Lite

1/9: Communications Board Meeting

1/14: Property Board Meeting

1/15: FaithFormers

1/15: Stewardship Board Meeting

1/16: CPC Meeting

1/21: Ruth Circle

1/25-26: Ignite (Snow Camp-Sequanota)

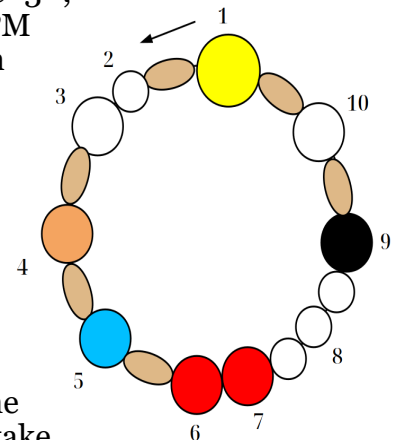
1/31: Game Night

The Advent Wreath is our most beloved and famous Advent symbol leading up to the Christmas season. Each week we light another candle and sing a verse of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" as we await the approaching nearness of our messiah, waiting for Christ to scatter the darkness.

This year I would like to introduce you to another wreath during this Advent season: The Wreath of Christ (sometimes called The Pearls of Christ). The Wreath of Christ is a prayer bead device developed by a Scandinavian Lutheran Bishop to assist people in their devotional lives. Think of it as a Lutheran Rosary with fewer beads.

Unlike the Rosary, there is considerable freedom in the way you can use and pray with the Wreath of Christ. There are no standard prayers to be memorized, rather each bead represents a specific theme to help you focus your devotions, like baptism, silence, or darkness.

This December, on Tuesdays the 3rd, 10th, and 17th, we will gather at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall to learn about this prayer device. You will have the opportunity to make your own Wreath of Christ to use and keep. Together, we will explore the themes of baptism, desert, silence, love, darkness, resurrection, and more. Following our time of study we will conclude in the sanctuary with a service of Holden Evening Prayer. The study and worship times will take about an hour and fifteen minutes.



I've used the Wreath of Christ as a prayer device for the past 14 years. It has been my favorite tool for devotion and I find myself returning to it again and again despite all host of other devotional options that exist. I encourage you to join us for our Advent practice.

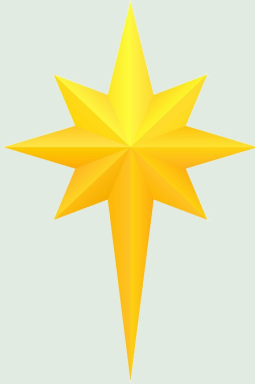
Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dave

Christmas Pageant 2024



“Road Trip”

Believe it or not, it is time to start thinking about Zion’s Christmas Pageant for 2024! **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 information.



Pageant Schedule:
Saturday, December 14
from 10:00am-Noon Pageant practice
Saturday, December 21
from 10:00am-Noon Pageant practice
Sunday, December 22
@ 10:45am Pageant performance

Holden Evening Prayer

Celebrate and anticipate the Light of the World with Holden Evening Prayer this December. This Vespers service will begin at **7:00 PM in the Sanctuary on Tuesdays, December 3, 10, and 17.** Holden Evening Prayer is musically rich and easy to sing. Complement your Advent preparations with this worship opportunity

Christmas Eve Worship Times

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

Blue Christmas

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

Friday, December 20
at 6:30 p.m.



NOTES OF THANKS

Dear People of Zion,

I am deeply honored by your many expressions of appreciation and gratitude during the month of October. Thank you again for your overwhelming support and for all the ways you have cared for me and Kelsey. I appreciate your appreciation!

Blessings,
Pastor Dave

Zion Youth Group,

Thank you so much for the delicious apple dumpings. As always, I'm so proud of our youth and their leaders at Zion.

God Bless,
Ginny Erb

ZION'S FOOD PANTRY

We are in need of donations to replenish Zion's food pantry. Your past generosity has enabled us to give assistance to quite a few members of our community, but the need is always there and our pantry shelves always need refilling.

We are asking for donations of boxed, pre-packaged, & canned items. Ex. Soup, cereal, oatmeal/cream of wheat, canned vegetables, canned/cups fruit, canned chicken or tuna, peanut butter, jelly, ramen, flavored rice or noodle packets, pasta, sauce, crackers, granola or cereal bars, applesauce, etc. Sometimes there is limited ability/supplies to prepare food so simple one-pot/no-pot items can be helpful.

Other items that can be helpful are can openers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, soap, razors, shaving cream, & feminine products.

Our focus for the month will be canned meat, canned fruit, fruit cups, and can openers.

Any items in excess of what we can use will be donated to the American Rescue Workers. Please do not donate expired food. Thank you in advance for your kindness!



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 8th. 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. Your kindness is always appreciated!



Outreach Board News

The Serving Squad is planning meals for **December 2 & 16.** For 12/2 we will be making Barbeque Chicken. By this date, our kitchen renovation will be underway so we would like **volunteers to take a large pan, chicken, and sauce home to make a pan of barbeque chicken.** We are planning for 6-8 pans.

On 12/16 we are taking pizza to the Hope Drop In Center and are **requesting cans of coffee and desserts** be donated to take along.



Also, we are continuing to accept any donations of **new or gently used blankets or any cold weather items such as hats or gloves and heavy socks.** Please drop off any items to the Outreach Room.

Please continue to check the bulletin board outside of the library, in your weekly bulletin, and via our weekly email blast for ways to help us reach out. We appreciate any contribution of food or time. Thank you again for helping make God's grace tangible to those in need.





Are You Experiencing the Christmas Blues?

STEPHEN MINISTRY The joy of Christmas can turn into a time of painful loneliness and emptiness for those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time. But help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with you and for you, and support you through the holidays and as long as your need persists. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders—Keren Wagner and Connie Counsmen—or Pastor Dave. Our Stephen Ministers are here to care!



It's Photo Time!

Starting November 30th, we will be taking photos for the new Church Directory. Please plan to take the time before or after services, on Saturday or Sunday, to have your photo taken. Our church directory is a great resource for our members. Since the Zion Communications team has taken on this project, there will be no multiple-pose portrait sessions; no sales pitch. We will try our best to make the process as quick and painless as possible, so there's no need to procrastinate. We want to see everyone in our new directory!



If you have any questions, you may send an email to: news@zionholidaysburg.org, with the subject "CHURCH DIRECTORY", or call Laura Jones: (814) 312-7318.

Christmas Caroling

Wednesday,
12/11 @
7:00pm



Join Zion's youth and spread some joy!

Meeting at Zion!

On **Wednesday, December 11th**, all are invited to **meet at the church at 7:00pm** for some Christmas Caroling. Zion's youth groups, Cr@zy and Cr@zy "lite" invite Zion folks of all ages to join them! We will carol at some houses along the way as we walk together to the Lutheran Home at Hollidaysburg. After singing and visiting with the residents, we will walk together to the Clark house (near the Home) for some hot chocolate and cookies. We will finish by 8:30pm.



**ALLEGHENY LUTHERAN
SOCIAL MINISTRIES**

We Touch Lives

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 donate, what seems to be the best are Mar Hometown Mark and Sheetz cards in \$10 to \$25 increments.** Please bring the cards to the church office and we can give them to the families.



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 4 & 18
January 15 (No FF on 1/1)



YOUTH LOCK-IN DATES

4th—6th Grade Lock-in
January 10-11, 2024

7th—12th Grade Lock-in
April 4-5, 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!

Confirmation Courses are now taught during the Sunday School hour throughout the year. The schedule for 24-25 is as follows:

Sundays

12/1 & 12/15, 9:30 to 10:30 am

1/5 & 1/12, 9:30 to 10:30 am

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

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:
12/11 (No Cr@zy on 12/25)
1/8 & 1/22

zion Lutheran Church
HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA



4TH-6TH GRADE LOCK IN

Friday, January 10th 7:00pm-
Saturday, January 11th 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.

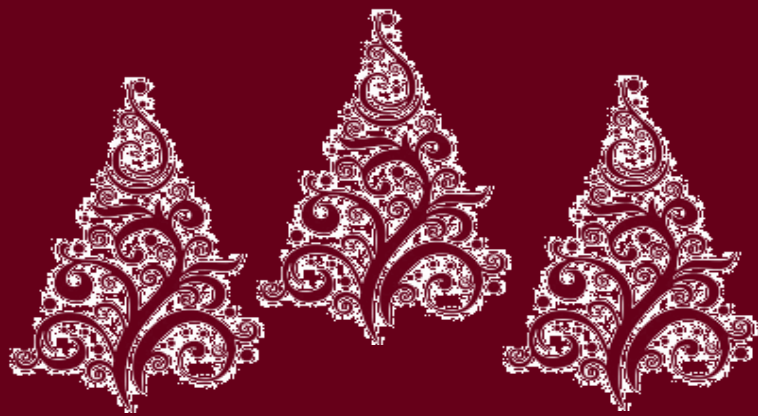


New Year's Eve Eve Zion Theme Night



Monday, 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.



Adult SUNDAY SCHOOL

Parlor Class (across from the office)

Men's Class (Library, next to office)

Nursery Class (Nursery, upstairs in the Educational Wing)

All classes meet from 9:30 to 10:30
Stop by the kitchen to grab a cup of coffee!

Every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

**Also consider
ThuMBS**

(Thursday Morning Bible Study)

An informed look at the Bible Lessons for the upcoming Sunday. This group meets in the Fellowship Hall weekly on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. Any questions, please contact Pastor Dave or the church office.



Game Night

Friday, January 31
Join us for Game Night
on 1/31 At 6:00 p.m!
This event is organized
and run by the Children

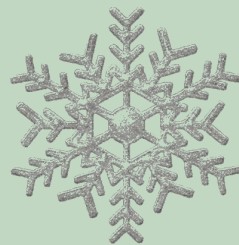
Family & Youth Board. They will provide organized games and other activities. The meal will be Mexican food themed and everyone is asked to bring a dish or two to share. Please plan to attend!

Ignite

1st-12th Graders!
January 25-26th



Join Ryan and friends from Zion as we gather at Camp Sequanota with youth and leaders from across the Allegheny Synod for a weekend of Snow Camp this January. Watch for more info!



Family Winter Retreat

February 7-9

Join us for Zion's 2024 Family Winter Retreat at Camp Sequanota. Plan to set aside a weekend to grow together in faith. Watch for more info!

Summer Family Camp

June 13-17, 2025

Be sure to mark your calendars!

Winter Jam

March 8, 2025

We will be attending Winter Jam on March 8, 2025 at the Bryce Jordan Center in State College. Watch for more info in the new year. Be sure to mark your calendar!



Offering Envelopes & Online Giving

2025 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. Please consider this giving option as it allows for more consistent income flow to the church. 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.



FINANCIAL REPORT General Fund

Current FY thru 10/31/24

Income (Giving)	\$104,645.50
Expenses	\$130,800.84
Income vs. Expenses (Giving Only)	(\$26,155.34)

(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.)

ALTAR FLOWERS CHANGE

The Worship Board would like to remind the congregation of the sponsorship program for the flowers that are placed on the altar each week. There will be changes starting in 2025 to try to keep costs reasonable for sponsors and the church on weeks without a sponsor. The cost of altar flowers (2 vases) was scheduled to go up to \$100 for the coming year and that seemed excessive to ask of our congregation. The Worship Board has decided instead to go to one center arrangement which will cost \$65.00. This arrangement will be in a rectangular container approximately 9" x 4" and will sit between the candelabras. As always, 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.

With the kitchen renovation starting, the bulletin board in the kitchen hall will not be accessible. If you are interested in signing up, **the sign-up sheet for the new year will be placed on the bulletin board outside the office door.** Also, when you sign up, be sure to mark the column stating if you want to take the flowers after services.

To summarize, the cost for **altar flowers for 2025 will be \$65.00 for one center arrangement.** 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.

Renew
Restore
Rejuvenate

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The Capital Campaign total has surpassed \$456,000, and it's looking like we'll be needing every penny. Among other things, it has been discovered that a great deal of infrastructure; electrical and plumbing, has deteriorated beyond repair, and must be replaced.

Kitchen cabinet and pantry contents have been boxed up and are being stored in the side of the fellowship hall. A group of volunteers has been enlisted to finish temporary fellowship hall setup, and demo the kitchen on December 14. A few cabinets will be set aside to use for the new coffee bar. The remainder of the cabinets, appliances, sinks and countertops will be taken by members interested in "owning a piece of the kitchen". An architect will be finalizing drawings to be submitted for all required permitting. The asbestos abatement contractor will remove the tile floor during the first or second week of January. After that, the general contractor will dismantle the old kitchen ceiling and soffit and demo the bathrooms. This will be followed by electrical and plumbing upgrades throughout the entire remodel area and in the boiler room below. The process of installing the new ceiling, flooring and cabinets will become the first step of creating the new look of our kitchen and restrooms. Additional phases will follow. Stay tuned, and keep those pledges coming!

Zion Lutheran Church
500 Allegheny Street
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Return Service Requested

NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
Altoona, PA
Permit No. 50

December

For unto us
a child is born,
...HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED

Wonderful Counselor,
THE MIGHTY GOD
THE EVERLASTING FATHER
The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6



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

