



# Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

Zion Lutheran Church, Hollidaysburg, PA  
814-695-0091  
[www.zionhollidaysburg.org](http://www.zionhollidaysburg.org)

The flowers on the altar have been given  
to the glory of God and in loving memory  
of Grandparents “Brown” & Kormanski by  
Chuck Kormanski.

## New to Zion? Welcome!

**Children’s activity bags** are at the back of the sanctuary.

**Need space?** The service can be heard in the Chapel on the first floor.

**Communion:** Please tell the pastor if you prefer a blessing instead of communion. Exit the pew on the outside aisle. Empty cups are for wine, and filled cups contain grape juice. The pastor gives out wafers (gluten free upon request), and the communion assistant pours wine or blesses grape juice. Return by the center aisle.

**Restrooms** are on the first floor, including a family/ADA restroom. Additional restrooms are found through the doors at the front of the sanctuary, where you can also access our **elevator**.

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## PRELUDE

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P:** In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.. **C: Amen**

**P:** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

**P:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**P:** Gracious God, **C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**P:** Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **C: Amen**

**\*THE ENTRANCE HYMN: “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” (ELW 242)**



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

## \*THE APOSTOLIC 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.**

## \*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel (LBW 34 Vs. 3)*

3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free  
Your own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell your people save  
and give the vict'ry o'er the grave.

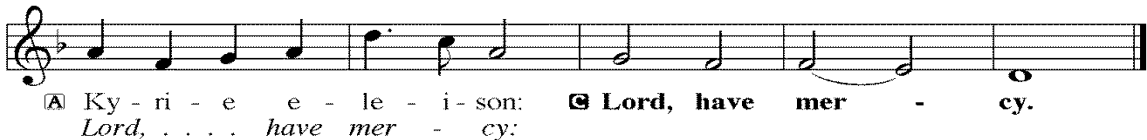
*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

## \*BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P. O God, by whose Word all things are sanctified, pour forth your blessing upon this wreath and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive your abundant grace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **C. Amen**

## \*KYRIE



## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. **C: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**(10:45) SPECIAL MUSIC “Breath of Heaven” (Susan Yatta)**

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.]] <sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; <sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the

wilderness and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

A: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**(Sat & 8:00) PSALMODY: Psalm 146:5-10 (Spoken)**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob <sup>1</sup> for their help,  
whose hope is in the <sup>1</sup> Lord their God;

<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that <sup>1</sup> is in them;  
who keeps promis- <sup>1</sup> es forever;**

<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to <sup>1</sup> those who hunger.  
The Lord sets the <sup>1</sup> captive free.

<sup>8</sup> **The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who <sup>1</sup> are bowed down;  
the Lord <sup>1</sup> loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup> The Lord cares <sup>1</sup> for the stranger;  
the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way <sup>1</sup> of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup> **The Lord shall <sup>1</sup> reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!**

**(10:45) PSALMODY: “Shine on Us” (Song of Zion)**

Lord, let Your light, light of Your face, shine on us. (2x)

That we may be saved, that we may have life,

To find our way in the darkest night, let Your light shine on us.

Lord, let Your grace, grace from Your hand, fall on us. (2x)

That we may be saved, that we may have life,

To find our way in the darkest night, let Your grace, fall on us.

Lord, let Your love, love with no end, come over us. (2x)

That we may be saved, that we may have life,


To find our way in the darkest night, let Your love come over us.

**SECOND READING: James 5:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

A: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*VERSE** (Sung through twice)



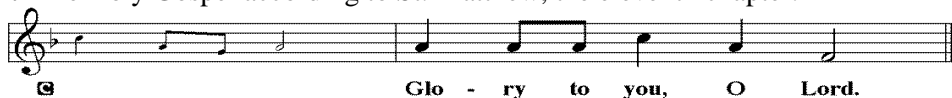
Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.



Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

**\*GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” <sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ <sup>11</sup> “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” (ELW 241)**



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
 2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.  
 3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.  
 4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.  
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
 who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast  
 A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high  
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
 All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
 that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.  
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.  
 send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

**C:** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection + of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: Let us pray for the whole people ... according to their needs.

A: Hear us, O God, **C: Your Mercy is Great.**

P: Into your hands ... through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

**\*PEACE**      **P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.      **C:** And also with you.

**(10:45) SPECIAL MUSIC “In the Bleak Midwinter”** (The Flute Choir – Christine Brown, Brenda Conway, Brigitte Donlan, Emily Donlan, Amylia Cook, Wendi Naugle, & Justine Clark)

**\*DIALOGUE**

**P.** The Lord be with you.      **C.** And also with you.

**P.** Lift up your hearts.      **C.** We lift them to the Lord.

**P.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C.** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**\*PREFACE**

It is indeed right and salutary.....and join their unending hymn.

**\*SANCTUS**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER** (Traditional)

**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

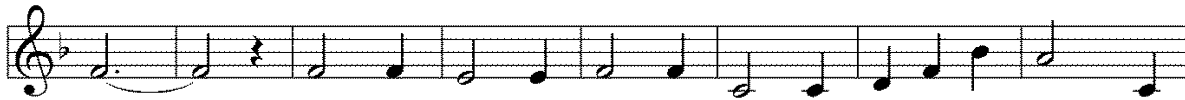
**\*INVITATION**

**P:** God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.      **C:** Thanks be to God.

# \*AGNUS DEI



☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

### HYMN “Angels We Have Heard on High” (LBW 71)

1 Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.

#### *Refrain*

Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

### HYMN “What Child Is This” (LBW 40) (10:45 SOZ)

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!



**HYMN “The First Noel” (LBW 56)**

1 The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they  
lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain*

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

**HYMN “Lo, How a Rose Is Growing” (LBW 58)**

1 Lo, how a rose is growing,  
a bloom of finest grace;  
the prophets had foretold it:  
a branch of Jesse's race  
would bear one perfect flow'r  
here in the cold of winter  
and darkest midnight hour.

2 The rose of which I'm singing,  
Isaiah had foretold.  
He came to us through Mary,  
who sheltered him from cold.  
Through God's eternal will  
this child to us was given  
at midnight calm and still.

**\*P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen**

**\* CANTICLE “Blessed Be the God of Israel” (ELW 250 Vs. 1)**

1 Blessed be the God of Israel  
who comes to set us free  
and raises up new hope for us:  
a Branch from David's tree.  
So have the prophets long declared  
that with a mighty arm  
God would turn back our enemies  
and all who wish us harm.

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Let us pray. **C: Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.**

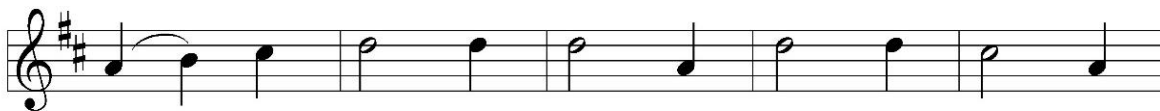
**\*BLESSING**

P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **C: Amen**

**\*THE SENDING HYMN:**    *“On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry”*    (LBW 36)



1 On      Jor - dan's banks the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - ken,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

**\*DISMISSAL:**    **A:** Go in Peace. Christ Is Coming Soon.    **C:** Thanks be to God!

**POSTLUDE**

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**The Ministers:** The People of Zion  
**Pastor:** David Bowman  
**Organists/Accompanists:** Doug Rhodes  
 Gail Nedimyer  
**Choir Directors:**  
**Noiz** Ryan Custead  
**STAFF**  
**Dir. of Faith Formation & Outreach** Ryan Custead  
**Sexton/Custodian** Rick Fairhead  
**Administrative Assistant** Joni Hammaker

## DAILY BIBLE READING

### December 15<sup>TH</sup> ~ December 21<sup>ST</sup>

The following weekly Daily Bible Reading Guide is provided for your personal devotion.

15. Luke 12  
 16. Luke 13  
 17. Luke 14  
 18. Luke 15  
 19. Luke 16  
 20. Luke 17  
 21. ADVENT 4  
 ISAIAH 7:10-16  
 PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 (7)  
 ROMANS 1:1-7  
 MATTHEW 1:18-25

## This Week at Zion – 12/14/25 – 12/21/25

### Sunday 12/14

8:00 a.m. Eucharist Service  
 9:00 a.m. NOIZ Rehearsal  
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages  
 10:45 a.m. Eucharist Service

### Monday 12/15

11:00 a.m. Serving Squad

### Tuesday 12/16

6:30 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer

### Wednesday 12/17

9:00 a.m. Stitch & Sew  
 4:30 p.m. FaithFormers  
 7:00 p.m. Young Adult Small Group  
 7:00 p.m. Special Music/Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday 12/18

10:00 a.m. ThuMBS  
 7:00 p.m. CPC Meeting

### Friday 12/19

6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas

### Saturday 12/20

8:30 a.m. AA Meeting (Chapel)  
 10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal  
 6:00 p.m. Eucharist Service

### Sunday 12/21

8:00 a.m. Eucharist Service  
 9:00 a.m. NOIZ Rehearsal  
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages  
 10:45 a.m. Eucharist Service (Christmas Pageant Presentation)



## Coffee Hour

Following the Sunday services there will be a time for fellowship with light refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. Come for the coffee, stay for the conversation!

Interested in hosting? As we reestablish Coffee Hour we will need hosts. Individuals, families, and small ministry groups from the church are all welcome to sign up and provide this service. No elaborate presentation is needed, only coffee and a snack.

## Giving Tree Project (Due Today)



Thank you to everyone who chose a tag from the giving Tree! This project is done in cooperation with the Home Nursing Agency. **Please return your gift to the church by Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.** 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.



## CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE THROUGH PEOPLE

That's the motto of Stephen Ministry. The Ministers role is to bring God's love into the lives of people going through a difficult time or experiencing a crisis. What do Stephen Ministers do? They listen, care, support, encourage and pray with and for a person who is hurting. And in the midst of this confidential, one-to-one caring relationship, God's healing love comes pouring through. If someone you now is facing a crisis-large or small-and could benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister, talk to our Stephen Leaders: Karen Wagner and Connie Counsman, or contact Pastor Dave. Stephen Ministry is ready to care for you!

## Wreath of Christ Wednesday

Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM

Need to take a breath in the midst of a busy week? Enjoy a short, contemplative prayer service complete with prayer beads, chimes, and breathing exercises. Bring your own Wreath of Christ or borrow a set of ours for use during the service.



## SPECIAL MUSIC

Thinking about performing a musical offering for worship? Doug Rhodes will be available for rehearsal in the Choir Room from 7:00 – 7:30 PM on Wednesdays. Contact Doug with any questions.

## Young Adult Small Group

December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

The small group will be geared for those 18 through 30-something to help build faith and relationships. We'll gather to discuss God, some scripture, and what's going on in this transitional part of life.



## SERVING SQUAD & OUTREACH

The next Serving Squad kitchen days will be held on 12/15 & 1/5. On 12/15 we will be preparing Chicken Nuggets and Mac & Cheese and on 1/5 we will make Turkey & Rice Casserole. **The group gets together at 11:00 a.m.** in Zion's kitchen to prepare meals that are donated to the Hope Drop-In Center in Altoona. Any questions, please contact LeeAnn Lightner at 814-931-2373.



### Donation Requests:

Breaded Chicken Nuggets (due 12/14)  
Cheese Sauce (due 12/14)

Large Cans of Cream of Chicken & Cream of  
Mushroom Soup (due 1/4)

**Donations of Desserts, Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Fruit Cups, & Applesauce** are always accepted. **Please place your donations in the Outreach Room.** Donations of Bibles are appreciated.

**\*\*Any person who can't attend a kitchen day, but would still like to cook food, can do so. Please be sure to drop off any donation by 11:00 a.m. on Serving Squad days so it can be included with the Hope Drop-In Center delivery.**

*Blue Christmas*

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

Friday, December 19  
at 6:30 p.m.

*Christmas Eve  
Worship Times*

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

(Streaming available during  
and following the 7:30 service  
on YouTube)

# 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 2, 9, and 16.** Holden Evening Prayer is musically rich and easy to sing. Complement your Advent preparations with this worship opportunity

## Christmas Pageant 2025

### Christmas in the Rain Forest



Believe it or not, it is time to start thinking about Zion's Christmas Pageant for 2025! **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](mailto: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 13**

**from 10:00am-Noon** Pageant practice

**Saturday, December 20**

**from 10:00am-Noon** Pageant practice

**Sunday, December 21**

**@ 10:45am** Pageant performance

## Serving Squad (Children, Families, and Youth)

**Friday, 1/9 at 5:00pm**

*(\*4th-6th Graders, stay for the Lock In!)*



All ages are invited to join with Zion's families for a special Serving Squad meal prep on **Friday, 1/9 at 5:00pm.** For this outreach ministry we will be assembling pans of food that will be taken to the Hope Drop In Center in Altoona.

Dinner is included (we will eat what we cook!) but attendees may want to bring a dessert, snack, or side dish to share. **We will have some time of games and fellowship after we eat!** The Zion 4th-6th Grade Lock In crew will be joining us before starting their Lock In at 7:00pm.



*\*Please continue to watch your weekly bulletin and email for information on donating food supplies for Serving Squad. Thank you!*



# Girls' Bible Study

For youth, 4th-12th Grade and an optional accompanying grown up

**Sunday evenings (bimonthly)\*,**  
**6:30-8:00pm @ The Donlan home (to start!)**

**\*Upcoming Dates:** Sundays **1/11, 1/25, 2/8 (NO GBS!), 2/22, 3/8, 3/22,**  
**4/5 (NO GBS!), 4/19, 5/3, 5/17**

RSVP to Brigitte Donlan at [educatorpsu@yahoo.com](mailto:educatorpsu@yahoo.com) or 814-207-0646 with any questions and for directions to the Donlan home.

\$5 donation per participant (can be given at Bible Study or church office. RSVP will not be required to attend!)



## **Offering Envelopes & Online Giving**

**2026 offering envelopes are available in the Fellowship Hall.** 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 new or prospective member who has not received envelopes yet, please call the church office and we will make sure you receive them.**

## **A Brief Explanation of the Sections on your Giving Envelopes**

**Current Expenses:** All money stated in the Current Expenses section of your envelope will be applied towards the operation of the church. These expenses are paid based on the budget that is voted on and approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting. This money is intended to offset all budgeted expenses. (See Financial Report below)

**Benevolences:** All money stated in the Benevolences section of your envelope will be forwarded to the Allegheny Synod, the ELCA, and beyond.

**Special:** All money in this section should be designated by the giver to a specific fund. (i.e. Building, Lutheran World Relief, Faith Riders, Stitch & Sew, National Youth Gathering, Helping Hand, Mission Trips, Youth Activities, etc.) These funds will be held for future use when needed. If you do not define a fund when you complete this section of your envelope, the money goes into an "Undesignated Specials" fund and will be used towards a project or need approved by the CPC.

If you have any questions regarding your donations, please don't hesitate to call the church office 814-695-0091.

## **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. The altar flower arrangement consists of an arrangement 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.

If you are interested in signing up, **the sign-up sheet for the new year will be 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.

The cost for **altar flowers for 2026 will remain \$65.00 for one center arrangement.** Checks can be made payable to Zion Lutheran Church or you can include payment in your offering envelope by marking it "Altar Flowers". **Thank you** in advance for participating in this ministry.

## 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.

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!

## STITCH & SEW

Stitch & Sew is a group that comes together to make lap robes for local nursing home residents and quilts that are sent to Lutheran World Relief for use around the world.

**Financial donations are needed to keep this ministry active.** Money given helps to purchase fabric for the backing and the batting needed for the middle. Fabric donations are also welcomed. Only cotton based woven fabric can be used.

You are always welcome to join them on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 in the fellowship hall. All that is needed is a willing heart, and a desire to fellowship, and a bag lunch. Their day usually ends around 2:00. If you can only be there for part of the time—just come as you can.

## New Year's Eve Eve Zion Theme Night



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 Music Groups NOIZ & "BIG" NOIZ



Did you know that Zion has regularly meeting music groups for all ages? **NOIZ**, age 4 through 6th Grade, and **"Big" NOIZ**, 7th Grade and up, provide opportunity for singing, hand bells, music theory, and even songwriting. Participants are not required to sing and no musical experience is necessary. Sessions are led by our Dir. of Faith Formation & Outreach, Ryan Custead and explore how we use music in our life of faith. NOIZ and "BIG" NOIZ also offer music in worship throughout the year. All ages are welcome to start attending any time! The schedule is below:

**NOIZ** (age 4 through 6th Grade): **Every Sunday**, September-May from **9:00am-9:30am** in the upstairs music room.

**"BIG" NOIZ** (7th Grade and up, includes adults): **Every first and third Sunday**, September-May from **10:00am-10:30am** in the upstairs music room.

