

ZION HERALD

Issue 6

Dec. 2020/ Jan. Feb. 2021

Zion Lutheran Church ~ 15 S. 4th Street ~ Harrisburg, Pa 17101 ~ Phone: 717.234.4064 ~ Email: zionhbg@comcast.net

Dear Members and Friends of Zion,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

On November 29, we will celebrate the First Sunday in Advent and begin a new church year. In the season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate our Savior's birth and look to the time when our Lord Jesus will return. It is a time of preparation and waiting. A theme of waiting is very poignant to us as we await a vaccine and improved treatments for COVID-19. As we continue to take precautions which physically distance us from one another, may we be comforted by the assurance that nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:39).

We will continue to gather for worship, Bible Study, and other meetings online through the beginning of January 2021. Preparations are being made for Zion's sound and broadcasting system in the main worship space to be completed in December. We are hoping by Mid-January to be able to broadcast the 10:15am Sunday worship service over Zoom and YouTube from the church and to welcome in-person attendance, with proper protocols. We are committed to nurturing our fellowship together both for those who are ready to return to in-person worship and for those who, for a variety of reasons, will continue to attend worship online. Bible Study, Worship on Wednesday, and other meetings will remain online.

Advent is also a season of hope. This theme is reflected in several of our Advent hymns, especially, "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" (Service Book & Hymnal #8), based on verses from Psalm 24.

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates: Behold, the King of glory waits!
The King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the World is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart: Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heavens employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy .

Redeemer, come! with us abide: Our hearts to thee we open wide,
Let us thy inner presence feel, Thy grace and love in us reveal.

May the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christ which we celebrate in Advent be with us throughout this coming church year and always.

Pastor Karin

Weekly Schedule & Recurring Zoom Information

The Meeting ID and Passcode to attend our weekly online worship services and Bible Studies on Zoom is listed below. The online links are available on the church website. To join by phone, dial 1 646 558 8656. Use the Meeting ID & Passcode listed below.

Sunday 10:15am: Worship Service, Prelude begins at 10:10am

3rd Sunday Communion

Meeting ID: 816 5895 6443

Passcode: 847172

Tuesday 12:10pm: PB & Jesus Bible Study, concludes at 12:50pm

Meeting ID: 893 3719 2529

Passcode: 863730

Wednesday 12:10pm: WOW (Worship on Wednesday), concludes at 12:35pm

Prelude begins at 12:05pm, 1st Wednesday Communion

Meeting ID: 895 4667 5525

Passcode: 849793

YouTube Broadcast Worship

In addition to continuing to worship with Zoom, we are offering a new method for congregants and visitors to join in Worship on Sundays and Wednesdays. We will be broadcasting worship on our YouTube channel using YouTube Live. The content of worship will be the same as attending via Zoom, however YouTube offers some differences, including:

- Anonymity - Watching the worship service through YouTube is a similar experience to watching a video on your computer. Unlike participating via Zoom, there is no way for us to see or hear you during the service. Joining Worship this way is completely anonymous.
- More accessible - Many devices such as Smart TVs and DVD players, Roku, tablets, and some cable boxes now come with the YouTube app built in. Just look for the YouTube Logo on your device.



How to join via YouTube: At worship time, open the YouTube app or go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com). Search for Zion Lutheran Church Harrisburg & select the result with a photo of the church as the icon. On our main page will be an alert that we are "Live," allowing you to join. We will start broadcasting 5 to 10 minutes before worship starts.

WOW (Worship On Wednesday), Online on Zoom & Youtube Live
12:10–12:35pm Service of Word and Prayer

Service of Holy Communion on 1st Wednesday of the month

*****Thanksgiving Service Nov. 23*****

*****Special Advent Series “O Come, Emmanuel”: Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23*****

Dec. 16: Christmas Music by the Hummelstown Community Singers

WOW Holiday Cancellation: Dec. 30

PB & JESUS BIBLE STUDY, Tuesdays 12:10pm to 12:50pm

Online on Zoom

The PB & Jesus Bible Study meets on Tuesdays from 12:10pm – 12:50pm on Zoom. All are welcome to join the study as you are able. We are currently studying the book of Nehemiah. ***PB & JESUS Holiday Cancellations: Nov. 24 & Dec. 29***

CHRISTMAS MUSIC SUNDAY on the Festival of Saint Nicholas

December 6, Online on Zoom & Youtube Live

During the 10:15am worship service, we will hear selections from “The Messiah” sung by Zion’s Chancel Choir and the service will conclude with special music from the Hummelstown Community Singers. *See Weekly Schedule for Zoom information.*

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, Online on Zoom & Youtube Live

Tuesday, December 24th at 7:30pm

Celebrate our Savior’s birth with sisters and brothers in Christ from the safety and comfort of your home. Our traditional service will include music from Zion soloists and the Hummelstown Community Singers, including a special rendition of Silent Night in three languages. *To attend by streaming on YouTube, see YouTube Broadcast Worship article in this newsletter. Zoom information is listed below. The link to join online will be available on the church website.* To join by phone, dial 1 646 558 8656. Use the following Meeting ID & Passcode—

Meeting ID: 815 4041 1207

Passcode: 174354

SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS, Online on Zoom & Youtube Live

Sunday 10:15am Worship Service on December 27th

Celebrate the First Sunday after Christmas with Scripture readings of the promised Messiah and the Good News of Jesus’ birth. We will sing Christmas carols and be blessed with special music from the Hummelstown Community Singers. *See Weekly Schedule for Zoom information.*

Communicating during the time of COVID-19. We are sending **group emails** to provide updates. If you are not receiving the emails and would like to add your email address to this communication, please email the **church office (zionhbg@comcast.net)**. The **voicemail greeting for the church office (717-234-4064)** and the **church website (www.zionharrisburg.org)** are frequently updated. The church office voicemail and email (information above) are checked regularly. **Pastor Karin is available by phone, text, and/or email. She will schedule meetings on Zoom and/or in-person masked & socially distanced.**

NEW Office Hours: Monday & Friday, 9-11am The office administrator, Deitra Jones, plans to be in the office at this time to answer phone calls, sort mail, and handle other office responsibilities.

Holiday Office Closures: Nov. 27, Dec. 25, Jan. 1, Jan. 18, Feb. 15

Assistance with Shopping for Supplies. There are members on the East and West Shores who have offered to pick up groceries, prescriptions, or other life-sustaining supplies for those in need. Contact the church office or Pastor Karin.

Church Offering. We thank all who continue to generously support ministry at Zion. Contributions can be mailed to the church office:

Zion Lutheran Church, 15 S. 4th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

Interested in Becoming an Official Member of Zion?

Pastor Karin meets with prospective members over the phone, via Zoom, or in-person masked & socially distanced. Contact her for more information or to set-up a meeting.

Upcoming Zoom Council Meetings

Mondays: December 7 (Nov./Dec. Meeting). Jan. 25, Feb. 22 at 6:30pm

Zoom invitations will be emailed from the Church Office.

2020 Special Harvest Home Offering Report

Throughout the month of October, \$350 was raised. Half of the offering, \$175, was sent to the Ecumenical Food Pantry and the remaining \$175 will be held to meet needs of members, friends, and neighbors of Zion. *We thank Dixie Geistwite for overseeing this special collection.*

2020 Operation Christmas Child Report

In Matthew we read, "And the king will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'" We set out in August to collect toys and donations so we could fill at least 53 shoeboxes this year for the outreach ministry of Samaritans' Purse to the children of the world. Who would have dreamed that we would exceed that goal and head toward 70. In this difficult year, you heeded the call to share, and pray, so others would see the love of God shining through you. A total of 73 boxes were packed, and are ready to go to the distribution house next week. I would like to thank all who helped to make this project a success. I have tracking labels on all of them, so I will keep you posted when I find out their destination.

Judy Atticks

We thank Judy for organizing this impactful ministry.

Bethesda Mission Food Drive: Nov. 2 – December 16

From Bethesda: Provide a meal that starts it all. At rescue missions like ours, it's often by first meeting someone's basic needs, like food, that we can develop a relationship that leads to a transformed life. Our goal is 120,000 pounds by December 16! Here's how you can help: Fill a bag with non-perishable food items and drop it off at any of the collection points listed below—

Suggested food items: Canned green beans, corn, yams, gravy, boxed mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, fruit cocktail, pasta, rice, condiments

Turkeys, hams (please only drop these off at Bethesda Men's Mission)

Drop off locations: Contact Zion church office for members receiving donations at their homes located on the East and West Shores.

Bethesda Men's Mission, 611 Reily Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102

M&T Bank Branches in Dauphin and Cumberland Counties

Dauphin County Libraries (Harrisburg Locations)

Sharp Shopper in Middletown

Worship at Bethesda Mission Men's Shelter on 2nd Sundays at 7:00pm

December 13, January 10, February 14

Pastor Karin and Todd Pejack and volunteers from Zion and St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Camp Hill bring a monthly worship service of Holy Communion to the Men's Shelter. This outreach ministry resumed in August. Adjustments in conducting the service have been in made and safety protocols are in place for the protection of clients and volunteers. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Pastor Karin or Todd.

Mats for the Homeless Donated to Bethesda Mission

Over the past two months, Zion has been donating mats to Bethesda's Mobile Mission to the Homeless. The mats come from a ministry which was started by a ladies' group at the Crossroads Bible Church in Bedford, PA. They take plastic grocery bags and crochet them into 3 foot by 6 foot mats. A shoulder strap is also made to make it easier to carry the mats. The mats are lightweight and dry very quickly. They provide a barrier with the ground for the homeless to sleep on. Other churches from Lovely, PA and New Baltimore, PA are also making the mats and donating them to Crossroads for distribution. Originally, the mats were distributed by a truck driver when he sees homeless folks on his routes. With the number of mats being made, Crossroads was looking for additional ways to distribute the mats and serve a larger area. Dave Calhoun's brother attends Crossroads and reached out to him to see if Zion would be interested distributing the mats in the Harrisburg area. When Dave travels home to Bedford, he picks up available mats and brings them back Zion.

3rd Friday Fallout Shelter Inspirational Coffee House ZOOM PARTY!!!

Returns in the New Year on
Friday, January 15, 6:30pm—8:30pm

For those seeking spiritual refreshment at the end of the week, come join us for live music, poetry, prayer, and more. Online open mic opportunities for those wishing to share their talent in meaningful and uplifting ways. The guideline for participating live at the Zoom Party is Ephesians 4:29 — "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear." At the Zoom Parties over the past months, we have been blessed to hear from returning favorites and new participants. We welcome recorded music and presentations. Email Pastor Karin at the church office (zionhgb@comcast.net) for details. **Zoom Information:**

Meeting ID: 838 0765 6170

Passcode: 048849

To join by phone, dial 1 646 558 8656. Use the Meeting ID & Passcode listed above. The link to attend online will be emailed closer to the event, and will also be available on Zion's site: www.zionharrisburg.org

Prayer List

Missionary: Ruth Cheng serving in Romania

Homebound Members: Jackie G., Nathalee K., Anna R.

Persons with acute need of prayer for physical and/or spiritual healing (upcoming surgery/procedure/tests; recovery from recent illness or surgery/procedure/tests):

Eric, Laurentiu, Rich, Lynn, Pat, Stew & Carol, George & Sandy

Prayer List continues on page 7.

Persons in need of prayer for long-term physical and/or spiritual healing: Tom A., Karen B., Paul B., Sharon B., Betty C., Bishop John, Audrey, Lowell, Carol D., John D., Patrick D., Nancy E., Jim J., Margaret J., Heather K., Susan K., Ken K., Mary K., John L., Chase M., Mark M., Sonia M., Hazel N., Sally O., Janice P, Kasey R., Susan R., Josh R., Sara R., Danielle S., Alex Sch., Charles S., Frank S., Matthew S., Sally S-W., Bud W., Judy W., Grayson, Mary, Rhys, Trey, William, Victor, Kelly, Eleanor, Phil & Nancy, John G., Don A. , Jana, Sally, Rosa

If you have asked that someone be placed on our prayer list will you please let us know when prayers have been answered or the need has changed. Please call or email the church office.

If you would like to send a card to someone listed, please contact the church office for the address.

December Birthdays

Ashley Lavender
12/03

Marissa Wisman
12/10

Caroline Snyder
12/20

Irv Eshenour
12/22

Heidi Eshenour
12/28

Kelly Grubbs
12/30

Wanda Haas
12/30

Anniversary

Harold and Ann Pacey
12/31

January Birthdays

Paul Bernard
01/01

Jack Burnell
01/03

John Geistwite
01/11

Sandy Wisman
01/13

Michael Lavender Jr.
01/16

Jamie Daugherty
01/17

Steve Grubbs
01/24

Harry Thomas
1/27

Maddox Saylor
01/31

Anniversary

Pastor Karin and Todd Pejack
1/31

February Birthdays

Katherine Helman
02/02

Riley Dunn
02/08

Lois String
02/10

Rowen Wisma
02/14

Rachel Pejack
02/21

Xuan Thieu
02/28

Anniversary

Steve and Deb Grubbs
02/19

Bring the Annual Christmas Dinner to Your Home!

Chef Todd is sharing his almost-famous glazed ham recipe.

HOLIDAY HAM WITH APRICOT GLAZE

Makes 8 to 10 servings

1 (7 to 8 lb.) fully cooked, bone-in spiral cut ham half

1 (18 oz.) jar apricot preserves

½ C bourbon (or apple juice/cider, ginger ale, lemon/lime soda)

½ C whole grain mustard

2 T dark brown sugar

Preheat oven to 325°. Place ham, cut side down, on a lightly greased (with cooking spray) rack in a heavy-duty aluminum foil-lined broiler pan; let stand at room temperature 30 minutes.

Stir together preserves and next 3 ingredients in a saucepan. Bring to a simmer over medium-low heat. Simmer, stirring occasionally, 2 minutes. Remove from heat, and reserve 1½ C. Brush remaining glaze over ham.

Bake ham, uncovered, on lowest rack 2 hours or until a meat thermometer inserted in the thickest part registers 140°, basting every 30 minutes with reserved glaze. Let stand 15 minutes before serving.

2021 GIVING ENVELOPES

Around mid-December, envelope boxes will be available at the church. They can be picked up during office hours or your box can be mailed to you or brought to you by a member or friend of the congregation. For more information, contact the church office. The envelope box includes: an Initial Offering envelope for off-setting the cost of the envelopes (\$231 for Zion for the year); and Communion, Flower, Christmas, and Easter envelopes which support the Altar Guild of Zion. The Building Fund envelope supports property issues. If you wish the funds to go to a specific project, please write this in the memo or attach a note to the offering.

May God bless each of our prayerful discernment regarding planning for contributions of time, talent, and treasure to the ministry of Zion in the coming year.