

Zion Lutheran Church

A Member Congregation of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

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DECMEBER 2021 / JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

In-person & Online Worship and Programming List at Conclusion of Newsletter

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Members & Friends of Zion,

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come.

– *Revelation 1:4b*

We are in the time of endings and beginnings. November 21st is the festival of Christ the King and the last Sunday of the church year. The next church year begins on November 28th, the First Sunday in Advent. The rest of the world will say good-bye to 2021 on December 31st and welcome a new year on January 1, 2022.

There are other endings and beginnings impacting us. We recently celebrated the festival of All Saints, remembering the faithful who died this past year. We have now begun walking our earthly pilgrimage without them by our side, and we miss them. Other examples of endings and beginnings include those who moved to a different place or started new job or retired during 2020. Some have experienced changes in health and ability since last November.

During Advent we look forward to celebrating the birth of Savior so many years ago, but it is really a time when we prepare to welcome Him when he returns. Remembering how God kept His promise to deliver His people from sin and death through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus; we trust that Jesus will return to usher in a new heaven and a new earth. *“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away” - Revelation 21:4.*

While we wait, we can be tempted to dwell on the past or to worry about the future. In Revelation 1:4 and 8, we hear clearly that our Lord *was and is to come*. However, the statement always begins with *who is*. **In our current joys and sorrows, Christ is with us.** By the power of the Holy Spirit, His presence provides peace and comfort. May we take notice of and give thanks for the blessings our Savior provides here and now.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty” – Revelation 1:8

In Christ’s Service, Pastor Karin Pejack

Tuesday 12:10pm Online Advent Bible Study

November 30, December 7, 14, 21

“Wait Upon the Lord: with Faith, Hope, Rejoicing, & Gratitude”

The Bible Study is online only. It will be recorded and posted to website.

Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, February 1, with a series on the historic creeds of the Church.

Wednesday 12:10pm WOW Service

12:10–12:35pm Service of Word and Prayer

Service of Holy Communion on 1st Wednesday of the month

*****Thanksgiving Service Nov. 24*****

*****Special Advent Series “Wait Upon the Lord!”: Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22*****

WOW Holiday Cancellation: Dec. 30

Christmas At Italian Lake: December 11 & 12

The fifth annual Christmas at Italian Lake event will highlight the spirit of the season by bringing the greater Harrisburg region together in a weekend of joy, celebration, and twinkling Christmas nostalgia. All proceeds benefit Bethesda Mission with the goal of helping the nonprofit meet the needs of the homeless population of Harrisburg.

An ensemble of “Dickens Carolers” from Zion will be singing on Saturday (12/11), 11:00-11:30am. A photo of past “Dickens Carolers” from Zion is part of the promotion for this year’s event at this link: <http://christmasitalianlake.com/>

Christmas Music Sunday

10:15am Worship on December 12 & Fellowship after the Service

This year’s special music service (in-person and online) is a version of Lessons and Carols – including Advent and Christmas hymns and carols. Solos and ensemble pieces from Zion’s Chancel Choir will be featured. After worship, refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Eve Service of Word & Sacrament

Friday, December 24th at 7:30pm

Refreshments at 6:30pm

The worship service (in-person and online) will also include a children’s sermon and candle lighting. Please join us for cookies and punch before the service.

Poinsettias

Enclosed in the newsletter mailing is the Christmas Memorial Flower form. Forms and information are also available from the church office. The deadline for orders is December 17th.

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

November 12 & January 9

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 & Healing Prayer to the Men's Shelter. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Pastor Karin or Todd.

Winter Weather Cancellations of In-Person Worship

Online and phone worship will always be available on Zoom/YouTube! The best way to check if in-person services are cancelled is to call the church office. The greeting on the answering machine will let you know if the service has been cancelled.

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 online via Zoom and/or in-person.**

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 12pm

We continue to encourage calling ahead to confirm entry to the office and to check on the parking situation when you plan to arrive.

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

November 25 & 26 (Thanksgiving); December 27 (Christmas Day on Saturday transferred to Monday); January 1 (New Year's Day); January 17 (MLK Day)

Church Offering: We thank all who continue to generously support ministry at Zion. In the building, contributions can be placed in the offering boxes located in the main entrance. Contributions can also be mailed to the church office (address listed above).

COVID Protocol & Worship Updates

We are committed to keeping the Zion community connected in worship and prayer. Our main Sunday 10:15am worship service will consistently be offered in-person and online. Both are important, because there are members who are not able to access the online service and there are others who, for a variety of reasons, are not able to come to the building. At all activities in the building, people may choose to mask and to social distance.

We encourage all to prayerfully exhibit love of neighbor and respect for the wishes of those who choose to continue to mask and to social distance from others when in the building. We continue to request those who have a fever or who are not feeling well to remain home. Online worship is available for the 10:15am worship service on Sunday mornings. WOW (Worship on Wednesdays at 12:10pm) will continue to meet online only. Communion will be offered in-person and online on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and online on the 1st Wednesday. Pastor Karin is fully vaccinated and is available to provide home communion.

When attending in-person on Sunday mornings, the Chestnut Street Garage is a good option for parking. Current and functioning validation tickets are available on site at Zion. Regarding Altar Flowers, Zion will continue to utilize artificial arrangements. Many thanks to Judy Reynolds for procuring the beautiful seasonal arrangements.

Supporting TWR Missionaries:

TWR Missionaries: Randy & Christy Shearer visited Zion on November 14. They shared about their ministry in a special 9:00am joint Sunday School session and during the 10:15am worship service. TWR <https://www.twr.org/> shares the Good News of the Gospel through radio and media around the globe. If you would like to offer financial support to Randy and Christy, contact Dixie Geistwite, treasurer of the Fellowship Sunday School Class.

Operation Christmas Child Update

A new record was set this year: 88 boxes! Coordinator Judy Atticks deeply thanks everyone from Zion and Good Shepherd who contributed to this global ministry that brings Christmas joy to children and introduces them to the Greatest Gift of All: Our Savior Jesus Christ. Stay tuned for the report on where our boxes landed.

Zoom Council Meetings: Mondays, December 6 (Nov./Dec. mtg) & January 24, at 6:30pm

Please pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance for all who are serving in leadership. Zoom invitations will be emailed from the Church Office.

Serving Opportunities

We are looking for volunteers: to assist in the sound/audio-visual area; to lector and to lead responsive readings in-person or online; to serve as assisting ministers; provide transportation to worship; and, in other areas. Please contact the pastor if you are interested in serving. More information and training will be provided.

Prayer List

Ministries in Zion's Building: Good Shepherd Anglican Church (affiliated with the REC), Faith Empowerment Worship Center, Helping Individuals Succeed

Missionaries: Ruth C. – currently in England and will be traveling in Romania; Randy & Christy Shearer with TWR, currently stateside and returning to Cyprus in January 2022

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):

Sandy & Todd W., Jenny K., Mark M., Fred (Lee's brother), Fred (Bob & Wanda's friend)

Persons on long-term healing journeys Bud & Judy W., Monty (Eslinger Family relative), Jim J., John G., Al & Marianne G. (Catherine's mother & father), Catherine G., Dr. Mary (from clinic where Judy A. works), Phil & Nancy, Deitra, Peter (Ruth C.'s father), MaryBeth & Larry (Ann P.'s friends), Don, Charlotte & Grace (friends of Deb & Steve), Dolores, Phyllis

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

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

December Anniversary: Harold & Ann Pacey 12/31

January Birthdays: Jack Burnell 01/03; John Geistwite 1/11; Sandy Wisman 1/13, Michael Lavender, Jr. 1/16; Jamie Daugherty 1/17; Nehemiah Wise 1/19; Steve Grubbs 1/24; Arto Wise 1/26; Harry Thomas 1/27; Maddox Saylor 1/31

January Anniversary: Karin & Todd Pejack 1/31

December - January Worship and Programming Schedule

May be subject to change. Updates available at the church website & on the voicemail.

In-Person and Online Designated in Red

We plan to provide time for sharing prayer concerns and brief greetings online and in-person BEFORE the start of worship services and programs.

Sunday

9:00am **Sunday School** (in-person only)

9:45am **Fellowship** (in-person only)

10:15am **Worship Service** (in-person & online)

Tuesday

November 30, December 7, 14, 21

12:10pm **Advent Bible Study** (online only)

“Wait Upon the Lord: with Faith, Hope, Rejoicing, & Gratitude”

Will be recorded and posted to website

Wednesday

12:10pm **WOW, Worship On Wednesday**, (online only)

WOW will NOT meet on Dec. 29 – between Christmas and New Year’s Day

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24

6:30pm **Cookie & Punch Fellowship** (in-person only)

7:30pm **Worship Service** (in-person & online)

Weekly Schedule & Zoom/YouTube 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

Meeting ID: 816 5895 6443

Passcode: 847172

Tuesday 12:10pm Bible Study (Nov. 30, December 7, 14 & 21)

Meeting ID: 872 0166 0471

Passcode: 258673

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

Meeting ID: 895 4667 5525

Passcode: 849793

Christmas Eve Worship on Friday, December 24 at 7:30pm

Meeting ID: 879 1062 1047

Passcode: 046730

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.