

## Zion Lutheran Church

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

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### NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2022 / JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

#### Letter from the Pastor

*The angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord...*

*...And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." - Luke 1:13-15,18-20*

"Perhaps God was silencing Zechariah for a few months so that the priest would be forced to listen, to reorient his thinking, and to pay attention to the amazing thing that God was doing... Silence is an expression of awe and worship that is an appropriate response to the glory of God. It is in silence that we can hear God speak. Do you take enough time for silence? Do you ever turn off the noise, the radio, the television, your computer and just listen for God to speak?" - Adam Hamilton from *Prepare the Way For the Lord: Advent & the Message of John the Baptist*

Dear Members & Friends of Zion,

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

On November 27, we begin a new church year on the First Sunday in Advent. Even more than New Year's Eve, Advent is a time for prayerful self-examination and for seeking God's guidance for the future of our lives of faith. What better way to listen for the Lord's instruction than to be silent before Him?

I invite us all to take time throughout this coming year for silent prayer. Maybe start with just a few minutes a day, turning off the noise as outlined by Hamilton. I also encourage us to take times of silent prayer with others. Coming before the Lord together in silence, we may be more strongly connected to God and to one another. Sensing the struggles of our sisters and brothers in Christ, we may be led to share these burdens in prayer and in concrete acts of care.

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand;*

*Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in his hand*

*Christ our God to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand.*

- "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" Service Book & Hymnal #281

In Christ's Service, Pastor Karin Pejack

### **Dedication of Christmas Child Boxes at Nov. 13 Sunday Worship Service**

A new record was set this year: 112 boxes! Surpassing last year's record of 88. 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.

### **Final Session of Pre-Advent Online 12:10pm Bible Study on Nov. 15**

#### **HANGING OF THE GREENS**

##### **After the Worship Service on Sunday, November 20**

Come join us as we decorate the worship space for the Advent Season. We'll be bringing in the Advent wreath and hanging evergreens which symbolize the new and everlasting life we have through Jesus Christ. Contact Judy Reynolds (717-737-6696) for more information.

#### **ADVENT Devotional Pick-up & Mailing and Other Resources**

This year's Advent devotionals will be available for pick-up at church on Wednesday, Nov. 16, (for in-person WOW attenders) and on Sunday, Nov. 20. On Monday, Nov. 21, those not picked up will be mailed.

There will also be Advent resources available online at Zion's website.

#### **Poinsettias**

The 2022 Christmas Memorial Flower form will be available at the church, beginning Wednesday, Nov. 16. A form will also be included in the Advent Devotional Mailing. Forms can be returned to the church when we are open for worship, mailed to the church, or emailed to the church office. The deadline for orders is December 16.

#### **Thanksgiving Recorded Worship & Bulletin**

A pre-recorded Thanksgiving Service and bulletin will be available at Zion's website by Wednesday, Nov. 23. Links to past recorded Thanksgiving Services will also be available. ***If you would like to attend an in-person Thanksgiving worship service, please check out offerings from churches in your neighborhood.***

### **WOW (Worship On Wednesday) 12:10pm Service & Lunch Fellowship – Schedule Updates**

**12:10pm Service of Word & Prayer** (in-person & online)

**Service of Holy Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month**

**12:35pm Lunch Fellowship** (in-person only)

**\*\*\*WOW HOLIDAY CANCELLATIONS: Nov. 23 & Dec. 28\*\*\***

**WOW Advent Series "All Things New": Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21**

**Special Music by the EarthTones on Dec. 14**

**9:00-9:45am Adult Sunday School Classes** (in-person only)

**Fellowship Class**: Teacher – Judy Atticks, meets in the St. Timothy Room, behind the kitchen  
**Bible, Coffee, and Conversation**: Teacher - Pastor Karin, meets in Fellowship Hall

### **Christmas At Italian Lake: December 10 & 11**

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 (12/10), 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/>***

### **Special Advent Music Sunday**

#### **10:15am Worship on December 11 & Fellowship after the Service**

This year's special music service (in-person and online) is an Advent version of Lessons and Carols, highlighting the Scripture and history of beautiful traditional Advent Hymns. Solos and ensemble pieces from Zion's Chancel Choir will be featured. After worship, refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall.

### **SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OUTREACH COLLECTION & EVENT**

#### **Christmas Eve, December 24, beginning at 10am**

Reggie, Nehemiah, family, and friends continue their annual lunch distribution from Zion's building. This year, they will be distributing thermals to those in need as they come to pick up a meal. **There is a canvas bin in Fellowship Hall for donations of new thermals.**

#### **Christmas Eve Service of Word & Sacrament (In-Person & Online)**

**Saturday, December 24th at 7:30pm**

**Refreshments at 6:30pm**

The traditional communion worship service will include candle lighting. Please join us for cookies, snacks, and punch before the service. The online worship information will be included in the Advent devotional mailing, emailed, and will be available at the church website.

#### **Christmas Day Communion Worship Service of Lessons & Carols (In-Person & Online)**

Come celebrate Christ's birth on Christmas Day at the 10:15am Worship Service. There will also be a Christmas Joint Sunday School Class at 9:00am (in-person only) in Fellowship Hall, led by Pr. Karin. Online worship information is the same as regular Sunday worship.

### **Serving Opportunities December & Throughout the Year**

**December Fellowship Events Help Request:** We are looking for cookies, sweets and/or snacks for the reception after Special Music Sunday Worship on December 11 and for the reception time before Christmas Eve worship on Dec. 24. We would like to keep some of these refreshments for Christmas Day (Dec. 25) before and after worship.

**Ongoing Servers:** 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.

**Worship at Bethesda Mission Men's Shelter on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays at 7:00pm**

**November 13, December 11, January 8**

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.

**Note of Thanks & Praise Report**

Dear Pastor Karin and Members of Zion,

I offer you my most heartfelt gratitude for your celebration of my 40th Anniversary of Ordination! Sunday was such a special day for me! Thank you so much for the cards and gifts that were presented to me, capped of course by Pastor Karin's most gracious words to me during and after the presentation of the Certificate from the NALC Bishop.

I've told Pastor Karin how much this congregation means to Deb and me, and so I tell you as well; you are a wonderful Community of Christ, and, as one of my favorite saints, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, has written:

"The Church is the presence of Christ as Christ is the presence of God."

How true we have found this to be in the life of Zion!

May the peace of Christ be with you always,

Pr. Keith and Deb Eslinger

**Agape Ministries** held its first 11:00am Sunday worship service on October 30 in the lower level (Fallout Shelter), and close to 100 attended! Agape is led by Pr. Derrick who has been leading men's mentoring programs in Zion's building. Zion gives thanks for and prays for all the ministries in the building. See the Prayer List for all who are serving the Lord at 15 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

**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.

**Church Office UPDATES:**

**Office Hours: BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

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](mailto:zionhbg@comcast.net)). The **voicemail greeting for the church office (717-234-4064)** and the **church website ([www.zionharrisburg.org](http://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.** We 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 24 & 25 (Thanksgiving); December 26 (Christmas Day transferred to Monday); January 2 (New Year's Day transferred to Monday); January 16 (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, Cold, & Flu**

We are committed to keeping the Zion community connected in worship and prayer. The Sunday 10:15am worship service and the Wednesday 12:10pm worship service are consistently offered both in-person and online. Communion will be offered in-person and online on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays & Festivals and on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday. Communion servers are masked. Pastor Karin is available to provide home communion.

We encourage all to prayerfully exhibit love of neighbor and respect for the wishes of those who choose to mask and to social distance from others when in the building. We request those who have a fever or who are not feeling well to remain home.

### **Parking Update**

Street parking around Zion's building is metered and enforced 8am-5pm, Monday through Saturday. Parking on the sidewalks around the church is not permitted, and vehicles parked on the sidewalk will be ticketed.

**PARKING ON SUNDAYS:** THERE IS FREE VALIDATED PARKING IN THE CHESTNUT STREET GARAGE. ZION PROVIDES A VALIDATION TICKET. Four congregations hold worship services throughout the morning on Sundays. We kindly request that the free street parking closest to the church be left open for those who have difficulty walking.

### **A Way to Check on Local Road Construction, Before Coming to Church**

#### **Community Corner: PennDOT News**

Planning our daily commute around Central Pennsylvania can be difficult at the best of times, but when you come upon the dreaded orange codes or "Work Zone" signs, you may be wondering how construction seems to always be taking place! If you are interested in getting emails about PennDOT planned construction projects in Central PA you can sign up at the following link:

<https://www.penndot.pa.gov/RegionalOffices/district-8/Pages/allnews.aspx>

If you travel frequently out of Central PA, other regions have separate email mailing lists you can sign up for as well. These will keep you informed about lane, road & bridge closures, night work, and public events.

**Zoom Council Meetings: Mondays, December 5 (Nov./Dec. mtg) & January 23, 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.

**Prayer List**

**Ministries in Zion's Building:** Good Shepherd Anglican Church (affiliated with the REC), Faith Empowerment Worship Center, Helping Individuals Succeed (mentoring ministry led by Pr. Derrick James), Agape Ministries

**Missionaries:** Ruth C. stateside and returning to Romania in December; Randy & Christy S. with TWR, stationed in Cyprus; Kimi

**Homebound Members:** Nathalee K., Pr. John & Nancy K., Anna R., Bill & Janet S.

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

Deb E., Bud & Judy W., Rick P., Al G., Sandy & Todd W., Scott (Sandy's brother), Janet S., Pr. John & Nancy, Members of the Grubbs family, Maddox, Chuck, Jeanette B., Patrick D., Natalie & Glenn (Jack's friends), Steve (Mike's friend), Fred (Wendy's friend),

*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.*

**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**November Birthdays:** Deb Grubbs 11/04; Tina (Thieu) Polley 11/14; Jaiden Robinson 11/14; Pr. John Kline 11/17; Todd Wisman 11/24; Pastor Karin Pejack 11/30

**November Anniversaries:** Rick & Ricky Perrine 11/03

**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 Anniversaries:** 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.*

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

*Schedule begins on following page:*

## Sunday

### **Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays & Festivals**

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

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

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

## Wednesday

### **Communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month**

12:10pm **WOW, Worship On Wednesday**, (in-person & online)

12:35pm Lunch Fellowship (in-person only)

**WOW will NOT meet on Nov. 23 & Dec. 28**

## Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

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

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

## Christmas Day, Sunday December 25 – Regular Sunday Schedule

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

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

10:15am **Worship Communion Service** – Lessons & Carols (in-person & online)

## Weekly Schedule & Zoom/YouTube Information

The Meeting ID and Passcode to attend our weekly online worship services 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**

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

**Meeting ID: 895 4667 5525**

**Passcode: 849793**

**Christmas Eve 7:30pm, Saturday, December 24 - *The online worship information will be included in the Advent devotional mailing, emailed, and will be available at the church website.***

### **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.