

Zion Lutheran Church

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

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September – November 2024 NEWSLETTER

September 4, 2024, Commemoration of Albert Schweitzer, Missionary to Africa

Dear Members & Friends of Zion,

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

“For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. – John 6:33-35

Over the summer, we were blessed to hear Jesus’ words in John 6 reminding us that He is the bread of life. We are truly fed by our Lord when we gather around the communion table, receiving the life-giving body and blood of our Lord, vital spiritual food to sustain us in our earthly pilgrimage as Jesus’ disciples.

Recognizing that conflicts in people’s schedules may cause them to miss worship services on communion Sundays at Zion (1st, 3rd, and festivals), communion is now being offered on Service of the Word Sundays, directly following the dismissal in a brief service at the altar rail.

Other opportunities to receive communion include: 1st Wednesdays at 12:10pm WOW Service; and, scheduled visits by Pastor Karin at home, hospital, or other location. Over the past year, group communion gatherings have been organized at the homes of those who may not be able to attend regular services.

Online communion continues to be available during Sunday & Wednesday communion services. Through the blessing of technology, we are joined in real time around the Lord’s table during broadcast services to participate in communion together while in a variety of locations. Zion has a supply of pre-packaged elements (wafer/wine or wafer/grape juice) which can be picked up or delivered to you to aide in preparation for participation in online communion.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

In Christ’s Service,
Pastor Karin

Sunday, 9/8: Rally Day & Gallery Walk Sunday

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

Presentations on programs and fall series in Sunday School & at WOW Services, a new resource on Zion's website, and more! Special 2024 Operation Christmas Child Update & Plans for the final stretch to pack and send those boxes. *Details also available in articles in this newsletter.*

10:15am Service of the Word (in-person & online)

+ Those who wish to receive communion on Word Sundays may gather at the altar rail after the dismissal for a brief service of Holy Communion.

12-5pm - Art Association of Harrisburg Gallery Walk

2024 Featured Artist: Diane Foster. Captivated by the color and beauty of both the physical and imaginative aspects of life, Diane projects her view of the world onto canvas [photos available at Zion's website]. In addition to Foster's work, Zion looks forward to welcoming the public to view art by members and friends of the congregation, to tour our beautiful and historic building, and to experience the extensive collection of Christian art by Japanese artist, Sadao Watanabe

Operation Christmas Child – The Final Stretch

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven. – Matthew 19:14

Operation Christmas Child has been up and running since January. I want to thank the congregation for supporting this ministry in the last 8 months. It has become a year around project. We have bought at least 2,000 items through your donations and are hoping to pack 180 boxes. Last year we packed 171, thanks to all of you. It just isn't buying items, but it is putting together boxes filled with love and, in each box, Jesus is represented through a pamphlet in the child's language telling them of His love. If you would like to donate funds (which also help with shipping costs), please make a check out to Judy Atticks and mail it to 6441 Shatto Drive, Harrisburg, Pa 17111; or bring cash or your check to the church. Each donation, no matter how small or large is appreciated and it goes to packing one more box to help spread the gospel of Christ. Please pray for the ministry. We will be dedicating the boxes on November 10th, and we will be taking them to the distribution site on the 18th. Pray each day for the children who will receive each box, unknown to us, but known by God. May each of their hearts respond to Christ's love through your gifts. — Judy

9am Sunday School

Fellowship Class (St. Timothy Room) Study of "Keep the Faith by David Jeremiah"
Pastor's Class (Fellowship Hall) – Bible, Coffee & Conversation

New Bonhoeffer Movie Coming to Theaters on November 22

Zion is exploring options to attend a showing as a group. If you would be interested in participating in this event, reach out to Pastor Karin.

SPECIAL Joint 9am Sunday School Sessions
The Lives & Writings of Pastors Dietrich Bonhoeffer & S. W. Hermann, Jr.
Sundays in November & December 1

In **Bonhoeffer**, a four-session video-based small group Bible study, author Eric Metaxas presents major themes of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's writing and speaking and how he not only helped transform an entire faith community in Germany during World War II, but how his beliefs continue to impact the Christian faith of people throughout the world today. Pulling themes from all Bonhoeffer's major books, Metaxas helps us understand why these spiritual truths meant so much to Bonhoeffer and how they can be an inspiration and challenge to your faith. *We will view the videos together during Sunday School. For those who would like to view the videos at home, the links are listed below.*

(11/3) Session 1 What is the Church?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85vBPZituEA>

(11/10) Session 2 Living in Christian Community

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHNRLmLKCEg>

(11/17) Session 3 Religionless Christianity

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yR8orB8uv-U>

(11/24) Session 4 Come & Die

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZzq0dg-qng>

(12/3) Presentation on the Life and Writings of Dr. Stewart W. Hermann, Jr. [son of Dr. Stewart Hermann – pastor at Zion 1906-1947]. S. W. Hermann, Jr. served as pastor of the American Church in Berlin from 1936-1939. When Germany declared war on the United States, Hermann was interred at Bad Nauheim, Germany from December 1941 to May 1942. From 1944-45, Hermann served with the Office of Strategic Services. From 1964 until 1971, after years working internationally assisting refugees, he served as the first president of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

12:10pm WOW (Worship On Wednesday) Service of Word & Prayer (1st Wed. Communion)

12:35pm Lunch Fellowship

WOW SERIES 9/11 – 10/23: THE ART OF LIVING & DYING WELL

Based on the Book: *The Art of Dying Well* by Robert Bellarmine (1542-1621)

Robert Bellarmine, a Jesuit priest who rose to the rank of cardinal, was known for his spirit of detachment, his profound love of neighbor, and his tireless service to the Church.

Session 1 (9/11) Strive to Live Well

Session 2 (9/18) Learn to Die to the World

Session 3 (9/25) Persevere in Faith, Hope, and Charity

Session 4 (10/2) Be Ever Ready to Meet Christ (1st Wed. COMMUNION)

Session 5 (10/9) Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving

Session 6 (10/16) Be Faithful to Your Baptismal Promises

Session 7 (10/23) Guard Against Sin and Resolve to Die Well

WOW SERIES 10/30 – 11/20: LIFE TOGETHER

These WOW services will feature singing verses from well-known hymns (acapella), Scripture readings, excerpts from Deitrich Bonhoeffer's classic work, "Life Together," and prayer. Communion on 11/6 (1st Wednesday).

Wednesday, November 27 *WOW NOT MEETING*

PRE-RECORDED THANKSGIVING PRAYER SERVICE AVAILABLE AT ZION'S WEBSITE

Songs in September

Every day in September a new recording will be uploaded to our YouTube channel from the back catalog of performances at Zion. Make sure you don't miss any by subscribing at youtube.com/@zionharrisburg

Visit our channel frequently through the month to listen to old favorites and catch performances you may have missed!

"Table Talk" at Appalachian Brewing Company (ABC), Harrisburg

2nd Tuesdays - September 10, October 8, November 12 - from 5:30-7:00pm

Martin Luther enjoyed faithful and fun conversation over food and drinks. Join Pastor Karin, Todd, and Sam for informal conversation relating Christian faith to everyday topics. Participants are responsible for the purchasing of their food and drinks. [in-person only]

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

Fall Dates: September 8, October 13, November 10, December 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 to the Men's Shelter. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Pastor Karin or Todd.

Bethesda Mission's Annual Banquet 2024

Look What You've Done

Tuesday, October 1, 6:30 Dinner & Program

Held at the Penn Harris Hotel in Camp Hill, the banquet is a time to appreciate those in the Bethesda community – volunteers, staff, donors, and guests – as well as raise funds to sustain the ministry. The program includes ministry updates; testimonies from clients; and, recognition of the Volunteer of the Year. Members and friends of Zion who would like to attend the event are invited to register individually. There is no fee to attend, but registration is required to reserve a seat. For more information and to register, go to:

<https://www.bethesdamission.org/events/>

Harvest Home Sunday on October 13

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

-2 Corinthians 9:10-11

On this Sunday, we give thanks for the Lord who provides daily bread and for all who work to bring food to our tables. We also pray that God will guide us in sowing the seeds of the Good News of Christ as we care for those in need. In past years on this Sunday, we collected non-perishable food items and monetary donations for the Harrisburg Area Food Pantry (formerly the Ecumenical Food Pantry). In October, members and friends are encouraged to make contributions (non-perishable food and other items or monetary) to local organizations providing food and basic necessities to those in need. Some local suggestions are listed below: Harrisburg Area Food Pantry <https://hfoodpantry.org/>; Downtown Daily Bread <https://downtowndailybread.org/>; Central Pennsylvania Food Bank <https://www.centralpafoodbank.org/>

Festival of St. Luke - Sunday, October 20

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

James 5:14-15

During the 10:15am worship service, we remember the witness of **St. Luke, Evangelist**, and the church's ministry of healing prayer. As is the custom on communion Sundays at Zion, individual healing prayer with laying on of hands and anointing with oil will be offered during the worship service.

Reformation Sunday Celebration & Meal – October 27

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9

October 27 is Reformation Sunday! Following our 10:15am Worship Service in the upstairs worship space with organ music, we will host a traditional German meal. ***To help us plan for the meal, please let us know if you plan to attend by signing-up in the Fellowship Hall or by calling or emailing the church office.***

Sunday, November 3

****DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS. PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR.***

All Saints Sunday celebrated at the 10:15am Worship Service

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. – Romans 6:5

On this Sunday, during the 10:15am Worship Service, we will remember members of Zion and loved ones of the Zion community who entered the Church Triumphant over the past year. **If you would like to list in the bulletin the name of a loved one who died this past year, please**

email or call the church office. Please give the name as you would like it listed and the person's relationship to you. Those attending in-person will have an opportunity to remember loved ones by lighting a candle during the service.

Sunday, November 10

****TRAVEL ADVISORY: The Harrisburg Marathon takes place this morning. Please allow extra time to travel to Zion for Sunday School and worship.***

Dedication of Christmas Child Boxes at the 10:15am Worship Service

Prayer List

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. -1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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

Missionaries: Ruth C. in Romania; Randy & Christy S. with TWR, stationed in Cyprus; Kimi; All in the US and abroad involved with Operation Christmas Child

Homebound Members: Irv & Nancy E., Nathalee K., Nancy K., Anna R., Bill & Janet S., Lois S., Judy W.

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

Jeanette & Larry B., Nathalee, Todd W., Bud & Judy W., Dixie & John, Lee A., Saylor family, Patrick G., *FRIENDS & RELATIVES of Zion:* Carol, Al, Beth, Cheryl, Mike & Susie, Peggy, Harriet, Diane, Aimee, Connor & Anna, Anita, Debbie, Gary, Don, Eleanor, Brent, Jimmy L., Robert D. *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

For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. John 1:16

We continue to update these lists. Please let us know if there are additions or corrections needed.

September Birthdays: Mike M. 09/12; Dixie G. 09/13; Stephanie S. 09/14; Dena L. 09/15; Bud W. 09/19; Margaret L. 09/26; Ann P. 9/30

September Anniversaries: Irv & Nancy E. 09/02; Lee & Judy A. 09/23; Mike & Judy R. 09/28

October Birthdays: Debra E. 10/02; Brian H. 10/11; Marcus O. 10/12; Judy A. 10/14; Logan D. 10/17; Judy W. 10/23; Nathan M. 10/23; Lara E. 10/26

October Anniversaries: Michael & Dena L. 10/18; Steve & Danielle S. 10/28

November Birthdays: Tina (Th.) P.; 11/14; Jaiden R. 11/14; Todd W. 11/24; Pastor Karin 11/30

November Anniversaries: Rick & Ricky P. 11/03

December Birthdays: Marissa W. 12/10; Caroline S. 12/20; Irv E. 12/22; Heidi E. 12/28; Kelly G. 12/30; Wanda H. 12/30

December Anniversaries: Harold & Ann P. 12/31

RECAP & THANKS!

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus. -1 Corinthians 1:4

Zion's Annual Meeting took place on June 2, 2024. Thank you to all who attended online & in-person or submitted an absentee ballot. All items on the agenda passed: the approval of the 2023 annual meeting minutes, the election of council members, and the approval of the 2024-25 budget. Thank you also to all who brought food for the picnic lunch following the meeting.

Outdoor Worship was held in the evening on Thursday, July 11. Thank you to Judy & Lee for hosting the event. A wonderful time of hymn-singing and prayer was enjoyed by all.

Zion Volunteers served at the Central PA Food Bank on Friday, August 9, 9:30-11:30am. Members & friends of Zion packed over 240 boxes for seniors!

Zoom Council Meetings beginning at 6:30pm

Please pray for the Holy Spirit to guide leaders of Zion as we support our mission to sharing of love of Christ in the city of Harrisburg and beyond.

Mondays, September 23 & October 28

Monday, December 9 (Combined November/December meeting)

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 (office@zionharrisburg.org)**. 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.** We encourage calling ahead to confirm entry to the office and to check on the parking situation when you plan to arrive.

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). Giving envelopes are available on site and can be mailed or delivered.

FALL WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS **Additional details in previous articles in this newsletter*

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| Sunday, September 29 | FESTIVAL OF ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS – COMMUNION
<i>Rev. Keith Eslinger serving as Preacher and Worship Leader</i> |
| Sunday, October 13 | HARVEST HOME SUNDAY – SERVICE OF THE WORD* |
| Sunday, October 20 | FESTIVAL OF ST. LUKE – COMMUNION & HEALING PRAYER* |
| Sunday, October 27 | REFORMATION SUNDAY – COMMUNION*
GERMAN MEAL FOLLOWING WORSHIP |

Sunday, November 3 **FESTIVAL OF ALL SAINTS – COMMUNION***
Sunday, November 10 **DEDICATION OF SHOEBOXES – SERVICE OF THE WORD***
Sunday, November 26 **FESTIVAL OF CHRIST THE KING - COMMUNION**
Wednesday, November 27 **WOW NOT MEETING**
PRE-RECORDED THANKSGIVING PRAYER SERVICE AVAILABLE AT ZION'S WEBSITE

Weekly Schedule

Sunday (Communion & Healing Prayer on 1st and 3rd Sundays and Festivals)

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

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

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

On Sundays, validated parking is available in the Chestnut Street Garage.

Zoom Information: Meeting ID: 816 5895 6443
Passcode: 847172

Wednesday (Communion on the 1st Wednesday)

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

Zoom Information: Meeting ID: 895 4667 5525
Passcode: 849793

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

There is very limited free parking on site. Parking on the street is actively enforced at this time of day, if you park on the street, please plan to pay for parking.

Missed a Worship Service?

If you want to catch-up on a missed worship service, re-watch a sermon, or read additional resources you can access them online.

- Worship videos for Sundays & Wednesdays (WOW) are available on YouTube. For additional information on how to access them, go to the "Online Sermons" page of the Zion website.
- Want to re-watch a sermon series or read associated resources? They can be found on the "Devotional Resources" page of the Zion website.
- Updated information about Ruth Cheng's mission in Romania is available on the "Missions & Ministries" page of the Zion website.

YouTube page: bit.ly/ZionHBGonYouTube

Zion's Website: zionharrisburg.org