

## Zion Lutheran Church

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

Church Website: [www.zionharrisburg.org](http://www.zionharrisburg.org)

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### ADVENT-CHRISTMAS-EPIPHANY 2024-25 NEWSLETTER

**\*\*\* ATTENTION: CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP TIME \*\*\***

**ONE SERVICE AT 2:00pm IN THE AFTERNOON on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24**

Dear Members & Friends of Zion,

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

*And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,  
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. -Ephesians 5:2 ESV*

#### **JESUS**

HE CAME NOT TO A THRONE, but to a manger.

HE LIVED NOT AS A KING, but as a servant.

HE CHOSE NOT A KINGDOM, but a cross.

HE GAVE NOT JUST A LITTLE, but everything.

- Holley Gerth

As we begin the season of Advent on December 3, we enter a time of preparing to celebrate our Savior's birth and of awaiting His return in glory. In this time of anticipation, we are strengthened by what Jesus has already accomplished for us on the cross – where He gave everything. Through Christ's life, death, and resurrection, we receive grace and hope knowing we are forever in God's loving care. We all experience changes on our earthly pilgrimage. Yet through all the twists and turns, we are not alone. Our Savior is with us. God provides rest and comfort along the way; often in surprising, small and meaningful, ways. Christ is especially present with us in His Body on earth – the church. As beloved children of God, adopted in baptism, we are part of a global Christian family; sisters and brothers in the Lord lending a helping hand, a listening ear and praying for one another.

May we follow our Savior's example walking in love and serving our neighbors this Advent, Christmas, and all year long.

In Christ's Service, Pastor Karin Pejack

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

A link to a pre-recorded Thanksgiving Service and bulletin will be available at Zion's website on Monday, November 25. 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. 27, Dec. 25, Jan. 1\*\*\***

***The following Wednesdays: November 27 & December 25, and January 1, pre-recorded services & bulletins will be available at Zion's website.***

### **Advent & Christmas WOW Services Dec. 4 (Communion), 11, 18**

**Pre-recorded Services on Dec. 25 & Jan. 1**

Join us for the lighting of the Advent Wreath, traditional readings, prayers, and hymns.

***WOW Services & Lunch Fellowship resume on Wednesday, January 8, with Communion Service (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday due to Jan. 1 holiday). New series to be announced.***

**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

### **ADVENT Devotional Mailing**

This year's Advent Devotional Mailing will be available for pick-up at church beginning on Wednesday, November 20. For those not able to come to the church, their packets will be delivered or mailed.

### **Poinsettia Order Information**

**Checks should be made out to Zion Lutheran Church**

The 2024 Christmas Memorial Flower form will be available at the church, beginning Sunday November 24. 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 15.

### **Christmas At Italian Lake: December 14**

The seventh annual Christmas at Italian Lake event will highlight the spirit of the season by bringing the greater Harrisburg region together in a day of joy, celebration, and 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 at 10:00am. See <https://christmasitalianlake.com/> for more information.***

**Special Advent & Christmas Music Sunday**

**10:15am Worship on December 10**

This year's special music service (in-person and online) is a celebration of Advent & Christmas anthems paired with Scripture lessons. Enjoy beautiful music from Zion's Choir and the opportunity to join in the festive singing.

**Weihnachtsgottesdienst – Traditional Christmas Service in German**  
**Sunday, December 22, at 3pm (In-Person & Online Zoom & YouTube)**

The worship service will include communion & candle lighting while singing "Stille Nacht." Printed English translation will be available. Please join us before the service at 2:00pm for Kaffee & Kuchen (coffee & cake) featuring German treats. The Zoom worship information for this special service is listed below. The link will be emailed and will be available at the church website.

**3:00pm Weihnachtsgottesdienst**

**Meeting ID: 868 7902 7426**

**Passcode: 308840**

**SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OUTREACH EVENT**

**Monday, December 23**

Reggie, Nehemiah, family, and friends continue to hold their annual **Christmas packaged lunch distribution from Zion's building**. They will also distribute items to help individuals keep warm in the cold. To support this effort, financial contributions and donation of items are appreciated—please contact Reggie.

**\*\*\* ATTENTION: ONE CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP TIME \*\*\***

**2:00pm AFTERNOON CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE**

(NO EVENING SERVICE)

**Tuesday, December 24th**

**1:15pm Cookies & Punch**

**2:00pm Traditional Christmas Eve Communion Service (In-Person & Online Zoom & YouTube)**

The worship service will include candle lighting. Please join us for cookies, coffee, and punch before the service. The Zoom worship information for this special service is listed below. The link will be emailed and will be available at the church website.

**2:00pm Christmas Eve Service on Sunday, December 24**

**Meeting ID: 819 6108 9942**

**Passcode: 254100**

**December Fellowship Event Help Request**

We are looking for cookies, sweets and/or snacks for the 1:15pm reception before the Afternoon Christmas Eve worship on Dec. 24. To volunteer, sign-up in Fellowship Hall.

### **Operation Christmas Child: REPORT & REBOOT**

Last year we packed 150 boxes and delivered 166 boxes to the local distribution site. **This year we delivered a record 230 boxes to the distribution site!**

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. Please pray for all the children who will receive a box, that their hearts may respond to Christ's love through these simple treasures. Preparations for Operation Christmas Child 2025 are already underway. Donations of new items, and monetary contributions to purchase items and for shipping costs are currently being received by Judy Atticks. For more details, contact her at 717-564-0798.

### **MULTI-PURPOSE GIVING ENVELOPES are available year-round!**

To save money and to conserve paper, Zion moved to one Multi-Purpose Giving Envelope in 2024. Givers are invited to pick up the number of envelopes they need. Envelopes can also be mailed or delivered upon request. Please know that we will continue to track giving of all checks received whether or not they are in a Zion giving envelope.

### **Zoom Council Meetings on Mondays: 12/9 (Nov./Dec. mtg), 1/27 and 2/24 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.

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

**Winter Dates: December 18, January 12, No February Service due to Super Bowl**

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 and healing prayer to the Men's Shelter (611 Reily Street, Harrisburg). For more information or to volunteer, please contact Pastor Karin or Todd.

### **SOUPER BOWL LUNCH RETURNS!**

**Sunday, February 9, following 10:15am Worship Service**

Enjoy a buffet of soups and bread for lunch before going home to watch the big game. There will be a sign-up sheet to bring a favorite soup to share with the fellowship. Bring a can of soup to benefit our neighbors, supporting the food pantry at Harrisburg University.

### **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.

### **Cold/Flu/Covid Update**

To care for one another, if you are not feeling well, please attend services online. Masks are available on site, if you would prefer to be masked during worship and when receiving communion. Pr. Karin brings masks with her when doing home visits and will honor requests to mask during visits.

### **Church Office UPDATES:**

**Office Hours are 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 in-person and/or online via Zoom.** 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 on the first page of the newsletter).

**HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES** Nov. 26-29 (Thanksgiving); Dec. 25-27 (Christmas); Wednesday, Jan.1 (New Year's Day) **Pastor Karin will be taking vacation time: November 26-29; December 26-28.** Pastor Keith will be providing pastoral care coverage while Pr. Karin is taking vacation time with her family.

### **Prayer List**

**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 involved with Operation Christmas Child

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

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

**Members:** Carol C., Jack M., Nancy K., Todd W., Bill & Janet S., Jeanette B., Saylor family

**Relatives & Friends:** Ron, Harriet, Susie & Mike, Al, Don, Eleanor, Brent, Jimmy, Dawn, Beth, Diane, Aimee, Connor & Anna, Anita, John, Robert

*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.*

### **December – February Birthdays & Anniversaries**

*Please contact the church office with additions and corrections.*

**December Birthdays:** Ashley L. 12/03; 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

**January Birthdays:** Jack B. 01/03; John G. 1/11; Michael L., Jr. 01/16; Jamie D. 01/17; Nehemiah W. 01/19; Steve G. 01/24; Arto W. 01/26; Maddox Saylor 01/31

**January Anniversary:** Karin & Todd P. 1/31

**February Birthdays:** Riley D. 02/08; Max Polley 02/12; Rowen W. 02/14; Alivia Polley 02/19; Rachel P. 02/21; Kaya T. 02/27 ; Xuan T. 02/28

**February Anniversary:** Erica & Adam J. 02/03

### **Parking Update**

Street parking around Zion's building is metered and enforced 9am-5pm, Monday through Saturday. Parking on the sidewalks around the church is not permitted, and vehicles parked on the sidewalk will be ticketed. **ON SUNDAYS**, STREET PARKING IS FREE & THERE IS FREE VALIDATED PARKING IN THE CHESTNUT STREET GARAGE. ZION PROVIDES A VALIDATION TICKET. For more information, contact the church office.

### **Weekly Schedule**

*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 (Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays and 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)**

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

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

### **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**

### **YouTube Broadcast Worship**

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 and select the result with a photo of the church as the icon. On our main page there will be an alert that we are "Live," allowing you to join. We will start broadcasting when worship starts.