

## Zion Lutheran Church

A Member Congregation of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)  
15 South 4th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101 / Church Website: [www.zionharrisburg.org](http://www.zionharrisburg.org)  
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### **ADVENT-CHRISTMAS 2025-26 NEWSLETTER**

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

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

**JOIN US AT 1:15pm for Cookies & Punch**

November 8, 2025

Dear Members & Friends of Zion,

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

Christmas songs and decorations are already here, even before expressing our gratitude to God at Thanksgiving. Within the church, we are invited to slow down. On the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent (11/30), we begin prayerful preparations to celebrate the Lord's birth and to look for Christ's return. There are many tasks and emotions surrounding us at this time of year. God speaks a powerful word of comfort to us when life feels overwhelming. May the Scripture verse and reflections below draw us closer to our Savior, the Good Shepherd, who cares for us.

In the Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy of Jesus,

Pastor Karin

*[The Lords said,] "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."*

- 2 Corinthians 12:9 ESV

Let us announce the coming of our Savior with joy! He lies in a manger but he holds the world in his hands; ... he is wrapped in swaddling clothes but he clothes us with immortality. He could not find room in the Bethlehem Inn but now makes a temple for himself in the hearts of believers. We should not look down on his human birth but marvel that it occurred. On Christmas strength took on weakness that weakness might become strong.

- Saint Augustine, Sermon 190,3

... when God says, "Power is made perfect in weakness," we can believe it. When I learn to rely on God's grace, instead of my own strength, God works in me. I leave matters in God's hands. I wait upon the Spirit (see Acts 1:4). I trust that God is working out his plan (see Romans 8:28). He is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine..." (Ephesians 3:20).

Lord, teach us to know that our weak moments are so often the times when your strength is at work in us. Amen.

- Joel Heck, A Grand Miracle: Daily Devotions for Advent - Inspiration from C.S. Lewis

## **Thanksgiving Recorded Worship & Bulletin**

A link to a pre-recorded Thanksgiving Service and bulletin will be available at Zion's website on Monday, November 24. 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. 26, Dec. 24 & 31\*\*\***

***WOW attenders are invited to attend the 2pm Christmas Eve Service on Wednesday, December 24, see details in this newsletter.***

***The following Wednesdays: November 26 (Thanksgiving Service) & December 31, pre-recorded services & bulletins will be available at Zion's website.***

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

**Christmas Music on Dec. 18**

**Pre-recorded Service on Dec. 31**

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

***WOW Services & Lunch Fellowship resume on Wednesday, January 7, with Communion Service.***

### **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.**

### **ADVENT Devotionals at Zion beginning Wednesday, 11/19**

This year's Advent devotional materials will be available for pick-up at church beginning on Wednesday, November 19. **If you would like the devotional mailed to you, please communicate your request to the church office by email or voicemail.**

### **Sunday, November 23**

#### **9am Special Sunday School Presentation by Homeland**

On Sunday, November 23, during Sunday School, Homeland Center and Homeland at Home staff will be presenting a program on its history, current programs and services, and its partnership with the community. Seniors face many challenges in navigating health care and Homeland provides a wide variety of services to persons residing at Homeland Center but also to persons living in their own homes or other institutions in the health care continuum for seniors.

During the morning worship service Homeland staff will be presenting a plaque of appreciation to Zion Lutheran Church, as the congregation is one of the nine founding churches of Homeland, or as it was known at its founding in 1867: The Home for the Friendless."

Two women from nine Harrisburg churches, including two from Zion Lutheran Church, 18 women in all, came together to create "The Home" in response to the needs of orphans and widows following the end of the American Civil War in 1865 and the closing of Camp Curtin, the Federal Government's largest camp located in north Harrisburg, soon thereafter. This effort may indeed have been the region's first ecumenical or inter-church cooperative or community ministry.

**10:15am Communion Service – Festival of Christ the King**

**Hanging of the Greens**

**After the Worship Service on Sunday, November 23**

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.

**Poinsettia Order Information**

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

The 2025 Christmas Memorial Flower form will be available at the church, beginning Sunday November 9. Forms can be emailed by request. Forms may be returned at 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.

**Advent & Christmas CANTATA Sunday**

**10:15am Worship on December 14**

***Glory to the Newborn King! Celebrating the Light of Christmas***

Please join us for this beautiful musical celebration of the Savior's birth featuring soloists, Zion's Chancel Choir, and friends.

**Sunday, December 14, at 3pm**

**Hummelstown Singers Christmas Concert**

***Members & friends of Zion sing with this wonderful group.***

At Hummelstown United Church of Christ  
104 E Main St, Hummelstown, PA 17036

**SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OUTREACH EVENT**

**Tuesday, 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)

Wednesday, 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 link will be emailed and will be available at the church website.

**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 & Words of Gratitude**

Last year we delivered 230 boxes to the local distribution site. **This year we have packed a record 232!**

Coordinator Judy Atticks deeply thanks members and friends of Zion 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.

**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: 12/8 (Nov./Dec. mtg), 1/26 and 2/23 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.

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

**November 9 & December 14**

*This ministry does not take place January & February due to weather & 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.

**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 when doing home visits and will honor requests to mask during these times.

### **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.

**HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES** Nov. 26-28 (Thanksgiving); Dec. 25-26 (Christmas); Wednesday, Jan.1 (New Year's Day). **Pastor Karin will be taking time to care for her parents & vacation time: November 17-18, 28-29; December 4-6, 29-30.**

### **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:** 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; Hannah; All in the US and abroad involved with Operation Christmas Child

**Homebound Members:** Irv & Nancy E., Nancy K., Janet S.

***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, Janet, Jane & David, Derek, Kelly, Rachel, Joyce, Jeff, Carol, John & Johnnie, Chuck, Kevin, Sharon, Ron, Phil, Dawn, Beth, Diane, Aimee, Anita, Gary, Don, Eleanor, Brent  
*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.*

## November – February 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.***

**November Birthdays:** Jaiden R. 11/14; Todd W. 11/24; Pastor Karin 11/30

**November Anniversaries:** Rick & Ricky P. 11/03

**December Birthdays:** Rosie S. 12/3, 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; Nehemiah W. 01/19; Steve G. 01/24; Arto W. 01/26

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

**February Birthdays:** Xuan T. 02/28

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

## 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 Services on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays and Festivals; Communion is available at the altar rail at the conclusion of Services of the Word)**

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)

## PARKING

**WOW SERVICE WEDNESDAYS:** Zion's small lot; 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. Parking in the lot below the train station is an option - Please pick up a notice from the church office for your dashboard when you park there that will indicate that you are attending a service at Zion. **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.

## 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.