

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
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HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2026 NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL UPDATE

¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

- John 14: 18, 25-27

Jesus spoke these words of comfort to His disciples at the last supper. Fast forward to today, we who follow Jesus know that He kept His promise. As the Resurrected Lord He came through locked doors to bring His peace to the fearful disciples (John 20:18-30). After He ascended to the Father, the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples. By the Holy Spirit's power, even those who denied and doubted Him believed and shared the Good News of Jesus to the world, that we, too, may have Life in His Name.

That evening, however, when the Master washed their feet, the disciples could not see the end of the story. Jesus is inviting them to trust in Him; promising that He will not abandon them, even when it may seem that way for a time. Perhaps, looking back over our own stories, we remember times of confusion and fear as something changes the world as we have known it up until that point. A time when we, like the disciples, cannot see the end of the story.

Reviewing times of great change in our lives, we see the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. It can be a joyful occasion after which nothing remains the same, such as marriage or the birth of a child. It may be a time of devastating loss due to the illness or death of a loved one. But it's not the End of The Story. As Christians, we understand that time to be when our Savior returns to make all things new. Until then, by the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ's Presence and Peace are always with us. Christ said, *"I am with you always, to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:20).

In the Lenten newsletter, the Zion community was invited to pray for the leadership as they continue prayerful conversations discerning the future of the congregation. Through the generosity of faithful men and women who have gone before us, Zion currently (but not forever) has funds to continue ministry in this location.

However, as the congregation continues to age and decrease in number, we are struggling to maintain basic operations and the upkeep of the building. As an example, the most recent death of our brother in Christ, Mike, has seriously impacted several essential functions of the congregation. Mike was vice-president of council, an assisting minister, a vital member of the finance committee, a registered check signer, a key and code holder who worked on security in the building, and an assistant to his wife, Judy, with showcases and altar guild duties. In the areas where we have been able to place a different member in one of Mike's roles, that member, like Mike, is already serving in several other capacities.

At a time when a very small group of staff and volunteers are overwhelmed by the day-to-day tasks involved in oversight at Zion, we face increased challenges such as parking and safety issues in the neighborhood. There is the added responsibility of honoring Zion's historical legacy and property located in the state capital. We are also called to be faithful stewards of the assets handed down to us for mission and ministry in this place.

Recognizing that any major transition will require time to be executed well, please know that in the short-term, the ministries of Sunday and Wednesday services, Sunday School, fellowship and pastoral care continue. Long-term, even if the discernment leads to the planned dissolution of the congregation of Zion, there is much hope for a fruitful Christian legacy in and from Zion's building. Another congregation or outreach ministry may make its home here. Zion's assets could support this new mission.

The Holy Spirit has truly blessed the congregational council with times of heartfelt sharing and compassionate listening as leaders have engaged in prayerful conversation. We invite the entire Zion community to join us in prayer and discussion. We strongly encourage individuals and groups to be in conversation with the pastor and council members in this period of discernment. We recognize that these conversations are very challenging and that we may experience strong emotions. We trust that God will bless us and strengthen us as we journey together through these Holy Conversations, *trusting that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose* (Romans 8:28).

In the Peace of Christ, Pastor Karin

WOW (Worship On Wednesday) 12:10pm Service & Lunch Fellowship

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

Service of Holy Communion on 1st Wednesday of the month

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

Lenten Series: "Dying His Death, Living His Life"

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we also live with him. – Romans 6:8

April 1, Holy Wednesday: Dying to Judgment, Living in Grace (1st Wed. COMMUNION)

April 3, Wednesday after Easter: He Lives Triumphant

WOW Services & Fellowship continue in the Easter Season with Resurrection themed services.

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

Fellowship Class: Teacher – Judy Atticks, meets in the St. Timothy Room, behind the kitchen

2026 LENT - HOLY WEEK - EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

in-person & online unless otherwise indicated.

March 29 Palm Sunday 10:15am Service of Word & Sacrament

Regular Schedule and Information for Sunday School & Worship Service

April 1 WOW on Holy Wednesday 12:10pm (1st Wednesday Communion)

Regular Schedule and Information for WOW Worship Service & Lunch Fellowship

Special Music: “Via Dolorosa” - Solo by Doug Long

April 2 Maundy Thursday 12:10pm Service of Communion

“For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.”

John 13:15

In-person, Online or by Phone on Zoom, Streaming on YouTube Live

Communion will be offered in-person and for those attending online or by phone

Zoom Information: Meeting ID: 825 3633 0822

Passcode: 989726

April 3 Good Friday 12:10pm Traditional Tenebrae Worship Service

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture),

“I thirst.” - John 19:28

In-person, Online or by Phone on Zoom, Streaming on YouTube Live

Zoom Information: Meeting ID: 858 9946 9590

Passcode: 787360

April 5 Easter Sunday

7:15am Sunrise Service (In-person only)

at Zion outside facing the lawn in front of the train station

Brief Service with Communion. If the weather is bad, service meets in Fellowship Hall

9:00am Easter Breakfast (In-person only)

******To help us plan for this event, please call or email the church office to sign-up.***

10:15am Worship Service of Word & Sacrament

Regular Schedule and Information for Sunday Worship Service

Journeying with Jesus during Holy Week in The Gospel of Matthew

Palm Sunday:	Chapter 21	Holy Monday:	Chapter 22
Holy Tuesday:	Chapters 23-24	Holy Wednesday:	Chapter 25
Maundy Thursday:	Chapter 26	Good Friday:	Chapter 27

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Readings listed below:

The Creation (Genesis 1) * The Flood (Genesis 7, 8, 9) * The Testing of Abraham (Genesis 22) * Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea (Exodus 14) * Salvation Offered Freely to All (Isaiah 55) * A New Heart and a New Spirit (Ezekiel 36) * God's Faithfulness to Israel (Deuteronomy 31) * The Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37) * Job Confesses the Redeemer (Job 19) * Jonah Preaches to Nineveh (Jonah 3) * The Gathering of God's People (Zephaniah 3) * The Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3) * The Easter Story (John 20:1-18; Luke 24:1-49).

These stories are full of contrasts: light and dark, good and evil, punishment and mercy. These contrasts are excellent talking points for your family. They tell the stories of the Lord's salvation for His people in the past and point ahead to what Jesus has done for us and all the world now in His death and resurrection.

Easter Sunday: Chapter 28

TABLE TALK: Resuming on 4/14, 2nd Tuesdays, 5:30 – 7:00pm

At Yankee Doodle Restaurant, 860 N. Front St., Wormleysburg, PA 17043

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 purchasing their food and drinks. [in-person only]

April 14 Topic: Jesus: The Resurrection and The Life

May 12 Topic: Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh on Me

Sunday, April 19

A VISIT BY A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE GIDEONS

9am Sunday School Presentation &

a brief talk about the ministry at the 10:15am Worship Service

Zoom Council Meeting on Monday: 5/4 (Combined April/May) 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.

Hummelstown Singers Spring Concert on Sunday, May 17

3pm at Hummelstown United Church of Christ, 104 E Main St, Hummelstown, PA 17036

Members & friends of Zion sing with this wonderful group.

104 E Main St, Hummelstown, PA 17036

ANNUAL MEETING: SUNDAY, JUNE 7, directly following 10:15am Worship Service

Attend In-person or Online. Details will be mailed to voting members.

LUNCH FELLOWSHIP directly following the meeting

Ham BBQ, Hamburger BBQ and buns, drinks and snacks provided.

There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall to bring a side or dessert to share.

***** Special Joint Sunday School at 9am: Review of Annual Meeting Materials *****

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 in-person and/or online via Zoom.** When coming to the church outside regular worship times, 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.

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 with Joni & Friends; Hannah; All in the US and abroad involved with Operation Christmas Child

Homebound Members: Irv & Nancy E., Nancy K.

Persons with need of prayer for physical and/or spiritual healing (upcoming surgery/procedure/tests; recovery from recent illness or surgery /procedure /tests): Rachel, Jeanette & Larry, Tuong, Derek, Kelly, Rachel, Joyce, Jeff, Carol, John & Johnnie, Chuck, Mitch, Kevin, Sharon, Ron, Phil, Dawn, Beth, Diane, Aimee, Anita, Gary, Don, Eleanor

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.

April - June 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.

April Birthdays: 4/03 Erica J.; Norma S. 04/08; Reggie W. 04/16; Wendy D. 04/17; Nick M. 04/18; Todd P. 04/18; 4/25 Summer Hoke; Joey S. 04/29; Larry B. 04/30

April Anniversaries: Tuong & Xuan T. 04/25; Rick & Stephanie S. 04/30

May Birthdays: Catherine G. 05/28; Sam P. 05/30

May Anniversaries: Bob & Wanda H. 05/01; Larry & Jeanette B. 05/05

June Birthdays: Nancy K. 06/12; Danielle S. 06/13; Tuong T. 06/17; Nikki 6/18 Harold P. 06/22; Adrian R. 06/24; Ruth C. 6/25; Jeff S. 06/26; Wendy Z. 06/30

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 1st and 3rd 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 1st Wednesday)

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

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

PARKING

SUNDAYS:

STREET PARKING IS FREE ON SUNDAYS.

VALIDATED PARKING FOR CHESTNUT STREET GARAGE IS AVAILABLE ON SUNDAYS.

PLEASE HAVE YOUR LICENSE PLATE NUMBER WITH YOU TO VALIDATE PARKING

- The elevator entrance/exit should be open to enter and exit from your vehicle or park close to an exit to the street to be able to return to your vehicle.

Simply drive into the parking garage. Your license plate will be scanned as you enter and exit. Please keep your license plate number with you to complete the validation at Zion. LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW THAT YOU ARE IN THE GARAGE WHEN YOU ARRIVE AND GIVE THEM YOUR LICENSE PLATE NUMBER TO VALIDATE PARKING. ***THIS IS REQUIRED EVERY SUNDAY WHEN YOU ATTEND WORSHIP ***.

WEDNESDAYS: 12:10pm WOW Services:

Please enter at the chapel doors on 4th Street. An outdoor sign will mark the appropriate doorway. There is very limited free parking on site. Parking on the street is actively enforced at this time of day on a weekday, so please plan to pay for parking if you park on the street. Speak with pastor about parking options for regular WOW attenders.

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.