

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
Office Phone: 717-234-4064 / Church Email: office@zionharrisburg.org

LENT & HOLY WEEK 2026 NEWSLETTER

He must increase, but I must decrease. – John 3:30

On February 18, we enter into a special season as faithful individuals, as a congregation and as members of the Christian Church throughout the world. Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. In fasting, we are invited to let go of those behaviors or things that distract us from the Lord. The clearing out of fasting makes space for God to speak to us in times of prayer. As we listen for God in Scripture, in worship, and in silence we may be filled by the Holy Spirit with God's wisdom and love. The Spirit then moves us to acts of compassion and almsgiving.

John the Baptist rejoiced to say that Jesus must increase, and he must decrease. I invite us to read through the Gospel of John during Lent. We will be hearing the following passages in Sunday worship:

Lent 2	John 3:1-17	Jesus and Nicodemus
Lent 3	John 4:5-42	Jesus and the Woman of Samaria
Lent 4	John 9:1-41	Jesus Heals the Man Born Blind
Lent 5	John 11:1-53	Jesus Raises Lazarus

In each of these encounters, Jesus invites others into a deeper relationship with Him; that His grace and mercy may increase in their lives.

This year, in addition to individual Lenten disciplines, members of Zion are invited to pray for the Spirit's guidance for Zion's future. Among leaders and informally within the Zion community, intentional conversations of discernment are taking place. We recognize that we are stewards both of Zion's historic legacy of ministry in Harrisburg and of the assets of which we have oversight. "Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required" – Luke 12:48. We are very blessed to have funds which enable us to take time to plan for Zion's future. How will we contribute to God's Kingdom and give Him glory with the tremendous gifts over which we are currently stewards? Could a change at Zion open a different and meaningful season in our personal relationship with Jesus? How is God inviting us to increase our faith and trust in Him in the midst of a changing world? The following prayer can be a guide for our Lenten journey:

Lord, empty me; fill me; use me. – attributed to Mother Olga of the Sacred Heart

Over the 40 days and always, may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7),
Pastor Karin

LENTEN Devotionals at Zion beginning Wednesday, 2/11

This year's Lenten devotional materials will be available for pick-up at church beginning on Wednesday, February 11. **If you would like the devotional mailed to you, please communicate your request to the church office by email or voicemail.**

Wednesday, February 18, Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Communion Service including Imposition of Ashes

12:10pm in the Chapel at Zion (In-Person)

Online via Zoom & YouTube Live

***Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me. -Psalm 51:10***

Please join us for this special worship service which marks the beginning of the prayerful season of Lent. *There is no lunch fellowship on Ash Wednesday.*

For those who would like to attend in person, please reach out to Pastor Karin about parking options.

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 1st Wednesday of the month

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

LENTEN Worship Series: “Dying His Death, Living His Life”

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

February 25, Lent 1:	Dying to Sin, Living in Forgiveness
March 4, Lent 2:	Dying to Pride, Living for Others (1 st Wed. COMMUNION)
March 11, Lent 3:	Dying to Greed, Living for the Treasures of Heaven
March 18, Lent 4:	Dying to Doubt, Living by Faith
March 25, Lent 5:	Dying to Turmoil, Living in Peace
April 1, Holy Wednesday:	Dying to Judgment, Living in Grace (1 st Wed. COMMUNION)
April 2, Maundy Thursday:	Remember His Death (Maundy Thursday Communion)
April 3, Good Friday:	He Died For All (Tenebrae Service)

FULL LENT - HOLY WEEK – EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE & INFORMATION *end of newsletter*

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.

Funeral, Reception, & Committal Announcement for Janet Shultz:

**Saturday, March 7, at Jesse H. Geigle Funeral Home, 2100 Linglestown Rd., Harrisburg, PA
10am Viewing, 11am Service**

Reception directly following at The Cedars Grove, 8143 Jonestown Rd., Harrisburg, PA

Committal Service: Thursday, March 12, at 2pm

at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens, 4855 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA

Daylight Saving Time – Sunday, March 8, 2026 – Set Your Clock AHEAD One Hour

LENTEN LUNCH

Sunday, March 15, following 10:15am Worship:

We are looking forward to coming together for a warm lunch of soup and bread. As we are gathered around the tables, may we be blessed by holy conversation encouraging our journey together as the congregation of Zion. There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Prayerfully Giving in LENT 2026

All are invited to prayerfully discern outreach and mission efforts to which you would like to commit time, talent, and treasure as part of the Lenten discipline of alms-giving. Some suggestions are listed below.

In the last days of her life, Janet Shulz was well-cared for at **The Pappus House**. Below is information about this facility. The mission of Pappus House is to provide a home in South Central PA dedicated to compassionate end-of-life care for individuals and their families in collaboration with their hospice provider. Please visit the website to learn more: www.pappushouse.org (address is listed there). Click on the “Support Us” tab to learn how to donate to this non-profit care organization. Donations can be made in honor of Janet.

Another local giving opportunity is to contribute to the **Zion WOW (Worship On Wednesday) offering/fund which is designated for local outreach agencies (examples include: Bethesda Mission, Christian Churches United, Downtown Daily Bread)**. Offering envelopes are available on which you can write “WOW” to designate giving to this fund. You may also write WOW in the memo line or include a note with your offering.

An opportunity to support global Christian outreach to children is by contributing to **Operation Christmas Child**. Like WOW, this opportunity to give to others continues year-round. ***Giving to Operation Christmas Child is organized by Judy Atticks (not through offerings to Zion). Please contact Judy directly [717-564-0798] regarding financial contributions and gifts of items.***

Easter Flower Order Information

Checks should be made out to Zion Lutheran Church

The 2026 Easter Flower form will be available at the church, beginning Sunday February 22. 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 March 22.

Zoom Council Meetings on Mondays: 2/23, 3/23, 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.

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 check the church website and to 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 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): Patrick, Norma, Jeanette & Larry, Irv & Nancy, Jane & David, Wendy Z., Derek, Kelly, Rachel, Joyce, Jeff, Carol, John & Johnnie, Chuck, Rev. Patrick Rooney, Mitch, 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.

February – May 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.

February Birthdays: Xuan T. 02/28

February Anniversary: Erica & Adam J. 02/03

March Birthdays: Rick S. 03/09; Savannah W. 03/11; Nancy E. 03/18; Ricky P. 03/27

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

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.

LOOKING AHEAD:

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

Restaurant Location To Be Announced

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, May 17, at 3pm

Hummelstown Singers Spring Concert

Members & friends of Zion sing with this wonderful group.

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

2026 LENT - HOLY WEEK - EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

in-person & online unless otherwise indicated.

February 18 Ash Wednesday

12:10pm Service including Imposition of Ashes & Communion

Regular Online Information for WOW, Service concludes 12:50pm, No Lunch

February 25 – March 25 Wednesdays 12:10pm WOW Lenten Services

Regular Schedule and Information for WOW Worship Service & Lunch Fellowship

March 15 SUNDAY, following 10:15am Worship LENTEN SOUP LUNCH (in-person only)

March 22, Sunday, Easter Flowers Orders Due

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

April 2 Maundy Thursday 12:10pm Service of Communion

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

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**