



December 14, 2025

8:30 AM

MT.ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
HISTORICAL VILLAGE OF CHURCHTOWN
BOILING SPRINGS PA 17007

WELCOME!

The members of Mt. Zion extend a warm welcome to all visitors. Please sign the guest register in the main entrance of the church. If you do not have a church home and are seeking one, we would love to have you join us. Please speak to the Pastor or to any of our members if you would like to learn more about our community of faith.

All are invited to the communion table. Bread and wine are used as the elements of this meal. Grape juice is also available for those who do not drink wine. There is also a gluten free choice. Children who do not commune may receive a blessing.

About today's lesson:

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

P: Pastor. A: Assisting Minister L: Leader C: Congregation

Pastor Rev. Jennifer Toburen

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Organist

Advent Readers Roxann Clay and Trish Leib

Reader Ed Guido

Assisting Minister Nancy Faircloth

MT. ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
325 Old Stonehouse Road
Boiling Springs PA 17007

December 14, 2025
Third Sunday in Advent

Holy Communion
Service 8:30 AM

SILENT PRAYER:

Lord, graciously hear us, for we seek you alone. Calm our bodies and minds with the peace which passes understanding, and make us radiant with joy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRELUDE:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please stand as able.

- P Holy God, the Beginning and the Ending, our Hope
as we wait,
- C We praise you for joining us to your people of old.**
- P We bless you for your prophets who call us to
righteousness
- C and promise a new earth with peace for all.**
- P We praise you for the coming of Jesus our Lord,
who lifts up the lowly, heals the suffering world,
- C and proclaims your way of mercy and truth.**
- P We give thanks for the sending of the Spirit
throughout the earth.
- C Nurture our faith with your grace,
and empower our zeal for your justice and joy.**
- P We lift our hearts and voices to you -
- C All praise to you, holy God, today, tomorrow, and
forever. Amen!**

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Long-expected God,

C **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen**

P God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✙ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN:

Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn #633
(WOV Blue Hymnal)

GREETING:

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

ADVENT LITANY:

P Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth.
C **Let the earth hear, and all that fills it.**
P The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
C **the desert shall rejoice and blossom.**
P They shall see the glory of the Lord,
C **the majesty of our God.**
P Nations shall come to your light,
C **and kings to the brightness of your dawn.**
P This is the Lord for whom we wait;
C **let us be glad and rejoice in the salvation of God.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P Let us pray.
C Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God,
and strengthen our faith in your coming, that,
transformed by grace, we may walk in your way;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:

P Let us pray.
O Lord our God, we live by the promise of your
coming; a promise that heals our hearts and fills us
with hope. Our eyes search the darkness, longing to
see the glimmer of light which reflects the truth
which holds us securely. The light shines in the
darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. O
Lord, be our light.
C **Amen.**

Reading and Lighting of the Joy Candle

After each portion of the reading.

R O Emmanuel,

C Open us up to your coming.

HYMN *O Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel (Verse 1, 2, 3) #34*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

A The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God**

PSALM: Psalm 146:5-10 (Read Responsively)

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help, whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

- ⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free
- ⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**
- ⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- ¹⁰ **The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

A The word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION :



GOSPEL:

P The Holy Gospel according to Mathew the 11th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 11:2-11

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’” ¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE:

SERMON:

Please stand as able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Prepare the Royal Highway* #26
(LBW Green Hymnal)

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess
our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

THE NICENE CREED:

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker
of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of
God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,**

**Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not
made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all
things were made. For us and for our salvation he came
down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he
became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made
man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third
day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he
ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of
the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the
living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the
Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He
has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of
the world to come. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

P In our waiting and watching, we come to you in
prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the
church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers.

A God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for
whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus
Christ, Emmanuel.
C **Amen.**

PEACE:

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**
P Let us share the peace with one another.

Please stand as able.

The Lord's table is prepared.

Offering brought forward.

Offering Prayer:

P Let us Pray.
C **Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness
and streams in the desert. Through this meal,
satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice
and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.
Amen.**

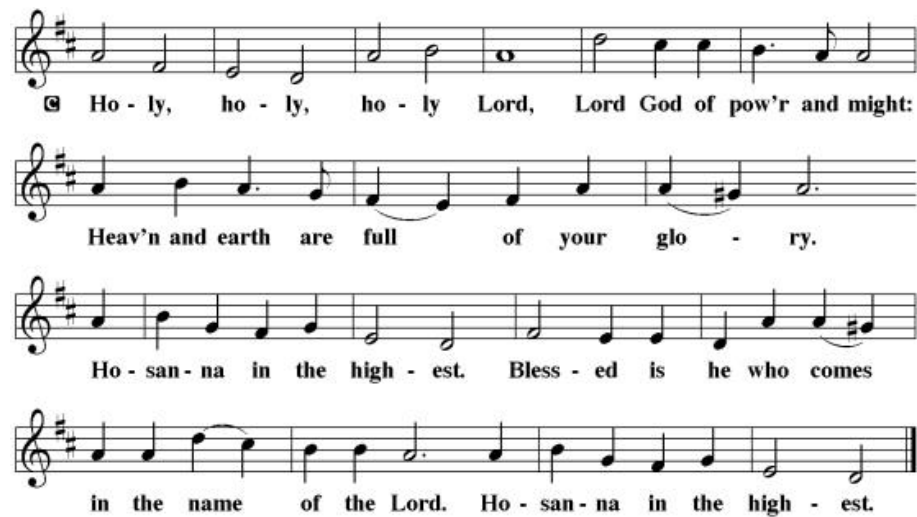
GREAT THANKSGIVING:

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give him thanks and praise**

PREFACE:

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying. Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Now let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

P Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

Please be seated.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION We will be communing by tables. Please follow the instruction of the usher. **Communion hymn of meditation** is played until everyone has communed.

Please stand as able.

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

C **Amen.**

COMMUNION PRAYER:

P God our host, at this table you have fed us
with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to
share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear
good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING:

P God, whose presence grants you stillness,
Christ, whose peace helps you wait,
Holy Spirit, whose fire illumines your way,
✠ bless and keep you always.

C **Amen**

SENDING HYMN: *All Earth Is Hopeful* #629
(WOV Blue Hymnal)

DISMISSAL:

P Go in peace. Keep awake.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE:

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The bulletins are given to the Glory of God by Rick and Sandy Goodman.

ATTENDANCE

November 30, 2025	19
Last Year	16
Online November 23, 2025	97
Last Year	64

STEWARDSHIP

November 30, 2025	\$ 557.42
Includes Noisy Offering	\$ 46.42
Last Year	\$2159.00

ANNOUNCEMENT

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING today after worship service.

TRUCK STOP MINISTRY we will be bagging them after the Congregation Meeting.

LONGEST NIGHT BLUE CHRISTMAS EVENING PRAYER will be a special service held on December 18, 2025, at 7:PM.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL - ADVENT PREPARATION AND WAITING - SUNDAYS AT 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM flyer has information and an email has been sent also.

ANGEL TREE with gifts for New Hope will be up November 30. Collection will be thru December 28, 2025. Delivery the next week.

FROM PASTOR JENNIFER If you are in need of a home visit, or know someone who is, please contact Pastor Jennifer at 734-576-2025 or pastorjenn.clc.duncannon@gmail.com

FINE ARTS AT FIRST 2025-2026 The Baltimore Consort
February 22, 2026, 4 PM. Muhlenberg College Choirs April
19, 2026 at 4 PM. Flyer on bulletin downstairs

THE BULLETINS To sign up the chart to sponsor
bulletins, (\$25), is located on left bulletin board inside
church doors. As this is part of our budget please sign up.

TRINDLE SPRING LUTHERAN CHURCH presents
Music at the Spring 2025-2026 The Great American
Songbook with Jeff Coon, February 15, 3 PM, Filament,
March 22, 3 PM, Messiah University Percussion Ensemble,
April 26, 3 PM.

**NEW HOPE'S DILLSBURG CENTER SPECIFIC
NEEDS:** Canned chicken, tuna or beef stew, Canned fruit
and fruit cups, Canned vegetables, Peanut Butter, Juice and
juice boxes, Ketchup and mustard, Diapers, wipes, diaper
cream, Feminine hygiene products, Laundry detergent,
Shampoo, Toilet paper; paper towels.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE As ever and with
your support, the ELCA, through Lutheran Disaster
Response, stands ready to walk with our neighbors in the
Texas hill country as the floodwaters recede and
communities begin to navigate life on the other side of this
horrific flood. Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating
with the Southwestern Texas Synod and will work with
other partners as well to respond to urgent needs, provide
emotional and spiritual care, and support cleanup and long-
term recovery. Please make checks payable to Mt. Zion and
put Lutheran Disaster in the memo line.

PLAN AHEAD

- December 14** Annual Congregation Meeting (after Service)
Truck Stop Cookie packing after meeting
- December 18** Council Meeting 5:30 PM
Longest Night Blue Christmas 7:00 PM
- December 21** Lite Breakfast 8:00 AM
Fourth Sunday in Advent Worship 8:30 AM
Sunday School for children (after Service)
Adult Sunday School via Zoom
- December 24** Christmas Eve Service 7:30 PM
- December 28** Lite Breakfast 8:00 AM
Lessons and Carols 8:30 AM
Sunday School for children (after Service)
- January 3** Community Dinner 5:00 - 6:30 PM