

# Lessons and Carols

December 28, 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 have not 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.

We invite you to partake in Holy communion if you are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ Jesus. Bread and wine are used as the elements of this meal. Grape juice is also available for those who do not drink wine. Children who do not commune may receive a blessing.

### **About today's lesson:**

From the beginning by virtue of our baptism, we are called Christian. We were "Christ-ended" at the font. Bearing his name, we share the same Father and are invited to address him intimately; Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of the Father. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, in the coming year.

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

Leader Nancy Faircloth

Readers Nancy Faircloth and Mick McCullough

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Organist Julie Jones

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

Lessons and Carols  
December 28, 2025

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*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L In the beginning was the Word  
C **and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**  
L In the Word was life,  
C **and the life was the light of all people.**  
L The Word became flesh and lived among us,  
C **and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.**

**GATHERING SONG:** *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful* #45  
(LBW Green Hymnal)

## GREETING:

L 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.**

## DIALOGUE:

L Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the  
world.

**C By day and night he shines for all to see.**

L Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

**C that the world may see the justice and richness of  
God.**

L God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

**C so that all who believe in him may not perish but  
have eternal life.**

L Jesus is the light of the world.

**C Jesus is the light of our lives.**

L Sing to God a new song!

**C A song of hope, joy and peace around the world.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L Let us pray.

**C O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our  
trust in our own powers. As you protected the  
infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from  
harm and adversity, 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*

## **FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19**

They heard the sound of the Lord GOD walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord GOD among the trees of the garden. But the Lord GOD called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord GOD said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord GOD said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust.

**FIRST CAROL:** *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*  
(WOV Blue Hymnal) #734

**SECOND LESSON:                   Genesis 22:15-18**

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.

**SECOND CAROL:** *Angel, from the Realms of Glory* #50  
(LBW Green Hymnal)

**THIRD LESSON:                   Isaiah 9:2-7**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**THIRD CAROL:** *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*  
(LBW Green Hymnal) #54

**FOURTH LESSON:                    Micah 5:2-5a**

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah , who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

**FOURTH CAROL:** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*            #41  
(LBW Green Hymnal)

**FIFTH LESSON            Luke 1:26-35, 38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow



in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**SEVENTH CAROL:**     *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*     **#44**  
                                  (LBW Green Hymnal)

**EIGHTH LESSON:**     **Matthew 2: 1-11**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the

people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd



power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**NINTH CAROL:** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* #60  
(LBW Green Hymnal)

*Please stand as able.*

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

**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:**

L Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray  
boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in  
need.

*A brief silence.*

After each portion of the prayers

L Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

L With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we  
commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your  
boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus  
Christ our Savior.

**C Amen.**

L 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.**

**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.*

*Offering brought forward.*

**Offering Prayer:**

P Let us Pray.

C **God of glory, great are your wonders among us  
and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and  
these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all  
the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving  
grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**BLESSING:**

L The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his  
face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord  
look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen**

**SENDING HYMN:** *Go tell It on the Mountain* # 70  
(LBW Green Hymnal)

**DISMISSAL:**

L Glory to God in the highest!

C **And peace to God's people on earth!**

L Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**THE POSTLUDE:**

## ATTENDANCE

December 18, 2025 (Longest Night)	11
Online December 18, 2025	79
December 21, 2025	21
Last Year No Service	
Online December 14, 2025	35
Last Year	31
Christmas Eve 2025	
Last Year	32

## STEWARDSHIP

December 21, 2025	\$ 2554.00
Last Year	\$ 615.00

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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](mailto: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.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL -Information from Pastor Jenn.** Lent will begin on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> and so we will begin a Lenten Sunday School session on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>. This year, we are going to spend time on Jesus's Sermon on the Mount utilizing Amy Jill Levine's book [https://www.amazon.com/Sermon-Mount-Levine/dp/1501899899/ref=sr\\_1\\_1](https://www.amazon.com/Sermon-Mount-Levine/dp/1501899899/ref=sr_1_1). Just like with Advent, you are welcome to get the book to read along and deepen your study, or just walk through with our Sunday conversations, and I will do my best to present the material and guide our conversations. This will run through Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

So, this leaves us the time in between, from January 4<sup>th</sup> through February 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be no Sunday School on January 25 (Lisa & I are at a Synod retreat) or February 1 (Lisa & I are on vacation as of the evening (i.e. we'll be at church in the morning but leaving right after for Disney)) which will leave us five Sundays. What I thought that we might try is listening in on a few of the classes that have been presented by the Bible for Normal People group. The link is here for you to look through: <https://thebiblefornormalpeople.com/classes/> You can click into the classes to get a description. I am a "member" so I have full access to these classes for us to listen to. Often, these are led by bible scholars and theologians and not just the two podcasters. Let me know if any of these sound interesting to you. If this isn't a good idea, I can try to come up with another small-ish session that will get us through to Lent.

**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, Tooth Paste.

## PLAN AHEAD

<b>December 28</b>	Sunday School for children	(after Service)
<b>January 3</b>	Community Dinner	5:00 - 6:30 PM
<b>January 4</b>	Lite Breakfast	8:00 AM
	Worship Service	8:30 AM
	Sunday School for children	(after Service)
	Adult Sunday School	7:00 PM
<b>January</b>	Social Ministry Meeting	9:30 AM
<b>January 11</b>	Lite Breakfast	8:00 AM
	Worship Service	8:30 AM
	Sunday School for children	(after Service)
	Adult Sunday School	7:00 PM
<b>January 15</b>	Council Meeting	7:00 PM
<b>January 17</b>	Shaping Eggs	8:30 AM
<b>January 18</b>	Lite Breakfast	8:00 AM
	Worship Service	8:30 AM
	Sunday School for children	(after Service)
	Adult Sunday School	7:00 PM
<b>January 24</b>	Shaping Eggs	8:30 AM
<b>January 25</b>	Lite Breakfast	8:00 AM
	Worship Service	8:30 AM
	Sunday School for children	(after Service)
	No Adult Sunday School	
<b>January 27</b>	Music and Worship Meeting	2:30 PM