

THE MESSENGER

THE NEWSLETTER OF ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, SUNBURY PENNSYLVANIA



from the
PASTOR

Happy New Year! That may seem to be a bit early, but this is the new year in the church calendar. Advent – the arrival of a notable thing or event or person. For us, Advent marks the arrival of a new season and a new way of being with God. Before the events of the New Testament, we encountered God in Jerusalem at the temple. Afterwards, we encounter God anywhere and everywhere in the person of Jesus and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Advent for Christians marks the arrival of John the Baptist who prepares the way for Jesus. John is like the warmup band at a concert. He gets the people ready to hear and listen to what Jesus has to say and do. Advent ends with the birth of the Christ child. So, the four weeks of Advent prepare us for the birth of Jesus. In our worship together, we anticipate by preparing our hearts through repentance and prayer. How will you prepare the other six days of the week?

One way is to use the Advent Calendar from World Hunger. There are some on the table in the back of the nave. While you are not expected to financially contribute to every initiative on the calendar, do what is comfortable for your family. Talk about why you give and receive in the name of Christ. Especially for those with young children, this will have a lasting impact on your children.

Blessings on your preparation!

Pastor Beth

Monday, November 3

6:00p Worship & Music

Tuesday, November 4

2:00p Exec Committee

Thursday, November 6

1:00p Property Committee

Tuesday, November 11

6:00p Congregation Council

Wednesday, November 12

1:30p



Tuesday, December 2

2:00p Exec Committee

Thursday, December 4

1:00p Property Committee

Tuesday, December 9

6:00p Congregation Council

Wednesday, December 10

Book Club

Christmas Lunch



Monday, January 5

6:00p Worship & Music

Tuesday, January 6

2:00p Exec Committee

Thursday, January 8

1:00p Property Committee

Tuesday, January 13

6:00p Congregation Council

Wednesday, January 14

1:30p Book Club



ADVENT

WEDNESDAYS

Bible Study -5:30p

Room 203

Chapel Prayer Service

- 6:30p

Dec 3RD, 10TH & 17TH



**ANNUAL
MEETING**

January 18TH 2026

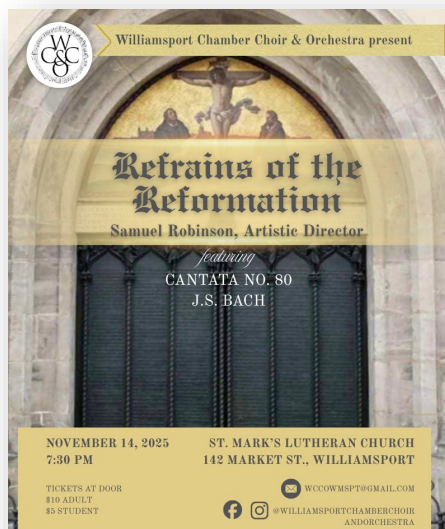
after worship

*View the proposed budget
and nominees for Council positions
posted on the bulletin board in the
Nave in late December.*

*The Williamsport Chamber Choir & Orchestra present a
program of music celebrating Martin Luther and the
Reformation– **Friday, November 14, 2025,**
at St. Mark's, Williamsport.*

Tickets are \$10 adults/\$5 students at the door.

The centerpiece of the concert will be Johann Sebastian Bach's Cantata 80, Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott ("A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"), based on Luther's well-known hymn. Included also– works by Felix Mendelssohn and feature a special collaboration by the Williamsport Youth Choir. We hope many from our synod will join us in celebrating this inspiring musical tradition.



Mission Mall '25 Sunday, December 7th

in Zion's Social Hall after the church service.

CHRISTMAS SHOP FROM ONE THE FOLLOWING CHARITIES-

ELCA WORLD HUNGER, LUTHERAN CHURCH IN LIBERIA, ALYSSA DRESSLER FUND,
A COMMUNITY CLINIC, ELIJAH'S BOWL, HAVEN MINISTRY, CAMP MOUNT LUTHER,
CENTRAL SUSQUEHANNA SIGHT SERVICES, RIF-READING IS FUNDAMENTAL,
SHIKELLAMY BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM, COLE ALLEN DIAPER PANTRY

LUNCH! *SOUP SALE *BAKE SALE!



Christmas Concerts at Zion

Susquehanna Valley Chorale

A CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS

December 14th @ 3:00pm

Tickets: 570-547-0455 svcmusic.org

Sunbury City Band Holiday Concert

December 21st @ 3:00pm

Free Admission

Observe Advent with this ELCA
Calendar from World Hunger.
Get yours in the Nave!



Christmas Eve Services

5:00p- Carols, Lessons, Children's Message

10:00p CHRIST-MASS FESTIVAL -TRADITIONAL

CANDLE LIGHTING, CHORAL, INSTRUMENTALS

Holy Communion @ Both Services



Curl Up & Read with Book Club

selections for long winter's months...

November: Amish Grace
by Linda Swank

December: Comfort and Joy
by Kristen Hannah

* Christmas Party @ 12 Noon

January: Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan

February: Devil in the White City by Erik Larson

March: Magic Hour by Kristin Hannah



We meet the
2nd Wednesday
of the Month - 1:30pm*
Rm 201B



Book Club wishes you Merry Christmas and

Happy New Reads in the 2026!

As part the [new Mount Luther Faith Community...Dinner Church](#)
is being hosted every first Sunday of the month from 4:00–6:00 p.m.
at Camp Mount Luther. Dinner church is a **unique experience of worship and**

fellowship. We gather at 4:00 to cook together, then en-
gage in fellowship, discussion time, communion, prayer,
and worship. **The next event will be November 2.** and
hoping to gather an **intergenerational** crowd for this ex-
perience. If you're interested in taking part, please email
cml@campmountluther.org or call 570-922-1587 so
enough food camp be purchased.



*Memorial
Gifts*

received/recorded August 1 to November 1, 2025

given in Memory of Robert Misheck by Marie Gross

given in Memory of Cathy Zimmerman by Ann Varias



MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

- 1 JOHN CONRAD
- 5 ABBY HIGLEY
- 7 MELISSA PHILLIPS
- 8 ELIZABETH GEISER
- 10 PASTOR BETH
LINDA LYTLE
- 13 LYSTRA BECK
SUSAN TROMETTER
LISA WALTER
- 14 KATHY KNOEBEL
JULIE RANCK
- 15 RILEY HUNT
ROB WALTER
- 16 ISLA MIELKE
- 17 SETH BURK
BARRY CONRAD
JENNA ERDMAN
LINDSAY GUNN
TROY ZIMMERMAN
- 21 JOHN AUTEN, JR.
TOM SANDS
- 23 COLE CAMPBELL
DAVE HUMMEL
- 25 ALEX GEISER
- 27 KERRY TROMETTER
- 28 DORCAS DAILEY
CASSIDY MOYER

DECEMBER

- 1 KAY SNYDER
- 3 MARYELLEN ENGLE
LARRY HERROLD, SR.
- 4 HARRISON FRITZ
- 7 SAWYER BEAVER
- 9 TODD CELLITTI
DIANE JABLONSKI
NEIL MILLER
- 11 LUKE BIDELESPACH
NANCY DAILEY
- 12 EMERSON BLESSING
KRISTINA BLESSING
SAMANTHA WOLFE
- 15 CHARLOTTE APPLE
KRISTIN HOGAN
STACIE MIELKE
JENNIFER SANDS
- 16 SILAS MOORE
LESLIE NEITZ
RUTH ZEIDERS
- 17 MICHAEL PHILLIPS
- 19 SHERRY HUNT
- 21 GAYLE RAKER
- 22 BRANDON HUNT
ABAGAIL MILLER
- 23 MATT GEISER
SUSAN VISNOSKY
- 25 RICHANNA DORMAN
- 27 TAYLOR STREVIG
- 30 STEVE ENGLE
TESSA MOORE

JANUARY

- 1 CAROL FINDLEY
CHUCK HOGAN
- 2 DEBBIE TAYLOR
- 3 SKYLAR STONEROAD
- 4 AUDREY BROSIUS
- 6 TAMMY LYTLE
AUDREY WHITMAN
- 8 RAE MITTERLING
- 10 BRAD MOYER
- 12 ALISON MOYER
- 13 SAMANTHA DRASHER
TOM FETTER
- 14 CAROL SWANK
- 16 DEREK BUSSEY
CHLOE MILLER
- 17 LORIE ADAMS
DUANE CAMPBELL
- 18 GRI HOFFMAN
LUANNE REBUCK
- 19 JUDY DEPHILLIPS
DAVE RUTHS
- 23 GARY KREMSEY
- 24 MARGIE HOPPLE
- 26 RUTHANN AUTEN
- 28 GRACE HOGAN
LARRY MOYER



1st Sunday of the month -
Celebration of Birthdays
In the Social Hall

Reserve your memorial poinsettia by December 5th. Envelopes are available in your envelope set and in the Welcome Area. A donation of any amount (suggested \$12 minimum) will memorialize your loved one on Christmas Eve.



For those needing a quieter worship experience this year, join us for this service that allows time to reflect, grieve and remember. Blue Christmas service 6:30pm in the Chapel Sunday evening, December 21st.



Zion Lutheran Church

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Bryan Wolfe
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Keith Kurtz
Sexton



December 28th
1st Sunday of
Christmas 10am

We pray you have a **Blessed Christmas!** -



Pastor Beth, Donna, Jonathan,
Keith and Bryan

12/25 thru 1/2/2025
Office & Building CLOSED

