

Zion Lutheran Church

A Member Congregation of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

Church Website: www.zionharrisburg.org

15 South 4th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

Office Phone: 717-234-4064 / Church Email: zionhbg@comcast.net

WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER

***** ATTENTION: CHANGE TO CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP TIME *****

ONE SERVICE AT 2:00pm IN THE AFTERNOON on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

NO Evening Service & NO Sunday School & 10:15am Worship

Dear Members & Friends of Zion,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

... and as your days, so shall your strength be. The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. - Deuteronomy 33:25, 27

Another year is dawning: Dear Father, let it be,

On earth or else in heaven, Another year for Thee. - Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879)

The hymn, "Another Year is Dawning" was originally written for a card sent by Frances Ridley Havergal to a friend around the time of New Year's Day. Lines speak of *Another year of mercies, Of faithfulness and grace; ... Another year of service, Of witness for Thy love.*

(The One Year Book of Hymns).

November 26, Christ the King Sunday, is the New Year's Eve of the church year. It is a time to look back and give thanks for God's presence with us: in the joyful celebrations and providing comfort during times of struggle. Then, on December 3, the First Sunday in Advent, we begin a new church year. Trusting in the deliverance we have already experienced through the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus, we can begin a new year in the sure and certain hope that nothing can separate us from God's love. We express our gratitude for this costly and great gift by sharing the Good News of God's love in Christ with others in word and deed.

Truly, the start of each new day is an opportunity for us to give thanks for the Father's loving presence with us through His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and to pray that the Holy Spirit will lead us into ways of Christian witness to others.

Another day is dawning; Dear Father, let it be,

On earth or in heaven, Another day for Thee.

In Christ's Service, Pastor Karin Pejack

Thanksgiving Recorded Worship & Bulletin

A link to a pre-recorded Thanksgiving Service and bulletin will be available at Zion's website on Monday, November 20. If you would like to attend an in-person Thanksgiving worship service, please check out offerings from churches in your neighborhood.

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)

*****WOW HOLIDAY CANCELLATIONS: Nov. 22 & Dec. 27*****

The weeks of November 22 & December 27, pre-recorded services & bulletins will be available at Zion's website.

WOW Series: "Advent & Christmas with the Saints" Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27

Special Music on Dec. 13; Pre-recorded Service on Dec. 27

St. Andrew, Apostle (11/29); St. Nicholas of Myra, Pastor (12/6); Lucia, Martyr (12/13); Katharina von Bora Luther (12/20); St. John, Apostle & Evangelist (12/27)

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

Fellowship Class: Currently studying the Gospel of Mark. Teacher – Judy Atticks, meets in the St. Timothy Room, behind the kitchen.

Bible, Coffee, and Conversation: Teacher - Pastor Karin, meets in Fellowship Hall

HANGING OF THE GREENS

After the Worship Service on Sunday, November 26

Come join us as we decorate the worship space for the Advent Season. We'll be bringing in the Advent wreath and hanging evergreens which symbolize the new and everlasting life we have through Jesus Christ.

ADVENT Devotional Mailing

This year's Advent Devotional Mailing will be available for pick-up at church beginning on Sunday, November 19. For those not able to come to the church, their packets will be delivered or mailed.

Poinsettia Order Information

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Checks should be made out to Zion Lutheran Church

The 2023 Christmas Memorial Flower form will be available at the church, beginning Sunday November 19. A form will also be included in the Advent Devotional Mailing. Forms can be returned to the church when we are open for worship, mailed to the church, or emailed to the church office. The deadline for orders is December 17.

Christmas At Italian Lake: December 9 & 10

The seventh annual Christmas at Italian Lake event will highlight the spirit of the season by bringing the greater Harrisburg region together in a weekend of joy, celebration, and twinkling

Christmas nostalgia. All proceeds benefit Bethesda Mission with the goal of helping the nonprofit meet the needs of the homeless population of Harrisburg.

An ensemble of "Dickens Carolers" from Zion will be singing on Saturday (12/9), 12:00-12:30pm. A photo of past "Dickens Carolers" from Zion is part of the promotion for this year's event at this link: <https://christmasitalianlake.com/>

Special Christmas Music Sunday – A Celebration of Carols from Dickens' Time
10:15am Worship on December 10 & Fellowship after the Service

This year's special music service (in-person and online) is a celebration of Christmas Carols from the time of Charles Dickens; including the Scriptural inspiration and history of well-known songs celebrating our Savior's birth. Enjoy beautiful music from Zion's Dickens Carolers and the opportunity to join in the festive singing. After worship, enjoy traditional Christmas refreshments, including hot wassail (spiced fruit punch) and cookies, in Fellowship Hall.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OUTREACH EVENT
Saturday, December 23

Reggie, Nehemiah, family, and friends continue to hold their annual **Christmas packaged lunch distribution from Zion's building**. They will also distribute items to keep warm in the cold to those in need as they come to pick up a meal. To support this effort, please contact Reggie.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 (ADVENT 4 & CHRISTMAS EVE)
NO 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL & NO 10:15AM WORSHIP
PRE-RECORDED ADVENT 4 PRAYER SERVICE AVAILABLE AT ZION'S WEBSITE

***** ATTENTION: CHANGE TO CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP TIME *****
2:00pm AFTERNOON CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE
(NO EVENING SERVICE THIS YEAR)

Sunday, December 24th
1:15pm Cookies & Punch

2:00pm Traditional Christmas Eve Communion Service (In-Person & Online Zoom & YouTube)

The worship service will include candle lighting. Please join us for cookies, coffee, and punch before the service. The Zoom worship information for this special service is listed below. The link will be emailed and will be available at the church website.

2:00pm Christmas Eve Service on Sunday, December 24
Meeting ID: 813 0832 8700
Passcode: 098515

December Fellowship Events Help Request

We are looking for cookies, sweets and/or snacks for the reception after Special Music Sunday Worship on December 10 and for the reception time before Afternoon Christmas Eve worship on Dec. 24. To volunteer, sign-up in Fellowship Hall.

Operation Christmas Child: REPORT & REBOOT

Last year we packed 112 boxes. **This year we EXCEEDED our goal of 150 boxes and delivered 166 boxes to the local distribution site! Video of the Dedication of the Shoeboxes at Worship (11/12) will be available at Zion's website.**

Coordinator Judy Atticks deeply thanks everyone from Zion and Good Shepherd who contributed to this global ministry that brings Christmas joy to children and introduces them to the Greatest Gift of All: Our Savior Jesus Christ. Please pray for all the children who will receive a box, that their hearts may respond to Christ's love through these simple treasures. Preparations for Operation Christmas Child 2024 are already underway. Donations of new items, and monetary contributions to purchase items and for shipping costs are currently being received by Judy Atticks. For more details, contact her at 717-564-0798.

MULTI-PURPOSE GIVING ENVELOPES, beginning 2024

To save money and to conserve paper, Zion plans to move to one Multi-Purpose Giving Envelope in 2024. We anticipate having a supply of these envelopes available at the church by the end of December. Givers are invited to pick up the number of envelopes they need. Envelopes can also be mailed or delivered upon request. An example of what appears on the envelope and fund contribution options are listed below. Please know that we will continue to track giving of all checks received whether or not they are in a Zion giving envelope.

Zion Lutheran Church, 15 S 4th Street, Harrisburg, PA

Name _____

Amount _____ Date _____

Designation (if not for General Fund) _____

For listing of funds, see church website www.zionharrisburg.org

Zion Funds – 2024 Summary – This list will be available at www.zionharrisburg.org

General	Regular operating expenses
WOW	Local & Regional Outreach supporting non-profit organizations that provide assistance to the community Recipients include (not limited to): Bethesda Mission, Christian Churches United, Downtown Daily Bread
Altar Guild	Communion Supplies, Candles, Other Worship Supplies, Flowers: including Christmas & Easter
Building Fund	Maintenance & Special Appeals
Memorial Fund	In memory of members of Zion Community, Sometimes associated with particular projects
Endowment	Reserved/invested for long-term financial viability

Zoom Council Meetings on Mondays: 12/4 (Nov./Dec. mtg), 1/22 and 2/26 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.

Worship at Bethesda Mission Men's Shelter on 2nd Sundays at 7:00pm

Winter Dates: December 10, January 14, February 11

Pastor Karin and Todd Pejack and volunteers from Zion and St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Camp Hill bring a monthly worship service of Holy Communion and healing prayer to the Men's Shelter (611 Reily Street, Harrisburg). For more information or to volunteer, please contact Pastor Karin or Todd.

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 call 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 with her when doing home visits and will honor requests to mask during visits.

Church Office UPDATES:

Office Hours are 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 (zionhbg@comcast.net)**. 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.** 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 on the first page of the newsletter).

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

Nov. 22-24 (Thanksgiving); Dec. 25-27 (Christmas); Monday, Jan.1 (New Year's Day)

Pastor Karin will be taking vacation time: November 21-24; December 1-3, 26-28. Pastor Keith will be providing worship leadership on Sunday, December 3 and pastoral care coverage while Pr. Karin is taking vacation time with her family.

Prayer List

Ministries in Zion's Building: Good Shepherd Anglican Church (affiliated with the REC), 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; all involved with Operation Christmas Child

Homebound Members: Nathalee K., Nancy K., Anna R., Bill & Janet S., Irv & Nancy E.

Persons with acute need of prayer for physical and/or spiritual healing (upcoming surgery/procedure/tests; recovery from recent illness or surgery /procedure /tests):

Debbie G., John G., Todd & Sandy W., Bill & Janet S., Bud & Judy W., Bob H., Saylor family, Jeanette B., Debbie M. (Larry's friend), Natalie -Jack's friend, Liam - Atticks' friend), Cheryl's family: Don, Eleanor & Brent, Mike – Jeff's friend

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.

November – March Birthdays & Anniversaries

November Birthdays: Debbie G. 11/04; Tina (Th.) P.; 11/14; Jaiden Ro. 11/14; Todd W. 11/24; Pastor Karin 11/30

November Anniversaries: Rick & Ricky P. 11/03

December Birthdays: Ashley L. 12/03; Marissa W. 12/10; Caroline S. 12/20; Irv E. 12/22; Heidi E. 12/28; Kelly G. 12/30; Wanda H. 12/30

December Anniversaries: Harold & Ann P. 12/31

January Birthdays: Jack B. 01/03; John G. 1/11; Sandy W. 01/13, Michael L., Jr. 01/16; Jamie D. 01/17; Nehemiah W. 01/19; Steve G. 01/24; Arto W. 01/26; Harry T. 01/27; Elaine C. 01/28; Maddox Saylor 01/31

January Anniversary: Karin & Todd P. 1/31

February Birthdays: Katherine H. 02/02; Riley D. 02/08; Lois S. 02/10; Max Polley 02/12; Rowen W. 02/14; Alivia Polley 02/19; Rachel P. 02/21; Kaya T. 02/27 ; Xuan T. 02/28

February Anniversary: Erica & Adam J. 02/03; Steve and Deb G. 02/19

March Birthdays: Sophie T. 03/01; Rick S. 03/09; Savannah W. 03/11; Ben Thieu 03/17; Nancy E. 03/18; Andrew P. 03/24; Ricky P. 03/27; Amy L. 03/31

March Anniversary: Glenn & Amy W. 03/05

A Way to Check on Local Road Construction Before Coming to Church

Community Corner: PennDOT News

Planning our daily commute around Central Pennsylvania can be difficult at the best of times, but when you come upon the dreaded orange codes or "Work Zone" signs, you may be

wondering how construction seems to always be taking place! If you are interested in getting emails about PennDOT planned construction projects in Central PA you can sign up at the following link: <https://www.penndot.pa.gov/RegionalOffices/district-8/Pages/allnews.aspx> If you travel frequently out of Central PA, other regions have separate email mailing lists you can sign up for as well. These will keep you informed about lane, road & bridge closures, night work, and public events.

Parking Update

Street parking around Zion's building is metered and enforced 9am-5pm, Monday through Saturday. Parking on the sidewalks around the church is not permitted, and vehicles parked on the sidewalk will be ticketed. When parking in Zion's small lot on site, the tires of the vehicle can be on the asphalt and on the cement area that extends to the edges of the building. Parking on the sidewalk area at the edge of the parking lot is not permitted and, Monday – Saturday (9-5), vehicles parked on that sidewalk area will be ticketed. **ON SUNDAYS**, STREET PARKING IS FREE & THERE IS FREE VALIDATED PARKING IN THE CHESTNUT STREET GARAGE. ZION PROVIDES A VALIDATION TICKET. For more information, contact the church office.

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 on 1st and 3rd Sundays and Festivals)

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)

Weekly Schedule & 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.

WINTER SCHEDULE Highlights **Additional details in previous articles in this newsletter*

Wednesday, November 22 *WOW NOT MEETING*

PRE-RECORDED THANKSGIVING PRAYER SERVICE AVAILABLE AT ZION'S WEBSITE*

**Sunday, November 26 FESTIVAL OF CHRIST THE KING – COMMUNION
HANGING OF THE GREENS FOLLOWING WORSHIP***

Wednesdays November 29 – December 20 ADVENT WOW SERVICES at 12:10pm*

Sunday, December 10 SPECIAL DICKENS CHRISTMAS MUSIC WORSHIP*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 (ADVENT 4 & CHRISTMAS EVE)*

NO 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL & NO 10:15AM WORSHIP

PRE-RECORDED ADVENT 4 PRAYER SERVICE AVAILABLE AT ZION'S WEBSITE

+++++ CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT 2:00PM +++++ (No Evening Service)

Wednesday, December 27 *WOW NOT MEETING*

PRE-RECORDED PRAYER SERVICE AVAILABLE AT ZION'S WEBSITE*

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2024 - HIGHLIGHTS

**Wednesday, January 3 12:10 – 12:35pm WOW (Worship on Wednesday) Resumes
Communion & Lunch Fellowship after worship
SEASON AFTER EPIPHANY: Order of Worship based on 1 John
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)

Sunday, January 7 10:15am FESTIVAL BAPTISM OF OUR LORD - COMMUNION

Wednesday, February 14 12:10pm ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Imposition of Ashes & Communion

Sunday, February 18 10:15am 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT – COMMUNION (3rd Sunday)

Wednesday, February 21 WOW LENTEN Series "Promised Treasures" Begins