



*For the Members and Friends of Zion Lutheran Church
January 2024*

The Long Valley Lutheran

Sundays in January

January 7, First Sunday after Epiphany

8:30 AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Traditional Service of Holy Communion

10:45 AM Adult Forum : Bible Basics - The Road to Christmas: God's Promises from Old Testament to New. Led by Fred Humcke.

January 14, Second Sunday after Epiphany

8:30AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Contemporary Service of Holy Communion

10:45 AM Adult Forum : Bible Basics - The Road to Christmas: God's Promises from Old Testament to New. Led by Fred Humcke.

January 21, Third Sunday after Epiphany

8:30AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Traditional Service of Holy Communion

10:45 AM Adult Forum : Bible Basics - The Road to Christmas: God's Promises from Old Testament to New. Led by Fred Humcke.

January 28, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

8:30AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Contemporary Service of Holy Communion

Zion Lutheran Church, 11 Schooley's Mountain Rd., Long Valley, NJ 07853
phone: (908) 876-3547; **e-mail:** zionlongvalley@gmail.com; **website:** zionlongvalley.org

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 Schooley's Mountain Rd.

Long Valley, NJ 07853

Tel: (908) 876-3547

Fax: (908) 876-3947

E-mail: zionlongvalley@gmail.com

Website: zionlongvalley.org



Like us on Facebook at
"Zion Lutheran Church, Long Valley"

Pastor: Pastor Ingrid Wengert

Cell: (215) 692-2091

Email: Ingridfathwengert@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Sarah Scudese

Minister of Music: Marilyn Hibler

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

9:30AM Worship with live-stream.

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL
MEMBERS/OFFICERS:**

President: Tom Scudese

Vice President: Eric Snyder

Secretary: Jeanne Howell

Finance: Ron Schulz

Members:

Burt Horner

Marcia Horner

Ben Johnston

Elaine Kesler

Becky Rasmussen

Christine Stabile

**LONG VALLEY CHRISTIAN
NURSERY SCHOOL**

11 Schooley's Mountain Rd.

Long Valley, NJ 07853

Tel: (908) 876-4115

Fax: (908) 876-4959

E-Mail: longvalleychristian@gmail.com

Website: longvalleychristian.com

LVCNS Director..... Meghan Bridge

Bus. Administrator....Cyndy Thompson

Office Hours

Parish Secretary Sarah

M-Fr from 9:00AM to 1PM.

If you wish to stop by, please call ahead just to make sure someone is here.

(908) 876-3547 or zionlongvalley@gmail.com

Pastor Ingrid

M-Th mornings

Pastor Ingrid's day off each week is Friday.

(215) 692-2091 or ingridfathwengert@gmail.com

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The deadline for the
**February Newsletter is
January 24th**



Articles may be sent to the church
office via email at

zionlongvalley@gmail.com, or left in Sarah
Scudese's mail box in the Parish Center.

**Your prompt attention to the deadline is
greatly appreciated!**



Please remember in your prayers all of our parish family and friends who suffer physically, emotionally, and are battling life altering conditions. Lord Jesus, who went about doing good and healing all, we ask you to bless our friends who are sick. Give them strength in body, courage in spirit, and patience in pain. Let them recover their health, so that restored, they may joyfully praise your name, for you and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

We pray for:

Family of James and Lori Andershonis: *Beverly Vecchione*

Friends and family of Jeanette Baker: *Frank Baker, Deborah Gruber*

Friend of Ellen Blaine: *Keith Correll*

Family of Sheila Blaine: *Logan Rodriguez*

Friends and family of Charlie & Marcia Davidson: *Gail Boyle*

Family & friends of Corey & Courtney Derr: *Gennaro Bryant, Lisa Moss Filson, Ralph Derr, Bessie Grant, Don Gunter*

Family of Cathy DiLello: *Russell Dilello*

Family of Burt & Marcia Horner: *Bruce Adams, Rae Hoffman, David Swan, Joanne Yanchek*

Family of Jeanne Howell: *Dan Steffen and Jack Steffen*

Friend of Beth Johnson: *Tammy Jackman*

Family of Barbara Rennie: *Krista Gundersen*

Friends and family of Betty Rush: *Charlie Burd, Amy Burd, Kirk Klein, Ed Mancuso, Emily Mancuso, Pastor Martin Travis, Betty Wojciki*

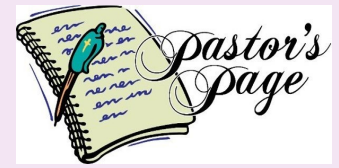
Friend of Dottie Weis: *Rich & Pat Bosley, Kathy Hepner, Charlie Sousa*

Friends of Zion: *Linda Daly*

Members of Zion:

Ellen Blaine, Diane Carlock, Cathy DiLello, Donna East, Rob Johnson, Sue Koeppen, Paul Litwiller, John Resotka, Hannelore Seitz

*Prayer requests will also appear in the announcements each week.
Please contact the church office for
additions, to make updates, or with questions.*



The flock at Zion experienced many deaths over the past few years. Over the years of being a pastor I've noticed that the question "why did this happen?" forms in the minds of many survivors.

As a person who spent 4 years in theological education, learning the original languages of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures and the history of theology, church history and pastoral care, and then spent 26 years serving four congregations (she writes with smug pride), my answer to the "why" question remains "I dunno."

While I generally encourage people to gain answers based on science, when it comes to the existential question, "why did this happen to my loved one," I continue to encourage parishioners to spend little time dwelling there. I truly believe that there are no satisfactory answers.

Friends of survivors may share sayings as a means of comfort; e.g. "God must have a reason." However, opposite to popular understanding, the Christian tradition has never held with fatalism or determinism, and so comments such "God must have a reason" or "it was meant to happen" just aren't fitting. Even though the words are spoken to comfort, the understanding behind them is the opposite of comforting – that a deity caused the death of a loved one, or merely let it happen. Grievors are very charitable towards others trying to comfort them. But pat sayings just don't help in the face of gut-wrenching grief.

There really is no satisfactory, helpful, or comforting answer to why tragedies happen. We simply live in a broken world where sometimes these awful things do happen – it's not fair, it's not understandable – it just is. By the cross, we know that God himself has seen the valley of the shadow of death, and promises to walk with us in the dark times and to never abandon nor forsake us.

What to say to a friend who experiences a tragedy? In my experience, the "pat" sayings tend to comfort the speaker more than the listener. Also, you don't have to promise support; e.g., "let me know if I can do something" (people mostly don't know what they will need or when). I've found that mourners simply appreciate the truth – that you are sad for their loss. They also like to hear memories of their loved one. You can't go wrong with an honest, humble statement about sadness and/or a memory. And for Christian friends? If you want to go deeper, finding the right time is helpful. My husband has shared that what he most remembers the day of his first wife's funeral was from the lips of his Presbyterian neighbor who leaned over and said to him, "Remember, Jesus said 'I am the resurrection and the life'." There may be a time that Christ's promises of presence and new life will be very comforting.



Worship in January

We will have one service alternating between contemporary and traditional services. Sunday School will be at 8:30AM until 9:15AM

Virtual: We will live-stream the service to [Zion's YouTube channel](#), and it's automatically recorded so that you can worship when you are able. The worship bulletin, readings and music are [located on our website](#)
Please see, [December Worship Assistant Schedule](#).

Confirmation Schedule for 2024

Wednesdays, 4-5pm 1/3, 1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31, 2/7

Tuesday 2/13 6-7pm

TBD

Wednesday 5/15 6pm

Saturday 5/18, 9-9:30am

Sunday 5/19, 9:30am Worship

Shrove Tuesday: Confirmed Mentor Night

Discovery Day

Confirmation Mentor / Congregation Dinner

Rehearsal for 8th graders

Rite of Confirmation for 8th graders

Additional components of Confirmation:

- Sunday School each Sunday (8:30am-9:15am)
- 9 Sermon Summaries from each school year (yellow sheets located in the Narthex)
- 2 Service Projects each school year
- Serve as worship leader (acolyte, usher, Communion assistant, Child Care, etc.....)



Bible Basics for Adults is back!

Bible Basics will be held during Adult Forum after worship. 10:45AM in Faith Hall. *January 7th, 14th, 21st.*

The topic will be The Road to Christmas: God's Promises from Old Testament to New.

Appointed Worship Readings for January

Worship Date	Old or New Testament Readings	Psalm	Gospel
January 7,	Genesis 1:1-5 / Acts 19:1-7	Psalm 29	Mark 1:4-11
January 14,	1 Samuel 3:1-10 / 1 Corinthians 6:12-20	Psalm 139:1-6,13-18	John 1:43-51
January 21,	Jonah 3:1-5,10 / 1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Psalm 62:5-12	Mark 1:14-20
January 28,	Deuteronomy 18:15-20 / 1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Psalm 111	Mark 1:21-28



TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

Beginning January 2nd 2024

We will meet for an in person Bible study In Faith Hall at 1:30pm. The readings will continue to be the appointed readings for Sunday, which is based on a 3-year cycle that spans the Old and New Testaments: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu//>

*On December 24th
We celebrated the Baptism of
Avery Rose Salandra & Amelia Lynn Salandra
Daughter 's of
Matthew & Jennifer Salandra*



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

The Annual Congregation Meeting

Save the date

Will be held on *February 4th* after the 9:30AM service in Faith Hall

Ministry Leaders will receive an email to request relevant Annual Report sections.



Giving Envelopes

The 2024 giving envelopes can be picked up in the Narthex. If you would like to pick up during office hours, please call Sarah and she will have them ready.

Any question please contact [Barb Schulz](#).

**TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT
ACTIVITY PROJECTED THRU DECEMBER 2023**

OPERATING	Actual YTD November 2023	Estimated Month of Dec 2023	Estimated Full Year 2023	Actual Full Yr 2022 (Last Yr)	(Un) Favor Variance	Notes
Income	\$228,034	\$46,501	\$274,534	\$279,814	(\$5,280)	A
Expenses						
Payroll-Related	\$131,491	\$14,230	\$145,721	\$146,964	\$1,243	B
Administrative	\$100,485	\$10,733	\$111,218	\$110,380	(\$837)	C
Committees	\$17,693	\$4,555	\$22,248	\$21,663	(\$585)	D
Total Expenses	\$249,669	\$29,518	\$279,187	\$279,007	(\$180)	
Net Income(Loss)	(\$21,636)	\$16,983	(\$4,653)	\$807	(\$5,460)	
Cash Balance End of Mo.	\$20,601		\$37,584	\$51,684	(\$14,100)	

Operating Notes: Larger (Un)Favorable variances *[amounts ending in 00 are estimated]*

- A. Zion membership made up \$14,000 of previously forecast year end \$19,000 shortfall. **THANK YOU** to those who gave generously in December to achieve this. The (\$5,280) amount below full year 2022 is largely due to timing of parsonage reimbursements (\$2,400) and (\$3,500) in lower "Current Giving".
- B. Business Manager position now an unpaid volunteer \$4,741; Pastor Health & Pension (\$2,800)
- C. Repairs (\$3,535); Cleaning (\$2,648); Utilities \$2,800; snow removal \$2,554
- D. Mission Support (\$1,249) and Worship & Music \$877

NON-OPERATING	01/01/23 Balance	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	12/31/23 Balance
Ministries (mostly Social Ministry)	\$29,709	\$14,564	\$19,182	\$468	\$25,559
Seasonal Events	\$4,049	\$3,038	\$2,334	(\$2,935)	\$1,819
Building & Assets	\$300	\$1,500	\$15,205	\$13,905	\$500
Memorial Funds "short-term"	\$38,728	\$924	\$649	(\$9,619)	\$29,384
Memorial Funds "long-term"	\$106,258	\$7,787	\$327	\$0	\$113,718
Mortgage Fund Notes F, G	\$58,693	\$52,599	\$64,864	\$129	\$46,557
Contingency & Other	\$30,535	\$6,735	\$1,915	(\$1,948)	\$33,407
Total	\$268,274	\$87,147	\$104,476	\$0	\$250,944

Non-Operating Notes:

- F. Principal balance of Mortgage on 12/31/23 is \$172,595.52 of which approximately \$46,557 is funded
- G. Mortgage payments in 2023 = \$40,625 principal + \$14,500 paydown + \$9,739 Interest = \$64,864

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Schulz, Zion Treasurer

Zion Year End Property Report 2023

Bridging the future While Preserving the Past



Completed Work at Zion:

1. Annual fire inspection of the doors and safety exit signs, and batteries are completed.
2. Lighting in Faith Hall: wall sconces and stairwells completed; ceiling lights where needed are upgraded to LED's . We will continue to R&R them and upgrade them in the future.
3. Repairs to sink drains in both Faith Hall and Field's Hall kitchen is finished.
4. Drain cleaning in both kitchen is completed.
5. New hot water heater in Faith Hall is installed/completed.
6. Repairs to LVCNS and the entire campus has been inspected and the [small] deficiencies have been addressed.
7. Spring and Fall cleanups were done and many people from Cub Scouts to Zion congregational members assisted. Good turn out both times, and we thank the Scouts for their incredible help .
8. Cleanup folks removed benches from the Court Yard. They will be repaired and used elsewhere on campus in the future.
9. Flowers were planted in the whiskey barrels in the Spring and pine trees were planted in the Fall.
10. Repairs to the bathroom fixtures are completed, as well as exhaust fan in men's room in Faith Hall.
11. Ceiling in hot water heater room is repaired.
12. Pot holes in exit driveway are repaired.
13. Faith Hall Clerestory window repairs are finally done. Dare I say it...so far the fix is being monitored and has been successful through several significant storms.
14. New refrigerator from a Zion friend has been installed in Faith Hall kitchen.
15. New CO detector was installed in the Faith Hall kitchen.
16. New kick plate is installed on the door to the table/chair closet in Faith Hall.
17. Stain glass panels in Faith Hall underwent a re-do, as the cables holding them in place were defective.
18. Porch floor on the administrative building has been re-painted by Ben (and helpers ☐) as part of his commitment to the Boy Scout program.
19. Bat houses are installed on campus as part of an Eagle Scout project. This is also part of a conservation effort to save and preserve bats in NJ. Their status is hovering on the endangered species list.

Zion Year End Property Report 2023

Bridging the future While Preserving the Past

20. Trees around the playground that posed a health and safety hazard have been taken down.
21. Indoor air quality in the Sanctuary has been tested and IAQ is excellent. See attachment^{*2}.
22. Bulletin boards as well as dry eraser boards are installed.
23. Paper shredding has been completed.
24. Natural gas usage report^{*1} from the gas company demonstrates that the efforts to improve our consumption and usage has been on the right track. Please see the attached commentary and graph. It is significant, and has demonstrated that we are trying to be as responsible as we can in this energy sensitive society. Yes, we are doing our part to the best of our ability! I thank everyone at Zion for supporting this renovation when significant changes and money were needed! Future usage data will vary in the future as the weather pattern and the consumption/costs will vary as we continue along our journey.
25. Installed a new/updated Ida and Conrad plaque in the Hoehn Chapel entrance area. The old one had eroded and the lettering had all but disappeared; making it unreadable.

New /Future Business

1. Everyone is asked to be vigilant about turning off lights throughout the properties when they are not in use. Among other things, this saves energy as well as the church unnecessary expense.
2. NJ energy rebate program is being looked into to see if Zion qualifies for any rebates for other areas of the property.
3. Caulking of thresholds in Faith Hall driveway side will be completed when the weather permits.
4. Door stop for the Faith Hall kitchen back entrance will be relocated.

A big thank you to Burt for all his hard work this year!!





Parish Life



Long Valley Community Tree Lighting



Thank you Burt & Charlie, all the lights worked:)



We had a lovely night lighting the Long Valley Christmas tree. Pastor Ingrid welcomed everyone. The LVCNS children started off the night and Mayor Murello gave a greeting. Zion's vocal and bell choirs performed Christmas carols. WMC High school choirs, The Loreleis, The Howlers and The Noteworthys, Brass Quintet and the String Quartet gave amazing performances. and to close out the night Mary Daly and her violin did a Christmas Carol sing along. Then we all went outside to light the tree, which was followed by the Gingerbread winner and cookie reception (from our Zion bakers) and hot cider from Ort Farms. All were delicious!



Parish Life



Thank you to all the WMC students. You were all amazing as always, and thank you to Mary Daly for closing out the night and getting us all to sing!



2023 Sunday School Christmas Pageant



Thank you to all the actresses and actors, old and young! Sunday School teachers and parents without whom none of this would be possible!



*But Wait!
There's Myrrh!*

Thank you to our older actors for being such good sports!!



8PM Christmas Eve Candlelight service.

Thank you to all our Christmas elves who make our Sanctuary so beautiful every Christmas!





Social Ministry Update



Thrivent ways to Help

Thrivent Action Teams

There are many projects around the church, Thrivent action teams can help. If you are a member you can apply to lead a volunteer team in a fundraiser, service activity or educational event. Thrivent will provide seed money and planning materials to bring your most generous ideas to life. Please follow the link for instructions on how to apply. [Thrivent Action Teams](#)



Quilting Day

Saturday February 3rd
9AM - 4PM in Faith Hall



No experience necessary!

We need people who cannot sew but want to help (pin, tie knots, cut, iron)

We are also in need of people who can sew and their sewing machines.

all hands are needed and welcome!

Food and fellowship provided

For more information please see Judy Bumpus.

Cub Scout Coat Drive November – January

Troy Krisanda, a Webelos 4th grade Scout in Pack 136, will be coordinating a Coat Drive in partnership with Jersey Cares, collecting New or Gently Used winter coats for Men, Women, Children & Infants.

The drive will run from 11/8/23 through 1/7/24. Please consider donating new or gently used winter coats for men, women, and children in need. Donation bins will soon be in the church to drop off coats (**please no hats, gloves, or other winter accessories - just coats!**).

Thank you for helping those in need this winter!



M.L.K. Community

Day of Service

**MLK Morning of Service:
“Make it a day on... not a day off”**



Please join congregations and the community to support our neighbors on MLK Day Monday, 1/15 from 10am – 12pm at Church of the Messiah, 50 County Rd 513, Chester.

Supporting Faith Kitchen, Dover

“Providing nutritious meals for the hungry in our community”

Donations Needed for Snack Packs (Assembled at the Event)

- Chewey Granola bars (no nuts)
 - Oranges
 - Kleenex packs
 - Candy bars (no nuts)
 - Beef Jerky
 - Grapes and raisins
 - Snack food (non perishable /no nuts)
 - Crackers
-

Supporting D.A.S.A.C.C

(Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County)

“Helping to serve and Advocate for those impacted by interpersonal violence, to be proactive regarding its prevention, and to create positive change”

Travel size Donations Needed for Hygiene Kits (to be assembled together on 1/15)

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Soap
- Razor
- Wash Cloth
- Q-tips
- Mouth wash (non-alcohol)
- Washcloth

Donations collected at participating congregations through January 14th

Church of Messiah Episcopal; Highlands Presbyterian; Long Valley Presbyterian; Our Lady of the Mountain; St. Luke Parish; St. Mark the Evangelist; Valley View Chapel; Zion Lutheran Church



January Birthdays

May your birthday be filled with joy, love, and laughter, and may your heart be overflowing with happiness throughout the coming year..

Happy Birthday

1 Morgan Forlenza

3 Jenna Humcke

Mary Marrero

Jaxon Trembley

Peter Trethaway

5 Jonathan Jan

Blanca Naglestad

6 Stephen Davis

8 Tom Scudese

9 Juliette Muttart

13 Emmett Callow

14 Marianne Dise

16 Beth Johnson

19 James Carkuff Jr.

Bill Howell

20 Christiaan Bullock

Paul Litwiller

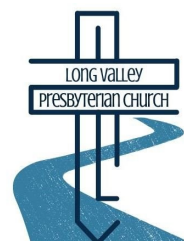
21 Rob Johnson

25 Ava Boeckel



Mental Health **FIRST AID**

from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING



The Long Valley Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Community Wellness Youth Mental Health Aid class, on January 27th. It is a full day course (9am-4pm), but will be interactive and cover a great deal of information. Our main focus being to spread awareness and education about mental health. To sign up please see the [linked flyer](#)

If you would like more information or have questions or the sign up technology does not work, please feel free to email: Jmscheffler@yahoo.com



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11 Schooleys Mountain Road
Long Valley, New Jersey 07853



Zion Lutheran Church
The Rev. Ingrid Wengert, Pastor
Church Office: 908-876-3547
Worship Service Sunday 9:30am
Sunday School: 8:30am