

Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church Old Zionsville, PA

A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Third Sunday after Epiphany January 26, 2025 10:30^{AM}

Welcome to Zion's Lutheran Church

We are a community that cares for one another. Feel free to voice your prayer concerns. Know our hearts join together as we pray. Everyone's voice is needed to tell the good news of God's love in Jesus; whether it be singing hymns, reading lessons, or greeting your neighbors.

If you would like to learn more about the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, please visit <https://elca.org/Faith/ELCA-Teaching>. If you would like to learn more about the Zion's Church, please visit <http://www.zelcoz.org>.

As We Worship

Living "Words with Friends"

Playgrounds still resound with "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." But those words ring hollow. As adults, and as children, we know only too well the power of words to do harm. In contrast, the scriptures for today point us to the word that bears hope, promise, and life. Human words can hurt or fail, but now we hear this holy word of wisdom, challenge, instruction, and hope that really does form us in God's promise. Rather than words that tear down, we are invited by the prophets and Jesus into God's living words with and among friends. Jesus, in coming home and attending the synagogue, reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Jesus announces good news to those struggling economically on the fringes of society, hope to those who are imprisoned, healing to those without sight, a lifting of the burden from those who are weighed down or oppressed, and even the in-breaking of a holy year of favor. Standing in a tradition of prophets and priests who speak, engage, and teach God's word, Jesus now offers one thing more—fulfillment. The words of those who dream and hope, who work for justice and mercy on behalf of God, are now true. Today as we look around and see people spending time speaking, reading, and even playing games with words, this is an opportunity to ground ourselves in the one full Word that bears life. This word counters sticks and stones and all that oppresses; Jesus address announces God's liberating actions. This Word sounds promise to all who hear; it is an invitation to see God at work among God's people.

Prelude

“Trumpet Tune”

by Robert C. Lau

The congregation stands.

Processional Hymn *“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*

ELW 886

Invocation

All may make the sign of the cross in remembering their baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.

We ignore the needs of our neighbors;

we resist your call to oppose injustice;

we give in to scarcity and fear;

we assume the worst about one another.

Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.

Show us your lovingkindness.

Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's

ways.

Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In † Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“Glory Be to God in Heaven”



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may sit.

First Reading - Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that “the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

¹ All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19

- ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.
- ² **One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**
- ³ Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,
- ⁴ **their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the
ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**
- ⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- ⁶ **It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs
about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**
- ⁷ The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.
- ⁸ **The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the
eyes.**
- ⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
- ¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**
- ¹¹ By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- ¹² **Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**
- ¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not
get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
- ¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be ac-
ceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

Second Reading—1 Corinthians 12.12-31a

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

The congregation stands to greet the gospel and sings:



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel - Luke 4.14-21

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Please be seated.

Sermon - The Rev. Thomas D. Busted

(after a period of silence for reflection, please stand for the hymn).

Hymn of the Day

“Jesus, the Light of the World”

ACS 914

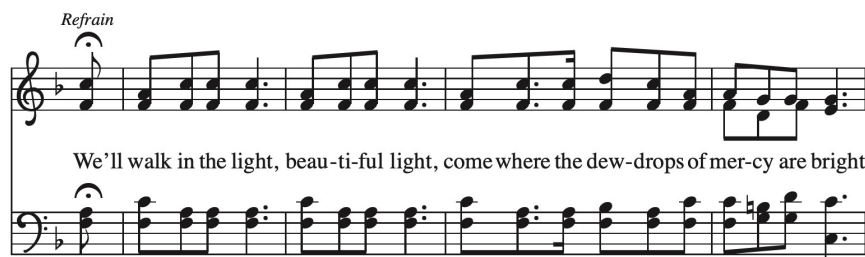


1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je - sus, the Light of the world;
2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je - sus, the Light of the world;
3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je - sus, the Light of the world;
4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je - sus, the Light of the world;

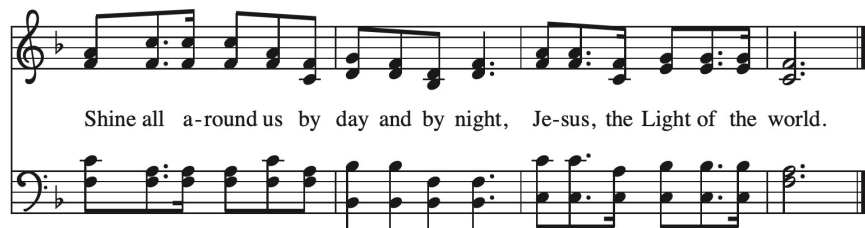


“Glo - ry to the new-born king,” Je - sus, the Light of the world.
join the tri - umph of the skies; Je - sus, the Light of the world.
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je - sus, the Light of the world.
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je - sus, the Light of the world.

Refrain



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je - sus, the Light of the world.

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

*Petitions will conclude "God of grace,"
Please respond "hear our prayer."*

*At the conclusion of the petitions, the presiding minister concludes:
We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that
your promise is revealed among the people.
Amen.*

The Sharing of the Peace

*Please share the peace as you feel comfortable.
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.*

Offertory

*"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"
ELW 883, verses 1 and 4*

Thank you for supporting the Ministries of Zion's Lutheran, either by placing a donation in one of the plates/boxes at the entrances to the sanctuary, or by conveniently contributing online at the Vanco Mobile App, which can be downloaded for free from the App Store or Google Play.

Offering Prayer

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service:

our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sending Hymn

"O Zion Haste"

ELW 668

Blessing

The Spirit of the triune God

✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn

“This Little Light of Mine”
ELW 677, verse 1

Postlude

“Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart”
setting by Douglas E. Wagner



Worship Leaders This Morning

Ministers	All the members of Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Presiding Minister	The Rev. Thomas D. Busteed (Cell phone 570-856-2078)
Director of Music	John Binde
Lay Reader	Karen Loeb
Acolyte	Megan Loeb
Live-Streaming	Dyane Miller
Greeters	Peg and Earl Heminitz

For Those in Need of Prayer

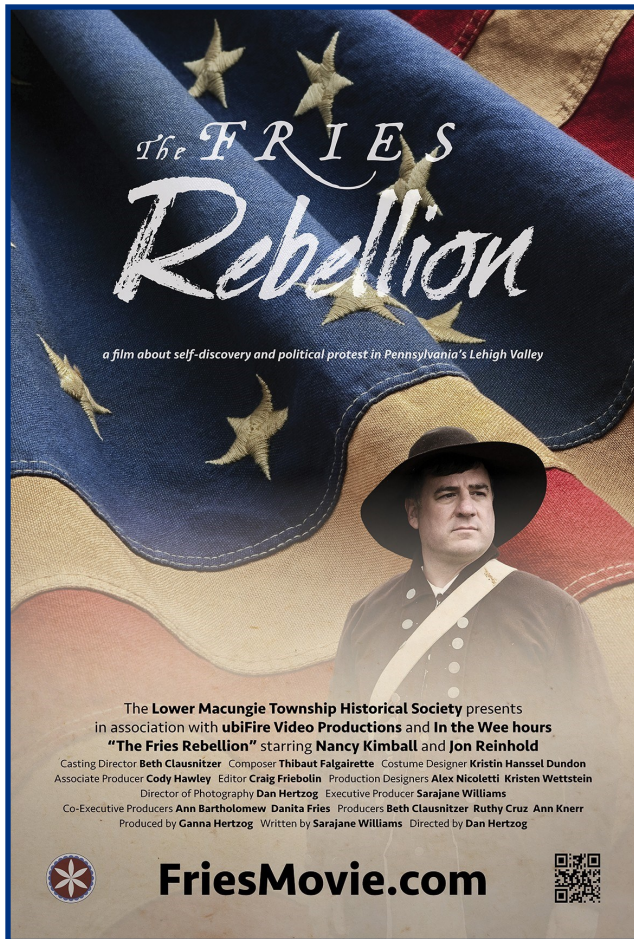
Additional Prayers—Stanley Trout, Blanche Schantz, Marvin Schantz, Richard Malburg, Christine Rex, June Trotter, Andy Wheeler, Brian Dries, Sandy Schlicher, Geri Getz, Brenda Snyder, Maverik Wolbach, Carol Mutchler, Holly Washburn, Ferne Druckenmiller, Melissa Yaglowski, John Hinnerschietz and Joe & Verna-Ann Tacker.

In Remembrance

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God in remembrance of Arlene and Melvin Marks by their daughter, Teresa Marks.



Today, January 26 th	Adult Forum @ 9:15 ^{AM} Worship Service @ 10:30 ^{AM}
Tuesday, January 28 th	Congregation Council @ 7:00 ^{PM}
Saturday, February 1 st	Craft Crew @ 9:00 ^{AM} <i>The Fries Rebellion</i> , OZUCC, doors open at 1:00 ^{PM} for 2:00 ^{PM} showing



Mark your calendars for **Saturday Feb. 1** - Join us to watch the movie about local happenings in the Lehigh Valley - **The Fries Rebellion**. Doors will open at **1 p.m. for the 2 p.m. showing** in our sanctuary. Come in to pick your favorite seat for this locally produced film about an important time in the history of our own Lehigh Valley. Bring your own blanket and a few bucks for the donation jar. We are hoping to sell hot dogs, drinks and baked goods to make the event more

fun. Proceeds will go to support the creation of the film. The movie is about 32 minutes long with a Behind the Scenes look of about 17 minutes to be shown after the film. Invite your friends and family members to join us. (in case of weather issues, check WFMZ or contact Pastor Lori at 610-393-3522 day of). To learn more about it, look up: <https://friesrebellionfilm.com/>

Join us for the 1st annual Soups and Scoops



Join us to get your Super Bowl pre-game on with Upper Milford Mennonite Church. We will be serving Homemade Soup from 5-6pm and then from 6-8 pm we will serve homemade Ice Cream and have a variety of games to play



February 8th, 2025 5-8pm

Dinner will be served 5-6pm

- All you can eat Homemade soups
- Bread
- Crackers
- Lemonade/tea

Dessert will be served 6-8pm

- Ice Cream w/ all the toppings

Event is free but there will be a free will offering with all proceeds going to the Zionsville Food Panty.

Upper Milford Mennonite Church
6450 Kings Hwy S, Zionsville, PA 18092
Ummcoutreach2024@gmail.com

Third Sunday after Epiphany + January 26, 2025

Praised by Everyone

Jesus' ministry began in triumph. He had endured the testing in the wilderness and emerged victorious, ready to begin his good work in the community. One of the first places he stopped was in the synagogues, teaching in such a way that he "was praised by everyone" (Luke 4:15). One day, upon reading from Isaiah, Jesus revealed himself as the one who would bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives, recover the sight of people who were blind, free those who were oppressed, and proclaim the Lord's favor. Alleluia!

As followers of this very same Jesus, we know that God is still at work accomplishing these glorious tasks in our communities. We also know people who long for us, Jesus' followers full of the Holy Spirit, to bring good news to the poor.

How are we, members of the body of Christ, called to be in such a deep relationship with our neighbors that they share with us their greatest needs? Have we established such profound trust that they are willing to allow us to accompany them as God produces solutions sufficient to their greatest crises?

We have the most exhilarating mission—to proclaim the Lord's favor in the neighborhood! We get to remind people that they are not forgotten. How we do this in our own contexts is as various as the number of churches represented around the world. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to Christian ministry. But in all cases, we are called to invite everyone to praise Jesus and live into his mission of freedom.

As we gather each week for word and sacrament, may we be filled with the Holy Spirit as we pray that Jesus' fame will spread into "all the surrounding country" (Luke 4:14), as our neighbors experience God's good work through each of us. Holy Spirit, reveal to us new ways to accompany our neighbors in this Epiphany season.

Telling the Story, Learning the Word, Serving our Neighbor.

*"Inviting, welcoming, and supporting our congregation and community
while learning God's word and serving those around us."*

Zion's Vision Statement, 2019

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