

*For the Members and Friends of Zion Lutheran Church
February 2021*



The Long Valley Lutheran

Worship in February

February 7, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

9AM Service of Holy Communion
No Sunday School
10AM Annual General Meeting

February 14, Transfiguration Sunday

9AM Service of the Word
10AM Sunday School
10AM Virtual Coffee Hour

February 21, First Sunday in Lent

9:00AM Service of the Word
10:00AM Sunday School
10:00AM Virtual Coffee Hour

February 28, Second Sunday in Lent

9.00AM Service of the Word
10.00AM Sunday School
10.00AM Virtual Coffee Hour



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

Indoor / Virtual : 9:00 AM
Sunday School: 10:00 AM
Adult Forum: 10:00 AM

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS/OFFICERS:

President: Judy Bumpus
Vice President: Martina Frommeyer
Secretary: Cathleen Sullivan
Finance: Larry Salvatore

Members:
Harry Bullock
Burt Horner
Jim Rasmussen
Becky Rasmussen
Candice Snyder

**LONG VALLEY CHRISTIAN
NURSERY SCHOOL**

11 Schooley's Mountain Rd.
Long Valley, NJ 07853
Tel: (908) 876-4115
Fax: (908) 876-4959

E-Mail: info@longvalleychristian.com
Website: longvalleychristian.com

LVCNS Director..... Meghan Bridge
Bus. Administrator.....JoAnn McElwaine

Office Hours

We have discontinued official office hours to observe current "social distancing" guidelines and yet continue to work out of the office as it makes sense. Please contact either of us if you wish to make an appointment to meet or talk:

Parish Secretary Sarah

available by phone or email during normal office hours
M-Fr from 9:00AM to 1PM.

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

Pastor Ingrid

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

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The deadline for the
**March Newsletter is
Friday March 19th**



From the Editor

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!

Pastor Ingrid's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Typically, I do not prefer to dwell on financial giving in writing or preaching; however, I feel compelled to do so given the singular circumstances in which we find ourselves. First of all, I was amazed at how many financial contributions poured in after our Financial Secretary, Larry, made an appeal in mid-December. We received more than \$25,000 for operating expenses, which was \$14,000 more than the average month in 2020. Also, when Harry, our stewardship chair, communicated that this was a year we particularly needed people to return 2021 “estimate of giving” cards due to the pandemic, we received a *record number* of cards! I have heard parishioners say that when there is a financial need, Zion steps up to the plate - and I have now seen this in action!

Larry is estimating a 2021 budget with a negative balance of \$30,000, which is mainly due to two factors: A very generous contributor is moving, and the pandemic. We give thanks to God for generous contributors to the ministry and mission of Zion – now and in the past! But it does highlight the vulnerability when a congregation relies on a handful of households to meet its operating expenses. Also, the pandemic seems to be another cause of decreased contributions in 2020 (upon which 2021 contributions are partly estimated). This is probably due to financial uncertainty in households, and also not being able to worship in-person as before. Studies show that financial contributions are higher when people come to the church building for worship. In the end, the 2021 estimate for financial contributions is far more of a guess than it has been in the past as we don't know when we might return to in-person worship without fear.

In any case, it is apparent that in order to meet expenses for our current ministries, financial contributions would need to increase this year. We should know that there are people who are not able to increase their financial giving to the church – as they had already increased it for the capital campaign and are stretched thin, and others are limited by fixed incomes, college funds or job uncertainty. But I think there is a real possibility that we might be able to meet our expenses this year, and if not fully this year, then perhaps we can increase giving slowly over the course of the next few years. In the end, we'll be in a much healthier position. For now, all each household can do is to consider the possibility of increasing their financial giving to Zion, and then wait and see how the year unfolds for the congregation. In the meantime, we can trust God with any anxiety or concern for our congregation – and for our own households. After all, God has promised to provide for all of our needs, and God is trustworthy.

¹ Some people wonder about fundraising in order to cover operating expenses; however, Lutherans have steadfastly maintained that the ministries of a congregation should be supported by the members of that congregation and not by others – as our ministries really bear our witness to Christ.



TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

We will meet for an online Bible study. Each Monday Pastor Ingrid will send out an email with the Readings and Zoom link (the link will remain the same). 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/> .

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Our community bereavement group, "Comfort my People" will meet again on **Thursday, February 25 at 2:00pm**. The group meets for mutual support and insight on the fourth Thursday of each month. We welcome any and all from the church and surrounding community who have suffered loss of any kind to join us.

We will be using the book "*Grief One Day at A Time*" 365 Meditations to Help You Heal after Loss"



Virtual Coffee Hours: 2/14, 2/21, 2/28

For February, instead of adult forums, we will try virtual coffee hours from 10 – 10:30AM.

Join in so as to check in with each other – and bring a cup of coffee or tea!

[Zoom Link](#)

Appointed Worship Readings for February

<u>Worship Date</u>	<u>Old and New Testament</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
February 7	Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalm 147:1-11,20c	Mark 1:29-39
February 14	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalm 50:1-6	Mark 9:2-9
February 21	Genesis 9:1-10	Psalm 25:1-10	Mark 1:9-15
February 28	JGenesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Psalm 22:23-31	Mark 8:31-38

INDOOR WORSHIP

We are now worshipping *indoors* in the sanctuary. We will continue having one service at **9:00am** and also continue following the *Reopening Task Force's* recommendations for in-person worship



(*posted on Zion's website*). Because of social distancing requirements, there is a limit of 60 people allowed in the sanctuary so we are asking people planning to attend to sign up for worship, or by calling the church office at **(908)-876-3547** by **12PM** on **Fridays**. The "*Sign-Up Genius*" link is updated each Tuesday on the website and sent out with The Happenings.

Zion's worship services will also continue to be live-streamed on our *YouTube* channel for those who feel safer worshipping at home. The worship service bulletin, readings and music are located under the "*worship*" tab on our website at **zionlongvalley.org**



Lent

Ash Wednesday, February 17 at 7:30PM
Virtual and In-person Ash Wednesday worship service with optional imposition of ashes

Mid-week Lenten Services

How do you know ... that God has chosen, forgives and will raise you from the dead? "The Means of God's Grace"

Pre-recorded Lenten services will be uploaded to our YouTube channel by each Wednesday

February 21 – How do you know?

March 3 - Baptism: The greatest miracle

March 10 - Baptism: Letting go to take hold

March 17 - Communion: More than a memory

March 24 – Communion: The two traps



Please remember in your prayers all of our parish family and friends who suffer physically, emotionally and 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.

*New prayer concerns: Ralph Derr, Don Farwell,
Deena Salvatore, Elizabeth Sadu*

*Lou & Quinny
Andrea Aron
Will Beaumont
Zach Bumpus
Charlie Burd
Bob Clay
Courtney Derr
Donna East
Justin Fogerty
Henry Hamill*

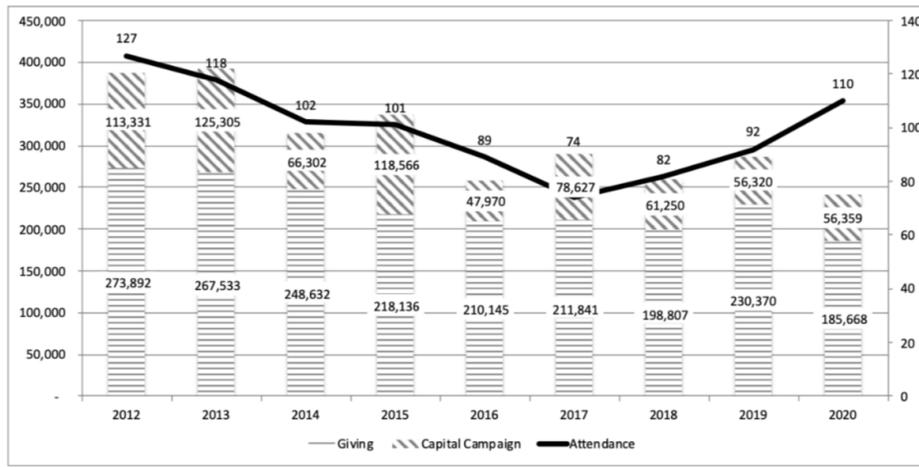
*Kirk Klein
David Kruetzer
Emily Mancuso
Cathy Mindel
Marylin Nelson
Jim Newquist
Glenn Staada Jr.
June Sweeney
Bob Weis*

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

CHURCH COUNCIL



2012 – 2020 Congregation Giving



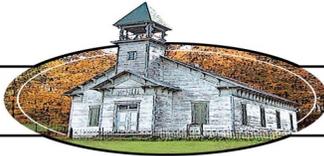
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Simply Giving.....help keep our budget on track!

If you cannot be at church then please consider using the **Simply Giving** service to keep your donations coming in on a periodic basis. You can set up a **Simply Giving** account by visiting www.zionlongvalley.org and following the link to the **Simply Giving** site. Check the Narthex this Sunday for the “**Simply Giving Markers**” that users can place in the collection plate on Sundays.

For help, please contact **Barb Schulz** at BarbaraLSchulz@gmail.com.

CHURCH COUNCIL



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Save the date - 2/7 at 10AM

The annual meeting of the Zion Lutheran Church congregation will be held on Sunday, February 7, 2021 (either in the sanctuary or Faith Hall - TBD) or by attending over the video conferencing tool Zoom. The meeting will begin at 10 am.

Your congregation council has laid out procedures for the hybrid annual meeting. All who plan to attend should sign up - whether you attend in person or via Zoom. You can do so by [using this link](#) or calling the church office at (908) 876-3547 during typical office hours. The Zoom link for the meeting will be sent to those who sign-up to attend virtually. We want to reach the quorum required to conduct business AND we want those who decide to attend in person to stay as safe as possible. Please help us to meet those goals by signing up for your preferred method of attendance.

Those attending via Zoom will be moderated by Candice Snyder. She will be able to unmute those wishing to speak and will have a microphone near her computer output so those attending in person will be able to hear the remarks of the virtual attendee. Candice will let the chair know when a virtual attendee wishes to speak, so they can be recognized by the chair. Those attending in person will be able to see the virtual attendees by a projection of Candice's computer screen onto a large screen.

We hope many of you will be able to attend this important meeting. The congregation is the highest authority in congregation business matters, so your voice is needed.

Zion Property

Bridging the Past While Preserving the Future



Property Through a Tough Year

Pastor and the various committees have spent untold amounts of time on how to deliver the best and safest Word to all of us in the Zion Community. It involved research in polling members of the Congregation, outside churches and their protocols, expenses on delivery of the Message, audio visual, and sophisticated delivery software in order to enable the Word to get to as many people as possible. To say that we tried our best to communicate with everyone as best as we could was daunting. Some folks got the messages right away and some got them later on; sadly some didn't at all, and for that we hope you'll take that into consideration. Our purpose throughout this pandemic was and remains to be to provide information and deliver safely, the Word to all. We also, offered different venues to receive the Message either in person, via YouTube, Zoom, radio, streaming and whatever other technologies are available was a daunting task. The hope has always been to be able to keep people safe, informed and inspired through the Gospel.

Property committee support

LOOKING FOR HANDY MEN AND WOMEN

Zion is looking for those who would be willing to help with property projects at church. After two years as the Zion property chair on the congregation council, Burt Horner is stepping down. Burt has done a wonderful job coordinating all the tasks involved in keeping our property ship-shape. Now, we would like to have a team of committed and handy volunteers to help the new property chairperson take on the many and varied aspects of maintaining our buildings and grounds. If you are able to help, please call or send the church office an e-mail, so your name can be forwarded to the new property chair. Thank you so much for offering your time and talents!





Social Ministry Update

Lutherans engaging in advocacy ministry: Live your faith out loud!

Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully.



The annual *Souper Bowl of Caring* will be held through Super Bowl Sunday February 7th. Our food and dollar donations will go to the *Long Valley Community Assistance Program Food Pantry*. These donations will help insure that our food insecure neighbors will have food throughout the long winter. It is good to remember those less fortunate. If you care to make your donation “count” as support for the *Tampa Bay Buccaneers* or the *Kansas City Chiefs* – just put them in the bin labeled with your team, *bins will be outside Faith Hall*. We will count up the cans each team earns and we will see if our donation count matches the actual Super Bowl winner! But either way, the real winners will be those in our community who will benefit from this food aid! Thank you so much for contributing!



Items needed for the LVCAP "Souper Bowl " collection in February

Non perishable items

Coffee
Tea
Hot Chocolate
Shelf Stable Milk
Juice
Oil
Vinegar
Mayo
Flour/Sugar
Bisquick
Canned Chicken
Canned Tuna
Spam
Canned Chili
Canned Pastas

Hearty Soups
Maple Syrup
Pancake Syrup
Grape & Strawberry Jelly
Peanut Butter
Cold Cereals
Hot Cereals (Oatmeal, Cream of Wheat, etc.)
Canned Fruit
Canned Vegetables
Spaghetti
Rice
Stuffing Mix
Instant Potatoes
Beans (Canned & Dried)

Toiletries & Household items

Soap
Toothbrushes /
Toothpaste
Shampoo / Conditioner
Feminine Hygiene Products
Paper Towels
Napkins
Baby Items
Infant Formula
Baby Diapers
Baby Food
Baby Wipes



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College Connection

If you have a college-aged child and you would like them to receive one of the famous Zion care packages, please forward your student's current college address to the office ASAP. We are also looking for donations of individually wrapped snacks to include in the boxes (popcorn, chips, granola bars, cookies, K-cups, etc.) Care Packages will be packed on 2/7 and mailed to arrive in time for Valentine's Day, so please provide any donations by 2/6. You can contact the office or Candice Snyder for more details or to arrange drop-off

snyders5.candice@gmail.com. Thank you!



LVCNS Gertrude Hawk Fundraiser

LVCNS is holding our annual Gertrude Hawk candy sale fundraiser this month. Gertrude Hawk has a wonderful assortment of Easter favorites. Delivery will be the Week of March 15th. All proceeds from the sale will go directly to our enrichment fund. With generous fundraising, LVCNS continues to offer our students special programming such as chick hatching, farm to table garden, and activities that build multiple intelligences. Directions to order online, [click on this link](#). Hard copy order forms will be available in the church office or call 908-876-4115 and our parent volunteer can help you place an order.





Wednesdays Away with Dale Selover - February 17th

On this Ash Wednesday, we will consider the role of ritual and set our intention for our forty day Lenten journey. [Register here](#)



**WEDNESDAYS AWAY
2020 - 2021**

Are you hungry for a deeper relationship with God? Do you thirst for a more meaningful prayer life? Join us for Wednesdays Away, a time of spiritual renewal on the first Wednesday of the month. These gatherings will continue online on Zoom, from 10 am to noon each retreat. The cost is \$10 per gathering.

**WEDNESDAYS AWAY DATES & THEMES
2020-2021**

Sacred Ground , Laurie Matarazzo	Sept. 9
Call Me By Name, God , Wendy Abrahamson	Oct. 7
Give Thanks, with a Grateful Heart , Ruth Roemer	Nov. 4
The Coming of Christ , Laurie Matarazzo	Dec. 2
Star Gifts: Words to Ponder All Year , Dale Selover	Jan. 6
What Will We Do Without Ashes? , Dale Selover	Feb. 17
Called to be Water Bearers , Wendy Abrahamson	March 3
Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! , Ruth Roemer	April 7
The Image of God , Josh Kelly	May 5
Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith , Dale Selover	June 2

WWW.CROSSROADSRETREAT.COM/WEDNESDAYS-AWAY



Vacation Bible School is in Need of a Director for 2021

Is Vacation Bible School one of your favorite times of the church year? We all missed VBS in 2020 and as we set our sights on 2021, we are in need of one (or several) people to plan this year's VBS. Consider grabbing a partner (or two or three) and splitting the planning as co-directors!

Prior to the pandemic, many of the planning details were already started (theme chosen, supplies purchased, etc.) which makes slipping into the Director Role an easy transition.

Not sure if this is for you? There are planning projects for everyone, even if you've never been to Zion's VBS before (and hands-on training is available).

Questions about director responsibilities? Don't hesitate to contact Emily at vacationbibleschoolzion@gmail.com

Coming Up at Cross Roads

Youth Retreats

EXPLORE! with Cross Roads this winter at our virtual youth retreats. Over the course of a few hours, kids and youth leaders will EXPLORE the ways God is present in our world and in our lives. We will play games, read stories from the Bible, get moving, worship together, and have fun! There are three EXPLORE! retreat dates and times for different age groups:

Grades K – 2: Saturday, February 13 from 10 am – 12 pm

Grades 3 – 5: Saturday, February 13 from 1 – 3 pm

Grades 6 – 8: Saturday, March 13 from 10 am – 12 pm

There is a suggested registration fee of \$15 for these retreats. [Register here.](#)



Welcome and Congratulations

Child of God—Know that you were formed by Gods hands , dreamed up in his heart & placed in this world for a purpose.

We welcome William Joseph “Liam” Duffy
to Scott and Julie Duffy.
& very proud Grandparents Kelly & Laura Hamilton



We welcome
Ava Rose Boeckel
to parents
Jenny & Tyler Boeckel
&
big brothers Henry & Mason

Welcome to Ava Wengert
To parents David & Claire Wengert
& proud Grandparents Tim & Ingrid





Happy Birthday to all the Special February Birthdays

4 *Rebecca Rasmussen*
Olivia Johnston
5 *Marna Keller*
Kara Olsen
6 *Autumn Pedersen*
Brooklyn Zeier
7 *Isabella Brobst*
9 *Eddie Galandak*
Dillinger Sandor
Thomas Ito
12 *Jenny Boeckel*

13 *Megan Weth*
17 *Timothy Hanft*
18 *Robert DelleCava*
19 *James Newquist*
20 *Eliza Olsen*
21 *Natalie Staada*
24 *Michael Harris*
Michael Ficacci
Sienna Ficacci
26 *Leah Bataille*
28 *Claire Hamilton*

Those born in February are creative and honest with a unique and original sense of style. Others admire them for their positive outlook on all aspects of life.

If you see that someone is missing from our list, please let the office know!

It's directory time! Please let the church office know if your address, you're children's addresses, emails or phone numbers have changed.



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We are sending our newsletter via email to cut the costs of postage and for more timely receipt of the newsletter.
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zionlongvalley@gmail.com.