



*For the Members and Friends of Zion Lutheran Church*  
*February 2022*

# ***The Long Valley Lutheran***

## *Sundays in February*

### **February 6, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

**8:00 AM** Service of Holy Communion

**9:00 AM** Sunday School resumes

**10:30 AM** Service of Holy Communion

### **February 13, Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

**9:00 AM** Sunday School

**10:30 AM** Service of Holy Communion / Cub Scout Sunday

**11:30 AM** Annual Congregation Meeting

### **February 20, Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

**8:00 AM** Service of Holy Communion

**9:00 AM** Sunday School

**10:30 AM** Service of Holy Communion

### **February 27, Transfiguration Sunday**

**8:00 AM** Service of Holy Communion

**9:00 AM** Sunday School

**10:30 AM** 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](mailto:zionlongvalley@gmail.com); website: [zionlongvalley.org](http://zionlongvalley.org)**

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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Like us on Facebook at  
"Zion Lutheran Church, Long Valley"

Pastor: Pastor Ingrid Wengert  
Cell: (215) 692-2091  
Email: [ingridfathwengert@gmail.com](mailto:ingridfathwengert@gmail.com)  
Parish Secretary: Sarah Scudese  
Minister of Music: Marilyn Hibler

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**

Indoor 8.00 AM  
Indoor/ Virtual:10:30AM

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS/OFFICERS:**

President: Judy Bumpus  
Vice President: Martina Frommeyer  
Secretary: Jeanne Howell  
Finance: Larry Salvatore

**Members:**  
Harry Bullock  
Burt Horner  
Jim Rasmussen  
Becky Rasmussen

**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](mailto:info@longvalleychristian.com)  
Website: [longvalleychristian.com](http://longvalleychristian.com)

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

**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](mailto:zionlongvalley@gmail.com)

**Pastor Ingrid**

M-Th mornings

Pastor Ingrid is off on Fridays.

(215) 692-2091 or [ingridfathwengert@gmail.com](mailto:ingridfathwengert@gmail.com)

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The deadline for the  
**March Newsletter** is  
**February 21st**  
Articles may be sent to the church  
office via email at  
**[zionlongvalley@gmail.com](mailto:zionlongvalley@gmail.com)**, or left in Sarah  
Scudese's mail box in the Parish Center.  
**Your prompt attention to the deadline is  
greatly appreciated!**

## “We are not alone: ELCA, Zion, and Social statements”

Zion Lutheran Church has been deeply connected to a church network since its inception in 1760 beginning with the Pennsylvania Ministerium. Until 1846, we even shared a pastor between three nearby Lutheran congregations. The current church network, which is also the largest Lutheran church body in the United States, is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which sees itself as one church but in three expressions: Churchwide (national), synod, and congregation.



One way that these expressions are interwoven is through social statements which aren’t new to the ELCA – as its predecessor church bodies also have such statements along the lines of such ethical issues as 1922 “Social changes and the family,” 1932 “Economic affairs during the Great Depression,” 1968 “Interracial marriage” 1974 “Racism in the church.” Social statements are *“teaching and policy documents that provide broad frameworks to assist us in thinking about and discussing social issues in the context of faith and life. They are meant to help communities and individuals with moral formation, discernment and thoughtful engagement with current social issues as we participate in God’s work in the world. Social statements also set policy for the ELCA and guide its advocacy and work as a publicly engaged church. They result from an extensive process of participation and deliberation and are adopted by a two-thirds vote of an ELCA churchwide assembly.”*

This “extensive process of participation” takes about 5-10 years, although the 2009 social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” was 18 years in the making! The process typically begins with the Churchwide (i.e., national) Assembly which votes on whether to create a social statement, then a churchwide task force is assigned with care and efforts to reflect clergy and laity across the church. The task force develops a draft statement which is then distributed to all congregations across the country, requesting feedback. Eventually, an official draft is developed and placed before the Churchwide Assembly for a vote.

The most recent social statement of the ELCA was approved in August 2019 at Churchwide Assembly by the 900+ voting members, lay and clergy who were elected to attend: **“Faith, Sexism and Justice: A Call to Action.”** This statement began with an assigned task force back in 2012 and the congregational feedback was requested in 2017-2018. Typically, when a social statement is approved, study materials are developed and widely disbursed the following year for congregational use. But the pandemic usurped priority and energy and instead the ELCA and NJ Synod were focused on how to support congregations in sharing the gospel during such a historic and novel global event.

The study materials were released in November 2021 and I will be leading adult forums on the topic in 2022 so that you might become more familiar with the statement, and also so that I might also hear the congregation’s responses, which I assume will differ. I always like to say that Christians are not united in opinion, but in Christ. Aren’t there right or wrong opinions? Well, I would say that Christians have *always* seen things slightly differently, but that God fervently tries to keep us in one flock; after all, it’s not our opinions that matter - it’s the Shepherd’s opinion that counts, right?! We creatures merely try to discern to the best of our ability what that might be, not for the sake of being right – but for the sake of the neighbor and the world.



## TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

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/>



## Jr. Youth Group 2/6

On Sunday February 6, Zion's Junior Youth Group will meet immediately following the 10:30AM worship service in Faith Hall to make candles and bake yummy cookies together. This is a fun and possibly messy activity, so bring a smock or apron. It's also recommended to bring something to eat and drink as we'll be working through lunch. Please contact [Elaine Kesler](#) with questions and to RSVP

## 2022 Lent Prayer Booklet

Pastor Ingrid will gather daily prayers from parishioners to be published in a prayer booklet that can be used to center yourself for the day, or to pray with your family at breakfast or dinner. They will be available on the First Sunday of Lent – 3/6, and the prayers will run through Holy Saturday, 4/16.

**Please let Pastor Ingrid know if you are willing to write a brief prayer.** She's looking for 30 submissions – so if you are willing to offer more than one, please mention it. **Deadline to submit prayers will be February 20.** [Ingridfathwengert@gmail.com](mailto:Ingridfathwengert@gmail.com)

Prayer-writers will receive the verses assigned for the day (from our daily lectionary), a little context or summary of the reading, and then would be asked to write a brief 1-3 sentence prayer, simply asking God for what arises for you out of the scripture verses.

### Appointed Worship Readings for February

<u>Worship Date</u>	<u>Old or New Testament</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
February 6	Isaiah 6:1-8(9-13)	Psalm 138	Luke 5:1-11
February 13	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Psalm 1	Luke 6: 17-26
February 20	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	Psalm 37: 1-11, 39-40	Luke 6: 27-38
February 27	Exodus 34:29-35	Psalm 99	Luke 9: 28-36



## WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

We are continuing to follow CDC guidelines which means that when the level of community transmission in our county is substantial or high, you are encouraged to mask indoors - whether or not you are vaccinated. We have resumed singing and request that when you sing, you mask.

**Virtual:** We live-stream the late service (10:30AM) 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](#)



## Dates to Remember

**February 13th** there will be only one service at 10:30 the Annual Congregation Meeting will follow at 11:30AM

**March 2nd** Ash Wednesday at 7:30PM

Lenten services will be **Wednesdays at 7PM March 9th, through April 6th**  
The theme will be The Ten Commandments.



*On January 16th  
we celebrated the Baptism of  
Gemma Leigh Taylor  
Daughter of  
William & Chelsea Taylor  
Congratulations!!!*





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.

*Ellen Blaine  
Charlie Burd  
Diane Carlock  
Mike Cook  
Courtney Derr  
Ralph Derr  
Donna East  
Justin Fogerty  
Krista Gundersen  
James Hassel  
Sara Jacobs  
Kirk Klein*

*Elfrieda Kiesling  
Sue Koeppen  
Paul Litwiller  
Emily Mancuso  
Cathy Mindel  
Taryn Blaine Monsolino  
Jim Newquist  
Deena Salvatore  
Ferdinand Salvatore  
Tom Staada  
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.

# Congregation Council



## Save the Date for the Annual Congregation Meeting on February 13, 2022

The **Congregation Meeting** will be **Sunday February 13th at 11:30AM** in person and via Zoom. We will make the Zoom link available via the Happenings the week prior to the meeting and also place it on our website's homepage and Facebook pages. Annual reports will be available the week prior in paper copy and sent through Happenings.

### Candidates for Council

#### Becky Rasmussen

I joined Zion with my family after moving to Long Valley in 2000. We had been going to Redeemer Lutheran in Succasunna where Pastor Froehlke had been an assistant pastor. Wanting to join a church in our community and already knowing Pastor Peter we became members and quickly felt at home at Zion.

#### Ron Schulz

Member of Zion for about 40 years along with my wife Barbara. Have two sons who were both baptized and confirmed at Zion. Currently serving as Zion's Treasurer and on Finance Committee. Active member of the Choir. Was on Council in the 1980's (was Treasurer, chaired Worship & Music and Stewardship Committees, and was Council President for 1.5 years). I retired as Controller from the Somerset Patriots professional baseball team in 2019.

#### Eric Snyder

My wife Candice and I first became acquainted with Zion through the Nursery School. We became members of the church in 2016. All three of our sons, Jason (19), Matthew (17) and Joseph (10) have attended the Nursery School. Both Candice and I have previously served on church council. I served on the initial capital campaign and Candice served on a call committee as well. Ministries I've been involved with over the years have been liaising with the Nursery School, Outreach, Property, Social Ministry and Worship and Music.

#### Christine Stabile

I have been a part of Zion for about twenty one years. When I moved into the area I went looking for a church and of all the ones I visited, Zion made me feel welcome and at home. Folks introduced themselves, invited me to coffee hour, invited my young daughter to go play on the playground with the other Sunday school kids. It was an easy choice to join as the church was vibrant and full of wonderful people. I have three children who have grown up in the church and its various programs – Victoria is working at Merck in PA, Ryan is in his junior year at RPI and Catherine is a senior at Warren Hills Regional HS. I work at a local bank and am involved with the Girl Scouts and Hope in the Hills of Warren. I enjoy being a part of the Hand bell choir (since it's inception), singing at the 8am service, working at Ort Farms, Senior Choir, working with the team live streaming our Sunday 10:30am service and being a newer member of the Worship and Music Committee. Peace, Christine Stabile

## Burt Horner

Marcia and I have lived here in Long Valley since 1977. Love the area, as do our children and grandchildren. Bought our historic (circa 1874) house for a song and have spent the better part of 40 years making it our own. I'm sure there are other things to do, but were taking a rest right now.

Retired in 2014 after serving as a Facilities Engineer for various companies and corporations for 35+ years. Corporations range from small 300 employee facilities to 2500 employees and hundreds of acres of properties and buildings. After a buyout/takeover in the Pharma world, I was lucky enough to continue to do the same work in the Long Valley Schools K-8, comprising of rebuilding and renovating, as well as design and construction of all projects, as well as every system in the schools over nine years.

Lots of hobbies including cars, motorcycles, and electric trains. A little bit of fishing as well. Been on Zion's Church Council and served as Property Chairman, Parish Life, and various committees as the need arises for the past 45 years. Great fun and I've enjoyed the ride, and thanks for your support!

## Marcia Horner

Burt and I joined Zion in 1983. Since then, I have served on council several times, taught Sunday School, led Vacation Bible School, taught VBS, served on LVCNS task committee and then served on LVCNS Advisory Board , served on Worship and Music. Presently I lead the Stephen Ministers, coordinate the 8 am singers, and sing in the choir.

We moved to Long Valley in 1977 and raised our two daughters in this lovely area. Our older daughter, Meghan Callow lives in Long Valley with her husband, Greg and two children Emmett and Charlotte. Our younger daughter, Emily Coralic lives in Woodlyn, PA with her husband, Aldin. We feel blessed to have our children so close.

We live in a charming Victorian home in the center of town making it very convenient to get to church in all kinds of weather. We love living here and being part of the loving community at Zion. I look forward to serving on council again.

## Elaine Kesler

Elaine Kesler and her family returned to the United States almost 5 years ago, after living abroad for many years in support of the military. Long Valley is the 11th place she has called home. Elaine is a NJ native, having grown up in nearby Port Murray on her family's fruit orchard. She attended Gettysburg College after high school and graduated with honors and a double major in Sociology and German. A long-time language enthusiast, Elaine utilized her time living abroad to become fully immersed in the culture and language of the countries she both lived in and visited, and built many enduring friendships. Like so many other military spouses, Elaine gained a wide array of experience in the fields of international tourism, corporate marketing, higher education, public administration and her favorite to date, property management. She was fortunate to have completed her Master of Public Administration degree while at home with the kids. Elaine works from home, and devotes a lot of energy to raising her four children, and participates in three local Scouts BSA organizations in which her family is involved. In addition, she helps to coordinate Zion's youth through fun bi-monthly activities and looks forward to serving the congregation and the Church Council.

## Jeanne Howell

I became a member of Zion about 40 years ago. Approximately 8 years ago or so, I was council secretary, And served for 4 years. Presently I am completing my 2nd year of my 1st term. I've also been a member of the choir, Contemporary singer, lecture lecture, vacation Bible school,And in other ways I've been able to support. I retired in 2008 from 36 years of teaching. I taught in the Lutheran schools for 11 years and in special education for 25 years. I was an adjunct at Felician College in Lodi, New Jersey, for several semesters. I have two children and 5 grandchildren.

## Tom Scudese

The Scudese family have been members for over fifty years. Tom has previously served on the Finance Committee, Call Committee, and this will be his second try 😊 as Council President. He is thankful for all those past, present, and future, that serve this Church.

## 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 Super Bowl will take place this year **on February 13, 2022**, and Zion will once again participate in the "**Souper Bowl of Caring**" that weekend. Donations of canned and other food items will benefit our local food pantry operated by the

**Long Valley Community Assistance Program (LVCAP).**

Collection bins for food items will be located in the narthex



For items needed please go to [LVCAP](#) for a list of current food pantry needs.

The secretary says  
Lets Go Bengals!



## College Connection - Last Call

If you have a collage-age child and you would like them to receive one of the famous Zion care packages around Valentine's Day, please forward your student's address to the office as soon as possible.

We are also looking for donations of individually wrapped snacks to include in the care packages (cookies, popcorn, chips, granola bars, candy).

Please drop your donations in the Narthex or with Sarah in the office by **February 6th**.

Care packages will be packed in time for Valentines Day and we don't want anyone to miss out! If you have any questions please contact [Candice Snyder](#).

## Social Ministry Update

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## Quilting Day

Saturday February 12th 9AM - 5PM  
Come for an hour or spend the day with us!!!!

On Saturday, February 12, we will gather to cut, iron, piece, sew, and tie pieces of material into beautiful warm quilts. We send our completed quilts on to Lutheran World Relief, which in turn sends them to areas in need around the world. Our quilts may be used as warm blankets for a family who has lost their home in a fire or flood, they may be used as walls or floors in a refugee shelter, they may give comfort and hope with their bright colors and tangible evidence that someone cares for those facing hardship, they may offer some privacy in cramped quarters of those fleeing persecution or drought or war. In the past, the quilts made here at Zion have gone to Haiti, India, Iraq, Mali, Georgia and Zambia.

You do not need special talents to participate in quilting day. You do not need to know how to sew (although those who do sew and/or those who wish to bring a sewing machine are always appreciated). There is work for all willing hands. You do not have to be a certain age to participate, or a certain sex - we welcome everyone! We will provide a little breakfast and some lunch, as well as having the coffee pot on. There are experienced quilt makers happy to show new volunteers the ins and outs of tying the quilts or of pinning them together or sewing the edges. Lots of jobs for willing hands. Lots of fun and fellowship. Lots of food and laughter and conversation. Please join us and together we will send God's love and encouragement to those who are cast down in difficult circumstances. This is a great way to make a difference!

If you have questions, please contact Judy Bumpus (908)-684-0391 or [judy@bump.us](mailto:judy@bump.us). Thank you!



## PARISH LIFE



**PLEASE JOIN US!**  
**Congregational Dinner**  
**Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Dinner**  
**Tuesday, March 1st**

Faith Hall

**Serving begins at 6pm**

**Confirmands & Mentors should also attend**



# PARISH LIFE



## ***Vacation Bible School***

Is Vacation Bible School one of your favorite times of the church year? We all missed VBS in 2020 and 2021 as we set our sights on 2022, 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! If interested please contact Pastor Ingrid or the Church office.

## ***Senior Youth Group Leader***

Zion is looking for adults to lead our senior youth program. If you are interested, have questions or just want to know more, please contact Judy Bumpus, Zion congregation council point person for youth ministry.



**Confirmation Classes will resume on  
Wednesday February 16th from  
4:00 PM to 5:00 PM.**

***Please take note of the following important event for confirmands:***

**Tuesday, March 1st, 6 PM      Shrove Tuesday Supper & Confirmand & Mentor Night**



## Happy February Birthday's

Today you have added another candle of knowledge and wisdom to your life. May it give you the power to enlighten the whole world. On your birthday, I wish you joy and happiness!

- 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
- 11 Dean Forlenza
- 12 Jenny Boeckel

- 13 Megan Weth
- 17 Timothy Hanft
- 19 Jim Newquist
- 20 Sheila Blaine
- 20 Eliza Olsen
- 21 Natalie Staada
- 24 Michael Harris
- Michael Ficacci
- Sienna Ficacci
- 26 Leah Bataille
- 28 Claire Hamilton





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Long Valley, New Jersey 07853

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

If you have e-mail and would prefer to receive the newsletter via email, or your contact information has changed recently, please contact the church office at:

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or simply send an email to:  
[zionlongvalley@gmail.com](mailto:zionlongvalley@gmail.com).