

*For the Members and Friends of Zion Lutheran Church
January 2025*

The Long Valley Lutheran

Sundays in January

Worship alternates between contemporary and traditional styles, is live-streamed on [Zion's YouTube channel](#). The worship bulletin, readings and music are [located on our website](#).

January 5, Second Sunday of Christmas

This year the liturgical calendar includes a second Sunday after Christmas before Epiphany, and the gospel is the Christological poem in John 1. For those of us who live in a cold climate, the psalm for the day is for us!

8:30 AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Service of Holy Communion

January 12, Baptism of Our Lord

The gospel this Sunday is about Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist. A voice speaks from heaven, and the Spirit descends like a dove. This story is also about us: we too have been baptized, we have heard God's loving call, and we have received the Holy Spirit.

8:30 AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Service of Holy Communion

January 19, Second Sunday after Epiphany

In Sunday's gospel, Jesus provides 175 gallons of wine for a newly married couple. Whatever for?! Come to worship and hear about God's good news in Christ.

8:30 AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Service of Holy Communion

January 26, Third Sunday after Epiphany

We now return for much of this year to hear the gospel according to Luke. This coming Sunday we will hear that Jesus is filled with the power of the spirit, and so are we. Come to worship!

8:30 AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Service of Holy Communion, New Members received.

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
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
Treasurer: Ron Schulz

Members:
Burt Horner
Marcia Horner
Ben Johnston
Elaine Kesler
Karen Newquist
Larry Salvatore
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 ish to 1PM ish

Our hours are flexible, please call ahead to make sure we are 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 23rd



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!

Epiphany Star Words



On 1/5, those in attendance were invited to take a “star word” as they returned from Communion. All were taken, but we’ll have more available on 1/12.

Background

A "word of the year" trend in culture has been around since the early 2000s, but the origin seems to be a German linguistic review magazine in 1971. People typically choose a word that might help ground, center or remind them of something important for the year.

Nearly a decade ago, Protestants began to reinterpret this trend through a “star word” tradition in connection with the festival of Epiphany on January 6 when people are already thinking about the year ahead. Epiphany (Greek for “manifestation”) comes from the story of the magi being led by a star to the "child born king of the Jews" from Matthew 2.

How to utilize a star word

On each star is printed a thematical word from scripture and the passage from which it was taken. The word you choose can be used as an intention or guiding word throughout the year and also as part of your prayer life.

Typically, participants are encouraged to trust the word they have drawn, and not to replace it, but to consider it to be a gift. On the other hand, it’s not to be seen as a magical word (e.g., a word that God somehow magically *gets* to you). The words are selected themes from scripture and can be used in a helpful, supportive, upbuilding way for many people.

You are invited to place the star word somewhere you will see it regularly throughout the year to invite consistent reflection on how God has moved through, around, or in connection to that word.

Zion will try out to this practice in 2025 to determine if parishioners find it to be a helpful one.





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 Jr., Gunhild Ljung, Linda Quinn*
Family of Annie Clay: *Nanny Holloway, Dorthe Royster*
Friend of Ellen Blaine: *Keith Correll, Carl Gerhard*
Family of Sheila Blaine: *Eleanor Lundy, Denise Rodriguez, Logan Rodriguez*
Friends and family of Charlie & Marcia Davidson: *Gail Boyle*
Family & friends of Corey & Courtney Derr: *Ralph Derr,*
Family of Bill & Patricia Hibler: *Patricia Glancy-Wurtemberg*
Family of Burt & Marcia Horner: *Bruce Adams, Rae Hoffman, Joann Yancheck*
Family of Jeanne Howell: *Tami Ochs, Jack Steffen*
Friend of Beth Johnson: *Tammy Jackman*
Family of Lori Prussack: *Richard Prussack*
Family of Barbara Rennie: *Krista Gundersen, Alan Rennie*
Friends and family of Betty Rush: *Amy Burd, Kirk Klein, Mancuso family, Pastor Martin Travis*
Family of Ron & Barb Schulz: *Richard Schulz*
Family of Brad & Malainie Stoma: *Judy Stoma*
Family of Linda Tucker: *Larry Tucker*
Friend & family of Dottie Weis: *Richard Bosley, Betton Caws, Matt Dunbar*

Members of Zion:

Ellen Blaine, Annie Clay, Marcia Davidson, Donna East, Jay Kay, Jane Moore, John Resotka, Reinhard Schwartz

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

Sunday 1/12 Star Words

There will be more stars available on 1/12. If you did not get a "star word" last Sunday you are invited to take one as you return from Communion. It's a word that can be used as an intention or guiding word and part of prayer life throughout the year.



Confirmation Schedule for 2025

Wednesdays & Thursdays, 4-5pm 1/23, 1/30, 2/6, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26

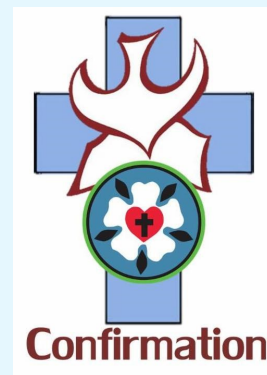
Tuesday 3/4 6-7pm - Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner, Congregation Dinner and Mentor night.

Spring Date TBD - Discovery Day

Wednesday 6/4, 6-7pm - Congregation Dinner / Mentor night.

Saturday 6/7, 9-9:30am - Rehearsal for 8th graders.

Sunday 6/8, 9:30am Worship - Rite of Confirmation for 8th graders.



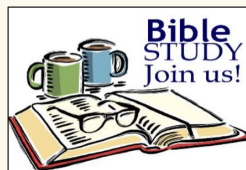
Appointed Worship Readings for January

<u>Worship Date</u>	<u>Old or New Testament Readings</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
January 5,	Jeremiah 31:7-14/Ephesians 1:3-14	Psalm 147:12-20	John 1:[1-9]10-18
January 12,	Isaiah 43:1-7/ Acts:8:14-17	Psalm 29	Luke 3:15-17,21-22
January 19,	Isaiah 62:1-5 / 1 Corinthians 12:1-11	Psalm 36:5-10	John 2:1-11
January 26,	Nehemiah 8: 1-3,5-6,8-10/ 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Psalm 19	Luke 4:14-21



Morning Mom's Group

If you'd like to get together with other moms for conversation & encouragement, [let Pastor Ingrid know](#). They meet once a month at 9AM. The next meeting will be on 1/13.



TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

We will meet for bible study in the Faith Hall Splash room at 1:30pm.



Lent and Easter are late this year.

Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner: 3/4

Ash Wednesday 3/5

Holy Week 4/13-4/19

Easter Sunday 4/20

Thank you to our Christmas elves for always making our Sanctuary look so beautiful every year! And for putting it all away again!!



Giving Envelopes

The 2025 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](#).



Parish Life



The Annual Congregation Meeting Sunday February 2nd

Will be held on *February 2nd* after the 9:30AM service.
in Faith Hall. Refreshments will be available.

Financial update will be on 1/19 after worship.

The full report will be available on 1/26

Ministry Leaders will receive an email to request relevant Annual Report sections. Please have them to Sarah by 1/19



Welcome to our New Neighbors

The Bridge family moved into the parsonage in December. Meghan Bridge is the Director of Long Valley Christian Nursery School.

Welcome new neighbors!!



Quilting Day

Saturday February 1st
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.



Would you like to Join Zion



We' will be receiving new members on January 26th. There is a 3-hour class (childcare available) with Lutheran 101 & Zion 101 aspects on January 25th at 2:30pm. We then officially receive new members during worship with a prayer, on 1/26. Followed up by a new members coffee hour. Please [let Pastor Ingrid](#) know if you're interested.



Social Ministry Events



M.L.K. Community Morning of Service

When: Mon, Jan 20th from 10am-Noon
Where: Long Valley Presbyterian Church
39 Bartley Rd, Long Valley



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
- Rasins
- Snack food (non perishable /no nuts)
- Crackers

Donations collected at participating congregations through January 19th

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



Social Ministry Events



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](#)



LVCAP is in desperate need of coffee.



The *Super Bowl* will take place this year on **February 9, 2025**, 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. Vote for your favorite team by placing your soup cans in your teams bin!!

Zion Property

Preserving the Past, while Bridging the future



Year End Property Report 2024

Completed Work at Zion:

1. Annual fire inspection of the doors and safety exit signs, and batteries are completed in Faith Hall and the church and education wings
2. Lighting in Faith Hall: ceiling lights where needed are upgraded to LED's . We will continue to R&R them and upgrade them in the future. The majority of them have been replaced and upgraded creating better lighting and are more energy efficient LED's.
3. New exit signs in the Sanctuary
4. Thanks to Thrivent for monies from their Grant Program to help offset the cost of multiple projects throughout the church. Anyone who is a Thrivent member may apply for grants for Zion projects and is encouraged to do so. If you are not a member, you may apply for \$20 per year and will then become a member for that year. Please see Sarah if you need assistance to do so, and it's always for a great cause for those of us that serve others. Thank you for that.
5. Grounds cleanup for Spring and Fall was completed. Thanks to Brian Bumpus and the Cub Scouts for helping organize this event and to those from Zion who showed up to help.
6. Flowers were planted in the whiskey barrels and the swale are is being revamped for better maintenance and aesthetics.
7. Pot holes in exit driveway are repaired.
8. Remember that the 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. If you are there at dusk, you may see them coming and going from them.
9. Electric receptacles have been installed to replace the one extension cord that supplies power to the entire AV system and computers when services are ongoing.
10. New lock for the dumpster is in place to prevent, we hope, people from coming into our property to dump their garbage and construction materials. Schools have the same problem in town, and surveillance is the key for now, as well as prevention measures.
11. Weed and Feed has been installed. Hopefully our grass will start looking a bit healthier as we move along this year. In the Spring we will be adding reseeding and fertilizer to the menu for the church.
12. New railings have been added to the church front porch office building. Thank you, George and others who helped, make this happen.
13. Front porch to the office building has also been painted.
14. Fire and smoke alarm system has been installed in the basement of the office building. New NJ regulations for evacuation procedures require this install.
15. Painting the office facia over the porch has been done. Our insurance company is now a little bit happier, I think. Thank you to the Scudese family!
16. Extensive work has been done to the Parsonage which included new windowpanes in many rooms, washing and cleaning the entire building, painting both inside and out, as well as general cleanup of the property. We will have new church members. Thank you all: Ron, George, Sarah, Ingrid, Judy and Brian and Marcia.
17. Fire inspection of the Parsonage went well.
18. Boilers in all the buildings have been serviced and inspected. We continue to benefit from the triple high efficiency boilers in the church and sanctuary.

Property continued

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. Speakers in Faith Hall that are part of the PA system are burned out. Members of the Congregation are comparing notes on what we need to do for the future.
3. Lead inspection is in progress.
4. Caulking of thresholds in Faith Hall driveway side will be completed when the weather permits.
5. Patching the chipped paint in the Sanctuary is on the agenda.

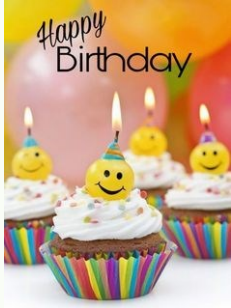


LVCNS Monthly Up-Date

Happy New Year! Welcome 2025! I hope everyone had a relaxing and peaceful Christmas. We are excited to have everyone back with us and to take on the rest of the school year. We have many exciting things in store for this year. We are looking forward to some fun enrichment activities, a parent only, evening with a kindergarten teacher and our beloved VIP day.

For Parents of LVCNS Children,

Registration for next year will begin at the end of January. I know it seems so early, but remember, you only need to pay \$50 to register for next year and that will secure the spot that you want. Certain classes fill very quickly and you don't want you to get blocked out of your first choice. Deposits will be due May 1st and are refundable through May 31st. If you are a member of the church you have priority registration on January 27th and no standing in line! All Current families and former families can register on January 29th. The office will open at 7am that day and we will take applications and fees on a first come, first served basis. Applications will be time stamped and numbered to insure accuracy. You can only register your own children. If you cannot be here and want to make arrangements for someone else to apply for you, it must be someone who is only registering your child/children (Grandparent, relative, neighbor with no LVCNS Children) If you have any questions about this process please ask. Wish we had a crystal ball but last year the line started forming at 3:00am and everyone in line was out of here by 7:10am. If you mail in your registration it will be added to the list at 3pm on your day of registration. Snow date January 30th . New families register on January 31st . Tell a friend!! Registration forms can now be found on our website. WWW.longvalleychristian.com



January Birthdays
Happy birthday to a January Star!
May your year be as bright as you are.

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Morgan Forlenza
3 Jenna Humcke
Peter Trethaway
5 Jonathan Jan
6 Stephen Davis
8 Tom Scudese
Lucy Taylor
9 Juliette Muttart
11 Millie Salandra

- 13 Emmett Callow
16 Everly Cox
Beth Johnson
19 James Carkuff Jr.
Bill Howell
20 Paul Litwiller
21 Rob Johnson
25 Ava Boeckel
30 Alexandra Reinhart

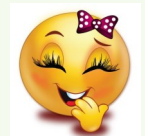
Funny Corner

A Sunday school teacher was teaching the Ten Commandments to her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor thy father and thy mother," she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" One little boy shouted, "Thou shall not kill."

After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a minister When I grow up." "That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?" "Well," said the little boy, "I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell, than to sit and listen."

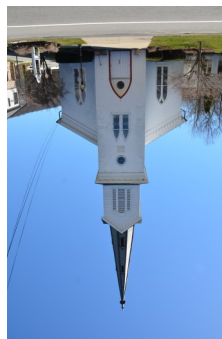
Can you tell me why a \$10 bill looks so small at the grocery store but so big at church?

Dear Heavenly Father,
So far, today, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped or lost my temper. I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, or self centered. I'm really happy about that so far. But in a few minutes I'm going to be getting out of bed and then I'm going to need a lot of help. Thank you! Amen





Zion Lutheran Church
11 Schooleys Mountain Road
Long Valley, New Jersey 07853



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