

Harrold Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Saturday, December 10, 2023 – 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Advent 2

My favorite about church is...



Sunday
School

Name Kaitlyn

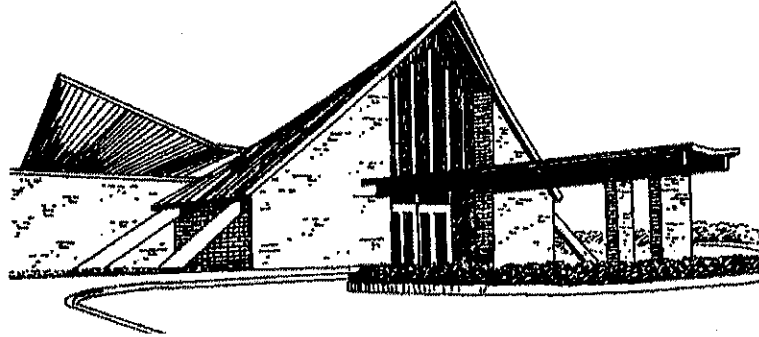
Age 6

Harrold Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

671 Baltzer Meyer Pike, Greensburg, PA

Office Phone: 724-837-7327

harroldzion.org



WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP!

- **It is a joy to welcome our visitors!** Please sign the guest book in the Communication Center at the rear of the church, to the right as you exit, and take a Welcome Packet which is filled with information about Harrold Zion. Please introduce yourself to the pastor as you leave worship. We hope you return soon! Follow us on social media!
- **Children's bags** are available in the Narthex.
- **There is a prayer request book** on a podium in the Welcome Center. Please write name(s) in the book prior to the service to have names included in the prayers.
- **Large print bulletins** are available from any usher for those needing them.
- **Hearing devices** are available from any usher for those needing them.
- **An AED machine** can be found on the wall after the Ladies Room on the left.

Sunday, December 10, 2023 – 8:00 & 10:30 AM

GATHERING - *We are brought together to remember who and whose we are.*

Welcome and Announcements – Joys and Concerns

Prelude

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Hopson

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.

Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God, **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn #257 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Verses 1-4

Advent Wreath Lighting

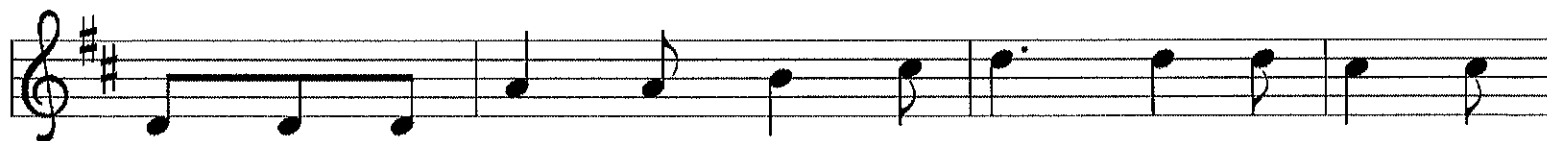
*Litany responses: ...O Emmanuel, **Prepare for your coming.***

*...with the glow of hope. **Amen.***

The Second candle is lit as we sing verse 2 of People, Look East

Please see next page

People, Look East



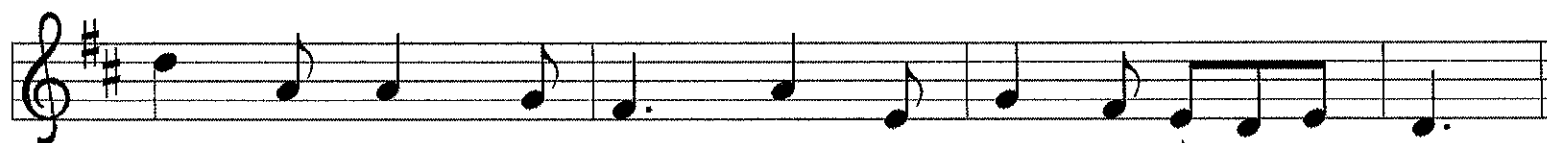
1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

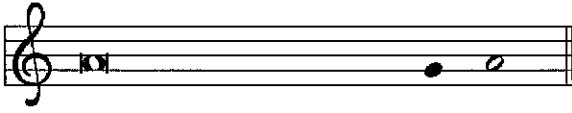
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Apostolic Greeting

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.**

Kyrie



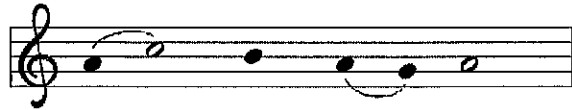
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



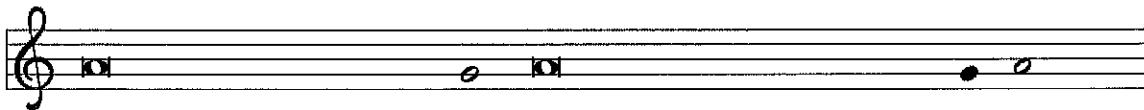
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



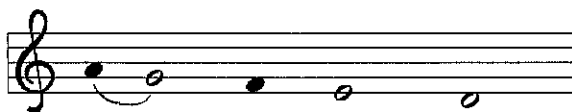
Lord, have mer - cy.



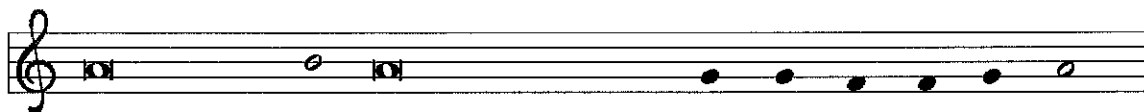
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

WORD – *We hear God’s teachings to guide our path of serving.*

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together. **Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

8:00 AM Special Music *Joseph’s Song*

10:30 AM Anthem *Jesus, Joy of Man’s Desiring* Purifoy, from Classic Noels

Psalm: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

Verse *Sung to the tune of "Angels We Have Heard on High"*

Word of God to us declared, Word of Life with us now shared.

Voiced by prophets long ago, now in Christ God's love we know.

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Children's Time

Sermon

Please stand, as able.

Hymn of the Day #264 *Prepare the Royal Highway*

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 the Intercession

(petitions) ...Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

(prayer concludes) ...**Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *Sung to the tune "Away in a Manger"*

**Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your name!
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone;
O hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times when we're tested, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver your children most dear.**

**For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things You reign.
And Yours is the power, all things You maintain.
To You be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

O Holy Child

Bartlett

Offertory



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right



spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take



not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of



your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray together. **God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Please be seated.

SENDING - *We are sent out to share hope and make disciples.*

The assembly is invited to stand.

Blessing

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn #239 *Hark, the Glad Sound!*

Quiet Meditation

Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Hark the Glad Sound

Birchwood

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THANK YOU Doug Johnson for the beautiful solo at the 8:00 AM service.

WE THANK TODAY'S SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Lectors: 8:00 AM Linda Boyer; 10:30 AM Deb Mertz

Acolytes: 8:00 AM Katelyn Holsopple; 10:30 AM Ella Kanouff

Ushers: 8:00 AM Jeff Lydic, Kevin Torrance, Larry Myers

10:30 AM Rob Hepler, Stacey Winfield

Altar Guild: Susie Eicher, Mary Lou Millward

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are dedicated to the glory of God and Merry Christmas, in loving memory of Dick Campbell; in loving memory of Agnes Knopp by Ann & Fred Wineman.

THE FLOWERS BY THE PULPIT are dedicated to the glory of God and in celebration of Ryleigh Schlegel's 10th birthday, love, Momma, Daddy, Aria, Nana & Pappy.

NOTE: THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Tuesday, December 12 because West Penn will be turning off the power for the day.

ACOLYTE TRAINING will be held this Sunday, December 10, immediately after the 10:30 AM worship service. This is for anyone who wants to become an acolyte or needs a refresher course. We will schedule acolytes for Christmas Eve at this training.

THE PARENT'S BREAKFAST GROUP will meet this Sunday, December 10, at 9:15 AM in the kitchen area of the Social Hall. Join us for food and fellowship while you children are in Sunday School.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING - We will meet at the church this Sunday, December 10, at 12:45 PM so we can divide into groups and leave at 1:00 PM. Come give an hour or two of your time to make someone's Christmas – You will get as much out of it as the homebound members.

THIS WEEK....

OFFICE HOURS M-F 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

SUNDAY – Advent 2

9:15 AM Parent Breakfast
11:45 AM Fellowship Committee
11:30 AM Acolyte Training
1:00 PM Christmas Caroling

MONDAY

5:00 PM Thyme for Herbs
6:00 PM Joyful Noise Rehearsal

TUESDAY

12:00 PM Sonshiner's Christmas Luncheon
7:30 PM Compassionate Friends

WEDNESDAY

5:30 PM Youth Choir
6:00 PM Bell Choir
7:00 PM Adult Choir

THURSDAY

9:00 AM Jan. newsletter articles due
6:00 PM Council Meeting
7:00 PM Boy Scouts

FRIDAY

9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study

SATURDAY – Advent 3

8:00 AM Sanctuary Reserved
9:00 AM Joyful Noise Rehearsal

SUNDAY – Advent 3

8:00 & 10:30 AM Communion
10:30 AM Children's Christmas Program
10:30 AM Joyful Noise
1:45 PM Journey to Bethlehem movie

A PART TIME CHURCH SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER position is open at Harrold Zion. Please contact Pastor Andrew (pastorfitch@outlook.com) with your resume if you are interested. Tammy's last day was Friday, so please be patient with us as we work through this transition; office hours will flex according to office coverage. Volunteers to help with the phones and the door would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Pastor Andrew or Pastor Caroline with any administrative questions during the transition.

LET'S MAKE TREE COOKIES! Help us decorate a Harrold Zion Family Christmas tree with Tree Cookies. Grab a kit in the Communication Center for a suggested donation of \$10. Take the kit home (it has everything you need to make your unique cookie) then hang it on the tree in the Narthex. Donations are to help cut the deficit.

"TAKE STOCK IN HARROLD ZION" - Take a stocking and give a gift of "filling" a stocking for your congregation. Bring back the stocking with the money or item and place it in the offering plate or near the "fireplace." For the month of December, we are encouraging you to cover a need if you feel so moved. We have included several possibilities mostly including office supplies and odds and ends. Let Pastor Andrew know if there is something else that you would like to appear as a "stocking."

ALL 2023 AND 2024 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS are invited to attend the December 14 council meeting at 6:00 PM (note change in time), at Bonny Free's home. Following the meeting, we will celebrate the season with the annual council Christmas party. Please bring a snack to share.

ARTICLES FOR THE JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER are due in the Church office no later than Thursday, December 14, at 9:00 AM. Articles can be emailed to tammyhzlc@gmail.com or placed in the Secretary's mailbox on her office door. The newsletter will be mailed Wednesday, December 20.

THE CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, "Symbols of Christmas", will be presented during the 10:30 AM worship service next Sunday, December 17.

JOIN US FOR "JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM" at the AMC Westmoreland 15 theater in Greensburg, PA next Sunday, December 17, at 1:45 PM. This is a free event with limited seating. All ages are invited! You can register via the QR code in the December newsletter, or the code can be found in the Communication Center. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Sheri at

hzlcyouth@gmail.com.

SUPPORT OUR BOY SCOUT TROOP #465 for a Chic-fil-a Spirit day on Monday, December 18. Who wants to cook on a Monday? So, don't! Place your order and mention "Boy Scout Troop #465" and a monetary portion of your order will be donated to this wonderful group! We give thanks year-round for these young men who not only serve in various ways at Harrold Zion, but in many areas in the community!

CHRISTMAS EVE PARTICIPANTS NEEDED. We are starting to prepare for Christmas in the church office. If you are willing and able to serve in anyway on Christmas Eve, please contact Tammy at 724-837-7327 or tammyhzlc@gmail.com. We are in specific need of the following:
Lector (4:00 PM) and Acolytes for all three services (4:00, 7:00, & 10:00 PM)

INTROCUCING...THE SUNDAY YOUTH SING-ALONG CLUB!! Are you ready to kick off each Sunday with a song? Want to walk joyfully to Sunday School with music in your hearts? We are thrilled to announce our new Sunday Youth Sing-Along Club! Starting January 7, the Sunday Youth Sing-Along Club will meet in the Music Ministry Office at 9:05 AM, before Sunday School. Each month, we will learn a different Contemporary hymn which we will sing to the congregation on the last Sunday of the Month! Other singing opportunities may be offered as well! Sing-Along is open to Youth of ALL AGES!!

A BLOOD DRIVE is scheduled for Friday, January 5 from 2:00 to 7:00 in the Social Hall. Registration is recommended. You may sign up in the Communication Center, visit the website at www.vitalant.org or call 412-209-7000. For those of you who might be donating on your way home from work, we will have sandwiches and refreshments as well as the snacks that Vitalant provides. You are appreciated in many ways for taking your time to help heal a person. Whole blood is always needed.

LOOKING AHEAD:

- Baking VBS – January 13, 1:00 PM
- 2023 Annual reports information due January 15

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SPONSORSHIP:

Altar Flowers – January 7, 14, 21, 28

Bulletin – December 17, 24, 25, 31; Eternal candle – December 17, 25, 31

Reminder: Rose = \$5, Bulletin = \$10, Candle = \$5, Altar Flowers = \$25/vase

To sponsor items, please sign up in the Communication Center.

Church Staff and Office Information

Rev. Andrew Fitch, Senior Pastor - 570-768-8455, pastorfitch@outlook.com

Rev. Caroline Clifford, PhD, Asst. Pastor – 814-769-5662

pastorcarolinehzlc@gmail.com

Sheri Anderson, Coordinator of Family Ministries - hzlcyouth@gmail.com

Laurie Racculia, Director of Music Ministries - lracculia@yahoo.com

Debby Schlegel, Custodian

Joanne Gebhardt, Sunday Organist

Melanie Altman, Saturday Organist

Office phone: 724-837-7327 – Website: harroldzion.org - Visit us on Facebook

HARROLD ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

To Worship and Serve God,

Grow Disciples and Love our Neighbors