

# **Harrold Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Sunday, November 12, 2023 – 8:00 & 10:30 AM**

**Pentecost 24**

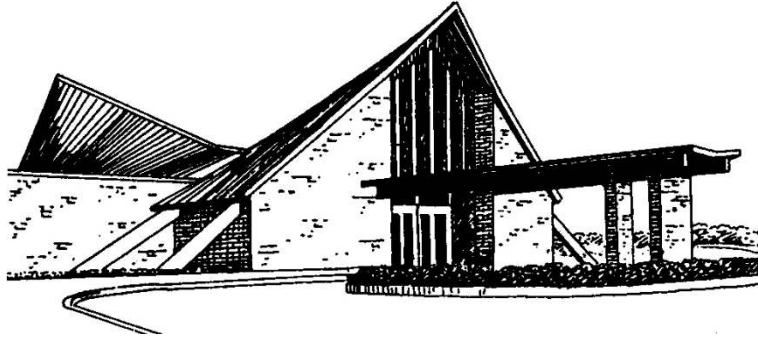


# Harrold Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

671 Baltzer Meyer Pike, Greensburg, PA

Office Phone: 724-837-7327

[harroldzion.org](http://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, November 12, 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                      *The Summons*

Confession and Forgiveness

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

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Please kneel or stand, as able.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn #625      *Come, We That Love the Lord*

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.**

## Hymn of Praise



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!

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

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together. **O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

<sup>1</sup>Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. <sup>3a</sup>Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

<sup>14</sup>“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

<sup>19</sup>But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. <sup>20</sup>If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” <sup>21</sup>And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the LORD!” <sup>22</sup>Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” <sup>23</sup>He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.”

<sup>24</sup>The people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” <sup>25</sup>So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

10:30 AM Adult Choir Anthem

*Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*

Psalm: 78:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Hear my teaching, O my people;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

<sup>2</sup>**I will open my mouth in a parable;  
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times—**

<sup>3</sup>that which we have heard and known, and what our forebears have told us,  
we will not hide from their children.

<sup>4</sup>**We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and  
the power of the LORD, and the wonderful works God has done.**

<sup>5</sup>The LORD gave a decree in Jacob and established a law in Israel,  
commanding our ancestors to teach it to their children;

<sup>6</sup>**that the generations to come might know, and the children yet  
unborn; that they in their turn might tell it to their children;**

<sup>7</sup>so that they might put their trust in God,  
and not forget the deeds of God, but keep God's commandments.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

<sup>13</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever.

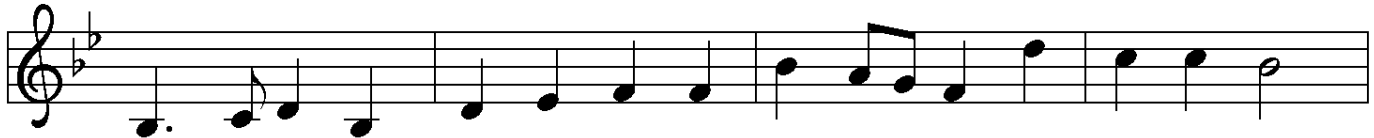
<sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand, as able.*

## Verse



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”  
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 #438    *My Lord, What a Morning*

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

*O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

## 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. **Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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

## Blessing

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn #717 *Let Justice Flow like Streams*

## Quiet Meditation

## Dismissal

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Beautiful Savior*

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## **WE THANK TODAY'S SERVICE PARTICIPANTS**

Lectors: 8:00 AM Krissy Korona; 10:30 AM John Millward

Acolytes: 8:00 AM Grace Dansak; 10:30 AM Nina Tyler

Ushers: 8:00 AM Dorinda Stempfer

10:30 AM Cory Anderson, Cooper Anderson

Altar Guild: Nancy Basile, Diane Ihlenfeld

**THANK YOU BRAD ZUNDEL** for serving as pianist this Sunday morning.

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are dedicated to the glory of God and in thanks for your service and in memory of Fran Spaeder by Sophia Roy.

**THE YOUTH & FAMILY COMMITTEE** will meet this Sunday, November 12, at 9:15 AM during the Parent's Breakfast. If you have a child, a youth, or are a family member of one, you are a member of this committee so please join us.

**JOIN US FOR THE PARENT'S BREAKFAST** this Sunday, November 12, at 9:15 AM. Drop your child(ren) off for Sunday school and then head downstairs to the Social Hall area outside of the kitchen for a time of fellowship and continental breakfast. This group meets the second Sunday of each month.

**OUR ANNUAL HARVEST HOME COLLECTION** for the month of November, will benefit Meals on Wheels. At present, HZ volunteers deliver meals to 32 homes, 5 days a week. Please make checks payable to Harrold Zion, mark "Meals on Wheels" on the memo line or envelope, and place in the offering plate, mail to the church, or drop off to Tammy in the church office. Thank you for your faithful donations to this important Harrold Zion outreach.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** – Christmas Eve, the Altar area will be decorated with these poinsettias. A 6 ½" poinsettia is \$10, and you can choose red or white. Envelope order forms can be found in the Communication Center or you can order using the form found on page 26 of the November newsletter. Please place the completed envelope with payment (checks payable to Harrold Zion) in the offering plate. Orders are due no later than Sunday, November 26.

**ALL CHRISTMAS WREATHS** have been sponsored. Thank you!

**THIS WEEK....**

**OFFICE HOURS M-F 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

**SUNDAY**

9:15 AM Parent Breakfast  
9:15 AM Youth & Family Committee  
11:45 AM Fellowship Committee

**MONDAY**

6:00 PM Joyful Noise Rehearsal  
7:00 PM Thyme for Herbs

**TUESDAY**

10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry  
4:00 PM Stewardship Committee  
7:30 PM Compassionate Friends

**WEDNESDAY**

9:00 AM Newsletter articles due  
9:30 AM Staff Meeting  
5:30 PM Youth Choir  
6:00 PM Bell Choir

7:00 PM Adult Choir

**THURSDAY**

7:00 PM Boy Scouts

**FRIDAY**

10:00 AM Ladies Bible Study

**SATURDAY**

8:00 AM Sanctuary Reserved  
9:00 AM Joyful Noise Rehearsal  
9:00 AM Social Hall Reserved  
9:30 AM First Communion Class  
5:00 PM Congregational Meeting

**SUNDAY**

8:00 & 10:30 AM Communion  
10:30 AM Joyful Noise  
Congregational Meeting  
11:45 AM Evangelism Committee

**ARTICLES FOR THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER** are due in the church office by Wednesday, November 15, at 9:00 AM. Articles can be emailed to [tammyhzlc@gmail.com](mailto:tammyhzlc@gmail.com) or placed in Tammy's mailbox on her office door.

**A FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS** is scheduled for this Saturday, November 18, from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM. This class is offered to children and adults. It is important that a parent attends the class with their child. First Holy Communion will be invited to the table on Tuesday, November 21, at the 7:00 PM service. Please contact Ms. Sheri or Pastor Fitch to be added to the class.

**GATHER UP YOUR LOOSE CHANGE FOR THE NOVEMBER "CRASH WEEKEND"**. Next weekend, November 18 & 19, we will make a joyful noise while tossing coins into the bucket. This will be the last "Crash Weekend" for 2023. Thank you for supporting this project!

**OUR PART A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will be held following all worship services next weekend, November 18 & 19. The purpose of the meeting is to vote for four new council members to serve 3-year terms beginning January 1, 2024, to approve the 2024 church budget, approve the cost to repair the boiler heat in the Sanctuary, and to approve the minutes from the October 7/8 congregational meeting. A copy of the council approved proposed 2024 budget and the information about the council candidates can be picked up in the Narthex as you leave worship today.

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED** to the third annual Sonshiner's Christmas Luncheon at Ferrante's Lakeview in Greensburg on Tuesday, December 12, beginning at 12:00 Noon. All members and their guests are welcome to attend. Please see the menu and registration information in the November newsletter or you can pick up a copy in the Communication Center. Your reservation, meal choice and money are due to Linda Boyer by December 3.

**THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER and Messy Church** will be held on Sunday, December 3. The doors open at 4:00 PM with dinner served at 4:30. Dinner will be Ham loaf, provided by the Fellowship Committee, along with rolls and drinks. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. ***Messy Church is:*** a form of church for children and adults that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality. It can be in-person, in-a-bag, or online! In person, it meets at a time (and sometimes in a place) that suits the community — but not usually on Sunday mornings. It typically includes a welcome, a creative time to explore the biblical theme with activities, games and crafts; a celebration time involving story, prayer, and songs; and a sit-down meal together at tables. All parts are for (and should include) people of all ages, adults and children. It's all-age. It's fun. It's a church for people at all stages of faith journey and of any age. It models and promotes good ways of growing as a family: a nuclear family, an extended family, and a global and local church family. Its aim is to introduce Jesus, to give an opportunity to encounter Christ and to grow in faith. This evening will be a "Messy Christmas" session with the story and activities centering on the Christmas story. Pastor Fitch and Sheri Anderson will be leading this session. The evening will also include a visit from Saint Nicholas. Please sign-up in the Communication Center if you plan on attending this event.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS** – If you would like to send cards to our homebound members this Christmas, please pick up a list of names in the Communication Center, sign your cards, and bring them to the church by Sunday, December 3. We will deliver them when we go caroling on December 10.

**SPONSOR A CHILD FOR CHRISTMAS...** The school will soon be sending the names of children and their Christmas wish list. Each family or person that wishes to sponsor a child or children will receive the list of items the child(ren) would like for Christmas. If you wish to be a sponsor, please sign the sheet in the Communication Center, or you may contact Linda Boyer at 724-635-0339, or email her at [linda-boyer@comcast.net](mailto:linda-boyer@comcast.net). Once you have notified Linda of your desire to sponsor a child, you will receive instructions of what to purchase, how to wrap and tag the gifts, and when to return the wrapped and bagged gifts to the church. Last year, Harrold Zion sponsored 52 children.

**THE OPERATION REINDEER TREE** is in the Narthex and decorated with gift tags. Each tag has an item to be purchased and returned to the church for delivery to the Westmoreland Mental Health Step Up facility in Latrobe. Gifts should be brand new and unwrapped. Please place all donations in the Communication Center before December 11. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Lou Millward.

**THE COLLECTION FOR “HANNAH’S SOCKS”** continues. We are collecting new socks of all sizes to send to Hannah and to distribute locally to those in need. Sock donations can be placed in one of the bins in the Narthex or in the large Christmas stocking in the Christian Education Hall. All donations are due by the last weekend of November (25 & 26). So far we have collected more than 1,000 pairs of socks. Thank you!

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

- Advent Retreat at Lutherlyn – December 1-3
- Christmas Caroling – December 10, 1:00 PM
- Baking VBS – January 13, 1:00 PM

## **ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SPONSORSHIP:**

Altar Flowers – 19 (2 vases)

Bulletin – November 19, 21; Eternal candle – November 19, 21

*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](mailto:pastorfitch@outlook.com)

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

[pastorcarolinehzlc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcarolinehzlc@gmail.com)

Tammy Hilland, Secretary - [tammyhzlc@gmail.com](mailto:tammyhzlc@gmail.com)

Sheri Anderson, Coordinator of Family Ministries - [hzlc youth@gmail.com](mailto:hzlc youth@gmail.com)

Laurie Racculia, Director of Music Ministries - [lracculia@yahoo.com](mailto:lracculia@yahoo.com)

Debby Schlegel, Custodian

Joanne Gebhardt, Sunday Organist

Melanie Altman, Saturday Organist

Office phone: 724-837-7327 – Website: [harroldzion.org](http://harroldzion.org) - Visit us on Facebook

## **HARROLD ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT**

*To Worship and Serve God,  
Grow Disciples and Love our Neighbors*