

Wishing you a very
MERRY CHRISTMAS



*May Christ's birth and Christmas festivities give
your heart a reason to feel the happiness
and make your life, joyful!*



Christmas Blessings from the staff!

**Pastor James, Pastor Caroline, Sheri, Tammy, Debby,
Laurie, Joanne and Melanie**



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The children's annual Christmas program will be Sunday, December 19th during the 10:30am service. This year we explore those who sit around your holiday dinner table.

BLUE CHRISTMAS/LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 7:00 PM

This is a somber, yet beautiful service that focuses on struggles that might keep us from wanting to celebrate the Christmas season. Life can be hard with the death of a family member or friend, job loss, anxiety or depression, etc.. Join us this night for this service of healing, prayer and music.

CHRISTMAS EVE – DECEMBER 24

3:00 & 4:30 PM (FAMILY SERVICES) AND 7:00 & 10:00 PM (CANDLELIGHT SERVICES)

This Christmas Eve services will be full of lively familiar tunes and we will have a live nativity during each service. The service has been changed up a bit in hopes of having a wonderful and grand in-person celebration! Communion will be offered at all services.

The 3:00 & 4:30 PM services will direct the readings and Gospel toward the children as they will be read from the Spark Bible that is used in Sunday School. There will also be a children's message at both the 3:00 & 4:30 PM services.

The 7:00 & 10:00 PM services will be blessed with music from the Adult Choir and the Bell Choir.

CHRISTMAS DAY – DECEMBER 25

No 5:00 PM Saturday service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 - LESSONS & CAROLS - One worship service at 9:30 AM

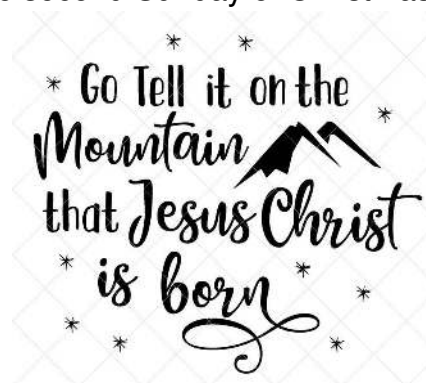
Join us for the traditional Lessons & Carols as we continue to celebrate the birth of our Lord!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY

No 5:00 PM Saturday service

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022 – One worship service at 9:30 AM

We will celebrate the second Sunday of Christmas with communion.





DRIVE THROUGH COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

We want to be sure that all who worship with us, whether online or in-person, have the opportunity to celebrate communion! We will be offering the “drive thru” home communion kits again beginning Wednesday, December 15, from 4:30 to 6:00 PM. We will continue to offer these communion kits every Wednesday before the “first weekend” communion. Please watch bulletin and newsletter announcements for future dates. *The next distribution will be Wednesday, December 29, 4:30-6:00 PM.

Harrold Zion's history...

In honor of the upcoming celebration of our 250th Anniversary we will be sharing portions of bulletins and annual reports that were written or reported in the past. The following excerpt is from the Pastor Letter found in the 1945 Annual Report.

“... The year saw the end of the war with its devastating ruin, hardships and anxiety. Our hearts are cheered as we see our members slowly discharged and coming home [from WWII]. About half have returned. God has answered our prayers – they, and we should be grateful. We are glad that they can come home to a spiritually strong church. Our greatest task is to make them feel welcome. ...

...let us redouble our efforts to keep Old Zion's foundations secure. Attend her services regularly; partake of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper faithfully. Let us not miss the “mark” – as our primary task is to win souls for Jesus Christ. We are all witnesses – evangelists! We are all God's fellow-workers.

Forward in faith! May 1946 be marked with a positive growing Christian spirit of love, fellowship, and good will, and cooperation among the members. May the Holy Spirit inspire, direct, and lead us to that end.” (Written by: Rev. Frederick B. Haer)

As I read through Pastor Haer's message, I felt like this could have been written today. We, as a congregation and society, are coming back from a war on COVID. We are happy and grateful to see pews slowly filling with returning members. We realize that as a congregation, “our greatest task is to make them feel welcome.” Fifty-six years later, we are not only welcoming people back to in-person worship, but we are also welcoming many to a new way of worshipping – online! We need to do God's work whether our members are in the building or worshipping from home; we need to remember that “our primary task is to win souls for Jesus Christ.”

Outreach & Ministry

CHRISTMAS LISTS?!?!

Have you started your Christmas list? What is a Christmas list? Well, I thought I'd look it up to see what Mr. Webster had to say. (Yes, I used a book made of paper not the computer or Alexa.) Mr Webster says that "Christmas is a holiday on December 25 celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ". Well I guess I knew that. He also says a list "is a series of names, numbers, etc. set forth in order". Or "to tilt to one side, as a ship". Hmm...what does that have to do with Harrold Zion. Well I'll tell you, your staff and the Music and Worship Committee are hard at work planning for the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons. We have a list of positions that need to be filled to keep us from a list in our celebrations. How can you help complete our list? We are looking for individuals for our Living Nativity, Ushers, Lectors and Communion Assistants at our Christmas Eve services. There is one at 3:00, 4:30, 7:00 and 10:00 PM. (The 3:00 and 4:30 PM services are designed for families with young children or those young at heart.) If you are unable to join us in person, the 3:00 and 7:00 PM services will be online. What service or services suit you the best? Contact Tammy to put your name on a list!!



CARDS FOR SHUT-INS

In the years past, our shut-ins have been delighted to receive a stack of Christmas cards from their church family. If you are interested in sending cards to our shut-ins 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 5. We will deliver them when we go caroling.

FROM THE WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

Happy New Year!! Yes, the new year is fast approaching. The Worship and Music Committee met to look into our needs for 2022. If you are in need of a way to serve Our Lord and Our church, here is a list of positions that need your help: – Lectors at all services – Ushers at all services (contact Rob Hepler) – Communion Assistants at all services (contact Susie Eicher) – Altar Care (contact Susie Eicher) If you would like to know in advance what might be involved in serving as any of the above, please see me, Susie Eicher or give me a phone call. Also, musicians, voice and instrumental, are always welcome to join our music program here at Harrold Zion. Senior Choir, Bell Choir, Children's Music Program, Joyful Noise! Where can your gifts and talents be best used in the service to our Lord? Look at this list and give some prayer to how your gifts/talents can be used in 2022.

SPONSORING CHILDREN FOR CHRISTMAS

Harrold Zion will soon be receiving the information from the local school district on children who need to be sponsored for Christmas. Each family that sponsors a child will receive the items the child would like for Christmas. If you wish to sponsor a child, please contact **Linda Boyer at 724-635-0339** or email her at linda-boyer@comcast.net. Sign up sheets for you to indicate you would like to sponsor a child will also be available in the Communication Center of the church. Once you have notified Linda of your desire to sponsor a local child, you will receive instructions on what to get, how to wrap and tag the gifts, and when to return gifts to the church. Last year Harrold Zion sponsored 50 children. We look forward to continuing sponsorship by Harrold Zion of children who benefit from this program through our local school district. Thank you for your participation.



OPERATION REINDEER

The Operation Reindeer Tree is in the Narthex. The tags each have an item to be purchased and returned to the church for delivery to the Westmoreland Mental Health facility in Latrobe. Note: if you are worshipping from home, you do not need a gift tag – you can purchase any of the items listed below or you can send monetary donations to the church. If sending a monetary donation, please make check payable to Harrold Zion. Gifts should be brand new and unwrapped. Please place all donations in the Communication Center no later than Sunday, December 12. The following is a list of items that are being requested:

They are in serious need of socks, underwear, sports bras, especially large sizes, and as always, large sized coats, shoes and boots, Walmart gift cards (the staff can shop for the patients).

Clothing sweat shirts & pants, tops, t shirts, pants or jeans, bathrobes (no belts), jackets, coats, socks, mittens, gloves, hats, ear muffs, sweaters, undergarments, pajamas (all clothing is needed in Men's size XL or larger and Women's size L or larger).

Toiletries: shampoo, conditioner, soap, body wash, brushes, pony tail holders, hand & body lotion, shaving gel/creams, lipstick, gloss, powder, eye shadow, mascara, lip balm, blush

Miscellaneous: craft kits, puzzle books, CDs/DVDs, batteries (especially AA), wallets, watches, portable CD players, radios, sports memorabilia (especially Pittsburgh teams), writing paper, stationary items, stamps, phone cards (in great demand for the patients), diabetic or sugarless items

Gently used items (only these specific things – all other things should be brand new): coats, shoes and boots, luggage

Thank you for your support!



SONSHINER'S CHRISTMAS PARTY – Thursday, December 9, at 12:00 Noon at Lakeview Restaurant in Greensburg. The Sonshiners were kind enough to invite all members of the church to this gathering. The church staff has decided to attend this party in lieu of having a separate staff party. We are so excited for the yummy food choices and the entertainment by The Stage Right Sensations! We hope you reserved your spot! Thank you Linda and Sonshiners for planning this and inviting the congregation.

FYI

JANUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Please turn all articles for the January 2022 newsletter into the church office no later than December 8 at 9:00 AM. The volunteers who send the newsletter out will be doing so on Wednesday, December 15. Thank you for your cooperation during this festive but busy time. You can email articles to tammyhzc@gmail.com or place them in the mailbox on Tammy's office door.

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES BULLETIN INFORMATION

Information for all Christmas services (Longest Night, Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 26 and Sunday, January 2) must be in the church office no later than 9:00 AM, Friday, December 10. You can email articles to tammyhzc@gmail.com or place it in the mailbox on Tammy's office door.

OFFICE CLOSURE

In observance of Christmas and the New Year, the church office will be closed Monday, December 27 and Friday, December 31. The office will be open that Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, however, Tammy, the church secretary, will be out of the office that entire week (Dec. 27-31). Tammy will return to the office at 9:00 AM, Monday, January 3, 2022.

DONATIONS

All donations for the 2021 church year must be received in the office by 9:00 AM on Tuesday, December 30. The financial statements for 2021 will be mailed before the end of January 2022.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2022:

Shawn Carolan, Kimberly Elias, John Millward, & Richard Yaksic. We also give thanks to Mandy Kanouff and Larry Myers for their faithful service.

**SEE YOU
NEXT YEAR!**

No Sunday Bible Study Classes

**December 26, 2021 or January 2, 2022
Classes will resume January 9, 2022.**

Church Meetings

DECEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, December 14, at 6:30 PM

NOVEMBER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Youth & Family – Sunday, December 5, 11:30 AM
- Property – Monday, December 6, 6:30 PM

REPORTS FOR THE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE NO LATER THAN MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022.

Committee reports can be emailed to tammyhzc@gmail.com or placed in the mailbox on the Secretary's office door. Thank you!



"Dear Pastor James, Pastor Caroline and all of our church friends,

Thank you so much for your love, support and prayers during the most difficult time of our life. We are forever grateful for your help, your visits and calls, for the choirs' beautiful voices at Gene's memorial church service, for the wonderful 'Helping Hands' doing an amazing job for his funeral luncheon, and the beautifully made prayer shawl and accompanying prayer card. Thank you all. We miss Gene so much. He will always and forever be in our hearts.

Sincerely,

Karen, Brian and Rachel Fritz

Thank you to our Sunday School learners who use their talents on our bulletin covers.

The sharing of your thoughts and talents are appreciated by your church family.

God bless you!

~The Congregation



Wreaths Across America

Thank you for your generous donation. Harrold Zion was able to provide 30 wreaths to be placed with our fallen heroes.

Talent Show

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! It was an amazing show with amazing talent.

~Sheri Anderson



THE FOLLOWING WERE MARRIED AT HARROLD ZION:

Cayla Cerny & Jesse Zundel* were married Saturday, November 6th.

May your marriage be filled with God's blessings.



WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO

Leanna and family, on the death of Leanna's brother, Roger Fox.

May the hope of the resurrection give them peace.

All About Kids

The holidays are approaching quickly. In December we will be getting ready for our mini Christmas programs for each class that will be held in the church on December 16th and 17th. These will be similar to our Halloween parade.



Fall 2022 registration will be starting in January. I will provide information for registration in the January newsletter.

We have hired a new employee, Jessica Lowe, and things are going very well.

Thanks to Harrold Zion for their continued support. Lisa Zundel and the staff of All About Kids Preschool, Ms. Sharon, Ms. Jen, Ms. Debby and Ms. Jessica

Dear Friends of Harrold Zion Lutheran Church,

Grace to you and peace.

You may have noticed that we struggle with being in the world but not of it, especially when it comes to the season of Advent. It is to be a time to get ready for the advent (arrival) of the Lord both at the end of time and the annual celebration of his birth. It is also a time to remember that he promises to be with us every day. In theory at least, it is to be a quiet time of contemplation and reflection. The idea being that by the 24th, our hearts, minds, bodies, and souls, will sing these words rightly, "Where meek souls will receive him, still /The dear Christ enters in." (*O Little Town of Bethlehem*, Phillips Brooks, 1835+1893)

The trouble is, the encounter with the Lord is not something that can be forced, try as we might. The initiative has always been with God. The gospels tell of people trying to bring in the messianic age, but it arrived by the message of an angel. It may be that all the things we do to get ready, that cause us to fall down exhausted, is God's way of getting us to finally see ourselves in that carol, "O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie ... While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondrous love."

Pray for me as I pray for you, always in Christ Jesus.

Pastor James

COUNCIL MEETING October 19, 2021 - (unapproved minutes)

CALL TO ORDER: 6:35 Present: Ross Thompson, Larry Myers, Don Freeman, Tammy Hilland, Joanne Gebhardt, Pastor Caroline, John Millward, Jack Molnar, Kim Elias, Josh Chenoweth, Pastor James West, Amanda Kanouff and Pastor Peter Asplin. Devotion by Pastor West Presentation by Jeff Lydic concerning sponsorship of female Scouts BSA troop attached to 465. Motion to approve Scouts BSA female Troop to be sponsored by Harrold Zion by John Millward. Second by Amanda Kanouff. Motion carried. One abstained. Presentation by Pastor Peter Asplin concerning Intentional Interim Process and the Call Process in the Southwestern PA Synod.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Minutes approved as read.

TREASURERS REPORT: Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Kim Elias. Second by Don Freeman.

Motion carried.

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT: Grace to you and peace. Tonight, we welcome Pastor Asplin, Assistant to the Bishop. He will offer his guidance and direction at this stage in our discernment process. Interim ministry is designed to help congregations avoid the pitfalls that come from calling a pastor before knowing where God is calling them. Congregations tend to, simultaneously, want to keep things just like they were or make a clean break from the way things were. The interim is a time to take a breath so that the congregation can discern what God would have us do. One common mistake is thinking that a new pastor will fix everything. When a congregation has done the work, it discovers an emerging identity and purpose. When a congregation is clear about its identity and purpose, the call committee knows what to ask and what to listen for during the interviews. When congregations get into a hurry, that is, give into anxiety, both call committees and candidates tend to hear what they want to hear. I held off on this report so that I could reflect on the Town Hall meeting. It is good that you have identified the issues facing the congregation. The heart of interim ministry is working on the issues that will lead to an effective partnership with your next pastor. As you work on these issues, for example, developing leadership among the 20-35 year old members, you will have a story to tell that will attract the right the pastor. We can do that work now. Again, I want to thank all of you for the good work that you are accomplishing as we work through this process and take care of the day to day work of being Christ's Church in this place. It is an exciting time to be the church. We caught a glimpse of both who we are and who we are being called to be during the Town Hall meeting. Finally, I thank you and God, for the time away at Lutherlyn with local pastors and deacons of Southwest Pennsylvania Synod. The title of the retreat was Selah. Selah is an untranslatable work that shows up in the Psalms, but in this case, we took it to mean "pause". During this pause we had a workshop in the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola. What was really helpful was the chance to see that we are going through this sea change together, and our Lord is with us, every step of the way. Pray for me, as I pray for you, always in Christ Jesus. Pastor James West

ASSISTANT PASTOR'S REPORT: Several activities have taken place over the last month: The Pet Blessing, Homecoming Parade for Hempfield, Campfire Sing, Trunk or Treat, and Road to a New Pastor. The following details how things are going: Preaching & Worship – Pr. James and I have been splitting preaching and presiding duties. We work well together in sharing worship responsibilities as well as worship and bulletin preparation. Because of weddings and travel, the schedule has been a little different than in past months. Several families have had COVID over the last month, so people are being vigilant about staying home if sick, although a couple of people attended with COVID; people were notified when it took place. Visitation – Pr. James and I are visiting more people since the retirement communities are allowing visitors again, although there are still limits when COVID cases happen; a couple of retirement communities have shut down to do the resurgence of COVID in the area (i.e., they have had COVID cases). There have been several visits for homebound and those with family crises. We have both visited several people over the last month, as well as made several phone calls.

Special Events – The Homecoming Parade, Campfire Sing, and Trunk or Treat took place, and they were successful. We also had our annual Pet Blessing service, and several owners and pets attended. We met for our next book, Lamb, by C. Moore, on September 14th and 28th at the Daily Grind. One of the people attending is looking at potential books for the future. We have Reformation Sunday coming up on Oct. 31st, where we will have first communion for several children. Christian Education – The adult Sunday school class is meeting regularly, and we are studying the letters of Paul. I am also on call to lead confirmation class if necessary. Sheri Anderson led a First Communion class on 10/3, with both pastors in attendance. Meetings – Pr. James and I have been meeting regularly, once a week with the immediate staff and once a week with the entire staff. Pr. James and I also meet regularly to make sure all needs in the church are covered and to discuss future happenings. Pr. James has been having the immediate staff read material on leadership as well. Pastor James has begun to have weekly individual 10-minute meetings. I have attended several Zoom meetings: Synod Ministry Committee (I am the secretary), and meetings with the Lutheran Campus Board of Pittsburgh (I am now the secretary for the board). The synod ministerium meeting has changed to meet monthly rather than weekly. Pastor bible study has now moved to in person. I have led meetings for home communion members; some are able to visit people now. New members were received on August 28th; however, two families were ill, and we need to reschedule receiving them. I attended the Worship and Music meeting Oct. 11th; plans for the next couple of months were discussed and will be finalized at the Nov. 8th meeting. Funerals, Baptisms, and Weddings – One wedding took place this weekend. There are two more weddings coming up in November and December; I will preside at one and Pr. James will preside at one. Choir – Choir rehearsals began in September. Vacation – I will be taking vacation from Nov. 3-11. Blessings, Pastor Caroline Clifford

FAMILY MINISTRY COORDINATOR REPORT: I conducted a First Holy Communion class on Oct. 2nd. We will be having 9 children coming to the Lord's table on Oct. 31 at the 10:30am service. On Oct. 3 the pet blessing occurred that I organized. 30 pets and owners came forward for a blessing and collar charm. Halloween Trunk or Treat was on Oct. 17. Even though we had high winds, 23 trunks were presented and 50 children participated. I would like to thank the Confirmation students who dressed in costume to help. Also, a huge THANK YOU to Pat and Linda Boyer for the service

project to teach The Confirmation students about food insecurities in our area. 15 students helped to pack over 70 Food2Go bags for the Fort Allen Elementary school. I continue to make sure events are current on our website and Facebook page. Looking ahead...Talent Show, First Holy Communion, National Youth Gathering registration and Children's Christmas Program are on my radar.

COMMUNICATIONS: Thank you from girl at Hempfield Highschool. Meals on Wheels thank you. Action for Animals from donation's received on Rally Day.

AUDIT COMMITTEE: No Report.

CALL COMMITTEE: No Report.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE: No Report.

YOUTH AND FAMILY COMMITTEE: Hosted the 10/17/2021 Trunk or Treat event. Planning underway for the 11/12/2021 Talent Show. Talent is still needed to make this event a success.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: First Holy Communion will take place on 10/31/2021 at the 10:30am worship with 9 participants. Kevin Torrance has resumed his Bible discussion group during the Sunday school hour. All other classes continue.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE: No Report.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE: Fellowship met October 10 to plan activities for December. We will be collecting Christmas cards for the shut-ins beginning in November. Caroling to the shut-ins is still undecided due to several facilities being closed to visitors. We will re-evaluate as the time gets closer. A Christmas dinner is planned for Saturday December 11 at 6:00 PM. It will be a covered dish dinner, with the meat and rolls provided by Fellowship. Santa will make a visit during the evening. December 19 we are planning to see the play "Elf" at the Geyer Theater in Scottdale. Watch for details in the bulletin.

Our next meeting will be November 14, 2021

FINANCE COMMITTEE: No Report

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE: Report turned in by Glen Nickodemus.

MISSION AND VISION COMMITTEE: No report.

MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE: No report.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE: No report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: No report.

PRESCHOOL COMMITTEE: Preschool is doing well, trying to keep everyone healthy. We have our Halloween parades coming up at the end of the month. We have also hired a new staff member. Her name is Jessica Lowe. Attached is her information that will go on the church website. Thanks, Lisa

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: There have been no more water leaks in the hall between the church and education building after cleaning the roof drain. However, to more easily access this chronic problem area we will install a suspended ceiling on November 13th after the Men's Breakfast. There is an ongoing leak at the main entrance overhang that needs to be addressed. Will do A.S.A.P. We will be converting the Halogen floodlights illuminating the front crosses to LED lights.

SOCIAL MINISTRY OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

Sonshiners: The Sonshiners Game Day was held on Wednesday, October 13 in the Social with 21 people in attendance. The next scheduled outing is Thursday, December 9 at Lakeview Restaurant in Greensburg for a Christmas Luncheon with The Stage Right Sensations as entertainment. The Christmas Luncheon is open to anyone who would like to attend. Complete information will be in the November Newsletter and upcoming bulletins.

SOCIAL MINISTRY OUTREACH

Food2Go4Kids

The church Confirmation Class will be packing the weekend food bags on Sunday, October 17 during the Sunday School hour. Volunteers who have indicated they want to participate in Food2Go4Kids will be called upon to help pack at the church on upcoming monthly scheduled dates.

Harvest Home Collection

Monetary donations for Meals on Wheels are being collected at this time and will continue through November 14. Fall decorations have been placed at the altar area.

Compassion Child International

Monetary Birthday and Christmas Gifts have been sent to Steve in Haiti, and Niturengere in Rwanda. These gifts are made possible because of the faithful donations of church members to HZ's Compassion Child International Ministry.

Children's Christmas Sponsorship

Sign up sheets for those who want to sponsor a needy child for Christmas from our immediate area through the Hempfield School District will be available November 1 in the Communication Area.

More information on this Harrold Zion Ministry will be in the November Newsletter.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: No Report.

PERC COMMITTEE: No report.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE: Planning was discussed at the October meeting for the balance of the calendar year. Please note that some changes have been made.

October 30/31 is Reformation. The liturgical color for that day is red. Please consider wearing red that day in celebration of Reformation. November 6/7 is All Saints Day. (Liturgical color is white/gold if you were wondering). The Book of Remembrance will be available for those you wish to remember who have passed since November of 2020 and white carnations will be available for the family of those members who have passed. Our Thanksgiving Eve service will be held on Tuesday, November 23 at 7:00 in the evening. This service will include bread and wine. Poinsettias for our Christmas celebration will \$10 per 6 1/2 inch pot with a choice of red or white. Ordering envelopes will be coming in the near future. The Shut-in Christmas Pew Communion is tentatively set for December. Details will be announced at a later date, depending on the progress of the virus. Blue Christmas service will be on December 21 at 7:00 pm. Christmas Eve services will be at 3:00; 4:30; 7:00; and 10:00. The services of 3:00 and 7:00 will be online. There will be no 5:00 service on Saturday, December 25. There will be one service at 9:30 am on Sunday, December 26. There will be no 5:00 service on Saturday, January 1 and one service at 9:30 am on Sunday, January 2. Lectors, Acolytes, Ushers are all reminded that your presence is counted on when you are scheduled. Please contact someone if you are unable to be present that day. Joyful Noise not only led worship on September 12. They offered music at the Rally Day Celebration and a hymn sing following the homecoming parade on October 9. The Youth Music Program is slowly coming along with additional participants needed. The youth currently involved are doing a fantastic job!!!

OLD BUSINESS: No old business.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion to approve proposed 2022 budget by John Millward. Second by Larry Myers. Discussion followed. Motion withdrawn. Motion with amendments to approve proposed budget for 2022 by John Millward. Second by Larry Meyers. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Don Freeman. Second by Larry Meyers. Motion carried.

2021 Church Council and Committees Served

- Josh Chenoweth, Secretary – Audit
- Bob Eicher – Cemetery, Personnel, Investment, PERC
- Kim Elias – Social Ministry
- Bonny Free – Call, Investment
- Don Freeman - Stewardship
- Joanne Gebhardt – Fellowship, Worship & Music
- Mandy Kanouff – Mission & Vision, Youth & Family
- Bob Majcher - Finance
- John Millward – Property, Mutual Ministry
- Jack Molnar – President - Nominating
- Larry Myers – Vice President – Preschool, PERC
- Ross Thompson- Christian Ed, Evangelism

HARROLD ZION'S FINANCIAL REPORT

October operating income:	\$26,228.15
October operating expense:	<u>\$25,203.22</u>
	\$ 1,134.93
YTD operating income:	\$264,969.97
YTD operating expense:	<u>\$300,443.27</u>
	\$-35,473.30

A Few Words About Taxes and Charitable Giving

Giving To the church is profoundly personal. It's rewarding to support what you care about.

Are you wondering how much you really want to give, what you can afford to give, and what tax advantage options are available? Did you know that parts of the U.S. tax code were written to encourage giving to charitable organizations and save you money in U.S. taxes?

The following four options take advantage of the tax laws that are designed to reduce your U.S. taxes.

1. In 2021 you can add cash contributions you have given to the church to your U.S. tax deductions (up to \$600.00), even if you don't itemize deductions.
2. Donate appreciated assets instead of cash. This should reduce you taxes since you will not have to pay capital gains taxes.
3. Consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). If you are 72 or older, you are required to make a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) annually from an IRA Plan. This is done through a QCD. Your financial advisor can help set up a QCD withdrawal and whatever amount you give to the church is totally non-taxable!
4. You may want to consider a charitable donation in your will or trust. This could reduce estate taxes as these donations are deductible.

We have briefly summarized these tax reduction options for your information. Whether you use them, and whether you share part of the tax savings with Harrold Zion via additional contributions to one of the funds listed below is your personal decision.

1. The Benevolence Fund is used to support the synod and other ELCA activities beyond our doors.
2. The Current or Operating Fund is used to pay our church staff salaries and other expenses required to operate and maintain church facilities. Over the last few years, the contributions to this fund have been significantly less than the expenses, and the annual deficit has been increasing each year.
3. The Endowment Fund is set up to allow "legacy" contributions to the congregation. Contributions to this fund will be used to support the long-term health of the congregation. This may be a good option to consider for contributions from estates, wills, trusts, or to honor significant family events, etc.

If you have any questions on this information, contact Bonny Free, Glen Nickodemus, or Frank Rassmann from the investment committee. Other members of the Investment Committee include Norm Bono, Pastor Caroline Clifford, Bob Eicher, and Bob Majcher.

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 07:00 AM-Worship with Communion 05:30 PM-Youth Choir Rehearsal 06:00 PM-Bell Choir Rehearsal 07:00 PM-Adult Choir Rehearsal	2 01:00 PM-Food 2 Go packing 07:00 PM-Boy Scouts	3 07:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study	4 Advent 2 Communion 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 09:00 AM-Social Hall Reserved
5 Advent 2 Communion 11:30 AM-National Youth Gath. mtg 12:00 PM-Social Hall Reserved	6 10:30 AM-Quilting Ministry 01:00 PM-Quilting Ministry 04:00 PM-Social Hall Reserved 06:30 PM-Property Committee	7	8 07:00 AM-Worship with Communion 09:00 AM-Jan. Newsletter articles due 05:30 PM-Youth Choir Rehearsal 06:00 PM-Bell Choir Rehearsal 07:00 PM-Adult Choir Rehearsal	9 12:00 PM-Sonshiners Christmas party 07:00 PM-Boy Scouts	10 07:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study 11:00 AM-Wedding Rehearsal	11 1:00 PM -Wedding 08:00 AM-Men's Breakfast Group Advent 3 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved 06:00 PM-Christmas Dinner
12 Advent 3 01:00 PM-Christmas Caroling	13 05:00 PM-Thyme for Herbs	14 07:00 PM-Council Meeting 07:30 PM-Compassionate Friends	15 07:00 AM-Worship with Communion 10:00 AM-Newsletter mailing 04:30 PM-Communion distribution 05:30 PM-Youth Choir Rehearsal 06:00 PM-Bell Choir Rehearsal 07:00 PM-Adult Choir Rehearsal	16 PS Christmas program 07:00 PM-Boy Scouts	17 07:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved PS Christmas program 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study	18 Advent 4 08:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved
19 Advent 4 10:30 AM-Joyful Noise service 10:30 AM-Children's Christmas Program 12:00 PM-Pizza and ELF	20 No Preschool 9:45 AM Gift pickup	21 No Preschool 07:00 PM-Longest Night service	22 07:00 AM-Worship with Communion 08:00 AM-No Preschool 05:30 PM-Youth Choir Rehearsal 06:00 PM-Bell Choir Rehearsal 07:00 PM-Adult Choir Rehearsal	23 No Preschool 07:00 PM-Boy Scouts	24 07:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved Office Closed No Preschool 03:00 PM-Family Service 04:30 PM-Family Service 07:00 PM-Candlelight Service 10:00 PM-Candlelight Service	25 Happy Birthday Jesus! No 5:00 PM Worship
26 09:30 AM-One Worship Service	27 Office Closed 01:00 PM-Quilting Ministry	28	29 07:00 AM-Worship with Communion 04:30 PM-Communion distribution 05:30 PM-Youth Choir Rehearsal 06:00 PM-Bell Choir Rehearsal 07:00 PM-Adult Choir Rehearsal	30 07:00 PM-Boy Scouts	31 07:00 AM-Sanctuary Reserved Office Closed 10:00 AM-Ladies Bible Study	

Have a safe and blessed New Year!

Harrold Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Greensburg, PA 15601

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**“Do not be afraid;
for see... unto you is born...
a Savior, who is the Messiah,
the Lord.”**

Luke 2:10-11