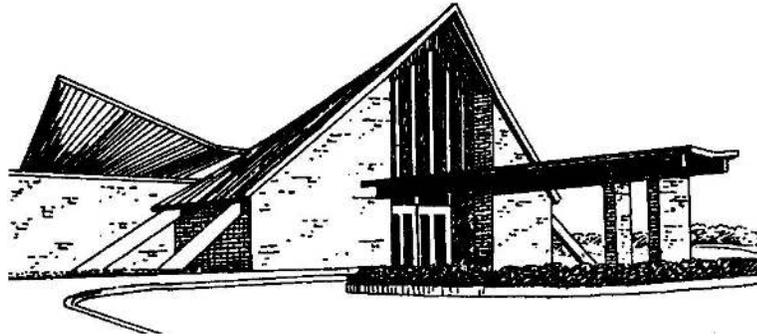


Harrold Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lessons and Carols
St. Stephen, Martyr
Sunday, December 26, 2021 – 9:30 AM

Harrold Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

724-837-7327

www.harroldzion.org



WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP!

- **It is a joy to welcome our visitors!** Please sign the guest book in the Welcome Center at the rear of the church and take a Welcome Packet which is filled with information about Harrold Zion. Please introduce yourself to the greeter in the Welcome Center and to the pastors as you leave worship. We hope you return soon!
- **Thank you for wearing a mask.** If you haven't signed in as you entered, the ushers will bring the sign in sheet to you.
- **Please maintain** a distance of three feet unless you are in the same family
- **Children's busy bags** are available in the Narthex. Bags include crayons, coloring sheets, children's bulletin and a snack. Please take the bag home after worship.
- **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.
- **Receiving Holy Communion** - We believe the body and blood of Christ to be present in the bread and wine. All who are baptized are invited to share in this meal. Please come forward at the usher's direction. Non-communing children may come forward for a blessing. If you desire communion in the pew, please inform one of the ushers so that you may receive communion there.

Father E.W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, began the practice of a Festival Service of Lessons and Carols at Truro Cathedral (1880) and later at Canterbury Cathedral. Popularized by recordings from King's College, Cambridge, this service has come to be associated with a traditional celebration of Christmas by millions of people throughout the world. Its spirit and content sum up the true spirit of the season, while taking us in heart and mind to the Christmas celebrations of former times.

Today's service of worship takes into account the three birthdays that follow the birth of Christ, St. Stephen, Martyr, St. John, Evangelist, and the Holy Innocents, Martyrs.

Welcome

Prelude

What Child Is This

Rosche

The Bidding Prayer

A. Beloved in Christ, as we continue to celebrate Christmas, pray to God for the gift of discernment, that we may see the meaning of the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus in our lives.

Silence

P. Let us pray. Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things, we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, through the same Christ our Lord, we pray,

C. Amen.

A. Pray that the carols we sing inspire us to be bringers of Good News.

Silence.

P Let us pray. Draw our hearts to you, guide our minds, fill our imaginations, control our wills, so that we may be wholly yours. Use us as you will, always to your glory and the welfare of your people, through Christ our Lord,

C. Amen.

A. Let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died.

Silence

P. Let us pray. Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it, through Christ our Lord, **C. Amen.**

A. Let us remember the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Silence

P. Let us pray. Comfort with the grace of your Holy Spirit all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near. Bring consolation to those in sorrow or mourning. And to all grant a measure of your love, taking them into your tender care, through Christ our Lord, **C. Amen.**

A. Let us also remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh.

Silence

P. Let us pray. Almighty God, in choosing the virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son, you made known your gracious regard for the poor, the lowly, and the despised. Grant us grace to receive your word in humility, and so to be made one with your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

A. Now pray in the words our Lord taught us.

C. 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.

Hymn #269 *Once In Royal David's City*

The First Reading: Genesis 3:1–14a

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. ⁸They heard the sound of the Lord GOD walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord GOD among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord GOD called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the Lord GOD said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." ¹⁴The Lord GOD said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

The word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.



Carol *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

God rest you merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior Was born on Christmas Day;
To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray.

Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas All other does deface. *Refrain*

The Second Reading: Genesis 22:15–18

¹⁵The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹⁸and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice." The word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

The Third Reading: Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Carol *I Wonder As I Wonder*

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I...
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King

The Fourth Reading: Micah 5:2–4

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; The word of the Lord. **C. Thanks be to God.**

Carol #279 *O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1,3 & 4)*

The Fifth Reading: Luke 1:26–38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be,

since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. The word of the Lord. **C. Thanks be to God.**

Carol #272 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (verses 1,2 & 4)

The Sixth Reading: Matthew 1:18–23

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." The word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Carol #257 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (verses 1,4 & 8)

The Seventh Reading: Luke 2:8–16

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone

into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. The word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Carol *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night*

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around,
and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and humankind,
to you and humankind.

"To you in David's town this day is born of David's line
the Savior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign,
and this shall be the sign:

The Eighth Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him

gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The word of the Lord. **C. Thanks be to God.**

Carol *We Three Kings*

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again;
king forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. *Refrain*

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. *Refrain*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
heav'n sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain*

The Ninth Reading: Matthew 2:16-18

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." The word of the Lord. **C. Thanks be to God.**

Silence

The Tenth Reading: John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to

THIS WEEK.... REGULAR OFFICE HOURS M-F 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM

SUNDAY

9:30 AM One Worship Service

MONDAY

Office Closed

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

7:00 AM Communion service

4:30 PM Communion Distribution

THURSDAY

7:00 PM Boy Scouts

FRIDAY

Office Closed

SATURDAY

No 5:00 PM worship

SUNDAY

9:30 AM One Worship Service

9:30 AM Council Installation

NO SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY CLASSES December 26, 2021 or January 2, 2022. Classes will resume January 9, 2022.

ATTENTION COMMITTEES: The year-end reports for the Annual Report are due in the church office by Monday, January 10. Reports can be emailed to tammyhzlc@gmail.com or placed in the mailbox on the Secretary's office door. Thank you!

250 YEARS OF HARROLD ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

In August of 2022 we will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of our congregation. This area has a rich and important history and we need to make all aware. To do so we will start planning in January and are asking for any who love this church and history to help make it happen. Our first meeting will be on Saturday, January 9th, at 4:00 PM to get organized for this big event. If you have any questions, please contact John Millward at 724-635-0218 or Don Freeman at 724-834-0764.

In addition, if you want to familiarize yourself with some of the early history of our church you can read the book- *History of Old Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. Near Harrold's*. Written by William Arter Zundel for the 150th anniversary of the church. It can be downloaded from Google Books, some hardcopies are still available from Amazon and Ebay or the Baltzer Meyer Historical Society said that they would print copies for \$12.00 each. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Communications Center if you want the print from Baltzer Meyer.

THE COLLECTION for “goats” will continue through August 2022 in honor of our 250th anniversary. We have currently raised \$7,124.62 which purchases 142 goats. We still need 108 goats to reach our goal of 250 goats (\$50 per goat), or \$5,400. To donate toward the purchase of goats for a third-world country, please put your donation in a pew envelope, mark it “goats” and place it in the offering plate. Please make checks payable to Harrold Zion.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE: 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, will be out of the office that entire week (Dec. 27-31). The office will be covered by staff members and volunteers.

LOOKING AHEAD:

- Winter VBS – SPLASH! – Saturday, January 15, at 1:00-3:00 PM
- Articles for the February newsletter are due by 9:00 AM, January 15
- High school Sunday school class to begin January 16, at 9:15 AM
- Axe Throwing – January 29
- Part B Congregational Meeting – February 5 & 6
- Souper Bowl Valentine’s Luncheon – February 13, at 11:30 AM.

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SPONSORSHIP:

Altar Flowers – January 9, 16, 23, 30 (2 vases)

Bulletin – January 9, 16, 23, 30; Eternal candle – January 9, 16, 23, 30

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

Church Staff and Office – 724-837-7327

Rev. James West, Interim Senior Pastor

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Debby Schlegel, Custodian

Joanne Gebhardt, Sunday Organist

Melanie Altman, Saturday Organist

Website – www.harroldzion.org

Phone number – 724-837-7327

Visit us on Facebook

NOTES:

HARROLD ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Harrold Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church is a family of believers who seek to provide an open and caring environment where all are welcome and can experience the hope and love of Jesus Christ. As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, we believe the Lutheran Confessions to be a faithful interpretation of Scripture, and our ministry revolves around the “Word and Sacraments”.

We are committed to being good stewards of God’s creation by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through word and deed. Thus we respond to human need with acts of love and compassion, as we bear witness to the love we have first received from God through Jesus Christ.