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# ZION'S MESSENGER

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February 2015

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## FROM THE PASTOR...

The annual congregational meeting is over. Our 2015 church budget is now set. 6 new Council members have been elected. Souper Bowl Sunday, on February 1 will likely bring us extra joy as we welcome and worship with our friends from St. John's, Hamburg (whose worship space is currently being renovated). The winter is moving on and has been less harsh that 2014 was. (Hold that thought as we enter February!)

THE HOLY SEASON OF Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Please be attentive to the spiritual disciplines that have long been practiced by Christian people. If you are unfamiliar with what Lent is all about, let me assist you:

1. Practice some **"self-denial"** in some way, maybe by **"giving up something"** to honor the fact that God **"gave up"** his son, Jesus.
2. Worship **more often** that you already are.
3. Pray **more**. Do daily devotions.
4. **Deepen your faith** by engaging in the study of scripture.
5. **Consider** doing



something different or extra each day to make your life a little more "Christ-like."

Zion's Lutheran Church will offer **extra mid-week worship opportunities** each Wednesday at 11 am with Soup/Bread following and again in the evening 5:45 pm. Soup/Bread, 6:15 Lenten Scripture Study with Pastor Bruce called, "The Parables of Lent", 7 pm. Worship 7:45 pm. The Adult Choir will rehearse.

Pick up and read a copy of a **daily Lenten devotional booklet** called "living the Gospel Life: Daily Devotions for Christians on a Mission" which will be available beginning Sunday, February 15.

**Enroll your child** in preparation to receive his/her First Communion. Classes for all ages

will be held on Sundays, March 8,15,22,29 after the 10:30 am worship service. Parents should speak with me about their child's readiness to receive the Sacrament, kindergarten age and older. If your child is regular in worship, he/she is probably ready to learn more about it.

**Encourage someone you know (or you yourself) to be baptized** on Holy Saturday, The Vigil of Easter, at the new 7 pm. worship service on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Worship will begin outdoors (with a fire) and continues in the dark church as we wait for the Easter joy. If you would like to receive special instruction for baptism during the 6 weeks of

Lent, please speak with Pastor Bruce. All ages are welcome to inquire. **Do you know someone who needs to begin their relationship with God and receive his promises in baptism?**

Plan now to come to our **first ever Children's Worship service on Easter Sunday at 9 am** as our children and youth share with you their Easter joy! **But first, let's walk the Lenten walk together and follow Jesus to the cross of Calvary.**

**I hope to see you in church during Lent.**

*Pastor Bruce*

## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEBRUARY

Feb. 1 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
8:00 & 10:30 am. Holy Communion

Feb. 8 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany/Scout Sunday  
8:00 am. Worship  
10:30 am. Holy Communion

Feb. 15 – Transfiguration of Our Lord  
8:00 am. Contemporary Service  
10:30 am. Holy Communion

Feb. 22 – First Sunday in Lent  
8:00 am. Holy Communion  
10:30 am. Worship



### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. This year it is the 18<sup>th</sup> of February. There will be two opportunities for worship on that day, one at 11 am. and one beginning at 5:45 pm. The rite of the imposition of ashes on worshippers' foreheads will be observed at both services, as will the celebration of communion.

Next to Good Friday, Ash Wednesday is one of the most solemn days of the church year with its focus upon the remembrance of our sinful nature and our need for God through Jesus Christ to declare our sins forgiven. It begins a 40 day journey that leads Christ's disciples, you and me, through the suffering and death of Jesus to his glorious resurrection. I look forward to beginning this year's journey with you on February 18<sup>th</sup>!

## LENTEN SOUP AND BREAD WORSHIP

This year we will be celebrating the Lenten Season with services held on Wednesdays February 18,25/March 4,11,18,25.

Daytime services will be held in the Gold room at 11 am followed by a soup and bread lunch at 11:45 am.

Evening services will be held in the gold room beginning with:  
Soup and bread at 5:45 pm.,  
6:15 pm. Study using "The Parables of Lent"  
7:00 pm. Worship using Parables as the lesson  
Themes



### LENTEN PROJECT

This year's Lenten Project will be "Save in a PIGGY Bank"! We will be handing out piggy banks for anyone to collect loose change to buy a piglet for a family in need. When this little piggy grows up, she will give birth to as many as 16 piglets each year. Pigs help fertilize fields, provide food to eat and can be sold at market for much-needed income. What a BIG difference a piglet can make! Banks will be available on the table in the Narthex. Coloring books about God's Global Barnyard will also be available for the little ones.

## Do you like to read? Want to join a Zion's Book Group?

Pastor Bruce would like to try and start a book reading group that meets at Zion's Lutheran Church one evening per month. The group would meet at 7 p.m. in the Church Library. Group members can suggest possible books. Those who participate can be involved in setting up a schedule of books to read. **The first book will be "Orphan Train" by Christina Baker Kline by William Morrow-An Imprint of Harper Collins Publishers.** The group will meet on Thursday, February 26. You can purchase the book at Barnes-Noble in Wyomissing, order it on Amazon and have it delivered to your house, or get it from the local library. Note that the book has 3 great features in the back, 1. About the author 2. A Short History of the Real Orphan Trains and 3. a Reading Group Guide. Try and answer the questions as you read the book so that we can discuss them when we are together later in February. **So that Pastor Bruce knows there are interested people, please sign up for the group on the church bulletin board or email him at [pastorbruce@zionslutheran.org](mailto:pastorbruce@zionslutheran.org).**

**To whet your appetite for "Orphan Train", this back cover quote:** It is a poignant and memorable story of 2 steadfast, courageous women (one, a 90 year old Irish immigrant and the other, a 17 year old named Molly Ayer, a casualty of a string of foster homes). Moving between contemporary Maine and Depression-era Minnesota, it is a revelation of the universal yearning for belonging, for family, for acceptance, and ultimately, the journeys we must all make to find them. It is on the New York Times Best Seller list.

## Some Congregational Pastoral Care Notes:

1. As Pastor Bruce becomes more familiar with congregational members, **he would like to assemble information about the location of Zion's related family members**, especially those who reside in nursing homes, assisted-living, private homes, and senior adult apartments whether they are members of Zion's or not. It is his intention to expand Zion's care of senior adults and anyone who has special needs. Members are asked to give this information to him as they are able.
2. **When you are admitted to the hospital**, please let the church office know or call Pastor Bruce directly at 610-914-2795. Please do not assume that he knows or recalls what you have told him in the greeting line after worship. A reminder is helpful and appreciated.
3. **Signing up for a home visit or inviting the Pastor to meet you for your lunch break** (we can go Dutch) is a great way to deepen your relationship with him. Possible days are listed by morning, afternoon, and evening on a list outside of the church office door. He will call you to confirm the visit, ahead of time. Other days and dates may be possible so you can also speak with him directly to arrange those.
4. **Receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion at home** or wherever a member lives is always possible and can be requested at any time by calling the church office and leaving a message. Those who reside in facilities where worship services are conducted weekly and encouraged by Pastor Bruce to participate in them.

## **A future late spring “Vehicular Show” at Zion’s**

is in the talking stages. Do you have an antique vehicle, an old car, old truck, old tractor, old motorcycle that you could bring to church ***on a Sunday morning/early afternoon*** to “show off”? Do you know someone else who does? Could you invite them to participate? Are you interested in helping plan this event? Consider speaking with Bettie Hirko and Pastor Bruce during February as a planning group will be formed in March to plan the May event.

## **On a future Sunday afternoon: Hike to Pulpit Rock and The Pinnacle and eat a packed lunch along the way?**

You bet! When the youth group walked the trail to the North Lookout at Hawk Mountain back on December 28, Pastor Bruce learned of the years ago tradition of doing this after worship on a Sunday.

We would leave from the Reservoir Parking lot but other than that, no date has been set for it. We need a planning group of local “experts” who have done it to help choose a date and make some detailed logistical plans. If interested, let Dave Mengel, Dwight Heckman or Pastor Bruce know.

## THANKS TO YOU...

### Backpacks in Goosetown

Teachers in an elementary school in Iowa City, Iowa, tell stories of finding scraps of food in their students' backpacks – food that the children had hidden to take home for their hungry siblings.

More than 60 percent of the children at that school are eligible for free and reduced-cost lunches and eat most of their meals at school. But what about the weekends?

That's where volunteers from Zion Lutheran Church, the school and the local food bank come in. supported in part by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, the Goosetown Operation Backpack Program makes sure students have healthful, kid-friendly food to eat on the weekends.

Now in its second year, the backpack program serves 30 children ages 5 to 11, and has plans to expand next school year. Thanks to your support of ELCA World Hunger, fewer children in Iowa City and communities across the country are less hungry.

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support innovative solutions that fight hunger and poverty in nearly 50 countries around the world, including the United States. Make your check payable to "ELCA World Hunger." Place your gift in your congregation's offering plate.

## RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FEBRUARY

### ALTAR GUILD

Pat Potts & Ruth Wilhelm

### MAIL TEAM # 1

Thursday, February 19 at 7:00 pm.

Tiffany & Samantha Gruber, Pat Potts, Ruth Hoppes

### ACOLYTES

Feb. 1 – 8:00 am. Alicia Gough  
1 – 10:30 am. Veronica Heckman  
8 – 8:00 am. Luke Mengel  
8 – 10:30 am. Chaz Cornman  
15 – 8:00 am. Julia Doklan  
15 – 10:30 am. Brett Daub  
18 – 7:00 pm. Ash Wed. Paul Engle  
22 – 8:00 am. Autumn Eyer  
22 – 10:30 am. MacKenzie Stocks

### LECTORS

Feb. 1 – 8:00 am. Carol Rothermel  
1 – 10:30 am. Faye Heckman  
8 – 8:00 am. Joe Leone  
8 – 10:30 am. Scouts  
15 – 8:00 am. Bill Deibler  
15 – 10:30 am. Eileen Puglia  
22 – 8:00 am. Venus Fioravanti  
22 – 10:30 am. Mark Price

### GREETERS

Feb. 1 – 8:00 am. Venus Fioravanti  
1 – 10:30 am. Geist family  
8 – 10:30 am. Scouts  
15 – 10:30 am. Susan & Woody Lutz  
22 – 10:30 am. David & Mary Mengle

### NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Feb. 1 – Lori Palubinski & Paul Engle  
8 – Eileen Puglia & Autumn Eyer  
15 – Tiffany Gruber & Alicia Gough  
22 – Faye Heckman & Alyssa Blandford



The following persons were elected to Zion's Lutheran Congregational Council at our annual meeting on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. They are: Jerry O'Brien, Dawn O'Brien, Bill Deibler, Joe Leone, Susan Lutz and Tiffany Gruber.

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS –

Samuel Stewart  
112 Villa Court Apt. 1  
Hamburg, PA 19526

### NEW MEMBER –

On Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> we welcomed the following into our church family:

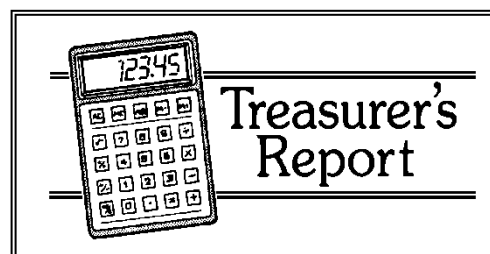
Pastor Susan Horst  
1040 Dunkels Church Rd.  
Kutztown, PA 19530



### ALTAR FLOWERS, BULLETIN & RELIGIOUS DIRECTORIES SPONSORS ARE NEEDED!

For many years the policy of asking you, the members of Zion's to help defray the cost of these items has seemed to work in an agreeable manner. It also gives you a way of honoring or remembering someone – a loved one, a friend, or family member. We would surely like to continue this policy. The new charts for the flowers & bulletins are now posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Won't you help us, by sponsoring one of these items during 2015? Costs are:

Altar Flowers	\$30.00
Sunday bulletins	13.00
Hamburg Item	10.00
Reading Eagle	10.00



### ZION'S UNIFIED FUND

through November 30, 2014

Beginning Balance	\$ 1,654.88
Current Offerings	177,530.72
Special Offerings	26,749.05
Sub Total	205,934.65
Current Expenses	<u>219,801.54</u>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ (-13,866.89)</b>

Balance owed to VanGuard for AC	\$ 6,840.00
Collected since last check sent	1,563.00
Balance still needed to collect	\$ 5,277.00

### ZION'S UNIFIED FUND

through December 31, 2014

Beginning Balance	\$ 1,654.88
Current Offerings	203,418.03
Special Offerings	29,111.43
Sub Total	234,184.34
Current Expenses	<u>240,052.43</u>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ (-5,868.09)</b>

Balance owed to Vanguard for AC	\$ 6,840.00
Collected since last check sent	2,408.00
Balance still needed to collect	\$ 4,432.00

### BEAR CREEK CAMP

Registration is now open for the summer sessions of camp.

Early bird registration is due March 1 to receive the \$15.00 discount. Zion's will send in the first batch of camp registrations on March 1, for those who know they are going to camp this summer. Please hand in your registration forms and deposit to Carol Rothermel. Another group of registrations will be sent in at a later date for those who have to figure out their schedules.

## CHURCH COUNCIL CORNER

Council met on 13 January to and discussed the following items.

Devotions by Dwight Heckman on “Travel light and Listen” which asks us all to reflect on things you can give to God and things to let go of. Jesus invites us to travel light and turn from the past and focus on the future.

Envelope changes for 2016 - discussion on additions to the monthly giving to assist in offsetting the costs of maintaining the property, fuel funding, charity and emergency and local outreaches.

Upcoming Council elections - Discussions centered around the coming Annual Meeting. Among topics discussed was Nominating Committee progress towards filling the positions of members coming off council, filling positions for the Nominating Committee and the Audit Committee. Another topic was coming up with a more precise method of setting up ballots with more pertinent information on individuals and current terms being served and eligibility of individuals towards serving a second term. Two back to back 3 year terms are the maximum any one individual can serve.

St. John's Church Hamburg - Zion's Perry Twp. Shared Worship - Proposal for a Shared Worship on February 1 to show hospitality for our Lutheran brothers and sisters while their building undergoes some extensive renovation. It should be a great opportunity to make new friends in the body of Christ!

New Custodian hired - Join us in welcoming Karen Mengel to the staff of Zion's Lutheran of Perry Twp. as the new custodian in the Sunday School Wing, replacing Wellesley Keal who 'retired' from the position in late 2014. Thank you Wellesley for your time and effort!

Treasurer's Report - Zion's finished the year 2014 with a deficit of \$5,868.09. The air conditioning fund total received for 2014 was \$5,408.86 with a

balance left to pay of \$4,432.00. Based on previous giving, this balance should be paid in full in 2015!

See you all at the Annual Congregational Meeting after the 10:30am service! Hope that you will plan to attend to help with the business of taking care of your church!

Submitted by Brian Moroney

As of December 31, 2014 we have raised \$949.95 from saving Redner's Tapes. If you would like to participate in this program, it's easy. Just get a save-a-tape card at the store, put your whole register tapes in the basket in the narthex.

**You must use a SAVE-A-TAPE card from Redner's for the church to receive credit for the tapes.**

### DON'T FORGET TO DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support organizations you care about. Don't let designated Choice Dollars expire.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have been designated Choice Dollars have until **March 31, 2015**, to direct any remaining 2014 Choice Dollars. Help support Zion's Church. Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more and find program terms and conditions. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

Keith G. Snyder  
Financial Associate  
Thrivent Financial®

81 S 4th St, Hamburg, PA 19526-1246  
Office: 610-562-2970  
Fax: 610-562-8479  
Email: [Keith.Snyder@Thrivent.com](mailto:Keith.Snyder@Thrivent.com)  
Web: [Thrivent.com/fr/keith.snyder](http://Thrivent.com/fr/keith.snyder)

## PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SHUT INS THIS VALENTINES DAY

We have compiled a list of our shut-ins' names and addresses. Will you please remember them on Valentine's Day with a card? Thanks!

Mrs. Jane Francis  
Grand View Manor  
129 Houck Rd.  
Fleetwood, PA 19522

Mrs. Dorothy Kline  
Laurel Center  
125 Holly Rd.  
Hamburg, PA 19526

Mrs. Helen Wanner  
604 Main St.  
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

Miss Grace Yeager  
1 South Home Avenue, D 318  
Topton, PA 19562

Mrs. Marguerite Hepner  
1 South Home Avenue, D 330  
Topton, PA 19562

Mrs. Mary Ellen Fraunfelter  
1425 Philadelphia Ave. # 242  
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Mr. Luther Kunkel  
C/O Linda Jones  
2412 Province Rd.  
Reading, PA 19610

Mrs. Edith Reppert  
4100 Seventh Ave.  
Temple, PA 19560

Mr. Richard Davis  
462 Onyx Cave Rd.  
Hamburg, PA 19526

Mr. LeRoy Achenbach  
720 Franklin St.  
Shoemakersville, PA 19555



MORE THAN 20 YEARS AGO, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

“Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day, more than \$98 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a positive difference in the world – as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need.

Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Every dollar donated goes to Opportunity House our 2015 Souper Bowl of Caring charity of choice.

### **BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWERS**

February's Birthdays are:

Jane Francis will celebrate her birthday on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Her address is Grand View Manor, 129 Houck Rd., Fleetwood, PA 19522

Sam Stewart will celebrate his birthday on February 19<sup>th</sup>. His address is: 112 Villa Court, Apt. 1, Hamburg, PA 19526



# BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Y Z Y A H Y Q Z X Q U D K L F  
T M R F T H O T E H O E U V N  
F G M N I K A L N C T U X P T  
R K A U A T B D T E V T Z Y I  
E E S J F A C G R D P E Z G L  
D C H U R C H N Y Q C R O U A  
E S N A I T A L A G F O E F U  
E A P L X L Q V D S D N X S B  
M E H E L H T E B F M O S E S  
G O L I A T H Z R Y C M W K I  
R D F I E J U I T P L Y P T C  
A E R Q L L D Z T A Q Y A E T  
C M W G L A S T S U P P E R C  
E G N X Y K G P O L A D S Y J  
B K T O Q L R D L Y W Q R X Y

FAITH	GALILEE	CHURCH
GOLIATH	GOOD FRIDAY	BETHLEHEM
GRACE	PAUL	REDEEM
MOSES	LAST SUPPER	SANCTIFY
SERPENT	GALATIANS	PSALMS
DEUTERONOMY	ETERNAL LIFE	PARABLE

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# February Birthdays 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Alyssa Noecker Deanna Puglia Adrienne Puglia Melissa Gruber Phil Kerr	<b>2</b> Kyleigh Mengel Scott Lopez	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Cathleen Mengel
<b>8</b> Anna Billig James Blandford Brayden Heckman	<b>9</b> Keith Hertzog	<b>10</b> Grant Doklan Wesley Trabosh	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> *Jane Francis Christina Steffy	<b>13</b> <b>Alyx Mazaika</b>	<b>14</b> Lauren Werley-Wolf Katelyn Heckman William Hill
<b>15</b> Tiffany Youse	<b>16</b> Carolyn Geist Carolyn Sunday Keith Seidel	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Mikalee Kerr	<b>19</b> Samuel Stewart	<b>20</b> Dewey Freeman Jory Heckman	<b>21</b> Madson Hoffert Lois DeTurk Patricia Adam Duane Seidel
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Zachary Hoherchak	<b>24</b> Ernest Heckman	<b>25</b> Carielle Geist Joshua Schaeffer Tyler Pond	<b>26</b> Ruth Wilhelm Joel Werley	<b>27</b> Christopher Schaeffer	<b>28</b>
Ryan Boyer—29						



## WINTER WEATHER AND WORSHIP

We can't predict, but we can prepare. Weekday bad weather cancellation of programs and rehearsals and meetings will be tied to what the Hamburg Area School District is doing for the day. If HASD cancels or lets out early, then all church programming is suspended for the day. This eliminates the need for multiple phone calls, hopefully everyone understands.

Sunday morning cancellations will be a decision made between the Pastor and some council members. However Pastor has been known to occasionally sleep at the church on Saturday night, when bad weather approaches, so hopefully we won't have to cancel any service. For large groups or for Sunday school and Worship Events, cancellations will be posted on Channel 69's website: [www.wfmz.com](http://www.wfmz.com). (click on School Closing then Church, Worship) and it should be on the scrolling bar on the bottom of the TV screen.

Information will also be on our Facebook page: Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Perry Township. If you're not sure about a scheduled event, simply call the Church at 610-562-3112.

## FUNDRAISER FOR CARISSA MILLER

A Fundraiser for Carissa Miller for her Hearts for Honduras Trip in April will be held on February 22, 2015 at Hoss's Restaurant in Leesport. This fundraiser will give a percentage of the total sales that day back to the church, who will be sponsoring Carissa for this Trip. Please be sure that you have the coupon needed for that day so the sales will be counted for her.

Coupons will be available on the table in the Narthax or you can call Carissa at 610-301-8881 or Christine Miller at 484-256-4684 to get one.

## THANK YOU

Thank you to the musicians who played with Orcheband at our Christmas Eve Service.

Thank you to everyone for collecting coupons for the "Coups for Troops" program.

Dear Friends and Congregation,

Thank you to everyone for the cards, visits, thoughts and prayers I have received this past year. It means so much to me!

Luther Kunkel

The February Food Item for Northern Berks Food Pantry is:

### **Macaroni & Cheese**

Please place donations in the shopping cart in the Narthex. They are also in need of paper grocery bags. Thanks for ensuring that vulnerable members of our community have healthy food choices, as well as enough to eat.

## LOVE A BOOK MONTH

It's February - Take a selfie with something you love  
- Zion's Church Library

Added to the collection this month are the following:

*Reel Kids Adventure Series* by Dave Gustaveson - Challenge your faith as you follow Reel Kids and their Media Club on international adventures

The Missing Video  
Mystery at Smokey Mountain  
The Stolen Necklace  
The Amazon Stranger  
The Mysterious Case  
The Dangerous Voyage  
The Lost Diary  
The Forbidden Road  
The Danger Zone  
The Himalayan Rescue

*Tortured for Christ* by Reverend Richard Wurmbrand  
- True account of persecuted Christians

*The Courage of Sarah Noble* by Alice Dalgliesh - True story from 1707 of an 8 year old as she travels with her family to a new home in the Wilderness of Connecticut.

## NORTHERN BERKS COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

### Choice Dollars?

Thrivent members, have you designated your 2015 Choice Dollars? If not, you have until March 31<sup>st</sup> to do so. Please consider designating your Choice Dollars for Zion's Church, or to the Northern Berks Community Garden, c/o Zion's. Please contact your Thrivent Financial Representative for more information.

### Season #2 is coming!

The Northern Berks Community Garden committee is looking ahead to our 2<sup>nd</sup> growing season. We anticipate opening the Garden in late March, weather permitting. We'll need lots of help putting in the onion bulbs and plants and planting lettuce, tentatively the weekend after Easter. Mark your calendars now. Think Spring!

### Garden Needs ...

As we look ahead to next season, we have added the following needs:

- Metal tomato stakes, 5-6 feet long
- Stepladder
- Delivery drivers
- New volunteers!!!

Please see David Ketner or any Garden committee member if you can help us out with the above.

Submitted by:

Eileen Puglia, Secretary

**Thanks** to everyone who supported me on my trip to Panama! At the pork and Sauerkraut dinner I raised about \$500.00 and with donations I greatly exceeded that, allowing me to pay for my \$1,700.00 completely through my funds raised! I couldn't have done this without the help of you and my faith in Christ! I can't wait to continue my advancement with my trip to Honduras with the Hearts for Honduras program at the end of April. To fun this trip I will be holding an All You Can Eat Chicken Pot Pie Dinner on March 22, 2015 here at Zion's. The dinner will include Pot pie, rolls, applesauce or coleslaw, drink and desserts. Cost will be Adults: \$10.00 and children under 12: \$5.00. if anyone would be interested in baking desserts for the event please contact myself Carissa at 610-301-8881 or my mother, Christine at 484-256-4684.

Thanks to all again,, Carissa Miller



## BEAR CREEK CAMP NEWS

Bear Creek Camp is a ministry of the Southeastern and Northeastern PA Synods of the ELCA. It's located on nearly 3,000 acres in the beauty of the Pocono Mountains. Bear Creek Camp has residential programs for children who have completed grades 1-12.

From the Bear Creek Camp website  
[www.bearcreekcamp.org](http://www.bearcreekcamp.org)

FAQ's for parents:

Q. Why should my child attend Bear Creek camp?

A. Simply put, to explore, celebrate, and grow in God's Creation. Everything we do here involves one of those actions.

FAQ's for campers:

Q. What will we do at camp?

A. Adventure initiatives—problem solving activities

Low ropes

High ropes

Climbing wall

Orienteering

Geocaching—high tech scavenger hunt

Canoeing and or kayaking

Swimming

Hiking

Organized field games—recent favorites are the Gaga Pits

Night hike

Zion's WELCA sponsors ½ scholarships for all members who want to attend Bear Creek Camp because this is a valuable learning opportunity for our students. Additional scholarships can be arranged for those with tight budgets. No child should forgo camp for financial reasons. See Carol Rothermel for details. Flyers will be available in the office soon or see the website.

## **What is Lent all about?**

Lent is about remembering the passion and death of Jesus Christ. Lent is studying the life of Jesus, who suffered and died on the cross. Lent is a 40 days period (excluding Sundays) to focus on God's gift of Jesus, who died to save all people from their sins. Lent is about practicing some "self-denial", trying to make one's life a little more God-like.

## **How long have Christians been observing Lent?**

Faithful Christians have long used the 6 weeks of Lent to prepare themselves to celebrate Christ's Resurrection on Easter. It has always been a time of preparation and instruction for new Christians. Is there someone you know who wishes to grow closer to God. Lent is a great time to invite them to do that.

## **How can I participate in Lenten activities?**

By worshipping regularly. By studying the Bible regularly with others. By "giving up" something because God "gave up" Jesus. By giving more. By serving others more. By praying more. By doing daily devotions. By making a life change that brings you closer to God.

**Anyone desiring the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for themselves (or for their children) is invited** to contact Pastor Bruce as soon as possible to begin preparations. Baptisms will be celebrated at The Vigil of Easter service on Saturday, April 4 at 7 p.m., which is a very special night to be baptized.

**Children, youth and adults of all ages who wish to learn about the Sacrament of Holy Communion are invited** to participate in 4 weeks of study and learning, on the Sundays of March 8,15,22,29. Attend worship at 10:30 a.m. and then stay for lunch, fellowship and instruction with Pastor Bruce until 1:30 p.m. those who have prepared themselves will receive their First Communion on the Night of the Last Supper, Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 7 p.m.

## **What Adults Can Be Studying at Zion's during Lent 2015**

### **"The Parables of Lent"**

This study will take place in the Library. Lenten worship will follow the study and be held in the Gold Room Chapel at 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

**Ash Wednesday, February 18 at 11 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.**

"Receive Justification: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector Luke 18: 9-14

**Midweek Wednesday, February 25 at 11 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.**

"Receive the Word: The Sower and the Seed" Matthew 13:1-8,18-23

**Midweek Wednesday, March 4 at 11 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.**

"Receive the Treasure: The Hidden Treasure and the Priceless Pearl" Matthew 13:44-48

**The Gospel of Mark**  
**"Jesus: Powerful, Courageous and Trusting"**  
**On Sundays at 9:15 a.m. with Pastor Bruce**

Some class notes: Those participating should bring their Bibles and be prepared to use them. Students should gather at their assigned seats and begin reading while the class gathers. The catechetical students will be participating in the class. (This will be a "school-like class", held in the Fellowship Hall, with the divider pulled. Anyone is welcome to join in at any time during the 5 weeks.) We will be reading the whole Gospel of Mark during the 5 weeks.

**Sunday, February 22** The Foundations of the Gospels and Jesus' Galilean Ministry Begins  
**Sunday, March 1** Jesus' Teaching and Preaching

**About the Northern Berks Ministerium**  
**Lenten Thursdays Program**

Each week, the soup and bread devotional event is held at a different congregation in the greater Hamburg area. All are welcome at these events.

**11:30 a.m. Worship - 12 p.m. Soup and Bread is served**

**Offerings benefit Ministerium's Emergency Outreach Assistance Fund**

**2015 Theme: "Close Encounters of Grace that Free Us"**

**Thursday, February 19 @ 11:30 a.m.**

Grace: Finding a New Heart - Psalm 51:1-10 At St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, 94 Walnut Rd. Tilden Township with Father Don Cieniewicz

**Thursday, February 26 @ 11:30 a.m.**

Grace: Finding New Life - At St. Paul's-Smoke Lutheran Church, Old 22 in Windsor Twp. with Rev. Elna Stratton

**Note: Thursday, March 5 @ 11:30 a.m.**

Grace: Freely Given/Costly Lived - Romans 5:15-18, Matthew 4:1-11  
**At Zion's Lutheran Church, Perry Township**

**About our Easter Sunday, April 5 - 9 a.m. Children's Worship Plans**

On Palm Sunday, March 29, during Sunday School, there will be rehearsal for the Children's Worship Service (to be held on Easter Sunday at 9:15 a.m.) There is no Adult Sunday School lesson planned for Palm Sunday but a review of the events of Holy Week will take place as a part of the rehearsal in the Nave. The Dress Rehearsal will be held on Saturday, April 4 either before or after the Traditional Egg Hunt. Many Sunday school volunteers, including the Orche-Band members will be involved.

# FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Holy Comm. 8 am. S. School 9:15 am. Holy Comm. 10:30 am.	<b>2</b> Cub Scouts 6:30 pm. Boy Scouts 7:30 pm.	<b>3</b> Garden Com. Mtg. 6:30 pm. A.A. 7 pm. Al-Anon 7 pm.	<b>4</b> Junior Choir 6:30 pm. Senior Choir 7:30 pm.  Keystone Mil.—F.H.	<b>5</b> Bells 6:45 pm. Brass 8:00 pm.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> A.A. 7 pm. Al-Anon 7 pm.
<b>8</b> Worship 8:00 am.. S. School 9:15 am. Holy Comm. 10:30 am.	<b>9</b> Cub Scouts 6:30 pm. Boy Scouts 7:30 pm.	<b>10</b> Quilt knotting 9:30 am. A.A. 7 pm. Cong. Council 7 pm.	<b>11</b> Newsletter dead-line Junior Choir 6:30 pm. Senior Choir 7:30 pm. Keystone Mil.—F.H.	<b>12</b> Cemetery Board mtg. at Zion's W.C. 9 am. Bells 6:45 pm.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> A.A. 7 pm. Al-Anon 7 pm.
<b>15</b> Cont. Ser. 8 am. S. School 9:15 am. Holy Comm. 10:30 am.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> A.A. 7 pm. Al-Anon 7 pm.	<b>18</b> Ash Wed. worship 11 am. & 5:45 pm. Senior Choir after worship Keystone Mil.—F.H.	<b>19</b> Mail Team #1 Bells 6:45 pm. Brass 8:00 pm.	<b>20</b> Opportunity House Meal 5:30	<b>21</b> Al-Anon 7 pm. A.A. 7 pm.
<b>22</b> Holy Com. 8:00 am. S. School 9:15 am. Holy Comm. 10:30 am.	<b>23</b> Cub Scouts 6:30 pm. Boy Scouts 7:30 pm.	<b>24</b> Quilt knotting 9:30 am.. A.A. 7 pm. Al-Anon 7 pm.	<b>25</b> Lenten worship 11 am. & 5:45 pm. Senior Choir after worship	<b>26</b> Bells 6:45 pm. Brass 8:00 pm.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> A.A. 7 pm. Al-Anon 7 pm.  Fellowship Hall rent-

# ZION'S MESSENGER

Sunday Church School - 9:15 A.M.  
Worship Services - - - - 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

**FEBRUARY**



**2014/15**

Church Phone: 610-562-3112  
Church email: [churchoffice@zionslutheran.org](mailto:churchoffice@zionslutheran.org)  
Church website: [www.zionslutheran.org](http://www.zionslutheran.org)  
Church Fax: 610-562-0461



Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
354 Zion's Church Road, Shoemakersville, PA 19555

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## PURPOSE STATEMENT

*God's purpose for Zion's is to welcome and empower people to grow in faithfulness and service to his mission through the Gospel.*



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Zion's Lutheran Church  
354 Zion's Church Rd.  
Shoemakersville, PA 19555