



*Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." Matthew 14:16*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God our creator, you have ordered seedtime and harvest, sunshine and rain. Grant that we may always give thanks to you for food, drink, and all that sustains life; that we may use with care the land and water from which these good things come; and may respect those who labor to produce them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



# NORTHERN BERKS COMMUNITY GARDEN



Located at:

**ZION'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
354 Zions Church Road  
Shoemakersville, PA 19555  
610-562-3112

Email: [communitygarden@zionslutheran.org](mailto:communitygarden@zionslutheran.org)

Web site: [www.zionslutheran.org](http://www.zionslutheran.org)



NBCG Revised March 2015

## PURPOSE

**The Northern Berks Community Garden at Zion's** exists as a community ministry of the congregation. Its intent is to provide fresh produce, without cost, through the local food pantry system to individuals and families in the community who are in need of assistance.

## HISTORY

The garden was begun in the spring of 2014 in response to a growing need to assist low and moderate income members of the community in their desire to acquire healthy, locally grown produce. In the first season, 5,717 pounds of produce was grown, including beets, cabbage, kale, lettuce, tomatoes, string beans, cucumbers, yellow squash, and turnips.

Its operation is overseen by a committee comprised of members of the congregation and the surrounding community.

Volunteers prepare the soil, plant, and harvest the produce.



## Q AND A

### **What happens to the produce after it is picked?**

The produce is distributed to low and moderate income residents of the community through the established food pantry system in northern Berks, including the Northern Berks Food Pantry, the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry, Seventh Day Adventist Pantry, Friend, Inc., as well as the Greater Berks Food Bank.

### **How is the garden funded?**

The garden is funded through designated gifts for the ministry from individuals, community organizations, local churches, and businesses. In addition, in-kind gifts of plants, seeds, tools, etc. are gratefully accepted. No produce is ever sold.

### **Where do the volunteers for this ministry come from?**

Members of Zion's Lutheran Church provide a large portion of the volunteers who have worked in the garden and managed its operation, but anyone who would like to be a part of this ministry is welcome to volunteer their time, talents and energy. There is no age requirement and a member of the committee is always present at the garden to provide appropriate supervision when there is work occurring.

### **When is the garden in operation?**

Beginning May 11<sup>th</sup>, work times for the 2015 growing season are Monday mornings, 8 am – 10 am and Thursday evenings, 6 pm – 8 pm, weather permitting.



### **How can I volunteer?**

Individuals are welcome to simply come to the garden during our work times. In addition, you can contact Lori, volunteer coordinator, at 610-401-1186 or email [communitygarden@zionslutheran.org](mailto:communitygarden@zionslutheran.org).

### **How can I make a financial contribution to the garden?**

You should make your check payable to "Zion's Lutheran Church" and either include a note or indicate in the memo section of the check that the contribution is for the "Community Garden". All checks should be sent to Zion's Lutheran Church, 354 Zions Church Road, Shoemakersville, PA 19555. All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

