

Zion's Messenger

September 2015

Dear Members of
Zion's Lutheran Church,

As our life together as pastor and people begins its' second year, there are some things that we need to focus on together.

At our recent Goal Setting meeting, we established a goal to increase weekly worship attendance to 150 people and weekly educational ministry participation to 75 people. This will require a deeper commitment from everyone in order to accomplish it. Each member needs to make a renewed effort to attend church each week. As people of God, we are stronger as a group when more of us are present for our organization's primary activity – **WORSHIP**.

Secondly, as this new school year begins, the Zion's faith community gathers weekly for the study of scripture. **Please be involved and participate in supporting** our Sunday School educational opportunities that will help you (and your children) to grow in your faith and in your relationship with God. **We have organized a new Adult Study Classroom** for adults to use. We are **implementing a Children's Church program** to help our children learn more about the Bible and how to participate in worship. **Adults should especially pay attention to the Saturday, October 17 Day of Learning** that is being prepared. 4- 90 minute class periods will provide wonderful opportunities

for **Zion's leaders and members to grow**. There will be many talented teachers present. Watch for the specific details and sign up. Our goal is to have 25 - 30 Zion's Lutheran adults participating on Oct. 17 - **LEARN**

Thirdly, pray for your congregation, for its' staff and all of its' volunteers that God's love might be evident in all that we say and do. In this broken and confused world, as faithful people, we know to center our lives (and our time, talents and treasure) on God, but there are many in the world who either have forgotten how to do that, or have never had the opportunity to be involved in a community like Zion's, before. **Invite those who are searching for a church to call home to come with you to Zion's events and worship services. - PRAY**

Through the first 2/3's of 2015 the financial picture at Zion's is not good. During the summer, the operating deficit soared above \$20,000. Members are asked to increase their regular giving as they are able. **We (people of Zion's) are a generous people because we know that God has been generous to us**. Soon, we hope, members and friends will be able to give on-line through the church's website. God loves joyful, cheerful givers who recognize the good work being done by their congregation. Many lives are being touched with the love of Christ. - **GIVE**

I hope to see you in worship in September. I pray that you will be involved in doing God's Work with your hands, feet and hearts wherever your work and travels take you in the world. **May God be a part of our gatherings in the fall days ahead.**

Yours in Christ,


Pastor Bruce

A Sample of the Sat. Oct. 17 classes to choose from:

- + **Back to Basics: Making Disciples.** How do we help each other grow in our faith?
- + **Who is this guy** named Martin Luther?
- + **Growth: Attracting, Retaining, and Engaging Members.** How do we become more welcoming?
- + **Lay Eucharistic Ministry Training.** Learn how to take Communion to our homebound members.
- + **What is Advocacy?** Why do we do it? Where do we do it?
- + **Who is Isaiah?** What did he have to say?
- + **Parenting** Discussion and Helps. Kids driving you crazy?
- + **Learn** how to use our Church De-Fibulator, just in case!
- + **Using Technology** at Church And even more choices.....

Our regular schedule returns:

Sunday, September 13

8 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
classes begin

10:30 a.m. Worship

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN SEPTEMBER

Sept. 6/Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 A.M. Holy Communion

Sept. 13/Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
8 A.M. Worship
10:30 A.M. Holy Communion

Sept. 20/Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
8 am. Contemporary Service
10:30 A.M. Holy Communion

Sept. 27/Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 am. Holy Communion
10:30 am. Worship



POTATO PICKING

We will once again be helping to pick potatoes for the Potato Project. Our work date is and Sunday, September 27th. More info to follow as it becomes available. Please sign up on the bulletin board and mark which date suits you best. Closer to the date you will be contacted with the field location as it hasn't been determined yet. Any questions, please contact the church office.



We will likely be harvesting potatoes at the home of Bob & Vernie Noecker, Water St. Shoey at some point this Sept., possibly on September 27th.

On Sunday, September 27, 2015 plan to come to 10:15 am. joint worship at St. John's Lutheran Church, Hamburg

(with friends from Friedens Lutheran Church, Shartlesville)

- +See St. John's newly renovated Nave
- +Help St. John's celebrate their 225th Anniversary
- +St. John's is returning the hospitality favor that Zion's showed them back on Feb. 1 when they worshiped at Zion's.
- + Joint Sunday School at 9:15 am.
- +Joint choir Anthem
- +Shared Fellowship Meal after Festive Worship
- +Plenty of Parking at the Hamburg Field House



"BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS"

Sunday, September 13th

During the both worship services

Students returning to classes, preschool & daycare are asked to bring their backpacks/lunchboxes, etc. for a blessing during the worship service. Place your backpack on the Altar steps before the service begins.

THANKS TO YOU...

Our Beautiful home

In November 2013, a series of deadly tornadoes ripped through Illinois. In the small town of Brookport, 44 homes were destroyed and 127 were severely damaged. Worse, many people were injured and some lost their lives.

Ray and Marcina Warfield happened to be visiting family elsewhere that day and felt lucky to have escaped the storm. But when they came home, they realized they had not been completely spared.

The Warfields' mobile home had been destroyed by the tornado. The couple had always lived in mobile homes, so when they received assistance from FEMA, it seemed only natural to purchase another. However, after connecting with a case manager through the long-term recovery group in Illinois, supported in part by Lutheran Disaster Response through Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, the Warfields decided that building a house would be better investment.

Through donations, volunteer efforts and gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, the Warfields were able to move into their new home. Never had they thought they would be able to live in a grounded home. The sense of safety was well worth the investment – and they couldn't be more grateful.

Every night after the work crews and volunteers went home, Ray and Marcina would help by cleaning up the work site and throwing out trash. During work days, Marcina would set up chairs in the shade so workers could take their breaks in comfort, and she would talk with them and express her family's gratitude.

"We are so thankful," Marcina says. "We are tickled with our beautiful home."

Because of people like you, Lutheran Disaster Response is able to help those whose homes have been destroyed. Your gifts help provide healing and hope to people like Ray and Marcina. Lutheran Disaster Response supports ongoing, long-term assistance to people affected by disasters throughout the United States and around the world.

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response help the church respond to the needs of people after a disaster strikes. Working in collaboration with other disaster response organizations and church entities, this enables the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SEPTEMBER

ALTAR GUILD

Cleta Borkey & Ruth Hoppes

MAIL TEAM #3

Thursday, Sept. 24, 7:00 pm.

David & Mary Mengle, Michael Puglia

ACOLYTES

Sept. 6 – 9:00 am. Luke Mengel
13 – 8:00 am. Alyssa Blandford
13 – 10:30 am. Paul Engle
20 – 8:00 am. Alicia Gough
20 – 10:30 am. Veronica Heckman
27 – 8:00 am. Julia Doklan
27 – 10:30 am. Zion's visits St. John's

LECTORS

Sept. 6 – 9:00 am. Susan Lutz
13 – 8:00 am. Venus Fioravanti
13 – 10:30 am. Joe Leone
20 – 8:00 am. Bill Deibler
20 – 10:30 am. Faye Heckman
27 – 8:00 am. Sandra Moroney
27 – Zion's visits St. John's

GREETERS

Sept. 6 - 9:00 am. Karen Mengel
13 – 10:30 am. Susan & Woody Lutz
20 – 10:30 am. Nelson & Ruth Ann Eyer
27 – Zion's visits St. John's

OPPORTUNITY HOUSE MEAL

Leave church at 5:30 pm.

September 18 – Susan Lutz, Captain. Mitch Shestok,
Susan Kauffman, Christine Miller

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sept. 6 – Tiffany Gruber & Paul Engle
13 – Faye Heckman & Brett Daub
20 – Carissa Miller & Karyna Blandford
28 – Zion's visits St. John's

New Child procedures during worship beginning Sept. 13th.

1. Keep your children in worship until the children's sermon time. Send them forward at that time.
2. The children will go out to the nursery for a brief lesson.
3. The children will return to receive a Communion blessing from the Pastor.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

BAPTISMS –

Harrison Rae Peterson, son of Jon & Ashley Peterson was baptized on July 18, 2015

Tyler Michael Fusner, Jr., son of Tyler Fusner, Sr. & Ashley Rumbel was baptized on July 18, 2015

Julia Ruth Werley, daughter of Joel & Yukie Werley was baptized on August 2, 2015

Liam Michael Brennan, son of Michael & Sheena Brennan was baptized on August 16, 2015

DEATHS –

The following passed into eternal rest:

Roger Hartline on June 27, 2015

Helen Wanner on August 4, 2015



THANK YOU

All our Faithful Grass Mowers and Trimmers who spent some long hours keeping our lawns and fields looking good. Special Thanks to: Roy Sousley for maintaining the mower.

Also, we'd like to thank those who weeded and planted and cared for flowerbeds and shrubs, adding a touch of beauty to our church building.

Finally, thanks to all our faithful summer worshipers at Zion's Church!!



CHOIR DIRECTOR NEWS

Dear Members of Zion's,

After 6 wonderful years as Choir Director, I now need to step down to focus on some other obligations in my life. My time in this role has been a blessing and a joy to me and I thank-you! As Martin Luther put it, "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."

Blessings to you all,
Karen Freeman

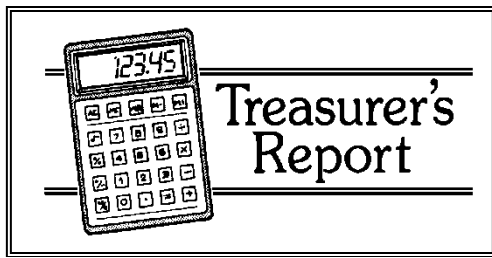


OPPORTUNITY HOUSE MEAL

The following items are needed for the dinner at Opportunity House on Sept. 18th. Donated items should be placed in the fellowship hall by Thursday, Sept. 17. Please mark items "Opportunity House". Sign the sheet on the bulletin board if you would like to donate something.

- 4 - 3 lbs. packs of ground beef
- 1 - 5 lb. bag of frozen peas
- 3 - large bags of salad mix (Sam's size)
- 4 - loaves of Italian bread unsliced
- 1 - garlic butter (found in refrigerator section of grocery store)
- 2 large plastic tubs of ice cream (3 qt. size)

Prayer shawl ministry starts up again Sept. 20th. Bring all the shawls made over the summertime to the first meeting. See you at 9:15.



CHURCH COUNCIL CORNER

Zion's Unified Fund

through June 30, 2015

1-1 Beginning Balance	\$ - 5,868.09
Current Offerings	97,699.84
Special Offerings	<u>11,982.11</u>
Sub Total	103,813.86
Current Expenses	<u>- 123,862.56</u>
Fund Balance	- 19,937.70

through July 31, 2015

1-1 Beginning Balance	\$ - 5,868.09
Current Offerings	111,862.84
Special Offerings	<u>14,739.11</u>
Sub Total	120,733.86
Current Expenses	<u>- 142,738.73</u>
Fund Balance	- 22,004.87

**THE SEPTEMBER ITEM FOR THE
NORTHERN BERKS FOOD PANTRY IS:**

SPAGHETTI & SPAGHETTI SAUCE

Please place donations in the shopping cart in the Narthex. Thanks for helping members of our community to be able to help ends meet!

Request for Students & Service People

If your son or daughter will be living away at college or in the military service next year, please let the church office know the new address as soon as possible. We want to keep in touch with our college students and our military!

Congregational Council met in August as summer quickly comes to a close and a new school year fast approaches. Our devotions before meeting reminded us of the importance of being mindful as we listened to our members this past month saying, "This church is my family." We heard there is "comfort" found at Zion's. We at Zion's provide some people an "escape" from the trappings of life, listen with "understanding", and best of all we heard our members say, "I get Love here!" WOW! Hearing all of that really puts the ministries we provide here at Zion's into perspective, it gives them value, and assures us we are working together to carrying out God's will here in our little corner of the earth. It really gives meaning to the saying, "You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person."

It is hard to believe a year has gone by since we have been blessed by Pastor Osterhout's call to Zion's. We on Council truly appreciate his dedication, guidance, teachings, ministry building, and all the work he has done towards making Zion's "A Destination and Not an Obligation." We are really looking forward to a fantastic future with him in the pulpit. He noted in his report to Council that July's attendance was up twenty percent from last year. We were glad to hear that Saturday night worship services offered this summer have been successful.

Council took action on the recommendations from the Personnel Committee in getting a leadership plan in place for a Choir Director to start in September. We thank them for their leadership, and quick action for support of our music ministry so it can continue to be part of our worship.

We heard the Community Garden is on track to exceed last year's production by a ton or more, and that it truly is a "community" endeavor as recently there have been youth groups from other area churches participating in the working of the garden. What a gem we hold on our property providing a much needed ministry to the less fortunate in this corner of Berks County.

We are taking a step forward to transitioning the Media Task Force by working on developing a Media Committee. Also we hope to have an online giving option available on our newly designed web site in the very near future.

Council continued the lively discussion on same sex marriage and human sexuality since the May 2015 Synod Assembly. We are encouraging everyone to participate in the discussion, we appreciate the input we have gotten so far. You will soon see a Bible Study series being offered on this topic so we can have in depth study of scripture and ELCA's positions pertaining to it. Please plan to be part of this important discussion, let your voice be heard.

In the next couple of month there will be a lot of activity here at Zions, the return to Sunday School, Worship at St. John's Hamburg, an Adult/Youth Education day, the Bazaar, potato picking, Pastor Decker's Homecoming, just to name a few. There is a lot of opportunity here at Zion's to share your God given gifts in the life of Zion's and Council feels blessed, we Thank You for your continued dedication and support.

Find your blessing in this day that God made and be thankful!



LOOKING FOR A CHOIR DIRECTOR

If you or someone you know would like to be Zion's choir director, read on.: Part time position with Wednesday night rehearsals for 3 anthems per month. Ability to work as a team in worship planning. Email resume` to pastorbruce@zionslutheran.org or call 610-914-2795.



WELCA will be holding the annual bazaar on Saturday November 21st from 9am to 1pm. The first bazaar meeting is scheduled for Saturday September 12th from 9 to 11am. Please come we would love your involvement.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Sunday, September 13 - First Sunday School classes of the year. First Youth Group meeting of the new school year from 6-8 pm. at church

Sunday, September 27 – Sunday School is at St. John's Hamburg as is 10:15 am. worship. Pastor Inge Williams is leading your Sunday School that day.

As of August 25th, we have raised \$610.42 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, give it to the cashier and put your register tapes in the basket in the narthex, we do the rest.

September Birthdays 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <i>Donna Long</i> <i>Dwight Heckman</i>	2	3	4 <i>Rebecca Heffner</i>	5 <i>Mark Price</i> <i>Audrey Rothermel</i>
6 <i>*William Miller</i> <i>Owen Neuin</i> <i>Darrell Kohler</i>	7 <i>Angela Gough</i> <i>Doris Gough</i> <i>Venus Fioravanti</i> <i>Korey Omlack</i>	8 <i>David Klemmer</i> <i>Deborah Steffy</i>	9 <i>Cynthia Dimovitz</i>	10 <i>Brenda Ramich</i>	11 <i>Andrea Heckman</i> <i>Lisa Ruth</i>	12 <i>Bertha Stewart</i>
13 <i>Myrle Werley</i> <i>Nathan Bender</i>	14 <i>Connie Reinhart</i>	15 <i>Dennis Madeira</i> <i>Lorraine Snyder</i> <i>Lisa Fegley</i>	16 <i>Thomas Scheidt</i>	17	18 <i>Karen Himmelberger</i>	19 <i>Sheena Brennan</i>
20 <i>Chris Mengel</i> <i>Grace Ketner</i> <i>Karen Freeman</i> <i>Charles Seidel</i>	21	22 <i>Layne Schroeder</i> <i>David Long</i> <i>Nancy Pursell</i>	23 <i>Maylynn Wagner</i> <i>Brittney Noecker</i> <i>Jason Seidel</i> <i>Kyle Pursell</i> <i>Makenzie Reitenauer</i>	24	25 <i>Paul Engle</i> <i>Marvin Adam</i> <i>Larry Long</i>	26
27 <i>Ruth Ann Eyer</i>	28 <i>Samantha Gruber</i>	29 <i>Barbara Gehringer</i> <i>Woodrow Lutz</i> <i>Katie Stefan</i>	30 <i>Allen Merkel</i> <i>Craig Reinhart</i>	31		

* Denotes Shut In

Fall 2015

Dear Members of Zion's Lutheran Church,

I have now completed my first year of service as your Pastor. I have gotten familiar with life at Zion's in these past months. I have visited with many of you in your homes. Over the past 12 months, the subject of human sexuality has been on the agenda of our monthly Congregation Council meetings.

In June, our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod again discussed this issue and acted. The Reading Eagle published a report on the assembly in Reading but Bishop Samuel Zeiser was not happy with their coverage of the discussion. Jim and Betty Hirko served as Zion's delegates to the Assembly. Jim did a faithful job in fairly presenting the assembly actions to the congregation on the Sunday after that assembly. I was grateful for Jim's honesty and integrity that day.

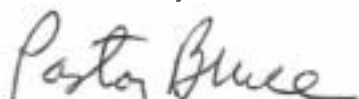
There was some follow-up discussion at June's Congregation Council meeting. That discussion led to an active family of the congregation deciding to seek membership elsewhere, outside of the ELCA. In late June, the Supreme Court announced its latest decision, prompting further discussion.

There appears to be a desire on the part of Zion's members to have an indepth study of scripture and of our ELCA history in dealing with this subject. The leadership of the congregation has prayerfully considered how to proceed in a manner that will be helpful to all those who wish to be a part of that conversation. The decisions of our national church body and our synod were not entered into lightly or quickly. Votes required $\frac{2}{3}$ majorities before actions were adopted. The issue was studied by many congregations for more than a decade.

As people of Zion's Lutheran prepare for a time of study and conversation on human sexuality, **please use the resources** that are available at www.elca.org/socialstatements to help you in your own study process. I will be using them. **Please also recognize** that many ELCA congregations have actively participated in Bible study, prayer and discernment over the past 15 years or more. I participated in those studies with my previous congregation. **Please also recognize** that the faith community of Zion's already includes those who are of homosexual orientation. I know that 21st century families need help and prayer in dealing with the dynamic relationships that exist between generations that are each called to be faithful to the teachings of the Christian faith.

I have been called to serve as the Pastor of a diverse group of human beings who have been in fellowship with one another and with the wider Lutheran church community for the past 256 years. **Please prayerfully be a part of this discussion. Please hold our congregation's leadership in your prayers at this time.** I anticipate a 6 week Wednesday evening study group to begin this fall. Participants should be able to commit to attending all 6 sessions. There will be some assigned reading before the study group begins. **Please indicate your interest in this study by signing up on my office door.**

Yours in Christ,





SEPTEMBER CARD SHOWERS

We have 2 card showers for September:

William Miller will celebrate his 83rd birthday on September 6th. His address is: 1463 Main St., Shoemakersville, PA 19555

Bertha Stewart will celebrate her 94th birthday on September 12th. Her address is: 621 Schappell Rd., Hamburg, PA 19526.



SPOTLIGHT ON ZION'S YOUTH

Congratulations to Elizabeth "Lizzie" Seidel, daughter of Leslie & Kelly Seidel. The 11 year old was named Junior Best of Show at a fashion review on June 30th. She competed against other 4-Her's from Berks, Lehigh and Northampton counties.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

First grade could use a second-hand 4 draw metal filing cabinet if anyone has one to pass on.

Christian Ed is still in need of teachers:
2 for the new Beginners Class (now N & Pre/k-K)

1 to team teach with Ruth Ann in 3&4

2 for 7&8

1 to team teach the Teen Class w. Mark

If you would be interested in helping out youth learn about Jesus' love see Vernie Noecker or call the church office.

NORTHERN BERKS COMMUNITY GARDEN

Two tons and counting...

Two tons and counting! To date, we have distributed 4,656 pounds of produce to needy area families and individuals. We are happy to have added the Keystone Military Families Pantry and the Hamburg Salvation Army to our regular donation schedule this summer, as well as our regular local food pantry sites.

Please join us on a Monday morning at 8:00 am or a Thursday evening at 6:00 pm as we continue to harvest our vegetables and even plant some fall crops. When we have plenty of volunteers, we are often finished in an hour.

Shed Dedication

Our new Garden shed was dedicated following the July 18th Saturday evening worship service. We again extend our thanks to the Epting and Smith families for their support. Please stop by and check out the plaque on the shed door.

The shed is now full of shelves, crates, tools, and baskets – with plenty of floor space to spare for vegetables on Monday and Thursday work days. We have been truly blessed by the support of the congregation, and are happy that our local community can reap the benefits of this ministry.





LIBRARY SHELVES

The following items have been added to our church library:

Early Readers: the complete set of 27 books of *Black Lagoon Adventures*. The set is funny tales of adventures of school children written by Mike Thaler. The books are written for PreK to 5th grade, but adults will also find them humorous. The chapter books are adventures that each one of us can relate to. The books also cover holidays in a humorous light. Pick one up and be prepared to laugh.

DVD: *Juvenile Buck Denver & Friends Present...Sing through the Bible* (Includes 30 Bible singalongs!)

Adult Biographies: *A Lucky Child* (A memoir of surviving Auschwitz as a young boy) written by Thomas Buergenthal, *At All Cost* (The true story of a local Vietnam war here Chief Master Sgt. Dick Etchberger) written by Matt Proietti, and *The Holy Man on the Mountain* (Padre Pio and the Americans who discovered him) written by Frank M. Rega.

Fiction: *1225 Christmas Tree Lane* by Debbie Macomber, *Love Finds a Way* (three short stories by Wanda E. Brunstetter, the July Book Club read – “*What Alice Forgot*” by Liane Moriarty

Prayer: *The Circle Maker* (praying circles around your biggest dreams and greatest fears) by Mark Batterson

Relationships: Summer choice book club read – “*Mister Owita’s Guide to Gardening*” (how I learned the unexpected joy of a green thumb and an open heart) by Carol Wall.

If you have any suggestions you would like to see added to our library collection, please contact Barbara Shafer at 484-336-8995.

PLEATED SHADE ALERT IN CHURCH LIBRARY

The pleated shade in the library was repaired again. When pulling the shade up or pulling it down please be "gentle" only pulling on one cord at a time. It's not realistic to have only one person at the church adjusting the height of the shades when the library is used by so many different groups. Having shades at those windows works so well because you can control the amount of light coming in at different times of the day, but we must all work together to keep our facility and it's decor in good condition - repairs cost money.

Thanks!
Ruth Ann Eyer

SUMMER READING PROGRAM COMING TO AN END

A friendly reminder that the Summer Reading Program officially ends on Sunday, Sept. 6th. All the "Official Reading Tickets" must be returned by that date to qualify for your \$10.00 credit for the item of your choice from the Christian Book Distributors. Remember to add the item of choice on the back of the ticket including the title, author and stock number printed clearly. Thanks again! Ruth Ann Eyer

Another big "Thank You" to all the folks that returned "way overdue" items from the library, after reading the reminder in the last newsletter, without me having to call them. It shows that you do read your newsletter and are staying in the loop. Good for you!

Ruth Ann Eyer

THANK YOU

To the congregation,

Thank you to every one for all the cards and the memorial service for Roger. It was greatly appreciated. Again thank you to everyone.

Ellen Hartline



YOU'RE INVITED TO SHOEMAKERSVILLE 250!!

Saturday, September 19, 2015
1-4 pm.

At the Perry Elementary Center
(Come see the building if you didn't see it in
November!)

To include:
20 plus historical displays
Walking tours of Shoey
Power Point Presentation

ANOTHER 250TH ANNIVERSARY TO CELEBRATE!

Our church will have a table in the hall of the Perry Elementary Center in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the settlement of Shoemakersville by Henry and Charles Schumacher. I'm asking our members if you have any interesting items from the past to help with our display it would be greatly appreciated. For example: I'm thinking about the Sunday school pins we received for perfect attendance, old photos, Sunday school material, worship material, confirmation pictures, etc. If you are willing to share an item, or more, please mark them with your name and phone number and let Ruth Ann Eyer know about it. This celebration will be held on Sat., Sept. 19, 2015. My phone number is 610-562-4930 and my email address is nreyer@juno.com. Thanks!



“USING MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN THE CHURCH”

A workshop will be held from 9-noon on Saturday,
October 17th here at Zion's.

The event is sponsored by the Berks County Sunday
School Association. Pre-register at
CERLVN@hotmail.com Cost is \$20.00

CHILD PROTECTION SCREENING

Pennsylvania law pertaining to Child Protection has gone under significant changes recently involving the clearance screening of volunteers and employees who work with children. Zion's has upgraded their guidelines to follow the law. Those who will be working with children will need to sign a participation agreement, get child abuse clearance and criminal background check. Stop in the church office for the “how to do it” check sheet for getting clearances. No costs are involved! Assistance is available to those who need a little help.

Some “Big” Fall Church Dates

Sunday, September 13

Regular Worship times return 8 a.m./10:30 a.m.

Bring Your Back Pack to Church for a Blessing

Sunday School classes begin at 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, September 27

8 a.m. Worship at Zion’s 9 a.m. Joint Sunday School *at St. John’s*

10:15 a.m. Festive 3 Congregation Worship *at St. John’s, Hamburg*

Fellowship Meal following – *Please RSVP in advance*

Sunday, October 4

9:15 a.m. Sunday School Rally Day with First Responders Event

Sat. October 17 / Sun. October 18

Saturday Adult Learning Opportunities – Advocacy Meal at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday – Guest Teacher/Preacher: Pastor Amy Reumann

Sunday, October 25

Reformation Sunday with Confirmations

2 p.m. RBCC Music Fest Concert featuring Jim Meck/The Guide Dogs

Sunday, November 1 from 3:30 - 8 p.m.

Zion’s hosts East Berks District Youth event

Sunday, November 8

Guest Pastor for the morning:

Zion’s own Native Son : The Rev. Aaron Decker

Saturday, November 21 – Annual Bazaar

Zion's Book Group News and Notes

In August, we enjoyed reading "Flash: The Homeless Donkey Who Taught Me About Life, Faith, and Second Chances" by Rachel Ridge. Visit www.flashthedonkey.com to find out more information. **Borrow the book from the Church Library!**

Lessons from Flash: 1. Remember Your Name 2. Know Where to Find Refuge. 3. Run with horses. 4. Find your passion. 5. Be a trailblazer. 6. Wear your donkey heart on your sleeve. 7. Stand where the fruit is falling. 8. Be a service animal 9. Embrace change. 10. Make things right with others. 11. Your journey isn't about fixing donkey problems..

We will discuss our summer "extra book" "**Mr. Owita's Guide to Gardening**" on **Sunday, August 30 after worship.**

September's book is "**Snow Falling on Cedars**" by David Guterson, to be discussed on **Thurs. Sept. 17 at 7 p.m.** **If anyone has a copy to lend, please bring it to the Church Office.**

October's book is "**Emerald Mile**" by Kevin Fedarko, to be discussed on Thurs. Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. **If anyone has a copy to lend, please bring it to the Office.**

November 's book is "**The Alchemist**" by Paulo Coelho, to be discussed on Thurs. Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. **If anyone has a copy to lend, please bring it to the Office.**

Anyone is welcome to join in the discussion group. Each person gets an opportunity to speak first about the book. The group discussion, often using the study guide questions, follows. If you can not attend the discussion but want to read the books, please do. You may email your comments to the pastor if you wish. The group is open to suggestions of possible books to read.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Children's Summer Reading time which was enjoyed by all who attended. We had as few as 4 and as many as 11 attend each Thursday evening during the summer.

Support our Church Library. Support **Ready!Set!Read!Berks!** and read to the children at Perry Elementary School this fall. **Speak with the Pastor about it.**

Zion's Music Program is Starting Up!

+ **Calling all past, present and future choir members** to come to rehearsals on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 - 9 p.m. beginning on Wednesday, September 2. **Julie Osterhout** has agreed to serve as the Interim Choir Director for Wednesday Rehearsals in September and October. Anyone with a love of singing is invited to participate in singing joyful praises to the Lord, helping to lead the congregation in worship. The choir will sing its' first anthem on **Sunday, Sept. 13**. Zion's welcomes the **Blue Mountain Chorus** to 10:30 a.m. worship that day as well.

+ **Sunday, September 27 at 10:15 a.m.** will be an exciting day of music as Zion's worships at St. John's Lutheran Church on Pine Street in Hamburg. Park at the Field House. Worshippers may also be dropped off at the ramp. **Zion's Brass will play in the church yard** beginning about 9:45 a.m. The combined Adult Choirs from all 3 congregations will **sing 2 anthems** together.

+ **Handbells and Brass rehearsals** are beginning on Thursday evenings. New members with skills are always welcome to come and learn. Hand bell rehearsal is at 7 p.m. Brass rehearsal is at 8 p.m. Questions may be directed to the pastor or call Steve at 484-269-6620.

+ *Want to try something new?* **We would like to begin a Hand-Chime Group at Zion's.** Hand chimes are easier to ring than the bells. The new group will play easier pieces. Pastor Bruce is joining this group of ringers. **On Sunday, September 20, Director Steve Turner** will have some of the hand chimes available after 10:30 a.m. worship for people to see and ring. **Please consider joining this new group.** All ages can participate and you don't need to know how to read music. This new group will practice at 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

+ **Any musician who would like to share their musical talent** with Zion's in worship is invited to contact Wellesley Keal, Organist through the Church Office.

+ **Anyone interested in applying** for the permanent choir director position is asked to forward a resume to Pastor Bruce at pastorbruce@zionslutheran.org. We are advertising by word of mouth presently. Soon we will begin to advertise the position.

Zion's Lutheran has some volunteer needs at this time:

- + **10 volunteer offering counters** who could serve on the same Monday morning each month for about one hour, one time a month. Please sign up on the posted chart. Training will be held soon. See any Council member about this.
- + **Hand chime ringers** to begin practicing for 30 minutes once a week, beginning on Thursday, September 24 at 6:30 p.m. Beginner Level. You do not have to know how to read music. Join Pastor Bruce in this new group.
- + **Usher team captains and members** to serve once a month, at one worship service each month. You may recruit several other members to help you on your team. Sign up on the posted chart. See any Council member about this.
- + **Youth and Adult Choir Members** to rehearse once a week and help lead the congregation in singing. Practice on Wednesdays from 7:30-9 p.m.
- + **4 volunteers to be trained as lay assistant worship leaders/communion assistants.** These volunteers should plan to take the Lay Eucharistic Ministry course taught by Pastor Dennis Ritter on Saturday, October 17.
- + **Some volunteers to help seal some of the parking lot cracks** before winter comes. Likely work to be done on a sunny weekday morning.
- + **4 - 6 adults to attend** the March 11-13, 2016 Catechetical Retreat at Bear Creek Camp helping Pastor Bruce purchase, prepare, serve, and cleanup 5 meals (3 Saturday , 2 Sunday) for 100 people.
- + **3 - 5 Adults who are willing to help** plan and chaperone youth events this fall. First meeting will be August 23 after worship.
- + **All Senior Adults** (age 50 plus and others available during the day) to come and enjoy monthly fellowship on the third Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- + **Many Faithful every Sunday worshipers (150 is our goal) and Sunday School attenders (75 is our goal)!**

To learn more and to volunteer for any of these positions, please see Pastor Bruce

Check out these websites some of which are near and dear to the work of Zion's Lutheran Church as we partner with other community organizations to reach out and care for all of God's People and all of God's Creation:

keystonesoldiers.net

pagrange.com

opphouse.org

shoeyfire.com

berksfoodbank.org

familypromiseofberks.org

berkshistory.org

berks.lib.pa.us/hamburg

hamburgpa.org/our-town-foundation

hawkmountain.org

nepsynod.org elca.org lirs.org lutheranadvocacypa.org

aa.org and sobrietyonline.org

paimmigrant.org

dreibelbisfarm.org

scouting.org

bluemountainwildlife.com

hasdhawks.org

thepeoplechronicles.com/HartHarvest-the-potato-project-walt-zawaski

Or Just Google: The Potato Project Shoemakersville Pool

You may add to this list by emailing your suggestions to

pastorbruce@zionslutheran.org

Some Pastor Bruce personal favorites:

prairiehome.org fightins.com papreferred.com appalachiantrail.org

SEPTEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPT. 13		1 Garden Com. Mtg. 6:30 pm. A. A. 7:00 pm. Al-Anon 7:00 pm. Chris. Ed. Com. Mtg.	2 Senior Choir 7:30 pm.	3 Community Garden Volunteers 6—8pm.	4 Fellowship Hall rented	5 A.A. 7:00 pm.
6 Holy Comm. 9 am.	7 Community Garden Volunteers 8-10 am.	8 Quilt Knotting 9:00 am. A.A. 7:00 pm. Congregation Council 7:00 pm. Al-Anon 7:00 pm.	9 Senior Choir 7:30 pm.	10 Zion's Cemetery Board mtg. at Zion's W.C. 9am. Community Garden Volunteers 6—8pm. Bell rehearsal 7:00 pm. Brass rehearsal 8 pm.	11	12 WELCA mtg. 9 am. A.A. 7:00 pm.
13 Worship 8:00 am. Sunday School 9:15 am. Holy Com. 10:30 am. Cat. Class Parents mtg. 9:15 am. Blessing of Backpacks	14 Community Garden Volunteers 8-10 am.	15 Al-Anon 7:00 pm. A.A. 7:00 pm.	16 Senior Choir 7:30 pm.	17 Community Garden Volunteers 6—8pm. Bell rehearsal 7:00 pm. Brass rehearsal 8 pm.	18 Opportunity House Meal 5:30 pm.	19 A.A. 7:00 pm.
20 Cont. Service. 8 am. Sunday School 9:15 am. Prayer Shawl 9:15 am. Holy Com. 10:30 am.	21 Community Garden Volunteers 8-10 am.	22 Quilt Knotting 9:00 am. A.A. 7:00 pm. Al-Anon 7:00 pm.	23 Senior Choir 7:30 pm.	24 Community Garden Volunteers 6—8pm. Bell rehearsal 7:00 pm. Brass rehearsal 8 pm. Choir practice at St.	25	26 A.A. 7:00 pm.
27 Holy Com. 8 am. 9 am. Sunday School & 10:15 am. worship at St. John's, Pine St., Hamburg	28 Community Garden Volunteers 8-10 am.	29 A.A. 7:00 pm. Al-Anon 7:00 pm.	30 Senior Choir 7:30 pm.	Saturday, October 17th Adult Education Day Classes		

September



2015

ZION'S MESSENGER

Church Phone: 610-562-3112
Church email: churchoffice@zionslutheran.org
Church website: www.zionslutheran.org
Church Fax: 610-562-0461

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



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

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.

- † Jesus is Lord and Savior †
- † Honest and open communication †
- † Create and sustain healthy relationships †
- † Share our faith through our daily life †
- † Recognize and encourage people's spiritual gifts †
- † Perseverance †

† A congregation united in Christ making Zion's a destination not an obligation. †



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