



ZION'S MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2016



FROM THE PASTOR...

Dear Zion Members,

First, the Lectionary Year C in which we have read from the Gospel According to Luke has now ended. With much of the rest of Christianity, we return to Year A of the Revised Common Lectionary. Our Worship Gospel readings will now largely be from the Gospel of Matthew. We recognize that God's Word speaks to us each week. The Sacred Salvation Story is told in an organized way through the 52 Sundays of the year. This New Year begins on November 27, the First Sunday of Advent. Zion's members will have the weekly opportunity to study the scriptures each week on the Wednesday **BEFORE** we read them on Sunday mornings, from 6-7 p.m. (November 30 being the first time for this). Why is this important? It is important **because reading and studying God's Word is central to our life together as a congregation.** You may pick up a copy of the upcoming readings for the next weekend, to the right of the bulletin board in the front hallway outside of the church office.

Secondly, there are some special opportunities for members to reach out this month in the spirit of this holy season of giving.

1. **On Thursday, December 1 at 11:30 a.m.,** Zion's hosts the first (of four) Northern Berks Ministerium Advent worship services that include soup and bread.
2. **On Saturday, December 17 from 2-4 p.m.,** our church musicians and members will share the joyful music of the season and help ring the Salvation Army Red Kettle bells in front of Cabela's. (You can help)
3. **Sunday, Dec. 18- Saturday, Dec. 24,** Zion's will host several families in the Family Promise program, providing a warm, safe, hospitable shelter for people who are in transition in their lives.
4. **Our Zion's youth,** by baking goodies and selling them to us, have raised some funds to help a family in our community. Some of our youth will be spreading some cheer to our older members on the Sunday afternoons of December 4, 11, and 18.
5. **On Thursday, January 19, 2017** our Zion's Senior adults will take their lunch fellowship on the road, to the Wyndcliffe Apartments in Hamburg, beginning at 10:30 a.m. that day. **Please join in and support these outreach activities.**

Thirdly, our Sunday School will share a "Promise Made, Covenant Kept" during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 11. This will be a celebration sure to get you into the spirit of the season. Please come and support our Sunday School students as they celebrate the joy that will soon be theirs (and ours) in the birth of the baby in the manger. We hope to see you in worship this month. Come and hear the good news that will bring great joy to all people. **I am Pastor Bruce.**

P.S. Come and Worship on Christmas Eve at 4, 7 and 10 p.m. Worship on Christmas Day at 9 a.m. and New Year's Day at 9 a.m.

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• "Promise Remembered, Covenant Kept - Dec. 11 •Happening Around Town • Council Report

Volunteer Responsibilities for December

GREETERS

4 - 8:00 am. Needed
4- 10:30 am Barbara Shafer
11 - 8:00 am The Leone Family
11- 10:30 am Susan Kauffman
18 – 8:00 am Gary & Carol Rothermel
18 – 10:30 am Richard & Donna Long
24 - 4:00 pm Nelson & Ruth Ann Eyer
24 – 7:00 pm Lois DeTurk & Katie Stefan
24- 10:00 pm Paul & Linda Weidner
25 -9:00 am Mitch Shestok

MAIL TEAM #2 Tuesday, December 20th

Barbara Reinhart, Woody & Susie Lutz,
Barbara Seidel

ACOLYTES

4 - 8:00 am. Needed
4- 10:30 am Alicia Gough
11 - 8:00 am Hailey Denatala
11- 10:30 am Carielle Geist
18 – 8:00 am Needed
18 – 10:30 am Grant Doklan
24 - 4:00 pm Hailey Denatala
24 – 7:00 pm Carielle Geist
24- 10:00 pm Veronica Heckman
25 - 9:00am Needed

SERVING OPPORTUNITY HOUSE MEAL

Wanda Hoherchak – Capt., Mary Mengle,
Dave Mengle, Erin Seidel

LECTORS

4 - 8:00 am. Venus Fioravanti
4- 10:30 am Faye Heckman
11 - 8:00 am Katie Stefan
11- 10:30 am Mark Dreibelbis
18 – 8:00 am Jeanette Heckman
18 – 10:30 am Janine Dreibelbis
24 - 4:00 pm Mark Price
24 – 7:00 pm Katie Stefan
24- 10:00 pm Susie Lutz
25 - 9:00am Rita Decker

10:30 a.m. NURSERY ATTENDANTS

4- Ruth Ann Eyer
18 – Faye Heckman



HAPPY KNOTTERS/Quilters

The Happy Knotters need people willing to sew quilt tops together; they do not have to be perfect. **Cut squares and instructions can be picked up in the church office & finished quilt tops shall be returned to the church office.** Please sign the paper in front of the quilt when you take squares.

We are in need of used flat flannel sheets, mattress pads, blankets or whatever material you would like to give. If you would like to donate any of the above items they can be placed outside the church office door. (Please mark “Knotters”). Thanks again.

Contact the office to donate or for information on this group which meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays from 9 – 11 a.m.

Hey Facebookers who are Happy Quilt Knotters!
Why not join [facebook.com/groups/LWRQuilters?](https://www.facebook.com/groups/LWRQuilters/)

The **December** Food Items for The Hamburg Food Pantry are: **Baking goods: flour, sugar, chocolate chips, brown sugar, baking soda, cake mixes, muffin mix, etc.**

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



MEDICAL EQUIPMENT NEEDED

I work for a home health agency and am finding that many of the clients don't have the resources to get equipment that would allow them to be safe and independent at home. If you are cleaning out a parent or grandparent's home or have items that you are no longer using, please let me know. I am looking for items such as tub seats, commodes, toilet risers, walkers with seats, dressing equipment, wheelchairs, etc. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Please call or email Janine Dreibelbis at 610-488-7896 or mjdrei@verizon.net.



Library Shelves

Listed below are items added to our collection since the last newsletter:

Easy Readers: The Little Lutheran booklets are not being printed anymore, so we decided to keep and add the last two years, 2014 & 2015, to our collection. The titles are listed below:

God’s Family, Talking to God, God’s Friends, Happy Easter, God Loves Us All! Seeing and Hearing, God cares, wherever you go, God’s kindness, Christmas joy, Happy Epiphany, God cares for our bodies, Going places, Jesus is risen! Water, Bread, Rest, God forgives, Saints, and Peace and Joy.

Celebrate God’s Greatest Surprise, written by Gail Marsh

The Story of Easter for Children, published by Ideals Publishing Corporation

Reference books: First Crazy Talk (a not so stuffy dictionary of theological terms) and a 2nd Crazy Book (a not so stuffy dictionary of Biblical terms) both written by Ralf A. Jacobson

Adult Fiction: These books are part of a trilogy - Riverhaven Years by BJ Hoff. First book titled Rachel’s Secret and the second book titled Where Grace Abides. These were donations, so I guess we’ll have to wait for the donation of the third book!

Library volunteers won’t meet during the month of December.

For your Christmas reading enjoyment, several Christmas related items are displayed throughout the library. Most Christmas items will have a “Christmas Tree” sticker on the spine of the book, which makes it easier to identify. We have books for all reading levels, DVDs, Ideals for poetry lovers, and a nice assortment of Christmas music CDs. So, please take the time to browse around in your church library and enjoy our collection of Christmas items!

Book Group Meetings

Zion's Book Group will not be meeting in December. We will resume our meetings in January. We will meet on Thursday, January 19 at 6:30 in the Library.

Book Group selections:

December: "One Thousand Gifts" by Grace Voscamp- A book about the celebration of grace and the recognition of the power of gratitude.

January: "Small Great things" by Jodi Picoult- A thought provoking examination of racism in America today.

February: Ordinary Grace" by William Kent Krueger- A domestic drama and part murder mystery about a Methodist minister in Minnesota and his family.

All book selections are available through the Berks County Public Libraries

Up coming Events At Zion’s

- **December 1st. Ministerium Advent Worship & Soup 11:30 am**



- This year's **Children's Christmas Program** will be "Promise Remembered, Covenant Kept" which will take place on **Sun, Dec 11th** during the 10:30 church service. (Snow date Sun, Dec 18th) **Rehearsals** will be **Sun, Dec 4th** following church and lunch, and **Sun, Dec 10th** at 9:30am. **PLEASE** make your best effort to attend one, if not both, rehearsals. On the 4th, after the 10:30 church service, the children (and parents who are staying) will be provided lunch, and then rehearse for the program. Please check your schedules and **let your child's teacher know** if you plan to have your child participate in the program or not so that parts can be assigned accordingly. Also, if you are attending the lunch on the 4th, **please sign up on the sheet in the narthex**. This is a big help to us for planning. We hope to see you then!

- **Mark your calendar – Come Ring the Red Kettle Bell at Cabela’s – Sat. Dec. 17 from 2-4 p.m. to benefit the Hamburg Salvation Army.** Zion’s Adult Choir and Zion’s Brass will be singing and performing on this busy shopping day. The carolers will eat lunch at Zion’s at 12 then will make 2 visits at 1 and 1:20 in Shoey before going to Cabela’s by 2. We will need to ring 2 bells at the same time one at each end. You may sign up in advance to do it. Come and join in the fun and share the spirit of the season.



It’s Poinsettia Time!!! Poinsettia order sheet is available on the Narthex bulletin board. Poinsettias are \$8.00 each. Colors available to order are Red, White and Jingle Bell. Deadline to order is December 8th!

- **Do you want to help educate the children and youth of Zion's and help them grow in faith?** Do you want to be involved in planning and running fun educational events at Zion's? The Christian Education Committee is looking for 1 or 2 new members to join us! If you are interested, please see a member of the Christian Education Committee for more information. Our next meeting is Tues, Dec 6th at 7pm.
- **Thursday, December 15th Children of the King Home School Program 12pm – 3pm using Fellowship hall**
- **Orcheband will be playing on December 24th** at the 7pm worship service. Please sign up with name, instrument, and phone number. Sign-up sheet is hanging on the narthex bulletin board. Rehearsal will be Dec. 18th -

from 12-1:30. All ages and abilities welcome to join us in celebrating Christ's birth. Need music see Dan Geist, Steve Turner or any Brass member. Any questions call Dan at 610-926-5077 or Steve at 484-269-6620.

- **In December, please support our Cub Scout Pack 163 for their Kauffman’s Chicken BBQ Dinner sale.** (1/2 chicken, baked potato, applesauce, roll, drink) \$8 per meal. Meals are to be picked up on Saturday, Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Redners, Hamburg parking lot. Church Cub Scout **Matthew Gring** (and regular Sunday School attender) will sell tickets on Sunday, Dec. 11 after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Please buy your tickets then, from him!

Youth Group Events

- **Zion’s Youth Group (Grades 6-12) upcoming activities** (Parents, please note that all youth are not expected to do fruit basket delivery at all of these times-please come when it fits your schedule):
- **Sunday, December 4 Sunday School Program Rehearsal** and Lunch at church, then Youth Group Shopping Trips 1. For fruit basket items and 2. For shopping for the family we are helping 3. If necessary, shopping for Hamburg Salvation Army unsponsored angel items. We will return to church to wrap/assemble, and then deliver a couple of baskets.
- **Sat. Dec. 10 at 9:30 a.m.** Sunday School Program Rehearsal, then more fruit basket deliveries/then lunch out at a restaurant, bring \$\$.
- **Sun. Dec. 11 @ 9:15 a.m. Prepare for the Sunday School Christmas Program**
- **Sunday, December 18** – following 10:30 a.m. worship, out to lunch then more caroling and fruit basket deliveries.

- No Sunday School classes Dec. 25 or Jan. 1
- **Sunday, January 8 – 2 p.m. ish!** Likely a return visit to Key quest/Laser Quest. The 2Karen/Alyssa/Karyna/Luke/Alicia group advances to “The Cellar” and shares their Buy One Get One Laser Quest coupons. \$20 per person would include the Laser Quest grudge match between the groups.
- **Sunday, January 15 @ 4 p.m.** Pizza and Planning for all youth and adults. Bring \$3 for Pizza Hut Pizzas.
- **Youth Retreat at Bear Creek Camp**
Registration forms are now available from Pastor Bruce for the March 31-April 1-2, 2017 event. Join the fun in the woods!

Special Prayers, Thoughts, & Thanks

Zion's Charity and Emergency Fund has been nearly exhausted in the past several months as Pastor has used the available funds to help 2 member families who were/are in transition to Section 8 housing. Your gifts directed to this fund allows this help to be offered to members who are in need of assistance. Please use a Pew Envelope and designate your gift for the Charity and Emergency Fund. Thank you for your support. PB

Again WELCA has had another very successful bazaar. Thank you to ALL that participated with this great event. The women of the church (and some men, I saw you) worked very hard and donated endless hours of their time, but the outcome is again such a blessing. The preliminary profit was over \$2500.00 and still counting!!!!!! This means we can send kids to Bear Creek Camp again, help within the church and community. I can't say enough of the strength of this group of amazing women, to the vendors that participated, and Goodwill for taking the flea market items that didn't sell, may they provide help to families in need.

Thank you to all again and God Bless You,

--

Bettie A. Hirko

Zion's Women of the ELCA would like to thank everyone who donated their time to make the 2016 bazaar a success! The bakers, soup makers, flea market volunteers, and all volunteers who gave of their time did an awesome job!

Reverse Advent calendar containers should be returned to the church no later than 1/8/17. Thank you for your participation in this project.

Virginia Werley

Partial Shut-In List

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

Mrs. Mary Ellen Fraunfelter
1421 Philadelphia Ave.
#242
Chambersburg, PA 17201

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

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

Mrs. Gloria Fisher
Laurel Center
125 Holly Rd.
Hamburg, PA 19526

Joann Himmelberger
1152 Main St.
Shoemakersville, Pa 19555

William & Kendra Miller
1463 Main St.
Shoemakersville, Pa 19555

Thanks to all the folks that gave us kind words, hugs, cards, gifts and attended our celebration of our “50th” wedding anniversary on Oct. 23. Every kindness was greatly appreciated and will be remembered. Thanks again! *Nelson & Ruth Ann Eger*



WINTER WEATHER AND WORSHIP

We cannot predict, but we can prepare. Weekday bad weather cancellation of programs, 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 including meetings are suspended for the day. This eliminates the need for multiple phone calls, and hopefully everyone will understand.

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 will not 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 (click on “Weather”, then “School & Business Closings”, then “Z” in the list index.

On TV it should be on the scrolling bar on the bottom of the TV screen.

Information will also be on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/ZionsChurch/> If you're not sure about a scheduled event, simply call the Church at 610-562-3112.



The Property Committee is asking volunteers to help with snow shoveling this winter. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. If you are interested in helping, please sign the sheet for the listed dates that you are willing to cover this responsibility and include your contact information on the back of the sheet. Thank you for helping!

If you have any questions about the responsibilities of a shoveling volunteer, contact Michael Puglia, or any Property Committee member.

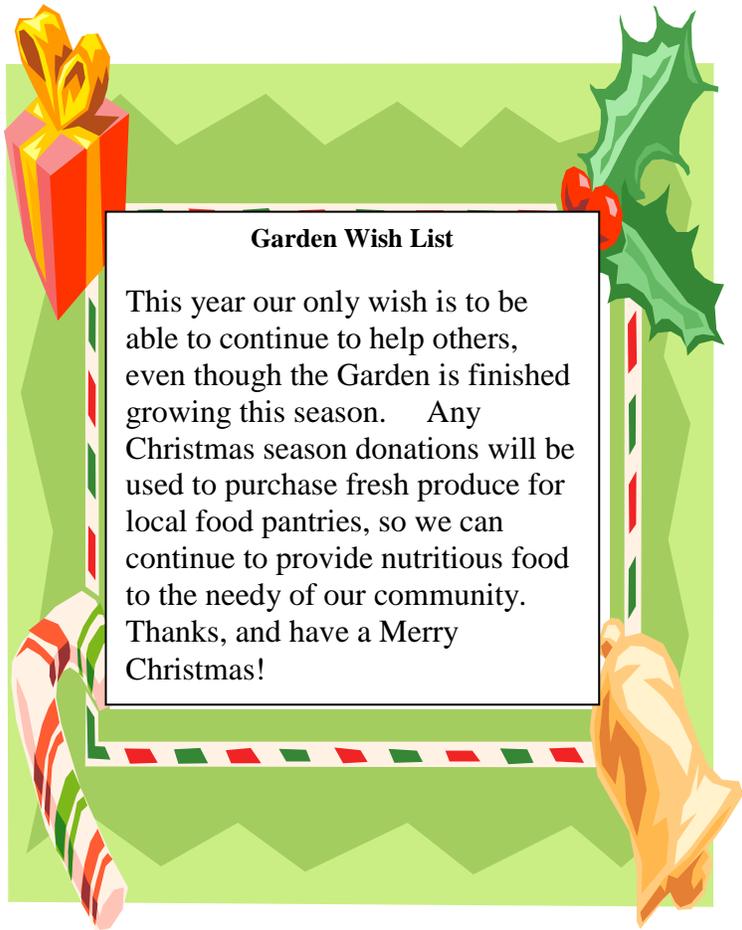
Garden News

Hoe hoe hoe!

First of all, a huge thank you to everyone for all of the support during our 3rd Garden season. Thanks to our volunteers, and to our supporters, who continue to donate funds and supplies, encourage our efforts, and pray for our ministry.

We set a new record with 8,224 pounds of produce grown in the Garden this season to those in need in our community. This season, produce was donated to the Northern Berks Food Pantry, Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry, Keystone Military Pantry, Hamburg Salvation Army, Friend Inc. Kutztown, Wyndcliffe Apartments and Franklin and Noble Manor residents.

Produce was also donated for this summer’s Opportunity House meals prepared by Zion’s members. In addition, we were able to purchase and donate 6 bushels of apples to the Northern Berks Food Pantry. Wow!



Garden Wish List

This year our only wish is to be able to continue to help others, even though the Garden is finished growing this season. Any Christmas season donations will be used to purchase fresh produce for local food pantries, so we can continue to provide nutritious food to the needy of our community. Thanks, and have a Merry Christmas!

God's Blessings on Sunday School First Graders who received Children's Bibles on 11/20/16

**Matthew Gring
Nathan Price
Matthew James Noecker**

Christmas Card address for:
Don & Christine Ryan
1691 Old 22
Lennhartsville, Pa 19534

Putting Christ into Christmas



'Twas the night before Christmas, the
eve of Christ's Birth;
Many people were resting all over the
earth.
The shepherds were watching their
sheep in the night,
When all of a sudden they saw a
bright light.
And what to their wandering eyes
should appear
But a beautiful Angel, high up in the
air.
His face was all shining; his garment
so bright,
That the shepherds began to tremble
with fright.
But as he came nearer, the words that
he said
Soon gave them to know there was
nothing to dread.
He told them of 'Peace' with no fear
or danger,
For their Wonderful Gift they would
find in a Manger.
So leaving their sheep they went into
town,
To seek for this Gift; they would look
all around.
They came to the stable, the covers
they lift,
And there in the Manger, God's
Wonderful Gift.
So pure and so holy, so full of God's
love,
They knew it was Jesus, God's gift
from above.
And so as we think of this Savior
again,
May our worship this Christmas not
be in vain.
Let us love Him and trust Him; there's
non that's too small;
May the Lord richly bless you. Merry
Christmas to all!
-First Christian Church, Lockhart TX

Happening Around Town

***Hamburg Ministerium first
"Faith at the Movies" event Tuesday,
December 6th Movie at the Strand
7:00PM "It's a Wonderful Life"
Admission is \$8.00 a person includes
a small popcorn and small soda. For
more info please visit:
<http://www.hamburgstrand.org>**

God's Beauty Tips

*Doing these things on a daily basis will
certainly make you a more beautiful person.*

– Author Unknown

- For attractive lips, speak words of kindness
- For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others.
- To improve your ears, listen to the Word of God.
- For poise, walk with knowledge and self-esteem.
- To strengthen your heart, forgive yourself and others.
- To strengthen your arms, hug someone and touch them with your love.
- To lose weight, let go of stress, hatred, anger, discontentment, and the need to control others.
- For the ultimate in attire, put on the robe of Christ. It never goes out of style and appropriate for any occasion.

Curtesy of Barbara Seidel

Please come take an Angel off the Salvation Army Tree in the Narthex. Please write your name and code of the Angel you took on the note pad next to the tree. All gifts are due back by December 4th.

CHURCH REPORTS



1-1-16	Beginning Balance	-\$8,842.42
	General Offering	\$172,915.78
	<u>Special Offering</u>	<u>\$21,904.89</u>
	Sub Total	185,978.25
	Current Expenses	\$167,570.97
10-31-16	Balance	\$18,407.28

SAVE A TAPE

Zion's collects Redner's receipts to receive 1% of the recorded total purchases turned in. You MUST present a "Pump Perks" card (even if you don't use it for gas) in order for Zion's to receive the 1% back from Redners. New cards were needed after September 3. Get one at any store.

Do you want to help educate the children and youth of Zion's and help them grow in faith? Do you want to be involved in planning and running fun educational events at Zion's? The Christian Education Committee is looking for 1 or 2 new members to join us! If you are interested, please see a member of the Christian Education Committee for more information. **Our next meeting is Tues, Dec 6th at 7pm.**

Dear Zion's members, Because of the recent effort to update/determine Zion's membership roll, a Church directory will not be available until near the end of first quarter 2017. Individual member general information can be requested from Church Office.

- ❖ **As a reminder please remember to fill out a communion card at least once a year per your membership responsibility**

One More Thing To Do

**Annual Reports are Due on
Wednesday December 7th!
Committee Chairpersons,
Committee Secretaries, and Choir
Director please see that the church
secretary has the reports by
December 7th**

COUNCIL CORNER

First of all, two things important to all members of our congregation were discussed at this meeting:

1. The need for Zion's Lutheran Church to have a "Wish List" for Memorial Fund contributions. This would allow members to designate in their wills the use of their gifts back to Zion's for projects or needs that they encourage, support and/or desire. Council members Cleta Borkey and Eileen Puglia will be working on this Wish List. They will be contacting Committee Heads for ideas, but of course all members should feel free to contribute ideas.
2. Relative to the above Wish List formulation, Zion's will be receiving a bequest of \$20,000 from the estate of Marguerite Hepner sometime in 2017. Council discussed where to use this money, which is designated for "general church purposes", most wisely. Council's initial thought is to designate 10% of it for benevolences and the rest (as needed) for repair of our stained-glass window. We will be discussing this at the Annual Meeting in January, 2017.

Members present at meeting: President Jim Hirko, Secretary Jerry O'Brien, Dawn O'Brien, Susan Lutz, Cleta Borkey, Eileen Puglia, Mitch Shestok, Joe Leone, and Pastor Bruce Osterhout. Absent: Vice President Brian Moroney, Treasurer Sandra Moroney, Brad Doklan, and Bill Deibler. Also present: Confirmand Paul Engle and his mother.

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by President Hirko. Pastor Bruce introduced Confirmand Paul

Engle to the Council prior to the start of business. Cleta Borkey read the Devotions, themed "Word of the Day". Council members introduced themselves to Paul Engle and explained their respective duties and positions at Zion's. Paul then read his essay on "Why Am I A Christian?" President Hirko asked Paul what one word would describe or express the feeling Paul got after being confirmed and he answered "grateful." The next Committee Heads Meeting will be Monday, December 5 at 7 PM.

Treasurer's Reports

A revised Treasurer's Report for September 2016 was submitted for approval. It was approved by voice vote.

A Treasurer's Report for October 2016 was submitted for approval. Council will decide on the amount of benevolence payment due to the Synod, as approved by the Congregation at the 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting. It was approved by voice vote.

Secretary's Reports

The September 13, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes, as recorded by Vice President Brian Moroney, were submitted for approval. It was approved by voice vote. The September 22, 2016 Special Council Meeting Minutes, as recorded by Vice President Brian Moroney, were submitted for approval. It was approved by voice vote. The October 11, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes, as recorded by Secretary Jerry O'Brien, were submitted for approval. It was approved by voice vote.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Osterhout made a Motion for Council to formally approve new members Cindy Spencer and Lucille Gough as new members of Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church by their Affirmations of Faith as professed at the November 6th worship services. It was approved by voice vote. Pastor Osterhout updated Council on the health status of Christine Ryan. He has been visiting her and her husband Don at Lehigh Valley Hospital. A Spaghetti Benefit Dinner will be held at Hamburg High School on Wednesday, November 16. Don Ryan posts updates on Christine's condition on "Caring Bridge." A benefit dinner for the Ryan's at Zion's was also discussed. It should be held around the holidays when

his daughters are home. A representative from Bear Creek Camp will be invited to the December 2016 Council Meeting to discuss a fundraising Capital Campaign to replace tents with cabins. They will also speak to the congregation at the March 12 worship service. Charity & Emergency Fund: the Pastor will issue a letter asking for more donations to the fund, which is down to about \$200.00 at this point.

Correspondence

We received a letter concerning the estate of Marguerite E. Hepner, which states that she bequeathed a sum of \$20,000.00 to Zion's for "general church purposes." The process will take 9 to 12 months to complete. Church Council considered using this bequest towards repairing our stained glass window and giving 10% to the Synod. It was decided that we should have a policy in place to let church members know how we would use bequests if they include them in their wills.

A Home School fellowship group, "Children of the King," will be using the Fellowship Hall on November 17 from 1 PM to 3 PM, and December 15 from 12 PM to 3 PM.

Two new leaders for Counting Teams are needed (chair and co-chair). Our present counting teams are scheduled up to December 26, 2016. It is preferred that Council members not serve on teams so that they can fulfill their assigned duties, so we need volunteers from the Congregation for the teams. Please let a Council member know if you can help.

MIB Insurance Company sent a letter of updated evaluation coverage. We are covered for our church property only, not our contents. The Property Committee would like church committees to list their respective areas' inventories, with serial numbers of equipment, estimated values, etc. Our policy does cover replacement costs but since we have no contents listed, we would not be able to collect if we had a loss!

Committee Reports

The Christian Education Committee is looking to add two new members. Please contact a Council member if you are interested in serving on this vital committee.

WELCA: The Bazaar will be November 19. We need bakers! There are other Bazaars at that time, too, which is complicating things.

Finance Committee Chairman Joe Leone presented the 2017 Proposed Budget. Some revisions

were made. The cost of a replacement for our kitchen refrigerator was discussed. There is \$11,000.00 allotted for fixing the stained-glass window. A treasurer's salary of \$4,000.00 is included. The budget will be slightly larger than the 2016 budget. We have a \$7,000.00 credit with Werley's Oil Company which will be drawn from first. In 2017 we will pay as we go for fuel oil and not use a monthly installment plan. We will be switching from Verizon to Comcast at the end of the year. We are checking into an unsecured line of credit for \$25,000.00 for use when emergencies occur (such as roof leaks or oil burner replacement), and to establish a credit history. The Proposed Budget will be revised and presented again at the December Council Meeting.

Northern Berks Community Garden: Eileen Puglia reported the garden was closed November 5. It produced 8,224 pounds in 2016. They also purchased six bushels of apples for the Hamburg Food Pantry and will buy more, along with other items, next month.

Labyrinth: Mitch Shestok reported that Trevor Fegley's assignment is done, and Ruth Ann Eyer will present the proposal at the Annual Meeting.

Personnel Committee: will meet November 9. John Smith will be joining the committee.

Old Business

Our goal is to have a Membership Directory that is accurate and available for use at the end of the first quarter 2017. There are approximately 275 people for whom we have no contact information.

New Business

In reference to Harry Sohon's Memorial Fund, Shirley Sohon asked Pastor Osterhout if the church has a "Wish List." It was decided that we need to create an official Zion's Memorial Fund Wish List, based on input from Committee Heads. Eileen Puglia and Cleta Borkey will meet to discuss this and get the list developed.

Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day Worship Services: Saturday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) services be held at 4 PM, 7 PM and 10 PM; Sunday, *cont.*

December 25 (Christmas Day) service will be at 9 AM with no Sunday School; Sunday, January 1, 2017 service will be at 9 AM with no Sunday School.

President Jim Hirko will have a sign-up sheet for the services at the December Council Meeting. Council agreed to the above plan by consensus.

The Annual Meeting date will be January 22, 2017, with a Snow Date of January 29, as agreed to by consensus of Council.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joe Leone and seconded by Eileen Puglia. The motion passed by voice vote. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry O'Brien, Secretary

The Labyrinth Committee had its seventh meeting on November 9, 2016. Three possible budget proposals were discussed. These proposals will be presented at the congregational meeting in January. They include a labyrinth constructed of stone with brick edging, entirely of bricks, and entirely of pavers. Please look for these budget proposals in the annual report and discussion at the annual meeting. If you have any questions, please ask a member of the committee, and we will gladly inform you of the progress we are making.

Lisa Fegley

Zion's Lutheran is in need of several new volunteers to count offerings either after worship on Sunday or on Monday morning's beginning in 2017. A new head offering counter is also needed. Training is available and a training session would be held soon. Please step up and help out. Speak with Jim Hirko or Mitch Shestok if you have questions about volunteering. PB

Zion's 250 Anniversary Afghan's & Dinner Plates make nice Christmas Gifts, \$25.00 each from the Church Office.

Bishop Sam Zeiser, who is recovering from prostate surgery, returns to his duties one day per week beginning on Monday, December 5. Please hold him in your prayers. Cards may be sent to Bishop Sam Zeiser at Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, 2354 Grove Road Allentown, PA 18109-3044.

Zion's Adult Choir will share a holiday meal together on Wednesday, January 4 at 6 p.m. at Hoss's Steak House in Leesport.

Volunteers are needed after 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 18 to take down the Advent decorations and put up the Christmas decorations. The nave will be "undecorated" on Thursday, January 5 at 5:30 p.m.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22 following 10:30 a.m. worship. The 2017 operating budget will be discussed and adopted. Annual Reports will be ready to be picked up for member review beginning on Sunday, January 15. New Council members will be elected. If you are willing to serve as a Council member, please see President Jim Hirko or Pastor Bruce. The snow date is January 29.

- **Please pickup your 2017 offering envelopes when you come to worship in December.** If you desire a set of envelopes, please contact the church office. Members are reminded that they can give on-line on a regular basis by setting up their giving using the links on the church website, www.zionslutheran.org. Using this safe and secure website reduces the church expenses and allows members to give in a timely fashion even when they cannot attend worship.
- Pick up your daily devotional booklets for January-March 2017 when you come to worship.
- Please signup to sponsor 2017 worship items

CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets

Supplies needed:

- o One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid (If bucket has been used, clean well but do not use if it has held chemicals of anykind.)
- o Four scouring pads
- o Seven sponges, including one large
- o One scrub brush
- o Eighteen reusable cleaning towels (e.g. Easy Wipes)
- o One 50 oz. or two 25 oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- o One 16-28 oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- o One 12-16 oz. bottle of household cleaner that can be mixed with water (no spray bottles)
- o One package of 48-50 clothespins
- o Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- o Five dust masks
- o Two pairs non surgical latex gloves
- o One pair work gloves, cotton with leather palm or all leather
- o 24-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll and removed from carton
- o One 6-9 oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent

All cleaning items must be new- all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened. Place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packing tape.

Value: \$75

Processing fee: \$3 per Kit

*Do not enclose money inside the kits or in the shipping boxes.

Find shipping and donation instructions at cwskits.org.



December Birthday Calendar 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Jeffrey Seidel	2	3 Bruce Troutman Zoey Adam
4 Mary Ann Adam	5 Brad Doklan	6 Leonardo LaVentura Susan Horst	7 Richard Reinhart Allen Rausch	8	9 Tyler Gough Chase Denatala	10 Nathan Price Owen Schroeder
11 Susan Lutz Paul Strauss Matthew Nester	12	13	14 Landon Werley-Wolf	15 Noah Neuin	16 Kim Rodeffer	17 Donna Miller
18 Lisa Deibler Roger Heckman	19 Ronald Seaman	20 Samuel Olszewski	21 Daniel Mazaika	22 Lee Heffner	23 Amber Noecker	24 Daniel Brennan Logan Heffner
25 The Nativity of Our Lord <u>Happy Birthday Jesus</u> 	26 Gabrielle Leone Joan Rodeffer Melinda Ruth David Strunk	27	28 Bailey Koehn Julianna Kohler	29 William Albert Melanie Epting	30	31 December Birthstone Turquoise December Flower Narcissus

December Calendar of Events 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Please Take a Salvation Army Angel off the Christmas Tree</i></p>	<p><u>ADVENT</u> A time of deep personal growth A time for more personal prayer A time for more Bible reading</p>	<p>A time for tearing down, A time for building up, A time for opening ourselves up to the Lord</p>		<p>1 Zion's Ministerium Advent Worship & Soup 11:30 am 7:00 Bells 8:00pm Brass</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 5:00pm Worship 7:00pm A.A. AL-Non</p>
<p>4 8:00am Worship 9:15 S. School 10:30 am Worship S.S. Lunch/Program Rehearsal Last Day to Drop off Angel Tree Gifts!</p>	<p>5 office closed 7:00 pm All Committee Head Mtg. 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>6 6:00pm Movie Night at the Strand "It's a Wonderful Life" 7:00 pm Christian Ed. Mtg. 7:00pm AA.-AL-Non</p>	<p>7 Annual Report Deadline 6:00 pm Pericope 7:15 pm Choir</p>	<p>8 9:00 am Cemetery Mtg. @ Windsor Castle 11:30 am Advent Worship St. Mary Catholic Church 5:30 pm Zion's Tree Decorating Deadline to order Poinsettias 7:00 Bells 8:00pm Brass</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 9:30 a.m. S.S Program Rehearsal 5:00pm Worship 7:00pm A.A. AL-Non</p>
<p>11 8:00am Worship 9:15 S. School 10:30 am Worship Sunday School Christmas Program</p>	<p>12 office closed January Newsletter Deadline 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>13 9:00 am Knotters 7:00 pm Council Mtg. 7:00pm AA.-AL-Non</p>	<p>14 6:00 pm Pericope 7:15 pm Choir</p>	<p>15 11:00 am Seniors 11:30 am Advent Worship St. John's Lutheran Hamburg 4-8pm Lion's Blood Drive. 7:00 Bells 8:00pm Brass</p>	<p>16 Opportunity House Meal</p>	<p>17 2-4 pm Brass-Choir & Bell Ringing at Cabela's 5:00pm Worship 7:00pm A.A. AL-Non</p>
<p>18 8:00am Worship 9:15 S. School 10:30 am Worship 12-1:30 pm Orcheband Rehearsal Take down Advent set up pew holders and swags Family Promise begins</p>	<p>19 office closed 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Boy Scouts Hosting Family Promise supper in Sun. School</p>	<p>20 Mail Team #2 7:00pm AA.-AL-Non Hosting Family Promise-Supper in Sun. School</p>	<p>21 6:00 pm Pericope 7:15 pm Choir Hosting Family Promise</p>	<p>22 11:30 am Advent Worship Friedens Church Hosting Family Promise</p>	<p>23 Hosting Family Promise</p>	<p>24 Family Promise moves out at 10 a.m 4 :00 pm Children's 7:00 pm Family/ Orcheband 10:00 pm Candlelight 7:00pm A.A. AL-Non</p>
<p>25 9:00am Worship Merry Christmas Happy Birthday Jesus</p>	<p>26 office closed 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>27 9:00 am Knotters 7:00pm AA.-AL-Non</p>	<p>28 6:00 pm Pericope 7:15 pm Choir</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve 5 p.m. Worship</p>

“Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Perry Township”

Like us on Facebook www.zionslutheran.org

354 Zion’s Church Road, Shoemakersville, PA 19555

Church Office: 610-562-3112

Church Office Email is churchoffice@zionslutheran.org

The Church Office is open for business Tuesdays- Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Worship Services: Saturdays at 5 p.m. Sundays 8:00am and 10:30am

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

Church Staff

The Rev. Bruce G. Osterhout, Pastor (Cell: 610-914-2795) Email at pastorbruce@zionslutheran.org

Amanda Grow, Administrative Assistant - churchoffice@zionslutheran.org

Interim Organist and Choir Director: Don Ryan Hand Bells/Brass: Steven Turner

Custodians: Ruth Hoppes, Brian Moroney, and Karen Mengel Payroll: Sandra Moroney

2016 Congregation Council Members:

Jim Hirko, President; Brian Moroney, Vice President; Jerry O’Brien, Secretary; Sandra Moroney, Treasurer; Susan Lutz, Joe Leone, Bill Deibler, Dawn O’Brien, Cleta Borkey, Brad Doklan, Eileen Puglia, Mitch Shestok
One position remains vacant. The Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Community Ministries @ Zion’s

A.A. and Al-Anon meets on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. A.A. meets on Saturdays at 7 p.m.

Regular Weekly Activities - Please Join In

Adult Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays at 7:15 pm

Bells Rehearsal: Thursdays at 7 p.m. Brass Rehearsal: Thursdays at 8 p.m.

Regular Monthly Activities – Please join In

Quilt-Knotters: Second/Fourth Tuesdays 9 - 11 a.m. in the Gold Room

Zion’s Senior Adult Fellowship: Thurs. 12/1 10:30 a.m. in the Gold Room - Ministerium Advent Worship @ 11:30

Zion’s Book Group: No Meeting in December

Food Distribution Volunteers are always welcome each month:

On the 3rd Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Lutheran Church of Holy Trinity, Leesport.

On the 4th Tuesdays from 5 -8 p.m., volunteers are always welcome at the Hamburg Middle School Pantry Distribution. Thank you to all who helped on November 15!

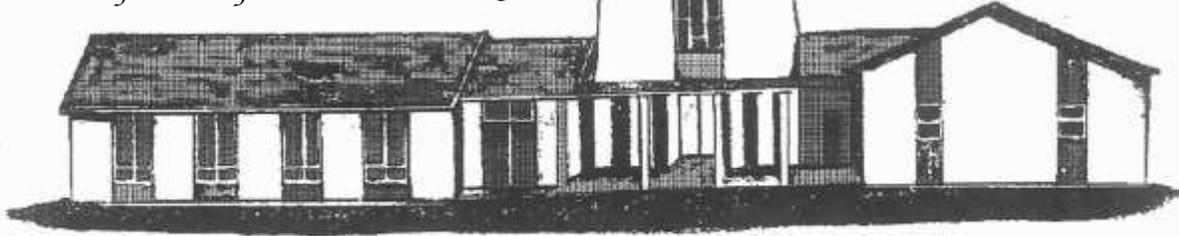
These are 2 great places to get some community service hours.

Visit the Hamburg Salvation Army Family Store – Take Clothing Donations there - Volunteer

Recent Veterans can get help at Keystone Military Families, 331 Main St. Shoemakersville located behind and above Scott Ulrich Motorcycles. More info on Facebook

Zion's Messenger

Saturday Worship: 5 pm
Sunday Church School: 9:15 am
Sunday Worship Services: 8 & 10:30 am



December 2016



Pastor: Rev. Bruce Osterhout
Church Phone: 610-562-3112
Pastor's Cell: 610-914-2795
Church Fax: 610-562-0461
Church Email: churchoffice@zionslutheran.org
Church Website: www.zionslutheran.org

Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church
354 Zion's Church Road, Shoemakersville, PA 9555

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 & Savior ✝
- ✝ Honest & open communication ✝
- ✝ Create and sustain healthy relationships ✝
- ✝ Share your 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 ✝

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Shoemakersville PA 19555