



# ZION'S MESSENGER

## MARCH 2017



### FROM THE PASTOR...

**Dear Members and Friends of Zion's Lutheran,** I hope that all of you will come to worship this Sunday, February 26, at 10:30 a.m. and hear the gifted musicians from Kutztown High School's award-winning Jazz Ensemble rock our nave with their great sound. It is an excellent way to cap off a long Epiphany season as "Mardi-Gras" time is upon us. Blow it out! Get "the fat out" of your pantry! Bake those Fasnachts! Cook those Pancakes! Remove all temptations now, so you won't be tempted later!

**For those of us of the Christian faith, we are about to enter the holiest time of year.** This "Lent thing" is not just for Roman Catholics. *This "Lent thing" is for everyone who is a believer in Jesus Christ.* Here in the 21<sup>st</sup> century there is a lot of confusion in the world as to just what being a believer in Jesus Christ means. Life moves too fast. We need to Stop, Think, and Reflect more. If you forget about God during each busy day or week, now is the time to step back from the RUSH-RUSH and the ME-ME. Replace them with SLOWER-SLOWER and GOD-GOD.

**Ash Wednesday is almost upon us. The 40 Days begin next Wednesday, March 1.** The purpose of the Lenten season is to focus on the life, ministry, and work of God's son, Jesus. While our Christian faith has far-reaching implications for our life in the world, each Christian is unique and can't be placed all in one group. As Lutherans, we know the history of this. Martin Luther "cracked" this egg open just about 500 years ago now. The Christian faith has been "scrambled" ever since! Faith requires discipline and focus. Worshiping and praying, forgiving and serving, are the verbs of faith. How active is yours? During the next 6 weeks, as a faith community, **we will be encouraging those** (of all ages) who are not yet baptized, to be baptized (on April 15 at 7 p.m.). **We will be encouraging those** (of all ages) who do not yet receive the Holy Meal of bread and wine, to come and learn about it so that they can receive it (on Maundy Thursday, April 13, at 7 p.m.). **We will be inviting new friends** (of all ages) to join our church on Palm Sunday, April 9, (at either worship service), as we grow closer to God and each other in this life that we live.

**How will you, personally, observe Lent this year?** Will you practice any of the traditional disciplines of the season? Fasting, daily prayer, self-denial? Will you make any change that might make your life a little more like God would want it to be? Maybe you will begin some new habit that helps you think about God or help or serve others? Want to talk about it? Just ask me. We have opportunities to worship more, study more, share with others more, pray more, and give more in our life together as a congregation. We invite others to come and join in. We do it because Jesus tells us to do it. **Jesus expects us to reach out in love to others just like He did in His life. Come check out our "Life of Jesus" chapel** set up (temporarily) in our Fellowship Hall. Bring a friend. We will worship there on Wednesdays at 11:30 am and 7 p.m. and on Saturdays at 5 p.m. Ask a co-worker to come along. Let's grow in our faith together. Know someone who needs God in their life? Let's invite others to join in with us as we continue to work for a change in the world.

**Yours in Christ I am, Pastor Bruce**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: • March Responsibilities • Lent Information • Up Coming Events • Council Report

## **Volunteer Responsibilities for March**

### **GREETERS**

5- 8:00 am Venus Fioravanti and Rita Decker  
5- 10:30 am. Paul & Linda Weidner  
12 - 8:00 am Gary & Carol Rothermel  
12 - 10:30 am. Brenda Hartman  
19 - 8:00 am Leone Family  
19- 10:30 am Barbara Shafer and Maylynn Wagner  
26 - 8:00 am Lois Deturk & Katie Stefan  
26 - 10:30 am Richard & Donna Long

### **ACOLYTES**

5- 8:00 am Jacob Fegley  
5- 10:30 am. Carielle Geist  
12 - 8:00 am Hailey Denatala  
12 - 10:30 am. Grant Doklan  
19 - 8:00 am Jacob Fegley  
19- 10:30 am Grant Doklan  
26 - 8:00 am Hailey Denatala  
26 - 10:30 am Alicia Gough

### **LECTORS**

5- 8:00 am Katie Stefan  
5- 10:30 am. Mark Dreibelbis  
12 - 8:00 am Jeanette Heckman  
12 - 10:30 am. Janine Dreibelbis  
19 - 8:00 am Rita Decker  
19- 10:30 am Susan Lutz  
26 - 8:00 am Katie Stefan  
26 - 10:30 am Faye Heckman

### **10:30 a.m. NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

5- 10:30 am. Eileen Puglia  
12 - 10:30 am. Faye Heckman  
19- 10:30 am Ruth Ann Eyer  
26 - 10:30 am Lori Palubinski

### **OPPORTUNITY HOUSE MEAL March 17th**

Tina Blake – Captain, Mike & Pat Potts,  
Karen Mengel

### **MAIL TEAM #1 Thursday March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Ruth Hoppes, Tiffany & Samantha Gruber, Pat Potts



### **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, and 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 March Food item for The Hamburg Food Pantry is: **Tuna**

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



- **Pick up your daily devotional booklets for January-March 2017 when you come to worship.**
- **Please sign up to sponsor 2017 worship items.**
- **Do You Love Coffee? Coffee Bar is still in need of Volunteers. There is a sign-up sheet hung on the narthex bulletin board.**

## Vacation Bible School Passport to Peru



Christian Education is looking for someone to coordinate our Vacation Bible School. This year we will be going on a spiritual and virtual journey to Peru with the VBS Passport to Peru: Discovering God's Good Gifts. This is an exciting week for the children of our church and community! Please consider this opportunity to help our church family.

## **L**IBRARY *a place for people*

Library volunteers will meet on Wednesday, March 22, at 1:30 P.M.

### **Book Group Meetings**

Zion's Book Group will meet  
Thursday, March 23, at 6:30pm in the  
church library.

### **Book Group selections:**

**March:** "The Book Of Joy" by Douglass  
Abrams- Two spiritual leaders- the Dalai  
Lama and the Archbishop Desmond Tutu  
quest for inner peace and joy.

**April:** "The House We Grew Up In" by Lisa  
Jewell- A picture perfect family's life is  
shattered by a tragic Easter weekend.

*All book selections are available through the  
Berks County Public Libraries*

## **Up coming Events At Zion's**

- Lent begins Ash Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.



Lent Worship will be held at Zion's Lutheran Church on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, **Soup Makers are needed** for Lenten Wednesdays and particularly on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> as Zion's hosts the Northern Berks Ministerium Lenten worship @ 11:30 a.m. At least 5 different kinds are needed on that day as well as fresh fruit and bread. Please sign up in the Narthex. The Lenten Wednesdays are March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5 at 11 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.

- Zion's Senior Adult Fellowship will meet on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30a.m. to 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- Zion's Cemetery Company, Inc. of Perry Township board of trustees set the spring clean-up dates of March 13<sup>th</sup> to March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017. All artificial decorations will be removed unless claimed by lot owners before this week. The cemetery board is not responsible for decoration remaining on the graves when spring cleaning begins. New and existing decorations may be placed, or replaced, effective March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Thank you for your cooperation in helping the trustees maintain a caring, respectful memorial for your loved ones.

### **2017 Lenten Worship/Study/Prayer**

**Opportunities:** Lent is a time to turn your life back to God, to focus more deeply on Jesus' story, to practice self-denial, to be intentional in your daily devotions, in your fellowship with other Christians, in worship and in prayer.

### **Come and Pray**

with us on Lenten Wednesdays @ 5:30pm - March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5<sup>th</sup>,

(Prayer List Names will be read out loud in the Nave)

[prayerlist@zionslutheran.org](mailto:prayerlist@zionslutheran.org)

### **Come for Wednesday Adult Soup/Study**

with other Adults on Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall "Life of Jesus" Chapel 5:45 - 7 pm.

*Come for Wednesday Devotions, Soup & Conversation*

For those who do not like to come out at night: On Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall "Life of Jesus" Chapel.

*Attend Thursday Ministerium Worship*

**On Thursdays throughout March at 11:30 a.m. at area various congregations.** Zion's hosts the Northern Berks Ministerium Worship on Thurs., March 16. Soup Makers and Lunch helpers are needed that day. Zion's Senior Adults will meet for fellowship from 10:30 am to 1:30 p.m.

March 2 – "Creation and Flood" @ First Reformed UCC Hamburg

March 9 – "Crossing the Red Sea and Water from the Rock" @ St. Mary Roman Catholic (Tilden)

**March 16 – "The Jordan River" @ Zion's Lutheran - Perry Township**

March 23 – "The Woman at the Well" @ St. Paul "Smoke" Lutheran (Edenburg)

March 30 – "Walking on Water and Calming the Sea" @ Frieden's Lutheran-Shartlesville

April 6 – "Washing the Disciples Feet" @ St. Michael's Lutheran (Tilden)

*Come and Receive First Holy Communion*

Children, youth and adults of all ages who desire to receive this meal are invited to participate in instruction on Sundays, March 19 & 26 and April 2 & 9, after 10:30 a.m. worship. (Until 1:15 p.m. including lunch.)

**First Communion will be received on Maundy Thursday, April 13 th, @ 7 p.m.**



*Easter is April 16<sup>th</sup>*

## BEAR Creek Camp

*\*Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup> Director Pete will be with us in Sunday School. Come ask him questions about Bear Creek camp. Hear our kids talk about their experiences last summer!*

Time to think about Bear Creek Camp for your child this summer!! Why should my child attend Bear Creek Camp? Simply put, to explore, celebrate, and grow in God's creation. Everything at camp involves one of these actions: Having fun, Sharing faith, Building character, Embracing adventure, Cultivating community. Students in grades 1-12 are eligible for Bear Creek Camp. Zion's WELCA gives ½ scholarships to all Zion's members who go to BCC. Camp starts on Sunday afternoon, and pick up is on Saturday morning. For information about camp dates and registrations go to [bearcreekcamp.org](http://bearcreekcamp.org). We'll also have some forms in the office. Zion's will send in the first group of camper registrations by March 1<sup>st</sup>, so fill out the form and write a check (to Zion's WELCA) for your deposit and give it to Carol Rothermel or leave it in the office. We'll send in groups of registrations later for those who are still figuring out their summer schedules. **Registration** forms are now available for March 31-April 1-2, 2017 event, see PB

**New to Bear Creek in 2017 is Family Camp. Come join us July 2-7, for a time of fellowship and family.**

### *Faith Around Town*

Faith at the Movies  
"Agony & Ecstasy"

Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. At The Hamburg Strand Theater. Come and watch a movie and then stay for the discussion. (Rescheduled by popular demand)

Admission is \$8.00 and includes a free small popcorn and small soda

Pre-movie discussion will begin 5 minutes before each movie. Attendees are invited to stay following the movie, to discuss what they learned about God and faith. Movie attendees are invited to shop and eat in downtown Hamburg before the show.



**Baked Goods Needed** March 4<sup>th</sup> for a Benefit Bingo at the Shoemakersville Fire Co, The bingo is being held to benefit an active firefighter who has been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease. Baked goods are needed; can we count on you? Please bring baked goods to the Shoey Fire Co. by 10 a.m. Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup>. Or you may deliver the baked goods to Zion's Lutheran Church by Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup> during office hours, 9am till 1pm. Thank you Susie Lutz.

## Special Thank You , Thoughts & Prayers

**To Zion's: A sincere thank you to the people of Zion who showed support via visits, calls, cards, notes, food and prayers. I'm anxious to rejoin you, under the direction of our Pastor Bruce, to "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow."**

**Thank you, Thank you, Nelson Eyer**

*"We can soar above the storm. It is not the burdens of life which weigh us down, but it is how we handle them that counts."*

### **Redner's Save A Tape Program**

Thanks so much for your continued support of our Save A Tape Program. Here is a reminder of the program guidelines:

- \*Customer must use a Save A Tape card for purchases.
- \*Please submit the entire receipt. Partial receipts cannot be turned in.
- \*Please do not use a highlighter on your receipts. It can erase the totals.
- \*All receipts must be dated within three years prior to the date we turn them in. Please check your old tapes, and turn them in as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please see Eileen Puglia or any WELCA officer. Thanks again!



## **"Macaroni for the Military"**

**Lenten Collection:** Please join WELCA in our Lenten collection for Keystone Military Families, Shoemakersville. We will be collecting macaroni & cheese (boxes or microwave cups) and tuna (canned or pouches) throughout this Lenten season.

Macaroni & cheese and tuna are things they can use in their food pantry all year and also send in their care packages to troops overseas.

Keystone Military Families has been assisting deployed troops, veterans and military families for many years. Their goal is to provide support to the military community while preserving their dignity, treating each of them with the respect they have earned while serving their country.

As we enter this Lenten season, let's help Keystone make a difference in the lives of our local military, veterans, and their families as well as our active military bravely serving our country overseas.

Collection containers will be placed in the Narthex through Easter Sunday.

Thanks so much and God bless you for your help!

## **Zion's WELCA Benefits Others**

Zion's WELCA met on Thursday, February 16, and a large portion of the meeting was devoted to sorting craft items stored from many years of Bazaars.

Could we make a difference in others' lives with any of these items, we asked as we sorted. Yes we can! Clients of Salvation Army at Hamburg, Laurel Living Center and Keystone Military Families will be benefitting from our stash. Some items will be finding new life here at Zion's in future activities.



## Church Reports



1-1-16	Beginning Balance	\$20,301.89
	General Offering	\$16,277.27
	Special Offering	\$2,022.00
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$38,601.16</b>
	Current Expenses	\$16,696.65
1-31-17	<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$21,904.51</b>

## Council Corner

We had our first meeting with our newly elected council members. It's a pleasure to welcome Bettie Hirko, Lucille Gough, Ruth Ann Eyer, Wanda Hoherchak, and Mark Dreibelbis, which brings our council to full membership. Thanks to all for agreeing to serve our congregation.

Because this was our first meeting since our Annual Congregation Meeting, we needed to elect new council officers. The newly elected officers are as follows:

- President – Eileen Puglia
- Vice President – Wanda Hoherchak
- Secretary – Gerald O'Brien

These positions are very important to our Congregation, and we are grateful for their willingness to serve.

Financially, we are off to a good start in the New Year. Our treasurer reports that we ended January in the black at \$21,904.51. Our offerings for the month totaled \$16,277.27. Thank you to all for your faithful support. If we continue to keep our giving a priority, the Lord will continue to bless our ministries.

The Eastern Berks Mission District of our Lutheran Church is planning a fundraiser for the Lutheran Seminary's Scholarship Fund. They are partnering with a Kutztown Brewery to produce Katie Luther's recipe brew to commemorate her husband, Luther's Reformation Anniversary.

Keep an eye open for more information on this project and how you can order your sampling of Katie Luther's Brew. Order forms are available in the Hallway.

For all who may be concerned, our church water is constantly being tested, and has been determined to be safe for drinking.

Some future undertakings to make note of:

- April 8th – 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Workday to do some clean-up projects around the church that are over and above our regular custodial tasks. Please sign up for a job.
  - Sometime in April (as weather permits) - opening of our Church Community Garden
  - Saturday September 30th – Potato Project Festival (still in planning, would you like to help with this?)
- Our church offers many opportunities to get involved. Please check out one or more that fit your interests, schedule, talents, and volunteer to help. We need you.

*Many Blessings,  
Bill Deibler*

**Worship on the Lord's Day**  
**Worship on Saturdays at 5 p.m.**  
(Come as You Are) in the Fellowship  
Hall Chapel. Holy Communion is  
celebrated every week.

**“Faith at the Movies”** events are  
sponsored by the Northern Berks  
Ministerium  
\$8 per person

Here are future movie dates: Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> (during Holy Week-2 weeks earlier than usual) at 7 p.m. “The Passion of the Christ”

Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> - “Unbroken”  
Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> – “Left Behind”

# March Birthday Calendar 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Anthony Grugan Erica Mish Rob Wagner	2 Cheryl Hertzog Valerie Kohler Lana Leone	3	4
5 Janine Dreibelbis	6 Glenn Epting Timothy Pursell	7	8	9 Michael Coleman Robert Macheimer Terry Reinhart Ozzie Reitnauer	10 Derick Clark Robert Noecker	11
12 Steven Moyer Caleb Smith	13 Corrine Dietrich	14 Brett Fisher Susan Heckman	15 Christopher Mazaika	16 Traci Heffner	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
19	20 Wellesley Keal Linda Sousley	21 Elsie Frymoyer Russel Reinhart Steve Seidel	22 Courtney Brennan Paul Reidenhour, Jr.	23 George Seidel	24 Suzanne Hensel Carissa Miller	25 Deborah Heckman
26 Betty Angstadt Mary Clark	27 Tricia Boyer	28 Ruth Hill Crystal Reinhart	29 Linda Reinhart	30 Victoria Long Sharon Strauss	31 Kylee Koller	March Birthstone: Aquamarine  March Flower: Daffodil  Shut In *

# March Calendar of Events 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <u>Ash Wednesday</u> 11:30 am Worship 7:00 pm Worship  6:00 pm Adult Bible Soup & Study 7:15 pm Choir	2  11:30 am Lent Worship @ First Reformed UCC.  7:00 Bells 8:00pm Brass	3  SV/Hamburg Retirees Luncheon	4  5:00pm Worship 7:00pm A.A.
5 8:00am Worship 9:15 S. School 10:30 am Worship  Fellowship Mtg.	6 <b>office closed</b>  7:00 pm All Comm. Heads 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Boy Scouts	7  7:00 pm Christian Ed. Mtg.  7:00pm AA.- AL-Anon	8 11:30 am Worship 7:00 pm Worship  6:00 pm Adult Bible Soup & Study 7:15 pm Choir	9 11:30 am Lent Worship @ St. Mary Roman Catholic  7:00 Bells 8:00pm Brass	10	11  5:00pm Worship 7:00pm A.A.
12 8:00am Worship 9:15 S. School 10:30 am Worship	13 <b>office closed</b>  <i>April Newsletter Deadline</i>  6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Boy Scouts	14  9:00 am Knotters 7:00 pm Council Mtg. 7:00pm A.A.-AL-Anon	15 11:30 am Worship 7:00 pm Worship 1-3 pm Children of King 6:00 pm Adult Bible Soup & Study 7:15 pm Choir	16 11:30 am Lent Worship @ Zions 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Mtg. Windsor Castle 10:30 am Adult Seniors 7:00 Bells 8:00pm Brass	17  <u>St. Patrick's Day</u> Opportunity House Meal	18  5:00pm Worship 7:00pm A.A.
19 8:00am Worship 9:15 S. School 10:30 am Worship	20 <b>office closed</b>  6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Boy Scouts	21  7:00pm AA.-AL-Anon	22 11:30 am Worship 7:00 pm Worship 1:30 pm Library vol. mtg. 6:00 pm Adult Bible Soup & Study 7:15 pm Choir	23 11:30 am Lent Worship @ Smoke Church 6:30 pm Book Club Mail Team # 1  7:00 Bells 8:00pm Brass	24	25  5:00pm Worship 7:00pm A.A.
26 8:00am Worship 9:15 S. School 10:30 am Worship	27 <b>office closed</b>  6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Boy Scouts	28  9:00 am Knotters  7:00 pm Faith at the Movies 7:00pm AA.- AL- Anon	29 11:30 am Worship 7:00 pm Worship 6:00 pm Adult Bible Soup & Study 7:15 pm Choir	30 11:30 am Lent Worship @ Friedens  7:00 Bells 8:00pm Brass	31	

# 2017 Farm Family Appreciation Celebration!

*Sponsored in part by various religious, social and financial organizations*

**What:** Catered hot buffet meal, hoedown and line dancing to show appreciation for farm families in Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, and Schuylkill Counties, and the surrounding areas. Build community among Farm Families and citizens.

**When: Saturday, March 18, 2017**  
Doors open at 6:15 PM, but no earlier  
Dinner buffet – 7:00 to 8:00 PM (Tables will be held for families that work late.)  
Square Dance and Country music by “The Majestics” with line dance music  
between sets – 8:00 to 11:00 PM

**Where:** Hamburg Field House, Hamburg, PA - Exit #30 off I-78

**Who:** Everyone is invited—farm families and farm family supporters!! Children are welcome!!

**Note:** No political or other solicitations. No alcoholic beverages permitted.

*This year's theme will be Farm Animals!*



## Registration Forms due by March 3, 2017 (Limited to 900)

Name(s) of Attendee(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Farm Family Appreciation  
Penn State Extension-Berks County  
1238 County Road, Suite 110  
Leesport, PA 19533

### Farm family (NO CHARGE) - FREE WILL DONATION AT THE DOOR

\_\_\_\_\_ Adults  
\_\_\_\_\_ Children (ages 3-10)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Children (2 and under)

### Farm family supporter (Make check payable to: Berks Co. Ext. Program Account)

\_\_\_\_\_ Adults - \$16.00 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Children (ages 3-10) - \$9.00 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Children (2 and under) - No charge  
Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Tickets and directions will be mailed out by March 10, 2017.**

**Questions? Call 610-378-1327 and ask for Lisa or go to [www.godslove.org/calendar](http://www.godslove.org/calendar)**

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.

# **Upcoming Dates @ Zion's Lutheran Church**

**Thursday, March 16 @ 11:30 a.m.** Northern Berks Ministerium Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall with Soup/Bread lunch. Offering benefits the Northern Berks Emergency Assistance Fund through the Hamburg Salvation Army. **ALL SENIOR ADULTS are invited to come from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** to enjoy fellowship, cards-Pinochle and Hausey, board games and fun. If you like to play it, bring it!

**First Communion classes** begin on Sunday, March 19 after 10:30 a.m. worship Encourage children/youth/adults of all ages to participate. See PB for details.

**Saturday, April 8 – Church Spring Clean Up Day – Make the Building Sparkle! Sign up for various jobs beginning on Sunday, March 12.**

**Palm Sunday, April 9** at both worship services – **New members will be received** into the fellowship of Zion's Lutheran. Encourage/invite someone to become a member!

**Maundy Thursday – April 13 at 7 p.m. First Communions are received**

**Good Friday, April 14 – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** All Zion's youth (Grades 5-12) are needed to **help color Easter Eggs and prepare for the Easter Egg Hunts.**

**Holy Saturday – Vigil of Easter – April 15 – Encourage Baptisms at 7 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 13 – Calling all KAYAKERS and CANOERS!** A Schuylkill River event from Bern Bridge to Jim Dietrich Park is in the works! Save the date. Tell PB if you can help out.

**Morning Children's Bible School – June 19-23 – A Director is Needed** to lead the team in preparing for this 50 kid/25 volunteer event! Theme: "Passport to Peru" See Henry Seidel or Pastor Bruce to learn more.

**Saturday, September 30 – First ever Potato Project Harvest Festival – Talk to Pastor Bruce** about serving on the planning committee which will have its' first meeting in March.

**VERA BRADLEY HANDBAGS /  
"31" BAGS / CASH BENEFIT BINGO**

**Sunday, March 26, 2017**

**VIRGINVILLE GRANGE #1832 HALL (610-562-8357)**

**456 MAIN ST, RT. 143, VIRGINVILLE, PA 19564**

(SPONSORED BY: THE VIRGINVILLE GRANGE COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE)

**For:**

**CHRISTY RYAN**

**\*\*\*SPECIAL CANNED FOOD COLLECTION & GAME**

for NORTHERN BERKS FOOD PANTRY\*\*\*

**Doors Open 11:30 A.M. Games At 1:00 P.M.**

20 games / \$20.00\* / 6 Card "PAPER" Package / Upgrades / Specials / 50/50 / Jackpot / Dabbers

*\* All monies are automatically considered a "DONATION"*

**\*\* YOU MUST CALL TO RESERVE A SEAT \*\***

**CALL DENISE @ 610-562-3876**

**DEADLINE for "POSTMARKED" CHECKS IS:**

**SATURDAY, March 18, 2017**

*Checks payable to: "VGCSC" are \*Non-Refundable*

Mail to: VGCSC Bingo

132 N. 3rd St

Hamburg, PA 19526

HANDICAPPED FRIENDLY // NON-SMOKING BINGO // 'LITE' LUNCHEON AVAILABLE

**RESERVED SEATING ONLY!!!** Prizes provided by: Vera Bradley, Thirty One Bags and Thrivent



Educate • Advocate • End Abuse

Safe Berks  
255 Chestnut Street  
Reading, PA 19602

Phone: 610.373.1206  
Fax: 610.372.4188

SafeBerks.org

We work to end  
domestic violence and  
sexual assault

↑ Note new logo + name.

February 9, 2017

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

Dear Friends,

SAFE Berks is staffed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and 365 days per year to provide immediate shelter and basic necessities to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. Your donation of assorted items is greatly appreciated and important to our fundraising success.

In addition to providing the essentials of food and safe shelter to provide for the physical needs of individuals and families who have experienced domestic violence and sexual assault, SAFE Berks provides the following:

- 24 Hour Crisis hotline in English and Spanish
- Trauma-Informed counselling
- Facilitated Connections to Critical resources
- Legal Advocacy and Representation
- Youth and Family Education and Advocacy
- Cultural Competency and Education
- Housing Advocacy
- Community Education and Awareness
- Nature Explore Garden <sup>TM</sup>
- Safe Healing program for Child Victims of Sexual Assault
- Lethality Assessment Project

SAFE Berks could not do what it does without the generous support of a caring community. Thank you again for your thoughtful gift to SAFE Berks.

Most sincerely,

Macey Markowitz MA, CPCA  
Director of Development  
Phone: 484-869-5292

★  
Thanks for the gift!

Your in-kind donation was received on 1/12/2017;  
no goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution.

The official registration and financial information of Berks County Women in Crisis may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

# SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

## Synod Assembly 2017

June 2-3 at the  
Kalahari Resort in the Poconos

The site of next year's Assembly will be the Kalahari Resort in the Poconos. For more information, visit their website at [kalahariresorts.com/pennsylvania](http://kalahariresorts.com/pennsylvania). Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the grand finale of "UNLEASHED for Reformation 2017."

*(continued from the right-hand column)*

This was a wonderful experience of the church connecting with and making a difference in the daily lives of its neighbors. Hope Lutheran Church and the participants in M.A.D. H.O.P.E. appreciate the financial support they received from their partners in ministry in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod through a grant from the Witness and Service Ministry Team.



## M.A.D. H.O.P.E. Summer Youth Program



For six consecutive weeks this past summer, twelve neighborhood youth gathered each Tuesday at Hope Lutheran Church in Reading to participate in service projects, team building exercises, education in life skills, and worship. The vision of "M.A.D. H.O.P.E." (Making A Difference, Helping Other People Everyday) grew out of conversations between Pr. Mary Wolfe of Hope and the young people who frequent the church's programs.

Youth noted that over the summer there are plenty of activities for children in the neighborhood, but few opportunities for Middle and Senior High youth. Church leaders also recognized that the city young people often lack mentors who can teach them such basic skills as how to complete a resume, how to dress for work, and how to conduct themselves in a workplace.

Tuesday's at M.A.D. H.O.P.E. began with Pr. Wolfe, and Leanna Hassler, the congregation's Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator, gathering with participants for a group devotion after which the young people prepared their own lunches, learning basic cooking skills. Following lunch, a service project in the community or church kept the youth busy working as a team while at the same time improving their neighborhood. A fun fitness activity followed service. The day concluded with helping to set up for and participate in the meal and worship experience of Hope's Table, a ministry of hospitality to area poor and homeless residents.

*(continued in the left-hand column)*

## Meet Your Synod's Staff



**Debbie Skinner**

Debbie is part-time at the synod office. She prepares the monthly synod mailing and duplicates Synod News and other items that are inserted. She also keeps track of rostered leaders for the monthly Daily Prayers. In addition, she records the mission support commitments from synod congregations, and she helps Diane Hemerly with the Assembly Minutes Book.

She also is the person responsible for returning benevolence checks mistakenly sent to the synod office instead of the Mission Investment Fund because some congregational treasurers still are not aware of the new procedures.

Debbie is starting her 4th year at the synod office. She also works part-time at the Lehigh Humane Society as assistant to the bookkeeper. Prior to working for the synod, she worked in marketing for 19 years at AP Wagner Appliance Parts in Allentown.

Debbie has two sons and four grandchildren. She enjoys reading and going to rock concerts. She is a member at St. Luke, Allentown where she has served a council president.

## St. Paul, Douglassville Hosts Volunteer Fair



St. Paul, Douglassville hosted a Volunteer Fair on Monday, January 16. A variety of volunteer options in Berks County were on display, and prospective volunteers could discover opportunities to match their interests, time, and abilities. A complimentary luncheon was provided.

Twenty-four nonprofit agencies from around Berks County were on site with a display to raise awareness of their organization. Nonprofits had representatives on hand to meet with and discuss the goals and objectives of the organization, and how individuals could become involved in achievement of their mission. More than 100 community people attended to check out the volunteer opportunities.

The fair was an effort to bring together community members with local organizations, for a better community. It was organized by St. Paul's Stewardship Committee as part of a congregation wide goal to have each committee take something they do within the church, and carry out a project for folks outside the church. Jim Trout was the organizer and committee chairperson. Thrivent Financial provided Action Team seed money to help with the project.

Pastor Greg Frey reported, "We were really excited about the turnout because really important organizations recruited some new volunteers, and these same organization got to have some conversations with other community organizations as well. It was all good!"



Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA  
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# **“Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Perry Township”**

## **Like us on Facebook      [www.zionslutheran.org](http://www.zionslutheran.org)**

354 Zion’s Church Rd, Shoemakersville, PA 19555 Church Office: 610-562-3112

Church Office Email is [churchoffice@zionslutheran.org](mailto:churchoffice@zionslutheran.org)

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

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

**Prayer Partners and Prayer Requests – [prayerlist@zionslutheran.org](mailto:prayerlist@zionslutheran.org)**

**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

### **Zion’s Lutheran Church Staff**

The Rev. Bruce G. Osterhout, Pastor (Cell: 610-914-2795) Email at [pastorbruce@zionslutheran.org](mailto:pastorbruce@zionslutheran.org),  
Administrative Assistant, Amanda Grow; Director of Music Ministry, Don Ryan; Hand Bells/Brass, Steven Turner;  
Custodians, Ruth Hoppes, Brian Moroney, and Karen Mengel; Treasurer, Sandra Moroney

### **2017 Congregation Council Members:**

President: Eileen Puglia; Vice President: Wanda Hoherchak; Secretary: Gerald O’Brien;  
Ruth Ann Eyer, Lucille Gough, Mark Dreibelbis, Bettie Hirko, Susan Lutz, Joe Leone, Bill Deibler,  
Dawn O’Brien, Mitch Shestok

### **Community Ministries @ Zion’s**

Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts – Pack/Troop 163 - Monday evenings  
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. 3/16 at Zion’s Lutheran  
Zion’s Book Group: Meeting on 3/23 @ 6:30 pm

### **Food Distribution Volunteers are always welcome each month:**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Lutheran Church of Holy Trinity, Leesport.  
On the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 5 - 8 p.m., volunteers are always welcome at the  
Hamburg Middle School Pantry Distribution. **You can get community service hours!**

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

700 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Hours: Wed 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thurs 12 – 7 p.m. Fri/Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Help a Second Grader Learn to Read at Perry Elementary 8:30-9 a.m. on Wednesdays –**

Visit [readysartetreadberks.org](http://readysartetreadberks.org) (A program of United Way – Berks County)

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

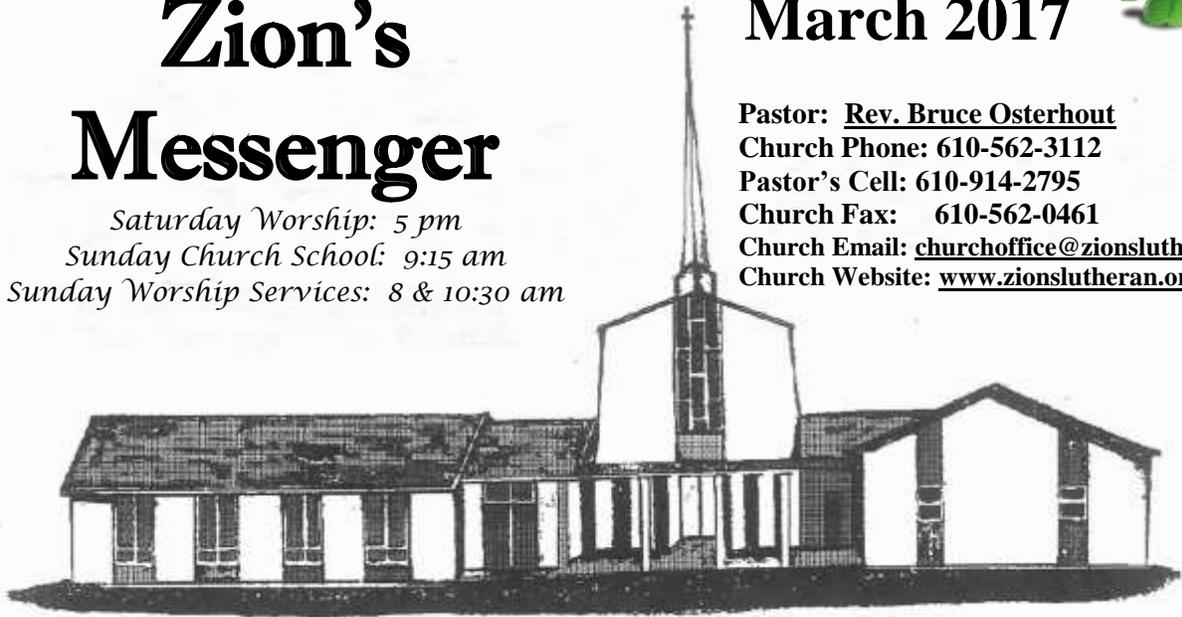
# Zion's Messenger

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

March 2017



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](mailto:churchoffice@zionslutheran.org)  
Church Website: [www.zionslutheran.org](http://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