



ZION'S MESSENGER JANUARY 2018

FROM THE PASTOR...

Dear Zion Friends,

“I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised... Psalm 18 Verses 1-3a. (I commend the next 47 verses to your reading pleasure, at the start of the year 2018)

Psalm 18 is a royal thanksgiving psalm that is rather personal to King David who gives thanks for his victory. God showed his readiness to help David out. God had intervened to save David during his battles. In the psalm, there is an exuberant outburst of confidence in what David could accomplish with God's help. A good message for us as we begin a new year.

As the year 2017 draws to a close, we remember back on how it was, its high moments and its low points. Some of us will be glad it is over with. Others are sorry to see it go. Either way, it will soon be history. As you make resolutions, you could choose to be more involved with congregational life. You could strive to deepen your faith. Just saying.

As you think about this New Year to come, pause for a day or two and think about your relationship with God. Think about your participation in and your connections to your congregation as we work together to be God's people in the world today. Think about how our work is aimed at preparing the world to receive this Baby King, whose birth causes immediate problems for the families of Bethlehem. The ways and work of God has long fueled changes in the human condition. Poor shepherds and the rich kings will have their lives changed by their encounter with the baby. Mary and Joseph will soon be “on the run”, fleeing Herod's soldiers, with their baby son, who seek to eliminate Herod's perceived potential competition for his earthly throne. With more refugees (people without a home country) in the world right now than at any time since World War 2, the story is very relevant to today.

As we give thanks for the safety and security of our own homes and neighborhoods, may we recognize this safety and security as a primary blessing in our lives. As we think about our daily work as people who are called in our baptism to be servants of a living God, may we seek to work for justice and peace in our relationships and in our community.

As in Psalm 18 where King David recognized God's support, may we see God alive and active amidst the storms and challenges that we will face in 2018. May God strengthen us for the new year ahead. We are and we can accomplish much when we work together to give glory to God. For all that was accomplished in 2017 and for all that will be in the weeks ahead, give thanks.

Please attend our annual Congregational Luncheon and meeting on January 21. (The snow date is January 28). I hope to see you “in the pews.

Pastor Bruce

Volunteer Responsibilities for January

GREETERS

7-8:00 am Gary & Carol Rothermel
7-10:30 am Mark & Janine Dreibelbis
14-8:00 am Lois DeTurk and Katie Stefan
14-10:30 am Dan & Carolyn Geist
21-8:00 am Venus Fioravanti and Rita Decker
21-10:30 am Karen Mengel
28-8:00 am Leone Family
28-10:30 am Susan & Woody Lutz

ACOLYTES

7-8:00 am Ty Seidel
7-10:30 am Morgan Gallagher
14-8:00 am Bella Denatala
14-10:30 am Carley Gallagher
21-8:00 am Drew Koller
21-10:30 am Morgan Gallagher
28-8:00 am Grant Doklan
28-10:30 am Carley Gallagher

LECTORS

7-8:00 am Jeanette Heckman
7-10:30 am Mark Price
14-8:00 am Katie Stefan
14-10:30 am Janine Dreibelbis
21-8:00 am Venus Fioravanti
21-10:30 am Faye Heckman
28-8:00 am Rita Decker
28-10:30 am Susan Lutz

Altar Guild: Cleta Borkey and Ruth Hoppes

Bread Baker: Chris Brennan

Opportunity House Meal: Rita Decker, Venus Fioravanti, Mel Fioravanti

Mail Team: Thursday Jan.25th

The *January* Food Pantry items are:
Marconi & Cheese

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

Upcoming Events At Zion's.

Annual Meeting Notice

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 21st following 10:30 am worship (snow date January 28th).

The 2018 operating budget will be discussed and adopted. New Church Council members will be elected. Several Council positions remain open. If interested, please see Wanda Hoherchak or Eileen Puglia.

Annual reports will be ready to be picked up beginning on Sunday, January 7th. Please read carefully in preparation for the meeting.

Join us as we conduct the important business of our Church.

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, has early dismissal 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 complete cancellations will be a decision made between the Pastor and the Council President. It is more likely that the Sunday morning schedule would be abbreviated: No 8 a.m. service and no Sunday School, which would give time for the parking lot to be cleared in the event of a Saturday evening snowstorm. 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 meeting, simply call the Church at 610-562-3112.

Zion's Senior January 11th, 11:00 a.m.
Bill Gundrum will be making chili!! Come join for cards, games, and fellowship!!



Zion's Book Club

The book club will meet on February 15 at 7:00pm in the church library.

February: "Big Little Lies" by Liane Moriarty

We will meet again on Thursday, **January 18th**, at 7:00pm in the church library.

Library Shelves

If any member reads any books from the church library, will you please consider writing a short paragraph/book review and submit it to Amanda to be included in the next newsletter. Thanks!

Items added to the library collection since the last newsletter are listed below:

Reformation

Martin Luther's Christmas Book edited by Roland H. Bainton

The Wit of Martin Luther by Eric W. Gritsch

Martin Luther's Table Talk edited by Henry F. French

Luther the Reformer (The Story of the Man and His Career) Second Edition by James M. Kittelson & Hans H. Wjersma

Martin Luther's 95 theses by Timothy J. Wengert

The Freedom of a Christian 1520 by Timothy J. Wengert

Papa Luther by Daniel D. Maurer

Luther's Prayers edited by Herbert F. Brokering

The Roots of Reform Vol. 1 (The Annotated Luther) by Timothy J. Wengert

Together by Grace (Introducing the Lutherans) edited by Kathryn A. Kleinhans.

History - The Emerald Mile by Kevin Fedarko.

Wellness - Overwhelming Odds by Susan and Denny O'Leary.

Religion - One Hope (Re-Membering the Body of Christ) by Julie Aageson

1,000 Faces of God by Rebecca Hind
Self-Guided Tour of the Bible by Christopher D. Hudson
Declaration on the Way (Church, Ministry, and Eucharist) by Augsburg Fortress.

Reference – Armchair Reader and Fascinating Bible Facts.

Card Book – Bible Adventures.

Easy Readers – Little Shepherd adapted by Dandi Daley Mackall
Clopper and the Night Travelers by Emily King
Maybe God is Like That Too by Jennifer Grant and
The Life of Martin Luther by Agostino Traini.

Garden News

Thanks again, and again, and again!

First of all, a huge thank you to everyone for all of their support during our 4th 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 finished Season #4 with a harvest of 6079 pounds of produce. And we weren't done. We then bought oranges for the December Hamburg Food Pantry distribution. This season, we continued to donate our produce 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.

Thanks again...

Special Thanks, Prayer, & Thought

Pray for those in California. Who are victims of the Wild Fires, losing their homes, and businesses.

Please help the Hurricane Harvey-Irma and Marias Victims. Visit www.LDR.org or use a pew envelope.

Thank you to you everyone who helped with Family Promise Week!!

Shut In Mailing List

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

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

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

Mrs. Gloria Fisher
Laurel Center
125 Holly Rd.
Hamburg, PA 19526
(recovering from a broken arm)

Joann Himmelberger
1152 Main St.
Shoemakersville, Pa 19555

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

David Seidel
Grand View Manor
129 Houck Rd
Fleetwood, Pa 19522

Peggy Marquette
210 Constitution Dr.
Hamburg, Pa 19562

Nancy Leiby
1237 Perry St.
Reading, Pa 19604

Bertha Stewart
1040 Berks Rd. Berks Heim A233
Leesport, Pa 19533

George Seidel
Grand View Manor Rm 7
129 Houck Rd.
Fleetwood, Pa 19522

Jack & Dorothy Wertz
Maiden Creek Place
105 Dries Rd.
Reading, Pa 19605

Joanne Busch
616 N.2nd St
Reading, Pa 19601

Faith Around Town

Faith at the Movies

Faith at the Movies – “It’s A Wonderful Life.”

Tuesday, Dec. 26th at 7, p.m. At The Hamburg Strand Theater. \$8.00 includes small popcorn and small drink. Come and watch a movie and then stay for the discussion.

➤ **Sponsors needed for Sunday Bulletins, Reading Eagle, & Hamburg Item for the month of January. Come on in, pick a date, and send a special message!! New Sheets are up!**

Church Reports

Treasurers Report

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1-1-17 Beginning Balance | \$20,301.89 |
| General Offering | \$172,128.81 |
| Special Offering | \$21,345.87 |
| Sub-Total | \$213,776.57 |
| Current Expenses | \$206,939.51 |
| Balance | \$6,837.06 |
| 11-31-17 | |

Counting Team help needed

Our counting teams continue to count Sundays after 10:30 worship service or Monday mornings. Most of our 2017 counting team members are continuing for 2018, but we do have a few openings for our monthly counters and substitutes.

You work as part of a team, and training is available. Please consider signing up for a team. It is only a once a month commitment. Contact Eileen Puglia for additional details or to sign up (epuglia@comcast.net).

Media Planning Group off to a good start.

Church Council has identified the need for strategic planning (short & long term) in the area of media and technology. A Media Planning Group has been formed to coordinate this planning. A needs assessment form has been given to staff and committee chairpersons, so they can outline their needs in this area.

You are welcome to join the Media Planning Group. Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 18th from 6-7 pm in the Church Library. Contact Eileen Puglia (epuglia@comcast.net) for more details or just come to our next meeting.

2018 Annual Meeting – Jan. 21st, 2018
Snow date Jan. 28th, 2018

Council Corner

On December 12 Council discussed our current finances. At the 2017 Annual Meeting it was decided to contribute up to two-percent of our 2017 budget (\$6,234.00) additional benevolences if possible. As of November 30th we were under our projected income. Council passed a Motion that we are not in a position to increase our benevolence payment for 2017.

Mike Puglia, representing the Property Committee, recommended we hire Kistler-O'Brien to install our fire protection alert system, as stipulated by our insurance company. Council approved Kistler-O'Brien's proposal.

After researching it Council President Eileen Puglia reported that we do not have any restrictions on how we use money from our Vanguard Fund.

The 2018 budget was presented by Joe Leone and a Motion was passed to present it at the Annual Meeting. With capital projects included the proposed budget is \$305,155.00.

Pastor Osterhout shared the current Wedding Policy, which is being reviewed by the Worship & Music Committee. Zion's will host the first Ministerium Lenten Service at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2018.

Committee Reports: Altar Guild plans for Christmas decorating were presented. Worship & Music prefers to use more familiar hymns. Christian Education discussed an Advent cards purchasing mix-up, using emergency substitute Sunday School instructors without clearances, and the need for reviving our Time & Talent sheets. WELCA reported that they made shut-in baskets for distribution. Personnel reported that they finished year-end

employee evaluations.

Other Business: Wanda Hoherchak reported on the need for Council nominees and Nominating and Auditing Committee nominees. Ruth Ann Eyer reported that Barbara Seidel and Shirlene Epting have agreed to join the Library Fund Committee and Council passed a Motion to accept them.

President Eileen Puglia announced that we will do a new church photo directory after Easter 2018. She reported on the Safety Considerations for Worship Today seminar that she and Wanda Hoherchak attended - we will discuss some new procedures. She also reported on 2018 counting team progress.

Christmas Eve ushering instructions for each service will be posted in the hall.

The Media Planning Group met on November 30th and developed a questionnaire to identify needs and wants.

Council discussed the use of separate 8 AM and 10:30 AM service bulletins and occasional shortages.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Jerry O'Brien



SNOW SHOVELING VOLUNTEERS

The Property Committee is seeking volunteers to help with snow shoveling this winter. A sign-up sheet for volunteers will be posted on the bulletin board in mid-November. If you are interested in helping, please sign the sheet for the week(s) that you are willing to cover this responsibility. If you have any questions about the responsibilities of a shoveling volunteer, contact Michael Puglia, or any Property Committee member. Thank you.



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.

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/)

New Year's Day

Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner

January 1, 2018 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. St. John's invites you to join them for good food and fellowship. St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, 99 Church St., Hamburg, Pa.

Dinner includes: Pork, Sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, roll & butter, applesauce, beverages and homemade desserts.

Adults: \$9.00, Children: under the age of 12 \$4.50

for more information, please call

June (610) 562-4440 or

Doug (610) 562-8732

The "Reverse Advent Calendar" containers, to benefit "Safe Berks", should be returned to Zion's no later than January 7th. Thank you for participating in this community service project.

January Birthday Calendar 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------------|---|---|-----------------------|---|--|---|
| | 1 Ellen Hartline Brenda Hartman | 2 Carl Davis Rodney Reidenhour Jessica Heckman | 3 Kevin Gough | 4 Alyssa Blanford | 5 Taylor McCurdy Prent Steffy | 6 Natalie Clark Doris Hoffman |
| 7 Luke Mengel | 8 Christine Miller Tiffany Reinhart | 9 Dennis Hoffert David Ketner | 10 | 11 Brett Grugan Joan Seidel Robert Seidel Jennifer Ulrich | 12 Dorothy Brennan Ruth Hoppes Shawn Seidel | 13 Brian Heffner David Mengle Barbara Seidel Barbara Shafer Alicia Pursell |
| 14 Timothy Eyer | 15 | 16 Paul Gruber | 17 Reagan Kerr | 18 Beckie Reinhart Drew Koller | 19 Jerry Boltz Dianne Geschwindt | 20 David Geschwindt |
| 21 Mark Dreibelbis | 22 | 23 Lester Wessner | 24 Madeline Seidel | 25 Karyna Blandford Shirlene Epting Tyler Heffner | 26 Emma Seidel | 27 Dominic Leone Carol Schaeffer |
| 28 Gary Rothermel | 29 Carol Rothermel | 30 Joyce Sechler | 31 | | | *Shut in |

January Calendar of Events 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| 31 8:00am Worship 9:15am S.School 10:30am Worship Guest Pastor Aaron Decker | 1 Office Closed New Years Day!! | 2 7:00pm AA.-AL-Anon | 3 6:00 pm Take down Christmas Tree 7:15pm Choir | 4 7:00pm Bells/8:00pm Brass | 5 Office Closed | 6 5:00 pm Worship 7:00pm A.A. |
| 7 8:00am Worship 9:15am S.School 10:30am Worship | 8 Office Closed 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Boy Scouts | 9 9-11 Knotters 7:00pm Council Mtg. 7:00pm AA.- AL-Anon | 10 6:15 pm Adult Bible Study 7:15pm Choir | 11 11:00am Zions Seniors 9:00am Annual lot owners mtg. @ Zions Cemetery 7:00pm Bells/8:00pm Brass | 12 | 13 12:30-4 Scouts Pine Wood Derby 5:00pm Worship 7:00pm A.A. |
| 14 8:00am Worship 9:15am S. School 10:30 am Worship | 15 Office Closed 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Boy Scouts | 16 7:00pm AA.-AL-Anon | 17 6:15 Adult Bible Study 7:15pm Choir | 18 7:00pm Bells/8:00pm Brass | 19 Opportunity House Meal served | 20 5:00 pm Worship 7:00pm A.A. |
| 21 8:00am Worship 9:15am S. School 10:30 am Worship Annual Meeting | 22 Office Closed 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Boy Scouts | 23 9-11 Knotters 7:00pm AA.-AL-Anon | 24 6:15 Adult Bible Study 7:15pm Choir | 25 7:00pm Bells/8:00 p.m. Brass | 26 | 27 5:00pm Worship 7:00pm AA-AL-Anon |
| 28 8:00am Worship 9:15am S. School 10:30 am Worship (Annual Meeting Snow Date) | 29 Office Closed 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Boy Scouts | 30 7:00pm AA.-AL-Anon | 31 6:15 Adult Bible Study 7:15pm Choir | | | |

“Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Perry Township”

Like us on Facebook www.zionslutheran.org

354 Zions Church Rd, Shoemakersville, PA 19555 Church Office: 610-562-3112

Church Office Email is 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 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:15 a.m. **Come and Grow in Your Faith!**

Check out www.livinglutheran.org and subscribe

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: 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, Susan Lutz, Joe Leone, Bill Deibler, Dawn O’Brien, Mitch Shestok

Community Ministries @ Zion’s

Monday nights: Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:30 pm – Pack/Troop 163.

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

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

Adult Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays 7:15 p.m. Adult Bible Study: Wednesdays 6:15 p.m.

www.readysetreadberks.org Read to a 2nd grader a Perry School (8:30-9:15) Tilden School (3:30-4:30)

Regular Monthly Activities – Please Join in

Quilt-Knotters: Second/Fourth Tuesdays 9 - 11 a.m. in the Gold Room (You also can work at home!)

Zion’s Senior Adult Fellowship: Thursday, Jan at 11 a.m.

Zion’s Book Group: Next Meeting is January 18th, 2018

Serve the Opportunity House Meal every third Friday of the month

Food Distribution Volunteers are always welcome each month:

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

On the 4th 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 Thrift Store – Take Clothing Donations there – Volunteer - Shop

Recent Veterans can get help at keystonemilitaryfamilies.com 331 Main St. Shoemakersville.

More info on Facebook. Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m

2018 Mission Trips to consider

April 8-15 to Eastern Kentucky \$100 per person

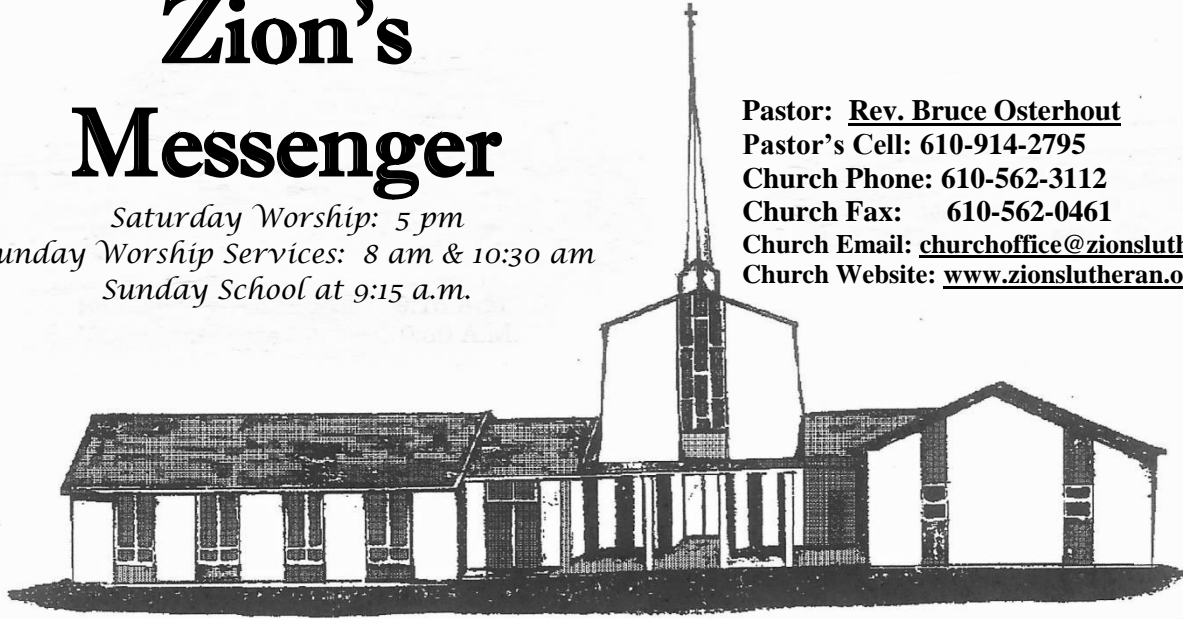
July 29-Aug. 3 to Puerto Rico

January 2018 

Zion's Messenger

Saturday Worship: 5 pm
Sunday Worship Services: 8 am & 10:30 am
Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

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



Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church
354 Zions 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 & 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 ✝



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