Zion's Messenger January 2020

"Thus says the Lord: I will return to Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; Jerusalem shall be called a faithful city, and the mountain of the Lord of hosts shall be called a holy mountain. Thus says the Lord of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls pla in its streets. Thus says the Lord of hosts: Even though it seems impossible to the remnant

because of their great age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. Thus says the Lord of hosts: Even though it seems impossible to the remnant of this people in these days, should it also seem impossible to me, says the Lord of hosts? Thus says the Lord of hosts: I will save my people from the east country and from the west country; and I will bring them to live in Jerusalem. They shall be my people and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness." Zechariah 8:3-8

Dear Zion Lutheran Church members,

These words struck me, as we read them during our Advent devotional time at home. I was sitting at our kitchen table looking out on the first sunny morning after days of dreariness and rain. I am not sure that I had ever really heard Zechariah's words before as they are from one of the obscure minor prophets in the Old Testament.

God had plans to restore the city of Jerusalem as the people of Israel were set free from their captivity in Babylon. They could go back home after years and years of living in a foreign land. Jerusalem would again be full of life. When the old folks and the young folks can live in peace and harmony in a city without fear, it is truly a blessing for all people. With so much violence and discord in the world today, it certainly is a vision that we can all embrace.

I played in the street often while I was growing up first in Pittsfield, Massachusetts and then again in the San Fernando Valley of northwest Los Angeles, California. When kids play in the street, they have to watch out for each other. We would yell "Car" so that everyone knew to get off the street. Usually it was someone we knew driving by.

In my almost 34 years of ministry, I have learned to pay attention to how "life on the streets" is, in the congregational locales where I have served. Is life prospering in the neighborhood for all the people or are there signs of decline? Are all people working together cooperatively to care for their community or are they doing their "own" thing? Ministry is supposed to be fun and enjoyable as God's people work together to give God all the glory. If all people are not finding joy in what they are doing, then some corrections have to be made. Since building up God's Kingdom here on earth is Jesus' "Prime Directive", mission and outreach should be the focus of the work of God's People.

As this new year of 2020 begins, may we work together, day by day, to be the kind of people that God wants us to be. A good resolution, indeed! PB

About These 12 Days of Christmas...

- + Most every Sunday worshipping Christians know that Christmas is not just a one big night/day celebration. It is **a two-week liturgical season** that ends with the Day of Epiphany, traditionally the 12th day after the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord. The parament color is white. The worship space remains fully decorated from the Christmas Eve celebration.
- + Even though retailers have long expanded this Christmas holiday, now even into September, and even though stores might be open forcing people to work on the special family day, it remains a day off of work for almost everyone including the federal government, banks, and the post office.
- + If you are someone who removes your Christmas decorations on New Year's Day because that is what your parents did, **consider leaving them up longer**, through the 12 days, as a bit of a counter-culture thing. Maybe even until The Baptism of Our Lord on the second Sunday of January.
- + Families gather and celebrate often during the 12 days and rightly so. Work schedules and traveling require arrangements for family gatherings to be made when they have to be made to accommodate building strong family relationships. Think about how many different opportunities you have during this time to gather with family friends, children, grand-children and great-grandchildren.
- + Did you know that in some countries, presents are not shared until the 12th day? If you are from Puerto Rico, you might leave your shoes out so that the Kings will place small presents in them that you might find on the morning of the 12th day. Don't forget to leave some grass for the camels to eat! On Sunday, January 5th, we will share some "Rosca de Reyes" (The Bread of the Kings) made by Wengert's Bakery at 10th and Windsor Streets in Reading. This special bread has little tiny babies baked into it. If you find a piece in your slice, then you will have good luck in the new year! Come at 10 a.m. next Sunday, January 5 to enjoy some of this bread. You might bring your extra leftover goodies to share that day in fellowship with other members. (Epiphany Day is January 6th and is usually celebrated only if it falls on the exact Sunday. Pastor Bruce chooses to celebrate the arrival of the 3 Kings every year.)
- + Some congregations have First Night Worship services, giving people an opportunity to start the New Year off right. Making resolutions and reflecting on the past year is a part of our cultural tradition. Should old acquaintances be forgot? If you didn't get Christmas actually mailed out this year, consider sending still. Family and friends will always enjoy hearing from you. Hanging the cards that your household has received across the doorframes one a string or

even with transparent tape might be a tradition in your house. In a digital world, receiving an actual greeting card is now a cherished thing. If it includes a picture or a letter with family news, it brings even more joy to the recipient.

One of the most annoying (for some) holiday songs, that is often modified or shortened or even made fun of is: The 12 Days of Christmas!

1 partridge in a pear tree

2 turtle doves

3 French hens

4 calling birds

5 golden rings

6 geese-a-laying

7 swans-a-swimming

8 maids-a-milking

9 ladies dancing

10 lords-a-leaping

11 pipers piping

12 drummers drumming

It first appeared in a 1780 children's book called Mirth With-out Mischief. A first edition sold at auction for \$23,750 in 2014. It was designed as a "memory and forfeits" game, in which singers tested their recall of the lyrics and had to reward their opponents a "forfeit" – a kiss or a favor of some kind, if they made a mistake.

A popular belief is that the song is a coded secret Christian song written to help Christians learn and pass on the tents of their faith. Whether that is true or not is up to you.

January Volunteer Schedule

GREETERS

5-8:00am Gary & Carol Rothermel

5-10:30am Mark & Janine Dreibelbis

12-8:00am Venus Fioravanti

12-10:30am Dan & Carolyn Geist

19-8:00am Lois DeTurk

19-10:30am Cleta Borkey

26-8:00am Leone Family

26-10:30am Richard & Donna Long

ACOLYTES

5-8:00am - Chase Denatala

5-10:30am - Kylee Koller

12-8:00am - Dominic Leone

12-10:30am - Brayden Heckman

19-8:00am - Chase Denatala

19-10:30am - Kylee Koller

26-8:00am - Brayden Heckman

26-10:30am - Samantha Gruber

LECTORS

5-8:00 am Jeanette Heckman

5-10:30am Mark Dreibelbis

12-8:00 am Venus Fioravanti

12-10:30 am

19-8:00 am Rita Decker

19-10:30 am Chris Brennan

26-8:00 am Faye Heckman

26-10:30 am Susan Lutz

Altar Guild: Cleta Borkey & Ruth Hoppes

Bread Baker: Chris Brennan

Mail Team 1: January 23rd

Opportunity House:

Captain Wanda Hoherchak, Mike Potts, Pat Potts, Richard Long, Donna Long, Janine Dreibelbis and Erin Seidel

+++Currently seeking a volunteer to be the captain of a team for Opportunity House meals. Please contact the Church Office, or Council President Wanda Hoherchak for more information.



January Birthdays



- 1st New Year's Day Ellen Hartline Brenda Hartman
- 2nd Jessica Visnosky
- 3rd Kevin Gough
- 4th Alyssa Blandford
- 5th Taylor McCurdy Prent Steffy
- 6th Natalie Clark Doris Hoffman
- 7th Luke Mengel
- 8th Christine Miller Tiffany Reinhart
- 9th Dennis Hoffert David Ketner
- 11th Brett Grugan Joan Seidel Robert Seidel Jennifer Ulrich
- 12th Ruth Hoppes Shawn Seidel
- 13th Brian Heffner David Mengle Barbara Seidel Barbara Shafer Alicia Pursell
- 14th Timothy Eyer Justin Dusko
- 16th Paul Gruber
- 17th Raegan Kerr
- 18th Beckie Reinhart Drew Koller
- 19th Dianne Geschwindt
- 20th David Geschwindt Carl Davis
- 21st Mark Dreibelbis
- 23rd Lester Wessner
- 25th Karyna Blandford Shirlene Epting Tyler Heffner
- 26th Leo Sullivan
- 27th Dominic Leone Carol Schaeffer
- 28th Gary Rothermel
- 29th Carol Rothermel
- 30th Jovce Sechler

Would you like your birthday listed in the newsletter? Please contact the Church Office today. 610-562-3112

Shut in Mailing List

Mrs. Jane Francis Kutztown Manor 120 Trexler Ave Room 146-D Kutztown Pa, 19530

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

Joann Himmelberger 1152 Main St. Shoemakersville, Pa 19555

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

Dorothy Wertz Maiden Creek Place 105 Dries Rd Room 5 Reading, Pa 19605

Nancy Leiby 350 Lackawanna St Apt.320 Reading, Pa 19601

> Bertha Stewart 1040 Berks Rd A233 Leesport, Pa 19533

Peggy Marquette Sacred Heart: Suite 202 4851 Saucon Creek Rd Center Valley, Pa 18034

Fern Stricker 112 Main St Blandon, Pa 19510

Phares & Mabel Fry 65 Fry Lane Auburn, Pa 17922

Myrle Werley Keystone Villa: Apt 305 1180 Ben Franklin Hwy East Douglassville PA 19518

Church Reports

Treasurers Report

1-1-19 Beginning Balance	-\$8,497.13
General Offering YTD	166,974.55
Transfers	-1,623.00
Special offering YTD	16,946.41
Subtotal	173,800.83
Current Expenses YTD	201,540.99
Balance	-27,740.16

	October	November	r YTD
Monthly Income	\$12,949.83	\$13,022.88	\$166,974.85
Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our Annual budget			
of \$189,750.00	\$15,812.50	\$15,812.50	\$15,812.50
Surplus/Shortfal	-\$2,862.67	-\$2,789.62	-\$6,962.65
Total income to all Budget line items	1 \$15,324.67	\$14,699.68	\$183,920.96
Expenses for all Budget line items	\$17,687.20	\$21,185.35	\$201,540.99
Prior Month Balance	-\$38,891.96	-\$41,254.49	-\$8,497.13
Surplus/shortfall Per budget	-\$41,254.49	-\$47,740.16	-\$27,740.16
Transfers to Correct fund Bal.	For Capt. Exp	penses	-\$1,623.00

Volunteer Child Safety Clearance

We budgeted to be \$-32,258.00 at 12-31-19

Please make sure to get your updated clearances to the Church Office, for updating records and file folders.

Council Corner

Church Council met Tuesday, 12/10/19. The treasurer's report was approved pending audit. It was reported that we are \$44,000 in the red and have had to borrow \$15,000 from memorial fund accounts to pay our bills. Discussion was held entertaining ideas to reduce spending. Zion's members can expect a renewed emphasis on cost cutting including increased use of volunteers.

The revised proposed 2020 budget was presented and shows a \$40,000 deficit for the year. Council discussed this proposed budget. We are concerned with the large deficit and think it is important to inform the congregation about our financial situation. Our representative from Synod, Marlane Druckenmiller, met with council to discuss ongoing efforts to obtain a new call for Pastor Bruce allowing Zion's to move forward.

Members from council are in the process of setting up guidelines for how memorial money is spent, and are gathering information from other churches for insight and ideas on how we might set up our guidelines. The nomination Committee is looking for members to run for council – we have several openings. If interested see Carmen Long, Brian Moroney, or Eileen Puglia.

Our winter weather announcement policy was reviewed. Congregants can call the church phone number, look on Facebook, or tune into Channel 69. During the week, church functions will follow the Hamburg School District's snow policy. Property Committee reported our new water system is working fine, the broken window in the fellowship hall has been fixed, and spot carpet cleaning has been done.

Personnel Committee reports our new administrative assistant, Kristen Kemery is doing a great job! The annual congregation meeting is set for January 19 after the 10:30 service.

Submitted by Mark Dreibelbis

FOOD PANTRY

In December we served 62 families. Next month our delivery is on Monday. January 13 at 9:00 am. Our distribution is on Tuesday, January 28th from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm with set up at 5:00. Our volunteer group is Zion's Church-Hamburg.

SNOW SHOVELING VOLUNTEERS

The Property Committee is seeking volunteers to help with snow shoveling this winter. A sign-up sheet for volunteers is on the narthex bulletin board. 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 Gary Rothermel, or any Property Committee member. Thank you.

Quilt KNOTTERS

The Knotters will meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month 9 a.m. -11 a.m. Volunteers are welcome. Squares are available in the Church Office to take along home and sew together.

We blessed 57 Knotted Quilts. We delivered some to New Windsor, MD and to the Safe House in Reading. Pastor Bruce auctioned 3 quilts to help with shipping costs to other countries. We appreciate all the help with assembling the quilts the people do at home. We had a total of 118 for 2019. Thank you to whoever put the crochet thread in the Pre-K Sunday School Room. We can use it for knotting.

FAITH at the MOVIES SERIES continues on Tuesday, Jan., 28th at 7pm at The Hamburg Strand Theater. "Second Hand Lions" is playing. Tickets are \$8 per person and includes a small popcorn/soda. Portions of the proceeds benefits the Northern Berks Ministerium's Emergency Assistance Fund and the Reading Berks Conference of Churches.

Welcome and Outreach

Members needed ...

Welcome & Outreach has become active again in 2019, and we need new members to help. The purpose of our committee is to reach out to make connections with those outside of our community of faith and those who are visiting, as well as to strengthen relationships within the existing membership. We try to make visitors feel welcome and keep in touch with members by sending cards. For example, we mail bulletins to our shut-ins every month, send cards to our shut-ins, and send notes to thank visitors for worshiping with us. We provide promotional items for our visitors (chip clips), and are looking into other personalized promotional ideas.

For questions, or to join the Welcome & Outreach Committee, please see Wanda Hoherchak, Eileen Puglia, or Lois DeTurk. Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 22, 2020 @ 7 pm. Thank you

Zions Cemetery Meeting Schedule

Jan. 9th 2020 at 9 a.m. Annual Board Meeting at Zion, Windsor Castle church

Feb. 13th 2020 at 9 a.m. Cemetery board meeting at Zion, Windsor Castle church.

March 12th 2020 at 9 a.m. Cemetery board meeting at Zion, Windsor Castle church.



Coffee Bar News

We are asking for people to sign up to set up the coffee bar, to clean up the coffee bar, and to supply snacks for the Coffee Bar. The Sunday

School children enjoy hot chocolate and the adults enjoy having a cup of coffee. Please consider assisting with this fellowship activity. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside of the office.

We are also looking for donations of hot chocolate

We continue to collect donations for the Zion's Parking lot project. Please use the Capital Funds Donation envelopes in the narthex.

Consider online giving in 2020

Visit http://zionslutheran.org/donate/. Please call the church office if you need assistance.

Please pick up your 2020 offering envelopes. If you do not see yours please call the church office to get a set.

2019 Statements of Giving will be available by the end of January for tax purposes.

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.



Poinsettias



Thank you to all who sponsored poinsettias for our Christmas Eve services:

Brian & Sandra Moroney

Pastors Bruce & Julie Osterhout in Memory of Renee Osterhout

Dennis & Karen Heckman in Honor of Our Family

Shirlene, Troy, Robin & Melanie in Memory of Mark Epting

Darryl & Cindy Spencer in Memory of Harold & Edith Spencer

Darryl & Cindy Spencer in Memory of Cliff & Carl Sayer

Joan Sayer in Memory of Cliff Sayer

Barry & Sue Sayer in Memory of Cliff Sayer

Lois DeTurk in Memory of Bob & Emily Marks

Faye Heckman in Honor of Veronica & Brayden

Veronica & Brayden Heckman in Honor of Oma Jeanette

Mark & Janine Dreibelbis in Memory of mother Evelyn Hood

Mark & Janine Dreibelbis in Memory of father Jason Dreibelbis

Irwin Levan in Memory of Ella Mae

Daniel R., Carolyn & Carielle Geist in Memory of Grandparents & Great-grandparents

Samantha Gruber in Honor of her grandparents Woodrow & Susan Lutz

Shirley Sohon in Memory of my Parents

Drew & Kylee Koller in Honor of Shirley Reppert

The Puglia Family in Memory of Michael Puglia

Ned & Nancy Dresher in Memory of daughter Nicole

Salvation Army Angel Tree

A BIG thank you to those who sponsored children and seniors for the 2019 Christmas Season:

Lois Palubinski Shirley Sohon Carol Rothermel Tina Blake Kelly Troutman Valerie Jazuk Melanie Fretz Wanda Hoherchak Pat Potts Sasha Denatala Connie Reinhart Lois DeTurk Katie Stefan Chris Brennan Lucille Gough Ruth Hoppes Tina Blake Jane Reppert

Hailey, Bella & Chase Denatala

Faye Heckman Mary Mengle
Irwin Levan Cheri Kunkel
Ruth Ann Eyer Carolyn Hollenbach

Jeanette Heckman

Heather Gring

Madson & Slayten Hoffert

Rita Decker Doris Gough Eleanor Dietrich Travis Hoshauer Dawn O'Brien Doris Hoffman Venus Fioravanti Lana Leone Dianne Geschwindt Lori Smith Eileen Puglia Traci Heffner Mike Heckman Alyssa Luckenbill Virgina Werley R. Resinger Alicia Gough Dylan Gough

Linda Bowling



Pastor Bruce will be on vacation from December 29, 2019 to January 2, 2020.

"Zion's 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 9:00am - 1:00pm

Worship Services: Saturdays at 5 pm, Sundays 8:00am and 10:30am

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, Kristen Kemery; Director of Music Ministry, Don Ryan; Hand Bells/Brass, Steven Turner; Custodians, Ruth Hoppes, Brian Moroney, and Karen Mengel; Treasurer, Sandra Moroney

2019 Congregation Council Members:

President: Wanda Hoherchak, Vice President: Lucille Gough, Secretary: Donna Long; Tina Blake,
Mark Dreibelbis, Janine Dreibelbis, Ruth Ann Eyer
Susan Lutz, John Smith and Michael Potts. 2 positions remain open.

Community Ministries @ Zion's

Pack/Troop 163. Meets on Mondays. CUBS 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7:30pm A.A. and Al-Anon meets on Tuesdays at 7pm A.A. meets on Saturdays at 7pm

Regular Weekly Activities - Please Join in

Hand Bells: Thursdays at 6:30pm; Brass: Thursdays at 8:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal Most Wednesdays 7:15pm/Some Tuesdays

Regular Monthly Activities - Please Join in

Council Meeting every 2nd Tuesday

Quilt-Knotters: 2nd & 4th Tuesday 9 – 11am (You also can work at home!) Zion's Senior Adult Fellowship every 3rd Thursday. January 16th 11:00am. Serve the Opportunity House Meal every other 3rd Friday. January 17th 5:30pm

Food Distribution Volunteers are always welcome each month:

On the 3rd Saturday, from 7:30am to 11:30am at the Lutheran Church of Holy Trinity, Leesport.
On the 4th Tuesday from 5:30-7:30pm. volunteers are always welcome at the Hamburg Middle School Pantry Distribution. Next one is on January 28^{th.}

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 10:00am to 2:00pm

- Suicide Prevention- Text- ruOK to 484-816-7865, secure, anonymous communication.
- Catechism Retreat (Grades 7-8) at Bear Creek Camp March 13-15, 2020
- Visit readysetreadberks.org to tutor a second grader

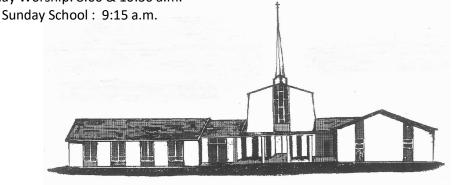
Zion's Messenger

Saturday Worship: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

January 2020

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. 中 Jesus is Lord & Savior 中 中 Honest & open communication 中 中 Create and sustain healthy relationships 中 中 Share your faith through our daily life 中 中 Recognize and encourage people's spiritual gifts 中 中 Perseverance 中 中 A congregation united in Christ making Zion's a destination, not an obligation 中

Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church 354 Zions Church Road Shoemakersville, PA 19555 **Zion's Monthly Calendar January 2020**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Closed Happy New Year!	2	3	4
				6:30pm Bells		5:00pm Worship
				8:00pm Brass		7:00pm A.A Meeting
5 3:00am Worship	6 Office Closed	7 9:30am Homeschoolers	8	9	10	11
:15am Sunday School 0:30am Worship	omoc diocou	orocani monissonosiono		6:00pm Undecorating of the church		5:00pm Worship
·		7:15pm Choir	6:30pm Bells		7:00pm A.A Meeting	
				8:00pm Brass		7.00pm A.A Weeting
12 Annual Reports available for pick up		14 9:00am Knotters 9:30am Homeschoolers	15	16 6:00pm Worship & Music	17	18
3:00am Worship 3:15am Sunday School				Committee Meeting 6:30pm Bells	5:30pm Opportunity House Meal	5:00pm Worship
0:30am Worship		7:00pm Council Meeting	7:15pm Choir	WELCA Meeting 8:00pm Brass		7:00pm A.A Meeting
9 :00am Worship		21 9:00am Knotters	22	23	24	25
:15am Sunday School 0:30am Worship	February Newsletter Deadline	9:30am Homeschoolers		Mail Team #1		
2pm Annual Meeting			7:00pm Welcome & Outreach Meeting 7:15pm Choir	6:30pm Bells		5:00pm Worship 7:00pm A.A Meeting
				8:00pm Brass		7.00pm A.A Meeting
26 ::00am Worship ::15am Sunday School 0:30am Worship	Office Closed	28 9:00am Knotters 9:30am Homeschoolers	29	30	31	
2pm Snow date for Annual Meeting			7:15pm Choir	6:30pm Bells		
				8:00pm Brass		