

Zion's Messenger June 2020



June 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is gratifying to know that we are reaching so many people in the worship services we have recorded for posting online—both on the public Facebook page and via email and website links. Since we are finding ourselves in the new normal that is shaping the months ahead and beyond, I decided to take this opportunity to give you a glimpse of how we are meeting the challenge of bringing the worship experience into the homes of (most of) our members.

Every two weeks or so a handful of Worship & Music team members meet to record at least 2 services. It's a process that involves more than an hour for each service to get everything done appropriately for posting. Janine Dreibelbis contacts people who are comfortable reading and willing to come to the sanctuary—usually from the same family for safe-distancing concerns. Steve Turner initially was recording on an iPad, but the realization that this would be ongoing led to the decision to purchase video equipment, thanks to funds from Endowment. This has allowed us to be more flexible and creative.

The first few services we did were before Music Director Don Ryan and technical “guru” Steve Turner were having online teaching and office hours from home. Don selects hymns, preludes and postludes, but now comes to the church to practice, record, and check the quality of the recording to send electronically to Steve, who must then put the pieces in order.

While the service you see flows like a traditional service, it is recorded in segments to facilitate shifting the equipment from place to place. It allows those who have come to read the lessons to not have to stay for the entire time. Sometimes there is need to rerecord a segment if there is a glitch in the recording. It is one thing to go straight through a service on Sunday morning and quite another to deal with the stress of getting a good recording!

I provide Steve with a hard copy “script” that I prepare for each individual service prior to recording, and that helps him—and all participating in the service—to make sure we have recorded all parts of each service. It gives Steve the order to format each service.

We schedule recording sessions in order to give Steve adequate time to transfer segments from the camera to computer, format them, add any special visual effects, and send them to Eileen Puglia (for Facebook) and John Smith for email links. He does all that work at home.

It has been a bit of a challenge for me, and for other pastors I've talked to, to go from preparing one sermon, with attention to service details each week, to preparing and presenting worship in a different weekly rhythm. For all of us—worship leaders and people in the pew alike—the rhythm that has shaped our lives has come to a screeching halt, as the week looks and feels so different these last few months and will continue to do so. (“*What day is it??*”)

As much as we would like to flip a switch when the stay-at-home is lifted and we go from red to yellow to green, worship on site is not going back to exactly how it was before March 15. The guidelines for returning safely to worship and other gathering in the church emphasize the fact that this virus is not magically disappearing, rather is certain to rise up again...and sooner if we are not vigilant and careful! Details have to be worked out and will eventually be available.

This time of recording worship for online participation is preparing us for the time to come. The Zoom meetings for Council and committees, and now the adult study I am leading on how Jewish feasts relate to the life of Christ, are the *new normal* and are preparing us for even more new ways to *be* church. Links to the Zoom study (Wednesdays 10:30am & 7pm) are available in email from the Church Office. If you're not receiving email from Zion's, you may contact John Smith.

The Holy Spirit is working in, with, and around us, reminding us that God is always challenging and providing for us to grow: **I am about to do a new thing: now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?** [Isaiah 43.19 (NRSV)].

Peace in Christ,

‡ *Pastor Diane LaFauci*, Transition Pastor

Opportunity House Meal in May: Tina Blake – Capt. Donna Long, David Long, Brenda Hartman. The meal was ordered from Russo’s Market in Reading and delivered to Opportunity House. They do not want us serving food at this time.



Feeding the Community

June Food Pantry item: The Food Pantry is accepting monetary donations to help with their increased expenses. **Checks can be made out to Northern Berks Food Pantry and mailed to Sherry Strausser 207 Beechwood Drive, Hamburg, PA 19526.**

Thanks for helping members of our community to be able to help ends meet!



Congratulations to the Graduation class of 2020!

Please honor our graduates with a card shower!

Alyssa Blandford 2907 Old 22, Hamburg Pa 19526

Alicia Gough 33 Forge Dam Rd, Hamburg, Pa 19526

Veronica Heckman 311 Spruce Street, Hamburg, Pa 19526

Brett Daub 384 Moselem Spring Rd, Shoemakersville, PA 19555

Abbie Smith 66 Clarence Ave, Shoemakersville, Pa 19555

Carissa Miller 707 Hillside Drive, Hamburg Pa 19526

Korey Onulack 170 B Focht Lane, Hamburg, PA 19526



Keep on Saving!

Redner’s Save-A-Tape Reminders

Thanks so much for your continued support of the Redner’s Save-A-Tape Program. Here is a reminder of the program guidelines, as you keep on saving those register receipts. Hopefully you can hand them in to Zion’s again sometime soon!

*Use a Redner’s Reward card for purchases.

*Please submit the entire receipt. Redner’s doesn’t accept partial receipts. (**Please** DO NOT CUT the receipt).

*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 member. Thanks again!

Special Thoughts & Thank You Notes

A big thank you to the Worship and Music Committee, Pastor Diane, and everyone who has volunteered to be a reader. The recorded services have been uplifting.

Upcoming Events At Zion's



Mark your Calendar -Annual Picnic has been tentatively moved to September 13. There

will be an 8:00 a.m. indoor service, and weather permitting a 10:30 a.m. outdoor service. This will be the first day of Sunday School, and we encourage all families to join us for the picnic following 10:30 a.m. worship. The fellowship committee will provide Hamburger BBQ, Hot dogs, and Ice Cream. Please bring a covered dish to share. We will be having the annual cake walk along with fun and games for all ages. Hope to see you there!

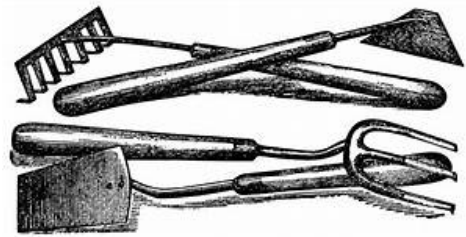
Congregational picnic will be family friendly with activities for all ages!

**Join Zion's Lutheran Bible Study
Every Wednesday
May 20th thru June 17th
10:30 AM or at 7:00 PM**

To Join the study group via Zoom, go to the church's website and enter your email address. An email will be sent to you with the Zoom log on information.

**FULFILLED: A SERIES ON THE
FEASTS
A STUDY OF CONNECTION TO CHRISTIAN
FEASTS
BY THE REV. DIANE M. LAFAUCI**

News from the Garden Committee



We're giving our tools a rest.

After much prayerful deliberation, the Garden committee has decided to give our tools a rest this year. The timing of the planting, coupled with the concern for the health and safety of our volunteers, led to this difficult decision.

We have had 6 successful seasons providing nutritious produce to individuals and families in the northern Berks community who are in need of assistance. We will continue to do so in our 7th season, but in different ways. We will use our Thrivent funds, as well as funds budgeted for expenses such as seeds and plants, to purchase fresh produce that will make up for the produce we weren't able to provide from our labors.

And so our Garden will have a season to be fallow - to rest, to regenerate. But our mission will not rest. Thank you for your continued support.

Zions Cemetery Meeting

June 11th, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. Cemetery board meeting at Zion, Windsor Castle church.

We will be following the CDC and Synod guidelines to reopen the church. Unfortunately, we cannot reopen during the Yellow phase. Please check Facebook and the church website for up to date information.



Belated May Birthdays

- May 2nd Jason Dewald
May 3rd Lorelee Laventura
Dorothy Wertz
May 4th Edmund Adam
May 5th Grace Murray
May 7th Taylor Gruber
Jara Heckman
May 9th Roxanne LaFaver
May 10th Mabel Fry
Taryn Seidel
Ty Seidel
May 11th Malcom Justice
Zachary Onulack
Christina Seidel
May 14th Tyler Seidel
May 15th Howard Hoppes
Marc Schroeder
May 16th Bryce Brennan
May 17 Jaimie Heckman
May 20th Patricia Potts
May 21st Dylan Gough
Kathryn Reinhart
May 23rd Matthew Clark
Jean Daub
Carrie Price
Leslie Seidel
May 25th Heather Noecker
May 26th Sandra Masters
Brandi Seidel
May 28th Latham Mazaika
Sandra Moroney
Bradley Reinhart
May 29th Mae Berger
Tammy Eyer
May 31st Tara Bachman



June Birthdays



- 2nd Wanda Hoherchak
3rd Avery Gruber
6th Pamela Seidel
Carl Hollenbach
7th Robin Epting
8th Jaxon Seidel
10th Huck Costenbader
11th Crystal Koehn
Jane Seidel
12th Matthew Hoffert
Jennifer Mazaika
Devin Pond
Matthew Noecker
20th Carol Smith
21st Tracie Heckman
Dennis Reinhart
Carolyn Hollenbach
John Williamson
24th Hannah Hix
25th Karen Heckman
Brandon Noecker
27th Mckenzie Clark
28th Dennis Heckman
Carmen Long
Ryan Wilhelm
29th William Deibler

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



Zion's Media Committee has attempted to keep you informed via postings on the church's website, email notices, and regular Facebook postings. Information on upcoming services can be found each week on our Facebook page, as well as information we receive about community resources to aid our members. Pastor has shared messages of inspiration and comfort, as well as news of Zion's first ever virtual Bible study.

If you don't receive Zion's email notices, please sign up for our email list. This will help keep you informed of what's happening at our church. The Zion's Email Sign Up Form is located on the homepage of our website at zionslutheran.org.

Please continue to let us know of any resources to share with our members. You are also welcome to let us know of any member news. This includes good news to share!

Continue to check our Facebook page and website. Let's stay informed. Let's stay connected.

Shut in Mailing List

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

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

Joann Himmelberger
1152 Main St.
Shoemakersville, Pa 19555

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

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

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

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

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

Fern Stricker
112 Main St.
Blandon, Pa 19510

Phares & Mabel Fry
65 Fry Lane
Auburn, PA 19722

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

COUNCIL CORNER

On May 12th, Church Council had its first digital meeting on Zoom. We would like to thank everyone who has either mailed in their offerings or sent them in electronically. This has allowed the church to keep up with all of its bills. In April, however, our expenses were about \$4000 more than our income.

Committees have been in touch by email or phone. We now have capability through Zoom for committees to meet electronically.

Council approved the purchase of a video camera to improve the quality of our online church services. We hope you have been able to watch the services, and you should be noticing improvements to the sound and video. Special thanks to Steve Turner for all of his work and talent in putting these services together.

With Zoom capabilities, Pastor reports that she will begin offering Bible Studies. Look for information on Facebook or the church's website.

We discussed the Bishop's guidelines for re-opening churches during the pandemic. We will continue to study this as we get closer to being allowed to reassemble for services. There will be many things to consider before we can safely reopen our church doors.

The Synod Assembly date was moved from June to October 22-24 at the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center in the Poconos. We will be looking for representatives who will be willing to attend.

Vacation Bible School has been changed to August 3-August 8. It will be a digital format, and more information will follow on this.

It was also reported that the church's community garden will not be opening this season due to social distancing concerns.

The council will continue to meet monthly to keep up with all church business. The phone is checked regularly at church. Please feel free to call in with any concerns.

Submitted by Mark Dreibelbis

Treasurers Report for April 2020

Finished April 2020 in the red **\$38,122.34**

Monthly: Income \$12,644.57

Expenses **\$16,587.36**

(3,942.79)

General Giving: **\$9,600.00**

Online Giving: **\$3,044.57**

Loose change: **0**

Total income for April: \$12,644.57

Thank you for your continued support during these trying times.

Zion's Annual Pool Party

Shoemakersville Pool

August 8th 6:00 PM -9:00 PM

Watch for more details in next newsletter





Vacation Bible School is coming!

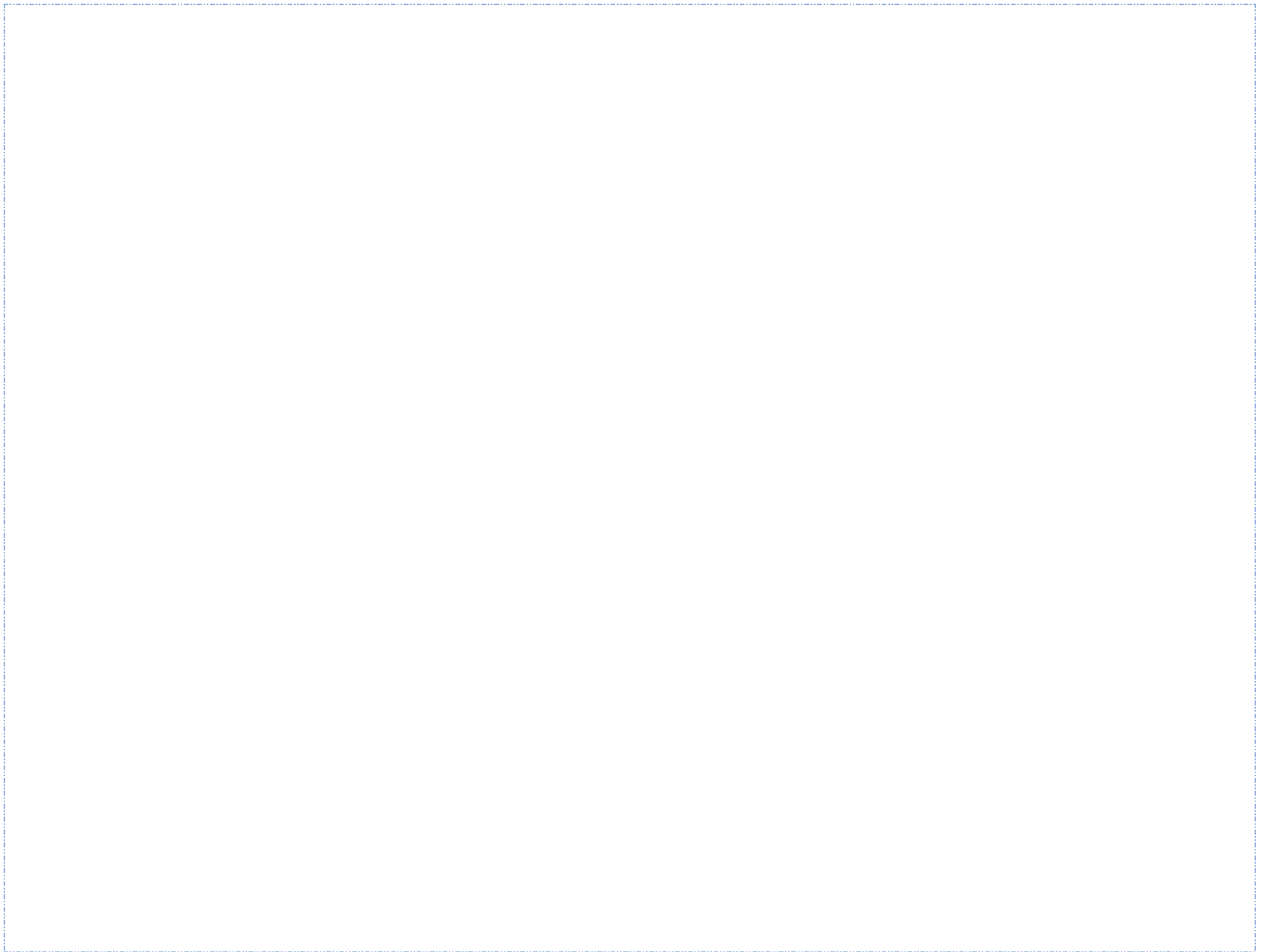
August 3-7, 2020

Zion's will have a Vacation Bible School experience this summer! Due to our current situation and the uncertainty of the summer, we are going online instead of in-person for our VBS. We are planning to put out a video each morning of VBS week. Vacation Bible School will begin on Monday, August 3 and wrap up on Friday, August 7. Families can watch the video at a time that works for them. Videos will be available through August 31, so even if the week of August 3 does not work for your family, you can still participate in our virtual VBS. Registration will be done online. Go to

vbspro.events/p/832648 to register your child(ren) for VBS. Registration is open now and will remain open until July 22. We will be putting together kits with the supplies for the Imagination Station and some other items for those who are registered. Please note, that the VBS program is designed for children who just completed Kindergarten through 5th grade. Since the children will be doing VBS in their homes, we do not want younger or older siblings to feel left out, so if your preschooler or middle schooler would like a kit of supplies, please register them too!

Vacation Bible School Volunteers

To make this year's Vacation Bible School a success, I will need some volunteers. I am looking for 5 people to help by taking charge of 1 day of the Bible Adventures section of the program. This would involve coming to church sometime during the week of July 13 to video tape your part. I will send you the script, modifications, and some tips and ideas. It is a good idea to have someone to help you with your presentation. Here are the Bible stories for the week: Day 1 – Ananias helps Saul (you will need to have a male willing to help you by playing the part of Ananias); Day 2 – Paul encourages others in a storm and shipwreck; Day 3 – Peter and John teach about Jesus; Day 4 – Jesus' death and resurrection; Day 5 – The church is united. You can volunteer by contacting Faye Heckman directly or calling or emailing the church office or by registering online at vbspro.events/p/832648 under Volunteer. Please volunteer by June 14 to allow Faye enough time to get your script to you and for you to prepare. Thank you



“Zion’s Evangelical Lutheran Church of Perry Township”

Like us on Facebook www.zionslutheran.org

Pastor Diane Lafauci 484-794-5503

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

Church Office Email is churchoffice@zionslutheran.org

The Church Office has limited hours, please call first

Worship Services: Saturdays at 5:00pm, Sundays 9:00 am

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

Administrative Assistant, TBD; Director of Music Ministry, Don Ryan; Hand Bells/Brass, Steven Turner; Custodians, Ruth Hoppes, Brian Moroney; Treasurer, Sandra Moroney

2020 Congregation Council Members:

President: Wanda Hoherchak, Vice President: Lucille Gough, Secretary: Tiffany Gruber, Donna Long, Tina Blake, Mark Dreibelbis, Janine Dreibelbis, Susan Lutz, John Smith, Michael Potts, Brian Moroney and Jeanette Heckman.

Community Ministries @ Zion’s

Pack/Troop 163 meets on Mondays. Cubs 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7:30pm

A.A. meets on Tuesdays at 7pm and 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. June 18th at 11:00am.

Serve the Opportunity House Meal every other month on the 3rd Friday.

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 distribution is on June 23th.

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.**
- **Visit readysetwork.org to tutor a second grader @ Perry or Tilden Elementary Schools**

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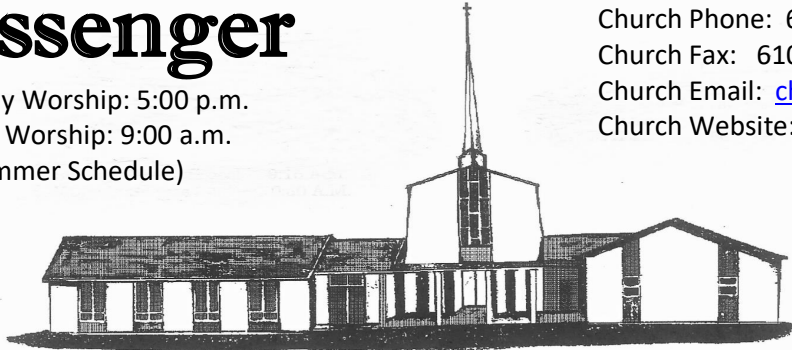
Like us on Facebook www.zionslutheran.org

Zion’s Messenger

Saturday Worship: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship: 9:00 a.m.
(Summer Schedule)

June 2020

Pastor: Pastor Diane Lafauci
Pastor’s Cell: 484-794-5503
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 †



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