

# Zion's Messenger July 2020



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As Berks County has now entered into the “green” phase, and *some* restrictions are lifted, we wonder what that might mean for us at Zion's. While we would love to have this whole pandemic just disappear, we know that isn't happening anytime soon!

As you know, we purchased video equipment, and it is going to serve us well in our continuing creative endeavors. We are assembling equipment we already have to determine the options available to us so that may gather together on the church grounds.

As we assess seating in the sanctuary at Zion's, we realize that we can accommodate only about 50-55 people, either in the sanctuary or the fellowship hall, when we do deem it safe to gather inside the building. We know that many will still be reluctant to gather inside, as age and health issues make some more vulnerable than others...and that, frankly, includes many pastors, supply pastors, and other worship leaders across the church, as well as us here at Zion's! We have been watching closely the rise in cases in states that “opened” early—and now in Philadelphia and neighboring counties, and have decided to be even more cautious when it comes to eventually offering in-house gathering for worship. We will present a recommendation to the Council at the July 14 meeting. Once the Council approves the plan, there will be a mailing sent out with the specifics necessary for leaders and participants regarding gathering.

The proposal we present to Council is based on the ELCA guidelines approved at the June Council meeting. Those guidelines were prepared by church, medical, and science professionals who have studied the virus and its spread. In addition, there are other helpful documents available to churches. Our task has been to adopt and adapt to our own setting.

We will record any live service and post it through email and the church's Facebook page, as we are well aware of many who do not want to take the risk of gathering. Masks will be required, and vocal responses will be limited, as we know that responsive reading and singing project moisture particles farther out into the air. Singing and responsive reading are problematic and way too risky, especially when we eventually move inside the building. Worship will look a bit different from what we were able to do before this virus hit, but we aspire to have meaningful messages and foster enjoyment in just being able to at least see each other in person! A vaccine cannot come soon enough!

The Zoom study on Jewish feasts and how they relate to the life of Christ has been a fun and informative study. Despite the issues we've had with Zoom from time to time, we have enjoyed interacting with each other and having a chance to touch base and see how things are going.

In light of protests following tragic deaths and the awareness raised in the Black Lives Matter demonstrations here and around the world, and the fact that we can no longer deny that racism and other prejudices are prevalent in our society, members have expressed a desire to do a study that helps us to be sensitive to the issues around race and other prejudices. We are looking at the possibility of using a study that has proven to be helpful in other congregations. Information about that, including acquiring participant materials, will be available so people may sign up.

In the meantime, with VBS starting on-line in the first week of August, I'll have a study for adults corresponding to what the children are doing. I'll work with Faye Heckman to get that available online. Mark Dreibelbis and I are providing for the Confirmation Class. When we are finally confident in opening the building, there will be specific sanitizing protocol in place so that we can feel safe gathering together.

In the meantime, we assess monthly where we are in the process and prayerfully update accordingly. May summer and vacation plans you have, bring you respite and relaxation, and may you count on the Holy Spirit to guide you in all things!

Peace in Christ,

† Pr. Diane LaFauci

**Opportunity House Meal on July 17th:** Susan Lutz–  
Capt. Gary Rothermel, Michael Potts, and Pat Potts.

**Mail Team # 3: Thursday July 23<sup>th</sup>.**

**July 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 make ends meet!



### 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. Hope to see you there!

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



**Attention Class of 2020:**

**Congratulations to the Graduation class of 2020!** There were 3 more graduates that were missed in the June newsletter. We apologize for the oversight.

**Luke Mengel** 83 Kindt Corner Rd,  
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

**Paul Engle** 15 Ash Rd, Hamburg, PA 19526

**Logan Hefner** 514 Onyx Cave Rd, Hamburg,  
PA 19526

### **Sunday School Pool Party at Shoemakersville Pool has been cancelled**





## July Birthdays



- 1<sup>st</sup> Michael Lopez  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Michael Potts  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Susan Miller  
 4<sup>th</sup> Ruth Bensingler  
     Daniel Schaeffer  
 5<sup>th</sup> Parker Hancik  
     Heather Mengel  
     Lori Shaak  
 6<sup>th</sup> Adam Decker  
 7<sup>th</sup> Dean Heckman  
 8<sup>th</sup> Alice Brieske  
     Russell Clark  
 9<sup>th</sup> Lee Gehringer  
     Janet Schlegel  
     Eme Stefan  
     Ellie Noecker  
 10<sup>th</sup> Delores Arndt  
 12<sup>th</sup> Matthew Noecker  
     David Seidel  
 14<sup>th</sup> Deborah Hoffert  
     Shirley Sohon  
 16<sup>th</sup> **Peggy Marquette turns 96!**  
     Joyce Epting  
 17<sup>th</sup> Karen Clark  
     Travis Hoshauer  
 18<sup>th</sup> Gloria Fisher  
 20<sup>th</sup> Troy Epting  
     John Smith  
 22<sup>st</sup> Katelyn Shumaker  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Reed Auchenbach  
 24<sup>th</sup> Joyce Heckman  
     Gary Wilhelm  
 25<sup>th</sup> Faye Miller  
     Brian Moroney  
     Kyle Shumaker  
 27<sup>th</sup> Kenneth Corell  
 31<sup>st</sup> Kasandra Brown  
     **Phares Fry**  
     Kyle Reitenauer

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

***At the June Council meeting we adopted the ELCA Guidelines: Considerations for Returning to In-person Worship.*** To find a copy of the guidelines you can go to [ELCA.org/PublicHealth](http://ELCA.org/PublicHealth) website

### 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.

### Treasurers Report for May

**Finished May 2020 in the red \$31,647.67**

**Monthly Income: \$14,038.52**

**Expenses: \$7,768.67**

**\$6,269.67**

**The General Offer      \$11,820.00**

**Online Giving            \$2,218.52**

**Loose Change            00.00**

**Total Income in May: \$14,038.52**

## 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 (96<sup>th</sup> Birthday July 16<sup>th</sup>)**  
Sacred Heart: Suite 209  
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 (Phares birthday July 31)**  
65 Fry Lane  
Auburn, PA 19722

**Myrle Werley**  
Keystone Villa: Apt 305  
1180 Ben Franklin Hwy East

Douglassville, PA 19518

## COUNCIL CORNER

Our first in person council meeting was held June 9 in the fellowship hall maintaining social distancing. Devotions were led by Susan Lutz and a reading from Christ in Our Home – September 2020. Our Treasurer's Report is in the Red as of end of May 31, 2020 of \$31,647.67. Don't forget to send in your donations to the church as our bills do not stop or do as I did and sign up for the automatic withdrawals on VANCO. We love it.

When we reopen our services will continue to be taped as we realize that some will not want to come out of their homes. Our plans at this time will be to open after the July Council Meeting when we feel everything is safe and all of our plans are put in place. Knowing full well that masks will need to be worn by everyone and we will need to practice safe distancing. A guideline submitted by the ELCA and in conjunction with our State rules, was adopted and those guidelines will be followed very closely. Please keep the following people in your prayers: Russell Reinhart at Encompass and Phares Fry at Seton Manor. Keep Jean Smith in your prayers as David passed away today.

Cleta Borkey has been instrumental with helping keep the flags and banners moved to coincide with the services and different things in our church. Worship and Music is considering other ways of worship for our church.

Synod Assembly is up in the air at this point and might be only to vote on a new Bishop.

VBS will be held virtually August 3 to August 7. Our pool party will be August 8 at the Shoemakersville Pool.

This is a strange year and none that we will forget anytime soon. Many changes will need to be implemented from our cleaning, to our church services and singing. We're in this together trying to keep everyone safe at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lutz

### A New Way to Experience Bear Creek Camp

Regular sessions of Bear Creek Camp have been suspended for the summer, but your family can rent a cabin or tent site at the camp and experience all nature has to offer on the camp's 3000 acres. There is a lake for swimming and kayaks for boating and 26 miles of trails to explore. This is an experience you design for your family with plenty of room for social distancing. There are separate campfire sites for each family group. Check out the camp's website for more details about costs and food options-bearcreekcamp.org



### ***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!

## **CRUISE IN & DINE OUT**

Sponsored by Boy Scout Troop 163

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2020 11:00 a.m.  
– 1:30 p.m. (rain or shine)**

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

### **SMOKEY BEAR Pulled Pork BBQ \$9**

**Pulled Pork Dinner Includes:** Pulled Pork, Roll, BBQ Sauce, Baked Potato, Apple Sauce, and Beverage

**For Information Call:** Christie 610-562-0324

**Make Checks Payable to:** Boy Scout Troop 163

**Mail Checks To:** Trish Engel 261 Schappell Road Hamburg, PA 19526

Due to the COVID-19 situation, Boy Scout Troop 163 is unable to have our Annual Auto Show, but please cruise in for some Smokey Bear Pulled Pork BBQ

**Thank you for your support and look for the Annual Auto Show next year!!**





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](https://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 for children who just completed Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> 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! 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

### 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](https://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 in advance.

# “Zion’s Evangelical Lutheran Church of Perry Township”

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

# Zion’s Messenger

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

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