

Zion's Messenger March 2021

March 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We are now in the Season of Lent. In these weeks leading up to Palm/Passion Sunday and Holy Week, I am offering a look at a select few disciples—some we might hear a lot about in the gospels and the Book of Acts, and some of whom we might have just a brief mention. And we're going to try to understand why Jesus chose them, what they ended up doing through the full meaning of discipleship, and how we might relate to them personally.

I am posting each Wednesday on the church's Facebook page (it's a public page—you don't need your own Facebook account), but I know that not everyone has access to the internet, so if you would like the text of the Wednesday devotion, a printed copy can be available in the Narthex or by contacting the church office. The series began the last week in February with a look at the disciple Nathanael, *aka* Bartholomew. We will be continuing with Matthew, Thomas, Judas, and Peter.

Lent is the perfect time to rethink working on strengthening discipleship and why it so necessary for the church's well-being and effectiveness. Discipleship is more than just "following" Jesus, like we might "follow" someone on social media. Discipleship is up close and personal. It is about being someone who follows the teachings, life, and mission of another to the point of becoming like that person. It is about becoming like Christ...not just in the church but in *everything*! It's about being part of the family with a distinct role in the household and with genuine caring for one another, yes, but in a way that the words and actions of Christ flow from us in what we say and do. That is possible when we are serious about our prayer and devotional life and committed to doing solid study on a regular basis, study both of scripture and of the best resources. The church stands ready to help identify and access good resources.

Worship & Music is planning a special event in preparation for Easter, and there is an article on the next page of the newsletter with details. In addition, planning is underway for an Egg Hunt, although with some adjustments to make it safe and enjoyable for the youngest members.

As challenging as these times are for the church and for the world, God hears our prayers and shows us daily that we are beloved children of God! God has truly blessed us in this time with signs to give us hope!

Take these weeks and what they bring in your prayer and study, in worship and Lenten devotions, and in Jesus' call to you to look deeper than before into how he prepares the disciples (and you!) to understand his journey to the cross. Only then do we begin to understand what comes next!

Remember that, while the cross is a sign of your sinfulness, it is also a sign of God's forgiveness!

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Diane LaFauci

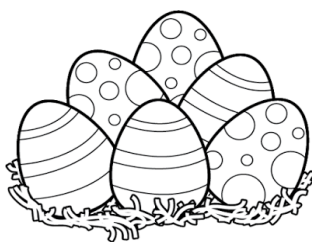


Palm/Passion Sunday – March 28 – 10:30am – Holy Communion
Maundy Thursday – April 1 – 7:00pm – Holy Communion, Stripping of the Altar
Good Friday – April 2 – 7:00pm – Tenebrae (service of light and darkness)
Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 3 – 9:30am
Congregation Decorating for Easter – Saturday, April 3 – 10am-Noon / 1-3pm
See article for details!!
Easter Sunday – April 4 – 6:30am & 10:30am – Holy Communion



EASTER DECORATING

It has been a rough year! Last Easter we did a virtual service only. This year we are going to have both 6:30 and 10:30 in-person worship services. We want this to be a special experience. As a way to show our joy and to enhance our celebration, we are going to be decorating the entryway to the church. We will be painting artwork on the glass enclosed doors, doing chalk artwork on the sidewalk, and hanging up any paintings, colorings, crafts, etc. that you bring from home. Any potted plants or items related to spring would also be welcome. We are inviting everyone to participate- from the youngest to the oldest members! We will be decorating Saturday, April 3. You may stop by the church from 10:00 to noon or 1:00 to 3:00 to participate. Masks are required. There will be paint and chalk provided. You may also bring anything from home that you would like to have displayed. The theme will be Easter. Please stop by and help us share the Good News. He is Risen, Alleluia!



Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 3 beginning at 9:30am. There are hunts for children from 0 to 5th grade. We will be holding the entire event outside this year and in the event of rain, we will have a drive thru event. We are asking that everyone in attendance (over the age of 2) wear a mask, practice social distancing before and after hunting, and limit the attendees to the those who reside within your house. Don't forget your basket!

Youth 6th grade and above are needed to help hide the eggs on Saturday, April 3 at 8:45am.

We are switching to plastic eggs for this year's hunt. If you would like to donate new, unfilled, plastic eggs, please bring them to church and place them in the box in the narthex by Sunday, March 21. Monetary donations will also be accepted to purchase eggs and prizes. Please put your donation in an envelope and label it "Easter Egg Hunt" and place it in the offering basket or mail it to the church. Thank you for your support!

Please note

We will not be having an Easter breakfast this year.



March Birthdays



- 1st Anthony Grugan
Erica Mish
Rob Wagner
- 2nd Cheryl Hertzog
Valerie Hancik
Lana Leone
- 5th Janine Dreibelbis
- 6th Glenn Epting
Timothy Pursell
- 9th Michael Coleman
Robert Machemer
Terry Reinhart
Ozzie Reitnauer
- 10th Derick Clark
Robert Noecker
Sasha Denatala
- 12th Steven Moyer
Caleb Smith
- 13th Corrine Dietrich
- 14th Brett Daub
Susan Heckman
- 15th Christopher Mazaika
- 16th Traci Heffner
- 20th Linda Sousley
- 21st Elsie Frymoyer
Russell Reinhart
Steve Seidel
- 22nd Paul Reidenhour, Jr.
Courtney Brennan
- 24th Suzanne Hensel
Carissa Miller
- 25th Debora Heckman
- 26th Betty Angstadt
Mary Clark
- 27th Tricia Boyer
- 28th Ruth Hill
Crystal Reinhart
- 29th Linda Reinhart
- 30th Victoria Long
Sharon Strauss
- 31st Kylee Koller

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

Shut in Mailing List

Cleta Borkey
Schuylkill Center
1000 Schuylkill Manor Rd
Pottsville, PA 17901

Christine Ryan
Laurel Center
125 Holly Rd.
Hamburg, PA 19526

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

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



BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER

Sue Hensel's 88th birthday is coming up on March 24, 2021. She was a faithful worker for our church and is currently living with her son and doctoring in Lancaster. Please remember her on her special day with a card or note. Her contact information is:

Sue Hensel
131 Sassafras Lane
Elizabethtown, PA 17022



Council Corner

COUNCIL CORNER

Church Council met Feb 9th. New officers were elected. President is Tiffany Gruber; Vice President is Mark Dreibelbis; and Secretary is John Smith. We also welcomed new members Faye Heckman, Samantha Gruber, and Heather Gring.

The budget was reviewed. Our income for the month of January was \$14,812 and our expenses were \$11,833. That is a great way to start off the year!

Worship and Music committee reported that they would like to purchase some equipment to improve the sound and video quality of our recorded services. There is about \$2,200 in memorial funds which was earmarked for sound and technology. Council authorized Worship and Music to spend up to this amount for needed improvements. Technology needs are being researched by the committee in consultation with a representative from Sweetwater Audio.

An insurance rep will be coming to church the end of February to look at the light panel which was destroyed during a thunder storm. Property committee also reported that some trees at the back of the church property will be trimmed and/or cut down as needed. They are also working to get a railing made for behind the altar to make it easier for people to go up and down the step to the altar.

Pastor reported that she met with a potential new member, and council approved membership into the church.

There was discussion about resuming advertising in the Reading Eagle and Berks Mont papers. There is a fee to be listed in the directories which run each week, but small notifications can be posted for free as often as submitted. Council decided to go with the free advertising at the present time and re-evaluate once we have resumed more normal operations.

The Library Fund Policy was reviewed and there was discussion about how these funds could be spent. This will continue to be reviewed by council.

Submitted by Janine Dreibelbis

Financial Report

We finished January in the black \$1,536.67.

Monthly – Income for January \$13,419.96

Monthly – Expenses for January \$11,883.29

The General Offering \$11,655.00

Online Giving \$1,724.71

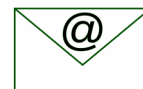
Loose Change \$40.25

Subtotal \$13,419.96

Thank you for your continued support!

Consider online giving in 2021

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



SIGN UP FOR CHURCH EMAIL

If you are not receiving the weekly bulletin via email and you would like to, we encourage you to go to the churches website and use the Zion's Email Sign Up Form. The email address that you provide will only be used for church communications.

Thank you.

BULLETIN SPONSORS

Sponsors are needed for bulletins and altar flowers. If you are interested in sponsoring either, please sign up on the corresponding paper on the bulletin board in the narthex. Bulletins - \$13.00, Altar Flowers, \$30.00

MARCH VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

LECTORS: If you would like to be a lector for the month of April and May, please contact Janine Dreibelbis at 610-488-7896. Thank you.



TEACHERS NEEDED

The Christian Education Committee is looking for two people who would be interested in teaching the nursery class on a Sunday morning. If you would be interested in helping, please contact Vernie Noecker.



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, Treasurer
207 Beechwood Drive, Hamburg, PA 19526

Thanks for helping members of our community to make ends meet!



Keep on Saving!

Redner's Save-A-Tape Reminders

Thanks so much for your continued support of the Redner's Save-A-Tape Program. Hand them in on Sunday mornings, mail them with your offering envelopes, drop them at the office Tuesday through Fridays from 9-1, or put between the front doors anytime.

Here is a reminder of the program guidelines, as you keep on saving those register receipts.

- *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!



Looking Ahead to Summer at Bear Creek Camp

In this snowy Feb. it's nice to look ahead to summer outdoors at Bear Creek Camp. They have been busy planning changes so that summer camp can safely happen. There will be less students in each quest group and many activities will be planned with smaller groups. Masking in larger groups and indoors will be required. Camp will be over on Friday instead of Saturday to allow for thorough cleaning and Try Camp will only be offered on Sunday through Wed.

The WELCA are bringing forward their plan from last year to encourage kids to go to camp with scholarships for Members of \$400 for regular camp and \$250 for Try Camp. That's a great deal for a Christian camp experience. Check the website bearcreekcamp.org for details about camp, dates, forms and FAQ. Contact Carol Rothermel 2610-562-7620 or chipmunk_hill@comcast.net for details about how to sign up for camp and how to use the church code to access the scholarship. We'll be using the Tier #1 pricing on the registration form.

OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

We will be doing the meals for Opportunity House bimonthly again this year. We will be purchasing or making food for March 19, May 21, July 16, September 17 and November 19.

WELCA will be donating \$200.00 a month for March, May and July to help offset the cost of the food. Due of the pandemic, Opportunity House does not want us to come down there to serve the food. We will be purchasing or making food for delivery.

Wanda will be reaching out to the volunteers shortly to find out if you are interested in assisting with the food planning. We are hopeful that by September and November we will be able to make food for delivery again.

Thank you to all our volunteers!

Zion's Cemetery Co. of Perry Township

SPRING CLEANING

Zion Cemetery Co. Inc. of Perry Township has set the week of March 21-27, 2021 for spring cleaning. All decorations not planted in the ground will be removed if not claimed before this week by lot owners. The Cemetery Board is not responsible for decorations remaining on graves when spring cleaning begins. New and existing decorations may be placed March 28, 2021. Single or multiple grave lots are available for sale. Please contact David Geschwindt, Cemetery Manager, 610-562-7421

The next monthly board meeting will be held on March 11, 2021 at 9:00 am. This meeting will also be the Annual Lot Owners Meeting.

Meetings are held at Zion's UCC Church in the fellowship hall.

“Zion’s Evangelical Lutheran Church of Perry Township”

Like us on Facebook

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

Sunday School: Sunday 9:15 AM

Worship Services: Indoor recorded services Sunday 10:30 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, Kathryn Willoretta, Director of Music Ministry, Don Ryan; Hand Bells/Brass, Steven Turner; Custodians, Ruth Hoppes, Brian Moroney; Treasurer, Sandra Moroney

2021 Congregation Council Members:

President: Tiffany Gruber, Vice President: Mark Dreibelbis, Secretary: John Smith
Janine Dreibelbis, Lucille Gough, Heather Gring, Samantha Gruber, Faye Heckman, Susan Lutz, Brian Moroney

Community Ministries @ Zion’s

A.A. meets on Tuesdays at 7pm A.A. meets on Saturdays at 7pm
Cub Scouts meet on Mondays at 6:30 pm and Boy Scouts meet at 7:30 pm

Regular Monthly Activities – Please Join in

Council Meeting every 2nd Tuesday
Quilt-Knotters: 2nd & 4th Tuesday 9 – 11am (You also can work at home!)

Food Pantry Distribution:

On the 3rd Saturday, at 9:00 am at the Lutheran Church of Holy Trinity, Leesport
Northern Berks Food Pantry distribution March 23, 2021, 6 pm to 7 pm at Hamburg Area Middle School

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

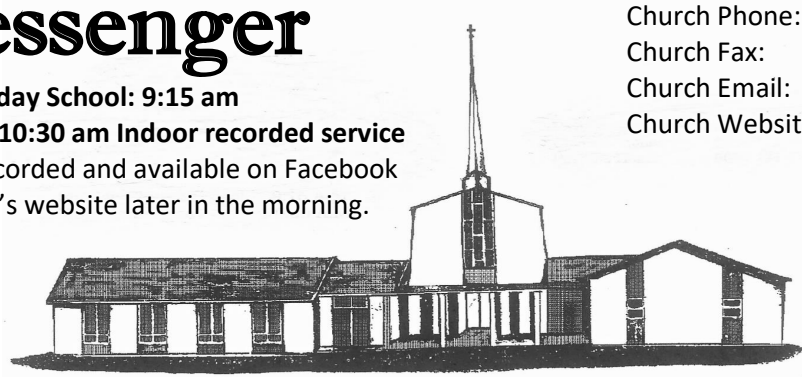
- **Suicide Prevention- Text- ruOK to 484-816-7865, secure, anonymous communication.**

Zion's Messenger

Sunday School: 9:15 am

Sunday Worship: 10:30 am Indoor recorded service

Service will be recorded and available on Facebook
and the church's website later in the morning.



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

Zion's Monthly Calendar March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	2	3 ZOOM Bible Study 10:30 am and 7 pm	4	5	6 7:00pm A.A Meeting
7 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service will also be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook. HOLY COMMUNION	8 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	9 9:30-11:00 am Quilt Knotters Council Mtg 7 pm 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	10 ZOOM Bible Study 10:30 am and 7 pm	11 9 am - Zion's Cemetery Board Meeting and Annual Lot Owners Meeting Zion's UCC Fellowship Hall	12	13 7:00pm A.A Meeting
14 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service will also be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook. 11:30 AM - WORSHIP AND MUSIC MTG Daylight saving time begins	15 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	16 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	17 ZOOM Bible Study 10:30 am and 7 pm St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 7:00pm A.A Meeting
21 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service will also be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook.	22 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	23 9:00-11:00 am Quilt Knotters 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	24	25 7:00 pm Property Mtg.	26	27 7:00pm A.A Meeting
28 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service will also be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook. PALM SUNDAY HOLY COMMUNION	29 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	30 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	31	APRIL 1 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm Worship HOLY COMMUNION	APRIL 2 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 PM Worship	APRIL 3 9:30 am Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am Church Entry Decorating