

Zion's Messenger April 2021

April 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Throughout this past year we have followed the guidelines for safe worship, especially since we opened the sanctuary in November for weekly worship, albeit one Sunday worship only. We are so thankful for members who take seriously the social distancing and mask recommendations that have allowed us to continue to hold worship inside! That is what has allowed us to plan for Holy Week and Easter services, understanding that we have adequate time to properly ventilate the sanctuary between gatherings and plan for meaningful worship.

As many are aware, we have lost members in death over the past year, the pandemic initially placing a hold on in-house funerals and memorials services. We simply do not have the person-power or the means to adequately sanitize the building!

But with the prospect of more of us actually receiving a vaccine and the apparent decline (*up to this writing*) of local cases, we are hopeful that we can have the sanctuary more available for gathering. We know that some churches in the area have been more “open”, and that may be due to resources available to them that we do not have—we certainly hope it is not because they were willing to put people at risk because of disbelief of the seriousness of the pandemic! The numbers of hospitalizations and deaths, even in our area, are staggering, and to think it couldn't happen here...well, Zion's is simply not willing to put members at risk! There are several congregations that have not been able to have in-house worship for over a year, so we are clearly blessed!

With many of us being vaccinated (hooray!), and observing the overall community response to seeking vaccination, we are opening the sanctuary to limited-attendance funeral and memorial services – the same seating and mask requirements that continue to be in place for worship. Based on what we have observed in the community over the past several months, we feel we can do this with confidence. Local funeral directors have been diligent, as well, in their care for grieving families, and we feel we can open the sanctuary at this time based on what we have experienced in recent months.

I am hopeful, as well, that we may resume special events in worship, such as baptisms (several parents agreed that they wanted to wait until it seems safer to be in close contact for this holy rite). With so many of us “of a certain age” and with the compliance of so many of Zion's members, we believe we can see the light at the end of the tunnel! We long to be able to gather at the Lord's Table as we once did. At yet, we know that the pandemic is not over, so we must be vigilant and trusting God for discernment! We still need every one of us being diligent.

All this being said, we must always focus on what we are ultimately about as the Church: **sharing the good news of the Risen Christ to all who have ears to hear**. The disciples originally chosen by Jesus were not perfect, as you may have understood from the weekly devotionals posted on the church's Facebook page (they are available in printed form in the Narthex or by contacting the Church Office). Every disciple chosen by Jesus is relatable to our own personal experience.

We hope that you will find the services of Holy Week and Easter meaningful and encouraging for you own personal growth in faith. You may not have made Holy Week a priority in the past, but think about what Jesus thinks when he does what he does for you in his crucifixion, death, and resurrection...**JUST FOR YOU!**

Jesus calls and counts on each one of us to get the message and pass it on. Apostolic action is now on us!

Christ is Risen! He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor Diane LaFauci

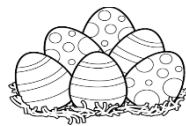


*Maundy Thursday – April 1 – 7:00pm – Holy Communion, Stripping of the Altar
*Good Friday – April 2 – 7:00pm – Tenebrae (service of light and darkness)
Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 3 – 9:30am
Congregation Decorating for Easter – Saturday, April 3 – 10am-Noon / 1-3pm
See article for details!!
Easter Sunday – April 4 – 6:30am & *10:30am – Holy Communion
***These services will also be on Facebook Live**



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.

Please note

We will not be having an Easter breakfast this year.



April Birthdays



2nd Lucas C. Price
 3rd Hailey Denatala
 7th Autumn Eyer
 9th Neil Hoffman
 Gerald O'Brien
 Codi Trabosh
 10th Rev. Aaron Decker
 Mary Mengle
 Brandon Wahl
 Olivia Wilhelm
 11th Sherry Houser
 Liam Brennan
 13th Nicholas Clark
 Andrew Scheidt
 Bobbe-Jean Madeira
 14th Emily Kohler
 Russel Olszewski
 Matthew Bensinger
 16th Bryce Brennan
 Amy Smith
 Jacob Fegley
 17th Joanne Busch
 18th Jessica Long
 19th Joan Sayer
 20th Veronica Heckman
 21st Colby Grugan
 Evelyn Hoppes
 Gloria Machermer
 22nd Jordan Smith
 23rd Michael Houtz
 25th Carol Justice
 26th Richard Miller
 27th Linda Bowling
 28th David Peters
 Aimee Disandro
 29th Noah Bensinger
 30th Karen Brown
 Daniel Geist
 Andrew Heckman

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

Shut in Mailing List

Mae Berger
 Maidencreek Place
 105 Dries Rd.
 Reading, PA 19605

Phares & Mabel Fry
 65 Fry Lane
 Auburn, Pa 17922

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

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

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

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

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

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for reaching out during this difficult time after Carl's passing, as well as Pastor Diane for her thoughtful phone calls.

I would also like to thank the Knotter's for the beautiful greenery planter. Everyone's prayers, thoughts, cards and calls have been greatly appreciated.

Many Thanks, Eleanor Dietrich



Council Corner

Devotions were from "Lasting Hope: Devotions for Lent by Susan Lutz
We finished February in the black but we still owe Vanguard \$30,000 in repayment.

We signed a new contract for Allen Organ Company to service our organ for the next year at a cost of \$980.00. Don asked Council to look into purchasing a baby grand piano. Council is recommending we seek for 3-4 months a possibility of someone willing to donate one to the church for FREE. We realize we must be patient in this endeavor and hopefully it will come to fruition. If none can be gotten then Don will have the authority to look for a used baby grand piano not to exceed \$10,000. Property will also need to look into the possibility of removing a pew for the placement of the piano up front. A baby grand will give us all kinds of possibilities for the future with recitals and concerts.

We also discussed and gave approval for funerals to be held in our sanctuary again and in the gold room, provided everyone practices the CDC guidelines of mask wearing and practicing social distancing.

Additional audio system items were purchased with memorial funds to enhance our live services on a Sunday.

As far as now there is no candidate who has applied to be a Pastor for our church.

We got a shocking estimate from PG Elite Lighting Service to repair our electrical system damaged by a lightning strike of \$12,180.00 but that isn't as high as it was expected to be. We are waiting to see if the insurance company will be paying that as we know we have a \$1,000.00 deductible. Thank goodness for insurance.

Financial Report

We finished February in the black \$245.44.

Monthly Income for February \$12,980.12
Monthly Expenses for February \$12,734.68

The General Offering \$9,740.00
Online Giving \$1,781.15
Loose Change \$5.00
Other Income \$1,453.97
Subtotal \$12,980.12

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 May and June, please contact Janine Dreibelbis at 610-488-7896. Thank you.



BABY GRAND PIANO NEEDED

We are looking to add a donated baby grand piano to our sanctuary. Interested parties should contact the church at 610-562-3112 or by email at: churchoffice@zionslutheran.org.



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.



Feeding the Community FOOD PANTRY

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!

GARDEN NEWS



*To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.
Audrey Hepburn*

It's finally here – the start of a new Garden season. Our soil has been fallow for a season. It has rested, and so have our volunteers. We now plan to start the 2021 Garden season, tilling the soil and laying the plastic by the end of April followed by our first planting of cabbage first thing in May.

To keep our volunteers safe and healthy, we will have safety guidelines which will include:

- Social distancing
- Wearing masks
- Hand washing station
- Cleaning & disinfecting tools
- Disposable gloves available
- Limiting volunteers in shed
- Educating volunteers when they should stay home, etc.

Please listen for Sunday announcements or check Zion's Facebook page for news of our work days. Previous volunteers will be called/emailed work day information. If you want to be put on the Garden volunteer contact list, please email us at communitygarden@zionslutheran.org or contact Lori at 610-401-1186. Your help will be needed now more than ever. Contact us!

OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

We will be doing the meals for Opportunity House bimonthly again this year. We will be purchasing or making food for 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!

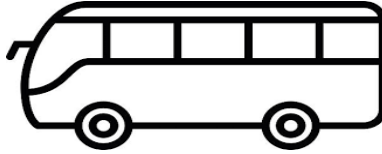
ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY OF PERRY TOWNSHIP INC.

**GUIDELINES FOR PLANTING AROUND TOMB
STONES: EFFECTIVE MARCH 1 2021**

1. No shrubbery or trees are permitted around tomb stones.
2. Small plants may be planted around tomb stones but must be cared for by the person who plants them.
3. Mulch is allowed around the plants.
4. There is a Spring Cleaning every spring in mid-March when all planters must be removed or planters will be removed by cemetery workers.

The next monthly board meeting will be held on April 8, 2021 at 9:00 am. Meetings are held at Zion's UCC Church in the fellowship hall.

Website: <https://zionsperrytwp.cemetery.network>



Bus Trip to New Orleans
October 2-10, 2021

Hopefully with COVID soon behind us we will be embarking on a **trip to New Orleans, October 2-10**. As you know this trip was to have happened last year and postponed. Cost is \$1189.00 per person double occupancy with a \$250.00 deposit due with reservation. We will be staying overnight in Virginia after touring Mount Vernon. We will then continue on to tour the Billy Graham Library in North Carolina and continue on to our next overnight stop. 8 Breakfasts and all lodging included in price as are 3 dinners. I have arranged a guided tour of New Orleans, Houmas House Plantation and Gardens Tour, National WWII Museum. We will have a luncheon cruise aboard the Natchez in New Orleans on the Mississippi River. Dinner on your own tonight. On our way home we will be stopping overnight in Chattanooga, TN and go to the Grand Junction Station for a train ride on one of the original rail lines in Chattanooga. Then we will continue home after a wonderful trip with church friends to New Orleans. Movies will be shown, bingo played, trivia games and fun will be had by all.

Susan Lutz



Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School 2021!

June 14-18, 2021

9:00am – 11:30am

We are planning for an in-person Treasured Vacation Bible School this summer! We will be following the Covid protocols in place at the time of VBS and hope to spend plenty of time outside, weather permitting. We will need the help and support of the ENTIRE congregation to make this week happen. We are in need of volunteers to help with VBS. Whether you have helped in the past or you never helped before, we can use you! Please contact Faye Heckman to help make this exciting week a reality for the children of Zion's. Share the registration forms with your family and neighbors. Early registrations are encouraged so we know how many children to plan for.

“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 April 27,2021, 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

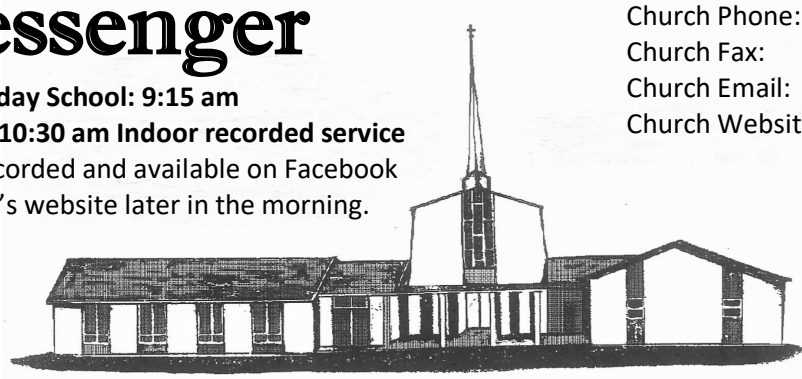
- **Suicide Prevention- Text- ruOK to 484-816-7865, secure, anonymous communication.**

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 †

April 2021

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

Zion's Monthly Calendar April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm Worship HOLY COMMUNION	2 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 PM Worship	3 9:30 am Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am Church Entry Decorating 7:00pm A.A Meeting
4 EASTER SUNDAY 9:15 Sunday School 6:30 AM AND 10:30 AM THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD HOLY COMMUNION Service will also be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook.	5 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	6 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	7	8 9 am - Zion's Cemetery Board Meeting Zion's UCC Fellowship Hall	9	10 7:00pm A.A Meeting
11 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service will also be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook.	12 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	13 Council Mtg 7 pm 9:00-11:00 am Quilt Knotters 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	14	15 7 PM Property Mtg.	16 MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17 7:00pm A.A Meeting
18 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	19 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	20 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	21	22	23	24 1 pm – 6 pm Cub Scout Pinewood Derby – parking lot and fellowship hall 7:00pm A.A Meeting
25 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service will also be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook. **Pinewood Derby RAINDATE	26 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	27 9:00-11:00 am Quilt Knotters 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	28	29	30	