

Zion's Messenger May 2021

May 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

At monthly meetings of the Council, a member brings a special devotional message, that we are reminded that we must rely on *God's* guidance in addressing the needs of the congregation. The devotional message offered at the April meeting by Mark Dreibelbis is especially timely, as we anticipate what it might look like when we get past the current pandemic situation. It is about *vision*...what is necessary when we look to the future, as well as to the immediate present.

What are the kinds of vision?

- Myopic – nearsighted, future is fuzzy, not seeing beyond the nose
- Peripheral – blindsided by side issues, hampered from moving ahead because of things seen lurking on the side
- Tunnel – seeing only what is ahead and assuming that everyone shares the same view
- Panoramic – the big picture, beyond today...what is actually ahead & on the sides...how to get where we need to be

So, is there a particular kind of vision that the church must have? Personal agendas and fears aside, is there any question?

Panoramic vision: what the Church needs to have in order for the mission of Christ among us to be fulfilled.

The reality at Zion's is that ministry is going to "look" somewhat the same but somewhat different once the COVID restrictions are relaxed or lifted. And it is very much about the future!

One obvious difference is that things are changing for some who have sung in the choir. While they want to continue to sing in the choir, doing so from the loft is problematic. So, the need for changing the way that happens is inevitable. And that's not necessarily a bad thing. Taking a cue from what many congregations do to support choirs, we will most likely have the choir singing from the chancel area, with the director in a visible and practical place. Having choir members sit with family in the pews makes for strong voices helping the rest of us sing. Hence, the need to have a good instrument in place, which is why we are searching for a good quality baby grand piano (acquired *not by the budget*, but thru gifts and/or funds that cannot otherwise be used for general operation budget). The choir director cannot direct from the loft. Upgrades to the 40-year-old organ are already giving the organist new capabilities.

A *panoramic* vision also means that we may be able to further alter opportunities for in-person worship as the COVID cases go down and vaccinations go up. We already know that masks will be with us for several months to come. Would Jesus wear a mask?? Well, we are pretty sure that Jesus would be immune to the virus and, therefore, not able to pass it on. *But* Jesus would also encourage us to *do what is necessary to care for one another in the dominion of this world*. Masks and vaccinations will help us. Jesus was all about setting the example and bringing everyone into caring relationship with the community, as well as with God! We want to be able to lift our voices in song again, so we have to think about how that might be possible.

VBS is already being planned for in-person experience in June, but with a different vision for how it is to happen. Other ministries have found a way to happen: we are carefully resuming baptisms, and we are making the sanctuary available to members for funeral or memorial services. And as soon as things change for area food pantries, we will be looking at how we can resume in-kind support. We have already begun to hope to be able to have a picnic in the fall.

In the season of Easter in the Year B (when Mark is the primary gospel for Sundays), the first reading in worship comes from the book of Acts. We see how the Apostles had to put aside old practice, preference, and beliefs about how things "should" be done in order for the church to fulfill the mission entrusted to them. They had a *panoramic vision*! They have set the example for us, and with the Holy Spirit opening our eyes and minds, we too, may have that vision! God's vision for Zion's!

Peace, hope, and joy in the Risen Christ!

† *Pastor Diane LaFauci*



May Birthdays



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

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

Shut in Mailing List

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

If there is anyone you know who is unable to get out and would like to be added to our list, please contact the church office.



CARD SHOWER FOR OUR MILITARY MEMBERS

Please consider sending a card to our members who are actively serving in the military.

Brett Daub is currently serving in the US Navy. Last week he earned his Surface/Warfare Pin. This is not an easy pin to earn and doesn't usually happen to someone this new and with only two deployments.

OSSA Daub, Brett
 USS Ashland LSD 48
 Unit 100147 Box 747
 FPO AP 96660

MSgt. Noah M. Bensinger and his wife MSgt. Erin Bensinger are serving in the US Army and work with computers and training. They have three children, Cayden Loutsch (age 16), Coltin Bensinger (age 10) and S. Kelly Bensinger (age 7).

MSgt. Noah Bensinger & MSgt. Erin Bensinger
4929 Willow Chase Dr.
Benton, LA 71006



Council Corner

COUNCIL CORNER

Church Council met on Tuesday April 13th via Zoom. The meeting was opened with devotions by Mark Dreibelbis on Vision for the Church.

A concern was raised regarding the plan to obtain a baby grand piano. Concerns were specifically related to costs due to the current financial status of the church. For clarification, it was stated that the church was pursuing free and low-cost options for the next several months. Any money to be used would not be taken from the general budget, but from funds that are earmarked for special expenses, or the Bill Hill endowment. The recommendation to look for a baby grand piano was initiated by Worship and Music Committee for the following reasons. This would allow more options for worship styles. It would allow the choir to sing up front as more members are having difficulty navigating the stairs to the choir loft. There are few trained organists available and this would make it easier to get supply musicians if Don is not available.

It was reported that the last day of Sunday School would be May 23rd. It was decided that with ongoing Covid-19 concerns, we would not attempt a church picnic at this time, but will revisit the idea as possibly a kick off to starting Sunday School in the fall.

We have received insurance money for the electric panel that was damaged last year by a storm. We expect to have repair work done on this soon.

Property reported that tree trimming was completed and a rail was installed behind the altar for safety going up and down the steps.

WELCA continues to collect coupons for the military. Military personnel are able to use them 3 months past the expiration date at the PX. Coupons must be cut apart before being brought to church.

A modification to the organ was purchased and has been installed. This was paid for by memorial funds. This gives us improved ability for recording music.

There was discussion on the Administrative Assistant's job. Trina is doing a good job and learning more about the duties. Some of her duties will expand as she is becoming more comfortable with the required tasks.

Financial Report

We finished March in the black \$2,591.84.

Monthly – Income for March \$19,353.97
Monthly – Expenses for March \$16,762.13

The General Offering	\$10,503.00
Online Giving	\$1,720.78
Loose Change	\$234.00
Other Income	<u>\$6,896.19</u> (this includes our insurance claim check)
Subtotal	\$19,353.97

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

MAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

LECTORS: If you would like to be a lector for the month of June and July, 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



"Gardening is an instrument of grace." — May Sarton

The Garden has been tilled (thanks, Roy!) and we are busy laying the plastic. Soon we will be planting cabbage and our 7th season will be officially started.

To keep our volunteers safe and healthy, we have safety guidelines which include. Guidelines will be updated as our volunteers are fully vaccinated.

- **Social distancing**
- **Wearing masks**
- **Hand washing station**
- **Cleaning & disinfecting tools**
- **Disposable gloves available**
- **Limiting volunteers in shed**

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 is needed 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 to 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!

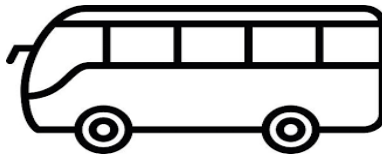
ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY OF PERRY TOWNSHIP INC.

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 May 13, 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. Registration forms can be mailed to the Church office, attention: VBS Director.

“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 May 25, 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 kestonemilitaryfamilies.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.

May 2021

Pastor: **Pastor Diane LaFauci**

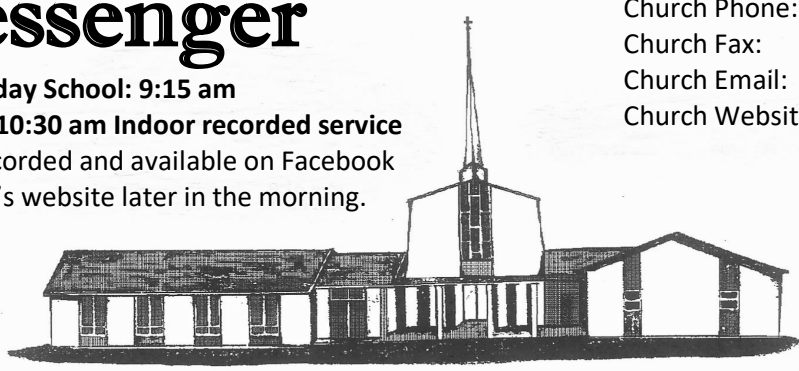
Pastor's Cell: 484-794-5503

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

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 May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	1 7:00pm A.A Meeting
2 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship HOLY COMMUNION Service will also be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook. Prayer Shawl Blessing	3 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	4 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	5	6	7	8 7:00pm A.A Meeting
9 MOTHER'S DAY 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 WORSHIP & MUSIC	10 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	11 RED GERANIUM ORDER DEADLINE 9:00-11:00 am Quilt Knotters Council Mtg 7 pm 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	12	13 9 am Zion's Cemetery Board Meeting – Zion's UCC Fellowship Hall 7 PM Property Mtg.	14	15 7:00pm A.A Meeting
16 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service will also be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook.	17 JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	18 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	19	20	21	22 7:00pm A.A Meeting
23 PENTACOST HOLY COMMUNION 9:15 am Sunday School – LAST DAY 10:30 am Worship Service will also be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook.	24 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	25 9:00-11:00 am Quilt Knotters 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	26 12:00 pm – 7 pm MILLER KEYSTONE BLOOD DRIVE	27	28	29 7:00 pm AA Meeting
30 HOLY TRINITY SUN. HOLY COMMUNION 10:30 am Worship Service will also be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook.	31 MEMORIAL DAY 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts					

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