

Zion's Messenger July 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

God has brought us through the long months of pandemic restrictions to a place of new freedom...interesting timing: the celebration of America's freedom in Independence on the Fourth of July. So, there will be parades and fireworks reminding us of the freedoms we have, picnics where we gather confidently with vaccinated family and friends. And yet, we know we still have to be careful to not fall prey to or spread a dangerously mutating virus...just as we must guard against those forces that would threaten the democracy we have enjoyed for 245 years! Freedom does come with cost and responsibility.

In worship at Zion's, we will be celebrating, as well, with the lifting of some restrictions that have kept us safe from spreading the virus in our gatherings. And our celebration will be in the meal each week that reminds us of the ultimate freedom we have in the saving and redeeming work of God in Christ Jesus! The Worship & Music ministry, including the Altar Guild, at Zion's wants everyone to feel confident and safe as we return to a more "normal" worship experience this summer. We have planned for people to receive Holy Communion, mindful that the pandemic is not over and that we still need to be intentional about keeping the sanctuary a truly safe place. Each Sunday the ushers will invite you to receive the holy meal in a way that meets your spiritual needs:

‡You may be served at the communion rail by the Presider & Assistant (ushers guiding you to come via the side aisles; return to pew via center aisle)

‡You may bring pre-packaged elements to the rail with you, if you prefer

‡You may continue to be seated in the pew for the meal with pre-packaged elements

‡You may, in the case of mobility challenge, let the ushers know you wish the Presider & Assistant to serve you in the pew (as has been the previous practice)

And you may continue to wear your mask, if you prefer. (I mentioned in worship that I still wear my mask when I go places where I cannot be relatively sure that people are vaccinated.)

The important thing to know is that, Zion's wants everyone to feel safe to come in person and be involved in the ministries of the congregation! Zion's wants to "be back" to regular gatherings and activities. July will see some familiar service music returning to the weekly worship. We have plans to offer multiple weekend worship services beginning in the fall. Don Ryan is already planning for choir rehearsals in late August (please see his article in this newsletter). We are investing in the music ministry with choir anthems and choir support in congregation singing and with other music.

We continue to post our service online as a ministry of the church, as we know that we are reaching people who cannot come in person for health or other reasons. Churches around the country have realized that continuing online worship is reaching people who have never been members of a church, never heard the Good News of God's grace in Jesus Christ! Our ministry is essential, and we all need to do our part to make sure it continues to happen.

Even as we celebrate America's independence with Fourth of July events and the relaxing of pandemic restrictions, we understand that this nation needs spiritual reawakening to the ultimate freedom that God offers! We Christians are called by God to help the healing of division and wounds that have intensified in our lifetime in this country. Our Lord offers us strength and guidance for daily living and its challenges...nowhere else is the word of God interpreted authentically and wisely, except where Jesus Christ is present by the Holy Spirit.

As the disciples rowed the boat carrying Jesus to where he directed them (Mark 4.35-41), so each member must be present and be part of rowing the boat (*aka* the church!).

Rejoicing in freedom in Christ,

‡Pastor Diane LaFauci



The Adult Choir will be resuming this Fall after a long hiatus. The Adult Choir rehearses at 7:15 pm every Wednesday, except for the third week of the month in which they rehearse on Tuesday. There are many anthems of different styles selected for the fall and early winter. Please consider making the Adult Choir Music Ministry your ministry to the church too. If you are interested in singing in the choir this season, please contact Donald Ryan at donryan715@gmail.com or 610-762-9322. The first rehearsal will be Wednesday, August 25, 2021.



Council Corner

Church Council met on June 8th. The meeting was opened with devotions titled “Depend on the Lord,” read by Heather Gring.

On behalf of the Property Committee, Gary Rothermel proposed having the fire alarm dialer errors repaired once and for all, which would eliminate the panel’s beeping, and the proposal was passed.

We finished the month of May in the red by \$993. Expenses that were out of the ordinary include a \$2,336 quarterly insurance payment, \$447 copyright license renewal, \$102 piano tuning, \$297 synod conference registrations, \$635 interior maintenance costs, and \$402 furnace repairs.

Pastor Diane, Lucille Gough, and Irwin Levan attended the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly over two days via Zoom. Bishop Christopher deForest’s installation took place during the assembly and was both uplifting and encouraging. The installation may be viewed online at <http://nepasynod.org/9364-2/>.

The Call Committee met and is still in process of searching for a full-time permanent Pastor.

The mask policy was discussed. With reduced statewide restrictions and with more people being vaccinated, we’re hoping that masking will become optional at worship services by the end of June. Stay tuned!

Over the upcoming months, we plan to collect gift cards to donate to Family Promise to help families in need. More information will follow about collection dates and types of gift cards and denominations needed.

Trooper Beohm of the Pennsylvania State Police is scheduled to hold an Active Shooter presentation at the church during the evening of August 26th. Attendance is encouraged and more information will be provided in the near future. Pastor Diane will publicize the event with the local Ministerium.

Financial Report

We finished May in the red, \$992.62.

Monthly – Income for May	\$14,290.75
Monthly – Expenses for May	\$15,283.37

The General Offering	\$11,680.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,761.15
Loose Change	\$ 27.00
Other Income	<u>\$ 822.60</u>
Subtotal	\$14,290.75

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 church's 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

JULY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

LECTORS: If you would like to be a lector for the month of August and September, please contact the church office at 610-562-3112. Thank you.

Thank You

Cleta Borkey would like to thank everyone for the well wishes and cards during her recovery.

Garden News



We might think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it's our garden that is really nurturing us.
-Jenny Uglow

Please come and visit us at the Garden. The cabbage, beans, peppers, and tomatoes are growing. The cucumbers and squash are beginning to sprout. It's starting to look like a Garden!

Please continue to listen for Sunday announcements or check Zion's Facebook page for news of our work days. We appreciate our faithful volunteers that continue to come out to help, and have welcomed a new community volunteer. Please feel free to invite a friend who likes to dig in the dirt or pinch back some tomatoes.

Our 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. Hope to see you soon!



WELCA updates

WELCA will not be holding a Bazaar this year.

Instead, WELCA will be holding a drive-thru food sale on **Saturday, September 25th**. We will have your favorite foods from the Bazaar, including soups and barbecues. All orders will be preorder and prepay. Order forms will be in the August/September newsletters and in Sunday bulletins starting in August. In the meantime, **please save the date!**



Help Support Local Families in Need

Family Promise is an organization that provides services to homeless families, youth and individuals facing a housing crisis. Our local Family Promise is based in downtown Reading. They recognize that keeping families together increases successful outcomes. They welcome families of all compositions, keeping them together in safe, private, home-like settings with the support of the community. Their highly successful 90-day program provides shelter, meals, case management, financial literacy, job placement assistance & more to families with children experiencing homelessness throughout Berks County. Families spend one week at a time at host congregations who provide breakfast and supper as well as overnight lodging. The pandemic has drastically changed their approach. In the past, Zion's was a sponsor, but at this time we can support them by providing grocery gift cards for their families.

Church Council is asking your support. Family Promise will accept gift cards of any denomination from any local grocery store. All cards will be given to local families as they are working to get back on their feet. We will be collecting these cards in July and August. They can be placed in the offering basket or dropped off at the church office. Thanks for your support!



Coupons for the Troops

Thank you all for your continued support of our program!

We recently received a nice "thank you" letter from SupportOurTroops.org detailing the good that the coupon program is doing. Please stop by the bulletin board in the narthex and take a minute to read about the impact of the Coupon for the Troops program that we are participating in.

Please continue to clip any coupons you receive and deposit them in the designated box on the table in the narthex. The coupons must be cut out and can be expired (no more than 2 months) or non-expired. They can be from newspapers, dispensers in stores, tear-pads and elsewhere as long as they say "manufacturers coupon" on them.

ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY OF PERRY TOWNSHIP INC.

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



July Birthdays

1st Michael Lopez
2nd Michael Potts
3rd Susan Miller
4th Ruth Bensinger
Daniel Schaeffer
5th Heather Mengel
Lori Shaak
Parker Hancik
6th Adam Decker
7th Dean Heckman
Russel Clark
8th Alice Brieske
Russell Clark
9th Lee Gehringer
Janet Schlegel
Eme Stefan
Ellie Noecker
12th David Seidel
Matthew Noecker
14th Deborah Hoffert
Shirley Sohon
16th Joyce Epting
17th Karen Clark
Travis Hoshauer
20th Troy Epting
John Smith
22nd Katelyn Schumaker
23rd Reed Auchenbach
24th Jocelyn Heckman
Gary Wilhelm
25th Faye Miller
Brian Moroney
Kyle Schumaker
27th Kenneth Correll
31st Kasandra Brown
Phares Fry
Kyle Reitenauer

Shut in Mailing List

Phares & Mabel Fry
65 Fry Lane
Auburn, Pa 17922

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

David Peters
Wyomissing Nursing & Rehab
1000 E Wyomissing Blvd.
Reading, PA 19611

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.

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



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

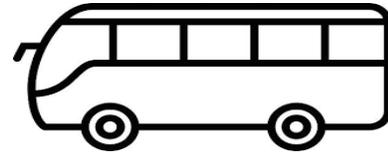
**Thanks for helping members of our community
to make ends meet!**

OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

We will be purchasing or making food for July 16, Sept. 17 and Nov. 19.

WELCA will be donating \$200.00 for 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.



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. Eight (8) breakfasts, all lodging and three (3) dinners included in price. 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 going 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. Movies will be shown, bingo played, trivia games and fun will be had by all.

Susan Lutz

“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 July 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

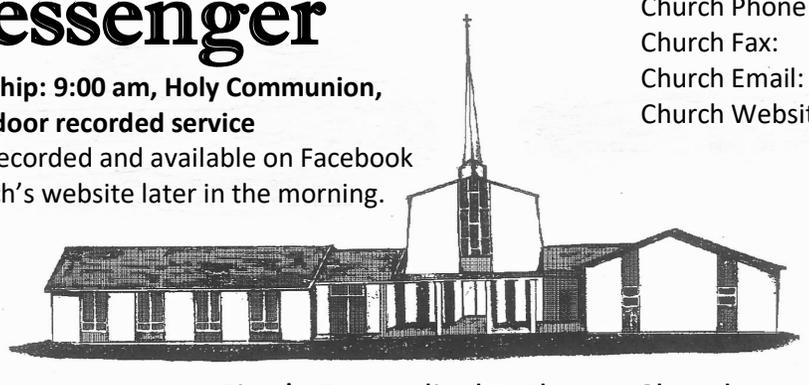
All Veterans can get help at keystonemilitaryfamilies.com 331 Main St. Shoemakersville.
More info on Facebook. Hours: Wednesday and Saturdays 10:00am to 2:00pm

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

Zion's Messenger

**Sunday Worship: 9:00 am, Holy Communion,
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 †

July 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 Monthly Calendar - JULY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 7:00 pm A.A Meeting
4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 9:00 AM 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 9:00-11:30 am Knotters 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	7	8 9 am Zion's Cemetery Board Meeting – Zion's UCC Fellowship Hall	9	10 7:00 pm A.A Meeting
11 9:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION Service will also be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook. Guest Musician	12 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	13 7:00 pm Council Mtg 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	14	15 7 PM Property Mtg.	16	17 7:00 pm A.A Meeting
18 9:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION Service will also be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook.	19 AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	20 9:00-11:30 am Knotters 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	21	22	23	24 7:00 pm A.A Meeting
25 9:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION Service will also be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook.	26 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	27 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	28	29	30	31 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting