

Zion's Messenger - August 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

By now things are starting to look more “normal”. Who knew, 18 months ago, that we were going to be stopped in our tracks by a pandemic (something only our grand/great-grandparents might have experienced)? This congregation was coming out of a difficult time, only to be thrust into a *worldwide* difficult time! COVID has certainly taken its toll around the world, and, to be sure, in the whole church! So, now that things are starting to settle back into a relatively familiar routine and practice, what does that mean for Zion's in the quest to call a new pastor?

When pastors are looking to move to a new congregation, they are looking for these priorities:

- ‡ Is the congregation genuinely seeking to **grow** (that means **grow in faith**, not just in numbers!)?
- ‡ Is the congregation able to compensate the pastor in a manner that empowers the pastor to meet the needs of the congregation without undue stress or worry about providing for family?
- ‡ Does the congregation respect that the pastor has the same concerns and needs as any congregation member, any human being, for self-care and renewal?

My task as Transition Pastor has been to support you in keeping the mission *moving ahead*. That means keeping my “fingers on the pulse” of the possibilities for this congregation. I have met with the Call Committee to make sure the process is clear and that the **Ministry Site Profile** (document prepared by the congregation leaders to be given to an interested pastor) is understood, to be ready to speak to any questions a potential candidate might have. I have also met with the Finance Committee to encourage the leadership to be prepared for the next step(s). And, of course, I interface with the Associate of the Bishop relating to Berks County congregations to make sure Zion's is “on the radar” for finding the right match for Zion's.

So, where do things stand at this time? Here is what I can tell you:

There are **71 out of 268 congregations** in the Northeastern PA Synod seeking to call a pastor! That huge number means that there is certainly “competition” with so few pastors seeking new calls. That's certainly a “heads-up” notice that the congregation needs to first look vital and attractive on “paper” (i.e., the *Ministry Site Profile*).

There are **187 retired pastors on the NEPS roster**. The reality is that not every retired pastor is able to be “working” every Sunday in retirement, and not every retired pastor can serve in a “transition” position. Hence, Bishop deForest's plea to retired pastors to do “extra” service in the next year and more, if at all possible, to help congregations to attract a potential pastor.

The **other real realities** are that people are not going to seminary as in the past, and today's first-call pastors have student loan debt from college and seminary amounting to the equivalent of a mortgage without a house to show for it! Also, pastors seeking to move are not necessarily flocking to the Northeastern PA Synod where compensation has the reputation of being lower than some other synods. That's a big attention note for Zion's to understand that, all things considered about a congregation's geographical location, local issues, ministry activities and programs, compensation may mean the difference in attracting or not attracting a pastor.

As I look at the situation across the country in the church, and especially the number of congregations in Northeast PA hoping to call a pastor, and the potential for Zion's, there is no doubt in my mind that this congregation *can* have its hope fulfilled *if* there is a concerted effort to be more attractive than the “competition”. That means getting safely and increasingly back into ministry activities—beginning with worship, trusting the Holy Spirit to spark creative juices, doing the soul searching on the desire to work with and support a called pastor, and providing the financial support necessary. The Call Committee needs to know that the congregation is committed to these efforts before interviewing someone who might be interested in Zion's, and that could come at any time. It all depends on everyone trusting God to make Zion's ready!

Trusting in God in all things,

‡ *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 July 13th. The meeting was opened with devotions titled, "Generosity".

Dan Brennan attended the council meeting on behalf of the finance committee. He was there to look at our finances and the compensation minimum guidelines approved by congregations attending the Synod Assembly. This discussion will be continued next month once we have time to review more information on this topic. Pastor Diane also mentioned at the meeting that Bishop Christopher deForest is reaching out to retired ministers to see if they are willing to help fill vacant pastoral positions in our Synod. It appears that the Northeast Pennsylvania Synod currently has 71 vacancies for pastors. We are not alone when

it comes to trying to find a new pastor for our congregation.

We continue to have concerns regarding our sound system. We are trying to figure out a solution so that everyone attending church can hear the church service whether you are sitting in the pews or are at home. We will be reaching out to two different businesses to see what suggestions they might have for us and our current system.

WELCA will be doing a Soup & BBQ sale on Saturday, September 25th. You will need to place your order ahead of time. This will be a drive thru event. WELCA also gave a \$1,000 donation to Camp Noah.

The Endowment committee made a donation of \$500 towards the purchase of a potato planter which costs \$8,000 for IHartHarvest (The potato project).

We are currently collecting donations or gift cards for Family Promise. Gift cards can be to any local grocery store for any denomination. If you would rather make a monetary donation, please place your donation in an envelope and mark it for Family Promise. We will be collecting donations or gift cards until the end of August.

A deep fall cleaning event is being planned for Saturday, September 11th at 9:00 AM. We did a cleaning event like this a few years ago and it was rather successful. We are hoping to have a good turn out again so we can tackle some much-needed projects and do some cleaning to prepare the church and the Sunday School wing for our services in the fall. A sign-up sheet has been posted in the narthex, please sign up if you are able to help with this event.

Financial Report

We finished June in the black	\$6,279.28
Monthly – Income for June	\$16,815.72
Monthly – Expenses for June	\$10,536.44
The General Offering	\$11,425.00
Online Giving	\$1,910.78
Loose Change	\$100.00
Other Income	<u>\$3,379.94</u>
Subtotal	\$16,815.72

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

LECTORS AND CAMERA

If you would like to be a lector or camera person for a Sunday worship service during the month of August, September and/or October, please contact the church office at 610-562-3112. **Thank you.**

Garden News



**Garden as though you will live forever.
William Kent**

July is ending and we have already been able to share our produce with the Northern Berks (Hamburg) Food Pantry, Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry, and Keystone Military Food Pantry. Hundreds of pounds of yellow squash, zucchini, green and yellow beans, tomatoes, peppers, and cabbage have already been harvested and distributed, and there is much more that continues to grow.

We thank our faithful weekly volunteers, and continue to encourage new volunteers to give gardening a try. Please continue to listen for Sunday announcements or check Zion's Facebook page for news of our work days and to check our gardening progress.

Our volunteers continue to be 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

“FAVORITE BAZAAR FOODS” SALE

Instead of our annual Bazaar fundraiser this year, WELCA will be holding a drive-thru food sale of some of your favorite bazaar foods. Enclosed in this month’s newsletter is an order form for our “Favorite Foods” Sale. Barbecues, soups, salads, and apple dumplings will be available. Pre-order and pay by Wednesday, September 15th and then drive-thru and pick up your food on Saturday, September 25th from 11am until 2pm. Order forms and payment can be put in Sunday’s offering basket, dropped off at the church office, or mailed to the church. Checks are payable to WELCA.

Thank you in advance for your support!

The Women of WELCA



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!

Knotted News

81 Knotted quilts were delivered to New Windsor, MD in July. From here, the quilts will be loaded onto ships and distributed to other countries. We originally had 129 quilts. 48 of those quilts were distributed within the local community to places such as Opportunity House, Safe Berks and many more.

The Knotters will be also be making 100 back packs that will be delivered to New Windsor, MD in the fall. The back packs will be filled with school supplies. We will be accepting donations of school supplies or monetary donations to purchase supplies to fill the back packs. As we approach a new school year and school supplies go on sale, please feel free to pick some up and leave them in the large box in the narthex. Items needed are:

- Spiral bound notebooks
- Pencils
- Pens
- Pencil sharpeners
- Erasers
- Scissors
- Crayons

- Wooden rulers

Thank you for your generosity! The Knotters



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 August 5, 2021 at 9:00 am. Meetings are held at Zion’s UCC Church in the Fellowship Hall.



Fall Deep Cleaning

Saturday, September 11th at 9:00 AM

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending a fall cleaning day. A sign-up sheet has been posted in the narthex. We are hoping to tackle some much-needed projects and cleaning to prepare our church and Sunday School wing for our return normal service times and Sunday School that will be starting the following day. We hope you will come out and help us spruce up the church!

COMING SOON

Watch for details about our Church picnic on September 12, 2021!

Watch for details about our Drive-Thru Favorite Foods Sale on Saturday, September 25, 2021. Order forms will be available in your bulletins, on the table in the narthex and in our September newsletter.



August Birthdays

2nd Ava Zimmerman
3rd Matthew Gring
4th Darren Daub
5th Ronald Miller
7th Kellie Weiss
Ariel Krott
Elsa Gundrum
9th Trevor Fegley
11th William Gundrum
Irwin Levan
Layla Heckman
12th Virginia Werley
14th Dante LaVentura
15th Caleb Neuin
Cole Wilhelm
16th Lori Palubinski
17th Richard Long
18th Brandi Mazaika
Betty Rohrbach
20th Debbie Heckman
21st Roy Sousley
23rd Allen Billig
Charles Stewart
24th Alicia Gough
29th Dylan Brown
Robin Daub
30th Nancy Leiby

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

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



We have been told that we can start taking food donations again! These are the items that are needed:

Tuna
Spaghetti Sauce
Kids Microwave Meals: Spaghetti O's, Soups, Mac
& Cheese, Etc.
Condiments: Ketchup, Mustard, Relish

The Food Pantry is still 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!**

Food Pantry Distribution:

On the 3rd Saturday, at 9:00 am at the Lutheran
Church of Holy Trinity, Leesport

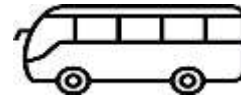
Northern Berks Food Pantry distribution August
24, 2021, 6 pm to 7 pm at Hamburg Area Middle
School

OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

A **BIG** thank you to WELCA for donating \$200.00 per month toward the food that was ordered and delivered in March, May, and July. Zion's will be providing food for **Sept. 17** and **Nov. 19**.

Opportunity House is allowing us to either order food to be delivered, or deliver and service it in person. Wanda will captain the team for September, along with Paul Weidner. The captain for November will be Eileen Puglia, along with Donna and Richard Long.

Thank you everyone for your continued support.



**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. Eight (8) breakfasts, all lodging and three (3) dinners included in price.

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. 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.

Please contact Susan Lutz for more information.

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“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.

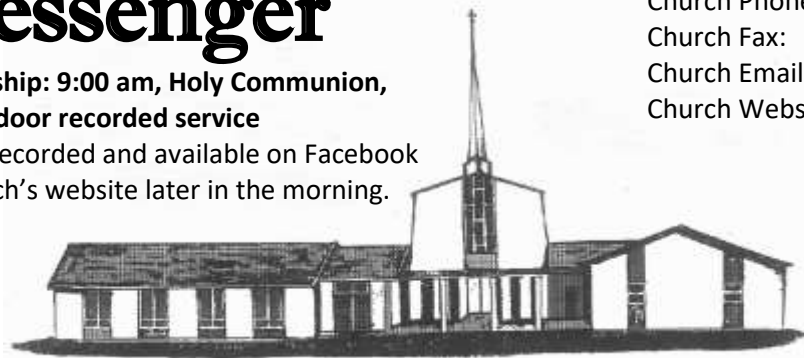
More info on Facebook. Hours: Wednesday and Saturdays 10:00am to 2:00pm

- **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 †

August 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 - AUGUST 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION Service will also be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook.</p>	<p>2 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>3 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Meeting – Zion's UCC Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 7:00 pm A.A Meeting</p>
<p>8 9:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION Service will also be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook. 10:15 AM WORSHIP & MUSIC</p>	<p>9 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>10 9:00-11:30 am Knotters 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>11 7:00 PM Christian Education Meeting</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 7:00 pm A.A Meeting</p>
<p>15 9:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION BAPTISM Service will also be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook.</p>	<p>16 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>17 7:00 pm Council Mtg 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 7 PM Property Mtg.</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 7:00 pm A.A Meeting</p>
<p>22 9:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION Service will also be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook. Guest Musician</p>	<p>23 SEPTEMBER NWSLTR DEADLINE 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>24 9:00-11:30 am Knotters 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 7:00 PM ACTIVE SHOOTER PRESENTATION (MINISTERIUM EVENT)</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 7:00 pm A.A Meeting</p>
<p>29 9:00 AM WORSHIP Service will also be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook.</p>	<p>30 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>31 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>				