

Zion's Messenger - February 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

At the Annual Meeting in January, I shared that I had gotten an interesting insight from having cataract surgery in January, providing an object lesson for the church to consider.

After the first eye was done, I noticed an immediate improvement, both in distance and in close-up vision. My glasses were of no use now with my eyes seeing on different planes. I was excited to drive without glasses, with anticipation of acquiring cool sunglasses after years of unexciting prescription sunglasses or clip-on shades. Maybe I could now buy some “Jackie O” sunglasses, different sizes, different styles!

Then came the realization that I could actually read without my blended-lens bifocals. I couldn't wait to see what difference the second eye surgery would make. In the meantime, I splurged and bought a \$1 pair of readers to ease the strain of the yet untreated eye, until my vision could be tested after the eyes had both healed. Maybe I would only need readers...

But the other big realization was that my aging clouded lenses had also cast a *false color* on everything I saw: the kitchen counter, the stainless-steel sink, the wintered grass out in the yard, the red tablecloth I had used for the holidays—and even my hair! Closing the treated eye and looking thru the untreated eye made it quite apparent to me that I had not been seeing the real color for a really long time!

Now to the hope of calling a new pastor. The lens we look through is critical! We cannot afford to look through old discolored lenses for a realistic vision of the present and the future.

Before COVID hit, the expectation was that it would be just a matter of calling a new pastor, as done in the past. COVID jolted churches into the necessity of revisioning. That means looking at the stark reality of what the congregation is willing to do to move ahead. The congregation's vision must be realistic in order to thrive and remain healthy.

- Calling a fulltime pastor can happen only if the congregation is willing to make it happen through *revisioned stewardship* of personal resources to provide adequate compensation.
- Calling a part-time pastor might mean sharing a pastor with another congregation or the pastor having to seek employment somewhere to meet family/household needs. It also means the pastor has less flexibility of time and availability.
- In the case of sharing a pastor with another congregation, the congregations must both be aware that there is the additional challenge for the pastor in working with different histories and traditions, different procedures and practices, different personalities in leadership positions. It also means adjusting worship and meeting schedules.
- Calling a pastor at any level means that *every member* must be committed to the ministry and mission of the congregation, using the gifts and talents and the time God has provided to each person to make things happen. The pastor is the shepherd; it is the sheep who produce the wool. [Read 1 Corinthians 12.12-21]

As Transition Pastor, my role has always been to help and guide you through a *revisioning process*. It means, however, everyone being open to giving up the old clouded and discolored lens in favor of a clear(er) lens for the immediate and future time. My cataract surgery has given me new insight into how exciting a revisioning process can be because of the outcome and prognosis for the future—even how I now see myself in the mirror and how others see me.

The newly-elected Council, the ministry-area committees, the Altar Guild, and all serving members, will count on increasing every-member support and commitment to continue Zion's mission in the community and to attract a new pastor to shepherd the flock. Eyes and minds must open to what God wants Zion's to bring into focus.

How bright and hopeful a new vision can be!

Cheering you on,
‡ *Pr. Diane LaFauci*



Council Corner

Church Council met on January 11, 2022. The Treasurer reported that for December we had \$9,765 surplus of Income over Expenses. However, we completed the year with a \$4,611.57 deficit, with Expenses being greater than Income. We also need \$9,328.29 in donations to the Capital Fund to cover the costs for the work completed on the parking lot last year.

The Call Committee will be meeting with Rachel Dietz, Associate to the Bishop on January 17 to review our site survey. Worship and Music Committee reported that our sound system may be completed by the end of the month. WELCA will be providing funding for our confirmands to attend a church camp retreat. Nominating Committee reported that they are seeking 4 people for a 3-year term on Council and 2 people for 2-year terms. Anyone interested in serving on Council can contact the church office, or any member of Council.

As a public building, we are required to test our water periodically. Unfortunately, we were 2 days late in testing – testing was completed as soon as this error was realized. The test results were fine. However, if you happened to come to the church and see a notice about the water, that was the reason.

Next Church Council meeting will be February 8, 2022. If anyone has any concerns or business for Council, please speak with Council President, Tiffany Gruber or any member of Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille D. Gough

Financial Report

We finished the month of December at \$9,765.68 in the black. (monthly income over expenses). Overall, for the year, at the end of December we were \$4,611.57 in the red, a significant improvement from the \$28,784.44 deficit carried into January 2021.

We continue to see Capital Improvement donations for the paving of the driveway and parking lot completed a few years ago. We are hoping to observe the payoff of the \$9,323.29 balance in the coming months.

Monthly – Income for December \$21,857.50
Monthly – Expenses for December \$12,091.82

The General Offering \$17,625.27
Online Giving \$2,034.34
Loose Change \$234.70
Other Income \$1,963.19
Subtotal \$21,857.50

Thank you for your continued support!



TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY, FEB. 27, 2022

If you have palm fronds from previous years that you would like to bring to be blessed in worship and burned to make ashes from use on Ash Wednesday (March 2, 2022), there will be a basket to receive your palms in the Narthex.

***COMING IN LENT...**

Ash Wednesday, March 2nd, 7:00pm
Imposition of Ashes
Holy Communion

Pastor's Study
"The Humanity of Jesus"
5 Wednesdays in Lent

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATES:

Council would like to thank Susan Lutz for her time on council. We would also like to thank John Smith, Mark Dreibelbis, and Faye Heckman for running again for another term on council. Carolyn Hollenbach was also elected to serve on council. Thank you to Eileen Puglia for having served on the nominating committee and to Kim Olsweski for having served on the auditing committee.

The council members for this upcoming year are Janine Dreibelbis, Mark Dreibelbis, Lucille Gough, Heather Gring, Samantha Gruber, Tiffany Gruber, Faye Heckman, Carolyn Hollenbach, Brian Moroney, and John Smith. A president, vice president, and secretary will be elected at the February 8, 2022, meeting. If you are interested in serving on council and would like to serve on a one-year term, please reach out to anyone on council. We currently have two openings on council.

The newly elected audit committee person is Susan Lutz. The newly elected nominating committee person is Brian Moroney. We still have one spot to fill on the nominating committee, if you are interested in serving on this committee, that only meets one time per year, please see a council member.

The call committee reported at the meeting that our ministry site profile has gone live. We are now in a waiting position for a possible candidate. As we have mentioned in previous newsletters, many congregations in our synod are looking for a pastor with not as many candidates as in previous years. Please be patient and continue to look for updated information in our newsletters.

As was mentioned at the meeting, our budget that passed, was created without putting in a salary amount for a called pastor. As stated in the annual report, hiring a full-time pastor would cost us at least \$90,000 or more depending on their experience. This cost includes salary, housing allowance, employee benefits and mileage reimbursement. We, as a congregation, will be faced with the challenge of increasing our revenue by approximately \$4,600 per month in order to meet

the personnel and operating expenses of a full-time pastor.

We are also hoping that in 2022 we can pay off the outstanding amount for paving the driveway and parking lots. The amount we owe is just slightly under \$10,000. If you would like to contribute, please put your donation in an envelope marked capital fund.

Thank you for your continued support of the ministry at Zion's Lutheran Church!

Consider online giving in 2022

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

Just a word of concern for Zion's well-being...

The pandemic is sadly still with us, with new warnings about the latest variant and the urgent and ongoing request to get vaccinated to stop/slow the spread and lessen the severity should infection happen. And, as you can imagine, Zion's does hope for vaccination to make the difference here and in the community. Pastors in our area have already presided over too many funerals for folks who succumbed to this virus...and we have lost personal friends to it. Some pastors and deacons have contracted the virus, as well, and it looms over all congregation leaders as we strive to care for our congregations, not to mention the many retired pastors who are at risk, filling empty pulpits in neighboring congregations on Sunday mornings. As much as we have enjoyed optional masks, it may well be that masks are required again, and the Zion's leadership wants to do everything possible to keep us all healthy.

Please do feel free to wear your mask wherever you go, even if it is not required. Stay safe and well...and let's actively help care for each other.



SIGN UP FOR CHURCH EMAIL

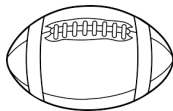
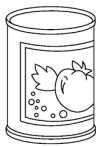
If you are not receiving the weekly bulletin via email and you would like to, we encourage you to go to the churches website and use the Zion's Email Sign Up Form. The email address that you provide will only be used for church communications. Thank you.

LECTORS AND CAMERA

We are currently in need of at least two more people to serve as camera people. This task has been fine-tuned and is easy to manage. If you would like to be a lector or camera person for a Sunday worship service, please contact the church office at 610-562-3112 or send an email to churchoffice@zionslutheran.org. Thank you.

BULLETIN AND ALTAR FLOWER 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, \$40.00.



“SOUPer” BOWL SUNDAY OFFERING NORTHERN BERKS FOOD PANTRY

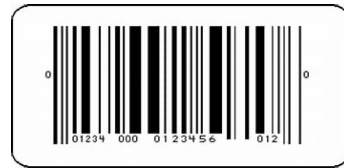
On Sunday, February 13, we will receive a special offering to benefit the Northern Berks Food Pantry. In addition, please bring in cans of soups. You may place them in the shopping cart in the narthex. Since the pandemic, the need for food has drastically increased. Our gifts will help to feed our hungry neighbors.

REDNER'S SAVE-A-TAPE PROGRAM

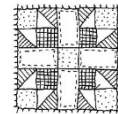
Thank you for continuing to submit your Redner's tapes. A total of \$828.24 was received through the Redner's Save-A-Tape program in 2021. We appreciate your perseverance in getting the tapes to church. Please continue to mail them, drop them off at church, or bring them to Sunday worship service.

Just one reminder: Please do not cut your tapes off above the bar code. We need the total listed under the bar code in order to submit your tape. **If there is no “Today's 1% Save-A-Tape Total” then your tape can't be used, and has to be discarded :(**

Thanks so much for your attention to this. Every year, WELCA is able to use these funds for Zion's ministries and property needs. And every penny counts!



Today's 1% Save-A-Tape Total \$XXX.XX



KNOTTER'S NEWS

We have been very busy cutting patches, sewing tops together and knotting quilts at church!

We are always looking for material, bed sheets & blankets. Pillow cases are stuffed and given to the kennels for dog & cat beds! We are also always looking for new Knotters to help out.

Nothing given goes to waste! There are always patches available in the office. We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month to knot from 9 am to 11 am. **Please join us!**

OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

Opportunity House Volunteers needed for 2022!

We will be preparing a meal **bimonthly** in 2022.

March 18th

May 20th

July 15th

September 16th

November 18th

If you are interested in being a captain or assisting in making the food, please reach out to the church office, or Wanda Hoherchak.

Thank you for you continued support!



FOOD PANTRY

These are some of the items that are needed for the upcoming season:

Cereal
Oatmeal
Canned vegetables
Canned soup

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

The next Northern Berks Food Pantry distribution is currently scheduled for Tues., Feb 22nd from 6 pm to 7 pm. We will be staying at the Hamburg Area High School until further notice. Recipients should use Exit 9. Please call 610-562-8250 for information about distribution location.

GRIEFSHARE SUPPORT GROUP

A new GriefShare Support Group will be starting Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at Zion's Church, 770 Zion's Church Rd, Hamburg, beginning at 6:30 pm.

If you are interested in attending, please call 610-562-2300 or email zionssecretary7@comcast.net to register or for more information and a brochure. There is a \$20.00 charge for the workbook and other materials. The Sessions will continue on Wednesday evenings thru May 25, 2022.

ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY OF PERRY TOWNSHIP INC.

The February board meeting will be held February 10, 2022 at 9:00 am. Meetings are held at Zion's UCC Church in Meeting Room 201.



February Birthdays

- 1st Melissa Gruber
 Alyssa Noecker
 Adrienne Puglia
 Deanna Puglia
 Phil Kerr
- 2nd Kyleigh Mengel
 Harold Kramer
- 8th James Blandford
 Brayden Heckman
- 9th Keith Hertzog
- 10th Wesley Trabosh
- 14th Lauren Werley-Wolf
 Katelyn Heckman
- 16th Carolyn Geist
 Keith Seidel
- 20th Jory Heckman
- 21st Lois DeTurk
 Kenneth Reppert
- 23rd Zachary Hoherchak
- 24th Ernest Heckman
- 25th Carielle Geist
 Tyler Pond
- 26th Joel Werley
 Ruth Wilhelm

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



Shut in Mailing List

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

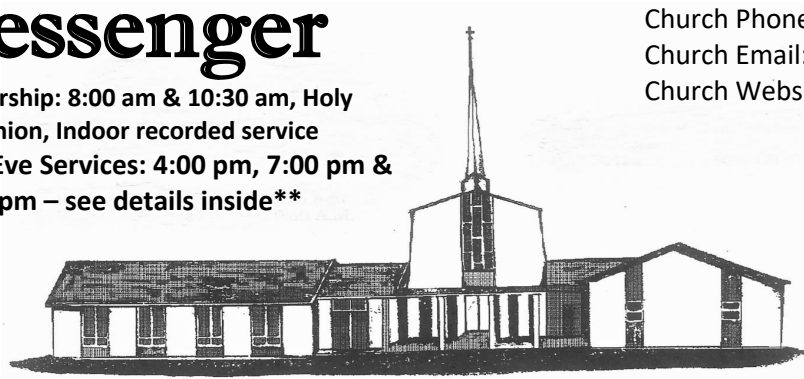
Dorothy Wertz
 Maiden Creek Place
 105 Dries Rd Room 5
 Reading, Pa 19605

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.

Zion's Messenger

Sunday Worship: 8:00 am & 10:30 am, Holy
Communion, Indoor recorded service

****Christmas Eve Services: 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm &
10:00 pm – see details inside****



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 †

February 2022

Pastor: Pastor Diane LaFauci

Pastor's Cell: 484-794-5503

Church Phone: 610-562-3112

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 – FEBRUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>**10:30 am Service will be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook EVERY SUNDAY</p>	<p>**WATCH FOR SERVICE INFO IN BULLETINS, CALENDARS & ONLINE</p>	<p>1 7:00 PM CHRISTIAN ED MTG 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>2 10:30 AM & 7:00 PM ZOOM ADULT STUDY 7:15 PM CHOIR REH</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 SCOUT SUNDAY 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION</p>	<p>7 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>8 9:00-11:30 am Knotters 7:00 PM COUNCIL MTG 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>9 10:30 AM & 7:00 PM ZOOM ADULT STUDY 7:15 PM CHOIR REH.</p>	<p>10 6 PM WORSHIP & MUSIC MTG 7:30 PM PROPERTY MTG 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Annual Meeting, Monthly Board meeting to follow – Zion's UCC Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>11 FH RENTAL 6 PM – 10 AM, 2/12</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION</p>	<p>14 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>15 7:15 PM CHOIR REH 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 7:00 PM ALTAR GUILD MTG</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION</p>	<p>21 PRESIDENT'S DAY MARCH NEWSLTR DEADLINE 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>22 9:00-11:30 am Knotters 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>23 7:15 PM CHOIR REH</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 TRANSFIGURATION 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION</p>	<p>28 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>					

