

# Zion's Messenger - January 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Another calendar year has begun for the planet we inhabit, bringing with it fresh hopes—as well as recurring hopes—for things to come.

With a more “normal” atmosphere and routine returning to Zion's, it is time to think again about the gifts and talents breathed into us in our baptism, especially as we remember the Baptism of Our Lord marking the start of Jesus' ministry and mission among us (this year, January 9). How awesome is it to contemplate that *each one of us* has been endowed with spiritual gifts in our baptism for building up the Body of Christ!

The gifts of the Spirit are listed in four places in scripture, for a total of over 20 different gifts: Romans 12.6-8, 1 Corinthians 12.4-11, 1 Corinthians 12.28, and Ephesians 4.11. Not all gifts are listed in each passage, just the ones the writer is emphasizing for the particular community at that time, so it's important to check all the passages.

How does one know which spiritual gifts one has?

Two reliable indications are (1) identifying what we have passion for doing, and (2) hearing what others tell us about how they experience God working through us in church and community.

This newsletter, as well as late December Sunday bulletins, has an insert of ministry opportunities in and through Zion's that can help get you started identifying, or maybe confirming, your spiritual gifts. What might you like to try? What has given you joy and/or satisfaction in the past? What are people *really* saying to you when they seek you out personally and invite you to join them in some essential area of ministry in the church?

Are spiritual gifts set in stone so that no one else can use them? No! There are times when God sees some particular pressing need and nudges someone to step up to fill that need that the essential ministry may continue. Sometimes our particular situation or health is altered by what life brings, and gifts that may have lain “dormant” come to the fore. It's truly exciting to see how God makes possibilities into reality when we just take a chance and trust the power of the Holy Spirit breathed into us in our baptism!

What happens when we sit back and decide we don't feel like using our spiritual gifts? I once was shopping for a bridal shower, with the list of needs & wants, colors & style in hand. I found the perfect guest towels with crocheted lace in the perfect color for the couples' intended powder room. After the wedding, I happened to visit and was pleased to see the towels in the powder room, so I used one. Well, turns out the bride didn't want them used—they were to be just for show. Made me feel sad and a bit unwelcome, to be honest.

The Holy Spirit does not give gifts for show!...or to go unused! It grieves God to have grace through God's work in Jesus Christ taken lightly. Christ's mission among us was certainly not for show or to have no discernible purpose. His work in the cross is clear evidence that God means business! Jesus worked with seemingly unlikely souls to prepare them for apostolic action, and look what happened! Lest one among us might think that our gifts and talents are not as important or needed as the next person's, let us all think again.

The cross of Christ is marked upon you in your baptism. Jesus' words at the table where we are fed are “for *all* people”...the body and blood of Christ given and shed *for you!*

Christ is counting on us! On whom or what do we count?

Your Sister in Christ,

† *Pastor Diane LaFauci*



## Council Corner

Church Council met on Tues Dec 14<sup>th</sup>. Dan Brennan from the Finance Committee met with us to discuss next year's budget. Our income this year has been adequate to cover our expenses. As of the end of November our offerings have totaled \$160,877, and our expenses have been \$139,557. Zion's members have been faithful with their giving. Finance Committee did emphasize that our giving would not have been adequate to support a full time Pastor, and this will need to be a goal in the future.

Worship and Music reported that the new temporary speaker has been installed in the front of the church, and 2 smaller speakers in the back. The company reports that they will be able to complete the project once supplies are available, which could be into March or April of next year due to the current supply shortages.

Council thanked Pastor for her work in coordinating the Sunday School program at the Dec 12<sup>th</sup> church service. Our Sunday School teachers did a good job working with students from Nursery through High School to put on this meaningful program.

Pastor reported she had requested that Property Committee remove the front pew wall on the pulpit side so the piano could be placed there. This allows for better access in the front of the church during communion. It also provides more room for when the choir is singing up front.

The congregational meeting is set for January 23rd. Due to the ongoing Covid situation, we will have the meeting in the Nave immediately after church and no meal will be provided. There will be an option to participate by Zoom. More information will follow.

The Call Committee and Church Council will be planning to meet in January with Rachel Dietz, executive associate of the Bishop. We will be

discussing our congregational site profile and our call for a Pastor.

Planning was completed for the Christmas Eve services which included Covid protocols, usher duties, communion and candle lighting procedures.

Next meeting is scheduled for Jan 11<sup>th</sup>. If anyone has any concerns or business for Council, you may speak to Council President, Tiffany Gruber or any Council member.

Respectfully submitted,

Janine Dreibelbis

## Financial Report

We finished the month of November at \$3,416.41 in the red (monthly income over expenses). Overall, for the year, at the end of November we were \$14,377.25 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 \$9,956 balance in the coming months.

Monthly – Income for November     \$13,294.24  
Monthly – Expenses for November   \$16,710.65

The General Offering	\$ 9,666.26
Online Giving	\$ 1,899.64
Loose Change	\$ 110.00
Other Income	<u>\$ 1,618.34</u>
Subtotal	\$13,294.24

**Thank you for your continued support!**

### **PLEASE TAKE NOTE:**

**Please keep your eyes open for schedule changes.**

**Changes will be announced in the bulletins,  
online and in newsletters.**



The Annual meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2022, at 11:30 AM, with a snow date of January 30, 2022. With COVID this year, it is going to be a little different than past years.

We will be holding the Annual meeting right after the service in the Nave. All voting members are welcome to stay in their seats after the service. We will not be having a luncheon. We will need to have 50 people in attendance to make any motions.

If you are not comfortable attending in person, and you are a voting member of the congregation, we are going to set up a Zoom meeting for you to join. Please call or send an email to the church office for information regarding the Zoom meeting by Thursday, January 20, 2022. If you do not have an electronic device to log onto, you will be able to call the phone number provided and that will allow you to listen to the conversation and cast a verbal vote.

### Consider online giving in 2022

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.

### *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.

### CELEBRATING TIME & TALENTS

**Please fill out and return our Time & Talents sheet available in upcoming Sunday bulletins and in this January 2022 newsletter.**

Please know that you are not making a commitment at this time, rather, by indicating your areas of interest, groups & committees will have a list of those who they can contact to determine availability to serve.



**Volunteers are needed to help undecorate the church on Thursday, January 6 at 6:30 PM.**

**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.

**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](mailto:churchoffice@zionslutheran.org). Thank you.

**OPPORTUNITY HOUSE**

Opportunity House Volunteers needed for 2022!  
We will be preparing a meal bimonthly in 2022.

January 21st  
March 18<sup>th</sup>  
May 20<sup>th</sup>  
July 15<sup>th</sup>  
September 16<sup>th</sup>  
November 18<sup>th</sup>

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 your continued support!



**KNOTTER'S NEWS**

We are always looking for material, bed sheets & blankets. Pillow cases are stuffed and given to the kennels for dog & cat beds! Nothing given goes to waste! There are always patches available for sewing in the office.

We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month to knot from 9 am to 11 am. **Please join us!**



**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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., Jan 25<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm to 7 pm. We will be staying at the Hamburg Area High School until the new year. Recipients should use Exit 9. Please call 610-562-8250 for information about distribution location.

**ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY OF  
PERRY TOWNSHIP INC.**

The Annual Lot Owners meeting will be held January 6, 2022 at 9:00 am. The January monthly Board meeting will follow. Meetings will be held at Zion's UCC Church in the Fellowship Hall.



## January Birthdays

- 1st Ellen Hartline  
Brenda Hartman
- 2nd Jessica Visnosky
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Kevin Gough
- 4<sup>th</sup> Alyssa Blanford
- 5<sup>th</sup> Prent Steffy  
Mary Barto
- 6<sup>th</sup> Natalie Clark  
Doris Hoffman
- 7<sup>th</sup> Luke Mengel
- 8<sup>th</sup> Christine Miller
- 9<sup>th</sup> Dennis Hoffert  
David Ketner
- 11<sup>th</sup> Brett Grugan  
Joan Seidel  
Robert Seidel
- 12<sup>th</sup> Ruth Hoppes  
Shawn Seidel
- 13<sup>th</sup> Brian Heffner  
David Mengle  
Barbara Seidel  
Barbara Shafer  
Alicia Pursell
- 14<sup>th</sup> Timothy Eyer  
Justin Dusko
- 16<sup>th</sup> Paul Gruber
- 17<sup>th</sup> Raegan Kerr
- 18<sup>th</sup> Beckie Reinhart  
Drew Koller
- 19<sup>th</sup> Dianne Geschwindt
- 20<sup>th</sup> David Geschwindt  
Carl Davis
- 21<sup>st</sup> Mark Dreibelbis
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Lester Wessner
- 25<sup>th</sup> Karyna Blandford  
Shirlene Epting  
Tyler Heffner
- 26<sup>th</sup> Leo Sullivan
- 27<sup>th</sup> Dominic Leone  
Carol Schaeffer
- 28<sup>th</sup> Gary Rothermel
- 29<sup>th</sup> Carol Rothermel
- 30<sup>th</sup> Joyce Sechler

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

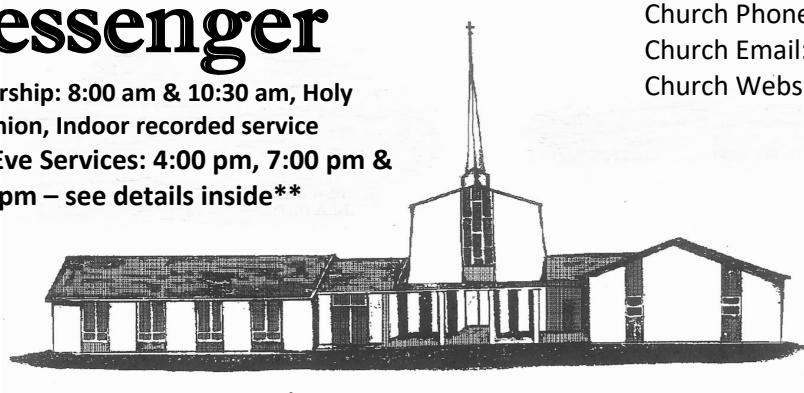
If there is anyone you know who is unable to get out and would like to be added to our list, please contact the church office.

# 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 †

Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
354 Zions Church Road  
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

January 2022

Pastor: Pastor Diane LaFauci

Pastor's Cell: 484-794-5503

Church Phone: 610-562-3112

Church Email: [churchoffice@zionslutheran.org](mailto:churchoffice@zionslutheran.org)

Church Website: [www.zionslutheran.org](http://www.zionslutheran.org)

**Zion's Monthly Calendar – JANUARY 2022**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
**10:30 am Service will be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook EVERY SUNDAY	<b>**WATCH FOR SERVICE INFO IN BULLETINS, CALENDARS &amp; ONLINE</b>					1 <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>  7:00 pm A.A Meeting
2 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION	3  6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	4  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	5 ZOOM BOOK STUDY ** 7:00 PM ONLY  7:15 PM CHOIR REH.	6 DAY OF EPIPHANY 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Annual Meeting, Monthly Board meeting to follow – Zion's UCC Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm Undecorating of Church	7	8  7:00 pm A.A Meeting
9 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION	10  6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	11 9:00-11:30 am Knotters  7:00 pm COUNCIL MTG  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	12 ZOOM BOOK STUDY 10:30 AM & 7:00 PM  7:15 PM CHOIR REH	13  7:30 PM PROPERTY MTG.	14 FH RENTAL 6 PM – 9:30	15  7:00 pm A.A Meeting
16 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION	17 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY  FEBRUARY NWSLTR DEADLINE  6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	18  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting  7:15 PM CHOIR REH	19 ZOOM BOOK STUDY ** 7:00 PM ONLY	20	21	22 7:00 pm A.A Meeting  FH RENTAL 10:30 AM – 4:00 PM
23 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION	24  6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	25 9:00-11:30 am Knotters  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	26 ZOOM BOOK STUDY 10:30 AM & 7:00 PM  7:15 PM CHOIR REH	27	28	29 7:00 pm A.A Meeting
30 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  10:30 AM WORSHIP	31  6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts					

