

# Zion's Messenger - March 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It happens sometimes that a verse or passage of scripture “pops” off the page for me. It plays over and over in my mind, evidence that God wants me to pay attention to it.

It happened for me when I was preparing a sermon message for the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany. Luke's gospel relates what is called “the sermon on the plain” (with teachings similar to Matthew's “sermon on the mount”). It comes from the same passage that gives us what we call the Golden Rule (“Do to others as you would have them do to you.” [Luke 6.31]).

The verse? “...**give and it will be given to you...for the measure you give will be the measure you get back**” [Luke 6.38a, c]. It brings to mind many life questions:

- What do I want from my spouse? I have to first listen to my spouse's needs, hopes, and fears in order to provide the loving support I need in return.
- What do I want from my children? I have to first show them genuine love and respect, and I must show them that I am truly working to meet their needs.
- What do I want from relationship with a friend? It means I have to *be* a friend first.
- What do I want from an employer? I have to show the employer my commitment and determination to do a good job.
- What do I want from an employee? I have to show the employee respect and make sure the employee has the “tools” needed to meet job expectations.
- How do I want to be treated where I shop? I have to first show respect for those who serve me and for the expectations of the business.

So, what is the message for Zion's? The health and vibrancy of any congregation is in the commitment of its members. It's about what you want to be available for you and what you will do to make it happen:

- It's about regular *participation* in worship.
- It's about daily prayer and devotional life (always an emphasis in the Season of Lent).
- It's about using gifts and talents to make ministry happen—serving in one or more of the five ministry areas: Worship, Learning, Service, Witness, Support.
- It's about financial support: giving “until it feels good” and making offering a priority, whether you are in worship every week or not.

At the annual meeting once again we talked about the prospect of calling a new pastor, with so many congregations seeking a new pastor and so few candidates on the horizon.

**The question is “how important is it to the congregation to be able to call a pastor, and what will that position look like?”** With committees working for effective ministry, with people stepping up to answer the call to leadership positions, with members coming forth to answer the call for more help in certain areas, Zion's has what it takes to attract a pastor!! The remaining hurdle is increasing offering to meet expenses and provide adequate compensation.

At the end of the week on average, how much is still in our personal kitty to make expenses? Could that amount be the blessing from God that could be given back to God for the ministry and mission of the congregation? Your Finance Committee has projected what is needed to be able to call a full-time pastor—see the proposal in the budget for the coming year. If every giving unit would make the commitment to increase weekly offering by even up to five dollars, the Call Committee could begin to interview a promising candidate—even a shared pastor—with confidence.

That verse comes back to mind: *for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.*

Counting on Christ,

† *Pastor Diane LaFauci*

|



## Council Corner

At the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, we held an election for officers for the upcoming year. Tiffany Gruber will continue as President, Mark Dreibelbis as Vice-President and John Smith as Secretary. It was also mentioned at the meeting that we forgot to include Irwin Levan's name on the committee list for the Endowment Committee. We apologize for this oversight and thank Irwin for serving on this committee. We would also like to thank Nancy Drescher for agreeing to join the Altar Guild Committee. They are still looking for another person or two who might be interested in helping with their committee.

The council also had a rather lengthy discussion regarding our Capital fund and some upcoming projects. In the budget that was passed at the annual meeting we have budgeted for \$10,000 for some upcoming property projects dealing with the pneumatic controls for our aging heating system. We also still have approximately \$9,200 that needs to be paid yet on the driveway project that was completed. If anyone is interested in making any donations towards the capital fund, please use an envelope found in the pews and make sure that it is marked for Capital fund.

At the annual meeting, it was discussed that our budget we passed did not take into account a salary for a pastor as we were not sure if we would be able to call a full-time pastor without an increase in giving's to the church or if we would need to look at a part-time pastor or even a shared ministry. The likelihood of someone looking for a part-time ministry is not great. The council has created a steering committee to pursue these various avenues and to determine what we at Zion's can feasibly afford with our current giving's. Please keep this committee in your prayers and prayerfully consider how you might be able to help Zion's during this time of transition.

We welcomed Elaine Stone into our congregation on February 27<sup>th</sup> and welcome back Ron Seaman. We will also be hosting the local ministerium Lenten Soup/Bread Luncheon on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex for volunteers to donate soup, bread, or beverages. We are also looking for a volunteer who would be willing to provide devotions for this luncheon. Pastor Diane will gladly work with this person on the devotions. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up on the sheet posted in the narthex.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Tiffany Gruber  
Church Council President

## Financial Report

We finished the month of January at \$636.30 in the red. (monthly income over expenses).

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 \$9,203.29 balance in the coming months.

Monthly – Income for January            \$14,102.79

Monthly – Expenses for December    \$14,739.49

The General Offering	\$11,009.00
Online Giving	\$1,925.49
Loose Change	\$43.30
Other Income	<u>\$1,125.00</u>
Subtotal	\$14,102.79

**Thank you for your continued support!**

## **\*COMING IN LENT...**

Ash Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00pm  
Imposition of Ashes  
Holy Communion

Pastor's Study  
"The Humanity of Jesus"  
A Bible Study  
5 Wednesdays in Lent  
ZOOM 10:30 am & 7:00 pm  
Beginning March 9

## **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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **ALTAR GUILD**

**Altar Guild would like to welcome Nancy Drescher to the committee.**

We are looking for a few more volunteers. If you have any questions, or may be interested in knowing more about Altar Guild, please contact Paul Weidner, Wanda Hoherchak, or the church office. This committee meets quarterly to review upcoming service.

**\*\*COMING SOON\*\***

Vacation Bible School is coming to Zion's!  
Monumental: Celebrating God's Greatness  
June 20-24, 2022 from 9:00-11:30am  
**More information to follow!**

**KNOTTER'S NEWS**

Nothing given goes to waste!

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.

There are always patches available 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!**

**REDNER'S SAVE-A-TAPE PROGRAM**

Thank you for continuing to submit your Redner's tapes. 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

**FAITH NIGHT AT THE MOVIES**  
**HAMBURG STRAND THEATER**

March 8, 2022 – King of Kings  
April 12, 2022 – I Can Only Imagine

Tickets are \$8.00 at the door and include a complimentary popcorn & soda.

**OPPORTUNITY HOUSE**

**Opportunity House Volunteers for March 18, 2022:**

Tina Blake- Captain  
Nancy Dresher  
Brenda Hartman

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

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!**



## **FOOD PANTRY**

**Thank you for your SOUPer Bowl donations!**  
**We, at the Northern Berks Food Pantry, greatly appreciate your generous donations. Your support helps to further our mission of feeding the hungry in our community. Your support is invaluable to us, thank you again!**

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

**Canned Pasta  
Tuna  
Peanut Butter  
Cereal**

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., March 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](mailto: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 INC.**

**Zion's Cemetery Company, Inc. of Perry Township has set the week of March 13-19, 2022 for Spring Cleaning.**

All decorations not planted in the ground will be removed unless claimed by lot owners before this week. The Cemetery Board is not responsible for decorations remaining on graves when spring cleaning begins. New and existing decorations may be placed effective March 20, 2022.

Single or multiple graves are available for sale. Please contact the Cemetery Manager at 610-562-7421.

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



## March Birthdays

- 1st Anthony Grugan  
Erica Mish  
Rob Wagner
- 2nd Cheryl Hertzog  
Valerie Hancik  
Lana Leone
- 5<sup>th</sup> Janine Dreibelbis
- 6<sup>th</sup> Glenn Epting  
Timothy Pursell
- 9th Robert Macheimer  
Terry Reinhart
- 10th Robert Noecker  
Sasha Denatala
- 12th Caleb Smith
- 13th Corrine Dietrich
- 14th Brett Daub  
Susan Heckman
- 16th Tracy Heffner
- 20th Linda Sousley
- 21st Elsie Frymoyer  
Russell Reinhart
- 22nd Courtney Brennan  
Paul Reidenhour, Jr.
- 24th Carissa Miller
- 25th Deborah Heckman
- 26<sup>th</sup> Berry Angstadt  
Mary Clark
- 27<sup>th</sup> Tricia Boyer
- 28<sup>th</sup> Ruth Hill  
Crystal Reinhart
- 29<sup>th</sup> Linda Reinhart
- 30<sup>th</sup> Victoria Long  
Sharon Strauss
- 31<sup>st</sup> Kylee Koller

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\*\***

## March 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 Evangelical Lutheran Church

### **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 – MARCH 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 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	2 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM HOLY COMMUNION	3 11:30 AM LENTEN LUNCHEON	4	5
6 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION	7 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	8 9:00-11:30 am Knotters  7:00 PM COUNCIL MTG  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	9 10:30 AM & 7:00 PM ZOOM BIBLE STUDY  7:15 PM CHOIR REH.	10 11:30 AM LENTEN LUNCHEON  9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Monthly Board – Zion's UCC Fellowship Hall	11	12  FH RENTAL
13 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION  DAYLIGHT SVGS BEG.	14 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	15 7:15 PM CHOIR REH  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	16 10:30 AM & 7:00 PM ZOOM BIBLE STUDY  2:00 PM RETREAT PLANNING GROUP	17 11:30 AM – LENTEN LUNCHEON  7:00 PM PROPERTY MTG	18	19
20 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION  SPRING BEGINS	21 APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	22 9:00-11:30 am Knotters  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	23 10:30 AM & 7:00 PM ZOOM BIBLE STUDY  7:15 PM CHOIR REH	24 11:30 AM – LENTEN LUNCHEON	25	26
27 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION	28 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	29 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	30 10:30 AM & 7:00 PM ZOOM BIBLE STUDY  7:15 PM CHOIR REH.	31 11:30 AM – LENTEN LUNCHEON		