

## Zion's Messenger - June 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

What joy to confirm two young members of Zion's! Dylan Gough and Dominick Leone were approved at the May Council meeting for the Rite of Confirmation on June 5, the Day of Pentecost this year. They have prepared their "stoles", a tradition at Zion's, bearing symbols of what they have studied and what might be especially important to them. Mark Dreibelbis, who has been the primary leader in their two years in the special program, often has commented that the discussions the class (two 2<sup>nd</sup> year and two 1<sup>st</sup> year students) has been inspiring. Now it is up to all members of Zion's to support our young members in their continuing faith journey and in their life in the church.

Many of us began our congregation life in Sunday School and have been guided throughout the years by adults who have made a commitment to share their faith—and to continue their own learning journey. And many who are adults now in this congregation will remember learning under the guidance of **Vernie and Bob Noecker and Ruth Bensinger** over four decades at Zion's! With times bringing changes in the life of Zion's Sunday School, these three faith-filled members of the teaching team have decided to "retire" from teaching, promising to continue to support Zion's ministry and mission in other ways. We are thankful for their dedication, for their concern for the foundation of faith life of children and their obvious love of the children of Zion's, as well as for their understanding of the importance of ongoing Christian education.

As we contemplate the impact of Christian education, we are reminded that, with the reality of life happening every day, the need for daily prayer and study to strengthen faith and our relationship with God do not "take a summer break" or end with the culmination of a certain program. Vacation Bible School gives us a structured program to keep us in a healthy discipline, beginning with our youngest members and friends in the community.

In 2020 and 2021 I offered on-line reflections on the daily VBS themes for adults in the congregation. As it was recorded and posted on our FaceBook page, daily reflections could be watched at any time...which worked for those with internet access. **This June, I plan to be on site during the week of VBS (June 20-24) for an hour of discussion for adults who are able to come. We'll start at 10am each day—meeting space to be decided** (depends on the particular space needs of the children's VBS program). For those bringing or picking up children from the VBS program, be assured that we'll wrap up each day according to the VBS schedule. You may come either just to listen or to participate in discussion. Please do mark your calendar and come on the days you are able!! **I'll have specific study/discussion guide info in June bulletins, beginning Sunday, June 12. Summer worship hour 9am begins that Sunday!** An adult study is in the planning for the fall...likely again on ZOOM, but if there is interest for onsite sessions, we may explore that possibility.

May this summer bring a time of relaxation and renewal; however, your weekly schedule goes, and may God's presence and guidance continue to shape and strengthen your faith.

Your Sister in Christ,

† *Pastor Diane LaFauci*

### ***Something we shouldn't have to think about...but something we must!***

Reflecting on the horrific mass shootings in schools, places where we go to shop, and even in congregations, the mantra "If you see (or hear) something, say something!" applies for us. Entrances to the building are locked after worship or events begin, except for the main entrance, which is easily visible—especially by the Presider in worship. Should there be a threatening occurrence, immediate defense can be to create a distraction against someone intending harm. *Hymnals are heavy*, and a barrage of heavy things projected at an intruder can give critical time for those who are able to subdue someone intending harm and give time to summon law enforcement. Pray we never have to face this kind of situation...and pray for those who have!

## Stewardship Committee

As we move forward on the journey to call a new pastor, we feel it is important to form a stewardship committee. The purpose of this committee will be to plan the stewardship campaign for the upcoming year. We need to see how we can use the time and talents of our parishioners as well as our offerings to put together our annual budgets, plan for capital expenditures and look at the feasibility of calling a full-time pastor or a shared pastor. If you would be interested in serving on this committee, please contact Tiffany Gruber at [tgruber@comcast.net](mailto:tgruber@comcast.net) or text/call 610-823-2880.

### **Journey in Faith** ***Via de Cristo***

*A special opportunity for better understanding of the Christian faith  
in a weekend 3-day experience in our area in the month of October*

*Via de Cristo* is Spanish for the “Way of Christ”. It is the Lutheran expression of a renewal movement developed within the Church in the 1940s in Spain, and originally known as *Cursillo*, a Spanish word meaning “short course” in Christianity.

Originating in the Spanish Catholic Church, it is intended to be a step-by-step structured weekend with several talks given by lay persons active in their congregations and a few talks given by clergy in a progression that puts the faith and the work of the church into clearer perspective than one might otherwise have, even in weekly worship and regular Bible study. It has proven to be of great benefit to individuals who attend a weekend, and in congregations where they are members.

This renewal movement exists in many denominations besides the Lutheran Church. In the Roman Catholic Church and the Episcopal Church, it is known as *Cursillo*. In the Methodist Church it is called “Walk to Emmaus”. The movement also exists in several other denominations, including a cross-denomination experience called *Tres Dias* (Three Days).

In Berks County, members at Faith Lutheran, Mount Penn, Reformation Lutheran, (Reiffton) Reading, and Christ Lutheran, Oley, have found this to be noticeably beneficial for the congregation, not to mention in their personal faith lives.

There are *VdC* communities in many states across the country, as well as in countries around the world. The Journey in Faith community serves Eastern PA. drawing primarily from York, Camp Hill, and Reading areas, and from Delaware.

The fall 2022 Journey in Faith weekend begins Thursday evening October 13, and comes to a close Sunday afternoon October 16. It is held at Camp Innabah, a Methodist camp a few miles south of Coventry Mall, Pottstown, just off Route 100. There is information on the national website: *Via de Cristo* National Lutheran Secretariat, as well as on the Journey in Faith *VdC* website and FaceBook page...or simply ask Pastor Diane for more information.



## Council Corner

The Congregational Church Council met on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. We continued to discuss the church finances and attendance. The church's steering committee reported that they are continuing to discuss our future needs and direction.

Our Newsletter continues to be published and delivered on a monthly basis. In the near future, we will be conducting a survey asking how individuals prefer to have the newsletter delivered. The delivery options are; email, view it on the church's website, pick-up a printed copy or mail delivery. If possible, we would like to keep the number of newsletters delivered by the mail to a minimum because of the delivery cost. Please take the time to answer the survey. Thank you.

Council would like to thank Bob Noecker, Vernie Noecker and Ruth Bensinger for their long years of service as Sunday School teachers. They all plan to retire at the end of this Sunday School year in June, so if you see them, please thank them for their dedication and long years of service.

Please continue to keep the church in your prayers as we navigate through our transitional period.

Respectfully submitted by John Smith.



### 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.

## Financial Report

We finished the month of April at \$6,194.88 in the black (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 \$7,630.39 balance in the coming months.

Monthly – Income for April	\$19,071.72
Monthly – Expenses for April	\$12,876.84
The General Offering	\$14,360.00
Online Giving	\$3,108.12
Loose Change	\$152.00
Other Income	<u>\$1,451.60</u>
Subtotal	\$19,071.72

**Thank you for your continued support!**

### Consider online giving in 2022

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

### LOST AND FOUND

#### **\*LAST CALL\***

There are 4 light-weight jackets hanging in the narthex. They have been there since before the pandemic. If you are missing a jacket, please check. If they are still there by summer, we will donate them to the Salvation Army. Thank you.

**What's next  
for Zion's well-being...**

The pandemic seems to be winding down into “endemic”—part of our daily lives in the coming years, just as the flu comes to us in varying form each year. New variants appear to be cropping up, just as flu virus mutates each year, calling for adjustments in the annual flu vaccine. We are certainly grateful for the vaccine and the response of members who have been vaccinated for personal well-being and for the concern for others. That has made it possible to relieve cautionary restrictions and move ahead to a more “normal” way of gathering and making things happen at and through Zion's. We are hopeful that we can continue to be more and more open and free, with the understanding, of course, that if there is a concerning spike in cases, preventive measures might resume for a brief time, just to keep us all safe. Masks are still accepted protocol for those who wish to use them. We want everyone to feel safe and welcome participating in person in the life of the congregation. Thank you to all who have made it possible for us to gather in worship and other activities with confidence! Let us all strive to keep Christ's ministry and mission moving ahead!

**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.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT  
SUMMER HOURS**

The last day of Sunday School for the year 2021-2022 will be Sunday, June 5, 2022.

Our summer hours will be in effect from Sunday, June 12 through Labor Day weekend. During this time, Holy Communion will begin at 9:00 am.

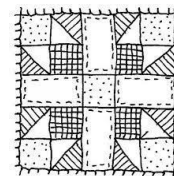
**SPECIAL OFFERING**

We are receiving special offering at Synod Assembly for World Hunger.  
Please make checks payable to:

Northeastern PA Synod  
MEMO SPACE: World Hunger

Cash offerings may simply be put in the basket.

There is a basket for your offering in the Narthex.



**KNOTTER'S NEWS**

**BLESSING OF THE QUILTS**

The Blessing of the Quilts will be held during the 9:00 am Worship on Sunday, June 12, 2022.

Any quilt may be purchased by donation.

**Please join us!**



### ***New Member Spotlight***

***Elaine Stone***

The Welcome and Outreach Committee will start highlighting our new members in the monthly newsletter, beginning this month with Elaine Stone. Elaine was received into Zion's membership on Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. She was drawn to Zion's because of her longtime friendship with Tiffany Gruber. Elaine worked with Tiffany at the State Farm office in Shoemakersville, where she worked for 30 years before retiring. Elaine had the joy of babysitting Samantha Gruber for several years on her one day off of work each week.

Elaine's last church membership was with St. Paul's Methodist Church in Lancaster. Elaine grew up in the Lancaster area, before moving to Ohio with her late husband, William. They moved to Leesport in 1987, where she continues to reside. Elaine has one son, Mike, married to Jennifer.

Elaine loves gardening, and can be found happily working in her flower beds. The beach and the mountains are other special places.

We appreciate the service Elaine has already given to Zion's, as she has joined Altar Guild and WELCA.

Let us welcome Elaine into our community of faith in Jesus Christ.

*Welcome and Outreach Committee*



### **Zion's Lutheran Family Bike Ride**

We ride again! On **Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**, plan to join Zion's for a fun ride at Gring's Mill. All are welcome.

We will be meeting at the Red Bridge Recreation Area parking lot (2141 Tulpehocken Rd.) and plan to start riding at 10:00 am.

<https://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Parks/Pages/RedBridgeRecreationArea.aspx>

Bring your bike, lawn chair and a snack to share for some fellowship time after the ride.



### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**JUNE 20-24**

**9:00 – 11:30am**

**PASTOR'S VBS FOR ADULTS – 10:00 am**

If you are interested in helping with Vacation Bible School, please call the Church Office or talk to Faye Heckman. We need people to help make decorations and decorate the Fellowship Hall, lead the various stations, be group leaders taking the children from station to station, and donating supplies to make our week a success. We also need children from age 3 to those who completed grade 5 to join us in our **Monumental journey!** Register online today at [vbspro.events/p/099d21](https://vbspro.events/p/099d21).



## LIBRARY NEWS

### *Come see what's new in our Library!*

Since March, we have received new children's DVD's, music CD's and Berenstain Bear's books.

In the reference section: A concordance, Bible dictionary and others.

We've also added to the Inspirational, Humor, World Religions and Evangelists sections (which includes Joyce Myers, Norman Vincent Peal and prophecy books by Dr. David Jeremiah.)

The first week of June, we will be offering free library materials on our library table in the narthex. Then, for the remainder of June, we will remember

Mother's & Father's Day by featuring books on Family, Parenting and relationships.

For convenience, we have added a stepladder with 4 steps to reach those high shelves.

**Please stop in, have a look and sign out a book!!**

## Garden News



*"Why try to explain miracles to your kids when you can just have them plant a garden." — Robert Brault*

Our 8<sup>th</sup> Garden season is well underway. We have planted lots of cabbage, as well as beans, tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers. Please listen for Sunday announcements or check Zion's Facebook page for news of our work days/nights. Current volunteers will be emailed work day information.

If you want to be put on the Garden volunteer contact list, please email us at [communitygarden@zionslutheran.org](mailto:communitygarden@zionslutheran.org) or contact Lori at 610-401-1186. We continue to need many volunteers to support our continued ministry.



## FOOD PANTRY

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

**Canned Pasta**

**Chicken Salad Kits**

**Snacks: Cookies, Pretzels & Crackers**

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

**Thank you for continuing to help 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., June 28 from 6 pm to 7 pm.**

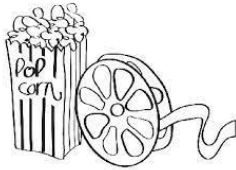
**PLEASE NOTE: The Northern Berks Food Pantry has moved back to the Hamburg Middle School Cafeteria. Please call 610-562-8250 for information about distribution location.**



## **UPDATE: DATE CHANGE BLOOD DRIVE @ ZION'S**

The Shoemakersville Lion's Club is sponsoring a community Blood Drive on **Friday July 1, 2022** here at Zion's from **12:00 pm to 7:00 pm.**

**Appointments are required.** To schedule an appointment, please call **Brian Moroney at 610-562-7536** or visit **GIVEaPint.org** and use **Sponsor Code 3186.** Your blood donations save lives.



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

June 14, 2022 – Same Kind of Different As Me  
July 12, 2022 – Overcomer  
August 9, 2022 – I Am Not Ashamed

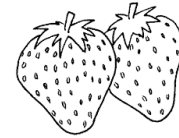
Tickets are \$8.00 at the door and include a complimentary popcorn & soda.

## **ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY INC.**

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

The June board meeting will be held Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 9:00 am.

**Meetings are held at Zion's Church (formerly Zion's UCC Church) in Meeting Room 201.**



## **SUMMER BERRY PIE**

- 1 ½ c. sugar
- 6 T. cornstarch
- 3 c. cold water
- 1 – 6 oz. raspberry or strawberry gelatin
- 2 c. fresh blueberries
- 2 c. fresh sliced strawberries
- 2 graham cracker crusts
- Whipped topping

In a saucepan, combine sugar, cornstarch and water until smooth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from the heat. Stir in gelatin until dissolved. Refrigerate for 15–20 minutes or until mixture begins to thicken. Stir in berries. Pour into crust and chill until set. Garnish with whipped topping and enjoy!

From the WELCA cook book, contributed by Tiffany Gruber



## June Birthdays

2nd Wanda Hoherchak  
3rd Steven Schumaker  
Avery Gruber  
6th Pamela Seidel  
Carl Hollenbach  
7th Robin Epting  
8th Jaxon Seidel  
11th Crystal Koehn  
Jane Seidel  
12th Matthew Hoffert  
Jennifer Mazaika  
Devin Pond  
17th Richard Davis  
19th Jean Smith  
Nancy Wheeland  
21st Tracie Heckman  
Dennis Reinhart  
Carolyn Hollenbach  
John Williamson  
24th Hannah Hix  
25th Karen Heckman  
27th McKenzie Clark  
Brandon Noecker  
28th Dennis Heckman  
Carmen Long  
Ryan 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: 10:30 am, Holy Communion,  
Indoor recorded service

June 2022

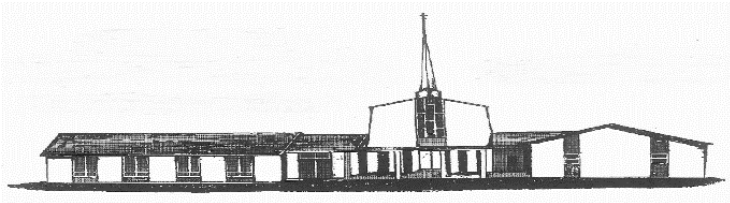
**Pastor:** Pastor Diane LaFauci

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 – June 2022**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>**WATCH FOR SERVICE INFO IN BULLETINS, CALENDARS &amp; ONLINE</b>	<b>** Service will be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook EVERY SUNDAY</b>	7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	1 7:00 PM ALTAR GUILD 7:15 PM CHOIR REH.	2 6:00 PM WORSHIP & MUSIC	3	4
5 <b>DAY OF PENTACOST</b> <b>**9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>  <b>10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION CONFIRMATION</b>  <b>**LAST SUNDAY SCHOOL SESSION UNTIL SEPT. 2022</b>	6 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	7 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	8 7:15 PM CHOIR REH.	9 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Monthly Board – Zion's Church Fellowship Hall  7:00 pm WELCA Meeting	10 <b>SYNOD ASSEMBLY ONLINE</b>	11 <b>SYNOD ASSEMBLY ONLINE</b>
12 <b>HOLY TRINITY</b>  <b>**SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS BEGIN**</b>  <b>9:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION</b>	13 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	14 9:00-11:30 am KNOTTERS 7:00 pm COUNCIL MTG. 7:15 PM CHOIR REH.  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	15	16 7:00 PM PROPERTY MTG	17	18 FH RESERVED
19 <b>9:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION</b>  <b>FH RESERVED</b>	20 <b>*** VBS WEEK ***</b> <b>9:00 AM – 11:30 AM</b> <b>10:00 AM PASTOR'S VBS</b> <b>JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>  6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	21 <b>*** VBS WEEK ***</b> <b>9:00 AM – 11:30 AM</b> <b>10:00 AM PASTOR'S VBS</b>  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	22 <b>*** VBS WEEK ***</b> <b>9:00 AM – 11:30 AM</b> <b>10:00 AM PASTOR'S VBS</b>  7:15 PM CHOIR REH.	23 <b>*** VBS WEEK ***</b> <b>9:00 AM – 11:30 AM</b> <b>10:00 AM PASTOR'S VBS</b>	24 <b>*** VBS WEEK ***</b> <b>9:00 AM – 11:30 AM</b> <b>10:00 AM PASTOR'S VBS</b>	25
26 <b>9:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION</b>	27 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	28 9:00-11:30 am KNOTTERS  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	29 7:15 PM CHOIR REH.	30		

