

Zion's Messenger - July 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

How good is it that our annual celebration of Independence falls in the heart of summer, when we can enjoy favorable weather and outdoor activities, picnics, parades, and glorious displays of fireworks! Of course, with the record heat the nation is experiencing, we might relish a bit of winter in July (or not).

We have much for which to be thankful when it comes to the democracy established by those who thoughtfully and ingeniously wrote the Declaration of Independence, and, of course, the Constitution that guarantees the freedoms we enjoy. In that same breath, we also acknowledge that we get a bit complacent and come to take for granted our democracy, forgetting that we all have responsibility to make sure it is preserved and the Constitution *rightly* interpreted and defended.

It is with those thoughts that I reflect on what that means for us in this time when we are painfully aware of the threats to democracy within our own country. What is especially concerning are threats coming from some groups that *claim* to be Christian—the word “Christian” is part of their title, but a close look at what they actually stand for suggests they are not truly Christian, and they espouse beliefs and practice that threaten the very democracy we cherish! They are not, in fact, “patriots”, nor do they seem to have any real understanding of the Constitution they claim to defend...let alone the Bible they sometimes hold up, claiming to speak with authority.

With so many factions in this country and with declining attendance and/or membership in theologically sound denominational congregations, and with fewer and fewer people engaged in guided Bible study, is it any wonder that people can easily be sucked into following a group that falsely, even intentionally deceptively, calls itself Christian?!

In VBS this summer children and adults looked at the story of Joseph and his family. In the adult group, we specifically looked at how God intervened in Joseph's life to protect and preserve him in the face of jealous brothers and a potentially ongoing dysfunctional situation. Time and time again, God stepped in to bring something good and useful out of what could have been devastating, and Joseph, who was attuned to God's working through him, made sure he gave God credit for empowering him to eventually bring about reconciliation in a fractured situation.

We who claim membership in Christ's church are entrusted with God's mission to bring about reconciliation in a fractured and dysfunctional world, and, like Joseph, we must remain attuned to God's wisdom and God's will if we are going to have the impact so desperately needed. We need to help each other rightly interpret God's word, not only for our continuing growth in faith and health of our congregation, but for the democracy we cherish in this country which is increasingly at risk.

May we offer this prayer as we celebrate Independence Day and as we contemplate every day the life God has sustained us with in this country:

Lord of all the nations, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all our people the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all people, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

[ELW p. 63 prayer for National Holiday].

Counting on Christ,

† *Pastor Diane LaFauci*

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 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

Church council met on Tuesday, June 14, 2022. We continue to look at our finances each month and realize that if we currently had a full-time pastor to whom we were paying benefits, we would be falling short of what we would need to cover those expenses. We are continuing to assess our financial situation to figure out what is the best avenue for Zion's Lutheran Church. We need your help and in the upcoming months, we will be presenting a stewardship campaign. We currently still owe \$7,340.39 for our driveway project. It would be great if we could get this paid off before the end of the year!

Just a friendly reminder that during the summer months, worship will take place at 9:00 AM. On September 11, 2022, we will go back to our 10:30 AM service time. We are planning a special celebration for that Sunday as we will be outdoors for our worship service and will be having our annual picnic on this day too. This is also the Synod's "God's Work. Our Hands Sunday." We are looking to invite our local first responders to this service as a way to say thank you for all that they do for our community.

The WELCA group will be gathering items for the Laurel Center for Christmas in July. Please refer to the bulletin or this newsletter for a list of items that they are collecting for both the residents and staff at the Laurel Center. WELCA will be having a Favorite Bazaar Foods Sale on Saturday, October 8, 2022. This is a drive thru event. Orders and payment must be turned in by Sunday, September 25, 2022. They will also be looking for people to help prepare the food, help the day of the event, and volunteers to make baked goods to sell.

cont...

Council has voted to dedicate our church library in memory of Arlene Adam. For those who are unaware, Arlene Adam had set up a trust to fund the purchase of items for our library. Many people use our library on a weekly basis. If you haven't stopped by the library lately, please do.

Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha Gruber

Financial Report

We finished the month of May at \$59.75 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 \$7,340.39 balance in the coming months. It would be great if we could pay this off before the end of the year!

Monthly – Income for May	\$18,110.13
Monthly – Expenses for May	\$18,169.88

The General Offering	\$14,891.00
Online Giving	\$1,736.65
Loose Change	\$126.00
Other Income	<u>\$1,356.48</u>
Subtotal	\$18,110.13

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.

**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!

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!

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.



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.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT
SUMMER HOURS**

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

Our church choir is also on break at this time. Choir rehearsal will return in the fall.



Congratulations and Blessings to Steve &
 Meghan Turner
 on the birth of James Edward
 June 13, 2022



Graduates of 2022

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate our graduates on their accomplishments and wish them all the best in their futures.

High School Graduates

Spring Grove High School in York, PA
 Jaysen Alexander (Alex) Meaney – Great-grandson of Lucille Gough, graduated on May 27, 2022. He has plans to attend York College in the fall, majoring in Psychology.

College Graduates

Trevor Fegley – graduated Wilkes University with his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Physics. He will be working for Monarch Precast Concrete in Allentown.

Michael Barto – Grandson of Mary Barto and the late Lee Barto, graduated on May 14, 2022 from West Chester University with a degree in Science and Mathematics, Cum Laude. He will be working in the Computer Science field.



Member Spotlight **Ronald Seaman**

Zion's welcomes back member Ronald Seaman. Ron was married at Zion's to his late wife, Sharon (Heckman) Seaman, in September 1980. Ron, then a member of New Bethel in Kempton, transferred to Zion's five years later when his son Jonathan was baptized. Shortly thereafter, Sharon got a job as the organist at New Bethel, and they attended New Bethel for the next 35 years while maintaining their membership at Zion's.

Ron lives in Kempton with his two dogs, in a home previously owned by his great grandparents. He has one son, Jonathan, and two grandchildren.

Ron currently works for the County of Berks as Chief Administrative Officer. He has had an interesting and varied career, starting the County with the Board of Assessment Appeals and later as its first Personnel Director. Ron has also been a Township Supervisor, a constable, and maintains a CDL license.

In his spare time, Ron sings with the Blue Mountain Heritage Chorus, reads, and is an eclectic collector, including creches and Buddhas. A recent hobby is learning how to play the bagpipes. It's a work in progress!

We appreciate the service Ron has already given to Zion's, as he has joined Zion's Choir.

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

Welcome and Outreach Committee



SPECIAL OFFERING FOR JULY

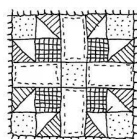
We are looking for donations for Laurel Center starting July 3 -31.

Suggestions are:

Personal Toiletries
Small puzzles and Puzzle books
Crayons, Colored Pencils & Markers

For the staff, suggestions:
Candy Bars

There will be a donation box in the Narthex. It has been very difficult over the last 2 years for Residents and Staff. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance,
WELCA



KNOTTER'S NEWS

We blessed 115 knotted quilts on June 12, 2022! These quilts will be given to needy people all over the world. We would like to thank those who purchased quilts and have given a donation.

We have a great group helping to assemble these many quilts together and thank them for all the time spent at home and at church to complete them.

Thanks also to the volunteers that transport the quilts to their destinations at Lutheran World Relief in Maryland and to various locations right here in Berks County.

If anyone has clean sheet sets, material, or blankets for donation, we can always use them. Just put them in the Gold Room at the church. We can also use clean pillow cases to make dog & cat beds for the kennel.

Thank you for your ongoing support!!



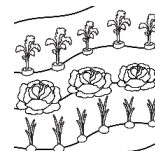
Zion's Lutheran Family Bike Ride

We ride again!

Our next bike outing is scheduled for Saturday, July 9th, at the Swatara Rail Trail (Swatara Creek State Park) near Pine Grove. You can either meet us at the church at 9 am, and drive up together in a caravan, or meet at Swatara at 10am. We will be parking at Sanding Siding Trailhead (Sanding Siding Road, Jonestown PA 17038), Google map directions at

<https://goo.gl/maps/icQbsRBU7ye3CaxR7>

As always, bring your bike, water, and a snack to share at the end of the ride. **Join us for a ride!**



Garden News

Life begins the day you start a garden ~ Chinese proverb

We have just harvested our first cabbage, and are keeping a watchful eye while our beans, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and fall squash grow. We continue to stagger plantings, stake tomatoes, fertilize, etc. There continues to be work for our faithful volunteers, and maybe even for you!

Please listen for Sunday announcements or check Zion's Facebook page for news of our work days/nights. Current volunteers will be emailed 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. We continue to need many volunteers to support our continued ministry.



LIBRARY NEWS

Church Libraries are Family Affairs!

Why not take a break this summer and enjoy a DVD with the family. Serve popcorn and sit back and relax.

We have titles such as:

Angels in Our Midst

Do You Need a Miracle?

The Five People You Meet in Heaven

Fireproof

God's Not Dead

Heaven is for Real

Left Behind II

Miracles of Jesus

Zion's 250th /40th Anniversary Variety Show

Also, we have 3 new additions to the fiction section by Suzanne Woods:

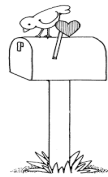
Mending Fences

Stiches in Time

Two Steps Forward

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

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



CARD SHOWER FOR ALLEN RAUSCH

Long-time member Allen Rausch has recently moved to Spruce Manor in West Reading. If possible, please send him a card or note letting him know that his church family is thinking of him and wishing him well. His address is:

Allen Rausch
Spruce Manor, Rm 130
220 S. 4th Ave
West Reading, PA 19611



WELCA updates

WELCA will be holding a drive-thru food sale again this year on **Saturday, October 8th**.

We will again have your favorite foods from the Bazaar, including soups, barbecues, apple dumplings, and baked goods. All orders will be preorder and prepay. Order forms will be available in the August/September newsletters and Sundays starting in August. In the meantime, **please save the date!**



UPDATE: CANCELLED

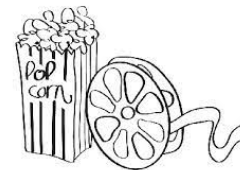
BLOOD DRIVE @ ZION'S

The community Blood Drive that was to be on **Friday July 1, 2022**, has been **cancelled**.

Please keep your eyes open for a new date sometime in the future.

Thank You.

Your blood donations save lives.



FAITH NIGHT AT THE MOVIES HAMBURG STRAND THEATER

July 12, 2022 – Overcomer
August 9, 2022 – I Am Not Ashamed
September 13, 2022 – Joyful Noise

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



FOOD PANTRY

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

Microwavable meals:

Mac & Cheese
Ravioli
Soups
Spaghetti O's

Snacks for kids:

Jello and pudding cups (shelf stable)
Trail Mix
Granola Bars

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 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., July 26, 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.

ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY INC.

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

The July board meeting will be held Thursday, July 21, 2022 at 9:00 am.

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



PA German Farm Festival

Saturday, August 27, 2022

10 am — 4 pm
(rain or shine)

Parking \$3.⁰⁰ **FREE Admission**

Experience life on the farm.
Crafts, Demonstrators & Vendors:

Basket Weaving	Blacksmith
Birdhouse making	Butchering
Butter making	Candle making
Chair caning	Children's Games
Cooper	Dairying
Glass Bead Art	Handmade Ceramics
Potter	Cooper—Barrel making
Pewtercasting	Sauerkraut making
Threshing Machine	Tinsmith
Wood Carving	Colonial Trading Post
Wood Turning	Tools from the Past
Wool spinning	Old-time Equipment
Hay Rides	Native American Items
Nature Trail through Wetlands	
Dairy Princess & Cows	

And more!



Historic House Tours
\$5 per person • Under 12 free

Lectures-Speakers-Presentations
Native American Story-Telling
at 10:30 am & 2:30 pm
Berks County History
at 10:30 am

🎵 **Music** 🎵
Old-time Americana Tunes
on Fiddles,
Mountain Dulcimer,
and Banjo

Concession Food Available
hand-dipped ice cream
corn on the cob
home-made mint tea • and more!

The Historic Dreibelbis Farm is located south of the village of Virginsville along Rte. 143.
GPS street address: 356 Hard Hill Road, Hamburg 19526
For more information, contact Mark Dreibelbis at 610-488-7896 or DreibelbisFarm@gmail.com.

2022 KENTUCKY MISSION TRIP

Oct. 17-21, 2022

On this upcoming Mission trip, we will be volunteering with Crossroads Mission, in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity. We will be working on whole house rebuilds in an area of Kentucky that has had extensive tornado damage.

This is an ecumenical church initiative with Pastor Julie Osterhout. The cost to go is free and accommodations will be provided by First Christian Church in Princeton, KY.

All skill levels are welcome and encouraged to attend.

For more information and to sign up, please contact Pastor Julie Osterhout at Trinity Lutheran in Wernersville, PA, 610-678-1782 or 610-678-1791.



AUNT ARLENE'S BBQ SAUCE

1 cup catsup
Juice of 1 lemon or 1 Tblsp. Lemon juice
1 onion, finely diced
½ cup water
4 Tblsp. Brown sugar
½ tsp. Worcestershire sauce

Mix all ingredients. Simmer on stove for 10-15 minutes. Pour over meat before cooking or baste meat as it cooks. Use for baked or broiled chicken, baked spareribs, frankfurters, braised beef, etc.
(Yields: 1 ½ cups sauce)

From the WELCA cook book, contributed by Elaine Schroeder. Limited copies of the WELCA cookbook are available for sale in the church office.



ARE YOU AS SMART AS A ZION'S SECOND GRADER?

Our second graders have done an outstanding job of memorizing scripture for the last 3 years. Can you fill in the missing words in the verses they studied?

1. In the beginning God created the _____ and the _____.
Gen. 1:1
2. God saw everything He had made and It was _____.” Gen.1:31
3. For God so _____ the world that He gave His only begotten _____ that whoever believes in _____ should not perish but have _____.
John 3:16
3. A _____ word turns away wrath. Prov. 15:1
4. Blessed are the _____ for they shall be called the children of God. Matt.5:9
5. Children obey your parents in all ways for this is _____ to the Lord. Col. 3:20
6. Do all things _____ complaining.
Phil, 2:14
7. Evan a _____ is known by his deeds.
Prov. 20:11
8. Hosanna to the _____ of David.
_____ is He who comes in the name of the _____. Matt. 21:9
9. We are the clay. You are the potter. We are the work of _____. Is. 64:8
10. For all have _____ and come short of the _____ of _____. Rom. 3:23



July Birthdays

2nd	Michael Potts
3rd	Susan Miller
4th	Ruth Bensinger
5th	Heather Mengel Lori Shaak Parker Hancik
7th	Dean Heckman
8th	Alice Brieske Russell Clark
9th	Lee Gehringer Janet Schlegel Eme Stefan Ellie Noecker
12th	David Seidel Matthew Noecker
14th	Deborah Hoffert Shirley Sohon
17th	Travis Hoshauer
20th	Troy Epting John Smith
22nd	Katelyn Schumaker
23rd	Reed Auchenbach
24th	Jocelyn Heckman Gary Wilhelm
25th	Faye Miller Brian Moroney Kyle Schumaker
27th	Kenneth Correll
31st	Kasandra Brown Kyle Reitenauer

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

Allen Rausch
Spruce Manor, Rm 130
220 S. 4th Ave
West 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, Rm 5
105 Dries Rd
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

July 2022

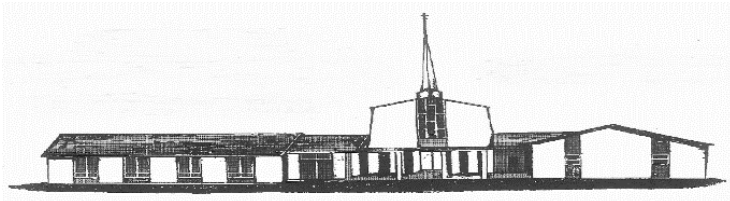
Pastor: Pastor Diane LaFauci

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 **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 – July 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
**WATCH FOR SERVICE INFO IN BULLETINS, CALENDARS & ONLINE	** Service will be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook EVERY SUNDAY				1	2
3 9:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	5 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	6	7	8	9
10 9:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION	11 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	12 9:00-11:30 am KNOTTERS 7:00 pm COUNCIL MTG. 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	13	14	15	16 FH RESERVED
17 9:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION	18 AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	19 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	20	21 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Monthly Board meeting – Zion's Church Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM PROPERTY MTG	22	23
24 9:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION	25 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	26 9:00-11:30 am KNOTTERS 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	27	28	29	30
31 9:00 am WORSHIP FH RESERVED						

