Zíon's Messenger - September 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

A friend of mine told me her story recently about how she had seen God working in a difficult situation. She and another member in the congregation where they are members had been reaching out to inactive members for some time. They were sending notes, sometimes with devotional booklets, sometimes birthday cards, sometimes just to keep people knowing they were not forgotten and that they mattered...including a verse of scripture for encouragement.

One particular recipient of their continuing outreach had been absent from worship or other events for significantly longer than just the impact of the pandemic. There was a special banquet that had been long in the planning and had finally become possible, and that person decided to come. The person sought out the member who had been sending all those cards because they wanted to know who had actually cared enough to reach out! My friend is aware that that outreach has had a positive impact on yet someone else in the family who had been absent, as well. My friend was so pleased that their idea had brought forth "good fruit", but she was clear that it was God who had inspired the outreach effort and encouraged members to keep up the outreach even without apparent responses.

There are times for me that I am so aware that God has provided for and guided me: insight for dealing with something new and different, strength for a daunting task, energy when I was feeling drained, determination not to give up on something or someone, a spark when I am simply out of ideas. I appreciate and value getting together with friends in my prayer group and being able to share how I see God working in my life and hearing how they see God working in their lives. As we share, our own hearts inspired and energized to "keep on keeping on".

When you share your own stories with me, it encourages me in my ministry. I have heard that same thing from colleagues: you help us in our own continuing journey and service to God. I've heard from members about how sharing what they see God doing has encouraged them, especially as they see it has made a difference for someone...even when that someone wasn't likely to recognize God in their own life.

If there's a common theme in Jesus' interaction with people, it's helping them to see how God is working in their lives and encouraging them to tell their story to someone. Sharing our own joy in what we do, whether it be with another person or simply coming into the church to take care of something to keep things happening can and does make a difference...not just for the hearer, but especially for the one who tells their story. It's the moment that inspires and keeps us looking for the next thing God is doing. It's exciting, and it fills our spirit.

Another friend of mine once gave a talk at a gathering of Christian friends active in their own congregations about what makes the church really work, what makes it truly a "Christian community". She identified these characteristics: 1) only one center: Jesus and his mission; 2) members seeking a living friendship with Christ; 3) seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit; 4) having a *common ideal* in a spirit of self-surrender, trust, and self-giving love; 5) desire to share Christ with the world; 6) praying together. St. Paul writes in his letter to the church at Thessalonica, "Pray without ceasing" [1 Th. 5.17].

It's evident to me that my friend and her fellow members who "prayed without ceasing" saw some unexpected and wonderful results. They understood that an isolated Christian is a paralyzed Christian, and a congregation inevitably is held back by the isolation of members.

When families gather for reunions, there is sharing, caring, encouragement, and joy. Worship and study together, and special reunions—be they fellowship or service events—giving opportunities to share our stories about how we see God working in our lives. What story might you have to share?

Your Sister in Christ,

[†]Pr. Diane LaFauci



Sunday, September 11, 2022

Would your children or grandchildren love to meet a real life first responder? If so, then plan to bring them to church on Sunday, September 11th.

9:15 AM – Sunday School for ages 3 – adult

10:30 AM – Outdoor Worship Service & First Responder Recognition

*Please bring your lawn chair for outdoor worship. (If we have inclement weather, service will be indoors.)

11:30 AM – Picnic luncheon will follow worship. The Fellowship Committee will be providing hamburger BBQ, hot dogs, and drinks. Please bring your favorite food item to share and lawn chairs or blanket to enjoy a time of fellowship and games outside, weather permitting. We will also assemble the backpacks with the school supplies and bless them during this time.



PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY...coming in October

Brave: Women of the Bible and Their Stories of Grief, Mercy, Folly, Joy, Sex, and Redemption

a book by Alice Connor.

The study looks at over 15 women in different situations, how they handle what is in their path, what they offer to us as we contemplate our own life, and how they are part of God's story.

This is not limited to women in the congregation just because its focus is on women!

This is about *God's story* throughout the study and is for everyone. Thanks to a generous grant from the Library Fund, this book is available for your study without cost!

	Please order a copy for me! I already	have a copy of this book					
NAMI	AMEPHO	NE					
	ED HELP TO SET SCHEDULE. PLEASE INDICATE ALL THAT CA I plan to attend in person	AN POSSIBLY WORK FOR YOU:					
	Wednesdays 10:30AMThursdays 10 I plan to attend <i>via</i> ZOOM on Wednesdays at 7PM						
ΡΙ	PLEASE SURMIT THIS FORM BY SUNDAY SEPTEMB	ER 18 SO WE MAY PLACE THE ORDER					



The adult Choir will resume rehearsals again starting Sept. 7 at 7:15. Please see Donald Ryan for more information.

If you are interested in singing in the choir this season, please contact Donald Ryan at donryan715@gmail.com or 610-762-9322.



The Zion's Handbell Choir will be re-starting their rehearsals on Thursday, Sept. 15 at 7 pm.

Anyone who is interested may attend, or speak with director Steve Turner or another handbell choir member for more information.

All skill levels welcome!

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 August 9th. The meeting was opened with devotions on the importance of sharing our Christian faith by living a godly life and sharing the good news.

A new book study is coming this fall! Pastor Diane plans to offer a study based on the book, *Brave:* Women of the Bible and Their Stories of Grief, Mercy, Folly, Joy, Sex, and Redemption, both inperson and via Zoom. More information to come. Please consider joining in!

Sunday School will commence on September 11th. The Christian Education Committee here at Zion's will be offering classes for ages 3 through adult. Please plan to attend and bring your family and friends! The Sunday School program helps to strengthen the faithful, teaches the gospel, and encourages community. And it's fun! We are excited to share new materials for the youth and we would love to see an increase in students. The teachers for this year are:

- Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten –
 Samantha Gruber
- Grades 1-2 Heather Gring
- Grades 3-4 Tiffany Gruber
- Grades 5-6 Faye Heckman
- Confirmation/High School Mark Dreibelbis
- Adult Janine Dreibelbis

Please come to checkout Sunday School at 9:15am on September 11th and stay afterwards for an outdoor worship service and picnic. This date is "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, a day that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America dedicates as a day of service. First responders will be visiting Zion's on this date to help us to celebrate that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbors.

Please remember to submit your "Favorite Foods Sale" order and turn in payment by September 25th! By placing an order, you are not only getting

delicious food (sign me up for the hamburger BBQ and apple dumplings!), but you are helping to support the Women of the ELCA, a group of that reaches out to needs in the community and contributes to the needs of the church while growing in their faith.

The Stewardship Committee is working on an exciting program to ensure that our vital ministries are able to flourish and grow. God has called this congregation to be a blessing, and we are responding to God's call. Our giving of self and resources is a reminder of the blessings God gives us through Jesus Christ.

Going forward, the monthly newsletter will be distributed either by mail or email. You may receive the newsletter either way based on your preference. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter via email instead of mail, please call the church office at (610) 562-3112 or complete the Zion's Email Signup Form on the church's website at https://zionslutheran.org/.

~ Respectfully submitted by Heather Gring

Financial Report

We finished the month of July at \$1,575.93 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 \$6,261.90 balance in the coming months. It would be great if we could pay this off before the end of the year!

Monthly – Income for July	\$13,365.03
Monthly – Expenses for July	\$11,789.10
The General Offering	\$10,705.00
Online Giving	\$1,909.63
Loose Change	\$95.00
Other Income	<u>\$655.40</u>
Subtotal	\$13,365.03

Thank you for your continued support!

Consider online giving in 2022

Visit http://zionslutheran.org/donate/. Please feel free to call the church office for assistance.



SIGN UP FOR CHURCH EMAIL

If you are not receiving the weekly bulletin or the monthly newsletter 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

Lector and Camera people are a vital part of Zion's worship ministry. The camera 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

Sponsoring bulletins and altar flowers are a special way to honor loved ones and give glory to God. If you would like to sponsor either, you may sign on the corresponding sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Bulletins - \$13.00, Altar Flowers, \$40.00.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

*SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS – 9:15 AM

*HOLY COMMUNION RETURNS TO

10:30 AM

*CHURCH PICNIC FOLLOWING

SERVICE (see details on pg. 2)

** WELCA MEETING **

The next WELCA meeting will be **Monday**, **September 19**th, at 7:00 pm. All women of Zion's are WELCA members and are invited to all of our meetings.

We would love to have you attend!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 11, 2022 at 9:15 AM. We are looking forward to a new year and we will be implementing a new curriculum for the nursery -6^{th} grade classes. We are looking forward to seeing you in Sunday School this year!

Our teaching staff for this year will be:

Nursery – Kindergarten - Samantha Gruber

1st & 2nd Grade – Heather Gring

3rd & 4th Grade – Tiffany Gruber

5th & 6th grade – Faye Heckman

Confirmation/High School – Mark Dreibelbis

Adult Class – Janine Dreibelbis

Substitute Teachers are needed! If you would be interested in serving as a substitute teacher, please contact Tiffany Gruber at 610-823-2880.



"Favorite (Bazaar) Foods Sale" Saturday, October 8th

WELCA is again holding a drive-thru food sale of some of your favorite Bazaar foods, including barbecues, soups, and apple dumplings. *Pre-order and pay by Sunday, September 25th* and then drive-thru and *pick up your food on Saturday, October 8th* from 11am until 2pm.

An order form is included in this newsletter, and continues to be available in the Narthex at Sunday worship and on Zion's website.

Order forms and payment can be put into Sunday's offering basket, dropped off at the church office, or mailed to the church c/o WELCA. Checks are payable to WELCA.

Baked goods will be available for sale the day of pick up. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the Narthex for volunteers to help in the kitchen, help the day of the sale, and for baked goods donations.

Thank you in advance for your support.

The Women of WELCA



Garden News

Gardening is cheaper than therapy ... and you get tomatoes.

Author unknown.

Despite the lack of rain, our bumper crop of cucumbers has been followed by a bumper crop of tomatoes. We continue to pick the last of our early cabbage and our beans and peppers. Our fall squash continues to grow, and we have planted our late crop of cabbage.

Our local food pantries continue to benefit from the weekly labors of our volunteers. As always, we will be happy to have any new volunteers that have some time to share. Our time together in the Garden, and the fellowship time when we are finished, benefit both the body and the soul of our volunteers as well as nourishing our community.

Please listen for Sunday announcements or check Zion's Facebook page for news of our work days/nights. To be put on the Garden volunteer contact list, please email us at communitygarden@zionslutheran.org or contact Lori at 610-401-1186.



YOU'RE INVITED! FALL FOR OUR GOOD BOOKS!! (BACK TO SCHOOL)

Children's section - bottom two shelves:

Beginning Bible

12 Volume "What's in the Bible"

10 Volume Bible Stories

Also available:
Easy Readers
Several Puzzles
Graphic books
Children's books
Juvenile books
DVD's
National Geographic

Please come take a look!



FOOD PANTRY

Our local food pantry is <u>always</u> in need of donations and these are some of the items that are needed for the upcoming season:

Spaghetti Sauce Canned Ravioli Canned Vegetables

The next Northern Berks distribution is Tuesday, September 27 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm at the Hamburg Area Middle School.

And of course, <u>any shelf stable item</u> that you would like to donate would be appreciated.

Thank you for helping members of our community to make ends meet!

**The Northern Berks Food Pantry distribution has moved back to the Hamburg Area Middle School cafeteria location

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., September 27, from 6 pm to 7 pm.

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



Potato Project Hospitality Help Needed

The Potato Project has large crowds of volunteers signed up to help every weekend in September. Volunteers are needed to help prepare the food (French fries) and serve them to the volunteers. Would you be able to volunteer to help on a Saturday or Sunday? If you would be willing to help, please contact Linda Zawaski at lzawaski@hotmail.com.

Here are the dates for which help is needed the most:

September 11 September 17 September 18 September 24 September 25

FESTIVAL OF FAITH FREE SUPPER & SERVICE PROGRAM

The Festival of Faith Free Supper and Service program for people with 'special needs', their families and friends takes place at Bern Lutheran Church, 820 West Leesport Rd., Leesport with a free supper and Worship.

Groups are needed to provide the main course for future free suppers on October 27th and November 22nd.

We are thankful that your congregation, or a group in your congregation, has provided the main course for the supper in the past. The program has funds to provide all the tableware, beverages, side dishes and dessert if needed.

So, we are needing your help again to provide the main course, or more if you wish, for our suppers. For further information, please contact Pastor Dave Kistler at 717-933-8802, or by email at: davedeek@gmail.com.

Thank you again for your participation and best blessings. Pastor Dave Kistler.

GIVE NOW FOR U.S. FLOODING RELIEF

The survivors of the flooding need your support. Your gifts to "U.S. Flooding" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by the recordsetting rainfall.

Checks or money orders can be sent to:
Lutheran Disaster Response
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009
Write "U.S. Flooding" on your check memo line.
Give by phone at 800-638-3522 (Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm CT)

ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY INC.

The September board meeting will be held Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 9:00 am.

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



FAITH NIGHT AT THE MOVIES HAMBURG STRAND THEATER

September 13, 2022 – Joyful Noise October 11, 2022 – Mask November 8, 2022 - Unplanned

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

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.

VISIT TO ISRAEL & THE HOLY LAND

St Mark's Lutheran Church in Birdsboro will be organizing a trip to Israel and the Holy Land January 17-26, 2023. We will be visiting many sites of the Old and New Testament including Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the wilderness, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, the Dead Sea, Masada, and many more locations.

The tour price will include all hotels, breakfast and dinner every day, one lunch in the wilderness, all admission fees, a luxury air condition bus, and tips. The price for the tour will be \$2200 plus airfare. Once we have a list of those going, we will look at getting a missionary fee airfare from Newark to Tel Aviv direct. For more information, contact Pastor Jim at St Mark's Lutheran Church in Birdsboro at 610-246-4278.

GRIEFSHARE

A new Griefshare Support Group will be starting on Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2022 at Zion's Church, 770 Zion's Church Rd., Hamburg, PA 19526.

Griefshare is a special weekly seminar and support group for people who are grieving the death of someone close to them. This group is sponsored by people who understand what they are experiencing and want to offer comfort and encouragement during a difficult time.

Each session includes a DVD seminar and group discussion. A GriefShare workbook assists with note-taking, journaling and grief study. The DVDs feature top experts on grief recovery, dramatic reenactments about living with grief and real-life stories of people who have experienced losses. During the small group discussion time, they will have the opportunity to interact with others who have experienced a recent loss, learn about their experiences and share their own experiences.

Persons can join at any time.

Please call 610-562-2300 to register or for more information. There is a \$20.00 charge for the workbook and other materials.





STUFFED CABBAGE SOUP

1 T. vegetable oil
1 lb. ground beef
1 pkg. (1 lb.) coleslaw mix
1 large onion, chopped
1 can (28 oz.) crushed tomatoes in purée
2 cans (14.5 oz each) beef broth
1 cup water
½ cup packed light brown sugar
1 T. fresh lemon juice
1 tsp. salt
1/3 cup long-grain white rice.

Heat oil in a 6-quart pot over med. heat. Add ground beef; sauté until browned, about 6 mins. Add coleslaw mix and onion. Cook, covered, 4 mins. stirring after 2 mins. Add tomatoes, beef broth, water, brown sugar, lemon juice and salt. Bring to boiling. Add rice; reduce heat to mediumlow. Simmer, covered, 45 mins. or until beef and rice are tender. 8 servings.

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





September Birthdays

1st	Donna Long				
	Dwight Heckman				
2nd	Jay Wheeland				

5th	Mark Price
6^{th}	Owen Neuin
7th	Angela Gough
	Doris Gough
	Korey Onulack
	Linda Stewart
8^{th}	David Klemmer
9 th	Paul Hartline
10th	Brenda Ramich
11^{th}	Andrea Heckman

13th	Nathan Bender
_	1 (000110011 25 0111001
$14^{\rm th}$	Connie Reinhart
15 th	Dennis Madeira
	Lisa Fegley
$16^{\rm th}$	Jennifer Hoshauer

19 ^h	Reece Hawk
20^{th}	Grace Ketner
	Chris Mengel
	Jamie Scolastico
22^{nd}	David Long

	Nancy Pursell
23^{rd}	Kyle Pursell
	Brittany Noecker
	Maylynn Wagner

25th	Marvin Adam	
	Paul Engle	

27^{th}	Ruth Ann Eyer
28^{th}	Samantha Gruber
29^{th}	Woodrow Lutz
	Katie Stefan
30^{th}	Craig Reinhart

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

Congratulations

Pastor Diane & Doug LaFauci celebrate the birth of their grandson

Leonardo Junius Allen

Born to their son and daughter-in-law

Jon & Cara LaFauci

August 23, 2022



Shut in Mailing Lis

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, 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

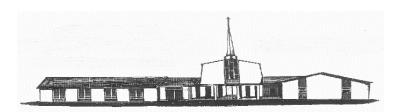
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am, Holy Communion, Indoor recorded service

Messenger

September 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. \$\P\$ Jesus is Lord & Savior \$\P\$ \$\P\$ Honest & open communication \$\P\$ \$\P\$ 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 **T**

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

Zion's Monthly Calendar – September 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
4 9:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION	5 OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY	6 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	7 7:15 PM - CHOIR	8 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Monthly Board meeting – Zion's Church Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM – ALTAR GUILD	9	10 FH RENTAL
*9:15 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL *10:30 AM - HOLY COMMUNION – OUTDOOR WORSHIP, FIRST RESP. RECOG. *11:30 PICNIC LUNCH.	7:00 PM – STEWARDSHIP COMM. MTG.	9:00-11:30 am KNOTTERS	14 7:15 PM - CHOIR		16 5:30 PM – OPPORTUNITY HOUSE MEAL	17
18 9:15 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION	7:00 PM – WELCA MTG.	20 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting 7:15 PM - CHOIR	21	22 AUTUMN BEGINS	23	24
25 9:15 AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION		27 9:00-11:30 am KNOTTERS 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	28 7:15 PM - CHOIR	29	30	