<u> Zíon's Messenger – November 2022</u>

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Most likely, plans are starting to form for holiday gatherings, it being November now. My family seems to be returning to gatherings the way we did them for almost four decades, since we and another couple decided to do Thanksgiving together, rather than travel to extended family. Initially, the kids were small, and we all fit at one table. Then we started having a "kids" table. Much to the delight of both sets of kids, and we took turns hosting the gathering. As jobs moved us several hours apart, we took turns traveling to each other's homes for an annual "reunion".

Needless to say, a lot of planning would go into the reunion weeks ahead, and each household would share in offering parts of the meal. The house would come alive as we were reunited for Thanksgiving. When it was our turn to host, I'd start the turkey early in the morning; I'd have the tables set (now the adult kids still have their own table, and the grandparents and grandchildren have another). We'd all join hands for a prayer of thanksgiving and then be seated for the meal. The conversation and laughter brought us close together again, and when we'd finally bring the day to a close, hugs and blessings for safe travel would abound for any not staying overnight with us.

You may have noticed that I generally greet everyone in worship by saying, "Welcome to worship in the House of the Lord!" Sunday worship is, in effect, a reunion of the family of God, hosted by Jesus Christ. The Host invites us to unburden ourselves after the long week's journey, as we offer our confession, that we might be ready to be open to what God has for us. The scripture readings share what God's Holy Spirit wants us all to know, and we sing our praises for the Good News in this family gathering.

The service for the day has been planned well in advance; the Altar Guild has prepared the chancel and set the finest vessels on the altar, ready for the holy meal to be served. The Host calls us in a prayer of Great Thanksgiving and invites us to "Taste and see that the Lord is good!"

It is Christ the Host who has, indeed, prepared the finest meal...his Body and Blood given and shed for us! We eat at the Lord's Table, we share more time together, and we prepare for the week's journey ahead. The Host's hug for us comes in the closing blessing, and we are on our way, knowing that we may look forward to the next reunion.

If you've ever wondered about how the worship service is put together, reflecting on it as the reunion of the Family of God in the House of the Lord may help to give a sense of how God loves bringing us together for a time of renewal and refreshment, a time of being strenghtened for the time ahead...a family reunion that we may want to tell someone about, especially telling someone they are welcome at the next reunion.

May whatever your Thanksgiving plans may be-with family or friends or a quiet day at home-know that the Host's door is always open wherever you happen to be, and that Christ stands with open arms to welcome you and give you a loving family hug for comfort and energy.

Your Sister in Christ, [♥]Pastor Diane LaFauci

A word of thanks...

How sweet it was to be honored on October 9th with a special "Pastor Appreciation Sunday" gift! Thank you to the Council for the gift certificate to Boscov's and to all who have expressed warm wishes and thanks to me, as I serve Zion's as Transition Pastor. I am truly blessed to work beside you in this time of transition, as the congregation journeys ahead in anticipation of God's continuing call and plan for the mission at Zion's.

2022 Northern Berks Ministerium Community Harvest / Advent Worship Services on <u>Thursday Mornings 11:30 a.m. Worship / Soup and Bread Fellowship</u>

<u>Thursday, November 3rd</u> 1st Reformed UCC 76 South 3rd Street, Hamburg

<u>Thursday, November 17th</u> Friedens Church of Lenhartsville 1512 Old Route 22, Lenhartsville

<u>Thursday, December 1st</u> Zion Lutheran Church Perry 354 Zion's Church Road, Perry Township

<u>Thursday, December 15th</u> St. Michael's Lutheran Church 529 Saint Michaels Rd, Hamburg – Tilden Township.

Freewill offering benefitting the Emergency Assistance Fund

Additional Northern Berks Ministerium Services:

<u>Sunday, December 4th at 4:00 p.m.</u> Red Kettle Benefit Concert to benefit the Hamburg Salvation Army St. John's Lutheran Church, Hamburg

<u>Thursday, December 22nd</u> Blue Christmas Service of Remembrance St. John's Lutheran Church, Hamburg

Stewards of Zion's

The October 2016 issue of Stewards of Faith proposed the following definition of Stewardship:

"Stewardship is our God-pleasing management of the time of grace, natural abilities, spiritual gifts, and physical resources that our Lord has blessed us with and entrusted to our care."

In our October 9th Stewardship bulletin insert, we shared how one of our members grew to be a steward of his physical resources. Below you will find the full story that this member, Bill Gundrum, shared with the Stewardship Committee. Bill is a steward, who continues to use the gifts he has received from God.

My devotion to God and my dedication to my church started back in the year 1940 in Centerport. My mother and father were instrumental in having me attend Sunday School every week. From 1940 to 1946, I had perfect attendance at Sunday school for six years straight and received six pins to wear on my lapel as recognition. May Lengel Adam was my teacher. My parents always dressed me in a dress shirt and tie and I attended the Centerport church until my parents moved to a farm in Perry township.

Following our move, I started attending Sunday school at my new church, Zion's Windsor Castle. Again, I attended Sunday school and church every week. Back in 1946, Zion's church held two different services every other Sunday. One week it was a UCC service and the next week it was a Lutheran service. I attended both. I was confirmed in 1948. I remember my family always parked our car in the grove which was across the street from the church.

I was actively involved in the church from an early age thanks to my mother volunteering my services. She said that I would be happy to serve the church. I was acolyte for many years and served so long that my gown eventually was above my knees before I was allowed to stop. Whatever mom said is how it went. Later in life, my mother and I would serve on church council together for several years during Pastor Langkamer's tenure.

Some Sundays my family was only able to give a dime in the offering plate due to low funds. However, my parents instilled in me that you always support the church with what you are able. My parents were Christians and their children were also raised as Christians.

My faith and attendance at church has always been a source of comfort for me. I enlisted in the United States Navy in 1955 and served all my years in the military on an aircraft carrier, USS Lake Champlain. I remember spending two Christmases out at sea. One Christmas eve I remember missing my family and church very much. I had never missed attending a Christmas eve service with my family. That year was a first. I missed my church very much. I remember praying under an airplane wing and getting by with my thoughts regarding my Christian upbringing, my many years of being part of my Christian family and especially thinking of my mother and the Christian values she instilled in me.

Throughout my life the Lord, Christianity, and my parents provided me with direction and a moral compass of how to live a life where God is always at the center. For as long as I can remember, I knew the difference between right and wrong. If I ever did anything wrong, I knew it and would pray for forgiveness. I didn't grow up with a large amount of money, but we had something much greater in our family. We had love, God, and Christianity. The wonderful memories I have will never leave me as long as I live. The Lord and my family will always be number one in my life thanks to the Christian values my mother and father instilled in me.

B. Gundrum



<u>Northern Berks Ministerium Advent</u> <u>Service</u>

Zion's will be hosting the Hamburg Ministerium Advent Service on Thursday, December 1 at 11:30am. The service will be followed by a soup and bread luncheon. If you would be able to help by providing soup, bread, drinks, or helping in the kitchen that day, there will be sign-up sheets posted in the narthex.



November Food Pantry: Volunteers <u>Needed</u>

Zion's Lutheran Church is the volunteer group for the Northern Berks Food Pantry. We will need volunteers at the Hamburg Area Middle School Cafeteria at 5:30pm on Tuesday November 15 for their Thanksgiving distribution.

Please sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.



<u>Upcoming OPUS ONE CONCERT -</u> <u>entitled FROM THE SHADOWS</u>

The concert will feature music of the early-German Baroque... which means all Lutheran music!

> ** ONLINE CONCERT ** Access Period: Nov 3 - Nov 17

The first concert of Opus One's Season XI will feature works from the early-German Baroque period. The highlight of the program will be Heinrich Schütz' Die sieben Worte Jesu Christi am Kreuz (Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross), SWV 478. Other pieces include works by Hammerschmidt, Schein, and Telemann. Opus One: ECHO and Opus One: Berks Chamber Choir will be accompanied by a chamber ensemble of brass, strings, organ, and harpsichord.

Featured Vocal Soloists:

Kelly Leibensperger, *soprano* Mary McCormick-Archutowski, *soprano* Robin Bier, *mezzo* Daniel Taylor, *tenor* Lucas DeJesus, *baritone*

Geert Ruelens, *organ/harpsichord* Christopher Hoster, *conductor*

"Together, we can make Reading sing!" www.OpusOneChamberChoir.com

For questions, please contact info@OpusOneChamberChoir.com



Council Corner

Zion Church Council met on October 11. It was attended by President Tiffany Gruber, Vice President Mark Dreibelbis, Secretary John Smith, Treasurer Sandra Moroney, Brian Moroney, Heather Gring, Faye Heckman, Carolyn Hollenbach, Janine Dreibelbis, Lucille Gough, and Pastor Diane.

The Budget and Finance Committee presented a preliminary draft of the budget for 2023. This was discussed and will be revised and presented again at the November meeting.

The Stewardship Committee reported on the current stewardship appeal including the letter writing campaign and intent cards.

The Property committee reported that they are working on the heating system and front door locks. They are considering replacing the altar lighting with LED bulbs to reduce the labor needed to change the incandescent bulbs which burn out frequently. Church security including lighting, signage, and security cameras was discussed, and there will be further discussion between Council and Property Committee.

Worship and Music Committee recommended that we have two Christmas Eve services this year. Based on attendance numbers of the past several years, it was decided that there will be a 4pm and a 7pm service.

Council approved the Scout Troop request to start a troop for girls. This would be part of the current troop, but would function as a separate group with its own leaders.

Council voted to return left over sound system equipment to Bruce Rohrbach (the previous organist) at his request. He had installed some of the equipment years ago to help up-grade the sound system and provided input when we were getting our new system. Approval was granted to allow Blue Mountain Heritage Chorus to use our facility for practice. They will make a donation to the church.

The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for January 22 with a snow date of January 29.

Submitted by Mark Dreibelbis

Financial Report

We finished the month of September at \$576.40 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 \$3,841.90 balance in the coming months. It would be great if we could pay this off before the end of the year!

Monthly – Income for Sept. Monthly – Expenses for Sept.	\$11,580.12 \$11,003.72
The General Offering	\$8,440.00
Online Giving	\$1,961.15
Loose Change	\$99.00
Other Income	<u>\$1,079.97</u>
Subtotal	\$11,580.12

Thank you for your continued support!

Consider online giving in 2022

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

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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 <u>churchoffice@zionslutheran.org</u>. 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.



<u>Thank you for your Harvest Home</u> <u>donations!</u>

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 continued support is invaluable to us, thank you again!



The women of WELCA would like to thank the members of Zion's for their help and support of our Favorite Foods Sale - from the donated baked goods, to the kitchen help, to the many purchases of the soup, barbecue and apple dumplings. It was all greatly appreciated, and will greatly benefit the ministries and property needs of Zion's and our community.

Thanks again for your support!

The women of WELCA



REMINDER:

The next WELCA meeting will be Monday, November 7th at 7pm. All women of Zion's are WELCA members, and are invited to all of our meetings. **We would love to have you attend!**

Redner's Save-A-Tape Reminder

Just a friendly reminder. Each week, there are one or more receipts turned in without the Save-A-Tape total below the barcode. This means that you forgot to scan your Redner's Rewards card at checkout. Sadly, those receipts cannot be used, and must be thrown away.

Please remember to scan your Redner's Rewards card at every checkout OR you can enter your phone number if you don't have the card with you.

Thanks so much. Your continued support of this program benefits the ministries here at Zion's, as well as building needs.

The Women of WELCA



<u>WELCA Celebrates National Gratitude</u> <u>Month</u>

November is National Gratitude Month. WELCA will again honor those who serve at Mary's Shelter by collecting items from their wish list for use with their clients (homeless teens and pregnant women).

<u>For Babies</u> Diapers size 3,4,5 Bibs Sacks for newborns Baby oil Baby shampoo

<u>Kitchen items</u> Sandwich bags Trash bags Aluminum foil and plastic wrap Paper plates and cups

WELCA will be collecting these items in November until Sunday November 20. There will be a box in the narthex for you to place your new donated items. We are grateful to you for caring.



Garden News

"No spring nor summer's beauty hath such grace, As I have seen in one Autumnal face..." John Donne, "Elegy IX: The Autumnal"

Autumn is here, and we are wrapping up season #8 in the Garden. We have harvested over a ton of vegetables to donate to local food pantries and organizations, including the Northern Berks (Hamburg) Food Pantry, Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry, Keystone Military Food Pantry, Hamburg Salvation Army, Wyndcliffe Apartments, Friend Inc., and Opportunity House.

We got better at using the landscape fabric covering this season, which really did help keep down the weeds and keep the produce cleaner. It was a very hot summer, and the tomatoes, cucumbers and beans seemed to enjoy it. Sadly, the neighborhood crows enjoyed many of our seeds and seedlings this year, which impacted our productivity but didn't dampen our spirit. As this newsletter goes to production, we are harvesting the last of our late cabbage planting and finishing our Garden clean up.

We continue to be thankful for our faithful volunteers, both returning volunteers and some new volunteers this season. Without the support of congregation and community members, we would not be able to continue this ministry.

Please continue to pray for our ministry and for the hungry in our community. Thank you.



A Reading Christian is a Growing Christian

November brings us Thanksgiving!

I am so thankful to belong to a Christian family here at Zion's so, this month, we will be featuring "Christian Life" on our library table in the narthex.

I am thankful for all the time & talent that all our Zion volunteers give and especially thankful for Roberta Ott for her time & talent with our library table. Who and what are you thankful for?

Barbara Seidel, Library Volunteer

Please come to our library and take out a book!



KNOTTER'S NEWS

Please mark your calendars. We will be having our Blessing of the Quilts during our December 4, 2022 worship.

We are always in need of material, blankets and bedding, some of which is used for cat & dog beds for local kennels. The Knotters are always looking for extra hands to help knot. We meet at the church at 9 am on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

Please join us and lend a hand!

<u>COMING TO ZION'S IN</u> <u>DECEMBER...</u>

Blessing of the Quil	ts	Dec. 4
Sunday School Chri	stmas Program	Dec. 18
Holy Communion	4:00 pm	Dec. 24
Holy Communion	7:00 pm	Dec. 24
Lessons & Carols	10:30 am	Dec. 25



FOOD PANTRY

HOLIDAYS APPROACHING

The holidays are approaching and 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:

> Boxed Stuffing Jarred Gravy Cranberry Sauce Canned Pumpkin

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!

FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION:

On the 3rd Saturday, at 9:00 am at the Lutheran Church of Holy Trinity, Leesport

The next <u>Northern Berks Food Pantry</u> distribution is currently scheduled for Tues., Nov. 15, from 6 pm to 7 pm.

<u>FESTIVAL OF FAITH FREE</u> SUPPER & SERVICE PROGRAM

The Festival of Faith Free Supper and Service program for people with 'special needs', their families and friends take 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 a future free supper on 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: <u>davedeek@gmail.com</u>.

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

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

*On November 19th, there will be a free Thanksgiving dinner at the Shoemakersville United Methodist Church, both sit down dinner or take out beginning at 4:00 pm until the food runs out.

*The Red Kettle Service will be at St. John's Lutheran Church on December 4 at 4:00 pm.

*There will be a Blue Christmas service of remembrance at St. John's Lutheran Church on December 22, 2022.

ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY INC.

The November board meeting will be held Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 9:00 am.

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

<u>Lutheran Disaster Response General</u> <u>Fund</u>

Please continue to give when you can.

Checks or money orders can be sent to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center P.O. Box 1809 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Write "Hurricane Ian Response" or "Where needed most" on your check memo line. Give by phone at 800-638-3522 (Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm CT)



FAITH NIGHT AT THE MOVIES HAMBURG STRAND THEATER

November 8, 2022 – Unplanned December 13, 2022 – The Christmas Candle

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



Come meet Mama & Papa Berenstain Bear LIVE at the Christian Education Resource Library, 328 Apple Lane, Shoemakersville, PA on Saturday, Nov. 5 from 10am – 1pm.

Celebrating our 30th anniversary of Ministry. For more information contact Vernie Noecker at 610-562-7271

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.

Each session includes a DVD seminar and group discussion. A GriefShare workbook assists with note-taking, journaling and grief study. 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.



GRIEFSHARE

Griefshare is a special weekly seminar and support group for people who are grieving the death of someone close to them.

Meetings are on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. You may join any of the sessions at:

> Zion's Church 770 Zion's Church Rd., Hamburg, PA

Nov. 2	Stuck
Nov. 9	Lessons of Grief (1)
Nov. 16	Surviving the Holidays
Nov. 23	NO GRIEFSHARE MTG.
Nov. 30	Lessons of Grief (2)
Dec. 7	Heaven
Dec. 14	What Do I Live for Now?
Dec. 21	Surviving the Holidays



November Birthdays

1st	Vernie Noecker
	Elaine Schroeder
2nd	April Reitenauer
3rd	Jeanette Heckman
6th	Paul Weidner
	Nancy Dresher
7th	Tiffany Gruber
	Rylee Strunk
8th	Kai Hawk
9th	William Heckman Jr.
	Kevin Koehn
10th	Kelly Troutman
12th	Karen Mengel
15th	Allen Daub
16th	Nancy Dusko
	Tyler Fusner Jr.
17th	Dean Sunday
18th	Faye Heckman
19th	Tracy Pond
	Faye Smith
22nd	Kimberly Olszewski
24th	Karen Blandford
26th	Janelle Kerr
28th	Cleta Borkey
30th	William Bensinger Jr.

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



Mabel Fry 65 Fry Lane Auburn, Pa 17922

Grace Ketner 1801 Tulpehocken Rd Apt. 1 Wyomissing, PA 19610

Nancy Leiby 350 Lackawanna St., Apt.320 Reading, Pa 19601

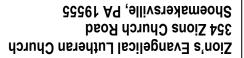
David Peters Wyomissing Nursing & Rehab 1000 E Wyomissing Blvd. Reading, PA 19611

> 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.



obligation **P**

God's Purpose for Zion's is to welcome and empower people to grow in faithfulness and service to His mission through the Gospel. I Jesus is Lord & Savior I Honest & open communication I Create and sustain healthy relationships I Share your faith through our daily life I Recognize and encourage people's

Perseverance 🕆 🕆 A congregation united in Christ making Zion's a destination, not an

Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church Purpose Statement:

spiritual gifts 🕆

November 2022

Pastor:Pastor Diane LaFauciPastor's Cell:484-794-5503Church Phone:610-562-3112Church Email:churchoffice@zionslutheran.orgChurch Website:www.zionslutheran.org



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 pm AA Meeting	2 10:30 am Bible Study @ Church	3	4	5
			7:00 pm Bible Study on Zoom			
			7:15 PM - CHOIR			
6	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8	9		11	12
	7:00 pm WELCA Mtg.	9:00 – 11:30 am Knotters	10:30 pm Bible Study @ Church	9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Monthly Board meeting –	10:00am – 12:00 pm	
9:15 am Sunday Sch.		7:00 pm Council Mtg.		Zion's Church Fellowship Hall	CHILDREN OF THE KING - GOLD ROOM RENTAL	
	6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts	7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	7:00 pm Bible Study on ZOOM			
Communion		7.00 pm A.A. Meeting		6:00 pm Brass rehearsal		
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS			7:15 PM - CHOIR	7:00 pm Handbell rehearsal		
TIME ENDS						
13 LIBRARY DEDICATION		15	16	17	18	19
9:15 am Sunday Sch.	6:30 pm Cub Scouts	7:15 PM - CHOIR	10:30 pm Bible Study @ Church	7:00 pm Property Mtg.	Opportunity House Meal	
		7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	7:00 pm Bible Study on ZOOM			
FH RENTAL						
CHRIST THE KING		22	23		25	26
	DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE			THANKSGIVING DAY		
	6:30 pm Cub Scouts	7:00 pm A.A. Meeting				
Communion 6:00 pm Confirmation @Zion's FH	7:30 pm Boy Scouts					
27 FIRST SUNDAY OF	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29	30			** Service will be
	6:30 pm Cub Scouts	9:00-11:30 am Knotters	10:30 pm Bible Study @ Church		BULLETINS,	recorded and posted or the church's website
	7:30 pm Boy Scouts	7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	7:00 pm Bible Study on ZOOM		CALENDARS &	and Facebook EVERY SUNDAY
10:30 am Holy Communion			7:15 PM - CHOIR			