

# Zion's Messenger - December 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Christmas often brings memories of past Christmases for me: the year “Santa” brought me the doll I wanted with all my being; the year Dad bought Mom her desk and Mom bought Dad a new recliner—and neither one knew why there was so much money taken out of the Christmas account (and I was sworn to secrecy!); hearing stories from those who lived through the Great Depression being so grateful to receive an orange for Christmas; the years we spent Christmas with our children’s grandparents and the first year we spent Christmas in our own home in WV so the kids would have that memory before we moved to PA; our grandson’s first Christmas in our home finding the Mickey Mouse doll under our tree; the year I was grieving the fresh loss of my dad; the year my mom passed away on Christmas morning...

This time of the year is “supposed to be” joy-filled, and yet not every year is that “perfect” childhood notion of Christmas.

Gift-giving is stressful because we’re often expected to address “wish lists” instead of just trying to find that meaningful gift that might bring joyous surprise to a loved one’s eyes.

For the one who loves to bake, there’s the day (or days) set aside for cookie baking, and nothing better get in the way!

There are all the appeals that come in the mail from charities, and the risk of giving, knowing that now you’ll be on the charity’s monthly mailing list!

Such is our American culture! (By the way, Christmas wasn’t declared a federal holiday in this country until 1870.)

I’ve found Rick Steves’ programs about Christmas customs in other countries to be quite refreshing...less “commercial” pressure and much more emphasis on family gathering around special meals and enjoying different local pageants.

Over the years I have not fully felt the “Christmas spirit” until the Christmas Eve candle lighting as we sing “Silent Night”. That’s when I can say I love Christmas!

An interesting piece of information is that the Church didn’t incorporate Christmas as a festival in the liturgical calendar until around the 9<sup>th</sup> century! The early “legalized” Christian religion began to celebrate Christmas in Rome in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. As the Church was seeking to solidify its teaching about the faith, understanding the *Incarnation* (God putting on flesh and coming among us as Jesus) was critical to understanding that *this faith* was not like any other world religion, and that humanity had hope that no other religion offered.

The date of December 25<sup>th</sup> was identified as a set date (unlike other festivals in both the Jewish and Christian religion, which are not set annually). The date was intentionally set to draw focus away from a pagan festival. Jesus was probably actually born between 6 and 4 BC, the year estimated by astrological alignments, estimating the time of the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, and comparing details with other historical events. As far as the time of the year is concerned, when shepherds might be grazing their sheep has made some scholars think winter might make sense, while others are not so sure.

What matters is that we have the festival in the liturgical calendar to emphasize the Incarnation. That God comes among us as a *human* child, growing into a *human* adult, experiencing death as a *human* (albeit at the hands of humans) is what gives us hope for eternal life, as Jesus opens that door for us by the resurrection.

May whatever else going on around you at Christmas be put out of mind, as we focus on God coming among us as *human*, birthed into this life as we are birthed, living as we live, with the victory over death and the grave accomplish by God in Christ, making Christmas something to truly celebrate!

Christmas blessings now and always!

† *Pastor Diane LaFauci*

# **Christmas Eve**

*O, Come! All ye faithful!*

**December 24, 2022**

**3:30 pm Special Music for Christmas**

**4pm Family-centered worship with Holy Communion**

**6:30 pm Special Music for Christmas**

**7pm Holy Communion – Candlelight**

# **Christmas Day**

*Lessons & Carols*

**December 25 10:30am**

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

**Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Zion Lutheran Church Perry**

**354 Zion's Church Road, Perry Township**

**Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

**St. Michael's Lutheran Church**

**529 Saint Michaels Rd, Hamburg – Tilden Township.**

**Freewill offering benefitting the Emergency Assistance Fund**

**Additional Northern Berks Ministerium Services:**

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.**

**Red Kettle Benefit Concert**

**to benefit the Hamburg Salvation Army**

**St. John's Lutheran Church, Hamburg**

**Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Blue Christmas Service of Remembrance**

**St. John's Lutheran Church, Hamburg**



## Northern Berks Ministerium Advent Service

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.

## COMING TO ZION'S IN DECEMBER...

|                                 |          |         |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------|
| Blessing of the Quilts          |          | Dec. 4  |
| Sunday School Christmas Program |          | Dec. 18 |
| Holy Communion                  | 4:00 pm  | Dec. 24 |
| Holy Communion                  | 7:00 pm  | Dec. 24 |
| Lessons & Carols                | 10:30 am | Dec. 25 |

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

\*Please see the bulletin board in the narthex for community seasonal events.

## \*ANNUAL MEETING\*

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, January 22, 2023, at 11:30 AM**, with a snow date of **January 29, 2023**.

We will be holding the Annual Meeting right after the service in the Nave. All voting members are welcome to stay in their seats after the service. We will need to have **50 people in attendance to make any motions.** \*\* Please watch your bulletins and emails for details. \*\*

If you are not comfortable attending in person, and you are a voting member of the congregation, we are going to set up a Zoom meeting for you to join. Please call or send an email to the church office for information regarding the Zoom meeting by **Thursday, January 19, 2023**. If you do not have an electronic device to log onto, you will be able to call the phone number provided and that will allow you to listen to the conversation and cast a verbal vote.

## \*\* SPECIAL NOTICE \*\*

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY **FRIDAY, DEC. 09, 2022**.

DECEMBER IS VERY BUSY IN THE OFFICE WITH EXTRA BULLETINS, NEWSLETTER, AND THE ANNUAL REPORT WHICH IS WHY WE NEED THESE REPORTS IN A TIMELY MANNER. EVEN IF YOUR REPORT HAS NO CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR, WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU. THE ANNUAL REPORT MUST BE PRINTED AND AVAILABLE BY JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>.

**THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 22, 2023. THE SNOWDATE IS JANUARY 29, 2023.**



## Council Corner

Church Council met on Tues., Nov. 8. The meeting was opened with devotions on Thanksgiving and how it stems from our personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who has given us unconditional love, the promise of eternal life and countless blessings.

The Stewardship Committee reported that twenty-six statement of intent cards were returned. Members may continue to turn in cards to Eileen Puglia in the future. Your continued generosity is deeply appreciated.

Zion's continues to support The Salvation Army with its Angel Tree tags which can be found in the narthex. Please consider those in need this Christmas.

Anyone able to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas, please come on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 6:30 pm. Council approved the purchase of an artificial tree by Altar Guild in an effort to economize. Poinsettias are available for purchase this year. Altar Guild will purchase them from Temple Greenhouse.

Christmas Eve services will be held at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm. On Christmas Day we will celebrate a lay-led service with a Christmas carol fest.

The family of the late Ernest Heckman offered to purchase oil candles for the candelabra with the Ernest Heckman Memorial Fund. Council accepted their generous offer.

WELCA reported a successful Favorite Foods Sale on Oct. 8. As a result, WELCA will donate \$1500.00 toward the parking lot resurfacing. WELCA also continues to collect items for Mary's Shelter through Nov. 20.

Annual Report articles are due to the office by Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>.

On Sun., Nov. 13, the people of Zions Evangelical Lutheran Church will dedicate the Arlene Adam Library in recognition of her gift to establish a library for the Ministry of Christian Learning and Faith Development. We extend our thanks to the Library Committee and volunteers for organizing, presenting and updating the library contents.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Hollenbach

### Financial Report

We finished the month of October at \$842.79 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 \$3,716.90 balance in the coming months. It would be great if we could pay this off before the end of the year!**

|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Monthly – Income for October   | \$13,199.15       |
| Monthly – Expenses for October | \$12,356.36       |
| <br>                           |                   |
| The General Offering           | \$10,087.00       |
| Online Giving                  | \$1,737.15        |
| Loose Change                   | \$71.00           |
| Other Income                   | <u>\$1,304.00</u> |
| Subtotal                       | \$13,199.15       |

**Thank you for your continued support!**

### Consider online giving in 2023

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](mailto: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.



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

### **Christmas Tree**

Volunteers are needed to put up the Christmas Tree on **Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM**. All are welcome to join.

### **Swags**

Volunteers are needed on **Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> right after the service** to take down the Advent Swags and put up the Christmas Swags. We will also be getting out the pew candles for the Christmas Eve services. All are welcome to join.

### **Opportunity House 2023**

Volunteers are needed for Opportunity House in 2023. We will be serving the meal in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Our team captains for 2022 were Tina Blake, Susan Lutz, Eileen Puglia and Wanda Hoherchak. Our serving volunteers were Nancy Drescher, Brenda Hartman, Gary Rothermel, Donna Long, Richard Long, Paul Weidner, Linda Weidner. Thank you everyone for sharing your time and talent. If you are interested in volunteering in 2023, please reach out to Wanda Hoherchak at [whoherchak@gmail.com](mailto:whoherchak@gmail.com) or 570-778-8403.



**WELCA would like to thank you all for your support and donations for National Gratitude Month in November. We were able to donate the items to Mary's Shelter, fulfilling their wish list for the support of their clients (homeless teens and pregnant women). It was all greatly appreciated!**

***Thank you again for your support!***



## **Northern Berks Food Pantry**

**Thank you, Zion's Lutheran, for your assistance at our Thanksgiving Party!**

**We served 85 families from your community. Special thanks to WELCA for their donation towards the pies. We, at the Northern Berks Food Pantry, greatly appreciate your generous donations. 12% of the population of Berks and Schuylkill counties live in poverty. Your support helps to further our mission of feeding the hungry in our community. Thank you again!**

## **Stewardship Update**

### **Stewardship**

**... is everything we do after we say, "I believe."**

**(Messiah Lutheran Church, Madison Alabama)**

A big thank you to those members and families who turned in their intent cards. We have had 33 cards returned to date, with a majority indicating their intent to increase giving for the coming year. It was noted that just \$10 extra a week could help us reach our budget goal, and many members were able to meet this request. Won't you please join our members in their generosity?

If you were unable to return your intent card, you can still send it in, or you can confidentially email to [stewardship@zionslutheran.org](mailto:stewardship@zionslutheran.org) and your intent will be recorded from the email.

Please remember that intents are not binding, but are used for us to proclaim our faith, and to help the congregational leadership in making plans for the coming year.

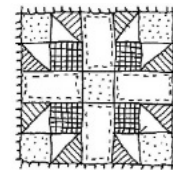
## **Redner's Save-A-Tape Reminder**

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



## **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!**



## FOOTNOTES...

### FROM OUR LIBRARY

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus. Our Library table will feature books on Christmas.

Here are some of the new arrivals that have come into our library this year...

DVD's for children (about 29)

Berenstain Bear's children's books (about 18)

When Bad Things Happen to Good People  
(Inspiration)

Church Chuckles (Humor)

52 Fun Family Devotions (Devotions)

Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven (Evangelism)

Tapestries of Life (Poetry)

Parents Guide to Top Ten Dangers Teens Face  
(Parenting)

Woman, Thou Art Loved (Wellness)

Variety of books by Dr. David Jeremiah and books  
from Norman Vincent Peel

Barbara Seidel, Librarian

**Please come in and sign out a book to  
read during the holidays.**

**Have a blessed Christmas!**



### FOOD PANTRY

The Northern Berks Food Pantry continues to serve the food needs of our community as we have since 1990 thanks to the faithful support of friends such as you!

As a result of our attempt to be responsive to the challenging economy and increased numbers of our recipients, the financial balance in our reserves has been reduce. In order to continue to serve our community, it would be a tremendous blessing if you could provide some financial support at this time or on a regular monthly basis throughout the year.

We attempt to be good stewards of what we've given, providing support in alignment with the support we receive. Thank you for your support in the past and any gifts you might decide to give at this time. Thank you so much for your faithfulness. It is making a difference in the lives of people in our local community.

To donate, your check can be made out to **Northern Berks Food Pantry** and mailed to:

Northern Berks Food Pantry  
Hamburg Area Middle School  
711 Windsor St.  
Hamburg, PA 19526

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

## HOLIDAYS APPROACHING

The holidays are approaching and our local food pantry is always in need of donations and these are some of the items that are needed for the upcoming season:

**Paper Towels  
Toilet Paper**

And of course, any shelf stable item 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, at 9:00 am at the Lutheran Church of Holy Trinity, Leesport

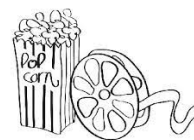
The next Northern Berks Food Pantry distribution is currently scheduled for **Tues., Dec. 20, from 6 pm to 7 pm.**

### ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY INC.

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

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

**\*\* OUR ANNUAL LOT OWNERS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 5, 2023 AT ZION'S UCC CHURCH AT 9:00 AM. THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING WILL FOLLOW.**



## FAITH NIGHT AT THE MOVIES HAMBURG STRAND THEATER

December 13, 2022 – The Christmas Candle  
Tickets are \$8.00 at the door and include a complimentary popcorn & soda.

### Lutheran Disaster Response General Fund

*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 "Where needed most" on your check memo line.

Give by phone at 800-638-3522 (Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm CT)

### 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

|         |                         |
|---------|-------------------------|
| Dec. 7  | Heaven                  |
| Dec. 14 | What Do I Live for Now? |
| Dec. 21 | Surviving the Holidays  |

**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.

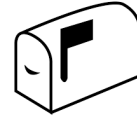




## December Birthdays

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 1st              | Jeffrey Seidel                                  |
| 3rd              | Merrill T. Arndt<br>Bruce Troutman<br>Zoey Adam |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Mary Ann Adam                                   |
| 5th              | Brad Doklan<br>Cameron Queenan                  |
| 6th              | Susan Horst<br>Leonardo LaVentura               |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Richard Reinhart                                |
| 9th              | Chase Denatala                                  |
| 10th             | Nathan Price                                    |
| 11th             | Susan Lutz<br>Paul Strauss                      |
| 15th             | Noah Neuin                                      |
| 18th             | Lisa Deibler<br>Roger Heckman                   |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Ronald Seaman                                   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Samuel Olszewski                                |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | Daniel Mazaika                                  |
| 23rd             | Amber Noecker                                   |
| 24th             | Daniel Brennan<br>Logan Heffner                 |
| 25th             | The Nativity of Our Lord –<br>Christmas Day     |
| 26th             | Gabrielle Leone<br>David Strunk                 |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | Julianne Kohler                                 |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | Melanie Epting                                  |

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

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.

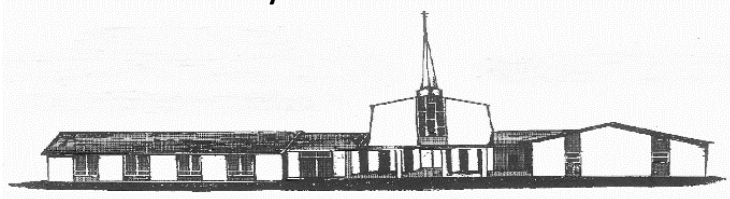


# Zion's Messenger

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

**\*\*Christmas Eve Services: 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm**

**\*\*Christmas Day-Lessons & Carols – 10:30 am**



**December 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 – December 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> |  |  | 1<br>11:30 AM – Ministerium Service and Lunch<br><br>7:00 pm Altar Guild  | 2<br>FH Rental   | 3   |
| 4<br>9:15 am Sunday Sch.<br><br>10:30 am Holy Communion – Blessing of the Quilts during Worship | 5 OFFICE CLOSED<br><br>6:30 pm Cub Scouts<br>7:30 pm Boy Scouts                                 | 6<br><br>7:00 pm A.A. Meeting  | 7<br><br>10:30 pm Bible Study @ Church<br><br>7:00 pm Bible Study on ZOOM<br><br>7:15 PM - CHOIR | 8<br>9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Monthly Board meeting – Zion's Church Fellowship Hall<br><br>6:00 pm Brass rehearsal<br>7:00 pm Handbell rehearsal | 9<br>ANNUAL REPORTS DUE TO OFFICE<br><br>10:00am – 12:00 pm CHILDREN OF THE KING - GOLD ROOM RENTAL<br><br>FH RENTAL | 10  |
| 11<br>9:15 am Sunday Sch.<br><br>10:30 am Holy Communion<br><br>FH RENTAL                       | 12 OFFICE CLOSED<br><br>6:30 pm Cub Scouts<br>7:30 pm Boy Scouts                                | 13<br>9:00 – 11:30 am Knotters<br>7:00 pm Council Mtg.<br><br>7:00 pm A.A. Meeting | 14<br>10:30 pm Bible Study @ Church<br><br>7:00 pm Bible Study on ZOOM<br><br>7:15 PM - CHOIR    | 15<br><br>7:00 pm Property Mtg.<br><br>6:00 pm Brass rehearsal<br>7:00 pm Handbell rehearsal  | 16   | 17  |
| 18<br>9:15 AM Sunday Sch.<br><br>10:30 am Holy Communion – Sunday School Christmas Pgm          | 19<br>JAN 2023 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE<br><br>6:30 pm Cub Scouts<br>7:30 pm Boy Scouts              | 20<br><br>7:15 pm – Choir Rehearsal<br><br>7:00 pm A.A. Meeting                    | 21<br>Winter Begins....  | 22  | 23   | 24 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD<br>3:30 pm Special Music<br>4:00 pm – Holy Communion<br>6:30 pm – Special Music<br>7:00 pm – Holy Communion |
| 25 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - CHRISTMAS DAY<br><br>10:30 am Lessons & Carols                        | 26 OFFICE CLOSED<br><br>6:30 pm Cub Scouts<br>7:30 pm Boy Scouts                                | 27<br><br>7:00 pm A.A. Meeting   | 28   | 29  | 30   | 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE   |
|   |   |  |  |   |  |   |

