

Zion's Messenger - January 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

New Year's resolutions...have you made any this year? How about in previous years? And how did that pan out? There are the usual resolutions: lose weight, exercise, eat healthier, put more in savings, take that dream vacation... There are others I sometimes hear from folks: read the Bible, pray more regularly, get back to church...

I have some myself: experiment more in the kitchen (try those recipes Rachael Ray does on her program), vacuum more often (now that I have a better vacuum cleaner), get serious about planning a major trip, reread my books in French that I collected as a student in France, reread some of my professional books... It's a bit risky sharing those things in writing!

So why do some resolutions work and others go by the wayside until another year?

It's the difference between being *intentional* and merely giving lip service. Some folks have given up making New Year's resolutions because they know they really have no intention on following through—they've learned that about themselves—they're being honest, at least, even knowing somewhere deep inside that there are things they need to do.

Let's be honest...making changes does take effort and energy. We may have effort and energy for things we really *want* to do, but for things we really *need* to do, it's often another story. We can't just sit back and expect things to happen or wait for someone else to make the difference. Making a resolution come to fruition does take *personal investment*.

This past fall Zion's returned to intentional focus on stewardship, sharing insights from members about how they've experience God's generosity in their lives or in the life of someone around them, and how they have responded in tangible ways with generosity. Many members resolved to be more intentional about supporting and growing the congregation's vital ministries.

Intentional stewardship of God's generosity to Zion's is what will make Zion's move ahead in the coming year. And it does take every member's resolve to respond to God's generosity, both with financial support and in sharing of ministry tasks within the four walls of Zion's and in outreach to where God calls us. It may well mean doing things differently.

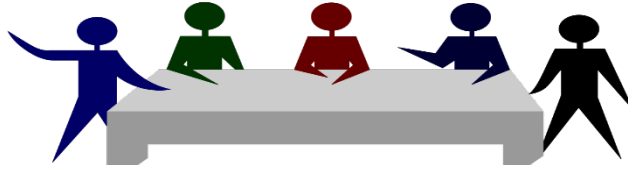
The obvious and realistic need is to get to the place of being able to call a pastor, whether it is in a shared situation with another congregation or in a type of part-time situation (just a word about that: there is no evidence of pastors seeking part-time calls).

A shared situation would certainly require adjustments in the way participating congregations schedule worship, Bible study, events, pastoral visitation, meetings, office time, etc. There are several examples in the Northeastern PA Synod of shared ministry: same site, different buildings, sharing different ministry tasks, etc. Recently four Lutheran congregations in Reading came together, sharing two pastors as Co-Pastors of Renewed Spirit Lutheran Church (what an awesome name!), a process that came together over several years of conversation. My experience before serving at Zion's saw a Lutheran congregation and a UCC congregation who shared a cemetery coming together in an official shared ministry with one pastor, using both buildings for worship, study, meetings, and events, maintaining their names and their worship styles, but working together in many other facets of the ministry. What makes it work? Their resolve, their intention...**and their trust in God!**

This coming year needs the resolve of every member to transition into calling a pastor, in whatever configuration God provides. Transition time is not meant to be permanent or a time when everything gets put on hold. It is time to move ahead, to change as is necessary for vitality. Zion's leaders are committed to making that happen and depend on the resolve of the congregation to make it happen. And it is every bit about **putting trust in God** to make effort and energy *intentional* (lip service won't make anything happen!). Christ is counting on the people of Zion's...on whom are you counting?

Your Sister in Christ,

 *Pastor Diane LaFauci*



ANNUAL MEETING

****UPDATE****

Annual Meeting & Luncheon

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 members are welcome to stay in their seats after the service.

We will need to have 50 people in attendance to make any motions and we will not be using Zoom this year for the meeting.

After the annual meeting, we will be holding the luncheon in the fellowship hall. The fellowship committee will be providing barbeque, hot dogs, and drinks. Please plan to bring a covered dish to share. We look forward to seeing everyone at the annual meeting!



Council Corner

Zion's Church Council met on December 13. Treasurer, Sandra Moroney reported that we are now \$17,000 in the black. In January of 2021, we were \$28,000 in the red. We have gradually been able to make up the deficit due to decreased expenses associated with a part-time Pastor, a few cost cutting measures, several generous donations, and the results of some increased giving due to the stewardship campaign. She also reported that we have now paid off the parking lot. Council would like to encourage members to continue to make donations toward the Capital campaign as we have the potential to have some large expenses in the near future relating to our heating system and our roof. We have also paid up our fuel bill through December. Fuel costs continue to rise so this will be a significant expense through the winter.

We continued to discuss our Pastoral vacancy and are looking at all the options that are available. The Call Committee is ready to look at any candidates that might be presented to us.

Council approved the purchase of an adjustable piano bench to go with our baby grand piano.

There was considerable discussion about security upgrades to our building particularly related to lights and security cameras. At present, we have added increased lighting to the back area of the parking lot and the police are patrolling the lot regularly.

Council reviewed the budget for 2023 and approved the proposed budget which will be presented to the congregation for the congregational meeting on January 22. It was also decided to have our congregational meeting this year without using Zoom. The meeting will be held in the church immediately after the service, and then we will dismiss to the fellowship hall for a covered dish meal.

Council responsibilities were reviewed for the Christmas Eve services. There was approval to receive the offering by passing the basket at both services as recommended by Worship and Music.

It was also reported that we are looking for someone to be responsible for providing updates and information about our church services to the local newspapers. Virginia Werley provided this service for many years, and we thank her for her work in this area.

If you have any concerns or suggestions for Council, you may discuss them with President, Tiffany Gruber; Vice President, Mark Dreibelbis; or any Council member.

Submitted by Janine Dreibelbis

Financial Report

We finished the month of November at \$5,195.02 in the black (monthly income over expenses).

We have paid off the parking lot project! Please continue to give towards the capital improvement fund as we never know what large project may come up next.

Monthly – Income for Nov.	\$22,400.51
Monthly – Expenses for Nov.	\$17,205.49
The General Offering	\$18,042.00
Online Giving	\$3,126.23
Loose Change	\$170.00
Other Income	<u>\$1,062.28</u>
Subtotal	\$22,400.51

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. **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!

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 or 570-778-8403.



Eleanor Dietrich thanks everyone at church for the sympathy cards and calls of support after the passing of her brother.

We thank all of you who were able to donate to this year's Angel Tree Gift Tag program. All of the tags were taken again this year making the holidays brighter for someone right here in our area.

Pastor Diane sends thanks for messages of Christmas blessings and to the Women of the ELCA for the gift to Lutheran Disaster Response Fund in her honor.

Redner's Save-A-Tape 2022 Collections

In 2022, we received a total of \$828.42 from the Redner's Save-A-Tape program, from register tapes turned in every week at Zion's. You are doing a super job at turning in those Redner's receipts!

WELCA continues to use the funds to support capital projects/property needs, as well as Zion's program needs and Bear Creek camperships. This year we were able to put the money towards a campership and the parking lot balance, among many other Zion's and community programs and ministries.

Keep saving and submitting your Redner's tapes. Don't forget to use your Save-A-Tape card at the store, or just enter your phone number, keep your entire receipt, and put it in the basket in the narthex. If you don't make it to worship in person, you can mail your receipts or drop them off during the week.

**Thank you for a great year!
The Women of WELCA**



FOOTNOTES...

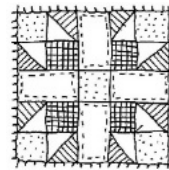
FROM OUR LIBRARY

In order to help us acquire materials that would be of interest to our congregation, we ask that you please fill out the questionnaire included in this issue of the newsletter.

The questionnaire can be returned to the basket on the library table in the Narthex or sent to the church office.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Please come in and sign out a book to read during the winter months!



KNOTTER'S NEWS

Thanks to everyone who donated to our Quilt raffle in December. The winners were:

Jane Reppert – The Winter Quilt
Lucille Gough – The Denim Quilt and the Sunflower Quilt
Chris Brennan – The Animal Print Fleece Quilt

Funds donated are used to purchase supplies needed to finish the quilts donated to those in need.

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!**

Thanks again for your continued support of our Knotting ministry.



FOOD PANTRY

Our local food pantry is always in need of donations and these are some of the items that are needed:

Boxed Macaroni & Cheese

And of course, **any shelf stable item** that you would like to donate would be appreciated.

For monetary donations, 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!

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., Jan. 24, from 6 pm to 7 pm.

ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY INC.

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.

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

GRIEFSHARE

A new session of GriefShare is beginning. GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group for people who are grieving the death of someone close to them.

The GriefShare support group will begin on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm and continue through April 19, 2023. Sessions take place at:

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

Jan. 18	Is This Normal?
Jan. 25	Challenges of Grief
Feb. 1	The Journey of Grief, Part 1
Feb. 8	The Journey of Grief, Part 2

Persons can join at any time.

***Please see flyer on bulletin board in Narthex for further dates.**

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

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)



CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP EXPRESS

6 c. chicken broth
1/8 tsp. pepper
2 med. carrots, sliced
2 stalks celery, sliced
1 c. uncooked med. egg noodles
2 c. cooked, cubed chicken

In a saucepan, mix broth, pepper, carrots and celery. Over medium high heat, heat to a boil. Add noodles. Cook over medium heat 10 mins., stirring often. Add chicken and heat through. Serves 8.

From the WELCA cook book, contributed by Elaine Schroeder.

Limited copies of the WELCA cookbook are available for sale in the church office.



January Birthdays

1st Ellen Hartline
Brenda Hartman

2nd Jessica Visnosky

3rd Kevin Gough

4th Alyssa Blanford

5th Prent Steffy
Mary Barto

6th Doris Hoffman

7th Luke Mengel

8th Christine Miller

9th Dennis Hoffert
David Ketner

11th Joan Seidel
Robert Seidel

12th Ruth Hoppes
Shawn Seidel

13th Brian Heffner
David Mengle
Barbara Seidel
Barbara Shafer
Alicia Pursell

14th Timothy Eyer
Justin Dusko

16th Paul Gruber

17th Raegan Kerr

18th Beckie Reinhart
Drew Koller

19th Dianne Geschwindt

20th David Geschwindt

21st Mark Dreibelbis

23rd Lester Wessner

25th Karyna Blandford
Shirlene Epting
Tyler Heffner

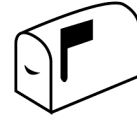
27th Dominic Leone

28th Gary Rothermel

29th Carol Rothermel

30th Joyce Sechler

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

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

January 2023

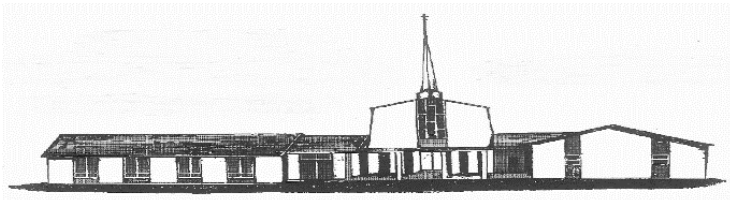
Pastor: Pastor Diane LaFauci

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 – January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 NEW YEAR'S DAY NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION	2	3	4 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	5 7:00 pm – Decoration removal at church 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Annual Lot Owner's meeting and Monthly Board meeting – Zion's Church Fellowship Hall	6	7 FH RENTAL
8 9:15 am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am HOLY COMMUNION	9 OFFICE CLOSED	10 9:00 – 11:30 am Knotters 7:00 pm Council Mtg. 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	11 10:30 pm Bible Study @ Church 7:00 pm Bible Study on ZOOM 7:15 PM – Choir Rehearsal	12 6:00 pm Brass rehearsal 7:00 pm Handbell rehearsal	13 10:00am – 12:00 pm GOLD ROOM RENTAL	14
15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 9:15 am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am HOLY COMMUNION	16 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	17 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	18 10:30 pm Bible Study @ Church 7:00 pm Bible Study on ZOOM	19 7:00 pm Property Mtg. 6:00 pm Brass rehearsal 7:00 pm Handbell rehearsal	20	21
22 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am HOLY COMMUNION ANNUAL MEETING AFTER SERVICE Luncheon follows mtg.	23 OFFICE CLOSED FEB 2023 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	24 9:00 – 11:30 am Knotters 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	25 10:30 pm Bible Study @ Church 7:00 pm Bible Study on ZOOM 7:15 PM – Choir Rehearsal	26 6:00 pm Worship & Music Mtg. 7:00 pm Handbell rehearsal 8:00 pm Brass rehearsal	27	28
29 9:15 am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am WORSHIP ANNUAL MEETING SNOW DATE	30 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	31 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting 7:15 PM – Choir Rehearsal			**WATCH FOR SERVICE INFO IN BULLETINS, CALENDARS & ONLINE	** SERVICES WILL BE RECORDED AND POSTED ON THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE EVERY SUNDAY

