

Zion's Messenger - February 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The gospels record that Jesus spent 40 days after his baptism, focusing on the mission ahead of him and trusting in the wisdom of the Father for what would lie ahead for him in the journey. We find this recorded in Matthew 4.1-11, Mark 1.13, and Luke 4.1-13.

The early church began to understand that an intentional 40-day period of meditation, study, and specific focus in worship would be a helpful spiritual discipline...a necessary discipline to repeat annually in the weeks leading up to the celebration of Christ's Resurrection. Easter Sunday was set specifically around the Jewish celebration of the Passover. The Passover is *the* saving event of the Old Testament, the Death/Resurrection of Christ being the ultimate saving event for our lives.

The Passover event tells us that those whose dwelling places were marked with the blood of the Lamb would be saved from the Angel of Death passing over. We understand that we are marked with the Blood of the Lamb...that is, Jesus, the Lamb of God...as his blood is shed to wash away our sin. We are called to contemplate this in order for Easter to make sense to us.

Recently on the sign at the entrance to the church parking lot, it was posted *devotions, not resolutions*. What good advice is that! Everyone knows that making New Year's resolutions sounds like a good thing—and the resolutions are often things we really should be doing anyway. The problem, of course, is that they often get lost as we swing out of the holiday spirit back into the daily routine.

Daily devotions in Lent may or may not be different from what you usually do...or it may be a whole new discipline, one you may find worth keeping up. You'll find devotional booklets on the table in the Narthex. And, thanks to the work of the Library group, there are regularly displayed books you might find useful as you shape your own style of Lenten devotional time.

There is no set way to shape a Lenten devotional time...coming up with some entirely different plan than you're used to might be fun and spiritually uplifting. The whole point of Lent is to have a focus that puts you in touch with God in a meaningful way. So it may be reading someone's faith story, reading and meditating on one particular book of the Bible (a gospel makes sense for Lent, but it can be any book of the Bible), a book of humor, personal journaling, a weekly altar visit (personal time in the sanctuary during the church's office hours—please let Trina, our Admin. Asst. know you're in the building).

You may have noticed that I didn't suggest giving up chocolate or some other sacrifice that makes you feel like you're suffering, which just leads to saying you can't wait until Lent is over! The suffering you do for giving up chocolate doesn't hold a candle to the suffering Jesus goes through to save us from ourselves!

Do plan to come to worship on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. Watch for info in February bulletins and the March newsletter for a devotional study on Wednesdays in Lent. Use this time of the year to let the Holy Spirit enrich your spiritual connection with God in Christ and see where that leads you.

Your Sister in Christ,

† *Pastor Diane LaFauci*

CALLING ALL "SENIORS"!!

Remember back "before COVID," when we used to gather monthly during the week once a month for food and fellowship, card games, board games, etc.? It was good to be together, maybe bring a casserole, bag of chips, a dessert to share, if able, and bring a friend or two along?

Well, how about we get that going again?! Please let **Brenda Hartman or Tiffany Gruber** know you're interested...maybe even if you'd like to be on the ground floor doing the planning to get things going. We have the space available, even some funding to help. Talk to Brenda or Tiffany or call the Office and let Trina know. Spring is coming and bringing new life!!

Annual Meeting Updates

Thank you to Lucille Gough & Brian Moroney for their time serving on council. We would also like to thank Janine Dreibelbis and Tiffany Gruber for running again for another term on council. Wanda Hoherchak was also elected to serve on council. Thank you to Stephanie Schumaker for having served on the audit committee too.

The council members for this upcoming year are Janine Dreibelbis, Mark Dreibelbis, Heather Gring, Samantha Gruber, Tiffany Gruber, Faye Heckman, Wanda Hoherchak, Carolyn Hollenbach, and John Smith. A president, vice president, and secretary will be elected at the February 14, 2023 meeting. If you are interested in serving on council and would like to serve on a one-year term, please reach out to anyone on council. We currently have three openings on council.

The newly elected audit committee person is Lucille Gough. No one was elected to the nominating committee and we still have one spot to fill. If you are interested in serving on this committee, that only meets one time per year, please see a council member.

Our budget that passed, was created without putting in a salary amount for a called pastor. As stated before from the finance committee, calling a full-time pastor would cost us at least \$90,000 or more depending on their experience. This cost included salary, housing allowance, employee benefits and mileage reimbursement. We as a congregation, will be faced with the challenge of increasing our revenue by approximately \$3,500 per month, which is in addition to the \$1,100 increase based on our member's intent cards from our Stewardship drive, to meet the personnel and operating expenses for a full-time pastor. We continue to explore full-time and shared ministry but as we have stated at other times the demand for pastors right now is great with not many candidates to fill the positions. We will keep the congregation informed as we continue in this process to call a pastor.

Thank you for your continued support of the ministry at Zion's Lutheran Church!

COMMON GROUND MINISTRY



Common Ground is a worshipping community based on 12-step spirituality and Lutheran faith. It reaches people in recovery from addiction who seek wholeness in their lives in building strong relationships. Many 12-Step/Recovery organizations meet in space provided by Atonement Lutheran Church in its Community Center in Wyomissing.

This essential ministry, which includes a Coffee House, small groups, education, and worship, is funded primarily from gifts and grants and with support in various ways from local congregations, a small portion of its budget funded in weekly offering. Pastor Tom Scornavacchi serves this ministry, and we are pleased to welcome him at Zion's on **Sunday, February 5**, in worship. A special offering will be received.



SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY

On **Sunday, February 12th**, we will be celebrating **Scout Sunday** and we will also be celebrating **Souper Bowl Sunday**! This year's Souper Bowl donations will benefit the Helping Harvest Food Bank. Please bring canned soup or other non-perishable food items to donate. Also, you may place a monetary donation in the soup pot for the football team you think will win this year's Super Bowl game. Our gifts will help to feed our neighbors in need.



TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY, FEB. 19, 2023

If you have palm fronds from previous years that you would like to bring to be blessed in worship and burned to make ashes for use on Ash Wednesday (February 22, 2023), there will be a basket to receive your palms in the Narthex.

***COMING IN LENT...**

Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023 - 7:00pm

Imposition of Ashes

Holy Communion

*Please check future bulletins for information regarding the Pastor's Lenten study.



Council Corner

Church Council met on January 10th. The meeting opened with devotions on the importance of placing our focus on serving Christ and others instead of ourselves.

We reviewed worship numbers for the Christmas Eve service and were pleased to see that 136 individuals attended, with 107 of them at the 7:00pm service! It was nice to see a strong turnout of members and visitors, and good to see those that had not attended a worship service at Zion's in a while.

The Treasurer's report showed that we finished the 2022 calendar year in a favorable position, and the loan for the parking lot has finally been repaid in full! More capital expenditures will be ahead, and repairs to the building, such as work on the heating system and replacement of fascia boards, are needed.

On Sunday, February 5th, Rev. Tom Scornavacchi will be our supply pastor while Pastor Diane is away. Rev. Scornavacchi is pastor and mission developer of Common Ground Ministry, which is a community dedicated to recovering by faith, growing together in grace, and serving by sharing the abundance of God. On that date we will be collecting a special offering for Common Ground. Please consider donating to this important organization.

Our Boy Scout Troop leadership is looking to start a new BSA Scout Troop for girls. They currently have four girls interested in joining scouts but need one more to start a girl's Troop. If you know any girls (or boys) in grade 6 through age 17 who may be interested in joining BSA Scouting, please contact Heather Gring. The unit has a lot of fun and performs numerous worthwhile activities that benefit the Scouts and the community.

On Sunday, February 12th, we will be celebrating Scout Sunday during worship, and we will also be celebrating Souper Bowl Sunday! This year's Souper Bowl donations will benefit the Helping Harvest Food Bank. Please bring canned soup or other non-perishable food items to donate. Also, you may place a monetary donation in the soup pot for the football team you think will win this year's Super Bowl game. Our gifts will help to feed our neighbors in need.

By the time this February newsletter is published, we will have had our annual congregational meeting and will have held elections. Nominees for several positions were still needed as of our January council meeting. A big thank you to those who decided to volunteer and were listed on the ballot!

~ Respectfully submitted by Heather Gring

Financial Report

We finished the month of December at \$15,184.56 in the black (monthly income over expenses).

Overall, for the year, at the end of December we were \$32,964.33 in the black. As mentioned at the annual meeting, this amount is a bit larger due to some end of the year donations that were given to the church before the end of December.

Monthly – Income for December \$31,490.78

Monthly – Expenses for December \$16,306.22

The General Offering \$25,726.00

Online Giving \$2,561.92

Loose Change \$479.00

Other Income \$2,723.86

Subtotal \$31,490.78

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 church's 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.

ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY INC.

Our monthly Board meeting will be held on February 9, 2023 at 9:00 am.

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



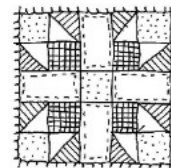
FOOTNOTES...FROM OUR LIBRARY

"ICE-SCAPE" WITH A GOOD BOOK!

It's February and it's cold! What better way to WARM UP than with a good book! We are again featuring some newer selections on our library table that we received in 2022. Please take a look and sign one out to enjoy.

P.S. A new addition in 2023 is a 48-volume topical teaching "Bible Strong Living Library" by Dr. David Jeremiah located on the bottom shelf of the DVD section.

Come in and take a look around...



KNOTTER'S NEWS

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!**

We are always in need of material, blankets and bedding, some of which is used for cat & dog beds for local kennels. Any monetary funds donated are used to purchase supplies needed to finish the quilts donated to those in need.

Thanks again for your continued support of our Knitting ministry.



Time to Dream about summer and going to Bear Creek Camp!

Bear Creek Camp is the largest Lutheran Camp in the country located on 3000 wooded acres near Wilkes Barre.

Camp allows people to be a little more of a lot of things. Campers become more friendly, more adventurous, more service oriented. They sing a little louder and they climb a little higher. As campers leave camp to go home they will feel a little closer to God, a little more curious about faith and a little more connected to nature.

Changes were made to have a safe camp experience and changes are made according to current conditions. Classic camp is now a Sunday through Friday experience with 3 sessions of try camp going Sunday to Wednesday for first and second graders.

WELCA strongly believes in the value of the outdoor Christian education of Bear Creek camp. Therefore, they continue to offer scholarships for Zion's members and Zion's Sunday school. They are as follows:

Try Camp - \$300

Classic Camp - \$425

Family Camp - \$300 (Family camp is July 2-7.)

Check the website bearcreekcamp.org for details about camp, dates, forms and FAQ. Contact Carol Rothermel 2610-562-7620 or chipmunk_hill@comcast.net for details about how to sign up for camp and how to use the church code to access the scholarships.



FOOD PANTRY

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

**Tuna and Chicken Salad kits
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., Feb. 28, from 6 pm to 7 pm.

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 meets Wednesdays, on the dates below at 6:30 pm and will continue through April 19, 2023. Sessions take place at:

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

Feb. 1	The Journey of Grief, Part 1
Feb. 8	The Journey of Grief, Part 2
Feb. 15	Grief and Your Relationships
Feb. 22	NO GRIEFSHARE MEETING

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)



CABBAGE & BEEF SOUP

1 lb. lean ground beef
½ tsp. garlic salt
¼ tsp. garlic powder
¼ tsp. pepper
2 celery stalks, chopped
1 can (16 oz.) kidney beans, undrained
½ medium head cabbage, chopped
1 can (28 oz.) chopped tomatoes
1 tomato can water
4 beef bouillon cubes

In a large pot, brown beef. Add all remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat. Simmer, covered for 1 hour. Yields 3 qt. Soup can be frozen.

From the WELCA cook book, contributed by Shirlene Epting.

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

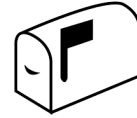




February Birthdays

- 1st Melissa Gruber
 Alyssa Noecker
 Adrienne Puglia
 Deanna Puglia
- 2nd Kyleigh Mengel
 Harold Kramer
- 8th James Blandford
 Brayden Heckman
- 9th Keith Hertzog
- 10th Wesley Trabosh
- 14th Lauren Werley-Wolf
 Katelyn Heckman
- 16th Carolyn Geist
 Keith Seidel
- 20th Jory Heckman
- 21st Lois DeTurk
 Kenneth Reppert
- 23rd Zachary Hoherchak
- 25th Carielle Geist
 Tyler Pond
- 26th Joel Werley
 Ruth Wilhelm

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 School: 9:15 am

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

February 2023

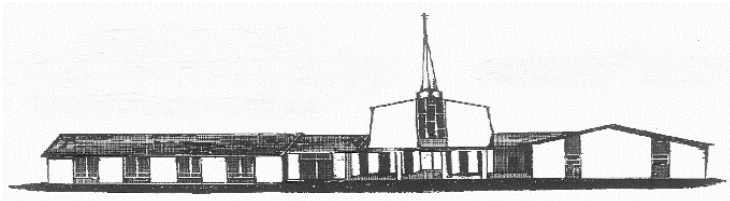
Pastor: Pastor Diane LaFauci

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 – February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
**WATCH FOR SERVICE INFO IN BULLETINS, CALENDARS & ONLINE	** SERVICES WILL BE RECORDED AND POSTED ON THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE EVERY SUNDAY		1 10:30 pm Bible Study @ ZOOM 7:00 pm Bible Study on ZOOM	2 GROUNDHOG DAY	3	4 FH RENTAL
5 9:15 am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am HOLY COMMUNION	6 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	7 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	8 10:30 pm Bible Study @ Church 7:00 pm Bible Study on ZOOM 7:15 PM – Choir Rehearsal	9 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Monthly Board meeting – Zion's Church Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm Brass rehearsal 7:00 pm Handbell rehearsal	10 10:00am – 12:00 pm GOLD ROOM RENTAL	11
12 SCOUT SUNDAY SOUPER BOWL SUN. 9:15 am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am HOLY COMMUNION	13 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	14 VALENTINE'S DAY 9:00 – 11:30 am Knotters 7:00 pm Council Mtg. 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	15 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	16 6:00 pm Brass rehearsal 7:00 pm Handbell rehearsal 7:00 pm Altar Guild 7:00 pm Property Mtg.	17	18
19 TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am HOLY COMMUNION 6:00 PM -JOINT CONF. MTG. AT ZION'S	20 PRESIDENT'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	21 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	22 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM Worship **Choir Rehearsal following service**	23	24	25
26 9:15 am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am HOLY COMMUNION	27 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	28 9:00 – 11:30 am Knotters 6:00 pm Northern Berks Food Bank distribution at Hamburg Area Middle Sch. 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting				

