

# Zion's Messenger - March 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I look forward to hosting family and/or friends at our house for a meal. I take care in planning a meal that will make people feel loved and valued.

The other hospitality task I spend time on is setting the table. I'm a tablecloth-and-cloth-napkin person, with colors and patterns for every season or occasion. Candles and candlesticks are carefully chosen and placed, as is the centerpiece. And, of course, the dish patterns are chosen with the actual meal in mind. I want guests to feel valued and welcome, so setting a pretty table hopefully gets our meal together off to a good start.

Setting the table in the Lord's House for the holy meal is done with just as much care by the Altar Guild, in order to focus on the meal itself...and on the Host who has prepared it.

The cloth covering the table—the Fair Linen—is white, embroidered with a cross at each corner of the table surface, plus a slightly larger cross centered at the front edge of the table, marking the wounded hands and feet of the Crucified One and the larger wound made by the sword piercing Jesus' side. The purificators (napkins) may or may not also bear a cross. There are no flowers on the Lord's Table to distract from what is central to the meal. The vessels—ciborium (for supply of wafers), the paten (plate, if not a basket for bread), the flagon (pitcher), chalices (vessels for the wine), are the finest dishes...silver or pewter or finely-crafted pottery. Or they could just as well be simple every-day glass vessels!

On the altar, you will also see the chalice and paten covered with a veil or a pall. The first holy cover described and commanded by God was for the Ark of the Covenant (the vessel containing the tablets with the Ten Commandments). Traveling in the wilderness, the Israelites kept the Ark in the Tent of the Lord's Presence. So, many churches cover the vessels in some way as reminder of the "holy place" for the presence of God.

Attention to detail, including specific placement of items on the Lord's Table is done to call our focus to God's hospitality, welcoming the family to the holy meal.

The season of Lent draws our focus to the Lord's Table and the meal reminding us of the forgiveness poured out for us in the Body of Christ given for us, the Blood of Christ shed for us...the meal God goes to great lengths to prepare just for us! May this Lenten season bring you to experience the depth of God's hospitality.

Your Sister in Christ,

✝ *Pastor Diane LaFauci*

## FIRST COMMUNION

At the recent Christmas program, children were asking why some children communed and some did not, a good indication of readiness. Is your child curious about Holy Communion? asking why we do this in worship? asking why only adults and older children are served? asking why they only receive a "blessing" when they come to the rail with you? wondering if they have to be certain age for, or earn?

We wouldn't invite friends to our home and only feed the adults...neither does God!! Baptism and Holy Communion are **Means of Grace—GIFTS** that *cannot be earned or deserved*—ways of helping ALL people, to know that God loves us unconditionally. We don't have to be good enough, old enough, or knowledgeable enough to receive God's blessing and be served at the Lord's Table!

Please talk with Pastor about bringing your child for a time of preparation (3 sessions, flexible scheduling), that they may receive Holy Communion with you. A form is available at Sunday School or in the Church Office.

For more information: Pr Diane LaFauci 484-794-5503 / [dilafauci@comcast.net](mailto:dilafauci@comcast.net)

**LENTEN STUDY 2023**  
**What is the *Grace of Jesus Christ*?**  
**How do we experience it?**  
**What false teachings lead us astray?**

WEEK 1 Wednesday, March 1 – Why does Grace matter to the Church?

WEEK 2 Wednesday, March 8 – Where is the Grace in the Ten Commandments?

WEEK 3 Wednesday, March 15 – How is Grace shown in the Apostles' Creed?

WEEK 4 Wednesday, March 22 – How does the Lord's Prayer lead us to experience Grace?

WEEK 5 Wednesday, March 29 – Tangible Grace in the Sacraments

**GRACE**

**God's Radical Act in Christ for Everyone**  
**Wednesdays in Lent: 10:30am at Zion's / 7pm on ZOOM**  
**Study & Discussion Guide ("hard copy" and online)**

**ZION'S ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

The adult Sunday school class at Zion's meets every Sunday at 9:15. Please join us for some interesting Bible study and discussion. Leading up to Easter, we will be doing a 5-week study beginning March 12<sup>th</sup>. This is a DVD study entitled "Searching for the Historical Jesus". Weekly topics will be:

**The Conspiracy against Jesus**

**The Road to Jerusalem**

**The Arrest and Trial**

**The Jesus Movement in Crisis**

**The Rise of Christianity**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**Palm/Passion Sunday – April 2**

**10:30 am**

**Maundy Thursday - April 6**

**7:00 pm**

**Good Friday - April 7**

**7:00 pm**

**The Resurrection of Our Lord**

**Sunday, April 9**

**6:30 am & 10:30am**

**7:30 am - Easter Breakfast**

# **NORTHERN BERKS MINISTERIUM LENT SERIES**

## **“ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS”**

**THURSDAYS, 11:30 AM**  
**(\*\*except Good Friday – see below)**

**SERVICE OF PRAYER**  
**SOUP & BREAD LUNCH FOLLOWING**

**FREE WILL OFFERING TO SUPPORT THE MINISTERIUM’S OUTREACH ASSISTANCE TO THE  
NEEDY**

### **MARCH 2nd**

**Who is Jesus?**

**Friedens Church of Lenhartsville**

### **MARCH 9th**

**What Matters Most?**

**St Michael Lutheran, Tilden Twp.**

### **MARCH 16th**

**What Brings Fulfillment?**

**St. John’s Lutheran, Hamburg**

### **March 23rd**

**Where Is God?**

**Victory Chapel, 213 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St, Hamburg**

### **March 30th**

**Is There Hope?**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reformed UCC, Hamburg**

### **April 7th, Good Friday**

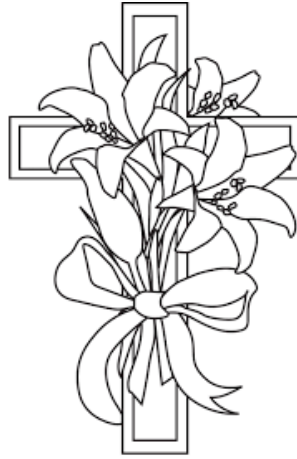
**Cross Walk & Service**

**\*\* 11 AM Cross Walk**

**\*\* 12 PM Service**

**( NO LUNCHEON )**

**First UCC, Hamburg**



To simplify the order process and ensure the correct flowers are ordered, please follow these instructions. **The order, along with the payment** should be **placed in the offering basket** so the counting team can process the order correctly. All orders are due by **Friday March 31<sup>st</sup>**. Please confirm total number of plants ordered and specify color where there is a choice. Flowers can be picked up at church on Easter Sunday.

**Please Specify how many of each on the line.**

(3-4 bulbs) White Lilies: \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

(6" pot) Yellow Daffodils: \$9.00 \_\_\_\_\_

(8" pot) Tulips: \$9.00 Color Choices: \_\_\_\_\_ Red \_\_\_\_\_ Yellow \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_ Orange \_\_\_\_\_ Purple \_\_\_\_\_

(3 bloom) Hyacinths \$9.00 Color Choices: \_\_\_\_\_ Purple/Blue \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_

**Total number of flowers ordered:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Payment included with order:** \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_



## Council Corner

Church Council met on Feb. 14. The meeting opened with devotions on God's love for us through his love for his son Jesus Christ.

Council members voted unanimously to keep the same council officers in the coming year: President, Tiffany Gruber; Vice President, Mark Dreibelbis; Secretary, John Smith; Treasurer, Sandra Moroney. Members signed up for their respective duties for devotions at council meeting and council corner reports.

The Treasurer's report showed we finished January 2023 in the black with a fuel bill of \$3160.00 owed to Francis L. Werley.

Council will extend an invitation to all Cat. Class members to attend the March Council meeting. Mark Dreibelbis previously led a group discussion with Cat. Class members about the Annual Church Meeting. They were interested in the daily functions of our church. We hope this experience will help them become good church members.

We discussed the shortage of pastors in the Synod, a factor in the difficulty of finding a permanent pastor for Zion's. We held a lengthy discussion of the Ministry Site Profile (MSP), an extensive form used by congregations that are seeking to call a minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Welcome and Outreach Committee sent church bulletins and Valentines to shut-in members.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 19-23 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am.

Sandra Moroney was appointed as liaison from Council to the Endowment Committee.

We discussed the three open council positions and urge members who are interested in serving on council to contact a council member or Pastor Diane.

The joint Confirmation class will hold a retreat at Zion's on Sunday, February 19.

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Hollenbach

## Financial Report

We finished the month of January at \$4,808.54 in the black (monthly income over expenses).

Monthly – Income for January \$16,765.30

Monthly – Expenses for January \$11,956.76

The General Offering \$11,526.00

Online Giving \$2,596.66

Loose Change \$53.00

Other Income \$2,589.64

Subtotal \$16,765.30

**Thank you for your continued support!**

## Consider online giving in 2023

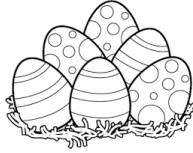
Visit <http://zionslutheran.org/donate/>. Please feel free to call the church office for assistance.



**Save the Date!!**

**STELLAR VACATION BIBLE  
SCHOOL**

**Come join us for a galactic adventure!  
June 19 – 23 from 9:00am to 11:30am**



**Our annual EASTER EGG HUNT will be held on Saturday morning, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.**

We welcome everyone from toddlers through adults to come out for the hunt. The Egg Hunt is held rain or shine. Please bring your favorite Easter basket and meet in the Fellowship Hall by 9:30 am. Friends are welcome.

**MONETARY DONATIONS** are always welcome to help offset the cost of the candy, prizes, and crafts. If you wish to make a donation, please put your donation in an envelope and mark it Egg Hunt and place it in the offering basket. If you would like to donate a bag or bags of candy to fill the plastic eggs, we need individually wrapped miniatures size candies of all types. All candy donations are needed by Sunday, March 26. Place your donations in the box marked Egg Hunt in the office.



**FOOTNOTES...FROM OUR LIBRARY**

**A READING CHRISTIAN IS A GROWING CHRISTIAN**

As Pastor LaFauci mentioned in the February newsletter, our devotional time can be spent reading someone's faith story, reading and meditating on one particular book of the Bible or choosing a devotional booklet.

We have daily devotional books and will feature some along with other possible books that you might enjoy on our library table for the month of March.

**Please stop by and take a look!**

**ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY INC.**

**- NOTICE -**

**Zion Cemetery Co. Inc. of Perry Township has set the week of March 12-18, 2023 for spring cleaning.**

All decoration not planted in the ground will be removed if not claimed before this week by lot owners. The Cemetery Board is not responsible for decorations remaining on graves when spring cleaning begins. New and existing decorations may be placed March 19, 2023.

Single or multiple grave lots are available for sale. Please contact David Geschwindt, Cemetery Manager, 610-562-7421.

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

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

**WELCOME AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

The committee invites you to participate in a **birthday card shower for Brett Daub**. Brett's birthday is March 14th. He is currently serving our country on the USS Ashland, so this is a great way to celebrate his birthday and also acknowledge his service to our country. Cards should be mailed to the following address:

OS2 Daub, Brett  
USS Ashland LSD48  
Unit 100147 Box 747  
FPO AP 96660

**Thank you!**



## 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](http://bearcreekcamp.org) for details about camp, dates, forms and FAQ. Contact Carol Rothermel 2610-562-7620 or [chipmunk\\_hill@comcast.net](mailto: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:

**Paper Products:**  
Toilet paper  
Paper Towels  
Tissues

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 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., Mar. 28 2023, 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

Mar. 1	Why?
Mar. 8	Guilt and Anger
Mar. 15	Complicating Factors
Mar. 22	Stuck
Mar. 29	Lessons of Grief – Part 1

**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)



## 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.



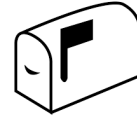




## March Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup> Anthony Grugan  
Erica Mish  
Rob Wagner
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Valerie Hancik  
Cheryl Hertzog  
Lana Leone
- 5<sup>th</sup> Janine Dreibelbis
- 6<sup>th</sup> Glenn Epting  
Timothy Pursell
- 9<sup>th</sup> Terry Reinhart
- 10<sup>th</sup> Sasha Denatala  
Robert Noecker
- 12<sup>th</sup> Caleb Smith
- 14<sup>th</sup> Brett Daub  
Susan Heckman
- 16<sup>th</sup> Traci Heffner
- 20<sup>th</sup> Linda Sousley
- 21<sup>st</sup> Elsie Frymoyer  
Russel Reinhart
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Courtney Brennan  
Paul Reidenhour, Jr.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Carissa Miller
- 25<sup>th</sup> Debora Heckman
- 26<sup>th</sup> Betty Angstadt  
Mary Clark
- 27<sup>th</sup> Tricia Boyer
- 28<sup>th</sup> Ruth Hill  
Crystal Reinhart
- 29<sup>th</sup> Linda Reinhart
- 30<sup>th</sup> Victoria Long  
Sharon Strauss
- 31<sup>st</sup> Kylee Koller

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

March 2023

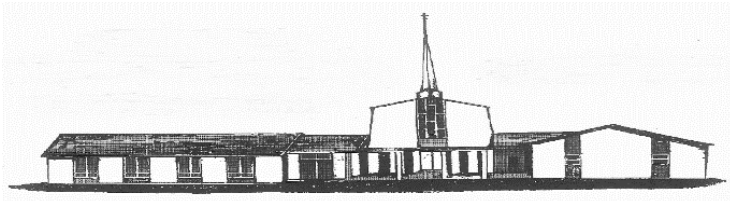
Pastor: Pastor Diane LaFauci

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 – March 2023**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>**WATCH FOR SERVICE INFO IN BULLETINS, CALENDARS &amp; ONLINE</b></p>	<p><b>** SERVICES WILL BE RECORDED AND POSTED ON THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE EVERY SUNDAY</b></p>		<p><b>1</b> 10:30 pm Bible Study @ church  7:00 pm Bible Study on ZOOM  7:15 PM – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>2</b>  6:00 pm Brass rehearsal 7:00 pm Bells rehearsal</p>	<p><b>3</b> FH RENTAL</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>
<p><b>5</b> 9:15 am SUNDAY SCHOOL  10:30 am HOLY COMMUNION</p>	<p><b>6 OFFICE CLOSED</b>  6:30 pm Cub Scouts &amp; Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>7</b>  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p><b>8</b> 10:30 pm Bible Study @ Church  7:00 pm Bible Study on ZOOM  7:15 PM – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>9</b> 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Monthly Board meeting – Zion's Church Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm Brass rehearsal 7:00 pm Handbell rehearsal 7:00 pm WELCA mtg.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>12 DAYLIGHT SVGS TIME BEGINS</b>  9:15 am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am HOLY COMMUNION  6:00 pm Joint Conf. Class @ St. John's Hamburg</p>	<p><b>13 OFFICE CLOSED</b>  6:30 pm Cub Scouts &amp; Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>14</b> 9:00 - Knotters  7:00 pm Council Mtg.  7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p><b>15</b> 10:30 pm Bible Study @ church  7:00 pm Bible Study on ZOOM  7:15 PM – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>16</b> 6:00 pm Brass rehearsal 7:00 pm Handbell rehearsal  6:00 pm Worship &amp; Music 7:00 pm Property Mtg.</p>	<p><b>17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>
<p><b>19</b>  9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  10:30 am HOLY COMMUNION</p>	<p><b>20 OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <b>APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>  6:30 pm Cub Scouts &amp; Boy Scouts  <b>SPRING BEGINS</b></p>	<p><b>21</b>  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p><b>22</b> 10:30 pm Bible Study @ church  7:00 pm Bible Study on ZOOM  7:15 PM – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b> 9:15 am SUNDAY SCHOOL  10:30 am HOLY COMMUNION</p>	<p><b>27 OFFICE CLOSED</b>  6:30 pm Cub Scouts &amp; Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>28</b> 9:00 – Knotters 6:00 pm Northern Berks Food Bank distribution at Hamburg Area Middle Sch. 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p><b>29</b> 10:30 pm Bible Study @ church  7:00 pm Bible Study on ZOOM  7:15 PM – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>30</b>  6:00 pm Brass rehearsal 7:00 pm Bells rehearsal</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	

