

Zion's Messenger - April 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

If there's one service during the whole church year that you (and maybe your family) don't want to miss, which one is it?

Christmas, of course, is hyped throughout the culture with emphasis on shopping for gifts, special meals and baked goods, and, of course, decorations for inside and outside the house. I personally spend much more time decorating for Christmas than for any other season of the year. I also am inclined to have folks here at this time of the year more than for other specific times of the year. I do love the holiday season.

Easter, however, is *the* most important service in the church year because the Resurrection of Our Lord is *the* event that changed everything for the People of God. **Without the death and resurrection of Jesus, there would be no Christian church!**

The services of Holy Week invite us in to experience God's radical act in Christ for everyone. If we put ourselves in the sandals of the people who are hoping that they're finally going to be freed from Roman rule, Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem breaks down into disappointment.

If we're in the sandals of the disciples, we're clearly apprehensive because we know that Jesus isn't safe...and, by association, frankly, neither are we! When Jesus' arrest and trial finally happen, we feel helpless and are left wondering what to make of the time we spent learning at the feet of Jesus and being mentored for something that was supposed to be big. Jesus ends up crucified in a public spectacle, dying a horrible death.

Nothing makes sense in this whole experience until God's radical act in raising Jesus to a new life...*eternal* life for which we can now be a part by the flesh and blood of Jesus. And even then, we have trouble wrapping our minds around what we have seen with our own eyes. The days and weeks ahead are critical for our understanding. The three years we spent with Jesus start to look different in the wake of the Resurrection. The future comes into focus as never before.

The Season of Easter in the church continues for seven weeks, preparing us for Jesus' Ascension into heaven and culminating on the Day of Pentecost (on the 8th Sunday), when we see how God has acted to change everything for how we now worship. The Season of Easter helps us to process what God has done in Christ and prepares us for the continuing journey, for which we are authorized and responsible in our baptism as witnesses to the Risen Christ, God's radical act in Christ for everyone.

Easter isn't over with the services on April 9th this year. Easter continues...in fact, every single Sunday in the church year is a reminder of the Resurrection of Our Lord and the difference God has made for us in Christ. We best not miss a one of those opportunities to experience God's grace. The world needs Christ, and Christ is counting on us to act!

Your Sister in Christ,
† *Pastor Diane LaFauci*

FIRST COMMUNION

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 old enough, or knowledgeable enough to 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

EASTER SEASON BIBLE STUDY

Ephesians

Wednesdays, April 19 & 26; May 3,10,17,24 10:30am (Zion's) & 7pm (ZOOM)

How are we as God's People? as the church?

Are we building in Love? without walls? beyond measure?

Are we building as one? Are we building *up*? Are we built to withstand?

The Letter to the Ephesians was first written to the people of ancient Ephesus (in present-day Turkey), passed around from congregation to congregation, and, thankfully, preserved for us today. The message of the letter is "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ [6.12]. Join us after Easter for 6 sessions of study and discussion.

Sign up by Sunday, April 2nd (Palm/Passion Sunday) to order a copy of the study booklet.

Special thanks for a grant from the Library Committee to provide study books for participants.

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 continuing our 5-week study that began in March. This is a DVD study entitled "Searching for the Historical Jesus". Weekly topics in April will be:

The Jesus Movement in Crisis

The Rise of Christianity

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Maunder 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

9:15 am - Sunday School



Council Corner

Church Council met on March 14th. Confirmands were present for the first part of the meeting to gain an understanding of how Council functions and how the committees work together to complete the mission of the church.

The treasurer reported that we finished February \$583.40 in the black. Fuel bills continue to be very high but we have been able to make monthly payments. Thank you notes were read from Helping Harvest and Common Ground Recovery. We donated \$370 to Helping Harvest on Super Bowl Sunday and donated \$453 to Common Ground Recovery on the Sunday that Pastor Scornavacchi led the service.

It was reported that WELCA would pay for our confirmand who is attending the youth retreat at Bear Creek in March. They will also be serving a meal for the Festival of Faith which is a church service and meal for individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities and their families. WELCA will also be organizing a new and used clothing drive July 2-16 to support Hope Rescue Mission.

Fellowship Committee announced that the Easter egg hunt would be Sat., April 8th at 9:30. Youth were invited to participate in filling the plastic eggs and hiding them.

Worship and Music Committee reviewed communion procedures with usher teams. Usher teams were also selected for Holy Week services and Easter Sunday. Duties were assigned for the Easter breakfast.

Tiffany reported that her Sunday School class is assisting in changing the sign in front of the church.

Our Boy Scout troop will be starting a girl's troop as soon as the necessary arrangements are made with Boy Scout Council.

Property Committee provided an update on the water system. We were temporarily without water one Sunday morning but it was resolved by replacing the ultraviolet light.

Council discussed our Pastoral vacancy and ministry possibilities as well as the roles of the Steering Committee and the Call Committee. Zion's ministry site profile has been updated and submitted. Delegates for the East Berks District Mission meeting held in Topton on May 4th will be Lucille Gough and Ron Seaman. We are still seeking a male and female representative for the Synod Assembly held June 1-3 in the Poconos.

Susie Lutz received permission to organize a Sight and Sound trip to see a production of Moses. More information will follow on this.

Council meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Any congregational concerns or suggestions can be made to any Council member.

Submitted by Janine Dreibelbis

Financial Report

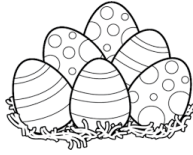
We finished the month of February at \$583.40 in the black (monthly income over expenses).

Monthly – Income for February	\$16,587.09
Monthly – Expenses for January	\$16,003.69
The General Offering	\$12,855.00
Online Giving	\$1,914.98
Loose Change	\$79.10
Other Income	\$1,738.01
Subtotal	\$16,587.09

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.



Our annual EASTER EGG HUNT will be held on Saturday morning, April 8th 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.



Save the Date!!

STELLAR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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



WELCA Meeting

Our next WELCA meeting will be held on Thursday evening, May 11th at 7pm in the Gold Room. All women of Zion's are welcome, as we plan for upcoming opportunities to support our church and our community. Hope you can join us! Happy Easter!



Sight & Sound Theatre Group Trip

Experience one of the Bible's most epic stories as MOSES comes to life with massive sets, special effects, and live animals in this original stage production from Sight & Sound Theatres.

On August 4, we will carpool from the church parking lot at 1:30 PM to travel to see the live production of "Moses" at Sight And Sound Theatre in Ronks. We will be attending the 3 PM show. Price is \$79.80 per adult, children 3-12 is \$39.00. We have ordered 25 tickets which must be paid for by June 3rd. This is a reduced price for groups. Please let me know if you are interested and would like to join us. Deposit of \$25.00 required, balance due by June 3rd.

If you are interested and would like to join us, please see Susan Lutz for sign-up.



FOOTNOTES...FROM OUR LIBRARY

In April, as we celebrate Easter, our library table will feature Easter books for children and adults.

Please take a look and sign one out!



Garden News

"The earth has yielded its produce. God our God blesses us" Psalm 67:6

Spring is here and so will be the start of our 9th Garden season. Before we know it, it will be one of our busiest times of the year – spring planting. **Please listen for Sunday announcements or check Zion's Facebook page for news of our work days/nights.** Previous volunteers will be called/emailed work day information. If you want to be put on the Garden volunteer contact list, please email us at: communitygarden@zionslutheran.org or contact Lori at 610-401-1186. **We continue to need many volunteers to support our continued ministry.**



Our Town Foundation 2023 Membership

WELCA is proud to continue to sponsor Zion's membership in Our Town Foundation (OTF). As part of this membership, Zion's continues its listing on the hamburgpa.org website with a link to our website. As part of our membership, we can also have FREE postings of our event flyers in the Hamburg Happenings, which currently has an email distribution of over 2500. To post our flyer, the event must be open to the public, not just Zion's members. See Eileen Puglia or John Smith for more information, or for help to submit your flyer.

If you don't already receive Hamburg Happenings or the OTF quarterly newsletter emails, please go to hamburgpa.org to add your name to their email list.



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 though 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.

ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY INC.

Our monthly Board meeting will be held on
April 13, 2023 at 9:00 am.

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

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



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 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.,
April 25, 2023, from 6 pm to 7 pm.

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

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

Apr. 5	Lessons of Grief – Part 2
Apr. 12	Heaven
Apr. 19	What Do I Live for Now?

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.



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.





April Birthdays

- 2nd Lucas Price
- 3rd Hailey Denatala
7th Autumn Eyer
9th Neil Hofman
Gerald O'Brien
Codi Trabosh
- 10th Rev. Aaron Decker
Mary Mengle
Olivia Wilhelm
- 11th Sherry Houser
Liam Brennan
- 13th Bobbe-Jean Madeira
- 14th Emily Kohler
Russell Olszewski
- 16th Amy Smith
Jacob Fegley
- 18th Jessica Long
- 20th Veronica Heckman
- 21st Evelyn Hoppes
Gloria Machermer
- 22nd Jordan Smith
- 23rd Michael Houtz
- 25th Carol Justice
- 27th Linda Bowling
- 29th Noah Bensinger
- 30th Karen Brown
Daniel Geist
Andrew Heckman

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

April 2023

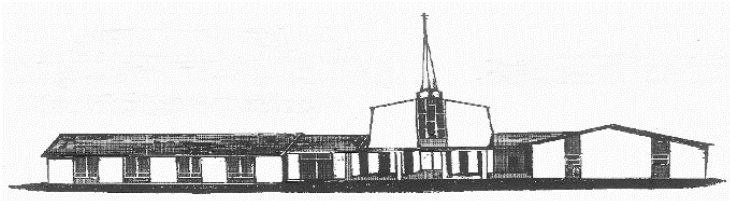
Pastor: Pastor Diane LaFauci

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 – April 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
2 PALM / PASSION SUNDAY 9:15 am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am HOLY COMMUNION	3 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	4 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	5 7:15 PM – Choir Rehearsal	6 MAUNDY THURS. 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Monthly Mtg – Zion's Church Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm Maundy Thur. service	7 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 pm Good Friday service	8
9 EASTER 6:30 am HOLY COMM. 7:30 am BREAKFAST 9:15 am SUNDAY SCH. 10:30 am HOLY COMM.	10 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	11 9:00 - Knotters 7:00 pm Council Mtg. 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	12 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	13 6:00 pm Brass rehearsal 7:00 pm Handbell rehearsal 7:00 pm Property Mtg.	14 GOLD RM RENTAL	15 FH RENTAL
16 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am HOLY COMMUNION	17 OFFICE CLOSED MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	18 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	19 10:30 am Bible Study at Church 7:00 pm Bible Study on ZOOM	20 11:00 am – 2:00 pm Senior Group, Gold Rm 7:00 pm Property Mtg.	21	22
23 9:15 am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am HOLY COMMUNION 6:00 pm Joint Conf. Class @ St. John's Hamburg	24 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	25 9:00 – Knotters 6:00 pm Northern Berks Food Bank distribution at Hamburg Area Middle Sch. 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	26 10:30 am Bible Study at Church 7:00 pm Bible Study on ZOOM 7:15 PM – Choir Rehearsal	27 6:00 pm Brass rehearsal 7:00 pm Bells rehearsal	28	29
30 9:15 am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am HOLY COMMUNION						

