

# Zion's Messenger - May 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In a recent Bible study session on the book of Ephesians, we were talking about the “construction” of the Church and what the church is intended by God to be. That sparked conversation about how Zion’s designed and began construction of the congregation’s current home.

Eileen Puglia reflected on a series of articles she had written for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the building, citing conversation with Ernie Heckman, who chaired the Building Committee. Ernie was adamant about the altar being the heart and primary focus of the overall design...this would be *God’s house among us*, and everything else should depend on God’s presence and purpose

Longtime members talked about watching the progress of the building, and Roberta Ott brought in photo albums from the church library for us to look over. It was exciting to understand how the building took shape. Memories were sparked about the time after worship on the hill when folks would come each week to see what had been accomplished. The careful and prayerful thought that went into the design and construction of this building has served the congregation well, to be sure.

Ephesians brings home the true purpose of the church when we talk about how we manage the ministry and mission of the congregation. We must always be aware that the Church is *beyond* a “human institution”, not to be confused with other “organizations” in the community. In actuality, the Church is not about bricks and mortar, nor is it about a social club or service organization, although the building is not meant to be closed after Sunday worship until the following week, either. The return of the monthly Seniors group (3rd Thursday, 11am), the regular support of local food pantries and shelters, and the community garden are evidence of the congregation’s care and outreach to meet needs of people. Ultimately, what we would do as a congregation must flow from worship and come back to worship for strengthening, as we strive to discern a right relationship with God in Christ.

On the Day of Pentecost, the remaining eleven original inner-circle disciples, plus the one chosen to fill the place left vacant (by Judas who, tragically, did not grasp the words Jesus spoke about God’s forgiveness), were gathered in Jerusalem for the annual spring harvest festival. It was fifty days after the resurrection, God’s time beyond human expectation. Peter, who had clearly been changed by the Risen Christ was preaching to the crowd when the Holy Spirit showered the people with the presence of God. Acts tells us that thousands of people came to new belief. There was “unity” of spirit among the people, and the Church was birthed (no walls there!).

Pentecost Sunday this year will be Confirmation for two young members, Gabby Leone and Taylor Gruber. We celebrate with Gabby and Taylor and their families, and as a congregation, the ministry of Confirmation, whose purpose is to strengthen faith and shape responsible church membership. May God continue to nurture us all, that we all may continue to grow in faith.

With gratitude to Christ for his Church among us,

† *Pastor Diane LaFauci*

**SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS BEGIN THE FIRST SUNDAY IN JUNE!**

**9:00am June 4 thru September 3** (*Labor Day weekend*)

**Blessing of the Graduates – Sunday, June 4**

**(see Grad info request in newsletter & in bulletins)**

***On Sunday, April 16, James Edward Turner, son of Steve & Meghan Turner was received into membership in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.***

## **EASTER SEASON BIBLE STUDY**

### **Ephesians**

**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.

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

## **Calling All Seniors!!**

**The Senior Group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.**

**\*\* Our next Senior Group will meet on May 18, 2023 in the Gold Room. \*\***

We will be ordering pizza for lunch this time and will share the cost. Please bring a food item and a friend if desired. Thanks! Brenda Hartman

## **Save the Date**

Please join us for a special event presented by the Christian Education Resource Library. A covered dish meal followed by a dramatic presentation on the life of Holocaust survivor, Corrie ten Boom.

**Friday, May 19, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

**This event is free and open to the public.**

(Parental discretion advised due to the sensitive nature of Corrie's imprisonment.)

**R.S.V.P. required: Contact Vernie Noecker at 610-562-7271 or cerlvn@hotmail.com**



## Council Corner

Church Council met on April 11<sup>th</sup>. The meeting opened with devotions on taking our attention off our troubles and instead focusing our hearts and minds on Jesus, having faith that He will help us in every time of need.

A review of the Treasurer's report showed that we finished March in an unfavorable position of \$(40.8k) YTD; however, income exceeded expenses by \$2.4k for the month.

We reviewed worship numbers for March, which surpassed prior year attendance by 31 worshippers. In addition, it was noted that Holy Week and Easter services this April were very well attended. 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.

One topic addressed by Council relates to safety. During Sunday morning worship the front door of the church has been kept unlocked; however, new locks have recently been installed that will allow us to lock the front exterior door while still having the ability to quickly exit in case of emergency. In the near future, we will begin locking the front door once the church service begins. This will be an efficient way to safeguard our house of worship.

Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

We will be switching to summer hours for worship on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Sunday worship time will move to 9:00am and Sunday School will conclude until September.

Vacation Bible School will be held daily June 19<sup>th</sup> through June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00am – 11:30am. This year's theme is "Stellar," and the program is sure to be out of this world! Registration forms will be distributed soon. Also, help is always welcome! If you are able to help with this year's program, please contact Faye Heckman. It's a fun and worthwhile

week full of activities and music focused on teaching our youth about God.

~ Respectfully submitted by Heather Gring

## Financial Report

We finished the month of March at \$2,416.25 in the black (monthly income over expenses).

Monthly – Income for March	\$14,117.34
Monthly – Expenses for March	\$11,701.09
The General Offering	\$9,216.00
Online Giving	\$3,032.06
Loose Change	\$88.00
Other Income	<u>\$1,781.28</u>
Subtotal	\$14,117.34

**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.



## **STELLAR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING TO ZION'S!**

**Come join us for a galactic adventure!**

**June 19 – 23 from 9:00am to 11:30am  
Ages PreK through 5th grade**

**Online registration link will be posted on  
the church website.**

**If you would be interested in helping with  
Stellar VBS please contact Faye  
Heckman.**



## ZION'S ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The adult Sunday School class meets every Sunday at 9:15 through the end of May. Everyone is welcome. During the month of May, we will be doing a 4-week study on the 10 Commandments. Please join us as we gain some new insights and learn why these ancient teachings are still relevant to us today.



## WELCA Meeting

Our next WELCA meeting will be held on Thursday evening, May 11<sup>th</sup> 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!

## IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT SUMMER HOURS

The last day of Sunday School for the year 2022-2023 will be Sunday, May 28, 2023.

Our summer hours will be in effect from Sunday, June 4 through Labor Day weekend. During this time, Holy Communion will begin at 9:00 am.



## FOOTNOTES...FROM OUR LIBRARY

### FAMILIES WALKING & READING TOGETHER

In May we celebrate Mother's Day. Our library table in the Narthex will include books from the Family, Young Adult and Women of Faith sections.

**Please take a look and sign one out!**



## Garden News

**"I made gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them with all kinds of fruits."  
Ecclesiastes 2:5**

The Garden has been tilled (thanks, Roy!) and we are busy laying the plastic. Soon we will be planting cabbage and our 9th season will be officially started.

Please listen for Sunday announcements or check Zion's Facebook page for news of our work days. 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](mailto:communitygarden@zionslutheran.org) or contact Lori at 610-401-1186.

Celebrate spring with us! Hope to see you at the Garden.

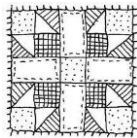


## **OPPORTUNITY HOUSE NEWS**

We will be providing the meal for Opportunity House on Friday May 19<sup>th</sup>. The team captain is Tina Blake. Additional volunteers this month are Brenda Hartman and Wanda Hoherchak.

We will also be providing meals for Opportunity House on July 21, September 15, and November 17. If you are interested in helping with the meal prep or serving the food, please reach out to Wanda Hoherchak at 570-778-8403, or email [whoherchak@gmail.com](mailto:whoherchak@gmail.com).

**Thank you for your continued support.**



## **KNOTTER'S NEWS**

**The Knotters would like to thank you for the blessing of supplies that have been left at the church.**

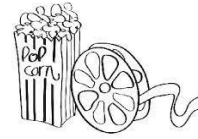
We meet at the church on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month for knotting. We would love to have you join us.

We have a great group helping to assemble quilts together and we thank them for all the time spent at home and at church to complete them.

**Please be on the lookout for date of the Blessing of the Quilts coming in June.**

## **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.**



## **FAITH NIGHT AT THE MOVIES HAMBURG STRAND THEATER**

May 9, 2023 – An Interview with God

June 13, 2023 – Shadowlands (C.S. Lewis)

July 11, 2023 – American Underdog

All movies start at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$8.00 at the door and include a complimentary popcorn & soda.



## **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](http://hamburgpa.org) to add your name to their email list.



## 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 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

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

### ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY INC.

**Our monthly Board meeting will be held on  
May 11, 2023 at 9:00 am.**

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

Website: <https://zionsperrytwp.cemetery.network>

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:

**Cereal  
Oatmeal  
Breakfast Bars**

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.,  
May 23, 2023, from 6 pm to 7 pm.**

### 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.



We will be receiving orders for red geraniums for Pentecost. **The order will need to be into the church office by Sunday, May 22, 2023. Please place the order form and your payment in the offering basket.**

You can pick up the geraniums on Pentecost Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 after Worship. If you cannot pick them up after Worship, please call the church office to plan for pick-up. If you would like to leave them to be planted at the church, please specify below on the order form.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4.5" Red Geranium \$5.00 each      Total Payment \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ will pick up after worship (or make arrangement to pick up)

\_\_\_ please plant my geranium(s) at Zion's

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

By \_\_\_\_\_

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

By \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# 2023 Graduate Info!

Please submit by Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> for June Newsletter

NAME OF GRADUATE \_\_\_\_\_

Info submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

Phone or email \_\_\_\_\_

*Please check the correct category*

\_\_\_\_ Graduate is Member of Zion's

\_\_\_\_ Graduate is not a member but is related to me

\_\_\_\_\_ (sibling/spouse/grandchild/etc.)

Graduating from \_\_\_\_\_

Degree/field (if applies) \_\_\_\_\_

Any special honors \_\_\_\_\_

Plans after graduation:

\_\_\_\_ on to college/tech school/add'l degree/etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ (please list, if known)

\_\_\_\_ Military service (Branch \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_ employment (list, if known and/or preferred)

\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_





## May Birthdays

2<sup>nd</sup> Jason Dewald  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Lorelee LaVentura  
 Dorothy Wertz  
 4<sup>th</sup> Edmund Adam  
 5<sup>th</sup> Grace Murray  
 7<sup>th</sup> Taylor Gruber  
 Jara Heckman

10<sup>th</sup> Mabel Fry \*  
 Taryn Seidel  
 Ty Seidel

11<sup>th</sup> Zachary Onulack  
 14<sup>th</sup> Taylor Seidel

15<sup>th</sup> Howard Hoppes  
 17<sup>th</sup> Jaimie Heckman  
 20<sup>th</sup> Patricia Potts  
 21<sup>st</sup> Dylan Gough  
 Kathryn Reinhart

23<sup>rd</sup> Jean Daub  
 Carrie Price

25<sup>th</sup> Heather Noecker  
 26<sup>th</sup> Sandra Masters  
 Brandi Seidel

28<sup>th</sup> Sandra Moroney  
 Bradley Reinhart

Would you like your birthday listed in the newsletter? Please contact the Church Office today. 610-562-3112. (\*shut-in)



## 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

**\*SUMMER HOURS BEGIN JUNE 4, 9:00 AM**

## May 2023

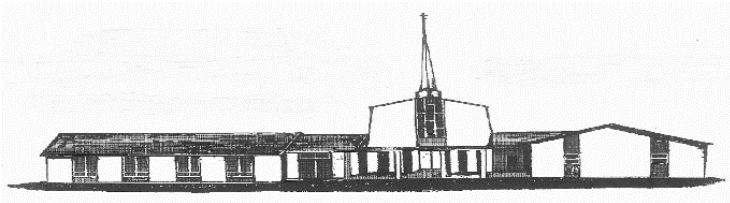
**Pastor: Pastor Diane LaFauci**

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 – May 2023**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1 OFFICE CLOSED</b>  6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	<b>2</b>  6:00 pm Worship & Music 7:00 pm Altar Guild 7:15 pm Choir reh. 7:00 pm AA Meeting	<b>3</b>  10:30 am Bible Study at Church 7:00 pm Bible Study on ZOOM	<b>4</b>  6:30 pm EBMD Assembly @ Topton 6:00 pm Brass reh. 7:00 pm Bells reh.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>  9:15 am SUNDAY SCHOOL  10:30 am HOLY COMMUNION  6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Cat. Class meeting in FH	<b>8 OFFICE CLOSED</b>  6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	<b>9 OFFICE CLOSED</b>  9:00 am – 11:00 am - Knotters  7:00 pm Council mtg.  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	<b>10 OFFICE CLOSED</b>  10:30 am Bible Study at Church 7:00 pm Bible Study on ZOOM 7:15 PM – Choir reh.	<b>11 OFFICE CLOSED</b>  9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Monthly Mtg – Zion's Church Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm WELCA mtg (Gold Room) 6:00 pm Brass reh. 7:00 pm Bells reh.	<b>12 OFFICE CLOSED</b>  10:00 am – 12:00 pm Gold Rm Rental	<b>13</b>  FH RENTAL
<b>14 MOTHER'S DAY &amp; MUSIC SUNDAY</b>  9:15 am SUNDAY SCHOOL  10:30 am WORSHIP	<b>15 OFFICE CLOSED</b>  6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	<b>16 OFFICE CLOSED</b>  7:15 PM – Choir reh. 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	<b>17</b>  10:30 am Bible Study at Church 7:00 pm Bible Study on ZOOM	<b>18</b>  11:00 am – 2:00 pm Senior's Group (Gold Rm)  6:00 pm Brass reh. 7:00 pm Bells reh.  7:00 pm Property Mtg.	<b>19</b>  Opportunity House meal  6:00 pm Corrie ten Boom presentation and covered dish meal in FH	<b>20 ARMED FORCES DAY</b>
<b>21</b>  9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  10:30 am HOLY COMMUNION	<b>22 OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <b>JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>  FH RENTAL - WELCA  6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	<b>23</b>  9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters  6:00 pm Northern Berks Food Bank distribution at Hamburg Area Middle Sch.  FH RENTAL - WELCA 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	<b>24</b>  10:30 am Bible Study at Church 7:00 pm Bible Study on ZOOM 7:15 PM – Choir reh.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28 PENTECOST</b> 9:15 am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 am HOLY COMMUNION  RITE OF CONFIRMATION	<b>29 MEMORIAL DAY</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>30</b>  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	<b>31</b>		<b>**WATCH FOR SERVICE INFO IN BULLETINS, CALENDARS &amp; ONLINE</b>	<b>** SERVICES WILL BE RECORDED AND POSTED ON THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE EVERY SUNDAY</b>

