

Zion's Messenger - July 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I suspect all of us have had to make adjustments in the way we function over the course of our lives. From the time we started school (if not before), we had to adjust daily changes. Maybe the family moved (as did mine). New neighbors, new schools, new friends, new jobs... Even the birth of a new child into the family means change in the dynamics and the routine.

And then there is the adjustment that comes with loss: life without a beloved grandparent or parent or spouse...or child! A broken relationship, loss of a job, a change of career.

Even the closing of your favorite shopping place can bring a kind of grief (how could *Reading China* leave and move to Lancaster County?! —what about *all* the Vanity Fair outlets?!).

Well, it happens. Life brings changes, whether we're happy about it (ready for it) or not. We have certainly seen it over the past few years in the church. 50+ years ago, there was a push for every congregation to move from a particular kind of shared ministry situation to each congregation having its own pastor. It was much about the building: rather than sharing a building, have your own building. Some members recall Zion's Lutheran's move to have its own building here in Perry Township!

The culture around us supported the move: there were those "blues laws" that supported Sunday worship, by virtue of businesses closed on Sundays. Even schools and youth organizations refrained from scheduling on Sundays. But our lives got busier, and the culture adjusted. And there were many more going to seminary 50 years ago.

Thirty years ago, when I graduated from seminary and was called to serve a congregation in Berks County (ordained July 18, 1993), there were more new pastors joining the ranks of those already serving. Vacancies were fewer than today; it was a challenge to receive that first call!

I was blessed to have grants to help me through seminary; today pastoral candidates have student debt equivalent of a mortgage (without the house to go with it). Does that have something to do with fewer risking giving up ministry to pursue other paths in life? Maybe. A colleague claims that pastors where he is must have secular employment, as in poverty-stricken areas there is minimal to no compensation through the church. Could it become the norm here?

Leaders who have served Christ's church over the decades have had to adjust to new norms. We've "read the tea leaves", so to speak. We often find ourselves speaking like the prophets of the Old Testament, lamenting loss without being stuck in the past, still striving to find new ways to reach people with the truth of the message. Like the prophets, faith-filled leaders—lay and clergy—love the Lord trust God's Holy Spirit for guidance and step out in faith again and again to chart a new course.

Today's truth is that the way we do church is most definitely charting a new course. The message we have has not changed, but the means by which we get the word out there has.

And Zion's is on the cutting edge in this area! How exciting is it to be among those leading a new ministry movement!!

When Jesus was preparing the disciples to be apostles (the ones "sent out"), he cautioned them not to go with preconceived notions about how to do ministry: rather to be ready to adapt to what they would find. "Take no gold, or silver...no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff...if the house is worthy, let your peace be upon it" [Matthew 9.9-13]. In the post-Pentecost church, the apostles went from Jerusalem, through Ephesus, Syria, Greece, Gaul, Hispania, Egypt, Ethiopia, Rome, even Britain and India. Obviously, the culture in each of these places was different, with different needs. The apostles had to adapt as they established the church, without, of course, compromising the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

So it is for the Church today. We are called to apostolic action in our place and our time...

Trusting the Spirit of God,

† *Pastor Diane LaFauci*

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Mark and Janine Dreibelbis, along with Pastor Diane, represented Zion's Lutheran Church at this year's Synod Assembly. We would like to thank the congregation for supporting us so that we were able to attend. It was a busy, eventful 2 ½ days.

The theme of this year's Assembly was "Out of Death to Life." I assumed that this was going to be an Easter resurrection topic. But the death into life they were talking about was the Church. They discussed the losses we have all experienced in our church life -starting before the pandemic but magnified in the last 3 years. The emphasis was on grieving these losses, remembering the good times, and then moving forward. Much like with the death of a loved one, we cannot go back to the way things were, but we need to find a new way of living. One of the key points was that we are going to have to move away from the model of 1 church / 1 Pastor. Newer models may include churches sharing Pastors and using Deacons and lay leaders. As we were reminded, the Lutheran Church was very familiar with this arrangement a generation or two ago.

At the Assembly, there were reports on the many ministries of the church at large. We were impressed with all the good work that is being done with our benevolence dollars. For example, the Witness and Service Ministry Team provides grants to congregations starting service ministries. In 2022, \$11,500 was provided for new projects that would be sharing the Gospel through service. The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service Committee reported that in the last year, they were able to help 16,690 children reunify with their families or find safe foster homes, resettle nearly 12,000 Afghans forced to flee after Afghanistan fell under Taliban control, welcome 3,169 refugees from countries across the world, and assist 18,262 people seeking safety from Central America and beyond.

The Synod also provides training programs and resources to congregations. This includes training on racial justice and lay leadership programs. They also schedule learning ministry days and maintain a resource library for congregations. The ELCA has an active advocacy ministry which works on a statewide level to influence policies which address issues such as hunger, poverty, health care, civic engagement, housing and homelessness, and care for creation.

We left the Assembly optimistic for the future of the church at large as well as here at Zion's. With lots of energy and fresh ideas, with resources to help grow and revitalize congregations, and with faithful followers; we can continue to play a vital role in sharing the Gospel.

Mark and Janine Dreibelbis



Council Corner

Church council met on Tuesday, June 13th. We reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of May. Our income was \$17,781.34 and expenses were \$15,594.24. We continue to evaluate our finances and for the first five months of the year, at the increased giving, we are projected to meet our budget.

We also heard a brief overview of the Synod Assembly. Mark & Janine Dreibelbis will be going over the information that was presented at the assembly during an upcoming church service.

Please mark your calendar for the following upcoming events at Zion's:

July 1 – 16 “Christmas in July” clothing drive for Hope Rescue Mission

August 26 at 9:00 AM – Church Cleaning Day – see the sign-up sheet in the narthex

September 10 – First Day of Sunday School & back to 10:30 worship time

October 7 – Favorite “Bazaar” Food Sale

We still have empty seats on council. If this is something that you would consider trying and would like to join us for the remainder of the year, please contact Tiffany Gruber. Church council can vote you in and you can join the meetings through the Annual Meeting in January 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Tiffany Gruber

Financial Report

We finished the month of May at \$2,187.10 in the black (monthly income over expenses)

Monthly – Income for May	\$17,781.34
Monthly – Expenses for May	\$15,594.24
The General Offering	\$13,773.00
Online Giving	\$2,805.06
Loose Change	\$242.00
Other Income	\$961.28
Subtotal	\$17,781.34

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.



I wish to express my deepest thanks to the many members of Zion's who sent such beautiful cards and notes to me on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of my Ordination. I so very much appreciate all the kind words, generous thoughts, and shared memories. Beginning my ministry 50 years ago at Zion's was indeed a true blessing from God. While I absolutely enjoy full-time retirement life, I will forever miss all the wonderful people who enriched my ministry throughout the years.

May God continue to bless your congregation and its many vital ministries.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Langkamer



CARD SHOWER FOR MAYLYNN WAGNER

Maylynn Wagner has recently been in the hospital to have surgery and is now recovering at home. If possible, please send her a card or note letting her know that her church family is thinking of her and wishing her well. Her address is:

Maylynn Wagner
641 W. Pine St.
Leesport, PA 19533

REUSABLE SHOPPING BAGS



Common Ground Ministry (*specialized ministry to those seeking recovery from addiction*) **provides a meal and often sends a meal home with those in need or who may know of others in need.**

Zion's is collecting reusable shopping bags to help this ministry help others and stay "green".

You may deposit your offering of reusable shopping bags in the Narthex. When we reach 100, we'll bless them and deliver them to Common Ground.

Thank you!!

Senior Group

**Our next Senior Group will meet on
July 20, 2023 in the Gold Room,
11:00 am – 2:00 pm.**

**Try to arrive early to divide into card groups.
Bring a dish and a friend for our July
picnic!**

Hope to see you there!



“Christmas in July”

Hope Rescue Mission clothing drive

We are pleased to announce this year's WELCA Christmas in July project, a clothing drive for Hope Rescue Mission, Reading. We will be collecting all seasons of clothing and items for the men at Hope Rescue Mission and for Lighthouse, a center for women and children currently under construction. Since 1894 Hope Rescue Mission has been a place of refuge for homeless men of Berks County. They offer residential programs men can work their way through to transition back into the community as productive and independent individuals.

Collections will be accepted the first three Sundays of July, with the last collection on July 16th. Gently used clothing and items listed below will be accepted. Clothing is used for the residents of Hope Rescue Mission and also shared with local agencies in need. There is also a need for new men's clothing in all sizes M-XXXL for men when they initially enter the Mission.

Used clothing, all seasons and sizes for men/women/children:

Clothing, shoes, belts, hats, scarves, coats, purses, sheets (twin), blankets, and towels

New clothing for men, sizes M-XXXL:
Underwear, undershirts, sweatpants

Thank you for your support of this project and for the ministries of Hope Rescue Mission.

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.



WELCA Meeting

Our next WELCA meeting will be held on Thursday evening, August 17 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!



Garden News

What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have never been discovered.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

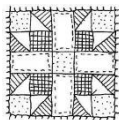
Our 9th Garden season continues. The cabbage, peppers, tomatoes, beans, and cucumbers are growing. We have planted fall squash seeds.

Harvesting of produce will start this month.

Volunteers are always needed to harvest our vegetables and fertilize/maintain the Garden.

Please listen for Sunday announcements or check Zion's Facebook page for news of our work days/nights. Current volunteers will be emailed/called with work day information.

Hope to see you in the Garden!



KNOTTER'S NEWS

We meet at the church on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month for knotting. 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.

We would love to have you join us.



FOOTNOTES...FROM OUR LIBRARY

Our library table will continue to have DVD's. Please borrow one and enjoy!

The table in the library has a basket of magazines in it. Included are:

Living Lutheran
Thrivent Magazine
Turning Point
Grave Happenings
At Liberty
Chosen People
Fishwrapper
Birds & Bloom

Please feel free to take a look and borrow!



COUPONS FOR THE TROOPS

A big thank you to everyone saving coupons for our military families! The Welcome and Outreach committee continues to provide the postage needed to mail our donated coupons. The post office is also saving coupons and sending them. This program is a great way to help military families save on groceries at their local PX (Post Exchange).

When you save coupons, please sort and mark your envelopes as follows:

“FOOD coupons”

“PET coupons”

“BABY items”

Remainder coupons not fitting into those envelopes should be placed in an envelope marked “MISCELLANEOUS”.

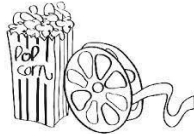
Your contributions and help in sorting are greatly appreciated.



OPPORTUNITY HOUSE NEWS

We will 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.

Thank you for your continued support.



FAITH NIGHT AT THE MOVIES HAMBURG STRAND THEATER

July 11, 2023 – American Underdog
August 8, 2023 – The Reliant
September 12, 2023 - Rudy

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

ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY INC.

Our monthly Board meeting will be held on July 20, 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 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., July 25, 2023, from 6 pm to 7 pm.

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.**



July Birthdays

- 3rd Susan Miller
- 4th Ruth Bensingler
- 5th Heather Mengel
Parker Hancik
- 7th Dean Heckman
- 8th Alice Brieske
Russell Clark
- 9th Lee Gehringer
Janet Schlegel
Eme Stefan
Ellie Noecker
- 12th David Seidel *
Matthew Noecker
- 14th Deborah Hoffert
Shirley Sohon
- 17th Travis Hoshauer
- 20th Troy Epting
John Smith
- 22nd Katelyn Schumaker
- 23rd Reed Auchenbach
- 24th Jocelyn Heckman
Gary Wilhelm
- 25th Faye Miller
Brian Moroney
Kyle Schumaker
- 31st Kasandra Brown
Kyle Reitenauer

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

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: 9:00 am, Holy Communion,
Indoor recorded service

*SUMMER WORSHIP HOUR: 9AM - JUNE 4 THRU
SEPT. 3

July 2023

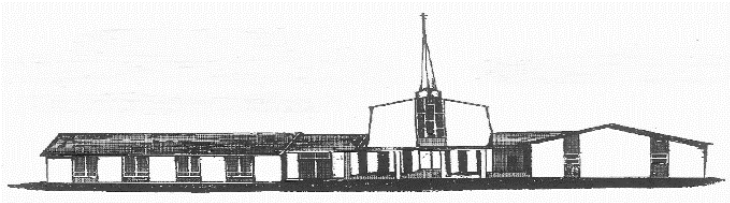
Pastor: Pastor Diane LaFauci

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 Zion's Church Road
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

Zion's Monthly Calendar – JULY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
**SUMMER HOURS CONTINUE...	SUNDAY SCHOOL ON SUMMER BREAK UNTIL SEPTEMBER					1
2 9:00 am HOLY COMMUNION HOPE RESCUE MISSION CLOTHING DRIVE	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	5	6	7	8
9 9:00 am HOLY COMMUNION HOPE RESCUE MISSION CLOTHING DRIVE	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11 9:00 am – 11:00 am - Knotters 7:00 pm Council mtg. 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	12	13	14	15
16 9:00 am HOLY COMMUNION HOPE RESCUE MISSION CLOTHING DRIVE – FINAL DAY FOR COLLECTION	17 OFFICE CLOSED AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	18 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	19	20 11:00 am – 2:00 pm Seniors Group (Gold Rm) 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Monthly Mtg – Zion's Church Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm Property Mtg.	21 OPPORTUNITY HOUSE MEAL	22
23 9:00 am HOLY COMMUNION 10:00 AM WORSHIP & MUSIC MTG.	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25 9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters 6:00 pm Northern Berks Food Bank distribution at Hamburg Area Middle Sch. 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	26	27	28	29 FH RENTAL
30 9:00 am WORSHIP 10:00 AM WORSHIP & MUSIC MTG FH RENTAL	31 OFFICE CLOSED				**WATCH FOR SERVICE INFO IN BULLETINS, CALENDARS & ONLINE	** SERVICES WILL BE RECORDED AND POSTED ON THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE EVERY SUNDAY

