

Zion's Messenger - June 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

- ‡ Are we building in love?
- ‡ Are we building without walls?
- ‡ Are we building beyond measure?
- ‡ Are we building as one?
- ‡ Are we building up?
- ‡ Are we built to withstand?

These are the questions posed in the spring Bible study on Ephesians...questions that should, frankly, always be part of how we assess our current situation, the decisions we make, and the plans proposed as a congregation. Ephesians cautions us that building the ministry to which God has called us requires **being in unity with God**.

The Letter to the Ephesians was written to the congregation(s) established in the area known today as Turkey. These congregations were in an area highly influenced by Greek and Roman culture, striving to be clear on their identity as Christians among people strongly rooted in worship of Artemis (goddess of the hunt, chastity, and the moon).

It was a culture that boasted of having the largest marble temple ever built, dating back to over 500 years before the birth of Christ. It was destroyed and rebuilt several times...rebuilt as a sign of power and desire to give glory to the goddess, whom, they believed, would certainly bless the people in return.

The letter was written to the fledgling and growing Christian community to help them focus on how they *could* and *should* strive to give glory to God. And they weren't to be grounded or measured in an edifice of human design or construction. It was to be about BEING ONE IN SPIRIT, in thinking, in action with Christ, just as the Son is with the Father [READ: John 17 and Eph. 3.14-21. The life and strength of the Christian community depended on looking beyond human structure and culture, letting the Holy Spirit empower them to put faith into action.

That is exactly what is important for us today, as a Christian community. It must be about ***oneness with God through relationship with Christ***. That relationship sets us apart from any other community or organization, and it is what is necessary for a congregation to *thrive*. A sure recipe for a congregation's demise is when the people are focused more on survival—keeping their building (*and/or congregation itself*) going—than on building themselves up in oneness with Christ to withstand the seductive practices of the culture around them.

A colleague of mine, lamenting what was happening in a congregation he had once served, commented that the people seemed more focused on the dinners and bazaars they were having to survive in their building than on meeting needs of the community around them. How much more fulfilled could they have been if they had pooled their resources and person-power to establish a food pantry, or teams to visit and support the sick, or reach out to and mentor area children and youth?!

The questions addressed in the study on Ephesians are, indeed, questions to always have in front of us, as we use the spiritual gifts God has given to u all. Ephesians 4.11 and 12 are at the core of the message of the study: ***Christ gave gifts to all for building up the Body of Christ***.

Max Lucado, pastor and writer, in his daily devotional book *Grace for the Moment*, writes, "If unity matters to God, then shouldn't it matter to us?...Nowhere...are we told to *build* unity. We are told simply to *keep* unity...Unity does not need to be created; it simply needs to be protected...Does it mean that we abandon the truths we cherish? No. But it does mean we look long and hard at the attitudes we carry." Food for prayerful thought.

Your partner in mission and ministry,

‡ *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

Calling All Seniors!!

Our next Senior Group will meet on June 15, 2023 in the Gold Room, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.
(Try to arrive early to divide into card groups)
BBQ will be served. Please bring a covered dish item and a friend.

Hope to see you there!

LIFE LINE SCREENING EVENT

JUNE 8, 2023

There will be a Life Line Screening event here in the Fellowship Hall on
Thursday, June 8, 2023.

To register for an appointment and receive a special discount, please call 1-800-679-5191 or
visit online [LLSA.SOCIAL/HC](https://www.llsa.org/SOCIAL/HC) or text the word “circle” to 216-279-1607.



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.
VBS Adult Study: 10:30 am, June 19-23.



Graduates of 2023

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate our graduates on their accomplishments and wish them all the best in their futures.

High School Graduates

Hamburg Area High School – Hamburg, PA

Alannah Daub, daughter of Robin & Darren Daub graduates on June 2, 2023. She plans to attend Reading Area Community College and then on to Flight Attendant training.

College Graduates

Alyssa Blandford – Temple University with a degree in Horticulture.

Heather Lynn Gring – Cedar Crest College. Heather is a member of the Honor Society and is graduating with her Master's Degree in Education. Heather is currently employed as a Special Education Teacher.

Jillian Hickey - Washington State University. Granddaughter of Mr. & Mrs. Roy Sausley. Jillian is a member of the Honor Society and is graduating with a degree in Global Health. Jillian is planning to join the Peace Corps and work in Peru following graduation.

Jordan Smith - George Washington University. Son of Mr. & Mrs. John Smith. Jordan is graduating with a Master's of Science in Health Sciences. Jordan will be a Physician Assistant in the Washington D.C. area following graduation.



Council Corner

Church council met on Tuesday May 9th. The meeting was opened with devotion from Psalms 90:12 – “Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom”. A reminder that each day God gives us is precious. What are you doing with the time that God has given you?

Gabrielle (Gabby) Leone and Taylor Gruber attended the meeting. They will both be confirmed on Sunday May 28th. We talked about how their confirmation journey helped them to learn to increase their faith in God. They also spoke about how they enjoyed the joint confirmation class. They were able to meet other people with the same faith beliefs and were able to make some new friends.

We reviewed the treasurer’s report. The April income was \$16,816.00 and expenses for the month were \$14,694.33.

Beginning in June, the outside entrance glass doors will be locked when worship begins. The outside glass doors can be pushed open from the inside without a key.

We have begun passing the offering baskets during the service to receiving the offering.

We discussed VBS which will be held the week of June 19-23, 9:00 am -11:30 am. This year’s theme is “STELLAR”, and the program is sure to be out of this world. Volunteers and children are needed. Please see Faye Heckman if you are available to help. Registration is now open.

We are planning a cleaning day at the church in August. There will be more details in the next newsletter regarding the date and time.

Summer hours will begin on June 4. The Sunday service will begin at 9:00 AM.

Just a reminder that there are still empty seats on council. If you would like to join us for the remainder of the year, you can contact Tiffany Gruber. Church Council can vote you in and you can join the meeting thru the Annual Meeting in January 2024.

Respectfully Submitted by Wanda Hoherchak.

Financial Report

We finished the month of April at \$2,122.56 in the black (monthly income over expenses).

Monthly – Income for April	\$16,816.89
Monthly – Expenses for April	\$14,694.33

The General Offering	\$11,974.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,795.89
Loose Change	\$ 255.00
Other Income	\$ 1,792.00
Subtotal	\$16,816.89

Thank you for your continued support!

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Consider online giving in 2023

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



On May 28, 2023, Pentecost Sunday,
**Gabrielle Rose Leone and Taylor Morgan
Gruber**

were Confirmed in the Rite of Affirmation
of Baptism.

Mark Dreibelbis has been their principal leader
in the two years of the Confirmation program.



Thank you for the prayers, cards, and visits during my recuperation from pneumonia. I appreciate the kind thoughts.
Jean L. Daub

My family and I would like to thank you all for reaching out and offering condolences for the recent loss of my father Don. We are very grateful to know that you were thinking of us then and are thinking of us now as we move forward.

Trina Willoretta and Family



“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.



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

Gardens say, slow down, look around you, believe, hope. Zoraida Rivera Morales

Our volunteers had to plant some beans, peppers, and tomatoes over again after a late frost, but we won’t be deterred! Our 9th Garden season is well underway. We have lots of cabbage growing, as well as beans, tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers.

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

Hope to see you in the Garden!



FOOTNOTES...FROM OUR LIBRARY

CHURCH LIBRARIES ARE FAMILY AFFAIRS

In June, we celebrate Father's Day. Our library table will have DVD's the whole family can enjoy. (Sorry dads, we don't have sport DVD's)

Recently added DVD's include:

"Why the Nativity" – Dr. David Jeremiah

"Billy Graham" – by Virgil Films

"The Greatest Story Ever Told" – a George Stevens Production

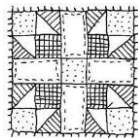
"The Miracle from Heaven" – Chris Pasito

"St. Nicholas – The Real Story" – by Ken Weding

"Kayla" – by Questar, Inc.

"The 12 Dogs of Christmas" – Kragen / Merrill

Please stop in and pick up a DVD to enjoy with the family!



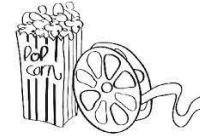
KNOTTER'S NEWS

The Knotters would like to thank Sue Kauffman for her generous donation to The Knotters for material and backpacks.

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.



FAITH NIGHT AT THE MOVIES HAMBURG STRAND THEATER

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

July 11, 2023 – American Underdog

August 8, 2023 – The Reliant

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



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.

ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY INC.

Our monthly Board meeting will be held on June 8, 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.



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.

EXTENDED: Deposit of \$25.00 required, balance due by June 18.

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

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.

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.



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., June 27, 2023, from 6 pm to 7 pm.



June Birthdays

- 2nd Wanda Hoherchak
 3rd Steven Schumaker
 Avery Gruber
- 6th Pamela Seidel
 Carl Hollenbach
- 7th Robin Epting
- 11th Crystal Koehn
 Jane Seidel
- 12th Matthew Hoffert
 Jennifer Mazaika
 Devin Pond
- 19th Jean Smith
 Nancy Wheeland
- 21st Tracie Heckman
 Dennis Reinhart
 Carolyn Hollenbach
 John Williamson
- 24th Hannah Hix
- 25th Karen Heckman
- 27th Brandon Noecker
- 28th Dennis Heckman
 Carmen Long
 Ryan Wilhelm

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

June 2023

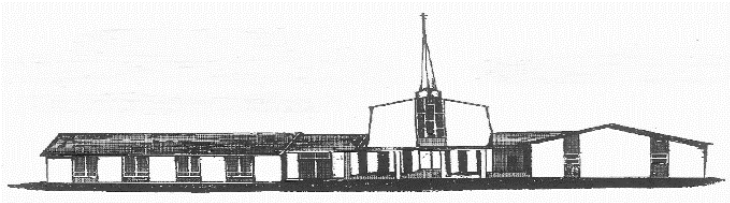
Pastor: Pastor Diane LaFauci

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 – June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>**WATCH FOR SERVICE INFO IN BULLETINS, CALENDARS & ONLINE</p>	<p>** SERVICES WILL BE RECORDED AND POSTED ON THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE EVERY SUNDAY</p>			<p>1 SYNOD ASSEMBLY 6/1 -6/3</p> <p>6:00 pm Brass reh. 7:00 pm Bells reh.</p>	<p>2 SYNOD ASSEMBLY 6/1 -6/3</p> <p>FH RENTAL</p>	<p>3 SYNOD ASSEMBLY 6/1 -6/3</p>
<p>4 SUMMER HOURS BEGIN TODAY SUNDAY SCHOOL ON SUMMER BREAK TILL SEPTEMBER</p> <p>9:00 am HOLY COMMUNION</p>	<p>5 OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Monthly Mtg – Zion's Church Fellowship Hall</p> <p>9:00AM – TBD - FH LIFE LINE SCREENING EVENT</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 BLESSING OF THE QUILTS</p> <p>9:00 am HOLY COMMUNION</p>	<p>12 OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>FH RENTAL</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 am – 11:00 am - Knotters</p> <p>7:00 pm Council mtg.</p> <p>7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>14 FLAG DAY</p>	<p>15</p> <p>11:00 am – 2:00 pm Seniors Group (Gold Rm)</p> <p>7:00 pm Property Mtg.</p>	<p>16 FH RENTAL 6/16/23 – 6/23/23</p>	<p>17 FH RENTAL</p>
<p>18 FH RENTAL THRU 6/23</p> <p>9:00 am HOLY COMMUNION</p>	<p>19 OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM – 11:30 AM VBS</p> <p>10:30 AM VBS ADULT STUDY</p> <p>JULY 2023 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>20 9 AM – 11:30 AM VBS</p> <p>10:30 AM VBS ADULT STUDY</p> <p>7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>21 9 AM – 11:30 AM VBS</p> <p>10:30 AM VBS ADULT STUDY</p>	<p>22 9 AM – 11:30 AM VBS</p> <p>10:30 AM VBS ADULT STUDY</p>	<p>23 9 AM – 11:30 AM VBS</p> <p>10:30 AM VBS ADULT STUDY</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:00 am HOLY COMMUNION</p>	<p>26 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters</p> <p>6:00 pm Northern Berks Food Bank distribution at Hamburg Area Middle Sch.</p> <p>7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	

