

Zion's Messenger - August 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

My colleague shared this encounter with a young child after worship one Sunday:

- CHILD: Pastor Bob, Jesus doesn't love me...
- Pr BOB: What do you mean? Of course Jesus loves you!
- CHILD: I didn't get the bread...

Fortunately, the Altar Guild hadn't cleared the altar yet, so Pr. Bob led the child to the altar and gave her a piece of communion bread, saying, "Always remember that Jesus DOES love you!" from that point on, he made sure every child received a piece of bread, even prior to any class time to learn about the sacrament.

Back when many of us were kids, the custom was to receive First Communion right after Confirmation. Then the Church started to rethink that practice as suggesting you have to "earn" the right to come to the Lord's Table.

The thinking then became that, since children could grasp the concept of forgiveness fairly well by the age of 10, fifth grade would a good time to instruct and serve them. But that was still problematic because it still suggested you had to reach a certain milestone to merit the right. And it stands in direct contradiction to how we believe and teach that *grace* is a gift from God that cannot be earned or merited.

It progressed, then, to "When the child starts to ask about it, the child is ready." My seminary professor told the story about a man whose 2-year-old little boy asked his father after worship, "Daddy, why can't I have breakfast with Jesus?" Clearly that little boy understood that people were sharing a meal with Jesus at the communion rail. Children understand according to what they experience.

You may have seen me give children a special blessing when they come to the Lord's Table with parents or grandparents—something that had been part of my practice starting 30 years ago. But, if you have seen more recently my interaction with children at the altar, you may have noticed that I have given them the bread (wafer) with the explanation that Jesus wants the child to know that he loves them. I am told that the first time one child received the bread, she talked about it all day, she was so happy!

So what about the traditional instruction, if the child has received bread with that particular blessing? Now is the time to have some age-appropriate sessions to talk in some depth about the holy meal, have some tasting time, and participate fully in the meal, hearing the specific words with "for you" with both the bread and the wine. From time to time throughout the Sunday School experience, as the child grows, we talk more about why we have this meal in worship. Specific sessions are part of the Confirmation program, as well.

Truth be told, no matter how old we are, we can never fully comprehend the full significance of this holy meal...because we cannot fully comprehend what God has done for us in Jesus. So we must not keep children from coming to the meal "until they understand it" because it's not fully going to happen in this life.

How often do we hear the lament that we don't see children in worship like we used to. Parents have a tough time when their children do not perceive that there is something here in worship for them, that it's only an adult thing we do. There are other things we can incorporate into the way we worship, as well, and we must be open to continuing to grow in our own understanding of how we can reach people with the Good News of Jesus Christ

Striving to always grow in Christ,
† *Pastor Diane LaFauci*



Join Lutheran Disaster Response – Eastern PA for Gods Work Our Hands Day 2023 to help disaster survivors near and far.

What?

- **We'll be assembling and collecting disaster kits and hygiene kits**
- There will also be demonstrations on the basics of rebuilding after disasters for things like safety, and how to spackle, paint, and use power tools!
- Information will be available on how you can put these skills to work for disaster response, or with other programs like Habitat for Humanity, Appalachian Service Project, and even some projects at your own home!

Where?

- **Offices of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA, 2354 Grove Rd, Allentown**

When?

- **Noon – 3 pm, Sept 10, 2023**

How?

- For more information, email **Heidi Shilanskas at hshilanskas@gmail.com**
- Sign up to collect items for the cleanup kits or to collect items for the hygiene kits at:

<https://libertylutheran.org/community-services/disaster-response/gods-work-our-hands-2023/>

- **Volunteers will be needed on the day of the event!**

****A similar event is being planned for MLK Day 2024! Join us for both events!**

Making Sense of Martin Luther



A four-morning, eight-session study on the life and theology of Martin Luther will be held in the Social Hall at Trinity, Robesonia (100 S. Robeson Street, Robesonia, PA 19551) on Tuesday mornings, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 2023. Sessions begin at 8:00 am each day and end at 12:00 Noon. Please RSVP to csmjrc33@comcast.net by September 12, 2023.

During the four sessions, we will explore how Luther's dynamic understanding of God's life-changing gospel informs day-to-day faith and life in the world today. We will also see how Luther's legacy continues to influence our own way of life.

The course instructor will be Jeff Culp. RSVP to Jeff or e-mail him with your questions at csmjrc33@comcast.net.

A Participant Guide is required for the course. Couples are encouraged to share one copy. Participant Guides may be ordered from Augsburg-Fortress at the single price or they be picked-up in the Trinity, Robesonia church office after September 19 at the group price.

The course is based on the series *Making Sense of Martin Luther* written by the Reverend Doctor David J. Lose. Dr. Lose has written several successful *Making Sense* series in the past.

Copies of the movie, **LUTHER, One Man's Faith in God Launched the Greatest Revolution of All** will be available for loan during the course.

Pastor Jennifer Kingstorf Dee (she/her/hers)
Professional God Person
Trinity Lutheran Church
108 S. Robeson Street
Robesonia, PA 19551
(610) 693-6062
Fridays/Saturdays are my scheduled days off.

<http://trinityrobsonia.org/>
[Trinity Robesonia on Facebook](#)

The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Isaiah 58:11



“Favorite (Bazaar) Foods Sale”

Saturday, October 7th

WELCA is again holding a drive-thru food sale of some of your favorite Bazaar foods, including barbecues, soups, and apple dumplings. ***Pre-order and pay by Sunday, October 1st*** and then drive-thru and ***pick up your food on Saturday, October 7th*** from 11am until 2pm.

An order form is included in this newsletter, and will be available in bulletins at Sunday worship starting in August, as well as on Zion’s website. Orders received early, by September 10th, will be entered into a drawing for two Hamburg Strand movie tickets, good through the end of 2023.

Order forms and payment can be put into Sunday’s offering basket, dropped off at the church office, or mailed to the church c/o WELCA. Checks are payable to WELCA.

Baked goods will be available for sale the day of pick up. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the Narthex for baked good donations, and volunteers to help in the kitchen and the day of pick-up.

This year we will also be taking donations of gently used men/women/children’s clothing for Hope Rescue Mission. If you didn’t finish cleaning out for our Xmas in July collection, you have another chance to help this worthy ministry.

Thank you in advance for your support.

The Women of WELCA

"Favorite (Bazaar) Foods Sale"

Saturday. October 7th, 2023

Pre-order sales only. Drive-thru pick up October 7th @ Zion's, 11am – 2 pm

*** Baked Goods will be available for sale day of pick up ***

Accepting gently used clothing donations for Hope Rescue Mission day of pick-up

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Barbecues

- ___ pint hamburger BBQ w/ 4 rolls @ \$12.00 \$ _____
- ___ quart hamburger BBQ w/8 rolls @ \$22.00 \$ _____
- ___ pint turkey BBQ w/ 4 rolls @ \$12.00 \$ _____
- ___ quart turkey BBQ w/ 8 rolls @ \$22.00 \$ _____

Soups

- ___ quart Turkey Noodle soup @ \$8.00 \$ _____
- ___ quart Vegetable Beef soup @ \$8.00 \$ _____
- ___ quart Ham & Bean soup @ \$8.00 \$ _____

Apple Dumplings

- ___ Apple Dumpling each @ \$4.50 \$ _____
- ___ Sugar-free Apple Dumpling each @ \$5.00 \$ _____

Total Amount Due: \$ _____

Make food choices, total your order, and then drop off or mail order and payment to
WELCA, Zion's Lutheran Church, 354 Zions Church Road, Shoemakersville PA 19555.

Checks payable to WELCA.

*** Pre-order and pay by Sunday, October 1st ***

(WELCA use only: Amt Paid _____ Check _____ Cash _____ Date _____)



Council Corner

Church council met on Tuesday, July 11, 2023. We reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of June. Our income was \$12,713.94 and expenses were \$15,559.16. As you can see this month, our income did not cover our expenses. We discussed some ideas for activities that we might be able to do for "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday on September 10, 2023. We also reviewed a quote to replace the one air conditioner that is not working in the sanctuary and the one that isn't working in the fellowship hall. The council has given the property committee approval to move forward with this task.

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

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

September 10

- Sunday School at 9:15 AM
- Worship returns to 10:30 AM
- Annual church picnic following the worship service

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 Samantha Gruber

Financial Report

We finished the month of June at \$2,845.22 in the red (monthly income over expenses)

Monthly – Income for June	\$12,713.94
Monthly – Expenses for June	\$15,559.16
The General Offering	\$ 8,350.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,823.66
Loose Change	\$ 158.00
Other Income	<u>\$ 1,382.28</u>
Subtotal	\$12,713.94

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.



REUSABLE SHOPPING BAGS

Thank You!

There was a great response to the tote bag collection for Common Ground Ministry. We surpassed our goal of 100 bags, collecting more than 130 tote bags for this ministry. **If you still have tote bags to donate, they are also needed by Northern Berks Food Pantry (Hamburg). Please put them in the shopping cart in the Narthex. You can even put your food donations in a tote bag!**



CARD SHOWERS

TIFFANY RESUTA

Tiffany Resuta has recently been in the hospital and is now recovering at home. 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:

Tiffany Resuta
117 Southeast Dr.
Hamburg, PA 19526

HAROLD DERR

Harold Derr will be turning 100 years old on August 5. His family thought it would be nice if he would receive some happy birthday wishes from members of his church family. His wife Esther, a longtime member, passed away in 2019 and he is currently residing at Keystone Villa at Fleetwood.

His address is:

Harold Derr
Keystone Villa at Fleetwood
501 Hoch Rd.
Blandon, PA 19510

MEAL SUPPORT

We are currently setting up meal support for a family recovering from multiple procedures. We would like to cover Monday and Friday meals for 2 adults and 1 small child. See the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Thank you for your support of our church family.

Senior Group

**Our next Senior Group will meet on
August 17, 2023 in the Gold Room,
11:00 am – 2:00 pm.**

Try to arrive early to divide into card groups.

Hope to see you there!



A very merry thank you!

Your support for WELCA's Christmas in July project, a clothing collection for Hope Rescue Mission, was nothing short of inspirational. As we come to the close of this project, Zion's members have donated 141 bags of gently used men/women/children's clothing and 14 boxes of new men's clothing. And we have almost a week left to collect any additional last-minute donations!

Again, many thanks for the support you have given to the Hope Rescue Mission ministries as they seek to meet the needs of homeless men, and now also women and children, of our community. The women of WELCA thank you for your generosity. We are truly thankful, grateful, and blessed.

May we all continue to show the Christmas spirit, rooted in our love of Christ, throughout the entire year. Merry, Merry Christmas to all!

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

I think this is what hooks one to gardening: it is the closest one can come to being present at creation."

Phyllis Theroux

In the Garden, we are now picking cabbage, beans, peppers, and cucumbers. The tomatoes are just starting to turn and soon they will be ripe and ready! It is almost time to plant late cabbage as we work to harvest and donate our crops. We continue to "battle the birds" as we replant fall squash seeds that have been eaten as soon as they grew. We'll see how the new netting strategy works!

Many volunteers are needed as we harvest our vegetables. The harvest is bountiful, but so is the work! Please listen for announcement or check the Sunday bulletin/Facebook page for news of our work schedule. And please continue to pray for our ministry.

Hope to see you in the Garden!



KNOTTER'S NEWS **SCHOOL BAGS FOR LUTHERAN** **WORLD RELIEF**

The Knotters will once again be making and filling 100 back packs to be delivered to Lutheran World Relief in New Windsor, MD in the fall.

This year, we are looking for **monetary donations**. Monetary donations will help with the purchase of cording for the back packs and replacement of funds used to purchase school supplies.

Monetary donations will be accepted until September 3rd. There is a red box on the table in the narthex for your donations.

If anyone is interested in sewing the backpacks, please contact Eleanor Dietrich at 484-824-4388.

Thank you in advance for your donations!



OPPORTUNITY HOUSE NEWS

We will be providing meals for Opportunity House on **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.



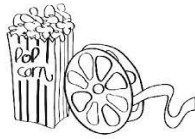
FOOTNOTES...FROM OUR LIBRARY

Our library table continues to have DVD's available throughout the summer.

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

Living Lutheran
Thrivent Magazine
Fishwrapper
Birds & Bloom
And more!

Please feel free to take a look and borrow!



FAITH NIGHT AT THE MOVIES HAMBURG STRAND THEATER

August 8, 2023 – The Reliant

September 12, 2023 – Rudy

October 10, 2023 – Letters to God

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 August 17, 2023.

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., August 22, 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.**



August Birthdays

2nd Ava Zimmerman
3rd Matthew Gring
4th Darren Daub
5th Ronald Miller

9th Trevor Fegley
11th William Gundrum
Irwin Levan
Layla Heckman
12th Virginia Werley

14th Dante LaVentura
15th Caleb Neuin
Cole Wilhelm
16th Lori Palubinski
17th Elsa Gundrum
Richard Long
18th Brandi Mazaika

20th Debbie Heckman
21st Roy Sousley
23rd Allen Billig
Charles Stewart
24th Alicia Gough

29th Dylan Brown
Robin Daub
30th Nancy Leiby*

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

August 2023

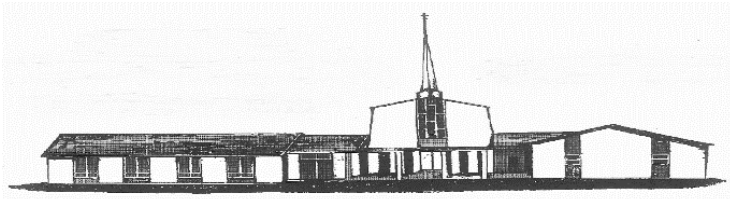
Pastor: Pastor Diane LaFauci

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 – AUGUST 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
**SUMMER HOURS CONTINUE... SUNDAY SCHOOL ON SUMMER BREAK UNTIL SEPTEMBER	**WATCH FOR SERVICE INFO IN BULLETINS, CALENDARS & ONLINE	1 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	2	3	4	5 FH RENTAL
6 9:00 am HOLY COMMUNION	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8 9:00 am – 11:00 am - Knotters 7:00 pm Council Mtg. 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	9	10	11	12
13 9:00 am HOLY COMMUNION	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	16	17 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Monthly Mtg 11:00 am – 2:00 pm Seniors Group (Gold Rm) 7:00 pm WELCA Mtg. 7:00 pm Property Mtg.	18	19
20 9:00 am HOLY COMMUNION	21 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Altar Guild Mtg. SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22 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	23	24	25	26 10:00 am CHURCH CLEANING DAY
27 9:00 am HOLY COMMUNION	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	30	31	** SERVICES WILL BE RECORDED AND POSTED ON THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE EVERY SUNDAY	

