

Zion's Messenger - September 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Over the years I have treasured several friendships...some from high school, some from college, some from places we have lived, some from relationships that came to develop through my husband's friends. Many of these friendships span not only across years, but also across miles, and some just across town. (Grateful for cell phones!)

The thing I notice about these special friendships is that we seem to pick right up from our last conversation or visit, even if it's been awhile.

We stand on common ground from common experiences and or common interests. There is a certain intimacy that touches the spirit and the emotions and that keep deepening the relationship through care and concern for each other.

I suspect that is how the relationships developed for those we have come to know as prophets. A spirit open to the sense that God is initiating conversation with them...responding to their appeals to God for help to endure difficult circumstances, for help to comprehend how things have gotten so bad, for help to say or do something meaningful to counteract the injustice suffered by the poor, for help so worship is not simply going through motions.

Clearly the prophets would be students of the scriptures available to them; clearly they would be thinking deeply about the meaning and scope of the Commandments, as Moses received them from God; clearly they would be persons of prayer. And clearly they would be courageous enough to speak out in places or situations where their words were not popular or thoughtfully received.

Their intimacy with God sustained them in their daily life and work...and in the calling to speak out on behalf of God.

What about today? Are there legitimate prophets speaking out on behalf of God? Is that a role that only "special" persons can play? Are we to just leave it to someone else to speak out against the injustice we see around us?

Or are we called by Jesus Christ to study deeply God's word, to speak out, to do the right thing even among family and/or friends or community or government leaders of a different mindset?

When there is a baptism, a new member reception, or a confirmation, we are invited once again to rethink and reevaluate our calling to...

- live among God's faithful people
- proclaim Christ through word and deed
- care for others and the world God made
- work for justice and peace [ELW, p. 228].

Though intimacy with Christ our voice can be the prophetic voice that may reach those whose eyes and ears may be closed and who may be awakened to the need to be a "living sacrifice acceptable to God" and to "be transformed by the renewing of the mind" [Romans 12.1b & 2b].

Seeking intimacy with Christ,

† *Pastor Diane LaFauci*

A word of thanks...

What a special surprise to receive a gift card "to pamper" myself in recognition of my thirty years as an ordained pastor! I think I've settled on what service I will choose at Lords and Ladies. Your kindness and thoughtfulness touch my heart! Thank you!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

***SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS – 9:15 AM**

***HOLY COMMUNION RETURNS TO 10:30 AM**

Church Picnic

The Church Picnic will be held following worship on Sunday, September 10, at 11:30 am. Worship will be outdoors, weather permitting. Hamburger BBQ, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided. Please bring a lawn chair and your favorite dish to share. There will be someone in the kitchen before Sunday School and before worship to accept your covered dish.

Pastor's Fall Bible Study ***Jonah: A Prophetic Message***

In just four chapters, the story of Jonah's epic journey to proclaim God's message unfolds in a unique way...especially compared to other prophetic books. It's a story told to children in Sunday School—probably where you first heard it. But can we take it literally? Is there historical basis for it? Because it is in the Bible, we must discern its message.

We will take a look at what constitutes prophecy, how it developed in the Old Testament, how a prophet is considered “major” or “minor”, and how the unique Book of Jonah fits in with other prophets, both major and minor. We'll read excerpts from other prophets as well as Jonah.

We'll meet Wednesday mornings at Zion's and on ZOOM in the evenings (probably 6 weeks) in October and conclude before Thanksgiving. A study book on Jonah is available.

Please help us plan our study book order by indicating your interest on the sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex.

HARVEST HOME SUNDAY

Harvest Home will be held on Sunday, September 24th.

We will be collecting donations for the Northern Berks Food Pantry. Donations can be dropped off at the church Tuesday thru Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, or Saturday Morning at 9:00 AM. If you have any fall decorations you would like to have included in the display, please bring them to the church by 9:00 am on Saturday, September 23. **Thank you for your continued support.**



Council Corner

Church Council met on Tuesday, August 8, 2023. The meeting opened with devotions from Jeremiah 18:8 – [The Lord said] “I will change my mind.”- about the virtue of having a flexible mind and meeting changing circumstances.

We reviewed the Treasurer’s report and ended July in the black with \$26,307.05. July income was \$11,675.37. Expenses were \$27,605.28, which included \$15,164.00 for two new heat pumps for the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

The Steering Committee continues to pursue variable options.

Pastor Diane shared information on the National Youth Gathering to be held July 16 – 20, 2024 in New Orleans. It is open to high school aged teens and is highly inspirational. Any teens interested in attending, please contact Pastor Diane.

Heather Gring reported on Scout summer camp activities. The Scout food sale is approaching. On September 2, Scouts will conduct sales at the Leesport Redner’s, Leesport Rutter’s and Cablea’s. Scouts will hold the 23rd Annual Car Show at Perry Park, Sunday, August 13 at 9:00 am.

A church cleaning day was planned for Saturday, August 26 at 9:00 am. All ages are welcome to participate. There are job opportunities for everyone.

A reminder that Sunday, September 10, we return to 10:30 am Worship service. Also, we will have a covered dish lunch that Sunday.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Hollenbach

Financial Report

We finished the month of July at \$15,929.01 in the red (monthly income over expenses). This was due to some large property expenses this month with replacing two air conditioners/heat pumps in the fellowship hall and sanctuary and purchasing LED lightbulbs for the sanctuary. These expenses were covered by a donation given to the church.

Monthly – Income for July	\$11,675.37
Monthly – Expenses for July	\$27,605.28
The General Offering	\$ 8,765.36
Online Giving	\$ 1,895.89
Loose Change	\$ 188.12
Other Income	\$ 826.00
Subtotal	\$11,675.37

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.

PLANNING FOR 2024

We are currently looking for volunteers to help with our Stewardship campaign for this year. If you might be interested in helping, please contact Tiffany Gruber or Mark Dreibelbis.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 9:15 AM. We are looking forward to a new year. **Our teaching staff for this year will be:**

Nursery/Preschool – Samantha Gruber
Kindergarten – 2nd grade – Heather Gring
3rd & 4th grade – Tiffany Gruber
5th & 6th grade – Faye Heckman
7th – young adult – Mark Dreibelbis
Adult class – Janine Dreibelbis

Substitute Teachers are needed! If you would be interested in serving as a substitute teacher, please contact Tiffany Gruber at 610-823-2880.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Sunday School this year!

CHOIR REMINDERS

Brass and Bells Choir rehearsals have restarted and will take place on Thursdays (unless otherwise noted)
6:00 p.m. Brass
7:00 p.m. Bells

Anyone who is interested may attend, or speak with director Steve Turner or another handbell choir member for more information.

All skill levels welcome!

The Adult Choir rehearsals have restarted.
Remainder of September rehearsal schedule is as follows:

Tuesday: Sept. 5, 7:15 pm
Wednesdays: Sept. 13, Sept. 20, Sept. 27 at 7:15 pm

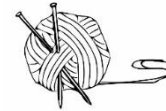
If you are interested in singing in the choir this season, please contact Donald Ryan at donryan715@gmail.com or 610-762-9322.

Senior Group

Our next Senior Group will meet on September 21, 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!



HELP NEEDED

Do you knit? Do you crochet?

We need your helping hands to make prayer shawls.

We supply the yarn and you do the work.

Please contact Susan Lutz for more information.



On Saturday, September 16th we will head to the Ironton Rail-Trail, Coplay. We will meet at Zion's at 9am and carpool/caravan to the Trail. Bring your bike, water, and also a snack to share for some fellowship time at the end of the ride. Questions? More info? Contact John Smith or Eileen Puglia.



WELCA Meeting

Our next WELCA meeting will be held on Thursday evening, October 19th 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!



“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 continue to be available in the Narthex at Sunday worship and on Zion’s Facebook page. 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 are posted in the Narthex for volunteers to help in the kitchen, help the day of the sale, and for baked goods donations.

Thank you in advance for your support. *The Women of WELCA*



CLOTHING DRIVE

In conjunction with our Favorite Foods Sale, WELCA will also be collecting donations of gently used men/women/children’s clothing for Hope Rescue Mission. Clothing donations can be dropped off when you pick up your food, or on Sunday October 8th. If you didn’t finish cleaning out for our collection this summer, you have another chance to help this worthy ministry.



Garden News

We continue to pick our tomatoes and peppers. Our new bird netting was a success, and we are anxiously watching our squash as they ready for fall harvesting. The second planting of cabbage is doing well, with much needed rain helping everything along. **Over a ton of produce has already been grown, picked, weighed, and delivered to community food pantries and local food insecure individuals and families this season.**

There continues to be a need for volunteers each week as we reap God’s bounty. Please listen for announcement or check the Sunday bulletin/Facebook page for news of our work schedule. There’s still time to come out and help in the Garden this year!



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

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!

Thank You!!

The Knotter’s thank Cub Scout Troop 163 for stuffing the pet beds that will be completed and delivered to animal shelters in our area.



FOOTNOTES...FROM OUR LIBRARY

In September, as we return to our later Worship time, our library table will be featuring NEW additions received during 2023.

Please stop by, take a look and sign-out a book!

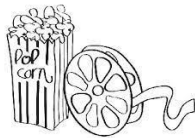
SCOUT POPCORN SALE

It's almost time for Zion's Cub Scout Pack and Troop to have their annual popcorn and nut fundraising sale! Please consider supporting scouting by purchasing and enjoying some delicious popcorn and nuts.

The Scouts will have various products available for sale in the narthex after the 10:30am worship service on Sunday, September 24th.

If you have any questions about the sale or about scouting, please contact Heather Gring at (610) 334-7476.

Thank you for your continued support!



FAITH NIGHT AT THE MOVIES HAMBURG STRAND THEATER

September 12, 2023 – Rudy

October 10, 2023 – Letters to God

November 14, 2023 – Midnight Clear

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

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 Wednesday evenings, on the dates below at 6:30 pm and **will continue through Dec. 13, 2023.** Sessions take place at Zion's Church, 770 Zion's Church Rd., Hamburg, PA

Sept. 6	Is This Normal?
Sept. 13	Challenges of Grief
Sept. 20	The Journey of Grief (1)
Sept. 27	The Journey of Grief (2)

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.

ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY INC.

Our monthly Board meeting will be held on September 14, 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

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.



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.

****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!**

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., September 26, 2023, from 6 pm to 7 pm.

MAUI RELIEF

The significant loss of life and damage caused by the wildfires in Hawaii have turned our prayers and attention to mourning those lost, supporting the survivors and how Lutheran Disaster Response can assist with recovery.

Exacerbated by strong winds, wildfires on Maui have claimed dozens of lives and have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. The Big Island of Hawaii has also been impacted by wildfires, and more islands remain vulnerable to additional fires this season.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs and long-term recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.

Write "U.S. Wildfires" on your check's memo line and send to:

**Lutheran Disaster Response
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**

*****Make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response.***

Give by phone at **800-638-3522** Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Central time or [online](https://www.elca.org) at [ELCA.org](https://www.elca.org).

By standing with Maui's wildfire survivors, we follow Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbors in need.

With gratitude,
The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**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!**

****Please note: 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://trinityrobesonia.org/TrinityRobesoniaonFacebook>

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



September Birthdays

1st	Donna Long Dwight Heckman
2nd	Jay Wheeland
5th	Mark Price
6 th	Owen Neuin
7th	Angela Gough Doris Gough Korey Onulack Linda Stewart
8 th	David Klemmer
9 th	Paul Hartline
10th	Brenda Ramich
11 th	Andrea Heckman
13th	Nathan Bender
14 th	Connie Reinhart
15 th	Dennis Madeira Lisa Fegley
16 th	Jennifer Hoshauer
19 ^h	Reece Hawk
20 th	Grace Ketner Chris Mengel Jamie Scolastico
22 nd	David Long Nancy Pursell
23 rd	Kyle Pursell Brittany Noecker Maylynn Wagner
25th	Marvin Adam Paul Engle
27 th	Ruth Ann Eyer
28 th	Samantha Gruber
29 th	Woodrow Lutz Katie Stefan
30 th	Craig 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

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

STARTING SEPT 10TH: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am, Holy Communion,
Indoor recorded service

September 2023

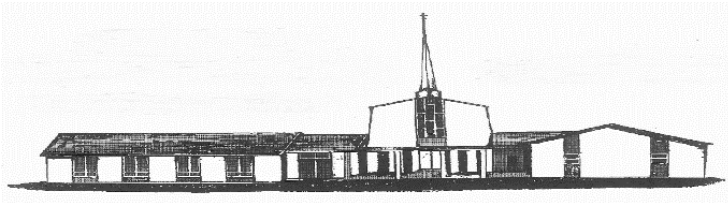
Pastor: Pastor Diane LaFauci

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 – SEPTEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
**FALL HOURS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGIN ON SEPT. 10 TH	**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 FH RENTAL – 11 -3 PM	2
3 9:00 am HOLY COMMUNION	4 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	5 7:15 PM CHOIR REH. 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	6	7 6:00 PM BRASS REH. 7:00 PM BELLS REH.	8	9
10 RALLY DAY 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion 11:30 am – Church picnic	11 PATRIOT DAY OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 PM - CUB AND BOY SCOUTS	12 9:00 am – 11:00 am - Knotters 7:00 pm Council Mtg. 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	13 7:15 PM CHOIR REH.	14 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Monthly Mtg NO BRASS, NO BELLS	15 OPPORTUNITY HOUSE MEAL	16
17 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion	18 OFFICE CLOSED SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30 PM - CUB AND BOY SCOUTS	19 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	20 7:15 PM CHOIR REH.	21 11:00 am – 2:00 pm Seniors Group (Gold Rm) 6:00 pm Worship & Music 7:00 pm BELLS REH. 8:00 pm BRASS REH. 7:00 pm Property Mtg	22	23
24 HARVEST HOME 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion	25 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 PM - CUB AND BOY SCOUTS	26 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	27 7:15 PM CHOIR REH.	28 6:00 pm BRASS REH. 7:00 pm BELLS REH.	29	30