

Zion's Messenger - October 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

With the advent of autumn comes a certain *transition* time once again...transition to the “regular” schedule, but, more importantly, transition to something new. New Sunday School and Confirmation classes. New adult studies. Some new music. Some new business for Council consideration. New fellowship events. New opportunities to make a difference for someone going through a difficult time.

The word “transition” brings to mind the reality that a healthy congregation is always in a state of transition. If not, it’s like a stagnant pond where nothing grows any more...where there is no longer any life.

I have been serving Zion’s as “Transition” Pastor and have been blessed to see new life as the years have come. The role of a Transition Pastor is to guide the congregation in moving from Point A to Point B, whether that means entering into shared ministry with another congregation or calling a pastor to part or full time service.

But several years ago, a colleague of mine shared with me a certain observation about his role as the “called” pastor to the congregation where he was serving: he referred to himself as “Transition Pastor...aren’t we all supposed to be transition pastors, after all,” he declared.

Truth be told, he was right! Pastors come and go, but the congregation’s members tend to stay. So the important thing to remember is that members must seek to regularly and continually grow in faith and in understanding of the mission of the church.

One of my favorite sayings is that pastors are shepherds (from the root meaning of pastor”); the members are the sheep of the flock. It is the sheep who produce the wool...it is the members who make the difference.

In the fall we tend to revisit the ministry of stewardship, as we begin to plan for the coming calendar/fiscal year.

- How can each member make the difference to ensure the transition to the next important place?
- Considering how things go for us generally, are there a few extra dollars in our pocket at the end of the week that could make something new happen in and through the congregation?
- Are there a few hours in the week or the month where we find ourselves wondering what to do with our time...could serving on Altar Guild or the Choir or assisting with music or part of worship or service and fellowship ministry bring a sense of fulfillment while making things happen in and through the congregation?

In short, what can we each do to keep the congregation *in transition*, the state of growing?

While the notion of being in transition can be a bit unsettling, it should keep us on our toes, alert to any hurdles to overcome, alert to possibilities. It is not time to sit back and see what happens...it is time to *make things happen*.

Christ is counting on us all. On whom or on what are we counting?

Your Sister in Christ,
‡ *Pastor Diane LaFauci*

Pastor's Fall Bible Study

BEGINNING OCT. 11

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.

Starting October 11, we'll meet Wednesday mornings (10:30 am) at Zion's and on ZOOM in the evenings (7:00 pm) in October and conclude before Thanksgiving. A study book on Jonah is available.

Journey in Faith

Via de Cristo

*A special opportunity for better understanding of the Christian faith
in a weekend 3-day experience in our area in the month of October*

Via de Cristo is Spanish for the “Way of Christ”. It is the Lutheran expression of a renewal movement developed within the Church in the 1940s in Spain, and originally known as *Cursillo*, a Spanish word meaning “short course” in Christianity.

Originating in the Spanish Catholic Church, it is intended to be a step-by-step structured weekend with several talks given by lay persons active in their congregations and a few talks given by clergy in a progression that puts the faith and the work of the church into clearer perspective than one might otherwise have, even in weekly worship and regular Bible study. It has proven to be of great benefit to individuals who attend a weekend, and in congregations where they are members.

This renewal movement exists in many denominations besides the Lutheran Church. In the Roman Catholic Church and the Episcopal Church, it is known as *Cursillo*. In the Methodist Church it is called “Walk to Emmaus”. The movement also exists in several other denominations, including a cross-denomination experience called *Tres Dias* (Three Days).

In Berks County, members at Faith Lutheran, Mount Penn, Reformation Lutheran, (Reiffton) Reading, and Christ Lutheran, Oley, have found this to be noticeably beneficial for the congregation, not to mention in their personal faith lives.

There are *VdC* communities in many states across the country, as well as in countries around the world. The Journey in Faith community serves Eastern PA. drawing primarily from York, Camp Hill, and Reading areas, and from Delaware.

The fall 2023 Journey in Faith weekend begins Thursday evening October 12, and comes to a close Sunday afternoon October 15. It is held at Camp Innabah, a Methodist camp a few miles south of Coventry Mall, Pottstown, just off Route 100. There is information on the national website: *Via de Cristo* National Lutheran Secretariat, as well as on the Journey in Faith *VdC* website and FaceBook page...or simply ask Pastor Diane LaFauci for more information.



Council Corner

The Congregational Church Council met on Tuesday, September 12th at 7 pm. Dan Brennan, finance committee, joined us and presented an interim financial assessment for the church. By having this financial information, Council will be able to make good decisions with regards to the church. The church's steering committee reported that they are continuing to work on our future needs and direction.

It is hard to believe but the holiday season is fast approaching. The Altar Guild knows this all too well. They have many things on their calendar which will require everyone to pitch in so **please put the following dates on your calendar:**

On November 26th, after the 10:30 AM service they will need help setting up the Advent Wreath and Blue Swags. On December 7 at 7:00 PM the tree will be set up. And on December 23 at 9:00 AM the Pew Candles will be set up; the Blue Swags will be taken down and switched to the Christmas Swags.

Because of the inclement weather on September 10th our outdoor service was moved inside. The service was followed by a successful and well attended fellowship picnic. As always, the food was excellent.

The adult and children's Sunday School have restarted and meets at 9:15 AM. All are welcome to join them and remember to thank the teachers when you get a chance.

Please continue to keep the church in your prayers as we navigate through our transitional period.

Respectfully submitted by John Smith.

Financial Report

Financial Report

We finished the month of August at \$3,438.64 in the black.

Monthly – Income for August	\$17,324.50
Monthly – Expenses for July	\$13,885.86
The General Offering	\$11,196.53
Online Giving	\$3,007.04
Loose Change	\$82.00
Other Income	\$3,038.93
Subtotal	\$17,324.50

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

Join Zion's Cleaning Team

**Paid position for one morning or afternoon per week to clean the fellowship hall wing of Zion's Lutheran Church, Perry Twp.
Call the church office at 610-562-7620 to indicate your interest**

Thank You

Isaiah 45:2 I will go before you and make the crooked places straight.

We thank Zion's congregation for the prayers, gifts, cards and prayer shawl for Maylynn.

Heather, Rob and Maylynn Wagner



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School has resumed. We are looking forward to a new year.

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!

Senior Group

Our next Senior Group will meet on October 19, 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.



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!

WELCA

GOING TO TOPTON TO HELP WITH BINGO

On November 2, in the afternoon, WELCA is sponsoring Bingo for one group of the residents at the Lutheran Home at Topton. We need to bring prizes of sweets, chips, cosmetic bags, home decor/signs, etc.

If you would like to contribute to the prizes we'll give, place them in the box in the narthex. If you'd like to be a volunteer to help residents, let Carol Rothermel know.



“Favorite (Bazaar) Foods Sale”

Saturday, October 7th

The deadline is quickly approaching for WELCA’s food sale. **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. 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.



Our last ride of the season will be held **Saturday morning, October 14th**. The location is to be announced. Please check Sunday bulletins and Zion’s Facebook page for updates/details.

Thanks, and hope you can join us one more time, or even for the first time!

Garden News



I like gardening --- it’s a place I find myself when I need to lose myself. Alice Sebold

Is it ready yet? Join us as we stand over our fall squash and contemplate this important gardening question. We are finishing up our tomatoes and peppers and waiting for our fall squash and late cabbage to be harvested.

Please join us as we harvest the last of our produce this month, and work to put the Garden to rest until next season. Listen for Sunday announcements or check the Sunday bulletin/Facebook page for news of our work schedule.



FOOTNOTES...FROM OUR LIBRARY

Our library table will be featuring NEW additions received during 2023.

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



KNOTTER'S NEWS



We thank everyone for their monetary donations used to purchase school supplies and for the help assembling our backpacks.

We also thank Joy & Ronald Weyer for their many, many years of stringing our backpacks.

This year we were able to fill and bless 100 backpacks for Lutheran Relief in Windsor, MD. Our donations will be delivered later this month.

Meet the Authors

You are invited to join the Children of the King home school group and meet three local authors right here in Zion's Fellowship Hall on Friday, Oct. 20th from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Listen to these three women share why they wanted to be published and what it took to reach their goals.

Shirley Zweizig Nestler and her 2023 book
– The Balthaser Women

Debi Irene Wahl – Jesus, I'm Coming

Lori Santilli Wolfinger – Illustrator of her mother's book, Trouble in Treeville



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

October 10, 2023 – Letters to God
November 14, 2023 – Midnight Clear
December 12, 2023 – The Christmas Blessing

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

Oct. 4	Grief and Your Relationships
Oct. 11	Why?
Oct. 18	Guilt and Anger
Oct. 25	Complicating Factors

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.



FOOD PANTRY

Our local food pantry is always in need of donations and these are some of the items that are needed:

Canned pastas - ravioli, beefaroni, spaghetti, etc.

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:

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

ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY INC.

Our monthly Board meeting will be held on October 12, 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.

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.**



October Birthdays

3rd Amanda Gallagher
4th Nancy Seidel
6th Shelly Strunk
7th Jennifer Neuin
9th Wasyl Onulack, Jr.

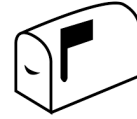
10th Timothy Olszewski
12th Eleanor Dietrich
Heather Wagner
13th Neil Schaeffer
Conner Troutman
14th Eileen Puglia
Lucille Gough
15th Matthew Deibler
16th Joanne Reidenhour
Isabella Denatala

17th Norman Dresher
19th Tanner Mish
20th Ruth Ann Adam
Aryton Miller
Barbara Reinhart
21st Alannah Daub
22nd Reece Heckman
Carl Sechler

24th Heather Gring
25th Abbie Smith
26th Arlene Mengel
Brianna Ulrich
Lillian Dusko
27th Steven Mengel
28th Nelson Eyer

30th Michael Heckman
Dawn O'Brien
Lori Smith

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 School: 9:15 am

Sunday Worship: 10:30 am, Holy Communion,
Indoor recorded service

October 2023

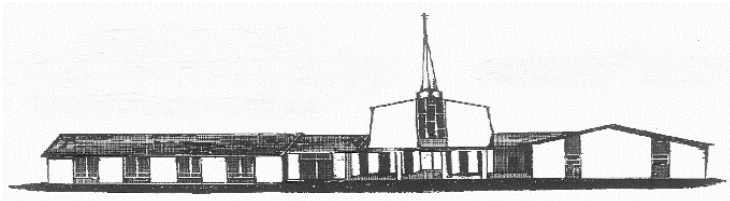
Pastor: Pastor Diane LaFauci

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 – OCTOBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion</p> <p>2:00 PM Blue Mtn. Chorus Concert</p>	<p>2</p> <p>OFFICE OPEN 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM</p> <p>6:30 PM - CUB AND BOY SCOUTS</p>	<p>3</p> <p>OFFICE OPEN 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM</p> <p>7:15 PM CHOIR REH</p>	<p>4</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>5</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>FH RENTAL</p>	<p>6</p> <p>OFFICE OPEN 9:00 am – 1:00 pm</p> <p>LIFE LINE SCREENING 9:00 am – 3:00 pm (SUNDAY SC. WING) FH RENTAL</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:00 AM – 2:00 PM FAVORITE FOOD SALE PICK-UP FH RENTAL</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion</p> <p>6:00 pm – 8:00 pm – Confirmation Mtg. at St. John's Hamburg</p>	<p>9 COLUMBUS DAY</p> <p>OFFICE OPEN 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM</p>	<p>10</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</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>11</p> <p>10:30 AM BIBLE ST. AT CHURCH</p> <p>7:00 PM BIBLE ST. ON ZOOM</p> <p>7:15 PM Choir Reh.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Monthly Mtg</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 AM – Zion's Bike Ride..(location tbd)</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion</p>	<p>16</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:30 AM BIBLE ST. AT CHURCH</p> <p>7:00 PM BIBLE ST. ON ZOOM</p> <p>7:15 PM Choir Reh.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11:00 am – 2:00 pm Seniors Group (Gold Rm)</p> <p>6:00 PM Brass Reh. 7:00 PM Bells Reh. 7:00 pm WELCA Mtg. 7:00 pm Property Mtg.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>FH RENTAL</p> <p>10:00 am – 12:00 pm Meet the Authors</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion</p>	<p>23</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p> <p>6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters</p> <p>Berks Food Bank distribution at Hamburg Area Middle Sch.</p> <p>7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:30 AM BIBLE ST. AT CHURCH</p> <p>7:00 PM BIBLE ST. ON ZOOM</p> <p>7:15 PM Choir Reh.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:00 PM Brass Reh. 7:00 PM Bells Reh.</p> <p>7:00 pm Property Mtg</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 REFORMATION SUNDAY</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion</p>	<p>30</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:15 PM Choir Reh 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>			<p>** SERVICES WILL BE RECORDED AND POSTED ON THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE EVERY SUNDAY</p>	<p>**WATCH FOR SERVICE INFO IN BULLETINS, CALENDARS & ONLINE</p>

