

Zion's Messenger - November 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I begin to write this month's letter, it feels like summer. I'll surely enjoy porch time as I prepare the sermon for Reformation Sunday and continue plans for All Saints Sunday.

But as sure as I'm sitting here, I'm acutely aware of how things can change quickly in life—the weather notwithstanding. The Phillies' hopes were dashed in the 7th game in the lead-up to the World Series...it was just the right pitch and the right hit...(or perhaps the wrong pitch, the wrong hit...it's all in the eye of the beholder).

The bottom line is that things can change, whether you see it coming or not. November certainly does usher us into the reality of fall and prepare us for the coming of (dare we say it?) winter. But November also brings us to Christ the King Sunday and the hope/reality of the *End Time*. We begin with the Remembrance Rite on All Saints Sunday (always the first Sunday in November). This bitter/sweet moment in worship is meant to give us hope of things to come: our own entrance into the eternal presence of God by the grace of Jesus Christ.

All Lives Matter! Yes, to God, *all* lives matter, and the message on Christ the King Sunday (last Sunday of the liturgical year, always in November and just before the beginning of Advent) is just that! *We matter to God!!* God wants to receive each one of us into God's eternal dwelling place we know as *heaven*. That is the one sure thing that does not change!!

Honestly, as much as I would like to know exactly what that will be like, I won't until I am received there...I have no idea when that might be. In the meantime, I must continue to live each day to the glory of God, for so much is at stake in the world.

That being said, if I am truly Jesus' disciple, I must consider *why* I do everything I do: is it because people think more highly of me if I do all these things? because it makes me feel good about myself as I tally up what I do—especially in and thru the church? or do I stop to think about what I do as *actual ministry according to the mission to which God has called me*—that is to say: my *grateful response to God*? When I think in those terms, it *changes* everything for me! And that change is, indeed, good!

November brings each one of us an opportunity to rethink what we do. Is it just about making us feel good about ourselves? *Or is what we do and what we give our grateful response to God?*

In Thanksgiving to God,
‡ *Pastor Diane LaFauci*

A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS...

On "Pastor Appreciation Sunday" I was gifted with something specially selected for me: two little Swedish Christmas gnomes ("Tomtes"—they deliver gifts) for my holiday display at home.

When I prepare my home for Advent and Christmas, these two Tomtes will have a place of honor with my international Santa display.

They may even find a place in my study throughout the year as I continue to cherish the time God has given me to serve at Zion's.

Thank you for the love and care you pour out to me! It is my honor to serve the Lord with you at Zion's



Coffee Bar

The Coffee Bar is returning to Zion's on Sunday, November 12 and Sunday, December 10! Come and enjoy a cup of coffee, hot tea, or hot chocolate before the service or stay awhile after the service and enjoy a time of fellowship over your favorite hot beverage.

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex if you would like to bring a baked good or snack for everyone to enjoy.

We look forward to this time of fellowship among our congregation!



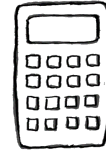
November Food Pantry: Volunteers Needed

Zion's Lutheran Church is the volunteer group for the Northern Berks Food Pantry.

We will need volunteers at the Hamburg Area Middle School Cafeteria at 5:30pm on Tuesday November 14 for their Thanksgiving distribution.

Please sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

Thank You!



Can we count on you?

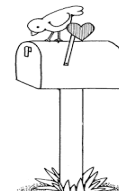
Or better yet, can you count **for** us? There is always a need for more counting team members or substitutes. Counting team members count one Sunday a month after worship, one Monday morning a month, or four times a year on the fifth Sunday of the month. Training is available.

Please see Eileen Puglia with questions, or to join a counting team in 2024.

Communion Elements

If you are only able to watch the service online, we can provide you communion elements.

Please contact the church office at 610-562-3112.



CARD SHOWER

We would like to have a Christmas Card Shower for Brett Daub. He is currently serving our country on the USS Ashland, so this is a great way to celebrate the Christmas holiday and also acknowledge his service to our country. Cards should be mailed to the following address:

OS2 Daub, Brett
USS Ashland LSD 48
Unit 100147 Box 747FPO AP 96660
FPO AP 96660



Council Corner

The Church Council met on Tuesday, October 10 at 7:00pm.

Sunday, November 5 is All-Saints Sunday, with the lighting of memorial candles.

We are purchasing 2 new wireless, handheld microphones and a mixer box to replace old ones whose frequency is no longer available for use. This will help both in-person parishioners and those at home to better hear what is being said.

We are going to bring back the Coffee Bar on a trial basis. We will start with the 2nd Sunday of the month in November and December. The coffee bar will be set up both before and after worship to encourage fellowship among our members. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex if you would like to sign up to bring a baked good or snack for the coffee bar.

WELCA reported having a successful food sale. They will be playing BINGO at the Topton Home on November 2 in the afternoon.

We are looking for a cleaning person to do the Fellowship Hall portion of the building.

Remember to fill out and submit a communion card at least once a year.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2024, with a snow date of January 28.

Respectfully submitted by Faye Heckman.

Financial Report

We finished the month of September at \$3,816.28 in the red.

Monthly – Income for September \$13,039.67

Monthly – Expenses for September \$16,855.95

The General Offering \$9,917.00

Online Giving \$1,746.37

Loose Change \$ 140.00

Other Income \$1,236.30

Subtotal \$13,039.67

Thank you for your continued support!

Consider online giving

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

**** SPECIAL NOTICE ****

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY:

FRIDAY, DEC. 08, 2023.

December is very busy in the church office with extra bulletins, newsletter and the Annual Report which is why we need your reports in a timely manner. Even if your report has no changes from last year, we need to hear from you.

THE ANNUAL REPORT MUST BE PRINTED AND AVAILABLE BY JANUARY 7TH.

THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 21, 2024. THE SNOWDATE IS JANUARY 28, 2024.

PLEASE WATCH FUTURE BULLETINS AND NEWSLETTERS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

**2023 Northern Berks Ministerium
Community Harvest /Advent Worship Services
Thursday Mornings 11:30 a.m.
Worship / Soup and Bread Fellowship**

Thursday, November 16th

Zion Lutheran Church Perry,
354 Zion's Church Road, Perry Township, PA

Thursday, November 30th

Friedens Church of Lenhartsville,
1512 Old Route 22, Lenhartsville, PA

Thursday, December 7th

Zion (Blue Mountain) UCC,
6573 Old U.S. 22, Strausstown, PA

Thursday, December 14th

Victory Chapel,
213 N. 4th Street, Hamburg, PA

Thursday, December 21st

Blue Christmas
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church,
99 Church Street, Hamburg, PA

Freewill offering benefitting the Emergency Assistance Fund

****Additional Northern Berks Ministerium Services:**

Sunday, December 10th at 4:00 p.m.

Red Kettle Benefit Concert
to benefit the Hamburg Salvation Army
St. John's Lutheran Church, Hamburg



The women of WELCA would like to thank the members of Zion's for their help and support of this year's Favorite Foods Sale - from the donated baked goods, to the kitchen help, to the many purchases of the soup, barbecue and apple dumplings. It was all greatly appreciated, and will greatly benefit the ministries and property needs of Zion's and our community.

Hope Rescue Mission has also extended a thank you for our second clothing drive this year. Our ongoing support of their ministries was highly welcomed.

Thanks again for your support!
The women of WELCA



Garden News

More grows in the garden than the gardener sows. Spanish proverb

Autumn is here, and we are wrapping up season #9 in the Garden. We have harvested over two tons of vegetables to donate to local food pantries and organizations this season! Included were the Northern Berks (Hamburg) Food Pantry, Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry, Keystone Military Food Pantry, Wyndcliffe Apartments, Friend Inc., and Opportunity House.

As this newsletter goes to production, we have harvested the last of our peppers, fall squash, and late cabbage planting and are finishing our Garden clean up.

We continue to be thankful for our faithful volunteers, both returning volunteers and some new volunteers this season. Without the support of congregation and community members, we would not be able to continue this ministry.

Please continue to pray for our ministry and for the food insecure in our community. Thank you.

Senior Group

Our next Senior Group will meet on November 16, 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!

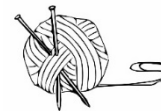


FOOTNOTES...FROM OUR LIBRARY

Reach for a Rainbow of Good Reading!

November's library table will feature books about wellness.

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



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.



National Gratitude Month

We can express our gratitude toward the organizations and people working to help others by donating items on their wish list. Below are 3 options to donate.

Christmas Sharing at The Lutheran Home at Topton

A holiday tradition at Topton is called Christmas Sharing. A store is created in which residents are treated to holiday shopping at no cost to themselves. They shop for themselves and the gift is lovingly wrapped and delivered to them on Christmas morning by Santa and Mrs. Claus. Most of our residents would not receive a gift without this tradition.

Zion's will be collecting items from their most popular list until November 19.

Items for Men

Skin care products
Flannel shirts Med. -2XL
White undershirts-med.-2XL
Sweatshirts-med.-XL
Sweat pants med.-XL
Pajamas small-XL
socks
Hats

Items for Women

beauty products
pajama sets -small-3XL
slippers with soles and backs
sweaters-small-XL
sweat pants small-3XL
socks
dress scarves
blouses small-3XL

General gifts for anyone: blankets, wallets, stuffed animals, non-breakable home decor.
ALL ITEMS MUST BE BRAND NEW.

Socks for the Troops

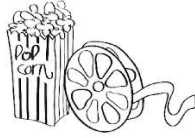
We are collecting black cotton or wool boot socks (not crew) for Keystone Military to put in the Christmas stockings they send to the troops. They can be purchased at Boscovs or Priority Plus in Hamburg (at the strip mall by Dollar Tree.) Priority has actual military socks. We will be sending out thousands of stockings this year. Socks are needed by Nov17th. A box will be placed in the narthex marked Socks for Soldiers. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Lutz.



COMING SOON – ANGEL TREE TAGS

We are once again helping the Salvation Army to collect gifts for children and seniors this holiday season.
PLEASE WATCH YOUR UPCOMING BULLETINS FOR MORE INFORMATION AND DATES!

Thank you for helping to make someone's holiday a little brighter!



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

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

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

Nov. 1	Stuck
Nov. 8	Lessons of Grief (1)
Nov. 15	Surviving the Holidays
Nov. 22	NO GRIEFSHARE
Nov. 29	Lessons 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 November 9, 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:

Peanut Butter

Canned Tuna

Canned Fruit

And of course, **any shelf stable item** that you would like to donate would be appreciated.

****If you 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., November 14, 2023, from 6 pm to 7 pm.



November Birthdays

- 1st Vernie Noecker
Elaine Schroder
- 2nd April Reitenauer
- 3rd Jeanette Heckman
- 4th Shelly Strunk
- 6th Nancy Dresher
Paul Weidner
- 7th Tiffany Gruber
Rylee Strunk
- 8th Kai Hawk
- 9th William Heckman, Jr.
Kevin Koehn
- 10th Kelly Troutman
- 12th Karen Mengel
- 15th Allen Daub
- 16th Nancy Dusko
Tyler Fusner Jr.
- 17th Dean Sunday
- 18th Faye Heckman
- 19th Tracy Pond
Faye Smith
- 22nd Kimberly Olszewski
- 24th Karen Blandford
- 26th Janelle Kerr
- 28th Cleta Borkey
- 30th William Bensinger, Jr.

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

November 2023

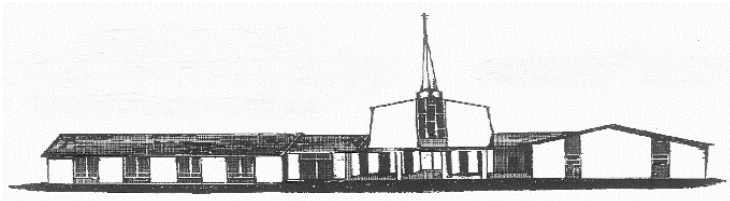
Pastor: Pastor Diane LaFauci

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 – NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<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>		<p>1</p> <p>ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:30 AM – CHURCH 7:00 PM - ZOOM</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</p> <p>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion</p>	<p>6 OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 pm Council Mtg. 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>8</p> <p>ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:30 AM – CHURCH 7:00 PM – ZOOM</p> <p>7:15 PM Choir Reh.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Monthly Mtg 6:00 PM Brass Reh. 7:00 PM Bells Reh.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>FH RENTAL</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion Baptism and new member</p>	<p>13 OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters</p> <p>6:00 pm Berks Food Bank distribution at Hamburg Area Middle Sch.</p> <p>7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:30 AM – CHURCH 7:00 PM - ZOOM</p> <p>7:15 PM Choir Reh.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>11:00 am – 2:00 pm Seniors Group (Gold Rm)</p> <p>11:30 AM HARVEST SOUP AND BREAD (FELLOWSHIP HALL)</p> <p>6:00 pm Worship & Music Mtg. 7:00 PM Bells Reh. 8:00 PM Brass Reh. 7:00 pm Property Mtg.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>OPP. HOUSE MEAL</p>	<p>18</p> <p>FH RENTAL</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion</p>	<p>20 OFFICE OPEN</p> <p>DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p> <p>6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:15 PM Choir Reh. 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 THANKSGIVING</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion</p>	<p>27 OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:15 PM Choir Reh.</p>	<p>30</p>		

