**Zion’s Messenger –** **January 2024**

**A Special Word of Welcome!**

We would like to take this time to welcome Pastor Stephanie Roth to Zion’s Evangelical Lutheran Church!

We look forward to working with her in the various ministries of our church. As Pastor Stephanie gets acclimated to the workings of our church, please help her out by introducing yourself to her. We are sure that it will take a while to learn everyone’s name.

Additionally, we are also excited to announce that Pastor Stephanie’s Ordination will be held on Sunday, February 18, 2024, and will be held here at Zion’s. More details will be in next month’s newsletter as she is in the early stages of planning for this momentous event. Stay tuned to future newsletters and bulletins for posting of office hours too.

Respectfully submitted by Tiffany Gruber, Church Council President

Heartfelt thanks…

My deepest thanks for the recognition of the almost four years we shared in ministry together at Zion’s, and for the lovely reception held in my honor after worship on December 17th!

The outpouring of love warms my heart even now as I write to you. The flowers on the altar, the children’s thanks, the choir benediction, the words reflecting on our time together that started out way differently than any of us could have imagined, with technological challenges, and the partnership in leadership…all these things remind me that God works for good in all things for those who love God and are called together for God’s purpose [Romans 8.28].

The anniversary blanket and the wooden image of Zion’s grace our library where we have hundreds of books for personal enjoyment and where my laptop sits at the ready. The Swedish welcome-home star has a special place in the window at the entrance we always use when we come home…and its light (it’s on a timer) especially brightens the evening homecoming. While I always thought it great to be able to cook like Rachel Ray (I do like being creative when time permits!), there are already recipes in Zion’s cookbook I’m planning to try!

Thank you for the time to greet everyone after the service…thank you for the delicious refreshments prepared in member kitchens, the beverages, the photos, the cake with a blessing message. Those who were able to be there in person, those who have called me, those who have blessed me with written messages and with special gifts, those whose lives have touched in these past four years, you all have a special place in my heart. Thank you for just being you!

I am confident the years to come, now with a called pastor and your ongoing support of all that Zion’s has potential to accomplish, will bring you joy. May you strive to continue to grow in faith and explore even more ways to further Christ’s mission where God has planted you.

God loves you, and so do I!

Pastor Diane LaFauci



Annual Meeting & Luncheon

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 21, 2023, at 11:30 AM, with a snow date of January 28, 2023. We will be holding the Annual Meeting right after the service in the Nave. All members are welcome to stay in their seats after the service.

We will need to have 50 people in attendance to make any motions and we will not be using Zoom this year for the meeting.

After the annual meeting, we will be holding the luncheon in the fellowship hall. The fellowship committee will be providing barbeque, hot dogs, and drinks. Please plan to bring a covered dish to share. We look forward to seeing everyone at the annual meeting!



Council Corner

At our Church Council meeting on December 12, we reviewed and approved the proposed budget for 2024 that will be presented and discussed at the January 21, 2024 Congregational Meeting. It was mentioned at the meeting that Pastor Stephanie’s Ordination is scheduled for Sunday, February 18th. Her ordination will take place here at Zion’s. More information will be provided closer to that time.

 We also reviewed the council report for the annual report along with the agenda for the annual meeting. Just a reminder that our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2024 with a snow date of January 28, 2024. We will once again hold the meeting immediately after the worship service and will then transition to the fellowship hall for a time of food and fellowship with one another.

The Church Council also expressed our thanks to Pastor Diane LaFauci for her time serving Zion’s during our period of transition and wish her the best!

Respectfully submitted by Tiffany Gruber

Financial Report

We finished the month of November at $8,711.75 in the red.

Monthly – Income for November $16,381.20

Monthly – Expenses for November $25,092.95

The General Offering $11,237.00

Online Giving $ 2,653.79

Loose Change $ 214.00

Other Income $ 2,276.41

Subtotal $16,381.20

Thank you for your continued support!

Consider online giving

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

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

A qualified distribution (QCD) is a simple and tax-smart way to give to the church.

* If you are 70 ½ or older, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution of $100,000 or less of your required minimum distribution (RMD) annually.
* Giving directly from your IRA can reduce your annual gross income and lower your taxes. You are not taxed by the IRS on this type of distribution.
* Distributions must be made directly from a traditional IRA account by your plan administrator to Zion’s.
* Discuss with your investment advisor to arrange for the QCD distribution to be made. Distributions can be transmitted to the church quarterly, semi-annually, or annually.

BULLETIN ITEMS

Bulletin items should be submitted to the church office no later than the Wednesday of the week of desired publishing.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Newsletter items should be submitted to the church office no later than the third Monday of the month before desired publishing.

There will be a deadline reminder posted in the bulletin on the Sunday before the deadline.

FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSORS 2024

The new sign-up sheets for flower & bulletin sponsors for 2024 have been put up on the bulletin board in the narthex. The cost of bulletins is $13.00 and flowers are $40.00.

**Sponsoring Altar Flowers**

When sponsoring Altar Flowers, please mark your personal calendar for the date(s) you have signed up for on the altar flower sponsorship chart.

**The church office does not manage requests for preferences, so if you want specific flowers or arrangement or have certain allergies, please contact our florist directly – Centerport Flower Shop – 610-488-8997 – a week before your sponsored date to give the florist ample time to prepare the arrangement.**

(arrangements are delivered to the church on Fridays)



Have you moved? Are you planning to move? Please make sure that you let the church office know (at 610-562-3112 or churchoffice@zionslutheran.org) if you have moved or if your phone number has changed. We want to make sure that we have up-to-date contact information for everyone.



Coffee Bar

This month’s Coffee Bar is

Sunday, January 14th!

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!

**Senior Group**

Our next Senior Group will meet on

January 18, 2024 in the Gold Room,

11:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Try to arrive early to divide into card groups.

Hope to see you there!



Knotter News

Carolyn Geist and Lucille Gough were the recipients of the quilts from the Dec. 10 drawing.

Thank you to those that gave a donation toward the drawing.

We are still looking for blanket and sheet sets.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support!



*FOOTNOTES…*FROM OUR LIBRARY

A reading Christian is a growing Christian.

“*When you turn your face to the Son, the shadows fall behind you.”*

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

OPPORTUNITY HOUSE 2024

Zion's will be serving meals at Opportunity House in 2024.

The dates for 2024 will be January 19, March 15, May 17, July 19, September 20, and November 15.

Volunteers are always welcome to help cook the food, or to go along to Opportunity House to help serve the food. If you would like to help or have any questions, please reach out to Wanda Hoherchak at whoherchak@gmail.com or (570)778-8403.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and talents to continue to make this possible.

ZION’S CEMETERY COMPANY INC.

Our Annual Lot Owner’s Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 9:00 am, with the monthly board meeting to follow.

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

Rescheduled West and East Berks Youth Event

The Mission District Youth Event that was supposed to happen in October has been rescheduled to Saturday, January 13th from 12pm-3pm!

Please share with your youth and their families! Below you will find the link to the registration form for our event! Registrations are due by Monday, Jan. 8th.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdo8RPUYnzpDP9mkTfV8BHl8SlDxX7sQDRs5tmoukveUut5wg/viewform?usp=sf_link>

Northern Berks Food Pantry

Thank you so much for everyone's help at our Christmas distribution. We served 126 families- 20 which were new. Special thanks for all the donations from you and the local churches. We really appreciate it.

Our next distribution is on

Tuesday, January 23.

Thanks again.





FOOD PANTRY

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

Cereal

Oatmeal

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., January 23, 2024, from 6 pm to 7 pm.

January Birthdays

1st Ellen Hartline

 Brenda Hartman

3rd Kevin Gough

4th Alyssa Blandford

5th Prent Steffy

 Mary Barto

6th Doris Hoffman

7th Luke Mengel

8th Christine Miller

9th Dennis Hoffert

 David Ketner

11th Joan Seidel

 Robert Seidel

12th Ruth Hoppes

 Shawn Seidel

13th Brian Heffner

 David Mengle

 Barbara Seidel

 Barbara Shafer

 Alicia Pursell

14th Timothy Eyer

 Justin Dusko

16th Paul Gruber

17th Raegan Kerr

18th Beckie Reinhart

 Drew Koller

19th Diane Geschwindt

20th David Geschwindt

21st Mark Dreibelbis

23rd Lester Wessner

25th Karyna Blandford

 Shirlene Epting

 Tyler Heffner

27th Dominic Leone

28th Gary Rothermel

29th Carol Rothermel

30th Joyce Sechler

Would you like your birthday listed in the newsletter? Please contact the Church Office at 610-562-3112 or churchoffice@zionslutheran.org.

 

Shut-in Mailing List

Mabel Fry

65 Fry Lane

Auburn, Pa 17922

Grace Ketner

1801 Tulpehocken Rd, Apt. 1

Wyomissing, PA 19610

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

 January 2024

Pastor: Pastor Stephanie Roth

Pastor’s Cell: 610-618-0845

Church Phone: 610-562-3112

Church Email: churchoffice@zionslutheran.org

Church Website: [www.zionslutheran.org](http://www.zionslutheran.org)

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*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 – JANUARY 2024 |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|  | 1 NEW YEAR’S DAYOFFICE CLOSED |  27:00 pm A.A. Meeting |  3 | 49:00 am Zion’s Cemetery Annual Lot owner Mtg. with monthly board mtg to follow @Zion’s Church6:00 pm -Worship & Music mtg.6:00 pm Brass Reh.7:00 pm Bells Reh. | 5 | 6FH Rental |
| 7 9:15 am Sunday School10:30 am Holy Communion  | 8 OFFICE OPEN6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts | 99:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters7:00 pm Council Mtg.7:00 pm A.A. Meeting | 107:15 pm Choir rehear. | 11 6:00 PM Brass Reh.7:00 PM Bells Reh. | 12 OFFICE CLOSED | 13 OFFICE CLOSED  |
| 14 9:15 am Sunday School10:30 am Holy Communion Coffee bar before and after WorshipFH RENTAL | 15OFFICE CLOSED6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts | 16OFFICE CLOSED7:00 pm A.A. Meeting | 17OFFICE CLOSED7:15 pm Choir rehear. | 18OFFICE CLOSED11:00 am Senior Group in Gold Rm. 7:00 pm Property Mtg.6:00 PM Brass Reh.7:00 PM Bells Reh. | 19OFFICE CLOSEDFH RENTALOPPORTUNITY HOUSE MEAL | 20 |
| 219:15 am Sunday School10:30 am Holy CommunionANNUAL MEETINGImmediately following Worship | 22 OFFICE CLOSEDFEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts | 239:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters6:00 pm Berks Food Bank distribution at Hamburg Area Middle Sch.7:00 pm A.A. Meeting | 24 7:15 PM Choir Reh. | 25 11:00 am – 2:00 pm Seniors Group (Gold Rm)6:00 PM Brass Reh.7:00 PM Bells Reh. | 26  | 27 |
| 28 9:15 am Sunday School10:30 am Holy CommunionANNUAL MEETING\*\* SNOW DATE \*\* | 29 OFFICE CLOSED | 307:00 pm A.A. Meeting | 317:15 pm Choir rehear. | \*\* SERVICES WILL BE RECORDED AND POSTED ON THE CHURCH’S WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE EVERY SUNDAY | \*\*WATCH FOR SERVICE INFO IN BULLETINS, CALENDARS & ONLINE  |  |
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