

## Zion's Messenger - February 2024

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. These words resonate with us - our annual reminder of who we are and where we have come from - as we move towards Ash Wednesday this month.

As we gather once again to hear those words and receive the sign of the cross in ashes, may we be awakened to the personal wilderness that exists within us as a result of our sin. Many of us spend these days in the wilderness of Lent focusing on an annual personal ritual. We may be diligently attempting to “give up something” that we consider unhealthy, unbecoming, wasteful or extravagant or perhaps we might use this time to begin a new practice in our life that reflects who we are called to be as God’s children.

Whatever our path through Lent looks like, it all begins with this visible and tangible reminder of our own mortality on Ash Wednesday which this year falls on Valentine’s Day.

How romantic that they are on the same day! Do those ashes of Ash Wednesday give you the same warm fuzzy feelings as those Hallmark Valentine’s Day cards or that big box of yummy chocolates?

Well, maybe this wilderness time of Lent, those messages in the Hallmarks cards and those yummy chocolates do indeed provide a cohesive message of love. In this season of wilderness, we are called to return to God. As we journey through Lent, we may feel insignificant, but we need to remain focused on our faith in the one who regardless of our shortcomings cares for and loves each one of us.

Even as we contemplate the torn, tattered and dirty bookends that mark our lives, we remember that all that we are, have been and will be is part of the way God molded us and made us to be. We are all worthy to be washed clean and made whole, because of the sacrifice Christ made on the cross. God keeps the promises made to us - God loves us forever.

So, happy Ash – Valentines – Wednesday – Day. In your journey through Lent, I pray that you may be drawn a little closer to God who loves your dusty, ashy self. I pray that as a result of your renewed and reenergized connection with God, you may feel empowered to go out into the world and share the love of God with your neighbors.

Love your neighbors. Help them to find their way out of their wilderness. Invite them to come and see!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Stephanie



Loving God,

During this season of Lent, we appreciate that you are again walking with us as we remember who we are and where we have come from. We give you thanks for accompanying and sustaining us as we journey through our personal wildernesses. Comfort and support those who feel like they are walking in the midst of an eternal wilderness. Guide us and help us to be your hands and feet in the world, recognizing our neighbors who are struggling and reaching out to them in love. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

## Annual Meeting Updates

Thank you to Mark Dreibelbis for his time serving on the council. We would also like to thank Heather Gring, Tiffany Gruber, and Samantha Gruber for running again for another term on council. Virginia Werley and Lucille Gough were also elected to serve on council. Thank you to Tina Blake for having served on the nominating committee. Mark Dreibelbis was elected to serve on the nominating committee. Donna Long was also reelected to serve on the audit committee.

The council members for this upcoming year are Janine Dreibelbis, Lucille Gough, Heather Gring, Samantha Gruber, Tiffany Gruber, Faye Heckman, Wanda Hoherchak, Carolyn Hollenbach, John Smith, and Virginia Werley. A president, vice president, and secretary will be elected at the February 13, 2024, meeting. We currently have one person who has expressed an interest in serving a one-year term on council which would leave one more position open. This person will be voted on at the February meeting. If you are interested in serving a one-year term or the full three-year term, please let a member of the council know. If we had a full council of 12 members, you would only need to serve as an usher 1 time every 6 weeks.

We also still have one more opening on the nominating committee for a three-year position.

As always, thank you to the congregation for attending the annual meeting and for your continued support in the various ministries at Zion's.

Respectfully submitted by Tiffany Gruber

### **Beginning of Lent**

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024 - 7:00 pm  
Imposition of Ashes Holy Communion

### **Holy Week and Easter Services**



**Palm Sunday – March 24 10:30 am**

**Maundy Thursday – March 28 7:00 pm**

**Good Friday – March 29 7:00 pm**

**The Resurrection of Our Lord**

**Sunday, March 31**

**6:30 am & 10:30am**

**7:30 am - Easter Breakfast**

By the Grace of God and the call of the church  
you are invited to the  
Ordination and Installation Service of

*Stephanie Kay Roth*

to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 3:00 PM

Zion's Lutheran Church  
354 Zions Church Rd, Shoemakersville, PA 19555

Light reception will follow in the Social Hall.

Clergy are invited to robe and process.  
Liturgical color is red.

Please RSVP:  
scan QR code  
& fill out form  
OR call 610-618-0845



**The ordination service will be live streamed on the  
Zion's Lutheran Church Facebook page.**



## Council Corner

The monthly council meeting was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024. We discussed the report from the nominating committee on how many people they have who will be running for the audit, nominating, and council positions. We would like to take this time to thank Mark Dreibelbis for his many years of serving on the church council.

It was mentioned at the meeting that Pastor Stephanie's Ordination is scheduled for Sunday, February 18, 2024, at 3:00 PM. Her ordination will take place here at Zion's. Pastor Stephanie is asking for people to please RSVP for her ordination so we can plan accordingly for the reception following the service. A QR code has been shared in the bulletins and newsletter or you can contact her by phone. We will also be streaming her ordination service on Facebook on February 18.

Pastor Stephanie will be attending the Bishop's Conference on February 6 & 7. On March 14, we will be hosting the Hamburg Ministerium Lenten service. Council would also like to thank Ron Seaman for presenting and sharing his nativity displays with the community. We collected \$945 to support Aaron Decker and his ministries in Bolivia.

As we are in the winter season, if you are ever unsure if we will be having services, please refer to the WFMZ site, church Facebook page, or call the church office as the voicemail message will be updated. The decision to cancel church services or Sunday School is made as a group effort with the council members and pastor.

Lastly, if you ever need to reach Pastor Stephanie, her email address is:

[pastorstephanie@zionslutheran.org](mailto:pastorstephanie@zionslutheran.org)

Respectfully submitted by Tiffany Gruber

## Financial Report

We finished the month of December at \$7,884.54 in the black (monthly income over expenses).

Overall, for the year, at the end of December we were \$29,433.32 in the black.

Monthly – Income for December	\$22,064.86
Monthly – Expenses for December	\$14,180.32

The General Offering	\$16,030.00
Online Giving	\$2,470.16
Loose Change	\$850.45
Other Income	\$2,714.25
Subtotal	\$22,064.86

**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 Monday after the church council meeting in order to be published in the next month's newsletter.

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](mailto: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.

## *Thank You*

*I would like to thank everyone who sent me Christmas cards during the holiday season. I miss being able to attend but think of Zion's often. It's a great feeling to be remembered.*  
*Grace Ketner*



## **Coffee Bar**

This month's Coffee Bar is  
**Sunday, February 11th!**

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!**



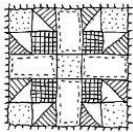
## **Souper Bowl Sunday**

On Sunday, February 11, 2024, we will be celebrating Souper Bowl Sunday! This year's Souper Bowl donations will benefit the Northern Berks Food Pantry. Please bring canned soup or other non-perishable food items to donate. Also, you may place a monetary donation in the soup pot for the football team you think will win this year's Super Bowl game. Our gifts will help to feed our neighbors in need.

## **Senior Group**

**Our next Senior Group will meet on  
February 15, 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**

Please join us on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month for Quilt Knotting in the Gold Room.

We are still looking for blankets and sheet sets.

**Thanks to everyone for your continued support!**



## **RESOLVE TO READ MORE THIS YEAR!**

Reading can be enjoyable, relaxing, stress relieving and educational. Stop in to our library and see what we offer!

I recently read some positive thoughts from the "Plus" magazine:

"Failure is an event, never a person."

"We crucify ourselves between two thieves: regret for yesterday and fear of tomorrow"

If you would like to share something to read in our library, please leave a signed note on the library desk. God Bless... Barbara Seidel, Librarian

## **OPPORTUNITY HOUSE 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](mailto: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 Monthly Board Meeting will be held on  
Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 9:00 am.**

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:

- Canned Fruit**
- Canned Soup**

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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., February 27, 2024, from 6 pm to 7 pm.**

**GRIEFSHARE**

**A new session of GriefShare is beginning.**

GriefShare is a weekly seminar and support group for people who grieving the death of someone close to them.

The GriefShare support group meets Wednesdays at 6:30 pm and will continue through May 1, 2024.

Zion's Church, 770 Zion's Church Rd., Hamburg, PA

Feb. 7	Is This Normal?	Feb. 21	Loneliness & Sadness
Feb. 14	Your Grief Journey	Feb. 28	Self-Care

**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.



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## February Birthdays

- 1st     Melissa Gruber  
          Alyssa Noecker  
          Adrienne Puglia  
          Deanna Puglia
- 2nd     Kyleigh Mengel  
          Harold Kramer
- 8th     James Blandford  
          Brayden Heckman
- 9th     Keith Hertzog
- 10th    Wesley Trabosh
- 14th    Lauren Werley-Wolf  
          Katelyn Heckman
- 15th    Evelyn Potts
- 16th    Carolyn Geist  
          Keith Seidel
- 20th    Jory Heckman
- 21st    Lois DeTurk  
          Kenneth Reppert
- 23rd    Zachary Hoherchak
- 25th    Carielle Geist  
          Tyler Pond
- 26th    Joel Werley  
          Ruth Wilhelm

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

Carl Sechler  
848 Stone Hill Road  
Shoemakersville PA 19555

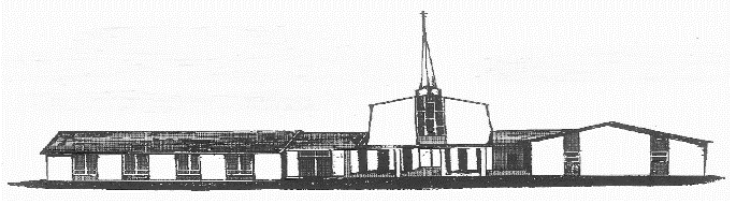
David Seidel  
Grand View Manor  
129 Houck Rd  
Fleetwood, Pa 19522

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



## February 2024

Church Phone: 610-562-3112

Church Email: [churchoffice@zionslutheran.org](mailto:churchoffice@zionslutheran.org)

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

**Pastor: Pastor Stephanie Roth**

Pastor's Office Phone: 610-562-6731

Pastor's Email:

[pastorstephanie@zionslutheran.org](mailto:pastorstephanie@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 – FEBRUARY 2024**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>** SERVICES WILL BE RECORDED AND POSTED ON THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE EVERY SUNDAY</b>	<b>**WATCH FOR SERVICE INFO IN BULLETINS, CALENDARS &amp; ONLINE</b>			1	2	3
4 9:15 am Sunday School  10:30 am Holy Communion	5 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	6  7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	7	8 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery monthly board mtg @Zion's Church 6:00 pm -Worship & Music 7:00 pm Bell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Welcome & Outreach	9	10
11 <b>TRANSFIGURATION SOUPER BOWL SUN.</b> 9:15 am Sunday School  10:30 am Holy Communion <b>Coffee bar before and after Worship</b>	12 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	13 9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters  7:00 pm Council Mtg. 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	14 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>  6:45 pm – Choir Rehearsal  7:00 pm worship	15  11:00 am Senior Group in Gold Rm.  7:00 pm Property Mtg.  7:00 pm Bell Rehearsal	16 <b>FH RESERVED</b>	17
18 9:15 am Sunday School  10:30 am Holy Communion  3:00 pm - PASTOR STEPHANIE ORDINATION SERVICE <b>FH RESERVED</b>	19 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <b>MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>  6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	20  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	21  7:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal	22  5:00 PM WELCA Mtg.	23	24
25 <b>SCOUT SUNDAY</b> 9:15 am Sunday School  10:30 am Holy Communion  <b>FH RESERVED</b>	26 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <b>FH RESERVED</b>	27 9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters  6:00 pm Berks Food Bank distribution at Hamburg Area Middle Sch.  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	28  7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal	29  6:00 pm Brass Rehearsal 7:00 pm Bell Rehearsal		

