

# Zion's Messenger - April 2024

## **Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Our Lenten journey is over. During these 40 days we focused on drawing closer to God. We considered what it means to be a child of God and contemplated ways to deepen our relationship with God by living out our Baptismal calling.

We travelled into Jerusalem with Jesus on Palm Sunday while waving palm branches and singing his praises. "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Mt 21:9) We travelled to the upper room on Maundy Thursday with Jesus and his disciples. It is on this night we heard Jesus utter the words we hear each time we come to the table for Holy Communion, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins".

We traveled to the foot of the cross on Good Friday and experienced the devastation as Jesus uttered that lonely cry of defeat, isolation and desertion, "My God, my god, why have you forsaken me" (Mk 15:34)? We heard the words of finality as Jesus took his last breath, "It is finished" (Jn 19:30), as he paid the ultimate price for the Sin that separates each of us from God.

And we traveled to the empty tomb with the group of women who went there early on the first day of the week to lovingly prepare his body properly for burial only to find the tomb empty. We remember the words of the angels at the empty tomb, "He is not here, he is risen" (Lk 24:6).

Our Lenten journey culminated on the Day of Resurrection, Easter Sunday. We celebrated this amazing and joyous day, singing Alleluia and announcing that, "Christ is Risen!".

Now what should we do? This is not the end . . . this is the beginning!

So, where do we go after we leave the empty tomb? Think about the disciples who returned to their vocations and lived every day in the joy of the resurrection. We too are every day witnesses to and participants in the resurrection of Jesus. We are baptized and believe. We carry the hope of eternal life. We have the light of Christ within us.

Like the women at the empty tomb and the disciples, we have vocations that God has gifted to us. While we may not be fishermen, we have one or more of these callings: father, mother, husband, wife, son, brother, daughter, sister, grandparent, neighbor, and friend. Each of these comes with a set of duties and responsibilities. As Christians in thanksgiving for the God's grace, we are called every day to carry out the duties and responsibilities of our vocations sharing the joy, love, peace and forgiveness of Christ.

***I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.***

***Just as I have loved you, you should love one another.***

**John 14:34**

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Stephanie

## *A Prayer for the Journey . . .*

Gracious and loving God,

We give you thanks for sending Jesus, your only Son to live among us, to be a servant leader, to show love and compassion to those on the fringes and to die on the cross so that our sins might be forgiven. Send us forth empowered by the Holy Spirit lively and dwelling within us to witness every day to the joy of the resurrection. As new life blooms in spring, may our new life as forgiven children of God blossom and flourish through sharing love, grace, and mercy with our neighbors following the example of Christ. All these things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**



### **Worship Planning**

Worship and Music Committee wants to make sure everyone is aware of our worship planning process for the future. As you know, we called Pastor Stephanie to part-time service. Her call is for 20 hours per week which includes leading 3 services per month. Pastor Stephanie has also agreed to be available for special occasions such as Holy Week, Easter, and Christmas.

You may not be aware that there is a pastoral shortage throughout the Synod, and there are simply not enough pastors to provide for the needs for all the churches. The Synod does NOT provide nor assist in finding a substitute pastor for churches that have a called pastor. It is Zion's responsibility to decide how to manage the services when Pastor is not here.

Worship and Music has been busy making contacts and plans for filling these worship services. We have compiled a list of pastors who are willing to supply for Zion's when they have availability. We also have contacted some social agencies who would like to provide sermons concerning their missions in the community. In addition, we are looking at some lay led options.

We always welcome input from the congregation on worship planning. If you have suggestions or concerns, please speak with someone on Worship and Music Committee.

Janine Dreibelbis, Worship and Music Committee



### **\*\* SUMMER SCHEDULE \*\***

**Sunday School begins its summer break on June 2, 2024. Sunday School will return in the fall.**

**Our upcoming summer hours will be in effect from Sunday, June 2 through Labor Day weekend. During this time, worship will begin at 9:00 am.**



## Council Corner

The monthly Council meeting was held on Tuesday March 12, 2024. We reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of February. Our income for the month was \$19,626.65 and our expenses were \$18,432.58 with an ending balance of \$1,194.07 in the black.

Janine reported she feels the microphone issue has been resolved. Eventually all components will be moved upstairs.

Easter Breakfast will start at 7:30 AM after our 6:30 Easter Dawn service is over.

Since Pastor Stephanie was hired as a part time Pastor on April 7 we will have as our guest preacher Pastor Dick Miller. On April 28 the Bishop will be here in a Celebration of Joint confirmation with St. John's Hamburg, Friedens, and Holy Trinity – Leesport.

April 18 will be the restart of Committee Heads meeting at 6 PM.

June 2<sup>nd</sup> will be our first 9 AM service for the summer and will be our graduation recognition service. Please submit names of your graduate.

Our Synod Assembly will be held Saturday June 8, 2024 at Atonement Lutheran Church in Wyomissing, PA. Pastor Stephanie, Heather Gring and Tiffany Gruber will be attending.

VBS will be June 17-21. All children are invited. Gather your neighbors and bring them.

A sock box will be in the narthex for several months collecting boot socks for Keystone Military. Last year 13,000 Christmas stockings were sent to the troops however not all contained a pair of socks as they ran out. This year more stockings are being anticipated to be filled and they want to make sure every stocking has at least one pair of socks .

Our Scouts will be participating with Wreaths Across America for Zion's Cemetery.

WELCA will be collecting slightly worn boots, shoes, and slippers for Ian's boots in July. November we will be collecting winter pj's for children. Watch the sales now.

Meeting adjourned 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted by Susan Lutz

## Financial Report

We finished the month of February at \$1,194.0719.84 in the black (monthly income over expenses).

|                                 |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Monthly – Income for February   | \$19,626.65 |
| Monthly – Expenses for February | \$18,432.58 |

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| The General Offering | \$14,816.42 |
| Online Giving        | \$ 1,495.89 |
| Loose Change         | \$ 188.00   |
| Other Income         | \$ 3,126.34 |
| Subtotal             | \$19,626.65 |

**Thank you for your continued support!**

Consider online giving

Visit <http://zionslutheran.org/donate/>.



## Coffee Bar

This month's Coffee Bar is

**Sunday, April 28**

**Following our Celebration of Joint Confirmation Ministry**

Since we will have more people attending than usual, we will need more items for our Coffee Bar.

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

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

## VBS 2024 ANNOUNCEMENT

It's time to plan for our 2024 Vacation Bible School!

This year's theme will be

### **Scuba: Diving into Friendship with God.**

It will take us on an undersea adventure. Scuba VBS will be held June 17-21 from 9:00am to 11:30am. Due to summer trips, some of our station leaders and helpers are unavailable and we are in need of some new faces to help with Vacation Bible School. We will again use the Group program which is very easy for leaders to use and engaging for the children. If you are willing to assist with VBS, please contact Faye Heckman ASAP so that we can begin planning and advertising to the community.

## Mutual Ministry Committee

The Mutual Ministry Committee members are Dan Brennan, Samantha Gruber, Faye Heckman, Lana Leone, and Carol Rothermel. These members serve as a liaison between the congregation and the Pastor. If you have any concerns, questions, or comments feel free to reach out to any member of the committee.



## 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.



## Time to Dream about summer and going to Bear Creek Camp!

Bear Creek Camp is the largest Lutheran Camp in the country located on 3000 wooded acres near Wilkes Barre.

Camp allows people to be a little more of a lot of things. Campers become more friendly, more adventurous, more service oriented. They sing a little louder and they climb a little higher. As campers leave camp to go home, they will feel a little closer to God, a little more curious about faith and a little more connected to nature.

Classic camp is now a Sunday through Friday experience with 2 sessions of try camp going Sunday to Wednesday for those who have completed first or second grade.

### **NEW this year: Rafting trips for jr. and sr. high Expanded high ropes course**

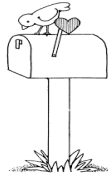
WELCA strongly believes in the value of the outdoor Christian education of Bear Creek camp. Therefore, they continue to offer scholarships for Zion's members and Zion's Sunday school attendees. They are as follows:

Try Camp - \$300

Classic Camp - \$425

Family Camp - \$300 (Family camp is July 2-7)

Check the website [bearcreekcamp.org](http://bearcreekcamp.org) for details about camp, dates, forms and FAQ. Contact Carol Rothermel 2610-562-7620 or [chipmunk\\_hill@comcast.net](mailto:chipmunk_hill@comcast.net) for details about how to sign up for camp and how to use the church code to access the scholarships.



## **CARD SHOWER**

We would like to have a **birthday card shower** for Mabel Fry who will be **celebrating a birthday on May 10**. Cards should be addressed to:

Mabel Fry  
65 Fry Lane  
Auburn, Pa 17922

*Thank You*

Thank you to everyone for the prayers, cards, and kind thoughts during my recovery.

*Cleta Borkey*

Thank you to everyone for your cards, prayers and well wishes for my recent surgery.

*Daniel Geist*

Thanks to everyone for your positive thoughts, cards and prayers during my recent illness.

*Bill Gundrum*

Thank you for all the beautiful cards and your prayers.

*Ruth Bensinger*



## **Garden News**

**"The earth has yielded its produce. God our God blesses us" Psalm 67:6**

Spring is here and so will be the start of our 10th Garden season. Before we know it, it will be one of our busiest times of the year – spring planting. Please listen for Sunday announcements or check Zion's Facebook page for news of our work days/nights. Previous volunteers will be called/emailed work day information. If you want to be put on the Garden volunteer contact list, please email us at:

communitygarden@zionslutheran.org  
or contact Lori at 610-401-1186. We continue to need many volunteers to support our continued ministry.



## **Our Town Foundation 2024 Membership**

WELCA is proud to continue to sponsor Zion's membership in Our Town Foundation (OTF). As part of this membership, Zion's continues its listing on the hamburgpa.org website with a link to our website. As part of our membership, we can also have FREE postings of our event flyers in the Hamburg Happenings, which currently has an email distribution of over 2500. To post our flyer, the event must be open to the public, not just Zion's members. See Eileen Puglia or John Smith for more information, or for help to submit your flyer.

If you don't already receive Hamburg Happenings or the OTF quarterly newsletter emails, please go to hamburgpa.org to add your name to their email list.

## Senior Group

Our next Senior Group will meet on  
April 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!



## Zion's Library

Without God, our week would be:

Sinday  
Mopeday  
Tearsday  
Wasteday  
Thirstday  
Fightday  
Shatterday

7 days without God makes one weak!

### New in 2023

Evangelist – “God’s Story” by Ann Graham Lotz  
Bible Study – “Portraits of Christ” by Geisler  
Devotions – “Light For My Path” by Humble Creek

Please stop in and check out our selections.



The Campbell's Soup Co. has discontinued their  
Label's for Education Program. Campbell's  
soup labels are no longer being collected.

Thank you for your past support of this  
program.

## SOCK IT TO 'EM

Last year Keystone Military families sent 12,175 Christmas stockings to deployed military personnel. They did not have enough of the item most requested by military personnel overseas – **socks**, so the collection has begun early this year.

Men's & Women's Boot Socks  
Black or White  
Mostly Cotton

Boot socks can be purchased at Boscov's or Priority One Surplus in Hamburg. There is a box in the narthex to collect your sock donations. *ANY KIND OF SOCKS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED.*

Your donations will help Keystone Military families ensure that every stocking sent to deployed military personnel this year includes a pair of socks!



## FAITH NIGHT AT THE MOVIES HAMBURG STRAND THEATER

April 9, 2024 – The Hill  
May 14, 2024 – Jesus Music

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

## ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY INC.

Our Monthly Board Meeting will be held on  
Thursday, April 11, 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. Some items that are needed:  
**Canned Fruit & Canned Pasta**

And of course, any shelf stable item 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, checks 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., April 23, 2024, from 6 pm to 7 pm.**

**Thank you to Scout Troop 163 for their assistance at our Easter distribution.  
We served 160 families. Thanks for your support.**

## **GRIEFSHARE**

**A new session of GriefShare has begun.**

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

|          |                          |          |                         |
|----------|--------------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| April 3  | Grief & Your Friendships | April 10 | Questions for God       |
| April 17 | Stuck in Grief           | April 24 | Hope & Resilience       |
|          |                          | May 1    | What Do I Live For Now? |

**Persons can join at any time.**

**\*Please see flyer on bulletin board in Narthex for further dates.**

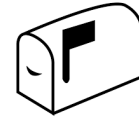
**Please call 610-562-2300 to register or for more information.**

There is a \$20.00 charge for the workbook and other materials.



## April Birthdays

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2nd  | Lucas Price   |
| 3rd  | Hailey Denatala                                     |
| 5th  | Brielle Reinhart                                    |
| 7th  | Autumn Eyer   |
| 9th  | Neil Hoffman<br>Gerald O'Brien                      |
| 10th | Rev. Aaron Decker<br>Mary Mengle<br>Olivia Wilhelm  |
| 11th | Liam Brennan<br>Sherry Houser                       |
| 13th | Bobbe-Jean Madeira                                  |
| 14th | Emily Kohler<br>Russell Olszewski<br>Dorothy Seidel |
| 16th | Amy Smith<br>Jacob Fegley                           |
| 18th | Jessica Long  |
| 20th | Veronica Heckman                                    |
| 21st | Evelyn Hoppes<br>Gloria Machermer                   |
| 22nd | Jordan Smith  |
| 23rd | Michael Houtz                                       |
| 25th | Carol Justice                                       |
| 27th | Linda Bowling                                       |
| 29th | Noah Bensinger                                      |
| 30th | Karen Brown<br>Daniel Geist<br>Andrew Heckman       |



## 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.

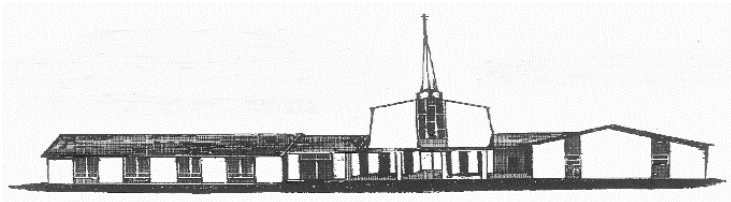
Would you like your birthday listed in the newsletter?  
Please contact the Church Office at 610-562-3112 or  
[churchoffice@zionslutheran.org](mailto:churchoffice@zionslutheran.org).



# Zion's Messenger

Sunday School: 9:15 am

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



## April 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 – APRIL 2024**

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed                                    | Thu   | Fri  | Sat       |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|-----------|
|   | <b>1 OFFICE CLOSED</b><br><br>6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts   | 2<br><br>7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal<br><br>7:00 PM A.A. Meeting   | 3                                      | 4   | 5  | 6         |
| 7<br>9:15 am Sunday School<br><br>10:30 am Holy Communion   | <b>8 OFFICE CLOSED</b><br><br>6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts   | 9<br>9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters<br><br>7:00 pm Council Mtg.<br><br>7:00 pm A.A. Meeting   | <b>10</b><br>7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal | <b>11</b><br>9:00 am Zion's Cemetery mtg @Zion's Church<br>6:00 pm – Brass reh.<br>7:00 pm – Bells reh. | <b>12</b>  | <b>13</b> |
| <b>14</b><br>9:15 am Sunday School<br><br>10:30 am Holy Communion<br><br><b>FH RENTAL</b>   | <b>15 OFFICE CLOSED</b><br><br>6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts  | <b>16</b><br>7:00 pm A.A. Meeting  | <b>17</b><br>7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal | <b>18</b><br>11 AM – 2 PM Senior Group<br><br>6:00 PM Committee Head mtg.<br><br>7:00 pm Property Mtg.  | <b>19</b><br>FH RENTAL   | <b>20</b> |
| <b>21</b><br>9:15 am Sunday School<br><br>10:30 am Holy Communion   | <b>22 OFFICE CLOSED</b><br><br><b>MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b><br><br>6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts | <b>23</b><br>9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters<br><br>6:00 pm Berks Food Bank distribution at Hamburg Area Middle Sch.<br><br>7:00 pm A.A. Meeting | <b>24</b><br>7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal | <b>25</b><br>6:00 pm – Brass reh.<br>7:00 pm Bell reh.  | <b>26</b><br>6:00 pm WELCA mtg.                                      | <b>27</b> |
| <b>28</b><br><b>CELEBRATION OF JOINT CONFIRM. MINISTRY*</b><br><br><b>*COFFEE BAR FOLLOWING</b><br><br>9:15 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Holy Communion | <b>29 OFFICE CLOSED</b><br><br>6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts  | <b>30</b><br>7:00 pm A.A. Meeting  |  | <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> |           |

