

Zion's Messenger - March 2024

Every year on Ash Wednesday, we join people all over the world when we receive the sign of the cross in ashes on their forehead. We are reminded that we are dust and to dust we shall return. When you walk through Walmart and see that same mark on someone's forehead or see co-workers with those sooty ashes, you feel a sense of community as we once again embark on our journey through Lent. We remember that God creates us, but are also reminded that we will eventually die. On Ash Wednesday we begin the journey with Jesus, as he travels the road to Jerusalem and to his eventual death.

Last week I was talking to a longtime friend. She recounted how Allen, her son's father, who had never had a relationship was finally connecting with his son Jacob. After a few meetings, Allen's cancer returned and he missed his son's 40th birthday. Recently, just eight months later Allen's prognosis was six more months. Allen died within a week without seeing his son again. One day he connecting with Jacob who he never gotten to know as he was growing up, months later, he was told that he was dying and then Allen was gone.

Life is like that...full of unexpected turns. Allen was told that he had months to live. Allen had plans to make time for Jacob who he had not acknowledged for too many years – he knew what he wanted to do with the rest of his life.

It made me think about Jesus. Jesus knew that he only had a short time to live. As he journeyed to Jerusalem, he was going to his death, his death on the cross. In the upcoming weeks we will hear about what Jesus decided to do with the rest of his life. He healed the sick, he fed the poor, he taught people how much God loved them, he visited his friends, he raised the dead and whenever he had a chance...he found a place to be by himself and he prayed. What we see in these weeks ahead is a template of a life well lived, an example of love in action.

As we contemplate the words of Ash Wednesday and remember that we are dust and that we will return to dust, we make the choice each day what we are going to do with the rest of our lives. During this Lenten season we will be gathering at different churches in the NB Ministerium on Thursdays at 11:30 am with a short worship service, to hear a message about "Living Water" and to share a simple meal of soup and bread. I encourage you during this Lenten season to spend some time like Jesus: praying, worshiping, sharing the Good News—the good news that God accompanies us always and goes ahead to prepare the way.

... he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone.
Mathew 14:23

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Stephanie

Loving God,

As we continue our Lenten journey, accompany us each day as we choose what to do with the rest of our life. We give you thanks for all the blessings you have given to us. Help us to share those blessings with others so that they too might know the grace and mercy that you offer to all. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

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

SOUND SYSTEM UPDATE:

If you have been in church or listening online, you are aware of the ongoing problems with our sound system. The new speaker, our new mics, and the upgrades we made 2 years ago are all working fine. Our problems are with the old equipment that the new system is connecting with. We have replaced cords that were causing some interference. Recently, we discovered a bad outlet that we are plugging into up front. This is all being addressed and we hope to have it resolved soon.

Our goal is to have most of the sound system moved up to the balcony. This would allow all adjustments to be made from upstairs and eliminate distractions during the church service. In addition, we are getting a part needed to allow the church service to be heard from the hallway, gold room, and nursery as it had in the past.

Thank you for your patience. We realize how frustrating this is and are hoping to resolve this soon. Feel free to bring any concerns or suggestions to the Worship and Music Committee.

Janine Dreibelbis, Worship and Music Committee



Council Corner

The monthly council meeting was held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. We reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of January. Our income for the month was \$13,820.26 and our expenses were \$14,940.10. The council has asked the finance committee to research what type of different account we could put the Bill Hill Memorial money into so we could earn more interest off that money.

We also held an election for officers for the upcoming year. The result of the election is as follows: President – Tiffany Gruber, Vice-President – Wanda Hoherchak, and Secretary – John Smith. We also elected Susan Lutz to a one-year term for council. We currently still have one open position on the council. If you would like to try council for a one-year term, please let someone on council know.

Pastor Stephanie will be in the church office on a Tuesday and Thursday during the hours of 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. If you would like to meet with her, we recommend that you call and verify that she is in the office. If Pastor Stephanie has a meeting in the evening, she may adjust her office hour time. Pastor Stephanie's days off for the week will be on Wednesdays and Fridays. If you happen to leave a message or email her on those days, please know that she will get back to you on the next workday unless it is an emergency. If you would like to reach Pastor Stephanie please call her on her direct line, the number is 610-562-6731. She is the only person who can access this line so you may leave a confidential message if you would like. You may also email her at pastorstephanie@zionslutheran.org .

Our Synod Assembly will be held on Saturday, June 8, 2024, at Atonement Lutheran Church in Wyomissing. We send two delegates from our church for the Synod Assembly. If you would be interested in serving as a delegate this

year, please let Tiffany Gruber or Wanda Hoherchak know. We usually try to send a male and female delegate to represent Zion's.

If you are ever unsure if we will be having services due to weather, 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.

Respectfully submitted by Samantha Gruber

Financial Report

Financial Report

We finished the month of January at \$1,119.84 in the red (monthly income over expenses).

Monthly – Income for January	\$13,820.26
Monthly – Expenses for January	\$14,940.10
The General Offering	\$ 8,315.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,958.56
Loose Change	\$ 130.00
Other Income	\$ 2,416.70
Subtotal	\$13,820.26

Thank you for your continued support!

Consider online giving

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



Coffee Bar

This month's Coffee Bar is

Sunday, March 10

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!

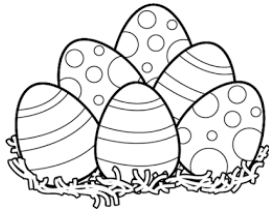
VBS 2024 ANNOUNCEMENT

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 by March 17 so that we can begin planning and advertising to the community.



EASTER EGG HUNT

**Saturday morning, March 30th
at 9:30 am.(Rain or Shine)**

We invite everyone from toddlers through adults to join us for the hunt. Please bring your favorite Easter basket and meet in the Fellowship Hall by 9:30 am. Friends and family are welcome.

MONETARY DONATIONS are welcome to help offset the cost of the candy, prizes, and crafts. If you wish to make a donation, please put your donation in an envelope and mark it Egg Hunt and place it in the offering basket. If you would like to donate a bag or bags of candy to fill the plastic eggs, we need individually wrapped miniature sized candies of all types. All candy donations are needed by Sunday, March 17. Place your donations in the box marked Egg Hunt in the office.



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 for details about camp, dates, forms and FAQ. Contact Carol Rothermel 2610-562-7620 or chipmunk_hill@comcast.net for details about how to sign up for camp and how to use the church code to access the scholarships.

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.

Senior Group

**Our next Senior Group will meet on
March 21, 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

Come in and browse some of our new additions!

Christian Life

“When Women Walk Alone”

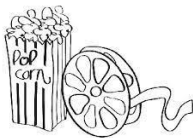
Inspirational

“It’s Still a God Thing”

Stewardship

“Abundance”

**“Today is God’s gift to you. What you do with it
is your gift to God.”**



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

March 12, 2024 – His Only Son

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.

Spring Cleaning

Zion Cemetery Co. Inc. of Perry Township has set the week of March 17-23, 2024 for spring cleaning. All decorations not planted in the ground will be removed if not claimed before this week by lot owners. The Cemetery Board is not responsible for decorations remaining on graves when spring cleaning begins. New and existing decorations may be placed on March 24, 2024. Single or multiple grave lots are available for sale. Please contact David Geschwindt, Cemetery Manager at 610-562-7421.

**Our Monthly Board Meeting will be held on
Thursday, March 14, 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

Women’s Bible Study via ZOOM with Deacon Linda & Eleanor

Now offering a weekly Monday ZOOM group starting on February 26 at 6:00 pm for one hour.

We will discuss various women of the Bible, their character traits and how they applied them to their life situations. We will also use various sources and readings explored by authors over the recent decades. Together, we may discover a richness that blesses us in our own time and situations. We are inviting females ranging in age from 19 and older to join.

To join our bible study, please go to:

<https://intentionalstudy.com/bible-study-schedule>

OPPORTUNITY HOUSE 2024

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

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.



FOOD PANTRY

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

Canned Fruit and Canned Pasta

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., March 26, 2024, from 6 pm to 7 pm. (Easter distribution)**

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

Mar. 6	Fearful and Overwhelmed	Mar. 13	Anger
Mar. 20	Regrets	Mar. 27	Grief & Your Household

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.

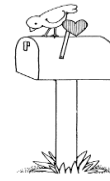
There is a \$20.00 charge for the workbook and other materials.



March Birthdays

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1st | Anthony Grugan
Erica Mish
Rob Wagner |
| 2nd | Cheryl Hertzog
Valerie Hancik
Lana Leone |
| 5th | Janine Dreibelbis |
| 6th | Timothy Pursell |
| 9th | Terry Reinhart |
| 10th | Robert Noecker
Sasha Denatala |
| 12th | Caleb Smith |
| 14th | Brett Daub
Susan Heckman |
| 16th | Traci Heffner |
| 20th | Linda Sousley |
| 21st | Elsie Frymoyer
Russel Reinhart |
| 22nd | Courtney Brennan
Paul Reidenhour, Jr. |
| 24th | Carissa Miller |
| 25th | Debora Heckman |
| 26th | Betty Angstadt
Mary Clark |
| 27th | Tricia Boyer |
| 28th | Ruth Hill
Crystal Reinhart |
| 29th | Linda Reinhart |
| 30th | Victoria Long
Sharon Strauss |
| 31st | Kylee Koller |

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



CARD SHOWER

We would like to have a **birthday card shower** for Brett Daub who is currently serving in the US Navy. **Brett's birthday is March 14th**. Card should be addressed to:

OS2 Brett Daub
1250 Santa Cora Ave. #1322
Chula Vista, CA 91913



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

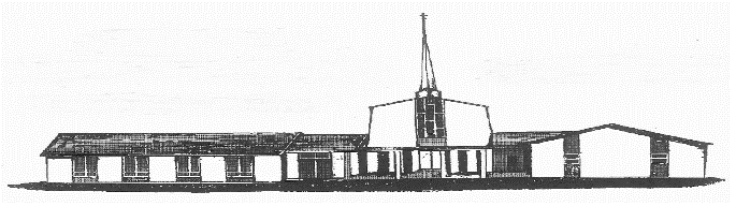
David Seidel
Grand View Manor
129 Houck Rd
Fleetwood, Pa 19522

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



March 2024

Church Phone: 610-562-3112

Church Email: churchoffice@zionslutheran.org

Church Website: www.zionslutheran.org

Pastor: Pastor Stephanie Roth

Pastor's Office Phone: 610-562-6731

Pastor's Email:

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 – MARCH 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 FH RENTAL	2 FH RENTAL
3 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion	4 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	5 7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	6	7 6:00 pm – Brass reh. 7:00 pm – Bells reh.	8	9
10 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion ** Coffee bar before and after Worship ** DAYLIGHT SVGS TIME BEGINS	11 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	12 9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters 7:00 pm Council Mtg. 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	13 6:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal	14 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery mtg @Zion's Church 11:30 am - Lenten Soup & Bread Service 6:00 pm -Worship & Music 7:00 pm – Bells reh. 8:00 pm – Brass reh.	15 FH RESERVED OPPORTUNITY HOUSE MEAL	16
17 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion **ORCHEBAND REH. FOLLOWING SERVICE	18 OFFICE CLOSED APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	19 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	20 6:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal	21 11:00 AM SENIOR GROUP – GOLD RM 6:00 pm – Brass reh. 7:00 pm Bell reh. 7:00 pm Property Mtg.	22	23
24 PALM SUNDAY 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion	25 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	26 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	27	28 MAUNDY THURS. 6:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Worship	29 GOOD FRIDAY 6:45 pm – Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Worship	30 9:30 am - EASTER EGG HUNT FH RENTAL
31 EASTER SUNDAY 6:30 am Holy Communion 7:30 am Easter Breakfast 10:30 am Holy Communion FH RENTAL					** SERVICES WILL BE RECORDED AND POSTED ON THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE EVERY SUNDAY	**WATCH FOR SERVICE INFO IN BULLETINS, CALENDARS & ONLINE

