

# Zion's Messenger - May 2024

**“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” –  
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)**

The past few weeks have shown us evidence that seasons are changing. Just as life is sometimes unpredictable, so has been the case with the weather. As we struggle to know what to wear each day – one day it feels like summer and the next morning feels like we are in the midst of winter again. Often our lives feel the same way. Just when we think things are looking up, then we encounter a setback or roadblock.

The changes in our weather are not the only seasons that we experience in our life. King Solomon reminds us in the third chapter of Ecclesiastes that “for everything there is a season”. Our life on earth is but a season in the entirety of our existence. Other examples of seasons that Solomon shares: birth season and death season, planting season and harvest season, times to be sad and times to laugh, times to be silent and times to speak, times to keep and times to throw away,

For many, the recent change in weather is not the only change of season happening in their life. We have students in our midst and in our families that will be graduating from high school or college who will be continuing their education in the fall or taking a new job – some will remain local and some will move to new locations. Some families are awaiting the birth of a child or grandchild. Some are adjusting to changes in family composition. These are just a few ways that our lives change – a few seasons we may experience over the course of our life.

After sharing the list of seasons, Solomon reminds us that these are the seasons that God has given to mankind and that God makes everything beautiful in time. Many of the changing seasons are exciting and joyful, yet there are others that are painful and filled with sadness. These seasons can last days, months or years! God accompanies us through all these seasons of our life.

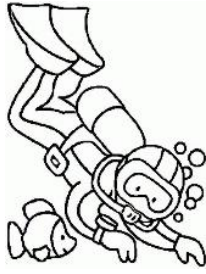
Sometimes changes in our life cause us anxiety and fear. By nature, most of do not like change. If that describes you, whether you are graduating from high school or college, getting married, ending a relationship, having a baby, moving to a new home, changing careers or retiring, or experiencing some other change in season, remember God is with you every step of the way.

**“Do not fear, for I am with you .... I will strengthen you, I will help you.”  
(Isaiah 41:10)**

God loves you. God is good. The Good Shepherd will comfort you, guide you and take care of you – anticipate with joy the next season of your life!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Stephanie



# SCUBA

## Diving Into Friendship with God Vacation Bible School

June 17 – 21, 2024

9:00 – 11:30am

Ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
354 Zion's Church Road, Shoemakersville

Register online today at  
[Vbspro.events/p/a600a3](https://Vbspro.events/p/a600a3)  
or scan the QR code.  
Please register by June 9.  
Walk-ins welcome!



### **\*\* 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 Church Council meeting was held on April 9, 2024. The Treasurer's report for the month of March was presented for review. Income for the month was \$25,044.60 and expenses were \$13,959.18, leaving an ending balance in the black of \$11,085.42. The Bill Hill M&T account was discussed and will be referred to the finance committee for suggestions of investment options.

Wanda reported that approximately 50 people attended the Easter breakfast, which was enjoyed by all. She thanked council for helping to make this event a success.

Janine reported that moving the sound system to the balcony is planned for the future.

A thank you note was received from the NEPS for the church's 2023 donation of \$11,000 for Mission Support.

Pastor Stephanie mentioned that she is considering applying to attend the 2025 Church Wide Assembly. Pastor Stephanie, Heather Gring, and Tiffany Gruber will be attending the local Synod Assembly on June 8th.

Rev. Ned Drescher will lead worship on May 5th, Mother's Day will be celebrated on May 12th with gifts to all mothers provided by WELCA. All women will receive a carnation. Confirmation will be celebrated on May 19th. Deacon Linda Zawaski will be the worship leader on May 26th.

Graduation recognition will be held on June 2nd, which is also the first day of summer worship. The service will begin at 9:00am. Please submit names of graduates to the church office as soon as possible.

This year, VBS will take place the week of June 17th. Volunteers are still needed to make this event a success. Faye Heckman is the contact person for VBS.

It was noted that the weekly attendance has been increasing, which is a sign of growth for Zion's congregation.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by Virginia Werley

## Financial Report

### Financial Report

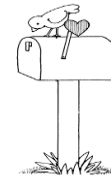
We finished the month of March at \$11,085.42 in the black (monthly income over expenses).

Monthly – Income for March	\$25,044.60
Monthly – Expenses for March	\$13,959.18
The General Offering	\$19,761.00
Online Giving	\$2,272.66
Loose Change	\$318.00
Other Income	\$2,692.94
Subtotal	\$25,044.60

**Thank you for your continued support!**

**Consider online giving**

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



## 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*

Many thanks to our Zion's family for your prayers, cards and support through Bob's recent health journey!  
Bob & Vernie Noecker



### **Zion's Bicycle season is back!**

**Our first bike ride of 2024 will be  
Saturday, May 4th.**

We will meet at the Bartram Trail parking lot at 9 AM. Bring your bike, water and a snack to share after the ride.

### **Senior Group**

**Our next Senior Group will meet on  
May 16, 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!**

### **OPPORTUNITY HOUSE**

**The upcoming date for serving will be  
May 17.**

**There is a need for donations for the upcoming meal. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex or you may contact the church office for more information.**

Volunteers are always welcome to help. 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 volunteers their time and talents to continue to make this possible.**



### **Coffee Bar**

**This month's Coffee Bar is  
Sunday, May 19**

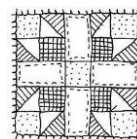
A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex if you are able to bring a baked good or snack for everyone to enjoy.



### **Blessing of the Graduates – June 2**

Graduation season is once again upon us. Please let us know about the graduates in your family so that we can celebrate this milestone with them.

**Please complete the Grad information request form found on the table in the Narthex and return to the church by Sunday, May 19, 2024.**



### **BLESSING OF THE QUILTS**

**The Blessing of the Quilts will be held  
during the 9:00 am Worship on  
Sunday, June 2, 2024.**

Please join us as we bless the abundance of beautiful quilts that the Knotters have completed. We give thanks to all who are part of this ministry through which Zions can be a blessing to those who receive these quilts.

Thank you to the Knotters at the church and home; A special thanks to The Geschwindts' who did 108 quilts at home and to Sue Kauffman for her generous donation to purchase supplies.

The Knotters Group is always looking for new people to join. We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 9 – 11 am in the Gold Room. Check the bulletins and calendars for all changes to our regular meeting dates.



## Garden News

*Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!"*  
*Robin Williams*

Spring clean-up has begun, and we are officially starting our 10th Garden season. Wow! We continue to be thankful for the congregation and community support of this ministry.

Please listen for Sunday announcements or check Zion's Facebook page for news of our workdays.

Previous volunteers will be emailed workday information. If you would like to be put on the Garden volunteer contact list, please email us at [communitygarden@zionslutheran.org](mailto:communitygarden@zionslutheran.org) or contact Lori at 610-401-1186.

**Celebrate spring with us! Hope to see you at the Garden!**



## Zion's Library

*Stop, look and listen before you start each day.  
Use your eyes, use your ears, use your knees and pray.  
Give the Devil an inch and he becomes your ruler.*

Fiction: The Cat That God Sent  
Juvenile: God, I Need to Talk to You.

**Please stop in and check out our selections.**

## 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.



## 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.

***ALL TYPES 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

May 14, 2024 – Jesus Music  
June 11, 2024 – Soul Surfer

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

## LIFE LINE SCREENING EVENT: JUNE 14, 2024

There will be a Life Line Screening event here in the Fellowship Hall on **Thursday, June 14, 2024.**

To register for an appointment and receive a special discount, please call 1-800-679-5191 or visit online [LLSA.SOCIAL/HC](http://LLSA.SOCIAL/HC) or text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607.



## 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. Campers become more friendly, adventurous, and service oriented. They sing a little louder and climb a little higher. When campers go home, they feel closer to God, more curious about faith and more connected to nature.

Classic camp is now a Sunday through Friday experience. 2 sessions of try camp are available from 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 offer scholarships for Zion's members and Zion's Sunday school attendees.

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 610-562-7620 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.



## **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](http://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](http://hamburgpa.org) to add your name to their email list.

## **ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY INC.**

### **Our Monthly Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 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



## **FOOD PANTRY**

Our local food pantry is always in need of donations. Some items that are needed:  
**Cereal & Oatmeal**

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., May 28, 2024, from 6 pm to 7 pm.**

## **GRIEFSHARE**

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

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.



## May Birthdays

2nd	Jason Dewald
3rd	Loralee LaVentura
4th	Edmund Adam
7th	Taylor Gruber Jara Heckman
10th	Mable Fry Taryn Seidel Ty Seidel
11th	Zachary Onulack
14th	Tyler Seidel
15th	Howard Hoppes
17th	Jaimie Heckman
20th	Patricia Potts
21st	Dylan Gough Kathryn Reinhart
23rd	Jean Daub Carrie Price
25th	Heather Noecker
26th	Sandra Masters Brandi Seidel
28th	Sandy Moroney Bradley Reinhart
29th	Mae Berger

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

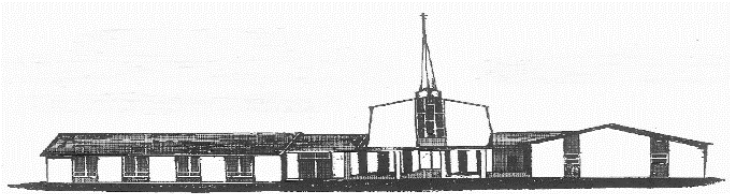
If there is anyone you know who is unable to get  
out and would like to be added to our list, please  
contact the church office.



# Zion's Messenger

Sunday School: 9:15 am

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



## May 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 – MAY 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>	<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b> 6:00 pm – Brass reh. 7:00 pm – Bells reh.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>5</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>6 OFFICE CLOSED</b> 6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	<b>7</b> 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	<b>8</b> 7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 7:00 pm – Bells reh. 8:00 pm – Brass reh.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12 MOTHER'S DAY</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion <b>FH RENTAL</b>	<b>13 OFFICE CLOSED</b> 6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	<b>14</b> 9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters 7:00 pm Council Mtg. 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery mtg @Zion's Church	<b>15</b> 7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 11 AM – 2 PM Senior Group 6:00 pm – Brass reh. 7:00 pm – Bells reh. 7:00 pm Property Mtg.	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19 CONFIRMATION PENTECOST</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion *Coffee bar before and after service.	<b>20 OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 6:30 PM – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	<b>21</b> 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>27 MEMORIAL DAY</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>28</b> 9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters 6:00 pm Berks Food Bank distribution at Hamburg Area Middle Sch.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6:00 pm – Brass reh. 7:00 pm – Bells reh.	<b>31</b>	

