

Zion's Messenger - August 2024



When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch" - Luke 5:4

After working over fifteen years in Information Technology I started to feel restless. I loved the challenge of coding and testing – trial and error – and the satisfaction when I finally resolved an issue or create the code necessary to deliver a new function to an existing application. I was a good programmer analyst, yet I felt like I was not where I belonged – not doing what God intended. What could it be? Where did God want me to go? What did God need me to do?

Have you ever felt like you were out of place? Although, you had been doing something for a long time and were proficient doing it, maybe you were meant to move in a different direction. Perhaps it did not make sense. Did you wonder what else you were "qualified" to do or what job you could get that would provide the necessary income to support your family?

Why would you leave a comfortable job – one that you had done for a long time – one that you were proficient at performing – one that brought in a good income?

Often what makes sense to Jesus is absurd to our human minds. We frequently resist, because we are human and our logical minds get in the way. Logic is more comfortable to humans than what God sometimes calls us to do.

Remember the fisherman disciples made careers of catching fish. After they had experienced a very long fruitless day on the water, imagine their response when Jesus (a career carpenter) told them to try something different – to throw logic to the wind and drop their nets again in what they "knew" was an empty and unproductive sea.

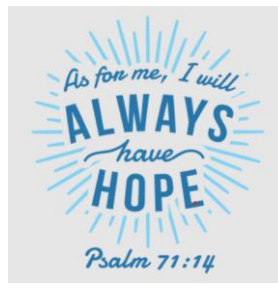
If the fishermen had not listened to Jesus' instructions and instead followed their human logic, they would have missed that abundant blessing of that catch. Beyond that practical job-related win, they would have missed the opportunity to see Jesus for who He is and His ability to be transformative in their lives every day.

I remember the day I decided to trust the call of God, defy human logic by pursuing entering the ELCA Candidacy process. I remember along the way the twists and turns – wondering whether this is really what God intends – often because my human logic was trying to override God's call. What did I learn along the way?

God has gifted each of us with talents to build up the body of Christ. Take advantage of all the opportunities God places in our path to reveal and help us to develop those talents. God has a plan for our lives and calls us in many different ways to follow that path. Listen God is calling us to continue His ministry - to be His hands and feet on earth to love and serve following His example. Practice patience and persistence when answering God's call. Set aside human logic and trust God!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Stephanie



Summer of Hope

During August, we will be wrapping up our summer of Hope”. Please continue to look for glimpses of hope. Take a moment to write them down or take a photo.

Stop by the tree in the narthex and attach your “glimpses of hope” - write them on a post-it or bring a small photo. As you see signs of hope around you, consider that there are people in other places around the world who do not experience these signs of hope and may not have access to life essentials – a roof over their head, safe drinking water, nutritional food, healthcare, an education – that could provide them hope for a better future.

As you share your glimpses of hope and learn about other’s “hopeful moments”, consider donating at least \$1 per week to help others to experience the hope that you see and know. Please place your donations in the tree.

On August 4th, Kate Nelson from Tree 4 Hope will join us to share about their work in the US and Guatemala. All proceeds from the “Summer of Hope” challenge will be donated to Tree 4 Hope to provide a bright future of long-term hope for children, elders, and their families in the US, Guatemala and around the world through educational, health, and mental wellness outreach programs.



Introducing Monica

Monica Camilla is in 3rd grade at Hope Academy in Guatemala. She lives in the village of Aguacate just outside of Guatemala City and very near Hogar Miguel Orphanage where Tree 4 Hope got its start. Monica is 10 years old and her birthday is June 27th. She is full of energy, extroverted and fun. She loves to sing and draw. Thanks to the generous offering at my ordination, Monica will be able to continue her studies at Hope Academy for a whole year.

Join us in worship on August 4th to learn more about Tree 4 Hope and their mission in the US and Guatemala!



Council Corner

The Church Council met on July 9, 2024. The meeting was opened with devotions on embracing and celebrating the blessings that our loving Lord has provided us this summer, and every season of the year.

The council reviewed the Treasurer's report for the month of June. In June, income exceeded expenses by \$4,247.78, resulting in a positive balance of \$39,885.65 year-to-date.

It was reported that June's Vacation Bible School program was successful with twelve youth in attendance during the week. This year's program, Scuba, took the children deep into an amazing undersea adventure to experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God.

Some exciting upcoming events were discussed. During the August 4th worship service, a representative from Tree 4 Hope will speak to the congregation. Tree 4 Hope is a non-profit organization committed to providing a bright future of long-term hope for children, elders, and their families in Guatemala and around the world through educational, health, and mental wellness outreach programs. Please attend worship that morning if you are able, to learn about this important mission and ways that we can offer our support.

In the fall, Pastor Stephanie plans to hold a book study on *The Gift of Forgiveness*. Keep an eye out for more information and please consider joining in!

In addition, Lucille Gough talked about Via de Cristo, which is scheduled for October 10-13, 2024. Via de Cristo (Way of Christ) is a three-day experience for Christians who are already active in their congregations and who may benefit from a deeper understanding of the Christian faith and Christ's mission to help their congregation where it is planted in the community. What a person gains from the experience depends on reviewing what they may have already known, listening for new insights, sharing their own insights and experience with others, letting Christ give them what they need.

This weekend is about leadership, understanding our importance and role as members in a congregation, and sharpening our leadership skills. Funding will be provided to help pay for the event registration. If you are interested in learning more about the program, please see Lucille Gough or Ron Seaman.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Gring

Financial Report

We finished the month of June at \$4,247.78 in the black (monthly income over expenses).

Monthly – Income for June	\$16,126.89
Monthly – Expenses for June	\$11,879.11
The General Offering	\$13,030.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,996.89
Loose Change	\$ 191.00
Other Income	<u>\$ 909.00</u>
Subtotal	\$16,126.89

Thank you for your continued support!

Consider online giving

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

Do You Have Feedback?

If you have any concerns, comments or suggestions regarding newsletters, bulletins or worship, please feel free to contact Pastor Stephanie by email, phone or stop by her office to share your feedback.

Save the Date!

Save the Date! We will be doing our annual fall church cleaning day on **Saturday, September 7th at 9:00 AM**. We are looking for volunteers to help us spruce up the church with those cleaning tasks we just don't get to on a weekly basis. We will find a job to suit your level, no job is too small. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many volunteers we will have to help us that day.

Thank You

Thank you for the sympathy cards and kind words of comfort after the passing of my sister.

Dianne Geschwindt



COMING THIS FALL!

“A Journey Through Israel” Presentation

Multi-Generational Event

Book Study – “The Gift of Forgiveness”



Fellowship Time

Our next fellowship gathering will be

Sunday, August 4

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

Senior Group

Our next Senior Group will meet on August 15th, in the Gold Room, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.

We will be serving Tony’s BBQ. Please bring a food item to share and a friend to play board games and cards.

Try to arrive early to divide into card groups. Hope to see you there!



SCHOOL BAGS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

The Knotters are once again making backpacks to be delivered to Lutheran World Relief in New Windsor, MD in the fall. Backpacks will be assembled on Sunday, September 8th after lunch as part of the ELCA God’s Work, Our Hands Day.

How Can You Help?

Monetary donations are always welcome to help to purchase cording for backpacks or additional school supplies to fill the backpacks. Please place monetary donations in the red box on table in the narthex.

School supply sales have begun. We do have some supplies on hand to fill the backpacks. There is a box for your school supply donations in the narthex. If purchasing items, please only donate listed items that fit the specifications. No patriotic symbols are allowed on any items.

The most urgently needed items:

Rulers – 30 centimeter or one with 30 centimeters & inches

Blunt Scissors – (safety scissors with embedded blades are ok)

Other items included in backpacks:

#2 pencils – unsharpened

Pencil sharpeners

Blue or black pens – no gel ink

Box of 16 or 24 crayons

2.5-inch erasers

All monetary and school supply donations are due by Sunday, September 1st

Thank you in advance for your support of this outreach project!



Garden News

If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need. Cicero

Our volunteers have been working hard to harvest the beans, tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers that have been ready so far this Garden season. More volunteers are always needed to harvest our vegetables and maintain the Garden. Please listen for Sunday announcements for news of our work days/nights. Current volunteers will be emailed with work day information.

Hope to see you in the Garden!



Zion's Bicycle Ministry

We continue to plan a bike ride once per month to a bike trail within an hour's distance from Zion's. There are many trails to trails that we have explored, followed by a time of snacks and fellowship at the end of each ride.

Please listen for Sunday morning announcements, or check weekly bulletins or Zion's Facebook page every month through October. We will soon announce our August plans.

See John Smith or Eileen Puglia for questions or information.

We hope to ride with you soon!



Zion's Library

Peace on the outside comes from knowing God on the inside.

New in the Children's book section

Easy Readers

A Conscience Is – Armstrong
Loving Is – Gonten

Juvenile

Lord, I Want to Know You Better – Sorenson
The Teacher Who Became a Spy – Wilmington
Wayside School Get a Little Stranger – Sachar
The Celery Stalks at Midnight – Howe
The Story of God with Us - Padgett



COUPONS FOR THE TROOPS

A big thank you to everyone saving coupons for our military families!

This program helps military families save on groceries at their local PX (Post Exchange).

Coupons need to be cut apart and sorted into envelopes marked as follows:

“FOOD coupons”

“BABY items”

“Miscellaneous”

AND.... if the donated coupons being are expired by a few months, please put them in a separate envelope marked “Expired”

Your contributions and help in sorting are greatly appreciated.



SOCK IT TO 'EM

ALL TYPES OF SOCKS ARE BEING ACCEPTED.

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.

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



Save the Date – Aug 10, 2024

Mark your calendar for FREE Community DRIVE-THRU SHRED event - we'd love to have you! Bring up to 5 file-boxes of paper-only documents for secure shredding.

Please also consider bringing a donation in support of the Brandywine Heights School District "Backpack Buddies" program.

One of these needed food items - individual serving size only:

- Cereal cups
- Granola or breakfast bars
- Wrapped muffins
- Raisins
- Pretzels
- "Goldfish" crackers, etc.
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Spaghetti & Meatball microwave meals

Event details & location: Saturday, August 10, 2024, 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m., Thrivent-Greystone Office 102 Tomahawk Drive Kutztown, PA

Hosted by Greystone Financial Consultants



FAITH NIGHT AT THE MOVIES HAMBURG STRAND THEATER

Aug. 13, 2024 – Woodlawn

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, August 15 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

OPPORTUNITY HOUSE MEAL

The next date for serving will be September 20th.

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 or (570)778-8403.

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



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 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., August 27, 2024, from 6 pm to 7 pm.**



Peanut Butter Pie

By Tiffany Gruber

1 c. peanut butter	16 oz. cool whip
8 oz. cream cheese	2 graham cracker crusts
12 oz. powdered sugar	

Mix the peanut butter and the cream cheese. Fold in the powdered sugar and cool whip. Place in graham cracker crusts. Refrigerate until set.



August Birthdays

2nd	Ava Zimmerman
3rd	Matthew Gring
4th	Darren Daub
5th	Ronald Miller
9th	Trevor Fegley
11th	William Gundrum Irwin Levan Layla Heckman
12th	Virginia Werley
14th	Dante LaVentura
15th	Caleb Neuin Cole Wilhelm
16th	Lori Palubinski
17th	Elsa Gundrum Richard Long
18th	Brandi Mazaika
20th	Debbie Heckman
21st	Roy Sousley
23rd	Allen Billig Charles Stewart
24th	Alicia Gough
29th	Dylan Brown Robin Daub
30th	Nancy Leiby*



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. (*shut-in)

Zion's Messenger

Sunday Worship: 9:00 am, Holy Communion,
Indoor recorded service

August 2024

Church Phone: 610-562-3112

Church Email: churchoffice@zionslutheran.org

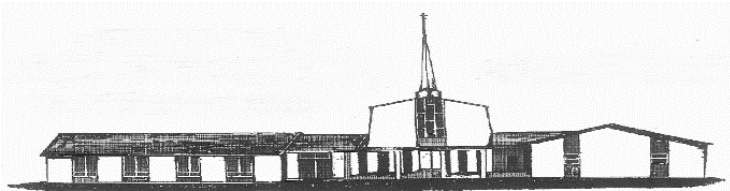
Church Website: www.zionslutheran.org

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 – AUGUST 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
** SERVICES WILL BE RECORDED AND POSTED ON THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE EVERY SUNDAY	**WATCH FOR SERVICE INFO IN BULLETINS, CALENDARS & ONLINE			1	2	3
4 9:00 am Holy Communion Tree of Hope Presentation Fellowship Time	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	7	8 6:00 pm WELCA mtg.	9	10
11 9:00 am Holy Communion	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13 9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters 7:00 pm Council Mtg 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	14	15 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery mtg @Zion's Church 11 AM – 2 PM Senior Group (Gold Rm) 7:00 PM Property Mtg.	16	17
18 9:00 am Holy Communion	19 OFFICE CLOSED SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20 6:00 pm – Altar Guild 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	21	22	23	24 FH RENTAL
25 9:00 am Holy Communion FH RENTAL	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm – NB Food Pantry Dist. at HAMS 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	28	29	30	31

