

# Zion's Messenger - July 2024



## **“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” - Philippians 4:13**

Welcome summer! Summer is now in full swing. It arrived in the midst of blazing hot weather. As I challenged everyone to be engaged in our “Summer of Hope”, I have personally been awakened to so many signs of hope that surround us every day.

- Daily joyful and excited laughter of the children attending SCUBA VBS
- People checking on vulnerable friends and relatives during excessive heat
- Enthusiasm surrounding restarting the “Pairs and Spares” ministry at Zions
- Eagle Scout project to do projects to improve and revitalize Zions church property
- People supporting a little girl’s effort to raise money for recycling bins for school cafeteria – buying bracelets, banana bread and lemonade at a yard sale

As I think about what hope means to me, I consider the day I reevaluated what is truly important in life. On my J-Term trip to El Salvador I listened to Rufina Amaya, the sole survivor of the December 11-12, 1981 El Mozote massacre, recount the events of that time and what she endured to survive. In spite of the suffering that she endured and the loss of most of her family, Rufina had an inspiring message to share with us. Through it all, I believe that Rufina survived because she knew that “Jesus was always in the boat with her”. Rufina also reminded us all what is important – “I thank God that I woke up this morning, for a roof over my head, enough food to eat and that my family is safe”

Remember Jesus is always in the boat with us and that is certainly a reason to be hopeful. When life gets overwhelming perhaps it is a good time to consider what we are “treasuring” in our life and be sure that our priorities are focused in the right direction. If the burden gets too heavy and the storm that rages around you gets too intense, just as the disciples did that day on the Sea of Galilee, “wake up Jesus”. He will give you rest. There is hope in Christ who is with us always!

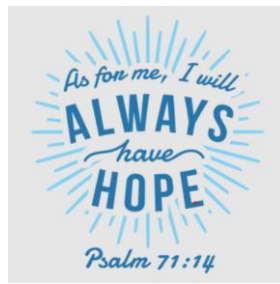
***“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”***

**Matthew 11:28**

Thank-you God for the gift of Jesus our Savior and for the Holy Spirit who nurtures our faith and provides us with hope. May we be inspired to share our faith with others and support our brothers and sisters in need so that through our generosity, they may experience the love of God and hope for the future. Amen.

Peace and blessings,

*Pastor Stephanie*



## **Summer of Hope**

During the months of June, July and August, we will be embarking on a “Summer of Hope”. As you travel for vacation or continue your weekly routine - wherever you are and whatever you are doing, I challenge you to look for glimpses of hope. Take a moment to write them down or take a photo.

Please stop by each week to attach your “glimpses of hope” to the tree in the narthex - write them on a post-it or bring a small photo to share. As you recognize all the hope that we are able to see, consider that there are people who live in other places in the world who do not see these kinds 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.

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

In early August, a representative from Tree 4 Hope will join us to share 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Stay tuned to learn more about Tree 4 Hope and their mission in the US and Guatemala!**



## Council Corner

The congregation Council met on June 11, 2024. Matthew Gring presented his Eagle Scout project to Council. He will be providing long needed maintenance for some of our outside areas – including the labyrinth, playground, and mower shed. Matthew’s work will include pressure washing, resealing benches and playset, laying new mulch, and repainting. The council unanimously supports his project and encourages everyone to thank Matthew for his efforts to help in the upkeep of our church.

The council reviewed the Treasurer’s report for the month of May. In May we exceeded expenses versus income by [\$6,095.74].

Pastor Stephanie reported that on August 4 a representative will be present during church service to provide more information on Tree 4 Hope. She also reported she is in the process of planning a Book Club and a Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren Support Group.

Welcome and Outreach Committee reported that the children’s activity bags which are available for use by children attending church services, have been cleaned and updated.

Susan Lutz brought up for discussion the idea of restarting an adult social group, Pairs and Spares, which had been active several years ago. The previous group did things for the church as well as social activities, like progressive dinners. Council agreed it was a good idea, so anyone interested in helping to restart it should contact Susan Lutz.

We are asking everyone to mark your calendar for September 7, when we will need volunteers to help with fall cleaning of the church – more information to follow. Sunday School will resume on September 8 and our church picnic will be held after church service.

A brief report was provided to Council by Tiffany Gruber, Heather Gring, and Pastor Stephanie of the Synod Assembly held in June. It included normal business as well as educational sessions.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille Gough

### Financial Report

Monthly – Income for April	\$12,884.48
Monthly – Expenses for April	<u>\$18,980.22</u>
	(\$6,095.74)
The General Offering	\$ 9,392.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,782.26
Loose Change	\$ 138.00
Other Income	<u>\$ 572.22</u>
Subtotal	\$12,884.48

**Thank you for your continued support!**

**Consider online giving**

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

**URGENT:**

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

**Due to summer vacations, we need someone to stream the July 28 worship service. Please see Faye, Heather or Steve on Sunday morning or call the church office for contact information to learn what this entails or to volunteer.**

**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.



## **Christmas in July – In Ian’s Boots**

It’s time to start gathering GENTLY used adult and children’s shoes, boots, slippers and cleats for the 2024 WELCA Christmas in July project!

During the month of July, we will be collecting new or GENTLY used adult and children’s footwear for In Ian’s Boots located in Pottstown, PA. Volunteers at In Ian’s Boots will sort, sanitize, and package the donated items and then distribute them to where they are most needed – locally, nationally and internationally.

Be sure to check out the inspirational story behind the origin of In Ian’s Boots online at [iansboots.org](http://iansboots.org).

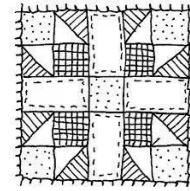


## **Zion's Bicycle Ministry**

Our next Zion’s bike outing is scheduled for Saturday, July 13th, at the Swatara Rail Trail (Swatara Creek State Park) near Pine Grove.

Meet 9am at Zion’s to caravan to Swatara. We will be parking at Sanding Siding Trailhead (Sanding Siding Road, Jonestown PA 17038), Google map directions at <https://goo.gl/maps/icQbsRBU7ye3CaxR7>

As always, bring your bike, water, and a snack to share for some Fellowship time at the end of the ride. Join us!



## **KNOTTERS**

We give thanks to all who are part of this ministry through which Zions can be a blessing to those who receive these quilts.

We are in need of volunteers to stuff pillowcases for pet beds. Pet beds and materials for stuffing are available to take home to assemble or they can be delivered to you. Please contact Eleanor Dietrich at 484-824-4388 for more information.

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.

## **OPPORTUNITY HOUSE MEAL**

**The next date for serving will be July 19.**

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.**

## **Senior Group**

**Our next Senior Group will meet on  
July 18, 2024 in the Gold Room  
11:00 am – 2:00 pm.**

BBQ, rolls and condiments will be provided. Please bring a picnic food item to share.

Try to arrive early to divide into card groups.

**Hope to see you there!**



## **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.



## **Garden News**

*The best place to seek God is in a garden.  
You can dig for him there.*

George Bernard Shaw

Our 10<sup>th</sup> Garden season continues. The cabbage, peppers, tomatoes, beans, and cucumbers are growing. We have planted fall squash and are trying some eggplant this year. Harvesting of produce will start this month. 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.

We would also like to thank the Shoemakersville Lions Club for their generous donation to the Garden. The support of the community and our congregation helps to continue our ministry to feed the hungry in our northern Berks community.

**Hope to see you in the Garden!**



## **COMING THIS FALL!**

“A Journey Through Israel” Presentation

Multi-Generational Event

Book Study – “The Gift of Forgiveness”



## **Zion’s Library**

*To look around is to be distressed.*

*To look within is to be depressed.*

*To look up is to be BLESSED!*

**Come in and check out our New Book section!**

Humor: I Second that Emotion  
Patsy Clairmont

Christian Life: The Woman Within  
Vonette Bright

Guidepost: Angels Among Us

DVD: The Miracles from Heaven



## **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**

We are half-way to our goal of 500 pairs of donated socks for Keystone Military!

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!

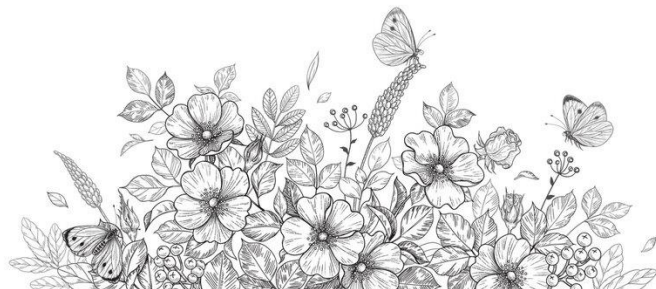
## **ZION'S CEMETERY COMPANY INC.**

**Our Monthly Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 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



## **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**

July 9, 2024 – Sound of Freedom

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



## **FOOD PANTRY**

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

**Breakfast bars**  
**Microwave beefaroni**  
**Easy Mac bowls**

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!**

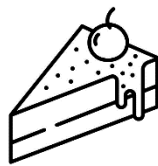
For monetary donations, checks can be made out to **Northern Berks Food Pantry** and mailed to:  
Hamburg Area Middle School  
711 Windsor St.  
Hamburg, PA 19526

**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., July 23, 2024, from 6 pm to 7 pm.**



### **No-bake Cherry Cheese Dessert**

By Tina Blake

2 c. graham cracker crumbs  
¼ lb. butter or margarine  
1 - 8 oz cream cheese  
1 c. sugar

½ tsp. vanilla  
12 oz. container cool whip  
2 cans pie filling

Mix first 2 ingredients and press into a 9 x 13 pan. Do not bake. Beat the next 3 ingredients until smooth and spread over crumbs. Top with container of cool whip and spread 2 cans cherry pie filling over cool whip and chill.



## **July Birthdays**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Susan Miller  
4<sup>th</sup> Ruth Bensingler  
5<sup>th</sup> Heather Mengel  
Parker Hancik
- 7<sup>th</sup> Dean Heckman  
8<sup>th</sup> Alice Brieske  
Russell Clark  
9<sup>th</sup> Lee Gehringer  
Eme Stefan  
12<sup>th</sup> David Seidel \*  
Matthew Noecker
- 14<sup>th</sup> Deborah Hoffert  
Shirley Sohon  
17<sup>th</sup> Travis Hoshauer  
20<sup>th</sup> Troy Epting  
John Smith
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Katelyn Schumaker  
23<sup>rd</sup> Reed Auchenbach  
24<sup>th</sup> Jocelyn Heckman  
Gary Wilhelm  
25<sup>th</sup> Faye Miller  
Brian Moroney  
Kyle Schumaker
- 31<sup>st</sup> Kasandra Brown  
Kyle Reitenauer  
Pastor Stephanie Roth



## **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.

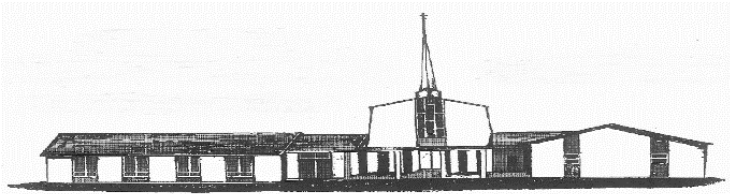
Would you like your birthday listed in the newsletter?  
Please contact the Church Office at 610-562-3112 or  
[churchoffice@zionslutheran.org](mailto:churchoffice@zionslutheran.org). (\*shut-in)



# Zion's Messenger

Sunday School: 9:15 am

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



## July 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 – JULY 2024**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		7:00 pm A.A. Meeting				
7 9:00 am Holy Communion	8 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters 7:00 pm Council Mtg 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	10	11 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery mtg @Zion's Church	12	13
14 9:00 am Holy Communion	15 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	16 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	17	18 11 AM – 2 PM Senior Group (Gold Rm) 7:00 PM Property Mtg.	19 5:30 – Opportunity House Meal	20
21 9:00 am Holy Communion	22 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <b>AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	23 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	24	25	26	27
28 9:00 am Holy Communion  FH RENTAL	29 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	30 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	31	<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>		