

Zion's Messenger - October 2024

October is a month of change. We enter into September and it still feels like summer with temperatures still in the upper seventies and eighties. The leaves on the trees are still green, the corn and the beans begin to change. But in October, we are full into the change from summer into fall. The beans lose all their leaves and become a dark brown ready for harvest. The corn stalks dry into a light brown ready for the harvest. The farmers are in the field. The Lord begins to paint the leaves of the trees with brilliant colors that wow us. The mornings become a little brisker as there is a touch of coolness in the air. By October, we have found our light jackets from the closets, and we put them on as we leave the house. Yes, October is a time of change.

Change is a constant as we live through the cycles of seasons of the year and our life. There is a season of planting the seeds, a season of growth, a season of harvest and a season of winter rest. Life to death. There is a time when we were born, a time of childhood, a time of growing into adulthood. We leave school and enter into our vocations of work and family. Some enter into the covenant of marriage, and new families created with babies enhancing their adventures. Then they too enter their vocations and maybe the covenant of marriage and children are born, and we experience the joy of being grandparents. Then unfortunately, we lose our parents to death and suddenly we find ourselves being the oldest generation. Changes come.

Changes come as we experience new technology. I remember when cell phones first came out and many people were unsure if they wanted one. Now our phones are really cameras and computers with phone functions. We spend hours a day on our screens, with social media, apps, and asking "Siri" to find answers to our questions. On our life journey we encounter many changes, but consider the Word of God and the change it creates. The change we experience in the world is generally from life to death. New technology replaces old. New planting leads to a new harvest. A child is born and lives and grows until death comes. But God's Word creates change from death to life.

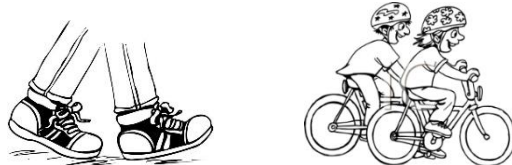
When Martin Luther was a young priest, he struggled with the relationship with God, the church was teaching and proclaiming. The Church was teaching that God is a holy and just judge, waiting for you to mess up and ready to bring his judgment. Luther sought every avenue he could to find forgiveness and reconciliation with God, but he found none until he encountered God's Word. As Luther studied the book of Psalms he encountered images of God as a loving Shepherd, who heard our prayers and watched over us. Then in the book of Romans he discovered God's Word that declared, "For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from the works prescribed by the law." When Luther read these words, it changed him and his relationship with God. Martin Luther took his pen and wrote in big letters the word, "Alone", Grace alone. Martin Luther now understood God's grace, forgiveness, and reconciliation and brought God's word to the church, sparking the Reformation.

God's Word is powerful and it accomplishes the purpose for which God sends it. God's Word changes us. God's Word, in Jesus and by his authority, finds us as sinners and changes us into saints. Jesus, God's Word incarnate, seeks us out as sinners. Jesus finds us in our brokenness and he lifts us up with his love and declares, "I forgive you. Your sins are no more. I re-create you into a beloved child of God. I give you my righteousness and you are now a Saint of God."

God's Word changes you from sinner to saint. God's Word changes you from being outside a relationship with God to being God's beloved. God's Word changes you from death in sin, to life in his love, with the gift of eternal life. God's Word, Jesus, is present with his love and peace, which is greater than any power of this world that creates chaos and death. God's Word brings you into his love.

God's Word changes everything.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Stephanie



Zion's Trek for World Hunger **Saturday, October 19 at 9:00 am**

Please plan to join us on the Bartram Trail to walk, run or bike to raise money to support ELCA World Hunger. This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ELCA World Hunger commitment to providing sustainable solutions to end hunger.

A sign-up sheet for participants is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Participants may pick-up a sponsor sheet on the table in the narthex to record donations.

Sponsor sheets and donations will be collected at the table at the entrance to Bartram Trail on October 19th from 9 – 10:30 am where you will receive a bottle of water for your trek.

For more information, please contact Pastor Stephanie or call the church office.

Hope to see you there! Together we can make a difference!

Pastor's Book Study

The Gift of Forgiveness: Inspiring Stories from Those Who Have Overcome the Unforgivable

A book by Katherine Schwarzenegger Pratt

The study will begin with a look at the Lutheran perspective on forgiveness. We will explore over 20 unique experiences of individuals' journeys toward forgiveness - some whose stories are familiar to us and others that are unknown. This is about God's gift of forgiveness and throughout the study we will look at Bible passages connected to God's promise of forgiveness.

If you missed the sign-up deadline, we will have a few extra copies of the materials. Materials will be available by October 7th. Please contact Pastor Stephanie.

Join us via Zoom at 7 pm on Wednesdays October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 13, 20
In person at 9:30 am on Thursdays October 17, 24, 31 November 7, 11, 21



Council Corner

The Congregational Church Council met on Tuesday, September 10th at 7 pm.

On Sunday, September 8, 2024 a Congregational Meeting was held with regard to the replacement of the Church roof. The average cost of the roof replacement was \$158,594. A presentation was made on how the church was going to pay for this project. After discussion a motion was made to approve the project and the motion passed unanimously.

Gary Rothermel from the property committee joined the council meeting to give an update on the roof. After evaluating the bids, he contacted Zimmerman's Roofing for references, they provided information for two roofing jobs completed on other churches. Gary contacted the two references and they both highly recommended Zimmerman's. Property committee recommended that we use Zimmerman's Roofing. Council felt that Zimmerman's was the best proposal and voted to have them do the work. Not only were they the lowest bidder (\$143,800.00) but were the most highly recommended. Our deposit has been paid and they should be able to start within about 4 weeks. Once started, the job should be completed within one to two weeks.

Time and Talent sheets have been finalized and will be handed out soon. Please take the time to complete the sheet. We all have different talents and this a great way to share them while helping out the church.

WELCA will be having the Favorite Foods sale on Saturday, October 12. Please complete an order form and get it to the office so they can have your favorite food ready.

ECLA World Hunger Walk is scheduled for Saturday, October 19 at the Bartram trail in Hamburg. A Registration table will be set up at the trail at 9:00 AM. A sign-up sheet will be on the Bulletin Board. Walkers, Runners and Bicyclists are all welcome to join us. The Bicycle group will

be joining the event so please line up your sponsors and consider joining us for the important event.

Because of the potential for inclement weather on September 8th our outdoor service was moved inside. The service was followed by a successful and well attended fellowship picnic. As always, the food was excellent.

The adult and children's Sunday School have restarted and meets at 9:15 AM. All are welcome to join them and remember to thank the teachers when you get a chance.

Please continue to keep the church in your prayers.

Respectfully submitted by John Smith.

Financial Report

We finished the month of August at \$898.85 in the red (monthly income over expenses).

Monthly – Income for August	\$15,610.42
Monthly – Expenses for August	\$16,509.27
The General Offering	\$12,376.12
Online Giving	\$ 2,272.66
Loose Change	\$ 89.00
Other Income	\$ 872.64
Subtotal	\$15,610.42

As we are moving forward with the roofing project, donations can be made to the Capital Improvement fund to help cover the costs of the project. Capital Improvement envelopes can be found in the pews or if you are using a plain envelope, just make sure that you label it Capital Improvement, so it goes into that account.

Thank you for your continued support!

Consider online giving

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

Summer of Hope

Thank-you to all who shared on our tree the signs of hope that they witnessed this summer.

We collected \$500 for our "Summer of Hope". Because of your generosity, Tree 4 Hope will be able to provide hope for a brighter future to children and families in Guatemala!

Thank You

Shirlene Epting would like to thank everyone for all the cards & prayers following her recent hospital stay



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Substitute Teachers are needed! If you would be interested in serving as a substitute teacher, please contact Tiffany Gruber at 610-823-2880.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

Confirmation classes will resume in October.

We hope to welcome some new faces.

Any student in 7th through 12th grade who has not been confirmed is welcome.

Contact Pastor Stephanie or the church office for more information.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The adult class is studying Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Everyone is welcome to meet with us to learn more about what our Lutheran faith says about Baptism, Communion, The Lord's Prayer and more. Class is informal. No homework or any preparation needed. Please join us.

"Favorite (Bazaar) Foods Sale"

Saturday, October 12th

The deadline is approaching for our WELCA Food Sale. **Pre-order and pay by Sunday, October 6th** and **pick up your food on Saturday, October 12th** from 11am until 1pm.

Order forms are available in the Narthex at Sunday worship and on Zion's Facebook page and website.

Order forms and payment can be put into Sunday's offering basket, dropped off at the church office, or mailed to the church c/o WELCA. Please make checks payable to WELCA.

Baked goods will be available for sale the day of pick up. Sign-up sheets are posted in the Narthex for volunteers to help in the kitchen, to help the day of the sale, and for baked goods donations.

Thank you in advance for your support.

The Women of WELCA



Fellowship Time

Our next fellowship gathering will be **Sunday, October 13**

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

WELCA

Please join us for our next WELCA meeting on **Tuesday, October 15th at 6pm** at the church.

All women of the church are members of WELCA and invited to attend.

Senior Group

Our next Senior Group will meet on **October 17, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.** in the Gold Room.

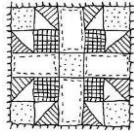
We are having an October Fest!

Come for sauerkraut and brats.

Bring a friend to play board games and cards.

Try to arrive early to divide into card groups.

Hope to see you there!



KNOTTERS NEWS

We assembled & blessed 100 back packs with school supplies in them to be delivered to New Windsor, Maryland. Thank you for all the donations and help completing this project.

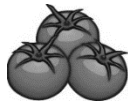
The Boy Scouts stuffed 75 pillow cases for dog beds delivered to the Humane Society. Laurel Living Center residents stuffed 55 pillow cases for the Char-Will Dog Kennels.

We need help to sew quilt patches together for our knotted quilts. Patches are available in the church office.

We are also in need of clean sheet sets & blankets.

Thanks to everyone for your assistance with our projects!

Garden News



*The Harvest moon hangs round and high,
It dodges clouds high in the sky,
The stars wink down their love and mirth,
The Autumn season is giving birth,
Oh, it must be October...* Pearl N. Sorrels

The end of our 10th Garden season is drawing near. We are finishing up our tomatoes, eggplant, and peppers and awaiting our late cabbage to be ready.

Please join this month us as we harvest the last of our produce and work to put the Garden to rest until next season. Listen for Sunday announcements or check the Sunday bulletin/Facebook page for news of our work schedule.



Zion's Library

*"Prayer isn't to remind God what your problems are,
prayer is to remind your problems who God is.."*

New additions:

The Power of the Holy Spirit
Pat Robertson (Evangelist)

How We Love Our Kids
Milan & Kay Yerkovich (Parenting)

Peace In the Midst of the Storm
Zada Sherry (Devotional)

Six Hours One Friday
Max Lucado (Evangelist)

GriefShare

A new session of GriefShare is beginning.

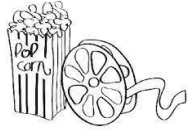
GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group for people who are grieving the death of someone close to them. The Griefshare support group meets Wednesday evening, on the dates below at 6:30 pm and will continue through Dec. 18, 2024. Sessions take place at:

Zion's Church
770 Zion's Church Rd.
Hamburg, PA

Oct. 2	Self- Care
Oct. 9	Fearful & Overwhelmed
Oct. 16	Anger
Oct. 23	Regrets
Oct. 30	Grief & Your Household

Please call 610-562-2300 to register or for more information. You can join at any time.

*See the flyer on bulletin board in narthex for details. A workbook will be provided at no cost.



FAITH NIGHT AT THE MOVIES HAMBURG STRAND THEATER

10/08 – Russ Taff: I Still Believe

11/12 – Pilgrims Progress

12/10 – The Least of These; A Christmas Story

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, October 10 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

**Watch the bulletin for Wreaths Across America
information coming soon.**

Blue Mountain Heritage Chorus

Blue Mt. Heritage Chorus will present a concert
“A Blue Mountain (STATE) of Mind”
here at Zion’s Lutheran
on **Oct. 6, 2024 at 2:00 pm.**

A poster with details is posted on the
bulletin board in the narthex.

Please join us!

Time and Talent Sheets

Each of us has been blessed with spiritual gifts from God. Spiritual gifts are unmerited blessings given to EVERY Christian. There are a variety of gifts, but the same God gives them to all. Spiritual gifts are given to us to use for building up the Body of Christ.

The “Time and Talent Sheet” is included with this newsletter. We ask that each member prayerfully consider the gifts that God has given you and how God is calling you to use those gifts to serve the church.

We are asking everyone to complete a form and place it in the offering basket or turn it into the church office by 10/31//2024.

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.

*Mark
Your
Calendar!*

10/27/24	Reformation Sunday
11/03/24	All Saint’s Sunday
12/01/24	1 st Sunday in Advent
12/24/24	Christmas Eve 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm



COMING SOON – JESUS, JAMMIES and JOY

“Jesus, Jammies and Joy” is an outreach ministry launched by Pastor Stephanie during her internship at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pottsville in the fall of 2022.

During the month of November, we will be collecting new kid’s winter pajamas to be distributed to children in need through local agencies in time for Christmas.

Be on the lookout for sales on any size girls or boys one or two-piece warm pajamas.

WATCH FUTURE BULLETINS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Thank-you for sharing the love of Jesus with children in need during the upcoming holiday season through the warm hug of new winter pajamas!



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., October 22, 2024, from 6 pm to 7 pm.**



October Birthdays

3rd Amanda Gallagher
 4th Nancy Seidel
 6th Shelly Strunk
 7th Jennifer Neuin
 9th Wasyl Onulack, Jr.

10th Timothy Olszewski
 12th Eleanor Dietrich
 Heather Wagner
 13th Neil Schaeffer
 Conner Troutman
 14th Eileen Puglia
 Lucille Gough
 15th Matthew Deibler
 16th Joanne Reidenhour
 Isabella Denatala

17th Norman Dresher
 19th Tanner Mish
 20th Ruth Ann Adam
 Aryton Miller
 Barbara Reinhart
 21st Alannah Daub
 22nd Reece Heckman
 Carl Sechler

24th Heather Gring
 25th Abbie Smith
 26th Arlene Mengel
 Brianna Ulrich
 Lillian Dusko
 27th Steven Mengel
 28th Nelson Eyer

30th Michael Heckman
 Dawn O'Brien
 Lori Smith

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



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

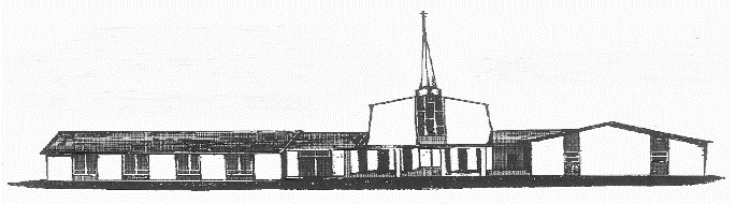
David Seidel
 Grand View Manor
 129 Houck Rd
 Fleetwood, Pa 19522

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



October 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 – OCTOBER 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	5
6 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion 2:00 pm - Blue Mtn. Heritage Chorus Concert and refreshments	7 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Cub Scout/Boy Scout mtg.	8 9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters 7:00 pm Council mtg 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	9	10 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery mtg @Zion's Church FH RENTAL	11 Gold Rm Rental FH RENTAL	12 Favorite Food Sale pick-up FH RENTAL
13 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion Prayer Shawl Blessing Fellowship Time following Worship	14 OFFICE CLOSED NOVEMBER NWSLTR DEADLINE 6:30 pm Cub Scout/Boy Scout mtg.	15 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	16	17 11 AM – 2 PM Senior Group (Gold Rm) 7:00 PM Property Mtg.	18	19
20 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion Fellowship Time	21 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Cub Scout/Boy Scout mtg.	22 9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	23	24	25	26 FH RENTAL
27 REFORMATION SUNDAY 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion Harvest Home	28 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Cub Scout/Boy Scout mtg.	29 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	30	31		

