

# Zion's Messenger - September 2024



The month of September brings change to many of our lives. Students and teachers return to school. **Families** return to their “school year routine”. Some people are once again contemplating when it will be time to “migrate south” before the weather turns too cold. We anticipate a change in the appearance of God’s great landscape as we prepare for the departure of summer and the arrival of fall.

As our lives progress and we settle into a routine, we often see the years pass with the same cycle of changes year after year. We expect these changes and accept that they will occur. What happens when we encounter a change that is unexpected? What if our household loses one stream of income? What if someone in our family is diagnosed with a incurable illness? What if someone we love dies suddenly? What if we experience a series of these unexpected changes one after another? What do we do?

God calls us to be in community with one another. God never intends for us to walk through the trials and sudden changes of life alone. It is then that the Body of Christ, our family of faith will be there to support and uplift us. This is why each Sunday I ask the congregation for prayer requests – that we might provide love, comfort and compassion to those among us who are in the midst of “dense fog” clouding their vision of the road ahead so that they might recognize that there is hope for clearer skies.

It is often said that change is inevitable. If we are honest, many of us will admit that we really dislike change. Why do we dislike change? Do we really dislike change or is it really the fear of the unknown associated with change that makes us uncomfortable?

Well, change may be inevitable with many aspects of our lives. However, there is something that never changes – the promise of God to be with us forever and walk with us through all those changes in our lives.

*Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
(Isaiah 43:1a – 2)*

In Baptism, we are “sealed by the Holy Spirit and mark by the cross of Christ forever”. The light of Christ is in us and the Holy Spirit accompanies us through all the changes in life - both expected and unexpected ones.

Seasons of nature come and go. Our life goes through seasons of change. And through it all, we are the Body of Christ, a family of faith here to accompany and support each other and God is always with us!  
That my friends **never** changes. Thanks be to God!

Peace and blessings,

*Pastor Stephanie*



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

Please mark your calendar and 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 can pick-up a sponsor sheet on the table in the narthex to record donations that they collect.

There will be a table set-up at the entrance to Bartram Trail on October 19<sup>th</sup> from 9 – 10:30 am to accept your sponsor sheets and donations and to provide you a bottle of water for your trek.

If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Stephanie or call the church office.

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

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## **Pastor's Book Study ... *coming in October***

### *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 then explore over 20 unique experiences of individuals' journeys toward forgiveness - some whose stories are familiar to us and other 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.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Library Fund, this book is available for the study at no cost!

Please order a copy for me!       I already have a copy of this book

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**STILL WORKING ON THE SCHEDULE. SELECT ALL OPTIONS THAT MIGHT WORK FOR YOU:**

I plan to attend in person on Thursdays 9:30AM

I plan to attend *via* ZOOM on Wednesdays at 7PM

I would like to attend but neither time works for me

PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM BY **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22** SO WE CAN ORDER BOOKS



## Council Corner

The monthly council meeting was held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024. Matthew Gring attended the meeting and took us on a tour of all the projects that he completed at the church for his Eagle Scout Project. We thank Matthew for his hard work this past summer and for all those who helped him complete the many projects. Matthew worked on the labyrinth area, pressure washed the Scout shed, mulching and laying down new weed barrier in the playground area, pressure washed the playground equipment and trash receptacle area along with sealing the wood, replacing some rotting wood on the playground equipment, painting the chains and seats on the playground equipment, and replacing the door at the mower shed. Take a few moments to check out all the great work that Matthew and his volunteers completed this summer.

Dan Brennan attended this month's meeting to present quotes for a potential roofing project. The quotes he presented to us included the roof, soffit, and fascia. Council decided that we need to call a special congregational meeting on **Sunday, September 8** immediately following worship to discuss the roofing project. Just a friendly reminder that in order to conduct the meeting we need to have at least **50** members in attendance. Please continue to contribute to our Capital Improvement Fund as this will help to defray the cost of capital improvement projects that we need in the future.

On September 8, along with the outdoor worship and special congregational meeting, our Scout troop will have a table set up for their Popcorn & Nut Sale. They accept cash or check for your purchase on the day of the sale.

Zion's Trek for World Hunger will be held on Saturday, October 19 at 9:00 AM. The trek will take place at the Bartram Trail. You may walk, run, or ride your bike. All money raised will go to ELCA World Hunger in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Respectfully submitted by Tiffany Gruber

## Financial Report

We finished the month of July at \$177.57 in the red (monthly income over expenses).

Monthly – Income for July	\$13,933.33
Monthly – Expenses for July	\$14,110.90

The General Offering	\$ 8,991.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,952.70
Loose Change	\$ 592.99
Other Income	\$ 1,396.64
Subtotal	\$13,933.33

**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.

## Fall Church Clean-up

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 spruce up the church with those cleaning tasks we just don't get to on a weekly basis. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many volunteers we will have to help that day.

## Church Picnic

The Church Picnic will be held following worship on Sunday, September 8, at 11:30 am. Hamburger BBQ, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided. Please bring your favorite dish to share. There will be someone in the kitchen before Sunday School and before worship to accept your covered dish.



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 8, 2024 at 9:15 AM. We are looking forward to a new year. Our teaching staff for this year will be:

Nursery/Preschool – Samantha Gruber  
Kindergarten – 2nd grade – Heather Gring  
3rd & 4th grade – Tiffany Gruber  
5th & 6th grade – Faye Heckman  
7th – young adult – Mark Dreibelbis  
Adult class – Janine Dreibelbis

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**

**Adult Sunday School will begin on September 8th at 9:15 pm.**

The adult class will begin a study on 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.



## **Fellowship Time**

Our next fellowship gathering will be **Sunday, September 22**

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 Sept. 19, 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!

## **Choir Reminders**

Brass rehearsals have begun.

Handbell Choir rehearsals will start on Thursday, Sept. 12 at 7:00 pm.

Anyone who is interested in playing with the brass ensemble or handbell choir may contact director Steve Turner or another member for more information.

All skill levels welcome!

Adult Choir rehearsals will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 3rd at 7:00 pm.

Remainder of September rehearsal schedule:  
Wednesdays: Sept. 11, Sept. 18, Sept. 25 at 7:00 pm

If you are interested in singing in the choir this season, please contact Donald Ryan at donryan715@gmail.com or 610-762-9322.



## **Harvest Home**

Harvest Home will be held on September 29<sup>th</sup>. This year we will be dividing the donations between the Northern Berks Food Pantry and Keystone Military.

Donations can be dropped off at the church Tuesday September 24 thru Friday September 28 between 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM. If you have fall decorations to include in the display, please drop them off by Saturday morning at 9:00 AM.



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

We thank everyone who took time to gather gently used footwear that they no longer needed.

Because of your generous donations, the 2024 WELCA Christmas in July project delivered 210 sets of footwear to In Ian’s Boots to be distributed to our neighbors in need here in the US and abroad.

A special note of thanks to Trinity Lutheran Church in Pottsville who contributed 100 sets of footwear.

## **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.

## **“Favorite (Bazaar) Foods Sale”** **Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>**

WELCA is holding a drive-thru food sale of some of your favorite Bazaar foods, including barbecues, soups, and apple dumplings.

***Pre-order and pay by Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.***  
Drive-thru and ***pick up your food on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>*** from 11am until 1pm.

An order form is included in this newsletter, and is available on the table in the narthex, as well as on Zion’s Facebook page and website. Orders received early, by September 15<sup>th</sup>, will be entered into a drawing for two Hamburg Strand movie tickets, good through the end of 2024.

Order forms and payment may 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 on the day of pick up. Sign-up sheets are posted in the narthex for baked good donations, and to volunteer to help in the kitchen and on the day of pick-up.

Thank you in advance for your support.

## **Garden News**



*“In the garden, we cultivate not just plants, but also the joy of life.” @greenleafgardening*

We continue to pick tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, green beans and eggplant. Over a thousand pounds of produce has already been grown, picked, weighed, and delivered to community food pantries and local food insecure families this season.

We still need volunteers each week to reap God’s bounty. Please listen for announcement or check the Sunday bulletin/Facebook page for news of our work schedule. There’s still time to come out and help in the Garden this year!

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



## **Zion's Bicycle Ministry**

Our next bike ride will be Saturday, September 14 and everyone is welcome to join us. We will be doing the D & L (rails to trails) trail, starting in White Haven and finishing in Jim Thorpe. This is a 25 mile bike ride with a slight downhill grade.

We will meet and check-in at 9:30 am with Pocono Biking ([poconobiking.com](http://poconobiking.com)), 7 Hazard Square in Jim Thorpe. We will take the 10:00 am shuttle, which will transport our bikes and us, to White Haven.

Please bring a lunch and something to share, as we plan to stop on the trail to eat lunch.

If you plan to join us, call Debbie as soon as possible at Pocono Biking 570-325-8430 ext 114 and tell her you are with the group from Zion’s.

The shuttle cost is \$26.86 per person

**Contact John Smith or Eileen Puglia for more information.**

We hope to ride with you soon



## Zion's Library

*The best vitamin for a Christian is "B1"*

### **Check out these DVD's**

The Greatest Story Ever Told  
G. Stevenson Productions

Billy Graham  
Virgil Flims

Searching for the Historical Jesus  
Jean-Pierre Isbouts

The Chosen – Seasons 1-3

## 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

Sept. 11	Is This Normal?
Sept. 18	Your Grief Journey
Sept. 25	Loneliness & Sadness
Oct. 2	Self Care

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

Sept 10, 2024 – Jesus Revolution  
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, September 12 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](mailto:whoherchak@gmail.com) or (570)778-8403.

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

## Zion's Property Notes

Have you noticed that our outdoor structures and grounds are looking really nice? The reason for this is Matt Gring's Eagle Scout Project. The mower shed got a new door and the exterior wood surfaces were prepped and repainted. Next to the shed, the outdoor playground equipment and play surface were completely refurbished. No more weedy playground and outdoor worship area. The garbage can surround fence was cleaned and sealed and the interior was weeded. Lastly, the labyrinth was restored to how it looked when it was new.

The property committee and congregation shout out a huge "thank you" to Matt, his family and Scout Troop 163 for all their hard work.

## **Journey in Faith** *Via de Cristo*

*Via de Cristo* is Spanish for the “Way of Christ”. The Via de Cristo Ministry includes a structured three-day weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people.

The fall 2024 Journey in Faith weekend begins Thursday evening October 10, and comes to a close Sunday afternoon October 13. It is held at Camp Innabah, a Methodist camp a few miles south of Coventry Mall, Pottstown, just off Route 100.

There is information on the national website: *Via de Cristo* National Lutheran Secretariat, as well as on the Journey in Faith *VdC* website and FaceBook page.

If you are interested in more information, please contact Lucille Gough.



### **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., September 24, 2024, from 6 pm to 7 pm.**



## September Birthdays

- 1st Donna Long  
Dwight Heckman
- 2nd Jay Wheeland
- 5th Mark Price
- 6<sup>th</sup> Owen Neuin
- 7th Angela Gough  
Doris Gough  
Korey Onulack  
Linda Stewart
- 8<sup>th</sup> David Klemmer
- 9<sup>th</sup> Paul Hartline
- 10th Brenda Ramich
- 11<sup>th</sup> Andrea Heckman
- 13th Nathan Bender
- 14<sup>th</sup> Connie Reinhart
- 15<sup>th</sup> Dennis Madeira  
Lisa Fegley
- 16<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Hoshauer
- 19<sup>h</sup> Reece Hawk
- 20<sup>th</sup> Grace Ketner  
Chris Mengel  
Jamie Scolastico
- 22<sup>nd</sup> David Long  
Nancy Pursell  
Don Roth
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Kyle Pursell  
Brittany Noecker  
Maylynn Wagner
- 25th Marvin Adam  
Paul Engle
- 27<sup>th</sup> Ruth Ann Eyer
- 28<sup>th</sup> Samantha Gruber
- 29<sup>th</sup> Woodrow Lutz  
Katie Stefan
- 30<sup>th</sup> Craig Reinhart



## 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.

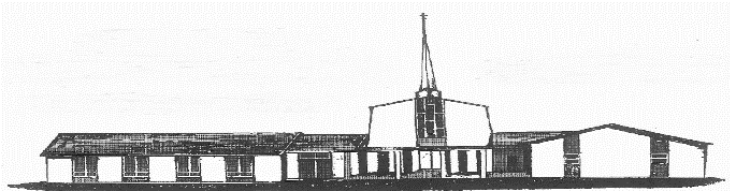
Would you like your birthday listed in the newsletter? Please contact the Church Office at 610-562-3112 or [churchoffice@zionslutheran.org](mailto:churchoffice@zionslutheran.org).  
(\*shut-in)



# Zion's Messenger

Sunday School: 9:15 am

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



## September 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 Zion's Church Road  
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

**Zion's Monthly Calendar – SEPTEMBER 2024**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <b>LABOR DAY</b>	3	4	5	6 FH RENTAL	7 CHURCH CLEANING DAY
8 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion Congregation meeting & Church Picnic following service	9 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scout/Boy Scout mtg.	10 9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters 6:00 pm Welcome & Outreach mtg 7:00 pm Council mtg 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	11 <b>PATRIOT DAY</b>	12 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery mtg @Zion's Church	13 10:00 am – 12:00 pm C.O.K. – Gold Rm	14
15 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion	16 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> OCTOBER NWSLTR DEADLINE 6:30 pm Cub Scout/Boy Scout mtg.	17 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	18	19 11 AM – 2 PM Senior Group (Gold Rm) 7:00 PM Property Mtg.	20 5:30 pm Opportunity House meal	21
22 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion Fellowship Time	23 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scout/Boy Scout mtg.	24 9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	25	26	27	28 9:00 am – Altar Guild set-up for Harvest Home
29 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion Harvest Home	30 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scout/Boy Scout mtg.		** SERVICES WILL BE RECORDED AND POSTED ON THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE EVERY SUNDAY	**WATCH FOR SERVICE INFO IN BULLETINS, CALENDARS & ONLINE	30	31

