

# Zion's Messenger - November 2024

**“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”**

**1 Thessalonians 5:18**

Gratitude is a powerful and transformative practice that has the ability to change our lives in incredible ways. As we approach Thanksgiving, it is a fitting time to reflect on the impact that gratitude has on our minds, bodies, and spirits. Not only does it bring a sense of joy and contentment, but it also aligns us with God’s call to live lives of thankfulness. There is power in gratitude. It has the ability to transform us.

When it comes to gratitude, its impact goes beyond just a warm and fuzzy feeling. In fact, scientific research has shown that practicing gratitude can have a profound effect on our brains. Including gratitude into our daily lives can be a powerful tool to avoid burnout and cultivate overall well-being.

By regularly expressing gratitude, we are rewiring our brains to focus on the positive parts of our lives and focus our attention away from stress and negativity. Research has also shown that gratitude can improve sleep quality, reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression, and even enhance our immune system. Practicing gratitude not only benefits our mental and emotional health but also helps our physical well-being.

Including gratitude in our daily lives can be as simple as keeping a gratitude journal, writing thank-you notes, or taking time each day to reflect on the things we are thankful for. By consciously developing an attitude of gratitude, we are not only benefiting ourselves but also setting an example and encouraging a culture of appreciation and thankfulness within our community.

As we juggle the demands of everyday life being pulled in many directions between work and family, often we find ourselves experiencing burnout. In the midst of this chaos, God calls us to live lives of gratitude. In the Scriptures, we find numerous examples of God’s people expressing gratitude in their worship, prayers, and daily lives. Psalm 100:4 encourages us to “enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.”

When we intentionally develop an attitude of gratitude, we shift our focus from our own worries and challenges to acknowledging God’s faithfulness. It allows us to see the blessings that surround us, even in the midst of difficult circumstances. By obeying God’s call to gratitude, we invite His peace and joy into our lives, counteracting burnout and developing a heart of contentment and trust.

When we share our gratitude within a community, something truly amazing happens. The power of thankfulness is multiplied, and a sense of unity and connection is created among the members. By creating a culture of appreciation and gratitude within our community, we can inspire and uplift one another, encouraging a positive and supportive atmosphere. Whether it’s sharing stories of God’s faithfulness, expressing gratitude for one another’s contributions, or simply saying “thank you,” sharing thankfulness reinforces our community bond and strengthens our relationships. It reminds us that we are not alone in our journey, but rather, we are surrounded by individuals who are also experiencing the transformative power of gratitude.

Practice gratitude and be transformed.

Peace and blessings,  
*Pastor Stephanie*



**\*\* SPECIAL NOTICE \*\***

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT  
TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY:**

**MONDAY, DEC. 09, 2024.**

**December is very busy in the church office with extra bulletins, newsletter and the Annual Report so, we need your reports in a timely manner. Please notify us even if your report has no changes from last year.**

**THE ANNUAL REPORT MUST BE PRINTED AND AVAILABLE BY  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025.**

**THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 26, 2025.  
THE SNOWDATE IS FEBRUARY 2, 2025.**



**Nativity Sets on Display**

**Please Join Us!**

On Saturday, December 14th, Zion's Lutheran Church will open its Fellowship Hall to the public from noon to 3:00 pm, with a display of over 200 Nativity Sets from a private collection. The display will remain in the Fellowship Hall for the Congregation's viewing following the Sunday School Christmas Program on Sunday, December 15th.

A "free will" donation will be received to benefit Domestic Lutheran Disaster Response.

We will need volunteers to help with setting up and packing up the display as well as people to donate cookies for refreshments.

Listen for announcements and watch upcoming bulletins for more information.



## Council Corner

Replacement of the church roof was scheduled to begin in late October and will hopefully be completed by the time you receive this newsletter. Please continue to contribute to the Capital Improvement Fund to help us to cover the cost of this project.

We will be getting Angel Tree tags in the month of November. Please sign the paper when you take a tag and return you items by the date specified.

Mark your calendar for our Annual Meeting on January 26, 2025. The snow date is February 2, 2025.

## Financial Report

We finished the month of September at \$1,193.19 in the black (monthly income over expenses).

Monthly – Income for September     \$13,827.53  
Monthly – Expenses for September   \$12,634.34

The General Offering                     \$ 9,770.00  
Online Giving                               \$ 2,368.53  
Loose Change                               \$ 106.00  
Other Income                               \$ 1,583.00  
Subtotal                                     \$13,827.53

**As we have moved 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 support!**

Consider online giving

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

## *Thank You*

Thank you, Zion's Members, for the cards, prayers, and good wishes after my recent heart surgery!  
~Ned Dresher



## 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.

## Worship News

Please join us Sunday November 17th as we welcome back Pastor Lyn Langhammer who served as Pastor at Zions from 1973 until 1980.



## November Food Pantry: Volunteers Needed

Zion's Lutheran Church will be helping in November at the Northern Berks Food Pantry. **We need volunteers at the Hamburg Area Middle School Cafeteria at 5:15 pm on Tuesday, November 19, for their Thanksgiving distribution.**

**Please sign up on the bulletin board if you can help. Thank You!**

## Trek for World Hunger

Thank-you to all who participated in Zion's 2024 Trek for World Hunger.

We raised \$1030 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ELCA World Hunger and support their programs committed to providing sustainable solutions to end hunger

Together we can make a difference!

## Harvest Home

Northern Berks Food Pantry would like to thank Zion's Lutheran Church for your generous food donations from your Harvest Home collection. We served 131 families from your community at our October distribution.

We appreciate Zion's Lutheran Church's continued support of our pantry!



## Fellowship Time

**Our next fellowship time will be  
November 10th**

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

## Senior Group

Our next Senior Group will meet on  
**November 21, in the Fellowship Hall,  
11:00 am – 2:00 pm.**

for a Thanksgiving dinner. Please bring a side dish 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!



## Knotters News

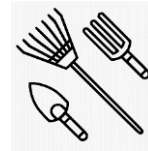
Laurel Living Center residents continue to stuff pillow cases for dog beds.

We always need helpers 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

*May the bounty of the season fill your heart and home.  
Anonymous*

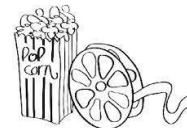
Autumn is here, and we are wrapping up season #10 in the Garden. We have harvested over two tons of vegetables to donate to local food pantries and organizations this season. Included were the Northern Berks (Hamburg) Food Pantry, Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry, Keystone Military Food Pantry, Wyndcliffe Apartments, and Friend, Inc.

As this newsletter goes to production, we have harvested the last of our peppers, eggplant, and fall squash, and are finishing Garden clean up as we wait for the late cabbage to be harvested.

We continue to be thankful for our faithful volunteers, both returning volunteers and some new volunteers this season. Without the support of congregation and community members, we would not be able to continue this ministry.

Please continue to pray for our ministry and for the food insecure residents in our community.

Thank you.



## Faith Night at the Movies Hamburg Strand Theatre

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.

## GriefShare

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

Nov. 6	Grief & your Friendships
Nov. 13	Questions for God
Nov. 20	Surviving the Holidays
Nov. 27	No GriefShare meeting

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.

## Zion's Cemetery Co., Inc.

**Our Monthly Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, Nov. 14 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

## Wreaths Across America

Every December, Wreaths Across America honors our fallen heroes by placing wreaths at their markers. Zion's Cemetery is part of this mission to honor over 250 Veterans buried in our cemetery.

To sponsor one or more wreaths, go online to: [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org)

Location ID: PAZTPT (aka Zion's Cemetery)  
Sponsorship Group ID: PA0868 (aka BST163)  
Or contact Heather Gring at 610-334-7476.

Zion's Cemetery Remembrance Ceremony followed by wreath placement will be held on December 14, 2024 at 12:00 noon.

Boy Scout Troop 163 will be participating.

## Blue Mountain Heritage Chorus

Blue Mt. Heritage Chorus will present a FREE traditional Christmas concert at Salem Bellemans Church on Sunday, December 1, 2024  
Doors open at 1:30 pm. Concert begins at 2:00 pm.  
Refreshments will follow program and a free-will offering will be accepted.

## Salvation Army Red Kettle Concert

Red Kettle Christmas Concert  
Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 pm  
St. John's Lutheran Church, Hamburg, PA

The concert featuring local musicians and singers as well as the Salvation Army Brass Ensemble is free and open to the public.  
A freewill offering will be collected to benefit our local Salvation Army.



## DINNER & A SHOW FOR ZION'S SENIORS

Zion's Senior members have been cordially invited to join the Hamburg Area School District for dinner and a command performance of Wizard of Oz on Wednesday, November 20, 2024.

Dinner will be served from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm in the Hamburg High School cafeteria and the musical will begin at 6:00 pm in the auditorium.

The menu for dinner is as follows:

Salad w/ dressing  
Dinner roll w/ margarine  
Roasted Turkey with Gravy  
Potato Filling  
Peas & Carrots  
Fruit Crisp  
Beverages

**The cost of the meal is \$8.00 and the show is free.**

**RSVP: In order for the High School to make proper arrangements, please contact the Nicolette Hoover at (610) 562-2241, ext. 1731 no later than Wed. Nov. 6, 2024 to RSVP**



## **National Gratitude Month**

November is "National Gratitude Month". We can express our gratitude to the organizations and people working to help others by donating items to be distributed to our neighbors in need. Below are 2 options to donate.



## **Jesus, Jammies and Joy**

**November 1 – December 1, 2024**

Collecting **NEW** winter pajamas for children  
Please select either a 1 piece or 2-piece set in children sizes newborn - XXL 18  
(one piece or a two-piece set – no pajama pants without tops)

Pajamas will be distributed through:  
Safe Berks, Mary's Shelter, Lighthouse Women & Children's Center,  
Schuylkill Hope Center, and Trinity Pottsville - Adopt a Child

Monetary donations will be accepted. Checks should be payable to  
Zions Lutheran Church and marked "Jesus, Jammies & Joy" in the memo.

**Thank-you for helping to bring joy to the children this Christmas  
and keeping them warm & cozy throughout the winter!**



## **Angel Tree Tags**

We are once again participating in the Salvation Army Angel Tree program  
to collect gifts for children and seniors this holiday season.

Watch upcoming bulletins for more information and dates.  
**Thank you for helping to make someone's holiday a little brighter!**



## **FOOD PANTRY**

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

**Cake mixes  
Flour  
Sugar  
Chocolate chips**

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., November 19, 2024, from 6 pm to 7 pm.**

*Mark Your Calendar !*

<b>11/03/24</b>	<b>All Saint's Sunday</b>
<b>12/01/24</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent</b>
<b>12/14/24</b>	<b>Nativity Display</b>
<b>12/15/24</b>	<b>Sunday School Christmas Program</b>
<b>12/24/24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve 4:00 pm &amp; 7:00 pm</b>



## **November Birthdays**

1st	Vernie Noecker Elaine Schroder
2nd	April Reitenauer
3rd	Jeanette Heckman
4th	Shelly Strunk
6th	Nancy Dresher Paul Weidner
7th	Tiffany Gruber Rylee Strunk
8th	Kai Hawk
9th	William Heckman, Jr. Kevin Koehn
10th	Kelly Troutman
12th	Karen Mengel
15th	Allen Daub
16th	Nancy Dusko Tyler Fusner Jr.
17th	Dean Sunday
18th	Faye Heckman
19th	Tracy Pond Faye Smith
22nd	Kimberly Olszewski
24th	Karen Blandford
26th	Janelle Kerr
28th	Cleta Borkey

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)



## **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

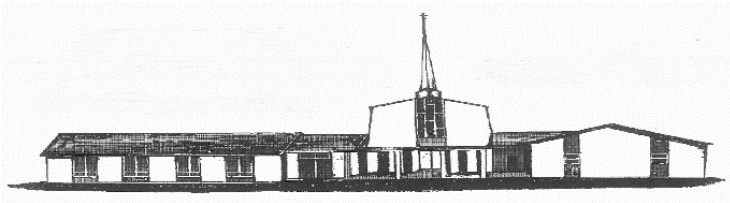
If there is anyone you know who is unable to get out and would like to be added to our list, please contact the church office.



# Zion's Messenger

Sunday School: 9:15 am

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



## November 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 – NOVEMBER 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>
<b>3 DAYLIGHT SVGS TIME ENDS</b> <b>ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>4 OFFICE CLOSED</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scout/Boy Scout mtg.	7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	<b>6</b> 7:00 pm Pastor's Book Study - ZOOM	<b>7</b> 9:30 AM Pastor's Book Study - CHURCH	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion Fellowship Time following Worship	<b>11 OFFICE CLOSED</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scout/Boy Scout mtg.	9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters 7:00 pm Council mtg 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	<b>13</b> 7:00 pm Pastor's Book Study - ZOOM	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery mtg @Zion's Church 9:30 AM Pastor's Book Study - CHURCH 7:00 PM Property Mtg.	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>18 OFFICE CLOSED</b> DECEMBER NWSLTR DEADLINE 6:30 pm Cub Scout/Boy Scout mtg.	7:00 pm A.A. Meeting 6:00 -N. Berks Food Bank dist. at H.A.M.S.	<b>20</b> 7:00 pm Pastor's Book Study - ZOOM	<b>21</b> 11 AM – 2 PM Senior Group -Gold Rm 9:30 AM Pastor's Book Study - CHURCH 7:00 pm Property mtg.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>25 OFFICE OPEN</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scout/Boy Scout mtg.	9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28 THANKSGIVING DAY</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00 am Altar Guild – Advent swags

