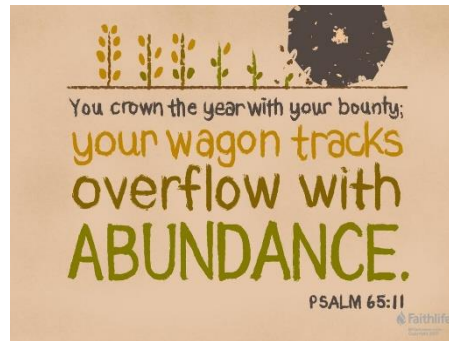


# Zion's Messenger - January 2025



This past year was an amazing year of ministry at Zions's. I am thankful and feel truly blessed that I was called to be your partner in ministry. My first year as your pastor has passed so quickly, perhaps because of the bounty of ministry that we have shared together in 2024.

We have done so many things to reach beyond our walls to welcome in neighbors from our community and to minister to our neighbors who are far away.

- Joint confirmation ministry that has now expanded to include a fifth church.
- Joint worship service at Zions to celebrate our cooperative confirmation ministry.
- "Christmas in July" collection for In Ian's Boots that provided hundreds of pairs of gently used shoes & boots to be distributed locally, nationally and internationally.
- Zions Community Garden that continues to provide bountiful harvests throughout the summer to local food pantries to feed our local neighbors in need.
- "Summer of Hope" – looking for signs of hope during the summer and providing \$500 in support to children and families in Guatemala through Tree 4 Hope.
- Zions Trek for ELCA World Hunger – walkers and bikers raised \$1030 while enjoying the Bartram Trail on a beautiful fall morning
- Nativity Display that welcomed many people from the community and collected \$891 in donations for Domestic Lutheran Domestic Disaster Response.
- "Jesus, Jammies and Joy" gratitude month project that collected 297 pairs of children's pajamas incorporating 3 additional partners collecting donations and distributing to 5 programs in two counties.

Truly our "wagon tracks" have overflowed with abundance in the past year that we have shared with our neighbors near and far. I look forward to discovering what new ministry opportunities God will place in our path in 2025.

On behalf of those who grow in faith and know the love of God through the ministries of Zions Lutheran Church, I offer a sincere heartfelt thank-you for your continued abundant support!

Surely God will crown the coming year with goodness and abundance

Peace and blessings as we journey into a new year together,

Pastor Stephanie



## **Annual Meeting & Luncheon**

Zion's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, January 26, 2025, immediately following our worship service. After the conclusion of the meeting, we will have a covered dish luncheon. The snow date is February 2, 2025.

Each person or family attending is asked to bring a dish to share. Make your favorite casserole, vegetable, salad/side dish or dessert. We will supply the hamburger barbecue and beverages. There will be someone in the kitchen both before Sunday School and the Worship service to take your dish.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the annual meeting!





## Council Corner

The Church Council convened on December 10, 2024. The meeting began with a devotion titled "Move Closer to the Light," encouraging us to celebrate the Lord as our powerful and loving Light and to seek His guidance in drawing nearer to Him.

The council reviewed the Treasurer's report for November. As of the end of November, our year-to-date balance was a positive \$37,201. It was also reported that the church roof has been fully paid for, and the new roof, soffit, fascia, and gutters have all been installed.

It was announced that during November, 297 pairs of pajamas were collected for the Jesus, Jammies & Joy initiative to be donated to children in need. We thank everyone who contributed to this cause.

We also appreciate the donations of wreaths for Zion's Cemetery, supporting the Wreaths Across America program. The Scouts, in partnership with the cemetery, raised enough funds to purchase a wreath for every veteran's grave, which were placed during a ceremony on December 14, 2024. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to honor the veterans.

We hope everyone had a joyful holiday season and look forward to seeing all members at the Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2025 (with a snow date of February 2, 2025).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Heather Gring

## Financial Report

We finished the month of November at \$1,785.83 in the black (monthly income over expenses).

Monthly – Income for November	\$16,472.42
Monthly – Expenses for November	\$14,686.59
The General Offering	\$13,102.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,821.89
Loose Change	\$ 266.53
Other Income	\$ 1,282.00
Subtotal	\$16,472.42

We are happy to report that the roofing project has been completed. We were able to cover the cost of the project with the proposed memorial fund, Endowment donation, WELCA donation, and donations made to the Capital Improvement Fund.

**Thank you for all your support!**

Donations can be made at any time to the Capital Improvement Fund as we never know when the next large project may take place.

### Consider online giving

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

## QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

A qualified distribution (QCD) is a simple and tax-smart way to give to the church.

- If you are 70 ½ or older, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution of \$100,000 or less of your required minimum distribution (RMD) annually.
- Giving directly from your IRA can reduce your annual gross income and lower your taxes. You are not taxed by the IRS on this type of distribution.
- Distributions must be made directly from a traditional IRA account by your plan administrator to Zion's.
- Discuss with your investment advisor to arrange for the QCD distribution to be made. Distributions can be transmitted to the church quarterly, semi-annually, or annually.

## **FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSORS**

**2025**

The new sign-up sheets for flower and bulletin sponsors for 2025 are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. The cost of bulletins is \$13.00 and flowers are \$40.00.



Have you moved? Are you planning to move?  
Has your phone number changed?

Please notify the church office.  
(610-562-3112 or churchoffice@zionslutheran.org)

We want to make sure that we have up-to-date  
contact information for everyone.

## **BULLETIN ITEMS**

Bulletin items should be submitted to the church  
office no later than the Tuesday of the week of  
desired publishing.

## **NEWSLETTER ITEMS**

Newsletter items should be submitted to the church  
office no later than the Monday following  
the council meeting in the month that  
publishing is desired.

There will be a deadline reminder posted in the  
bulletin on the Sunday before the deadline.



## **Fellowship Time**

**Our next fellowship time will be  
January 12, 2025**

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  
**January 16, in the Fellowship Hall,  
11:00 am – 2:00 pm.**

for a lasagna 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**

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!



## **Redner's Save-A-Tape Reminder**

Please scan your Redner's Rewards card OR  
enter your phone number at every checkout.  
Your continued support of this program benefits the  
ministries and building needs here at Zion's.

Thank you, The Women of WELCA



### **Zion's Library**

“What you are is God’s gift to you.  
What you make of yourself is your gift to God.”

Anonymous

#### **New arrivals:**

The Coming Golden Age  
by Dr. Jeremiah

Christmas Legends to Remember  
by Haidle

### **Opportunity House 2025**

We are always looking for additional volunteers to assist with the food service at Opportunity House.

Please let me know if you are willing to either captain a team or assist with the food service. My email address is [whoherchak@gmail.com](mailto:whoherchak@gmail.com) or my phone number is 570-778-8403.

Thank you, Wanda Hoherchak.

#### **2025 Schedule:**

January 17

March 21

May 16

July 18

September 19

November 21

### **Wreaths Across America**

Thank you to all who donated and participated in Wreaths Across America this holiday season.

Wreaths were provided for all Veterans’ Graves in Zion’s Cemetery and the service was very well attended.



### **Faith Night at the Movies** **Hamburg Strand Theatre**

Jan. 14 – Amazing Grace

Feb. 11 – All Saints

March 11 – The Encounter

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

### **Zion’s Cemetery Co., Inc.**

Our Annual Lot Owners meeting and our Monthly Board meeting will be held on

**Thursday, January 16th 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



### **Holiday Coffee**

1 cup reg. or decaf coffee

Baileys Irish Crème

Whipped Cream

Chocolate syrup

Prepare coffee in a one cup serving, add Baileys Irish Crème to taste. Top with whipped cream and drizzle chocolate syrup on top.



## **FOOD PANTRY**

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

### **Canned soup**

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., January 28, 2025, from 6 pm to 7 pm.**

\*Snow Emergency Info: In the case of inclement weather, if the Hamburg School District closes or has an early dismissal, the Food Pantry will be canceled for that day. It will then be held on the next open school day.

\*For monthly and weather-related updates, the Northern Berks Food Pantry line is 610-562-8250.



## **January Birthdays**

1st	Ellen Hartline Brenda Hartman
3rd	Kevin Gough
4th	Alyssa Blandford
5th	Prent Steffy Mary Barto
6th	Doris Hoffman
7th	Luke Mengel
8th	Christine Miller
9th	Dennis Hoffert David Ketner
11th	Avaleigh Potts Joan Seidel Robert Seidel
12th	Ruth Hoppes Shawn Seidel
13th	Brian Heffner David Mengle Barbara Seidel Barbara Shafer Alicia Pursell
14th	Timothy Eyer Justin Dusko
16th	Paul Gruber
17th	Raegan Kerr
18th	Beckie Reinhart Drew Koller
19th	Diane Geschwindt
20th	David Geschwindt
21st	Mark Dreibelbis
23rd	Lester Wessner
25th	Karyna Blandford Shirlene Epting Tyler Heffner
27th	Dominic Leone
28th	Gary Rothermel
29th	Carol Rothermel
30th	Joyce Sechler



## **Shut-in Mailing List**

Mabel Fry  
65 Fry Lane  
Auburn, Pa 17922

Helen James  
668 North 5th Street  
Hamburg PA 19526

Grace Ketner  
1801 Tulpehocken Rd, Apt. 1  
Wyomissing, PA 19610

Christine Ryan  
Laurel Center  
125 Holly Rd.  
Hamburg, PA 19526

Carl Sechler  
Laurel Center  
125 Holly Rd.  
Hamburg, PA 19526

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

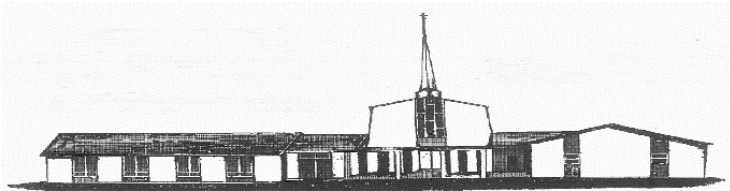
If there is anyone you know who is unable to get out and would like to be added to our list, please contact the church office.

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



## January 2025

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 – JANUARY 2025**

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 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 FH RENTAL</b>
<b>5</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>6 OFFICE CLOSED</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scout/Boy Scout mtg.	<b>7</b> 7:00 Adult Choir 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	<b>8</b> 6:00 pm Girl Scout mtg	<b>9</b> 7 pm Altar Guild	<b>10</b> Gold Rm rsvd	<b>11</b> FH RENTAL
<b>12</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion  Fellowship Time following Worship	<b>13 OFFICE CLOSED</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scout/Boy Scout mtg.	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Knotters 7:00 pm Council mtg  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	<b>15</b> 7:00 Adult Choir	<b>16</b> 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery Ann. Lot owners and Monthly mtg @Zion's Church  11 AM – 2 PM Senior Group -FH  7:00 PM Property Mtg.	<b>17</b> Opportunity House Meal	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>20 OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>FEB 2025 NWSLTR DEADLINE</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scout/Boy Scout mtg.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:00 Adult Choir 6:00 pm Girl Scout mtg	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion  ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOWING SERVICE (snow date 2/2/25) FH RENTAL	<b>27 OFFICE CLOSED</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scout/Boy Scout mtg.	<b>28</b> 9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting 6:00 -N. Berks Food Bank dist. at H.A.M.S.	<b>29</b> 7:00 Adult Choir	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

