

Zion's Messenger – February 2025



If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. (1 Cor. 13:1–3)

February, the shortest month of the year, has arrived. Most of us are tired of winter with the limited daylight and fed up with the bitter cold weather. Likely, most of us are longing for spring. That makes the shortest month of the year feel all that much longer. Of course, in February sports fans look forward to the Super Bowl and Daytona 500, and baseball fans are excited about the start of spring training. Many people in the workforce look forward to a long weekend with the President's Day Holiday. Beyond those things, all there is in February to look forward to is Valentine's Day. St Valentine, the namesake of this holiday, was a 3rd century saint who was martyred for his care of the faithful during times of persecution. How a 'holy day' commemorating him evolved into a day associated with romantic love is something of a historical question.

As I think about Saint Valentine, and Valentine's Day, and all that's happened around us and around the world the past few years, I'm reminded of what Jesus said when asked what the greatest commandment is: "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29–31) Love. That's what we need to center our lives on. Many of us remember singing the hymn, "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love". Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to be what Christians are known for these days. We seem to either be known for what we fear or what makes us angry. Maybe this Valentine's Day (and month) we should strive to return to the way of love.

As Paul writes in the passage quoted at the beginning of my message, if we don't have love, we're just making noise, having nothing, gaining nothing. The way to truly experience and share the love of God in our homes, neighborhoods and world is through love. Loving God (Mark 12:30), loving one another (John 15:12), loving our neighbors (Mark 12:31); "Who is my neighbor?": Luke 10:25-37), even loving our enemies (Matt 5:44). That seems to cover everyone in our lives. Loving others day in and day out is hard...but the pathway to love is really straightforward. Take a moment to ask yourself, in every conversation, encounter and action, "Is this word or deed a way to show the love of Christ to this person?" Of course, it's an easy thing to think and ask ourselves — doing it is definitely more difficult. Wouldn't it be fantastic if we were known for our love rather than our anger and fear? That might just be enough to begin to change the world.

We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

(1 John 4:19–21)

Blessings, Pastor Stephanie



Souper Bowl Sunday

On Sunday, February 9, 2025, we will be celebrating Souper Bowl Sunday! This year's Souper Bowl donations will benefit the Northern Berks Food Pantry.

We encourage you to bring canned soup.

There is a box in the narthex to collect canned soup now through February 9th

Food inventory at Helping Harvest who supplies food to the pantry was very low this month, so your donations are greatly appreciated.

On February 9th, place a monetary donation in the soup pot for the football team you think will win this year's Super Bowl game.

Thank-you for your gifts to help feed our neighbors in need.



Healing the World Outreach

Zion Blue Mountain UCC, a member church in the Northern Berks Ministerium, will be part of a medical mission trip to Ghana in the summer of 2025. Pastor Patrick Morris shared that they are seeking medical supplies to be given to hospitals, clinics and pharmacies.

In turn, these items will be distributed for free to our neighbors in need in Ghana.

Consider asking your family doctor or dentist if they have medical supplies they wish to donate.

Please place your donations in the box in the narthex beginning February 1st.

Requested medical items:

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Band-aids | Any Over the Counter Drug |
| Gauze | Children's Tylenol |
| Tape | Children's Cold |
| Disinfectant | Children's Flu |
| Neosporin | Children's Decongestant |
| Tylenol | Antiseptics – Wipes, Lotion, Liquid |
| Aspirin | Cotton Balls |
| | Toothbrushes/Toothpaste |

Thank-you for your support for our neighbors in need in Ghana!



Council Corner

The Church Council convened on January 14, 2025. The meeting began with a devotion titled "Take a Lesson from the Farmers," encouraging us to patient with God's plan for us.

The council reviewed the Treasurer's report for December, as of the end of December our year-to-date balance was \$43,365.

The roofing project has been paid for in full, and we still have a balance of \$8,404.56 in the Capital Improvement Fund. Please continue to contribute to the Capital Improvement Fund, so we are ready when the next big project is planned.

At the meeting we discussed the purchasing process for supplies for the church. If you are responsible for ordering any supplies, please go through the church office. There are several places that the church has a standing account with, and it eliminates the need to pay taxes on your order. It also makes it easier for our treasurer to keep track of the statements.

If you plan on leaving your vehicle in the church parking lot overnight, please contact the office to make someone aware of your plans. Any car left in the parking lot overnight without permission could be towed at the owner's expense.

Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2025 (with a snow date of February 2, 2025).

Respectfully Submitted,
Wanda Hoherchak

Looking Ahead

| | | |
|----------|--|----------|
| 03/05/25 | Ash Wednesday | 7:00 pm |
| 03/27/25 | Mid-Week Lenten Service Soup and Bread Luncheon | 11:30 am |
| 04/17/25 | Maundy Thursday | 7:00 pm |
| 04/18/25 | Good Friday | 7:00 pm |

Financial Report

We finished the month of December at \$9,164.21 in the black (monthly income over expenses).

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Monthly – Income for December | \$23,529.60 |
| Monthly – Expenses for December | \$14,365.39 |
| The General Offering | \$16,380.78 |
| Online Giving | \$ 2,595.43 |
| Loose Change | \$ 840.00 |
| Other Income | \$ 3,713.39 |
| Subtotal | \$23,529.60 |

Consider online giving

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

Thank You

Thank you, Zion's Members, for the phone calls and cards while I was recuperating at home!

~Eleanor Dietrich

Thank-you, Zions Family for the love and support; the prayers and kindness; the cards and hugs as we navigated this very emotional time.

In peace and love,

~The family of Carl and Carolyn Hollenbach

Thank-you for your donation of boys & girls pajamas. Your gift is a blessing to those seeking refuge and life restoration at Hope.

~Lighthouse Women and Children's Center

Thank-you for your donation of kid's pajamas. Your gift will help us to support those seeking help to rebuild their lives after domestic violence.

~Safe Berks

Thank-you for your generous donation of children's pajamas to support families who have escaped domestic violence. With your help, we continue to bring hope, healing and a path forward to families affected by domestic violence.

~Schuylkill Hope Center

On Behalf of the Blue Mountain Heritage Chorus, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for allowing us to use the facility to practice on a regular basis and performing our annual concert.

~Bernice Hartman



New Member Class

A new members class will be offered in March for anyone interested learning more about officially joining Zions Lutheran Church. For more information or to sign-up to attend, please contact Pastor Stephanie Roth.

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.

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.



Communion Cards

Please remember to complete a communion card at least once per year so that we can keep our church records current. Active membership according to the constitution is defined as contributing and communing at least once per year.



Fellowship Time

**Our next fellowship time will be
February 16, 2025**

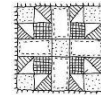
A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex if you are able to help at fellowship time or bring a snack for everyone to enjoy.

Senior Group

**Our next Senior Group will meet on
February 20, in the Fellowship Hall,
11:00 am – 2:00 pm.**

For a hot sandwich lunch. 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

Year in review 2024:

- Knotted 213 quilts distributed locally and through Lutheran World Relief in Maryland
- 100 backpacks filled with school supplies donated to LWR in Maryland
- 315 stuffed pillowcases to be dog beds and given to local animal shelters

Please join us to help knot quilts on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month.

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



Time to Dream about summer and going to Bear Creek Camp!

Bear Creek Camp is the largest Lutheran Camp in the country located on 3000 wooded acres near Wilkes Barre. Campers become more friendly, adventurous, and service oriented. They sing a little louder and climb a little higher. When campers go home, they feel closer to God, more curious about faith and more connected to nature.

Classic camp is a Sunday through Friday experience with 4 sessions of try camp from Sunday to Wednesday for those who have completed first or second grade. There are rafting trips for Jr. and Sr. high as well as an expanded high ropes course.

First session of camp is June 15-20.

Last session of camp is August 3-8.

WELCA strongly believes in the value of the outdoor Christian education of Bear Creek camp. Therefore, they offer scholarships for Zion's members and Zion's Sunday school attendees.

Try Camp - \$300

Classic Camp - \$425

Family Camp - \$300 (Family camp is July 2-7)

Check the website bearcreekcamp.org for details about camp, dates, forms and FAQ. For details about how to sign up for camp and how to use the church code to access the scholarships, contact Carol Roethermel - chipmunk_hill@comcast.net or 610-562-7620.



Zion's Library

"Never be afraid to try something new.

Remember amateurs built the ark.

Professionals built the Titanic"

Elizabeth May

New arrivals:

When It's Your Turn to Serve

by Karen Pence

Rediscovering God in America (DVD)

by Newt Gingrich

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 or my phone number is 570-778-8403.

Thank you, Wanda Hoherchak.

2025 Schedule:

March 21

May 16

July 18

September 19

November 21



Faith Night at the Movies Hamburg Strand Theatre

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, February 13th 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



FOOD PANTRY

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

Canned Fruit 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 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., February 25, 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.



Puppy EMMA – We would like to thank the congregation for helping Emma to reach her goal of becoming a guide dog with Seeing Eye, Inc. Being welcoming and tolerant of her whimpers and enthusiastic jumping and asking to approach her is helpful in her period of puppyhood.

Presently she is wearing a bandana and is getting accustomed to different people. Once Emma passes her test and wears a vest, please do not pet her as she will be learning that greeting people is not part of her “adult” job. Any concerns or questions, feel free to contact Barb Dietrich at 610-780-6131



Jeff Krick Gospel Concert

**Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 3:00 PM
Zions Evangelical Lutheran Church
Free will offering.**

Join us for an afternoon of Gospel Music!



February Birthdays

- 1st Melissa Gruber
Alyssa Noecker
Adrienne Puglia
Deanna Puglia
- 2nd Kyleigh Mengel
Harold Kramer
- 8th James Blandford
Brayden Heckman
- 9th Keith Hertzog
- 10th Wesley Trabosh
- 14th Lauren Werley-Wolf
Katelyn Heckman
- 15th Evelyn Potts
- 16th Carolyn Geist
Keith Seidel
- 20th Jory Heckman
- 21st Lois DeTurk
Kenneth Reppert
- 23rd Zachary Hoherchak
- 25th Carielle Geist
Tyler Pond
- 26th Joel Werley
Ruth Wilhelm

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



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.



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

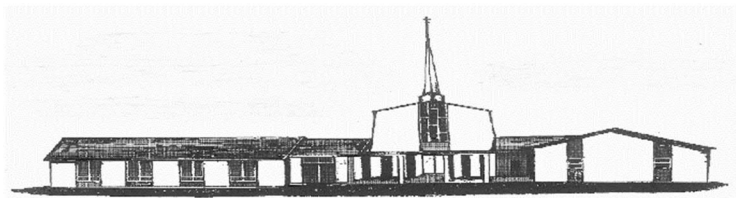
David Seidel
Grand View Manor
129 Houck Rd
Fleetwood, PA 19522

Lester Wessner
350 Witchcraft Rd
Hamburg, PA 19526

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



February 2025

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 – February 2025

| 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 FH Rental |
| 2 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion (If needed, Snow date for Annual meeting) | 3 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Cub Scout/Boy Scout mtg. | 4 7:00 Adult Choir 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting | 5 6:00 pm Girl Scout mtg | 6 | 7 | 8 FH Rental |
| 9 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion | 10 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Cub Scout/Boy Scout mtg. | 11 9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters 6:00 pm Welcome and Outreach 7:00 pm Council mtg 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting | 12 7:00pm Adult Choir | 13 | 14 Valentine's Day | 15 |
| 16 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion Scout Sunday Fellowship Sunday | 17 OFFICE CLOSED March 2025 NWSLTR DEADLINE 6:30 pm Cub Scout/Boy Scout mtg. | 18 6:00 pm Altar Guild 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting | 19 7:00pm Adult Choir 6:00 pm Girl Scout mtg | 20 11 AM – 2 PM Senior Group -FH 7:00 PM Property Mtg | 21 | 22 |
| 23 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Communion | 24 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Cub Scout/Boy Scout mtg. | 25 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. | 26 7:00pm Adult Choir | 27 | 28 | |

