

# Zion's Messenger – March 2025

As we approach Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent, it is a time when we feel a sense of community with people all over the world as we receive the sign of the cross in ashes on our foreheads - reminded that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Together – near and far - we once again embark on our journey through Lent accompanying Jesus as he travels the road to Jerusalem and to his eventual death.

When students graduate from high school, we often ask them “What are you planning to do with the rest of your life?” Some will enter the workforce. Others will go to a trade school and do an apprenticeship. Many will journey off to college selecting a major based on their favorite subject in school or the career that they have always dreamed about. Many will have a path mapped out to reach their end goal.

For some the journey will progress as planned. For most there will be roadblocks and detours along the way. For many the end goal may change – the college major may change due to not making the cut academically, life events may dictate a need to put education on hold, the road to the end goal may be too difficult to navigate. Changes in direction happen for many different reasons.

Life is like that...full of unexpected turns. Even when we think we know what we want to do with the rest of our life, sometimes God has a different plan for us.

Jesus knew that he only had a short time to live. As he journeyed to Jerusalem, he was going to his death, his death on the cross. With that knowledge, did Jesus try to avoid pitfalls, to say only what was pleasing to those listening or run away from those who wanted to harm him? No, he continued to do what God had called him to do. Jesus healed the sick, fed the poor, taught people how much God loved them, visited his friends, raised the dead and whenever he had a chance. In the weeks ahead, Jesus shows us by his example how to have a life well lived, with grace abounding and unconditional love in action.

As we contemplate the words of Ash Wednesday and remember that we are dust and that we will return to dust, we make the choice every day about how we will live the rest of our lives. During this Lenten season we will be gathering at different churches in the NB Ministerium on Thursdays at 11:30 am with a short worship service, to hear a message about “Parables of Lent” and to share a simple meal of soup and bread.

I encourage you during this Lenten season to spend some time contemplating the messages of Jesus’ parables – consider who you honestly identify with in those parables. Ask yourself - Is that who God wants me to be? Take time to pray, worship, and listen for what God is calling you to do next. Answer the call – even if you have doubts. Know that the path will be full of detours and forks in the road. You may be pleasantly surprised by rich experiences and deep insights you gain on the adventure. God has a plan and will accompany you on the journey. Like Jesus, may you have a life well lived with an abundance of love in action along the way. Have faith, trust God and enjoy the journey!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Stephanie



**Ash Wednesday Service– March 5 7:00 PM**

# Parables of Lent



Northern Berks  
Ministerium  
Lent Series  
**Thursdays, 11:30 AM**

Service of Prayer

**Soup & Bread Lunch**

**Free Will Offering**

Supports the Ministerium's  
Outreach Assistance  
to the Needy

March 6

The Prodigal Son  
Zion's Blue Mountain UCC  
Strausstown

March 13

The Sower & The Seed  
1<sup>st</sup> Reformed UCC  
Hamburg

March 20

Treasure & Priceless Pearl  
St. John's Lutheran  
Hamburg

March 27

The Good Samaritan  
Zion's Perry Lutheran  
Perry Township

April 3

Pharisee and Tax Collector  
St Michael Lutheran  
Tilden Twp

April 10

Workers in the Vineyard  
Friedens Church  
Lenhartsville

April 18, Good Friday

Cross Walk & Service  
(No Luncheon)  
First UCC, Hamburg  
11 AM Cross Walk  
12 PM Service

## Holy Week and Easter Services



Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Perry Township

**Palm Sunday – April 13 10:30 am**

**Maundy Thursday – April 17 7:00 pm**

**Good Friday – April 18 7:00 pm**

**The Resurrection of Our Lord**

**Sunday, April 20**

**6:30 am & 10:30am**

**7:30 am - Easter Breakfast**



## Council Corner

The monthly council meeting was held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025. We nominated Virginia Werley for a one-year term on council. We have a 12-person team for the council this year which hasn't happened for quite a few years. The members of council for this year are Janine Dreibelbis, Wanda Hoherchak, Carolyn Hollenbach, Lucille Gough, Tiffany Gruber, Samantha Gruber, Heather Gring, Faye Heckman, Susan Lutz, Sandra Moroney, Pastor Stephane Roth, Elaine Stone, and Virginia Werley. We also held election for officers. The officers for our Church Council this year are President – Tiffany Gruber, Vice-President – Wanda Hoherchak, Secretary – Samantha Gruber. We are looking to have a joint worship service again in the spring with Frieden's Lutheran Church, St. John's Lutheran Church, St. Luke's Church, and Holy Trinity of Leesport. Please look at upcoming bulletins and newsletters for the date of this service. The council is looking into the Celebrate Your Faith Night at the Reading Phillies. We are hoping to be able to go on Friday, July 25, 2025, at 7:00 PM. Stay tuned for more information in next month's newsletter on how you can purchase your ticket for the game.

Respectfully Submitted by Tiffany Gruber

If you are ever unsure if we will be having services due to weather, please refer to the WFMZ site, church Facebook page, or call the church office as the voicemail message will be updated. The decision to cancel church services or Sunday School is made as a group effort with the council members and pastor.

## Financial Report

### Financial Report

We finished the month of January at \$199.21 in the black (monthly income over expenses).

Monthly – Income for January	\$12,161.35
Monthly – Expenses for January	\$11,962.14
The General Offering	\$ 8,468.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,080.29
Loose Change	\$ 55.00
Other Income	\$ 1,558.06
Subtotal	\$12,161,.35

**Thank you for your continued support!**

**Consider online giving**

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



### Jeff Krick Gospel Concert

**Sunday, March 9 at 3:00 pm**

Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Free will offering

Join us for an afternoon of Gospel Music



### Fellowship Time

Our next fellowship gathering will be

**Sunday, March 16**

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex if you would like to bring a baked good or snack for everyone to enjoy.

**Please plan to join us before or after worship!**

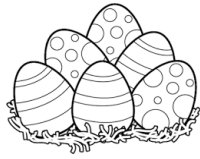
### Senior Group

Our next Senior Group will meet on  
**March 20, 2025 in the Fellowship Hall,**

**11:00 am – 2:00 pm.**

. 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.



## Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held rain or shine on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.

We welcome everyone toddlers through adults to join the hunt. Please bring your favorite Easter basket and meet in the Fellowship Hall by 9:30 am. Friends and family are welcome.

**Monetary donations** are always welcome to help offset the cost of the candy, prizes, and crafts. Please put your donation in an envelope marked “Egg Hunt” and place it in the offering basket. We also need individually wrapped miniature sized candies of all types to fill the plastic eggs. All candy donations are needed by Sunday, April 6. Place your candy in box marked Egg Hunt in the office.



## Zion’s Library

**Come in and browse some of our new additions!**

**An old African Expression:** It’s not the mountain that holds one back. It’s the small pebble in my sandal.

**Our Mystery Library Reader! Guess Who?**

**Favorite Author:** Lucado

**Type of Books I read:** Bio and Historical

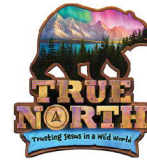
**Do most of my reading:** Evenings at home

**Why I enjoy reading:** Enrichment,  
Education Relaxation

**My favorite saying or quote:** We are all worms, but I am a glowworm. – Winston Churchill

**Who am I?**

**“Today is God’s gift to you. What you do with it is your gift to God.”**



## VBS 2025 Announcement

It’s time to plan for 2025 Vacation Bible School!  
**True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World**  
where we will be taken on an Alaskan adventure.

June 16-20, 2025  
9:00 am to 11:30 am

As always, we need your help to run our annual Vacation Bible School. We use the Group program which is engaging for the children and easy for the leaders to use.

If you are interested in helping with VBS, please contact Faye Heckman by March 21 so that we can plan and begin advertising to the community.



## Time to Put Bear Creek Camp in your Schedule!

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.**

**Early Bird Registration:** Those who finalize their registration by March 31 will receive a free limited-edition T-Shirt upon arrival at camp.

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](http://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 Rothermel - [chipmunk\\_hill@comcast.net](mailto:chipmunk_hill@comcast.net) or 610-562-7620



### 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.



On behalf of my family, I would like to express my deepest thanks and appreciation for the many thoughts and prayers we received since the loss of my sister, Sandy. Over the past two years many of you have inquired about and prayed for Sandy, which always brought a smile to her face and an expression of sincere gratitude whenever I told her. She will be greatly missed. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and kind words. They meant so much.

Sincerely,  
Chris Brennan

### Redner's Save-A-Tape

Thank you for continuing to submit your Redner's tapes. A total of \$755.54 was received through the Redner's Save-A-Tape program in 2024. Please continue to mail them, drop them off at church, or bring them to Sunday worship service.

**Reminder:** Please do not cut your tapes off above the bar code. We need the total under the bar code in order to submit your tape. If there is no "Today's 1% Save-A-Tape Total", your tape can't be used.

Every year, WELCA uses these funds for Zion's ministries and property needs. Every penny counts!



Today's 1% Save-A-Tape Total \$XXX.XX

### The Children of the King

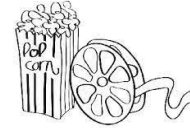
*"The Lenape – Our 1<sup>st</sup> Residents"*

Presented by Mr. Phil Kistler &  
Rev. Bruce Potteiger

**Friday, March 14 10 am – Noon**

Zion's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Congregation is invited - all ages are welcome!



### Faith Night at the Movies Hamburg Strand Theater

**March 11, 2025** – The Encounter

**April 8, 2025**– Time Changer

**May 13, 2025** – God's Not Dead: In God We Trust

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 Annual Lot Owners meeting and our Monthly board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 9:00 am.**

Meetings are held at Zion's Church (formerly Zion's UCC Church) in Meeting Room 201.

Zion Cemetery Co. Inc. of Perry Township has set the week of **March 16-23, 2025** for spring cleaning.

All decorations not planted in the ground will be removed if not claimed before this week by lot owners. The Cemetery Board is not responsible for decorations remaining on graves when spring cleaning begins. New and existing decorations may be placed **March 24, 2025**.

Website: <https://zionsperrytwp.cemetery.network>

Single or multiple grave lots are available for sale.

Please contact David Geschwindt, Cemetery Manager, 610-562-7421



## **Annual Congregational Meeting Updates**

Thank you to John Smith and Virginia Werley for their time serving on council. We would also like to thank Faye Heckman, Carolyn Hollenbach, and Susan Lutz for running again for another term on council. Elaine Stone and Sandra Moroney were also elected to serve on council.

Thank you to Mark Dreibelbis and Brian Moroney for serving on the nominating committee. Ron Seaman was elected to serve on the nominating committee. We currently have two spots open on this committee.

Thank you to Susan Lutz for serving on the audit committee. John Smith was elected to serve on the audit committee.

The council members for this upcoming year are Janine Dreibelbis, Lucille Gough, Heather Gring, Samantha Gruber, Tiffany Gruber, Faye Heckman, Wanda Hoherchak, Carolyn Hollenbach, Susan Lutz, Sandra Moroney, and Elaine Stone. A president, vice president, and secretary will be elected at the February 11, 2025, meeting. We currently still have one open council position. If you are interested in serving on council, please let Tiffany Gruber or Wanda Hoherchak know.

At the annual meeting a motion was presented to the congregation that will be voted on at next year's meeting. We are looking to change the number of people needed for a quorum from 50 to 40 people to align more with our membership numbers.

As always, thank you to the congregation for attending the annual meeting and for your continued support in the various ministries at Zion's.

Respectfully submitted by Tiffany Gruber



## **2025 Souper Bowl of Caring Results**

This year Zion's collected **175 cans of soup** and **\$180** to support Northern Berks Food Pantry ministry to our neighbors experiencing food insecurity

Thank-you for your support of the 2025 Souper Bowl of Caring!

## **Opportunity House 2025**

The dates for 2025 will be **March 21**, May 16, July 18, September 19, and November 21.

Serving the meal at Opportunity House on March 21 is Tina Blake, Richard Long and Donna Long.

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.**



## **FOOD PANTRY**

Our local food pantry is always in need of donations and these are some of the items that are needed:

**Dry Pasta- Macaroni, Spaghetti, Noodles**

And of course, any shelf stable item that you would like to donate 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, your check 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., March 25, 2025, from 6 pm to 7 pm.**



### **Historic Dreibelbis Farm**

**Winter Nature Walk**

**Sunday March 2, 2025**

**Blizzard/Rain Date March 9**

Hike the Maiden Creek nature trail. Learn about wood duck habitat.  
Restock a duck nesting box. Donations gratefully accepted.

For More information, visit us on Facebook, the web at [www.dreibelbisfarm.org](http://www.dreibelbisfarm.org)



## March Birthdays

- 1st Anthony Grugan  
Erica Mish  
Rob Wagner
- 2nd Cheryl Hertzog  
Valerie Hancik  
Lana Leone
- 5th Janine Dreibelbis
- 6th Timothy Pursell
- 9th Terry Reinhart
- 10th Robert Noecker  
Sasha Denatala
- 12th Caleb Smith
- 14th Brett Daub  
Susan Heckman
- 16th Traci Heffner
- 20th Linda Sousley
- 21st Elsie Frymoyer
- 22nd Courtney Brennan  
Paul Reidenhour, Jr.
- 24th Carissa Miller
- 25th Debora Heckman
- 26th Betty Angstadt  
Mary Clark
- 27th Tricia Boyer
- 28th Ruth Hill  
Crystal Reinhart
- 29th Linda Reinhart
- 30th Victoria Long  
Sharon Strauss
- 31st Kylee Koller

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



## Shut-in Mailing List

Mabel Fry  
65 Fry Lane  
Auburn, Pa 17922

Helen James  
668 North 5<sup>th</sup> 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  
848 Stone Hill Road  
Shoemakersville PA 19555

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.

## CARD SHOWER

We would like to have a **birthday card shower** for Brett Daub who is currently serving in the US Navy. **Brett's birthday is March 14<sup>th</sup>.**

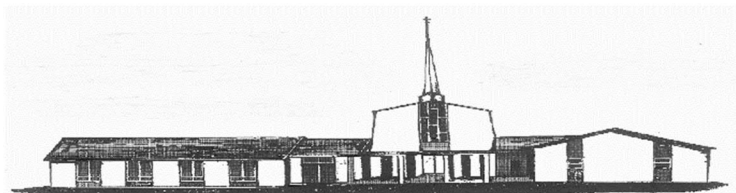
Cards should be addressed to:

**Brett Daub**  
5033 Shell Cove Lane  
Virginia Beach VA 2345



# Zion's Messenger

Sunday School: 9:15 am  
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am, Holy Communion,  
Indoor recorded service



## March 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 Zions Church Road  
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

**Zion's Monthly Calendar – MARCH 2025**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2</b> 9:15 am Sunday School  10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>3</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  6:30 pm – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	<b>4</b> 7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	<b>5</b> <b>7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:15 am Sunday School  10:30 am Holy Communion  <b>DAYLIGHT SVGS TIME BEGINS</b>  <b>FH Rented</b>	<b>10</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  6:30 pm – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	<b>11</b> 9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters  6:00 pm WELCA Mtg.  7:00 pm Council Mtg.  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	<b>12</b> 6:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal  6:00 pm Girl Scouts meet	<b>13</b> 9:00 am Zion's Cemetery mtg @Zion's Church	<b>14</b> 10:00 am The Children of the King - Fellowship Hall	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:15 am Sunday School  10:30 am Holy Communion <b>** Fellowship before and after Worship **</b>	<b>17</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <b>APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>  6:30 pm – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	<b>18</b> 8:00 am - 5:30 pm Lifeline Screening in FH  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 11:00 am Senior Group – Fellowship Hall  7:00 pm Property Mtg.	<b>21</b> Opportunity House	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:15 am Sunday School  10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>24</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  6:30 pm – Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	<b>25</b> 9:00 am – 11:00 am – Knotters 6:00 pm Northern Berks Food Pantry distribution at Hamburg Area Middle Sch.  7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	<b>26</b> 6:00 pm Girl Scouts meet	<b>27</b> <b>11:30 am Mid-Week Lenten Service</b>  <b>Noon Soup and Bread Luncheon</b>  6:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:15 am Sunday School  10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>31</b>				<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>

