

Zion's Messenger – June 2025



As the beginning of summer approaches, and the resurrection of creation continues to spring forth. I am reminded again that some of the most beautiful things in this world are found in nature. What beautiful and amazing sights have you observed in the world around you? Here are a few of the things come to mind:

- Dragonflies & butterflies
- Bees pollenating
- Many varieties of beautiful flowers
- A majestic mountain
- A meadow swaying in the breeze
- A seashell or a feather
- The sunset and sunrise
- A vibrant rainbow
- Softly falling snow or gentle rain
- Fog lifting over the forest
- The moon – crescent and full
- Sun glistening on waves
- A smile

There are so many incredibly beautiful things in this world. If we are to enjoy all that God has created in this world, we must be attentive. That means we need to take time to look and see what is around us. On our journey through life, we need to pause a moment breathe. Then, “take time to stop and smell the roses” - stay focused so we don’t miss God’s blessings.

Jesus tells a story in the 25th Chapter of Matthew that speaks to us about attentiveness. There were ten bridesmaids who were waiting for the bridegroom to arrive so the wedding celebration could begin. They all took lamps with them to wait. Five bridesmaids also took oil for their lamps and the other five did not. The bridegroom was delayed and the oil in the bridesmaids’ lamps was used up. Five bridesmaids had to leave to get more oil and while they were gone the bridegroom returned and those five bridesmaids missed the wedding banquet – the celebration.

Jesus told this story to remind us about being prepared to receive God’s blessings. We never know when or how these blessings might manifest themselves. The blessing may be something of beauty in the natural world or it may be living a good life by receiving and sharing God’s love.

This month, I challenge you to pause and slow down. Immerse yourself in God’s creation. Do something intentional that shares God’s love with a stranger. Living our lives in a way that honors God allows us to be a part of the celebration of God’s love.

Let’s all spend some extra time this summer celebrating God’s love!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Stephanie



**** SUMMER SCHEDULE ****

**Sunday School will return in the fall.
Sunday, June 1 through Labor Day weekend, worship will begin at 9:00 am.**



VBS 2025 at Zion's

Plan to join us for 2025 Vacation Bible School!

True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World
will take us on an Alaskan adventure.

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

We welcome ages 3 - 5th grade.

Walk-ins welcome!

There is still time to volunteer to help with VBS,
Contact Faye Heckman for more information.



Worship Music Feedback

Early in 2025, the Worship and Music Committee gathered a group of people to create a list of music that was easy to sing, meaningful, joyful and uplifting.
In March, a smaller group of people was formed to assist with choosing worship music –
Janine Dreibelbis, Pastor Stephanie, Don Ryan, and Ron Seaman.

We have been incorporating hymns from the assembled list into our weekly worship.
The goal is to include music that is aligned with the theme of each Sunday,
is uplifting and is inspirational for the congregation.

If you have any feedback, please reach out to one of the committee members.



Council Corner

The Congregation Council held their monthly meeting on May 13, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Wanda Hoherchak, Vice President, at 7:00PM. Devotions were presented by Lucille Gough with a reading from Max Lucado titled – God’s Version of Grace. The Treasurer’s Report was reviewed showing a balance for April of \$9,101.28.

President Tiffany Gruber continued the meeting. Tiffany and Pastor Steffanie provided an update on the Joint confirmation project. The joint service, which was held at Friedens, and led by our confirmands, was a success. A committee continues to work on details to be included in a confirmation agreement among the five churches, which will include an annual joint worship service to be rotated among the churches.

The Council approved purchasing a new locking mailbox, as a safety measure. The Council also approved the expenditure of \$7,472 for 2 AC/Heat pump units for the office area.

We are still looking for volunteers to assist with the weekly cleaning of the church. Anyone interested, please notify the office or a member of Council.

Respectfully submitted by Lucille Gough

Financial Report

We finished the month of April at \$9,101.28 in the black (monthly income over expenses).

Monthly – Income for April \$24,811.39

Monthly – Expenses for April \$15,710.11

The General Offering \$12,157.68

Online Giving \$ 3,403.43

Loose Change \$ 526.00

Other Income \$ 8,724.28

Subtotal \$24,811.39

Thank you for your continued support!

Consider online giving

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

*God's blessings on you
and thank you
for all you do
in the service of God.*

50th Ordination Anniversary

Congratulations to **Pastor Ned Dresher** on his 50th ordination anniversary – May 18, 1975.

We appreciate your years of faithful service & your steadfast dedication to shepherding God’s people.

May you and your ministry continue to be blessed!



Intergenerational Choir

Do you love to sing?

Join us this summer to “Make a Joyful Noise” with our intergenerational choir.

July 6th and August 3rd

Rehearsal 8:30 am prior to worship on 7/6 & 8/3.

All ages are welcome.



Christmas in July – Blessed Beginnings

This year Zion’s WELCA will be celebrating

“Christmas in July” by collecting items for

Blessed Beginnings,

a local Christian based non-profit that fills laundry baskets with household necessities and distributes them to individuals starting over after abuse.

Each basket includes a “Bible” with a hand written inspirational message.

On **Sunday, June 22nd**, Jordan Rentschler, one of the founders of Blessed Beginnings will be sharing their story and mission during worship.

Jordan will be available in the narthex after worship to answer questions and share brochures.



Bike Rides

Zion's June bike ride will be on the Warwick to Ephrata Rail Trail. We're planning to leave from Zion's parking lot at 9am on Saturday, June 14th, and then head to Ephrata Linear Park.

Bring your bike, water, and a snack to share for some fellowship time at the end of the ride.

All ages are welcome!

See John Smith or Eileen Puglia for questions or information. Hope to see you on the trail!



Senior Group

Our next Senior Group will meet on
June 19, 2025 in the Fellowship Hall,
11:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Invite a friend to play board games and cards.
Try to arrive early to divide into card groups.

Hope to see you there!



Zion's Painting Party

Join us Friday, June 27th & Saturday, June 28th
From 9:00am – 12:00pm.

Wear old clothes and bring your favorite painting tools or use ours. We will be painting outside areas dark brown to match our new soffit and fascia.

See Gary Rothermel for more details.
Sign up on the bulletin board.



“Celebrate Your Faith Night”

Reading Phillies Game

Thursday, August 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM

\$15.00/ticket in the Blue seat section

Sign up on the bulletin board or
call the church office

Payment for tickets due to Tiffany Gruber
by July 1, 2025



Garden News

Gardening requires lots of water ... most of it in the form of perspiration. Louise Erickson

May is coming to a close, and we have planted the cabbage, tomatoes, peppers, beans, and cucumbers.

Each week we continue to add more plants/seeds and get the irrigation system set up to support them.

Volunteers continue to be needed to continue our plantings and tend to the growing harvest. You are invited to join us to help out with this ministry – once a week, once a month, or even just once!

Please listen for Sunday announcements or check Zion's Facebook page for news of our workdays.

Previous volunteers will be emailed workday information. If you want to be put on the Garden volunteer contact list, please email us at

communitygarden@zionslutheran.org or contact

Lori at 610-401-1186.



Pondering & Prayer with Pastor

Join us in the outdoor chapel area for morning devotions and sharing prayer concerns.

June 12th at 9:30 am.

(2nd & 4th Thursday in July and August)

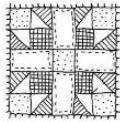
Feel free to bring your morning beverage.
Use the benches or bring your own chair.



Crochet Corner

The crochet group will be inactive during the summer months and will reconvene in the fall.

Any questions, please contact Susie Lutz



Knotters Group

Thank-you for all the supplies donated to help us to complete quilts for those in need!

Please consider joining us in the Gold Room at 9am the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

We are also making and donating dog beds to shelters in need with the help of the Boy Scouts,

Currently, we are in need of sheet sets or blankets for quilt backing.

Helping hands and donations are always welcome.

We will be doing a Blessing of the Quilts on June 15th during worship.

For any questions or concerns contact Eleanor Dietrich at 484-824-4388.



Fellowship Time

A big thank you for the kitchen help and food donations for our Fellowship Time this year. We will resume our monthly gatherings in September.

The Fellowship Committee



Thank you for your generous giving in 2024 of \$11,000 to the Northeast Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA to support its ministries
~Charlotte Gross NEPA Synod



God's Global Barnyard

During Lent members of our Sunday School collected monetary donations in piggy banks to support ELCA Good Gifts through God's Global Barnyard.

**Two Goats Two Pigs
Two Bee Colonies
Six Groups of Chicks One Rooster**

Many thanks for the \$275 that allowed us to send these animals to bless thirteen families with food and a steady source of income to help their family break the cycle of poverty.



The Training of the Guide Dogs

A variation off of Psalms 23 written by a graduate:

My dog is a shepherd, just what I want.
She maketh me to rise early every morning.
She leadeth me beside garbage cans and parking meters, and she restoreth my freedom.
She guides me in a path of safety for my life's sake.

Yea though I walk through the thunder of railroad stations and among the mongrels of Flagher Street,
I will fear no evil, for she is with me.
The creak of her harness and the jingle of her collar, they comfort me.

She prepareth a way for me
in the presence of all confusion.
She covereth my hand with affectionate licks and nibbles and my love for her runneth over.

Surely with affection and correction,
I shall follow her all the days of her life.
And she will dwell in my heart forever.....



Zion's Library

God doesn't call people who are qualified. He calls people who are willing and then qualifies them.

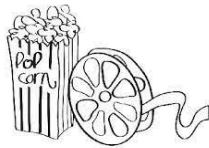
New Arrivals

"The Missing" ~ Beverly Lewis

"The Secret" ~ Beverly Lewis

"God's Mighty Power" ~ Group Publishing Co.

Please stop in and check out our selections.



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

June 10 Second Chance
July 8 Legend of the 5 Mile Cave
August 12 Where Hope Grows

All movies start at 7:00 pm.
Tickets are \$10.00 at the door and
include a popcorn & medium soda.



Zion's Cemetery Company Inc.

**Our Monthly Board Meeting will be held on
Thursday, June 12, 2024 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



Coupons for the Troops

A big thank you to everyone saving coupons
for our military families!

This program helps military families save on
groceries at their local PX (Post Exchange).

Coupons need to be cut apart and sorted into
envelopes marked as follows:

"FOOD coupons"

"BABY items"

"Miscellaneous"

AND.... if coupons are expired by a few months,
put them in a separate envelope marked "Expired"

Your coupon contributions and help
with sorting are greatly appreciated.



Our Town Foundation 2025 Membership

WELCA is proud to continue to sponsor Zion's
membership in Our Town Foundation (OTF).
As part of this membership, Zion's continues its
listing on the hamburgpa.org website with
a link to our website.

In addition, as part of our membership, we can have
FREE postings of our event flyers in the Hamburg
Happenings, which currently has an email
distribution of over 2500.

To post our flyer, the event must be open
to the public, not just Zion's members.

Contact Eileen Puglia or John Smith for more
information or if you need help to submit your flyer.

If you don't already receive Hamburg Happenings
or the OTF quarterly newsletter emails, please go to
hamburgpa.org to add your name to their email list.



FOOD PANTRY

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

Cereal

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, 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 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., June 24, 2025, from 6 pm to 7 pm.**



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 in 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 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 Rothermel – Chipmunk_hill@comcast.net or 610-562-7620.

IT'S BACK!
5K TRAIL RUN
& WALK
@ BEAR CREEK CAMP



THROUGH THE WOODS

SAVE THE DATE
9/27/25

*Registration and Details
Coming Soon!*



Sight & Sound Bus Trip

St. John's Church in Hamburg is doing a bus trip to Lancaster to see "Noah"
Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 3:00 pm

The C&R bus will be leaving the Hamburg Walmart parking lot at 10:45 am
Once arrived in Lancaster you will be attending a smorgasbord lunch at either
Hershey Farms or Bird-in-Hand Restaurant.

Estimated return time is 7:30 pm.

Cost per person

Ages 13 & up \$159

Ages 12 & under \$129

This includes the show ticket, lunch, and bus transportation.

Payment is due by June 30, 2025.

For more information, please contact

Rose Schultz at (610) 587-6043 or June Kline at (610) 562-4440



June Birthdays

2nd Wanda Hoherchak
 3rd Avery Gruber
 Steven Schumaker
 6th Pamela Seidel
 7th Robin Epting
 8th Jaxon Seidel
 10th Huck Costenbader
 11th Crystal Koehn
 Jane Seidel
 MacKenzie Stocks
 12th Michael Brennan
 Matthew Hoffert
 Jennifer Mazaika
 Matthew Noecker
 Devin Pond
 13th James Turner
 17th Richard Davis
 18th Damian Ulrich
 19th Jean Smith
 20th Carol Smith
 21st Tracie Heckman
 Carolyn Hollenbach
 Dennis Reinhart
 John Williamson
 24th Hannah Hix
 Tara Yoh
 25th Karen Heckman
 27th McKenzie Clark
 Brandon Noecker
 28th Dennis Heckman
 Carmen Long
 Ryan Wilhelm

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

Bulletin and Altar Flower Sponsors

Sponsoring bulletins and altar flowers are a special way to honor loved ones and give glory to God. If you would like to sponsor either, you may sign on the corresponding sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Bulletins - \$13.00, Altar Flowers, \$40.00.



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

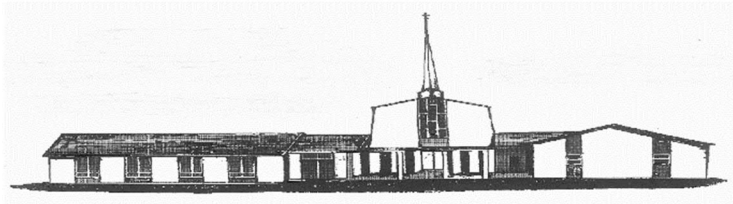
Barbara Shafer
 21 East Noble
 Shoemakersville, PA 19555

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 Worship: 9:00 am, Holy Communion,
Indoor recorded service



June 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 – June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00am Holy Communion Graduate Blessing	2 Office Closed 6:30pm Cub & Boy Scouts	3 7:00pm A.A. Meeting	4	5 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 7:00pm Bells Rehearsal	6 FH Rented	7 9:30am Blue Mtn. Heritage Chorus Rehearsal
8 9:00am Holy Communion	9 Office Closed 6:30pm Cub & Boy Scouts	10 9:00am Knotters Group 6:00pm Alter Guild Meeting 7:00pm A.A. Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting	11 6:00pm Girl Scouts	12 9:30 Ponder & Prayer with Pastor	13	14 9:30am Blue Mtn. Heritage Chorus Rehearsal
15 9:00am Holy Communion Quilt Blessing	16 Office Closed Newsletter Deadline 9:00am VBS 6:30pm Blue Mtn. Heritage Chorus Rehearsal	17 9:00am VBS 7:00pm A.A. Meeting	18 9:00am VBS 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	19 9:00am VBS 11:00am Senior Group 7:00pm Property Meeting	20 9:00am VBS	21
22 9:00am Holy Communion Blessed Beginnings	23 Office Closed	24 9:00am Knotters Group 7:00pm A.A. Meeting	25	26	27 9:00am Painting Party	28 9:00am Painting Party 9:30am Blue Mtn. Heritage Chorus Rehearsal
29 9:00am Holy Communion	30 Office Closed 6:30pm Blue Mtn. Heritage Chorus Rehearsal				** SERVICES WILL BE RECORDED AND POSTED ON THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE EVERY SUNDAY	**WATCH FOR SERVICE INFO IN BULLETINS, CALENDARS & ONLINE

