

Zion's Messenger - July 2025



*Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
And through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
When you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
And the flame shall not consume you.
(Isaiah 43:1-3;4)*

In our location in Pennsylvania, during the months June, July and August, what do we expect? It is summer. The sun is shining. It is very warm and maybe even very hot outside. There is an occasional rain shower to break up the monotony. Children spend time outside playing, riding bikes, going to the park and maybe swimming. The grass is growing and needs mowing. Gardens are being planted, crops are growing and weeds need pulling. Families are having cookouts and family gatherings outdoors. The sunshine lifts the gloom of the cold dark long winter.

Recent months have not been what we have come to expect. We had so little rain for months this past spring that our area was issued drought warnings and fire restrictions. Then when May and June arrived, the warmer temperatures did not arrive with the change in calendar month. We were plagued with cold mornings and daily wide temperature fluctuations. The pollen counts were through the roof. The seasonally expected warm weather did not arrive for weeks. Many of our plans had to change and our expectations were not fulfilled. It was hard to handle for children and adults alike.

Sometimes we become complacent and expect life to continue as it has been for as long as we can remember. We center our plans and expectations around nothing in our lives changing. Then, when that change happens, we are unprepared and at times unwilling to adapt to the new situation. This can cause us stress, make us angry, and may even result in mental health issues or physical illnesses.

God never promised that the road of life would not have twists and turns, bumps and mountains to climb or a strong wind that might blow us off course. What God promises us is that He will be with us always, walking beside us on our journey. When the journey becomes more than you think you can bear, remember to talk to God. Be aware of your surroundings and watch for the beacon to guide you. Be prepared to take that unfamiliar fork in the road where the Holy Spirit is leading you. It is there, in the arms of our loving God, you will find comfort, rest and healing.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Stephanie



Christmas in July – Blessed Beginnings

Please join Zion's WELCA as we celebrate "Christmas in July" by collecting items to benefit Blessed Beginnings, a local Christian based non-profit that fills laundry baskets with household items for distribution to individuals starting over after abuse. It is wonderful to have Jordan Rentschler, one of the founders of Blessed Beginnings, share their story and mission with us today.

During July, the "Giving Tree" will be in the narthex decorated with assorted flowers listing items being collected. Please "pick" a few flowers as a reminder of what you want to donate.

When you bring your donated item(s) to the church, please place them in the laundry baskets surrounding the tree throughout the month.

Let's fill those baskets so that they are overflowing with our generous donations to support Blessed Beginnings, to share God's love and to provide hope to those who are starting over!

Monetary donations are welcome and may be placed into the tree to be used to purchase basket items.

What's in a Basket?

Cleaning Products:

- Multi-purpose cleaner
- Window cleaner
- Toilet cleaner
- Toilet brush
- Furniture polish
- Sponges
- Dish soap
- Hand soap
- Laundry detergent
- Fabric softener
- Dryer sheets
- Dustpan/brush
- Clorox wipes

Paper, Fabric, Other Items:

- Paper Towels
- Tissues
- Toilet Paper
- Blanket
- Bath Towels (Set of 2)
- Hand Towels (Set of 2)
- Wash Cloths (Set of 2)
- Scissors
- AA Batteries
- AAA Batteries
- Trash Bags
- Band-Aids

Kitchen Supplies:

- Seasonings
- Cutting Board
- Kitchen Towels
- Ziploc Bags
- Foil
- Cling Wrap
- Food Containers
- Steak Knives
- Can Opener
- Peeler
- Potholder/Oven Mitts
- Dinnerware Set (4 Place Settings)
- Eating Utensils (Set of 4)
- Drinking Cups (Set of 4)
- Cooking Utensils
- Measuring Cups and Spoons
- Shower Curtain & Hooks

Wish List Items

- Crockpot (6Qt or Larger)
- Cooking Pots/Pans
- Toaster

Thank you so much for your participation in supporting those in need in the community at large!



Council Corner

The monthly council meeting was held on Tuesday, June 10, 2025. Pastor Stephanie gave an update from the Synod Assembly. Next year's Synod Assembly will be very important as we will need to vote on the bishop.

Celebrate Your Faith Night at the Reading Phillies will be on Thursday, August 14. You can still order tickets at the group rate of \$15 for the blue seats. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or contact the church office.

We are currently looking for individuals who might be interested in serving as substitute custodial help when our custodians are away for vacation. If you are interested in volunteering as a substitute, please contact the church office.

Women of the ELCA will be collecting items for Blessed Beginnings for their Christmas in July collection. Please place your donations in the laundry baskets located in the narthex by the tree.

We also discussed the time for our Easter dawn service and it was determined that next year our service will be held at 7:30 AM instead of 6:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Samantha Gruber

Financial Report

We finished the month of May at \$832.86 in the red (monthly income over expenses).

Monthly – Income for May	\$12,678.54
Monthly – Expenses for May	\$13,511.40
The General Offering	\$ 8,965.24
Online Giving	\$ 2,373.66
Loose Change	\$ 73.00
Other Income	\$ 1,266.64
Subtotal	\$12,678.54

Thank you for your continued support!

Consider online giving

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

Catching up with Dennis & Barb Dietrich

Zion's welcomes back Dennis and Barbara Dietrich. They are both retired now, Barb a retired LPN and Dennis a retired Project Engineer. The Dietrich's are loving retirement, and keep very busy.

Their interests include volunteering, raising puppies, camping, hiking, and kayaking. They continue to raise puppies for Berks County Seeing Eye Puppy Raisers, and are currently on their 21st puppy in the last 25 years. Summers find them volunteering for National Lands/National Parks, and have volunteered at parks including Theodore Roosevelt, Yellowstone, and Mount Rainier. Locally, they volunteer at Keystone Military Food Pantry and at Hawk Mountain. Dennis is a trout fly fishing enthusiast.

The Dietrich girls are adults now. Eve obtained a B.S. in Wildlife Biology, and a graduate degree in Education. She and her husband, Brian, live in Madison Wisconsin where she works as a Parent Liaison in an elementary school primarily attended by refugees.

Dawn obtained a B.S. in Social Work. Currently in a career change, she is attending culinary school at York Technical Institute and is a cook at Shady Maple as part of her training.

"The Lord directed us back" was the response when asked what brought this couple back to worship at Zion's. Barb also shared that they have always liked the outreach that our church does.

We give thanks that the Lord has directed the Dietrich's path to Zion's. Please give a warm hello to Dennis, Barb, and puppy Emma and do your own catching up sometime soon!

Proverbs 3:5-6 – "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

~Welcome and Outreach Committee



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.



Pondering & Prayer with Pastor

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

July 10th & 24th and August 14th & 28th at 9:30 am.

Feel free to bring your morning beverage.

Use the benches or bring your own chair



Let's Ride!

Let's try this again!

Our June ride was rained out, so we are planning to ride on the same trail for July.

We will leave from Zion's parking lot at 9am on Saturday, July 19th, 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 **July 17th, 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!



“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 can be given to Tiffany Gruber by July 13, 2025



SOCK IT TO 'EM

We will be starting our Sock Drive soon.

Listen for announcements.

Men's & Women's Boot Socks
Black or White & Mostly Cotton

Boot socks can be purchased at Boscov's or Priority One Surplus in Hamburg.

ALL TYPES OF SOCKS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED.

Your donations will help Keystone Military families ensure that every stocking sent to deployed military personnel this year includes a pair of socks!



Garden News

The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul.

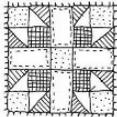
Alfred Austin

The cabbage, peppers, tomatoes, beans and cucumbers are growing and we continue to plan for more vegetables.

Harvesting of produce will start this month. Volunteers are always needed to harvest our vegetables and maintain the Garden during this prime mid-summer season.

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.



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.

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



Have you ever thought - "What can I do to help the Church?"

Cleaning Crew

We are gathering a list of volunteers to occasionally help with cleaning.

If you are interested in helping, contact the Church Office via phone or email.

Can we count on you?

Or better yet, can you count for us?

There is always a need for more counting team members or substitutes.

Counting team members count one Sunday a month after worship or one Monday morning a month.

We also need substitutes to fill in as needed.

Training is available.

Please see Eileen Puglia with any questions, or to join a counting team.

Do you have an idea to help to grow the Church?
If so reach out to Pastor Stephanie or the Church Office.



Zion's Library

Feel your faith and your doubts will starve to death.

When I was at the end of my rope, God was holding the other end.

Mystery Library Reader

Who is your favorite author:

No Favorite

What type of books do you read:

Fiction (non-violent) & Biographies

Where do you do most of your reading:

At Home or While Traveling

Why do you enjoy reading:

It is relaxing

Please stop in and check out our selections.

Thank you

Thank you for your prayers and cards that were sent to Carl at the Laurel Center and for me at home after my hospitalization.

~ Joyce Sechler

"You get to forget for a little while that your child has a disability because everything is possible when they're at camp."

~ Beth (family member of one of our campers.)

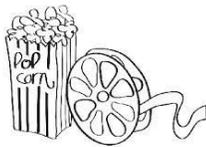
Thank you for facilitating this generous gift of thirty handmade blankets to Victory Junction received on May 13, 2025. Because of your support, children with serious illnesses are experiencing the joy and freedom of Camp in a safe and nurturing environment, and campers and families are discovering life is full of now possibilities.

~ Cathy Davis

(Victory Junction Director of Special Events)

Thank you for the keychain & dog tag with the scripture on it for graduation.

~ Orrin Mengle



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

July 8 Legend of the 5 Mile Cave

August 12 Where Hope Grows

September 9 The Two Popes

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, July 10, 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:

Canned and Microwavable Pastas

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., July 29th, 2025, from 6 pm to 7 pm.**



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.



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.

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

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



SAVE THE DATE
9/27/25

Registration and Details
Coming Soon!



July Birthdays

1st Michael Lopez
2nd Joseph Leone
Tami Taddeo
3rd Sheri Hoffert
Susan Miller
4th Ruth Bensinger
Christina Mazaika
Daniel Schaeffer
5th Parker Hancik
Heather Mengel
Hope Resuta
7th Dean Heckman
8th Alice Brieske
Russell Clark
9th Lee Gehringer
Ellie Noecker
10th Julia Doklan
12th Matthew Noecker
David Seidel
14th Deborah Hoffert
Shirley Sohon
16th Thea Wilson
17th Travis Hoshauer
Sylvia Noecker
20th Troy Epting
John Smith
Travis Swavely
Brayden Turner
22nd Katelyn Schumaker
23rd Reed Auchenbach
24th Jocelyn Heckman
Gary Wilhelm
25th Faye Miller
Brian Moroney
Kyle Schumaker
31st Kasandra Brown
Zoey Dreibelbis
Kyle Reitenauer
Pastor Stephanie Roth



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

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

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.



Teddy Tarts

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1 cup graham cracker crumbs | 2 Tbs sugar |
| 1/3 cup margarine, melted | 1 ½ cups milk |
| 1 (4 1/8 oz.) pk. Instant chocolate pudding & pie filling | |
| ½ cup prepared whipped topping | Colored Sprinkles |
| 84 Chocolate, Cinnamon, or Honey Teddy Grahams Graham Snacks | |

Line 12 (2 1/2") muffin-pan cups with paper liners; set aside. In medium bowl, combine graham crumbs and sugar; stir in margarine. Divide mixture evenly into baking cups. Stand 7 Teddy Grahams around outside edge of each cup. Press crumb mixture into bottom of cups securing whole Teddy Grahams to side. Chill.

Prepare pudding according to package directions using 1 ½ cups milk. Fold in prepared whipped topping. Spoon mixture into prepared cups; garnish with sprinkles. Chill at least 1 hour or freeze until firm.

Lutheran Basics Vocabulary

L S A N C T I F I C A T I O N Q T W Z B K M F W
M S H D G G K B T F T D P B U R T J M G J M X V
Y D E M E N J Q J N K D O L I G I Q R Z C P Z B
F Y X G Q G Q H R P E D D N P O O A O T F S G I
P A M D G E A B Y V Q M I Z Q D C S C C S C O W
P G U Q Z L B T V Y K T E N X E Q E P F R B F C
L A K H U P M H X M Y A C N A M J I W E Q Q O O
I G Y V G I P K Z N V X E A O Z T F E D L I A N
T J T U P C H G V O G H Z U O T R D U V I V M F
T S E G C S C N Y I R M V Q L M A W O R D X F E
B N C C O I R J C T O P D Y C U Z G K N C B S S
Y W N M P D U J H A C L I W Z O Q Q M F V V X S
Y H A I T E H D T C H J L H V T I F I B M S N I
T P T W U W C R S I I K E G S X P K I D I Z O O
R B N B F U S A G F T S A S E R N N L N U L N N
K F E P N K C I H I J A F W E B O M S O O O H D
M I P G H R B Q Q T A H J N O F X W U I L T T E
I O E J A P L C U S G E U D E W Z P D T I U A L
X W R M N L M J P U F P Q G M B T L B A C V X X
X U E M N V N W Z J N N N B R L U M F V P U S Q
D N T K R E C O N C I L I A T I O N Z L B W X X
T L G A I E I N J K F F J D B I Y V Y A M H F N
K B A B S O L U T I O N A A C Z C W V S J A E J
A P A N W C H J C D O J V Q K B G O I A G C W K

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|------------|
| sanctification | reconciliation | justification | repentance |
| confession | absolution | salvation | sacrament |
| atonement | disciple | worship | trinity |
| gospel | church | grace | faith |
| creed | word | sin | |

Zion's Messenger

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

July 2025

Church Phone: 610-562-3112

Church Email: churchoffice@zionslutheran.org

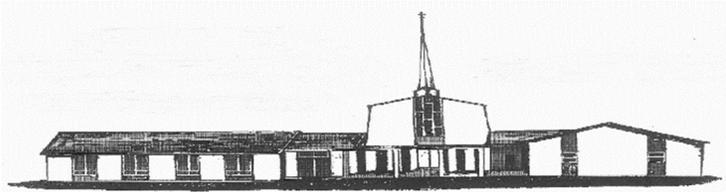
Church Website: www.zionslutheran.org

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 – July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00pm A.A. Meeting	2	3	4	5
6 9:00am Worship Service	7	8 9:00am Knotters Group 7:00pm A.A. Meeting	9	10	11	12
13 9:00am Worship Service	14 August Newsletter Deadline	15 7:00pm A.A. Meeting	16	17 11:00am Senior Group 7:00pm Property Meeting	18 Opportunity House	19
20 9:00am Worship Service	21	22 9:00am Knotters Group 7:00pm A.A. Meeting	23	24	25 FH Rental	26
27 9:00am Worship Service	28	29 7:00pm A.A. Meeting	30	31	** SERVICES WILL BE RECORDED AND POSTED ON THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE EVERY SUNDAY	**WATCH FOR SERVICE INFO IN BULLETINS, CALENDARS & ONLINE
FH Rental						

