

# Zion's Messenger - August 2025



*Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time.  
(Ephesians 5:15-16a)*

As August dawns on us, I am truly astonished by the reality that summer is almost over! Many of us are trying arrange one last getaway, scrambling to finish the remaining tasks on our summer to-do list or simply venturing outside to enjoy a few more moments of glorious sunshine. And, of course, most area schools will be back in session sometime in August. So, those who are teachers and those who have school-aged or college bound children may have already started to transition back into the swing of their fall routines.

How has this happened? Wasn't it just yesterday we watched the flowers bloom, witnessed our lawns turning green again, planted our garden, or celebrated someone's graduation? I know I was really enjoying the longer days when the sun was showing its bright magnificent face.

Psychologists say time seems to pass more quickly as we get older because we are experiencing fewer "firsts." When we are constantly experiencing new things, time tends to stand still while we in the excitement of those "firsts". After we have repeated similar events numerous times, they do not impact us as much anymore — and before we know it, months have passed, seasons have changed, and it's time to start the annual cycle again.

Yet, we should not allow our time to be something that simply escapes our grasp, trickling through our fingers. After all, time itself — every moment on this earth — is a gift from God. We each have 24 hours today and seven days this week to use however we please.

At the end of this summer, we have an opportunity to reflect on how we used our time these last few months. Did we set aside time to pray? Have we taken time to serve others? What time have we given back to God? Have we spent time enjoying and preserving God's creation?

When we consider the use of our time, we should do a spiritual assessment — "Have I been a good steward of the time given to me?" Maybe now is a good time to make some changes in our lives and get more involved. There is no better time than right now to seek out ways to serve God in our church and in the community around us. This is what it means to be a good steward of the time that God has gifted to us!

As the lazy days of summer give way to the routine and activities of fall, remember to keep God in your hearts, in your minds, and on your lips. Listen for what God is calling you to do. Make a renewed effort to be a good steward of your time. Find a new way to share with your neighbors the love and grace that God has given you.

*Each of you should use whatever gift  
you have received to serve others,  
as faithful stewards of God's grace  
in its various forms.  
(1 Peter 4:10)*

Peace and blessings,  
Pastor Stephanie



## **SCHOOL BAGS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**

The Knotters are once again making backpacks to be delivered to Lutheran World Relief in the fall. Backpacks will be assembled on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> after lunch as part of the ELCA God's Work, Our Hands Day.

### **How Can You Help?**

Monetary donations are always welcome to help purchase cording for backpacks or school supplies to fill the backpacks. Please place monetary donations in the box on table in the narthex. Thrivent bucks are welcome.

### **School supply sales have begun.**

We do have some supplies on hand to fill the backpacks.  
There is a box for your school supply donations in the narthex.

If purchasing items, please only donate listed items that fit the specifications.  
No patriotic symbols are allowed on any items.

**Wooden Rulers** – 30 centimeter or one with 30 centimeters & inches

**Blunt Scissors** – (safety scissors with embedded blades are ok)

**#2 pencils** – unsharpened

**Pencil sharpeners** – with shaving collector

**Blue or black ballpoint pens** – no gel ink

**Box of 16 or 24 crayons**

**2.5-inch erasers**

**70-80 sheet Spiral notebooks** – wide or college-ruled no loose-leaf paper

**All monetary and school supply donations are due by Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Thank you in advance for your support of this outreach project!**



## **SOCK IT TO 'EM**

The most requested item by military personnel deployed overseas is “Socks”, yes socks. In 2024 the Keystone Military Families mailed over 14,000 Christmas Stockings overseas. The 2025 Stockings for Soldiers “Sock It to Em” campaign is starting now! Help us provide socks for every soldier this year.

Please place your sock donations in the drop box in the narthex.  
All socks must be new, no used socks!

***ALL TYPES OF SOCKS ARE BEING ACCEPTED.***

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

The Keystone Military Families thank you for your donation!

## Council Corner

Council met July 8<sup>th</sup> 2025. We reviewed the budget and treasurer's report from June. We are pleased to note that for the first half of the year, our income has exceeded our expenses by over \$34,000. We would like to thank the congregation for their faithful support. Due to your contributions to the Charity and Emergency Fund, Pastor was able to provide emergency support to a family in the Bernville area who lost their home due to fire.

Considering the horrific flooding, Council agreed to support a fund drive for the ELCA Disaster Response during the month of July. Worship and music committee reported that the sound system problem from early July was corrected. Sam Kemmerer from Entertainment Services Group stopped by and reported there was a problem with a switch in the equipment. He was able to correct this. It was noted that he has been very helpful with the system. He comes to the church in a timely fashion and usually does not charge us for simple repairs. It was agreed that we should send him a formal thank you for his time and excellent service.

Our administrative assistant, Stephanie Seidel has been with us for over 3 months. We are all pleased with her work. She is very efficient and timely in getting things done, and has enhanced the work we are able to do.

The 4 churches involved in our joint catechetical ministry have been developing a covenant agreement. This would be between Zion's, St. John's, Friedens, and St. Lukes. Tiffany Gruber has been our representative. This covenant develops some guidelines as to how the program is run, each pastor's responsibility, and how to handle any conflicts or concerns. Tiffany presented a final draft which is to be voted on by all 4 congregation councils.

We did begin planning for a fall cleaning day. Watch for future information on a date and jobs to be done.

Contact any council member with concerns or suggestion. Members include Tiffany Gruber, Wanda Hoherchek, Samantha Gruber, Lucille Gough, Carolyn Hollenbach, Janine Dreibelbis, Faye Heckman, Heather Gring, Sandra Moroney, Susie Lutz, Virginia Werley, and Elaine Stone.

Submitted by Janine Dreibelbis

## Financial Report

We finished the month of June at \$81,271.97 in the black (monthly income over expenses).

Monthly – Income for June	\$ 14,060.52
Monthly – Expenses for June	\$ 110,019.67

The General Offering	\$ 10,816.13
Online Giving	\$ 1,849.39
Loose Change	\$ 143.00
Other Income	\$ 1,252.00
Subtotal	\$ 14,060.52

**Thank you for your continued support!**

**Consider online giving**

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

## Do You Have Feedback?

If you have any concerns, comments or suggestions regarding newsletters, bulletins or worship, please feel free to contact Pastor Stephanie by email, phone or stop by her office to share your feedback.



## Intergenerational Choir

Do you love to sing?

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

August 3<sup>rd</sup>

Rehearsal 8:30 am prior to worship.

All ages are welcome.



## Pondering & Prayer with Pastor

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

August 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.

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



## WELCA Meeting

Our next WELCA meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, August 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm in the Gold Room.

All women of Zion's are welcome, as we plan for the October Food Sale and upcoming opportunities to support our church ministries and our community. Hope you can join us!

We extend a warm "Thank You" to the congregation for your generosity in supporting our "Christmas in July" collection for BLESSED BEGINNINGS! Through Zion's donations, Blessed Beginnings will be able to provide household items to individuals starting over after abuse.



## Senior Group

Our next Senior Group will meet on **August 21<sup>st</sup>, 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!**



## Card Shower

This year our very own Irwin Levan will be turning 98 years young on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Let's shower him in birthday cards.

Irwin Levan  
1516 Pottsville Pike  
Shoemakersville, PA 19555



Grief Share is a Christian support group for those who are grieving.

This 13-week series uses video, personal workbook activities, and group discussions to help you process the loss of your loved one.

We will meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm, beginning on September 3, in Meeting Room 201 at Zion's Church  
770 Zion Church Rd., Hamburg, PA

Consider joining us on this journey of hope and healing.



## Fall Church Cleaning

Our annual fall church cleaning and painting day will be **Saturday, September 6th at 9:00 AM.**

We are looking for volunteers to help us spruce up the church with those cleaning tasks we just don't get to on a weekly basis. We will find a job to suit your ability; no job is too small.

Please sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many volunteers we will have to help.

Thank-you for being good stewards!



## OPPORTUNITY HOUSE MEAL

**The next date for serving will be September 20th.**

Volunteers are always welcome to help. 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.**



## Let's Ride!

We continue to plan a bike ride once per month to a bike trail within an hour's distance from Zion's. There are many trails to trails that we have explored, followed by a time of snacks and fellowship at the end of each ride.

Please listen for Sunday morning announcements, or check weekly bulletins or Zion's Facebook page every month through October. We will soon announce our August plans.

See John Smith or Eileen Puglia for questions or information.  
We hope to ride with you soon!



## Garden News

*A garden is always a series of losses set against a few triumphs, like life itself. ~May Sarton*

Our volunteers continue to meet weekly in the Garden to tend to our crops: beans, tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, cucumbers, and eggplant.

The summer rains have been plentiful, and hopefully our crops will be plentiful too.

Come check out the Garden. Observe, chat, and maybe even help a little! More volunteers are always needed, especially as we begin to harvest the produce and distribute it to our community.

Please listen to Sunday announcements or check Facebook for news of our work days/nights. Current volunteers will be emailed with work day information. Thanks for your prayers and support!



## 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.

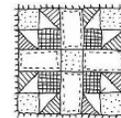
We also need substitutes to fill in as needed.

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.



## Knotters Group

This year we blessed 187 knotted quilts, with the help of everyone who made this event happen.

Without your donations none of this would be possible.

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

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.



## Zion's Library

*Your mind is a garden; your thoughts are the seeds.  
The harvest can either be flowers or weeds.*

~William Wordsworth

### Juvenile Additions

Miguel the Shepherd Boy

~Edith Witmer

The Advent Storybook

~Laura Richie

This I know

~Clay Anderson

The Jesus Storybook Bible

~Sally Lloyd-Jones

Friends with God Story Bible

~Jeff White

100 Bible Stories, 100 Bible Songs

~Stephen Elkins

The Garden, the Curtain, the Cross

~Carl Laferton

Please stop in and check out our selections.

## Redner's Save-A-Tape

Thank you for continuing to submit your Redner's tapes. A total of \$443.85 has been received so far this year through the Redner's Save-A-Tape program. Please continue to mail them, drop them off at church, or bring them to Sunday worship service.

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

Every year, WELCA uses these funds to support Zion's ministries and property needs.



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

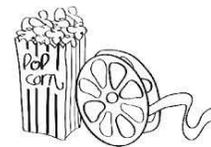
# Thank you

Thank you for your gift of \$115.00 on 5-16-25. Your gift helps strengthen relationships and build capacity to serve the most vulnerable in our midst. Together we build the resiliency of the Gospel so that our congregations proclaim clearly that God is always bringing forth renewal and hope.

~Gratefully yours, Julia Menzo, Director of  
Community Outreach  
Lutheran Congregational Services

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone in your sewing group for the sixteen hand-made quilts donated to our shelter. These quilts are so beautifully made, with love sewn right into them. We really appreciate your many hours put into each quilt. They are perfect for our teens, young adults, and community families in our Outreach Program. They truly love your kind gifts!

~Thank you so much for your continued support to Mary's Shelter! We are very Grateful!



## Faith Night at the Movies Hamburg Strand Theatre

August 12    Where Hope Grows  
September 9    The Two Popes  
October 14    The Blind

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



## **Coupons for the Troops**

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”

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



## **Zion’s Cemetery Company Inc.**

**Our Monthly Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 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



## **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 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., August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, from 6 pm to 7 pm.**



## **BEAR CREEK CAMP**

*Explore, celebrate & grow in God's creation!*

### **Women's Fall Retreat**

Would you like to join Pastor for a women's weekend?

The Fall Women's Retreat is designed to provide women with an opportunity to enjoy time both individually and collectively, participate in creative activities, explore outdoors, having time for rest and renewal, and be in the beauty of God's creation in a peaceful setting.

October 3-5, 2025 Bear Creek is holding a women's retreat.

Retreat Center Cabins: \$205/Person

Program Site Cabins: \$190/Person

Included in this price is a 2-night stay,  
6 meals (Friday dinner thru Sunday lunch), and programming.

During this programmed retreat, Bear Creek Camp offers you:

- A perfect site to find inspiration
- The opportunity to be in community with other women
- Creative outlets with crafts, painting, and projects
- Evening large group activities and entertainment
- Spiritual endeavors such as meditation, Bible Study, and Worship
- Exercise experience on the high ropes course
- Accessibility to the lake for boating
- Accommodating lodging and delicious



## **August Birthdays**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ava Zimmerman  
3<sup>rd</sup> Matthew Gring  
4<sup>th</sup> Darren Daub  
5<sup>th</sup> Ronald Miller  
9<sup>th</sup> Trevor Fegley  
11<sup>th</sup> William Gundrum  
Layla Heckman  
Irwin Levan  
Stephanie Seidel  
12<sup>th</sup> Virginia Werley  
14<sup>th</sup> Dante LaVentura  
15<sup>th</sup> Caleb Neuin  
Cole Wilhelm  
16<sup>th</sup> Lori Palubinski  
17<sup>th</sup> Elsa Gundrum  
Richard Long  
18<sup>th</sup> Brandi Mazaika  
20<sup>th</sup> Debbie Heckman  
21<sup>st</sup> Roy Sousley  
23<sup>rd</sup> Allen Billig  
Charles Stewart  
24<sup>th</sup> Alicia Gough  
29<sup>th</sup> Dylan Brown  
Robin Daub  
31<sup>st</sup> Jusin Schaeffer

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 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.



## Peanut Butter Pie

By Tiffany Gruber

1 c. peanut butter

8 oz. cream cheese

12 oz. powdered sugar

16 oz. cool whip

2 graham cracker crusts

Mix the peanut butter and the cream cheese. Fold in the powdered sugar and cool whip. Place in graham cracker crusts. Refrigerate until set.

## The Seven Sacraments

### Across

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ turns into the Body of Christ in the Holy Eucharist

4. Symbol of Holy Communion (drink)

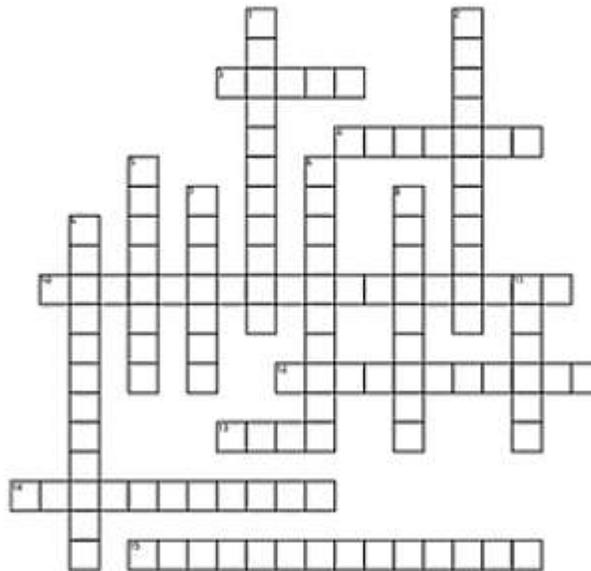
10. When a person is very ill

12. Symbol of unity

13. Promises made before God and the community.

14. Symbolises Christ and the couple's' families joining in unity

15. Confession of sins



### Down

1. Another word for baptism.

2. What you ask for in Reconciliation

5. Holy Orders and \_\_\_\_\_ are examples of sacraments of service

6. Priesthood

7. The first sacrament that makes us children of God and members of the church

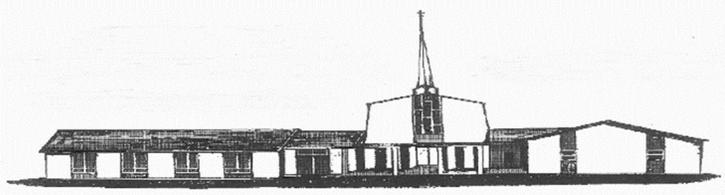
8. The sacrament that Jesus left us at the last supper

9. Signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit

11. Blessed oil

# Zion's Messenger

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



## August 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 – August 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	2
3 9:00am Holy Communion	4 Office Closed	5 7:00pm A.A. Meeting	6	7	8	9
10 9:00am Holy Communion	11 Office Closed	12 9:00am Knotters Group 6:00pm WELCA Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm A.A. Meeting	13	14 9:30am Pondering & Prayer w/Pastor	15	16 FH Rental
17 9:00am Holy Communion	18 Office Closed September Newsletter Deadline 6:30pm Boy Scout Meeting	19 7:00pm A.A. Meeting	20	21 11:00am Senior Group 7:00pm Property Meeting	22	23 FH Rental
24 9:00am Holy Communion  Blessing of the Backpacks	25 Office Closed	26 Food Bank 9:00am Knotters Group 7:00pm A.A. Meeting	27	28 FH Rental 9:30am Pondering & Prayer w/Pastor	29	30
31 9:00am Holy Communion						