

Zion's Messenger - September 2025



*Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.
(Joel 1:3)*

Do you have a favorite story? Maybe it's a book you've read so many times that the pages are worn and the spine is coming apart. Maybe it's a movie you've watched enough times that you can recite nearly every line right along with the characters. Or maybe it's a personal story; something that happened to you that you retell at parties and in gatherings of friends.

These stories that we recount become a part of us. The more we tell them, the more they shape who we are. We may find ourselves in a situation where a quote from a book or movie immediately comes to our mind. We may use these stories as a reference point when we experience something new. Stories shape our lives. If we want to tell the story well, we must also *know* the story well.

In the Revised Common Lectionary, the three-year rotation of Bible passages used in worship, we hear stories that are central to our faith. We hear stories from the Old Testament that take us on a journey through accounts of God's saving action in the lives of God's people. We hear many stories of Jesus' life and ministry, and how God's love is made known through Christ. We hear about the ways that the early church carried out the mission of sharing God's love in the gospel of Jesus with the world. Each week, throughout the three years, we learn how these stories connect to each other and are intertwined to form the comprehensive narrative of our faith.

The more we immerse ourselves in stories of how God has acted in the past, the better we will be able to see God acting in our present. The more we understand how all these stories weave together, the more we will be able to see ourselves in the tapestry of faith. As we learn and grow together, may these stories shape our lives, individually and as a congregation. And may we find that the old chorus rings true in our ears and in our hearts: "I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love."

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Stephanie



Reminder

Starting Sunday, September 7th

Join us for Sunday School at 9:15am
With Worship to follow at 10:30am



Fall Church Clean-up & Paint Party

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!



Church Picnic

The Church Picnic will be held following worship on Sunday, September 7th, at 11:30am. Hamburger BBQ, hotdogs, and drinks will be provided. Please bring your favorite dish to share. There will be someone in the kitchen before Sunday School and before worship to accept your covered dish.



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 7th after lunch as part of the ELCA God's Work, Our Hands Day.



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 August 12, 2025. The treasurer's report was not available for review.

The Cooperative Catechetical Covenant between Zion's, St. Luke's, St. John's and Frieden's will be signed at Zion's on September 28th.

The date for fall cleaning and painting is September 6th at 9:00am. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the narthex bulletin board. Job duties will also be listed.

The church picnic will take place on Sunday, September 7th, immediately after the 10:30am worship service. School kits for LWR will be assembled on this day. Thank you to the "Happy Knotters" for spearheading this project. The Boy Scouts will also be selling popcorn and nuts in the narthex on this date.

All types of NEW socks are being collected for Keystone Military Family to benefit soldiers serving our country overseas. A box for donations is located in the narthex.

Zion's WELCA invites the ladies of the congregation to join them at Hazel's Cafe, in Hamburg, on Thursday, September 18th. "Coffee with Friends" will meet at Hazel's at 10:00am for conversation and fellowship. WELCA will be collecting gently worn clothing and shoes for Hope Rescue Mission beginning September 21st through October 19th. WELCA's annual drive-up food sale is October 18th from 11:00am - 1:00pm.

Harvest Home will be celebrated on Sunday, September 28th. Food donations will benefit Keystone Military Families and the Northern Berks Food Pantry.

Three women from Zion's will be attending the Fall Women's Retreat, October 3 - 5 at Bear Creek Camp.

Please contact any council member with any congregational concerns.

Submitted by Virginia Werley

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.

Financial Report

We finished the month of July at \$76,783.84 in the black (monthly income over expenses).

Monthly – Income for July	\$ 18,271.77
Monthly – Expenses for July	\$ 22,759.90

The General Offering	\$ 10,919.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,706.06
Loose Change	\$ 108.22
Other Income	\$ 4,538.49
Subtotal	\$ 18,271.77

Thank you for your continued support!

Consider online giving

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



Sunday School

Sunday School News

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 7, 2025 at 9:15 AM. We are looking forward to a new year. Our teaching staff for this year will be:

Nursery/Preschool – Samantha Gruber
Kindergarten – 2nd grade – Heather Gring
3rd & 4th grade – Tiffany Gruber
5th & 6th grade – Faye Heckman
7th – young adult – Mark Dreibelbis
Adult class – Janine Dreibelbis

Substitute Teachers are needed! If you would be interested in serving as a substitute teacher, please contact Tiffany Gruber at 610-823-2880.



Confirmation News

Confirmation classes will resume in October.

Orientation for 2025-26 will be September 14th 6:00-7:00pm in the Gold Room.

Any student in 7th through 12th grade who has not been confirmed is welcome.

Please contact the church office for more information.



Adult Sunday School

**Adult Sunday School will begin on
September 7th at 9:15 pm.**

The adult class will begin a study on Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Everyone is welcome to meet with us to learn more about what our Lutheran faith says about Baptism, Communion, The Lord's Prayer and more. Class is informal. No homework or any preparation needed. Please join us!



New Member Class

A new members class will be offered
November 2nd & 9th

for anyone interested in learning
more about officially
joining Zions Lutheran Church.

Please contact Pastor Stephanie Roth,
or the Church Office to sign-up.



WELCA Meeting

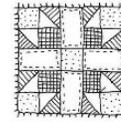
Our next WELCA meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, September 9th at 6pm in the Gold Room.

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

Hope you can join us!

A huge "Thank You" to the congregation for your generous support of our "Christmas in July" collection for BLESSED BEGINNINGS!

Zion's donations will allow Blessed Beginnings to provide household goods to help many individuals starting over after abuse.



Knotters Group

Please consider joining us in the Gold Room at 9am on Sept. 9th & Sept. 23rd.

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.



Let's Ride!

Zion's next bike outing - Saturday, September 13th

Meet at 9am in Zion's parking lot to caravan to the Swatara Rail Trail (Swatara Creek State Park) near Pine Grove.

As always, bring your bike, water, and a snack to share for some Fellowship time at the end of the ride.

See John Smith or Eileen Puglia for questions or information.

We hope to ride with you soon!



Senior Group

Our next Senior Group will meet on **September 18th, 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!



Coffee with Friends

Ladies your invited to join us for a casual morning out. We will meet at Hazel's Café in Hamburg on

Thursday, September 18th at 10am

for an opportunity to encourage and support each other over drinks and fellowship. Drinks and lite fair available for purchase. Invite a friend!

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11



Opportunity House Meal

The next date for serving will be
September 19th.

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 or (570)778-8403.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers their time and talents to continue to make this possible.



Harvest Home

Harvest Home will be held on September 28th. This year we will be dividing the donations between the Northern Berks Food Pantry and Keystone Military.

Donations can be dropped off at the church Tuesday September 23 thru Friday September 27 between 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM. If you have fall decorations to include in the display, please drop them off by Saturday morning at 9:00 AM.



Garden News

A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust.

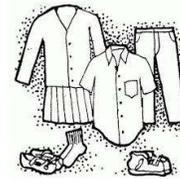
~Gertrude Jekyll

We continue to pick our tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, cucumbers, green/yellow beans and eggplant. Loads of produce have already been grown, picked, weighed, and delivered to community food pantries and local food insecure individuals and families this season.

There continues to be a need for volunteers each week as we reap God's bounty.

Please listen for announcements or check the Sunday bulletin/Facebook page for our schedule.

There's still time to come out and help in the Garden this year!



WELCA's Clothing Drive

WELCA will be collecting gently used clothing and shoes to benefit the Hope Rescue Mission.

All seasons of clothing for men, women and children will be collected Sunday, September 21st - Sunday, October 18th.

As you clean your closets in preparation for cooler temperatures, please considered donating items you no longer use to the clothing drive.

**NO USED UNDER GARMENTS
NO HOUSEHOLD ITEMS**

There is a current need for:
NEW men's underwear

Donations should be placed in the box in the narthex.

Deadline for donations will be October 18th, the date of WELCA's annual "Food Sale".



Fellowship

Our next fellowship gathering will be
Sunday, September 21st

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



“Favorite (Bazaar) Foods Sale” Saturday, October 18th

WELCA is again holding a drive-thru food sale of
some of your favorite Bazaar foods, including
barbecues, soups, and apple dumplings.

Pre-order and pay by Sunday, October 12th

Drive-thru to pick up your food

Saturday, October 18th from 11am until 1pm.

Order form is included in this newsletter.
Forms will also be available in the Narthex or
on Zion’s Facebook page and website.

Submit your order early, by September 23rd, to be
entered into a drawing for two Hamburg Strand
movie tickets, good through the end of 2025.

Order forms and payment - place in offering basket,
drop off at church, mail to the church c/o WELCA.
Please make checks payable to WELCA.

Baked goods will be for sale the day of pick up.

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board for
volunteers to help in the kitchen, volunteers on
pickup day, and for baked good donations.

Thank you in advance for your support!

The Women of WELCA

Thank you

Thank you to everyone that made a donation for the
Lutheran Disaster Relief – Texas Flooding.
Through your generosity, we sent \$2,765.00.

Thank you to Linda Getz for the donation of the
piano that was placed in the Gold Room.
Linda is so happy that a good home was found for
the piano where it will be played on a regular basis.
She also hopes that the congregation enjoys it!



Zion’s Library

*Our days are like identical suitcases – all the same
size – but some people can pack more into them
than others.*

*What does God play in your life? Spare tire or
steering wheel?*

Good Grief by Granger Westberg

Life Lessons by Olympic Athletes

Son of God – DVD by Mark Burnette & Roma
Downey



Zion’s Cemetery Company Inc.

**Our Monthly Board Meeting will be held on
Monday, September 8th, 2025 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:

Dry Pasta, Spaghetti, Macaroni

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., September 23rd, 2025, from 6 pm to 7 pm.**



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.

September's Courses:

Sept. 3 rd	Is This Normal?
Sept. 10 th	Your Grief Journey
Sept. 17 th	Loneliness & Sadness
Sept. 24 th	Self-Care



September Birthdays

1st Donna Long
Dwight Heckman
2nd Jay Wheeland
5th Mark Price
Audrey Rothermel
6th Owen Neuin
7th Angela Gough
Doris Gough
Korey Onulack
Linda Stewart
8th Shawn Koller
Jacob Zimmerman
10th Brenda Ramich
11th Andrea Heckman
Lisa Ruth
13th Nathan Bender
14th Connie Reinhart
15th Dennis Madeira
Lisa Fegley
16th Jennifer Hoshauer
Colson Dougherty
18th Karen Himmelberger
19^h Reece Hawk
Julia Werley
20th Grace Ketner
Chris Mengel
Charles Seidel
22nd Nancy Pursell
Don Roth
Layne Schroeder
23rd Kyle Pursell
Brittany Noecker
Maylynn Wagner
Toni Herr
Makenzie Reitenauer
Jason Seidel
25th Marvin Adam
Paul Engle
Larry Long
28th Samantha Gruber
29th Woodrow Lutz
30th Craig Reinhart
Allen Merkel



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

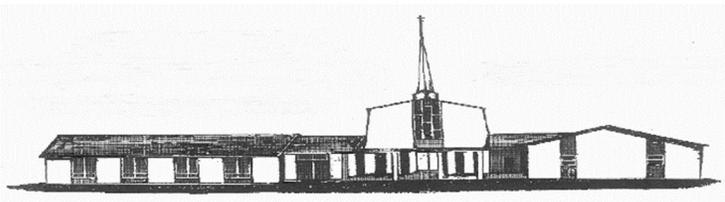
Barbara Shafer
21 East Noble
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

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



September 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 Zion's Church Road
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

Zion's Monthly Calendar – September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Office Closed	2 7:00pm A.A. Meeting	3	4	5 F.H. Rental	6 Church Cleaning & Painting Day
7 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Church Picnic School Kit Building Day	8 Office Closed 6:30pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	9 9:00am Knotters 6:00pm WELCA Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm A.A. Meeting	10 6:00pm Girl Scouts	11	12	13 9:00am Bike Ride
14 F.H. Rental 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	15 Office Closed October Newsletter Deadline 6:30pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	16 7:00pm A.A. Meeting	17	18 11:00am Senior Group 7:00pm Property Meeting	19 Opportunity House	20
21 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Fellowship Time	22 Office Closed 6:30pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	23 Food Bank 9:00am Knotters 7:00pm A.A. Meeting Harvest Home Drop Off	24 6:00pm Girl Scouts Harvest Home Drop Off	25 Harvest Home Drop Off	26 Harvest Home Drop Off	27
28 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Harvest Home	29 Office Closed 6:30pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	30 7:00pm A.A. Meeting			** Services will be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook page every Sunday	** Watch for service info in bulletins, calendars & online