

Zion's Messenger – December 2025



Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

As we enter December, our hearts naturally turn toward the beauty and meaning of Advent and Christmas. The world around us glows with lights and decorations, yet the deepest light we celebrate is the light of Christ—steady, gentle, and full of hope.

Advent is a season of waiting, a holy pause in a busy world. We wait for Christ's coming with anticipation not just for the celebration of His birth, but also for His presence in our daily lives. In a season that can easily disappear into hurry and stress, Advent invites us to slow down and pay attention. God's message is often heard most clearly in the quiet moments.

This month, as we light each candle on the Advent wreath, may we remember:

- **Hope** – Christ is our anchor in uncertain times.
- **Peace** – His presence calms our anxious hearts.
- **Joy** – A joy deeper than circumstance is offered to us in Him.
- **Love** – The love of God was made visible in the manger and continues to shine through His people today.

As Christmas approaches, may we be reminded that God is still at work in our lives and in the world. The story of Christ's birth shows us that God often shows up in unexpected places—quiet fields, forgotten stables, and in the lives of ordinary people. That means He is surely with us now, in our own ordinary days.

Let this be a season where we not only celebrate God's gift to us, but also share that gift with others through acts of kindness, generosity, and compassion. Even the smallest gesture can reflect the light of Christ to someone who desperately needs it.

May your Advent be filled with hope, and your Christmas overflow with the peace and joy of our Savior. **Merry Christmas, and may Christ's light shine brightly in and through you this season and always!**

Advent and Christmas blessings,

Pastor Stephanie



**** Special Notice ****

Please submit your committee reports for the annual report to the Church office by:

Monday, Dec. 08, 2025.

December is very busy in the church office with extra bulletins, newsletter and the Annual Report so, we need your reports in a timely manner. Please notify us even if your report has no changes from last year.

The Annual Report must be printed and available by Sunday, January 18th, 2026

This year's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday February 1st, 2026.

The snow date is February 8, 2026.

At the annual meeting we will be voting on revising C10.04 in our constitution.

C10.04 Fifty voting members shall constitute a quorum.

Council is proposing that the number needed to have a quorum be changed to forty voting members



Nativity Sets on Display

Saturday, December 20th, noon to 3 pm

Zion's Lutheran Church will open its Fellowship Hall and Gold Room to the public, with a display of over 300 Nativity Sets from a private collection.

The display will remain set up for the Congregation's viewing following
The Sunday School Christmas Program on Sunday, December 21st,

A "free will" donation will be received to benefit Domestic Lutheran Disaster Response.

We will need volunteers for setting up, day of help, and with packing up the display
as well as people to donate cookies for refreshments.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Listen for announcements and watch upcoming bulletins for more information.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

12/20/25	Nativity Display
12/21/25	Sunday School Christmas Program
12/24/25	Christmas Eve 4 pm & 7 pm



Council Corner

Council held our monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 11. Pastor Stephanie presented the “Where Do I Fit In?” booklet for our review. This booklet is for new members to help acquaint them with Zion’s. We had a successful free community breakfast on November 1 where we fed 155 people and received \$870 in donations that were split between two families battling cancer.

Remember to have your committee reports for the Annual Report to the church office by December 8 to allow time to put the annual report together and make it available to the congregation. The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, February 1, 2026 with a snow date of February 8. There will be several openings on Congregational Council beginning in 2026. Please consider filling one of the following openings: four 3-year positions and one 2-year position. There will also be a 3-year and a 2-year position on the Nominating Committee open and a 3-year term on the Audit Committee. Our church needs your support in filling these positions to lead us into the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Faye Heckman



Card Shower

The congregation is invited to participate in a Christmas card shower for Brett Daub who is currently serving our country with the US Navy. This is a great way to let him know that we are thinking of him and appreciate his service to our country! Cards should be mailed to the following address:

SO2 Brett Daub
5033 Shell Cove Lane
Virginia Beach VA 23455



Financial Report

We finished the month of October \$2,406.86 in the black (monthly income over expenses).

Monthly – Income for October	\$11,046.77
Monthly – Expenses for October	\$13,453.63
The General Offering	\$ 7,519.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,147.40
Loose Change	\$ 208.05
Other Income	\$ 1,172.32
Subtotal	\$11,046.77

Thank you for your continued support!

Consider online giving

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



Sunday School Christmas Program

December 21, 2025 – 10:30 am

Please join us on December 21st as the Sunday School presents their annual Christmas Program.



Calling all Musicians!

Zion's orcheband will be playing Christmas Eve at 6:30 pm. We are always looking for more musicians. All instruments and any skill level are welcome. If interested, please contact Steve Turner at sturner324@gmail.com for music. **Practice will be after church on Sunday, December 21st.**



Preparing for Advent and Christmas

We need assistance in preparing the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season.

The Christmas Tree will be decorated on Thursday, December 11th at 6 pm.

On Monday, December 22nd we will be taking down the Advent swags and replacing them with Christmas swags. We will also be setting up the pew candles, Christmas wreaths, and window decorations in preparation for the Christmas Eve services.

At the same time, the Altar Guild will be taking down the Advent wreath, and setting up the candelabras, moving the Pascal candle next to the Altar, and setting up the Poinsettias for the Christmas Eve Services.

The Christmas Tree, along with all the Christmas decorations will be taken down on

Thursday, January 8th at 6 pm

We welcome everyone who wants to help!

If you have any questions, please reach out to the church office.



WELCA

WELCA will meet on Wednesday, December 10th at 6 pm. Pjs collected during "Gratitude Month" will be packaged for distribution to various organizations bringing warmth to children. Thank you to the congregation and community for the generous donations, as well as, Steve's Quackin' Deals for choosing to support "Jesus, Jammies, and Joy" for their monthly charity.



Fellowship

Our November Fellowship Time is

Sunday, December 21, 2025.

Please plan to join us after wors



The December Adult Choir rehearsals are

Tuesday, December 2nd and

Wednesday, November 10th & 17th at 7 pm

If you would like to sing with the adult choir, please see Donald after the service.

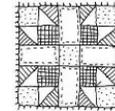


Brass & Bell Rehearsal

The rehearsal is

Thursday, December 4th & 18th

Brass at 6pm Bells at 7pm



Knotters Group

Please consider joining us in the Gold Room at 9am Tuesday, Dec. 9th.

We need 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.



Senior Group

Our next Senior Group will meet
**Thursday, December 18th, 2025 in the Fellowship Hall,
11 am – 2 pm.**

For a dinner, please bring a side dish to share and a friend to play board games and cards.

Hope to see you there!



Crochet Group

With the Holiday's we will be taking the month of December off.

Join us again after the new year on, Thursday, January 1st & 22nd at 10 am



Garden News

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant.” — Anne Bradstreet
The Northern Berks Community Garden has now finished its 11th season.
Thank-you for all of your support of this ministry!



Stamp Ministry

"If you can lick it or stick it, they can use it"
The income from the sale of stamps goes to support preparation, publishing and distribution of a Spanish language curriculum for Sunday Schools. Forty different denominations benefit in 19 different countries including South America, Central America, Spain and USA.

So, keep saving those stamps. Place them in a basket in the narthex.

Thanks, you and have a blessed day,
Barb Dietrich



Redner's Save-A-Tape Reminder

Please remember to scan your Redner's Rewards card at every checkout OR you can enter your phone number if you don't have the card with you. Your continued support of this program benefits the ministries here at Zion's, as well as building needs.
Thank you, The Women of WELCA

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.



Angel Gowns

Are you good at sewing?
We are looking to get a group together to make Angel Gowns for those who God just wasn't ready to let go. Please reach out to Pastor Stephanie or the administrative assistant Stephanie if you are interested in joining our new mission.



Zion's Library

The magi gave Jesus' gold, signifying his kingship, frankincense, signifying his priesthood, and myrrh, signifying the death.

No God, No Peace.
Know God, Know Peace.
~ Corrie Ten Boom
“The Gift of Forgiveness”
~ Katherine Pratt
“Chosen”
~ Walter Brueggemann



Opportunity House Meal

We are always looking for additional volunteers to assist with the food service at Opportunity House.

Please let me know if you are willing to either captain a team or assist with the food service.

My email address is whoherchak@gmail.com or my phone number is 570-778-8403.

Thank you, Wanda Hoherchak.

Watch the bulletin and newsletter for the 2026 Opportunity House Meal schedule.

thank
you

Thank you for hosting and facilitating a clothing drive for Hope Rescue Mission.

Your thoughtfulness and kindness are deeply appreciated, Your contributions will directly help those in our community that need it most. We want you to know that your gifts of clothing, warm coats and sweaters are already making a difference by providing comfort and warmth to our residents. With donations like yours, we can better provide essential supplies and help us continue our mission to support individuals transitioning out of homelessness.

We are so grateful for your support to help us create a more positive environment for everyone we serve.

Thank you,
Diane Schenk, Director of Hope Thrift Distributing

Thank you, Zion's Lutheran Church, for your assistance at our Thanksgiving Pantry!

We served 142 families from your community. Thank you also for the 52 Thanksgiving bags you donated and to your Garden group for the canned fruit and vegetable donation.

We at the Northern Berks Food Pantry, greatly appreciate your generous donations. 12% of the population of Berks and Schuylkill counties live in poverty.

Your support helps to further our mission of feeding the hungry in your community.

Thank you again!
Northern Berks Food Pantry



Flower & Bulletin Sponsors

There are many opportunities available to sponsor flowers and bulletins for the remainder of 2025.

Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

The cost of bulletins is \$13.00 and flowers are \$40.00.



Zion's Cemetery Co., Inc.

Our Monthly Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 11th at 9 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

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

12/9 – The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

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



Upcoming Free Community Meal

12/13 Free Spaghetti Dinner 4pm – 5:30pm

St. Michael's - 529 Saint Michaels Rd

Hamburg, PA 19526



DOING
THE MOST
GOOD®

Salvation Army Red Kettle Concert

Red Kettle Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 14th at 4 pm

St. John's Lutheran Church, Hamburg, PA

The concert featuring local musicians and singers as well as the Salvation Army Brass Ensemble is free and open to the public.

A freewill offering will be collected to benefit our local Salvation Army.



Food Pantry

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

Cereal & Oatmeal

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, checks 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., December 16th, from 6 pm to 7 pm.

*For monthly and weather-related updates, the Northern Berks Food Pantry line is 610-562-8250



Danielle Cares for Chairs

Hamburg Area School District is collecting

BREAD TAGS

What is Danielle Cares for Chairs?

*Non-Profit

*Run by kids

*Collect bread tags + bring them to recycling plant =get proceeds for mobility products.

How to help?

*Collect bread tags bring them to school.

Where are bread tags found?

*Loaves of bread

*Fruits

*Vegetables

*Hamburger/Hotdog Buns

*Paper towels

3 million collected thus far 6 products given.

Teaches about sustainability and to give back to others.

Collection bin on table in Narthex.



December Birthdays

1st	Jeffrey Seidel
3rd	Merrill T. Arndt Zoey Adam Bruce Troutman
4th	Mary Ann Adam
5th	Brad Doklan Cameron Queenan
6th	Leonardo LaVentura
7th	Richard Reinhart
9th	Chase Denatala
10th	Nathan Price
11th	Susan Lutz Paul Strauss
15th	Noah Neuin
18th	Lisa Deibler Roger Heckman
19th	Ronald Seaman
20th	Samuel Olszewski
21st	Daniel Mazaika
23rd	Amber Noecker
24th	Daniel Brennan Logan Heffner
25th	The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Day
26th	Gabrielle Leone David Strunk
29th	Melanie Epting

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 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

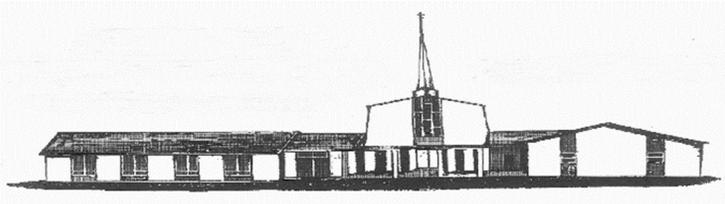
Barbara Shafer
21 East Noble
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

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: 10:30 am, Holy Communion,
Indoor recorded service**



December 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 – December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed 6:30pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	2 7pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7pm A.A. Meeting	3	4	5 FH Rental	6 FH Rental
7 FH Rental 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	8 Annual Report Deadline Office Closed 6:30pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	9 9am Knotters Group 9:30am Hymn Meeting 6pm Welcome & Outreach 7pm Council Meeting 7pm A.A. Meeting	10 6pm Girl Scouts 6pm WELCA Meeting 7pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	11 6pm Put up Christmas Tree	12 10am Children of the King	13 FH Rental
14 FH Rental 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	15 January Newsletter Deadline Office Closed 6:30pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	16 Food Bank 7pm A.A. Meeting	17 7pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	18 11am Senior Group 7pm Property Meeting	19 Nativity Display Noon – 3 pm	20 Nativity Display
21 Children's Christmas Program 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Fellowship Time Nativity Display	22 6pm Take down Advent put up Christmas 6:30pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	23 7am – 1pm 7pm A.A. Meeting	24 7am – 1pm Christmas Eve	25 Office Closed Christmas Day	26 7am – 11am	27
28 Lessons & Carols 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	29 Office Closed 6:30pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	30 8am – 1pm 7pm A.A. Meeting	31 8am – 1pm New Years Eve	** Services will be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook page every Sunday	** Watch for service info in bulletins, calendars & online	