

Zion's Messenger – November 2025



*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever. (Psalm 107:1)*

November is a rich and meaningful month in the life of the church. It's a time when we remember, give thanks, and look forward in hope. The days grow shorter, but our hearts grow fuller as we reflect on God's faithfulness through every season of life.

We begin the month this year by gathering for our Feast of Abundance, a free community breakfast where everyone is welcome to share in food, friendship, and fellowship. Around the table, we experience the goodness of God's provision – not only in what we eat, but in the love and connection that nourish our spirits. It's a joyful reminder that when we come together, God multiplies blessings in ways both simple and profound.

Soon after, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday, a sacred time to remember those who have gone before us – family members, friends and faithful servants whose lives shaped our own journeys of faith. Their witness reminds us that we are part of something far greater than ourselves – a communion of saints stretching across time and place. As we light candles and speak their names, we give thanks for the ways God's light continues to shine through their memory and through our lives.

We close the church year with Christ the King Sunday, proclaiming that Jesus Christ reigns above all things. In a world of uncertainty and division, this day centers us once more in the truth that Christ's kingdom is built not on power or pride, but on love, mercy and peace. It's a reminder that no matter what changes come, Christ promises endure – in our hearts, in our church and in the world God so loves.

As we move toward Thanksgiving and prepare for Advent, may we carry hearts full of gratitude – for the saints who inspire us, the community that surrounds us and the Savior who leads us.

*Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
(1 Thessalonians 5:18)*

Peace and 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 3:00 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

11/02/25	All Saint's Sunday
11/30/25	1st Sunday in Advent
12/20/25	Nativity Display
12/21/25	Sunday School Christmas Program
12/24/25	Christmas Eve 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm



Council Corner

Council met on Tuesday, October 14. We welcomed Zoey Dreibelbis, our confirmation student, who attended the meeting to learn about the duties of Church Council. Sandra Moroney provided council members the proposed 2026 budget for review.

Pastor Stephanie informed council of two local families who are dealing with serious cancer issues. The free will offering from the November 1st Feast of Abundance Breakfast will be divided equally between the two families.

Pastor Stephanie shared an informational trifold about opportunities for the involvement in the many ministries at Zion's We hope to involve more members, both current and future.

Council voted to have Lucille Gough join the Personnel Committee to replace Carol Rothermel who recently resigned.

We discussed the purchase of a new computer for the office. Church Windows, the database we use to store church information, no longer supports anyone using Windows 10. Council approved the purchase of a new computer that uses Windows 11.

The holidays are rapidly approaching. Please set aside time to help decorate the Sanctuary for Advent on November 23rd, and Christmas on December 11th.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Hollenbach



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.



Financial Report

We finished the month of September \$5,066.00 in the black (monthly income over expenses).

Monthly – Income for September \$18,630.36
Monthly – Expenses for September \$13,564.36

The General Offering \$12,914.29
Online Giving \$ 2,696.43
Loose Change \$ 278.00
Other Income \$ 2,741.64
Subtotal \$18,630.36

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.



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.



National Gratitude Month

November is “National Gratitude Month”. We can express our gratitude to organizations and people working to help others by donating items to be distributed to our neighbors in need. Below are 4 options to donate.



JESUS, JAMMIES and JOY

November 1 – November 30, 2025

“Jesus, Jammies and Joy” is an outreach ministry launched by Pastor Stephanie during her internship at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pottsville in the fall of 2022.

During the month of November, we are collecting new kid’s winter pajamas to be distributed to children in need through local agencies in time for Christmas.

NEW children’s winter pajamas
Sizes children sizes newborn - XXL 18
(one piece or a two-piece sets –
no pajama pants without tops)

Monetary donations will be accepted.

Checks should be payable to
Zions Lutheran Church and marked
“Jesus, Jammies & Joy” in the memo.

Thank-you for helping to bring joy to the children this Christmas and keeping them warm and cozy throughout the winter!



Angel Tree Tags

We are once again participating in the Salvation Army Angel Tree program to collect gifts for children and seniors this holiday season.

Thank you for helping to make someone's holiday a little brighter!



Thanksgiving Bags

Zion’s and St. John’s Lutheran Churches will be collecting Thanksgiving bags for Northern Berks Food Pantry’s distribution on November 18th.

Please put the listed items in a plastic bag and place it in the box in the narthex by November 16th.

- 1 box of stuffing or instant potatoes
- 1 jar or packet of turkey gravy
- 2 – 15oz cans of vegetables
- 2 – 15oz cans of fruit or cranberry sauce
- 1 box of Jiffy muffin mix or cake mix

Volunteers for Northern Berks

Food Pantry

Zion’s Lutheran Church will be helping in November at the Northern Berks Food Pantry.

We need volunteers:

Hamburg Area Middle School Cafeteria
5:15pm on Tuesday, November 18
for the Thanksgiving distribution.

Please sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

Thank you.



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.



Feast of Abundance

Join us on Saturday, November 1st
from 8am-11am.

We will be hosting a free community breakfast that will include; pancakes, french toast, sausage, eggs, fruit, coffee, and juice.

We are able to host this amazing event since we were awarded a \$1,000 Feast of Abundance Grant through the Stewardship of Life Institute.

We look forward to gathering around the table, sharing God's love, and spreading joy with our community. If you like to help, there are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



The November Adult Choir rehearsals are
Tuesday, November 4th & 25th and
Wednesday, November 12th & 19th at 7 P.M.
If you would like to sing with the adult choir,
please see Donald after the service.



Brass & Bell Rehearsal

The rehearsals for November are
Thursday, November 13th & 20th
Brass at 6:00pm Bells at 7:00pm



Fellowship

Our November Fellowship Time is
Sunday, November 16, 2025.

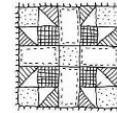
Please plan to join us before and after worship.
Sign up on the bulletin board to bring snacks or to
set-up or serve for future gatherings



Senior Group

Our next Senior Group will meet
**Thursday, November 20th, 2025 in the
Fellowship Hall,
11:00 am – 2:00 pm.**

for a Thanksgiving dinner.
Please bring a side dish to share and a
friend to play board games and cards.
Hope to see you there!



Knotters Group

Please consider joining us in the Gold Room at
9am Tuesday, Nov. 11th & 25th.

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.



Crochet Group

Get your hooks and yarn ready as we
start our next project.
Invite your friends and bring your ideas.
Come join us Thursday, Nov. 13th at 10am.



Zion's Library

A hug is a great gift.....one size fits all
Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like
wrapping a present and not giving it.

Easy Readers
Dear God, We Just Love Christmas
~ Annie Fitzgerald
Dear God, Thanks for Thinking Up Love
~ Annie Fitzgerald
Joni Eareckson Tada
~ Kristyn Getty



Garden News

“And all at once, summer collapsed into fall.”

~ Oscar Wilde

Autumn is here, and we are wrapping up season #11 in the Garden. We continue to harvest vegetables to donate to local food pantries and organizations.

Included this season were the Northern Berks (Hamburg) Food Pantry, Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry, Keystone Military Food Pantry, Wyndcliffe Apartments, and Friend, Inc.

As this newsletter goes to production, we have harvested the last of our tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and fall squash, and are finishing Garden clean up as we wait for the late cabbage to be ready.

We continue to be thankful for our faithful volunteers, both returning volunteers and some new volunteers this season. Without the support of congregation and community members, we would not be able to continue this ministry. Our year to date total is 2514lbs.

Please continue to pray for our ministry and for the food insecure in our community. Thank you.



This month, we joyfully celebrate and give thanks for Donald Ryan, who has faithfully served as organist and led our church choir for the past

10 years.

Through every season, Donald has accompanied our services and guided our choir with passion, excellence, and a heart for worship.

Your ministry through music has been a true gift to our church family.

Thank you, Donald Ryan, for your decade of service, faith, and song.

May the Lord continue to bless you abundantly in all that you do!

*“Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.” — Psalm 96:1*



Upcoming Free Community Meals

11/1 Free Breakfast 8am – 11am

Zion’s Lutheran Church
354 Zion’s Church Road
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

11/15 Thanksgiving Dinner 4pm – 7pm

Salem UMC - 605 Main St.
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

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

St. Michael’s - 529 Saint Michaels Rd
Hamburg, PA 19526



Dinner & A Show for Zion’s Seniors

Zion’s Senior members have been cordially invited to join the Hamburg Area School District for dinner and a command performance of *Mary Poppins* Wednesday, November 19, 2025.

Dinner will be served from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm in the Hamburg High School cafeteria and the musical will begin at 6:00 pm in the auditorium.

The menu for dinner is as follows:

Salad w/ dressing	Potato Filling
Dinner roll w/ margarine	Peas & Carrots
Roasted Turkey with Gravy	Fruit Crisp
	Beverages

The cost of the meal is \$10.00 and the show will be free.

Sign-up on the bulletin board in the Narthex by Mon. Nov. 3rd 2025



Zion's Women of the ELCA

WELCA extends a warm thank you for your kind donations of clothing to support Hope Rescue Mission.

WELCA also extends a big thank you to the congregation for your support of this year's Favorite (Bazaar) Foods sale. We appreciate all of your orders, donations, and assistance to make this another successful sale as well as your support of Hope Rescue Mission with your clothing donations for this worthy community organization.

Children of the King

Our Nov. 14th Children of the King program will be held at Zion's Lutheran Church, Shoemakersville from 10am ~ Noon. All are welcome to come hear Mrs. Dietrich speak on 2 very exciting topics that are close to her heart.

1. "The Journey to Become a Guide Dog" and of course there will be a dog in training here!
2. "The American Prairie Bisons" no, no bison are coming. They will remain on their farm in Perry Twp.!

This is a different program than was originally announced. I have total knee replacement on 10/23. But, God willing, I will be there too!

As always, invite your friends of all ages to these programs, the more the merrier!

~ Vernie Noecker



Opportunity House Meal

The next date for serving will be November 21st.

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.

Wreaths Across America

Every December, Wreaths Across America honors our fallen heroes by placing wreaths at their markers. Zion's Cemetery is part of this mission to honor over 250 Veterans buried in our cemetery.

To sponsor one or more wreaths, go online to: www.wreathscrossamerica.org

Location ID: PAZTPT (aka Zion's Cemetery)

Sponsorship Group ID: PA0868 (aka BST163)

Or contact Heather Gring at 610-334-7476.

Zion's Cemetery Remembrance Ceremony followed by wreath placement will be held on December 13, 2025 at 12:00 noon.

Boy Scout Troop 163 will be participating.



Zion Cemetery Co.

Zion Cemetery Co. Inc. of Perry Township has set the week of November 3-7, 2025 for fall cleaning.

All decorations not planted in the ground will be removed if not claimed before this week by lot owners. The Cemetery Board is not responsible for decorations remaining on graves when fall cleaning begins. New and existing decorations may be placed November 9, 2025. Single or multiple grave lots are available for sale. Please contact David Geschwindt, Cemetery Manager, 610-562-7421.

Seeing Eye Inc.

Emma Pup would like to thank the warm welcome from the church as she was being raised as a guide dog for Seeing Eye Inc. She is heading for "puppy college" on Nov 6th to complete her training over the next several months. She will go right into harness training, traffic awareness, learn how to look up and target all because of various exposures and review commands she has learned over the past year.

Side Note: Seeing Eye urgently needs more puppy raisers. Check out their web site or contact the Dietrich's if you have any questions or are interested.

Beware: Heads up notice, new puppies coming soon and they will be cute because they don't have anything but cute puppies.



Food Pantry

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

Thanksgiving Bags

- 1 box of stuffing or instant potatoes**
- 1 jar or packet of turkey gravy**
- 2 – 15oz cans of vegetables**
- 2 – 15oz cans of fruit or cranberry sauce**
- 1 box of Jiffy muffin mix or cake mix**

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., November 18th, from 6 pm to 7 pm.

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



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.

November's Courses:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Nov 5 th | Questions for God |
| Nov 12 th | Stuck in Grief |
| Nov 19 th | How to Survive the Holidays |
| Nov 26 th | No Grief Share Today |



November Birthdays

- 1st Vernie Noecker
Elaine Schroder
- 2nd April Reitenauer
- 3rd Jeanette Heckman
- 4th Shelly Strunk
- 6th Nancy Dresher
Paul Weidner
- 7th Tiffany Gruber
Rylee Strunk
- 8th Kai Hawk
- 9th William Heckman Jr.
Kevin Koehn
- 10th Kelly Troutman
- 12th Karen Mengel
- 15th Allen Daub
- 16th Nancy Dusko
Tyler Fusner Jr.
- 17th Dean Sunday
- 18th Faye Heckman
- 19th Tracy Pond
Faye Smith
- 22nd Kimberly Olszewski
- 24th Karen Blankdford
- 26th Janelle Kerr
- 28th Cleta Borkey

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.

Kind

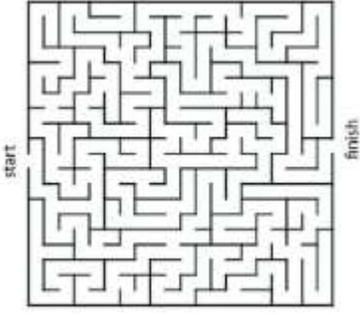
Ephesians 4:32

"Be kind and compassionate
to one another, forgiving each other,
just as in Christ God forgave you."
-Ephesians 4:32



Fill in the blanks to help memorize the bible verse,
then find the missing words in the word search.

"Be _____ and _____ to
one _____, forgiving each _____
just _____ in Christ God _____ you."
_____ 4:32



BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

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

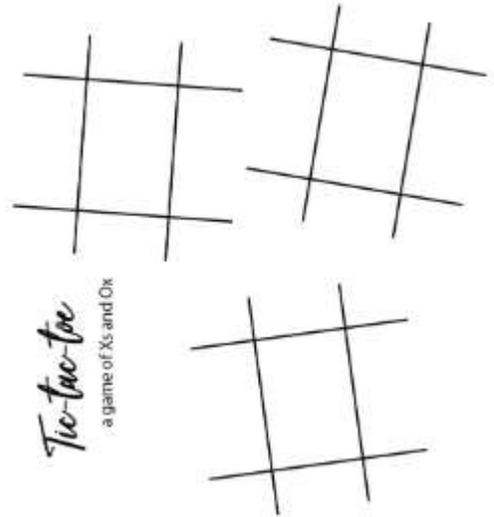
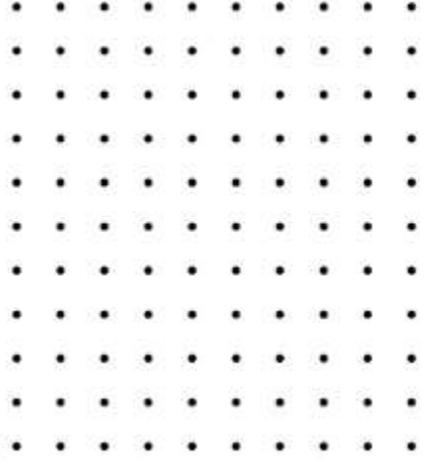


WORD LIST

ACTS JOHN
DANIEL JONAH
EZRA LUKE
HOSEA MARK
JOB RUTH

Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY

How to play: each player takes a turn drawing on line. If that line completes a square, the player writes their initial in the box and draws another line. Play continues until all dots have been connected. The player with the most boxes wins!

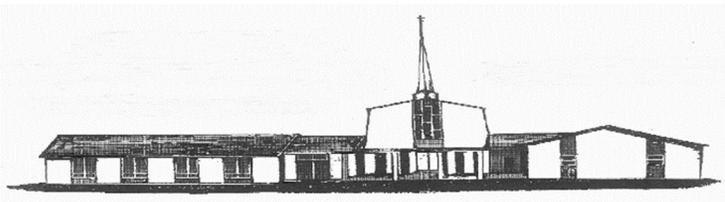


Tic-tac-toe

a game of Xs and Os

Zion's Messenger

Sunday Worship: 10:30 am, Holy Communion,
Indoor recorded service



November 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 – November 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					
2 All Saints Day Daylight Savings Time 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	3 Office Closed 6:30pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	4 7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm A.A. Meeting	5	6	7 F.H Rental	8 F.H. Rental 9:30am Blue Mountain Chorus Rehearsal
9 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	10 Office Closed 6:30pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	11 9:00am Knotters 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm A.A. Meeting	12 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	13 10:00am Crochet Group	14 10:00am Children of the King (Gold Room)	15 9:30am Blue Mountain Chorus Rehearsal
16 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Fellowship Time	17 Office Closed December Newsletter Deadline 6:30pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	18 Food Bank 7:00pm A.A. Meeting	19 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	20 11:00am Senior Group 7:00pm Property Meeting	21 Opportunity House	22 9:30am Blue Mountain Chorus Rehearsal
23 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Put up Advent Swags & Advent Wreath	24 8am-1pm 6:30pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	25 7am-1pm F.H. Rental 9:00am Knotters 7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm A.A. Meeting	26 8am-1pm 6:00pm Girl Scouts	27 Office Closed Thanksgiving	28	29 9:30am Blue Mountain Chorus Rehearsal
30 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 2:00pm Blue Mountain Heritage Chorus Concert (Belleman's Church)						