

Zion's Messenger – February 2026



Did you ever wonder why the four Gospel writers accounts of Jesus' life were so different? Why did some not even mention certain events and others provided very detailed reports of that same event? Think about what would happen if your family of four visited a historic site and when you got home you asked everyone to write down what they saw and learned that day. It is likely you would end up with four very different accounts.

Often reporters at the same scene write very different stories. You see - - - it's all about perspective. Using your existing knowledge, your prior experiences and standing in a different location you will be looking through a different lens. The true story may be clearer for some and others may have a view that is distorted by physical barriers, preconceived ideas or personal life experiences. Often the best way to get a more accurate picture is to step back and find a way to look at the situation from a new perspective.

For a moment, I invite you to put yourself in the shoes of someone on the roof of your house checking in on you. What do they see? If they followed you watching from above, how might they describe your life? Think about what their account might reveal that you may not recognize in yourself. Consider for a moment - What parts of your life are you thankful for, and what parts do you already wish you could change?

It is easy to slip into a habit of doing what the world expects us to do – conforming to worldly ways. So, sometimes in life it can be helpful to gain a new perspective. As brothers and sisters in Christ, that is part of how we can help each other. Only God can fully understand the grand plan, the BIG picture. Yet, when we allow ourselves to consider other's views and look at things from different perspectives, we grow closer to gathering the pieces of the big picture - the Kingdom of Heaven.

As you enter into your Lenten journey this month, consider ways you might gain a new perspective on life. Then, each week take some time to pause, to reflect – you will be transformed.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Stephanie



Souper Bowl Sunday

On Sunday, February 8, 2026, we will be celebrating Souper Bowl Sunday!
This year's Souper Bowl donations will benefit the Northern Berks Food Pantry.

We encourage you to bring canned soup.

There is a box in the narthex to collect canned soup now through February 8th

Food inventory at Helping Harvest who supplies food to the pantry was very low this month, so your donations are greatly appreciated.

On February 8th, you may place your monetary donation in the soup pot for the football team you think will win this year's Super Bowl game.

Thank-you for your gifts to help feed our neighbors in need.



Winter Weather and Worship

We cannot predict, but we can prepare. Weekday bad weather cancellation of programs, rehearsals, and meetings will be tied to what the Hamburg Area School District is doing for the day. If HASD cancels or lets out early, then all church programming including meetings are suspended for the day. This eliminates the need for multiple phone calls, and hopefully everyone will understand.

Sunday morning cancellations will be a decision made between Pastor and some council members. Cancellations will be posted on WFMZ, church Facebook page and the church answering machine.



Members needed!

Welcome & Outreach Committee

Welcome and Outreach Committee is undergoing a reorganization, and would welcome some new members.

We only meet 2-3 times a year.

We send bulletins monthly to our shut ins, have a bulletin ministry to reach out to members, and send notes to visitors to thank them for worshipping with us.

We also purchase holiday activity books/materials to be distributed to children at Easter and Christmas Eve worship services.

We not only welcome, but need, new members and new ideas and input for our committee.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 10th at 6pm. Please consider joining us!



Council Corner

Council held our monthly meeting on Tuesday January 13, 2026. We discussed the annual budget which is being presented to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting. Just a reminder we need at least 50 voting members to attend the annual meeting in order to approve the budget. Council discussed adding additional cabinets in the gold room. Additional storage is needed because we are required to move the items currently being stored in the bathroom closet because of our property insurance. We are no longer permitted to store items in the bathroom closet because of the location of electric panel. The expense of the cabinets will be \$8641. WELCA has agreed to give \$2000 towards the project. The endowment committee has agreed to give \$6000 toward the project, and the reminding \$641.00 will be taken from a memorial fund.

A group of volunteers will be reviewing the weekly envelopes for 2027 to determine if any of the specialty envelopes should be replaced with a different specialty envelope.

Respectfully submitted,
Wanda Hoherchak

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 2026.

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

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



Financial Report

Monthly – Income for December	\$23,822.71
Monthly – Expenses for December	\$14,402.82
The General Offering	\$17,177.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,900.38
Loose Change	\$ 707.35
Other Income	\$ 3,037.98
Subtotal	\$23,822.71

Thank you for your continued support!

Consider online giving

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

Qualified Charitable Distributions

A qualified distribution (QCD) is a simple and tax-smart way to give to the church.

- If you are 70 ½ or older, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution of \$100,000 or less of your required minimum distribution (RMD) annually.
- Giving directly from your IRA can reduce your annual gross income and lower your taxes. You are not taxed by the IRS on this type of distribution.
- Distributions must be made directly from a traditional IRA account by your plan administrator to Zion's.
- Discuss with your investment advisor to arrange for the QCD distribution to be made. Distributions can be transmitted to the church quarterly, semi-annually, or annually.



Have you moved? Are you planning to move?

Has your phone number changed?

Please notify the church office.

(610-562-3112 or churchoffice@zionslutheran.org)

We want to make sure that we have up-to-date contact information for everyone.



WELCA

WELCA will meet on Tuesday, February 10th, at 6:00pm. All women of the congregation are invited to attend as we discuss plans and activities for 2026.

BULLETIN ITEMS

Bulletin items should be submitted to the church office no later than close of business the Tuesday of the week of desired publishing.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Newsletter items should be submitted to the church office no later than the Monday following the council meeting in the month that publishing is desired.

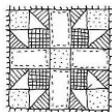
There will be a deadline reminder posted in the bulletin on the Sunday before the deadline.



Crochet Group

Get your hooks and yarn ready as we start our next project.

Invite your friends and bring your ideas.
Thursday, February 12th & 26nd at 10 am



Knotters Group

Please consider joining us in the Gold Room at 9am Tuesday, Feb. 10th & 24th

We always need helpers to sew quilt patches together for our knotted quilts.

Patches are available in the church office.

We are also in need of clean sheet sets & blankets.

Thanks to everyone for your assistance with our projects!

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



Senior Group

Our next Senior Group will meet

**Thursday, February 19th, 2026 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!



Fellowship

Our January Fellowship Time is

Sunday, February 15th, 2026.

Please plan to join us after worship.
Sign up on the bulletin board to bring snacks or to set-up.



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 for continuing to submit your Redner's tapes. In 2025, a total of \$912.52 was received through the Redner's Save-A-Tape program. We appreciate your efforts to turn in your receipts. Please continue to mail them, drop them off at church, or bring them to Sunday worship service.

Thank you, The Women of WELCA

Opportunity House 2026

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.

2026 Schedule:

March 20

May 15

July 17

September 18

November 20



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

Zion's Church Recipe

Take: 1 Pastor

1 Organist

1 Choir Director

Combine with time and patience.

Now take: 5 Sopranos

4 Altos

2 Tenor

1 Bass

Mix gently and add in the first ingredients.

Fold in a full measure of determination and corporation.

Pour into an organization and season with a prayer.

Add: Lots of people.

Sprinkle with laughter and praise.

Wait one week and serve proudly with a smile in generous portions at room temperature.

Will serve one congregation.

New additions:

The Mirical Among Us, by: Dr. Marc Siegel
(Inspirational)

Laughter is the Spice of Life, by: Women of Faith
(Humor)



Zion's Cemetery Co., Inc.

**Our Monthly Board Meeting will be held on
Thursday, Feb. 12th at 9 am.**

Meetings are held at Zion's Church (formerly Zion's UCC Church) in Meeting Room 201.

Single or multiple grave lots are available for sale.

Please contact David Geschwindt,
Cemetery Manager, 610-562-7421

thank
you

We want to thank our many church family members for their many prayers, calls, food, and encouragement during my recovery from knee replacement! Also for their help during the Christmas Eve service when our son had a cardiac incident.

Bob & Vernie Noecker

Thank you for your donation of 85 pajamas on 12/12/2025. Your gift is a blessing to those seeking refuge and life restoration at Hope.

Your support enables us to provide food, shelter, clothing, and guidance to over 1,500 individuals annually, including homeless veterans and many who are battling addiction. You are a valued partner in this ministry, and we could not manage all we do without your faithful support.

As we celebrate 131 years of service to the homeless of Berks County, we praise the Lord for our faithful partners who give sacrificially to feed the hungry, provide safe shelter for the homeless, and restore broken lives!

Warmest regards,
Robert Turchi, CEO
Hope Rescue Mission



Seeing Eye Inc.

Her name is Rocky, a golden retriever from Seeing Eye Inc. arrived Dec. 8th at 7 weeks old.

Update on Emma who returned to the program early November. Her graduation was at the end of January. She has been selected to enter the breeding program. Best of the best they say. After all the guides need to have a Mama.

As always, thank you for your assistance



New Member Spotlight **Jason & Hazel Gough**

In November, Zion's received Jason and Hazel Gough into membership. Jason, originally from Shoemakersville, is the son of member Lucille Gough. Hazel is from Syracuse, where they lived before moving to York PA. They have been together for 30 years, and have three grown children and two German Shepherd dogs.

Jason previously worked for Carrier Air Conditioning, and now works in York. Hazel is an LPN nurse, having worked as a visiting nurse in Syracuse.

Jason's hobbies include working on classic cars, with a preference of cars from the 60's and 70's. Hazel likes flower arranging and crafts.

Why Zion's? Jason and Hazel hadn't found a church in their area, attended Zion's as frequently as possible with Lucille, and liked our church. Jason shared that Zion's is an inviting church and our members are friendly.

Let us welcome Jason and Hazel into our community of faith in Jesus Christ.

Welcome and Outreach Committee

Let There Be Light

What do Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Diwali all have in common? Light!

From Yule logs to oil lamps to candles and fireworks, lights are everywhere this time of year, brightening spirits as day grow short, but also evoking the spark of the divine.

As they reflect in our faith and in our January electric bills, holiday lights remind us that winter won't last forever and the sun will someday return.



Food Pantry

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

Pasta, Noodles, 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, 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., February 24th, 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.



February Birthdays

- 1st Melissa Gruber
 Alyssa Noecker
 Adrienne Puglia
 Deanna Puglia
- 2nd Kyleigh Mengel Dewald
 Harold Kramer
- 8th James Blandford
 Brayden Heckman
- 9th Keith Hertzog
- 10th Wesley Trabosh
- 14th Lauren Werley-Wolf
 Katelyn Heckman
- 15th Evelyn Potts
- 16th Carolyn Geist
 Keith Seidel
- 20th Jory Heckman
- 21st Lois DeTurk
 Kenneth Reppert
- 23rd Zachary Hoherchak
- 25th Carielle Geist
 Tyler Pond
- 26th Joel Werley
 Ruth Wilhelm

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

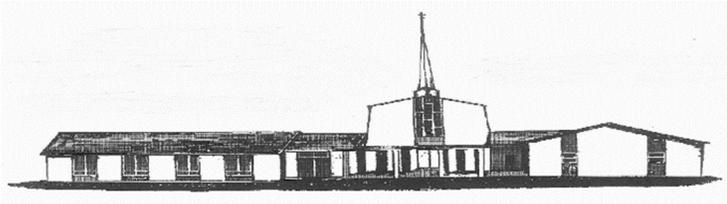
Lester Wessner
350 Witchcraft Rd
Hamburg, PA 19526

Jean Daub
1020 Railroad Rd.
Dauberville, PA 19533

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



February 2026

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 – February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Annual Meeting 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	2 Office Closed 6:30pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	3 7pm A.A. Meeting	4	5	6	7
8 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	9 Office Closed 6:30pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	10 9am Knotters Group 6pm WELCA Meeting 7pm Council Meeting 7pm A.A. Meeting	11 6pm Girl Scouts	12 9am Zions Cemetery Meeting 10am Crochet Group	13 10am Children of the King	14
15 Fellowship Time 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	16 Office Closed March 2026 Newsletter Deadline 6:30pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	17 6pm Altar Guild Meeting 7pm A.A. Meeting	18	19 11am Senior Group 7pm Property Meeting	20	21
22 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Fellowship Time	23 Office Closed 6:30pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	24 9am Knotters Group 7pm A.A. Meeting	25 6pm Girl Scouts	26 10am Crochet Group	27	28
					** Services will be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook page every Sunday	** Watch for service info in bulletins, calendars & online