

## Zion's Messenger – April 2026



*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)*

Spring has sprung. After months of cold and gray, the world around us is slowly waking up—buds on the trees, green shoots pushing through the soil, birds returning with their morning songs. There is something deeply hopeful about this season of new life.

It is no coincidence that we celebrate Easter in the midst of this transformation. Just as the earth is renewed, so too are we reminded of God’s promise of renewal through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. What once seemed lifeless bursts forth with possibility. What seemed finished is, in Christ, only the beginning.

Holy Week invites us to walk the path of sorrow and sacrifice, to stand at the foot of the cross and witness both the depth of human brokenness and the immeasurable love of God. But Easter morning meets us with an empty tomb and a bold proclamation: death does not have the final word. New life is not just possible—it is promised.

In our own lives, we may still feel the weight of winter—grief, uncertainty, weariness, or fear. Yet Easter speaks directly into those places. God is always at work bringing life out of death, hope out of despair, and renewal out of what feels worn and weary.

This April, as you notice the signs of spring all around you, I invite you to also look for signs of resurrection in your own life. Where is God bringing something new? Where is hope quietly taking root? Where is Christ calling you into renewed faith, renewed love, and renewed purpose?

May the promise of Easter fill your hearts with joy and your lives with hope.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Peace and blessings,

*Pastor Stephanie*

## Holy Week and Easter Services



### Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Perry Township

**Maundy Thursday – April 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:00 pm**

**Good Friday – April 3<sup>rd</sup> 7:00 pm**

**The Resurrection of Our Lord**

**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30 am & 10:30 am**

**8:30 – 9:45 am - Easter Breakfast**

(\*\*\* Please note the time change for Worship and Breakfast \*\*\*)



### Northern Berks Ministerium Lenten Series

Free Will Offering Supports  
the Ministerium's Outreach Assistance to the Needy

#### April 3, Good Friday

Cross Walk & Service

(No Luncheon)

First UCC 11AM Cross Walk

Hamburg 12PM Service



#### Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am (rain or shine).**

Meet in the Fellowship Hall.

All ages are welcome from toddlers thru adults.

Invite your friends to join us.

Don't forget your basket!

#### Easter Breakfast

Join us after our 7:30 Worship in the Fellowship Hall from

**Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> 8:30AM ~ 9:45AM**

For Easter Breakfast

Followed by 10:30 Worship



## **Change for Change Lenten Program**

By collecting spare change, you will help change the lives of the mothers, babies and youth in the care of Mary's Shelter.

*Mary's Shelter envisions a community where youth and pregnant women have a safe place to call home and families of all types have access to the resources and support needed to achieve their full potential.*

Mary's Shelter provides a variety of services and resources for homeless and runaway youth in Berks County as well as maternity and family services to those in need.

Your support will provide items like:

Diapers      Shampoo      Wipes      Baby Food  
Deodorant      Clothing      Pantry Foods      Baby Clothing

Remember to bring your "Change for Change" donations to be blessed on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Your participation in the  
"Change for Change" Lenten Program  
will support our neighbors, change lives and provide hope for the future.**



## **Celebrate 4 years of Joint Catechetical Ministry**

Worship with all four congregations involved in Joint Catechetical Ministry

**April 26, 2026 at 10:15 AM.**

Saint John's Lutheran Church,  
99 Church St. Hamburg, PA 19526

Please join us at 9:00 am - Sunday School for children 12 and under.

**NOTE: There will be no Sunday school or Worship services at Zions this day.**



## **Constitution Review Committee**

We are forming a Constitution Review Committee and are seeking a few members willing to help review our congregation's current constitution.

We will be looking for any changes necessary for consistency and accuracy, as well as looking for updates required from the ELCA churchwide constitution.

The task should involve only a few meetings along with some time for personal review. So, it is not a long-term commitment. If you feel called to assist with this important work for our congregation, we would be grateful for your help.

Please contact Pastor Stephanie or the Church Office if you are interested.



## Council Corner

Church council met on Tuesday, March 10 at 7 pm. The meeting started with a devotion – The Simple Life. We discussed the Easter breakfast. The breakfast will start about 8:30 am after the 7:30 am service. Council members signed up where we could for duties that morning. There are still spots left so keep an eye open for a sign-up sheet! A new short-term committee will be forming to review our constitution. We have one person that expressed an interest. If you are interested, please contact the church office. The Girl Scout troop that meets here will be having a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for a trip to Shenandoah NP. Stay tuned for details!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sandra Moroney

## 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.



## 2026 Flower & Bulletin Sponsors

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

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



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.

## Financial Report

We finished the month of February	\$2,178.62
in the red (monthly income over expenses).	
Monthly – Income for February	\$20,954.64
Monthly – Expenses for February	\$23,133.26
The General Offering	\$16,366.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,490.64
Loose Change	\$ 240.00
Other Income	\$ 2,858.00
Subtotal	\$20,954.64

**Thank you for your continued support!**

**Consider online giving**

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



*New Member Spotlight*

*Dave & Karen Weidner*

In November, Zion's received Dave and Karen Weidner into membership. They will be married 35 years this month, and have a son Jeremy, daughter Christine, three grandsons (Remington, Spencer, Asher), a dog Sophie and cat Lola.

Dave, son of members Paul and Linda Weidner, was a former member of Zion's. He served in the Army, then worked various jobs throughout the years, and is now happily retired. Karen is a hair stylist, working at Professional Hair Designs in Hamburg for 29 years.

Dave's hobbies include gardening, playing the guitar and keyboards, and playing video games. Dave is also a volunteer with our Northern Berks Community Garden.

In her spare time, Karen likes to read and enjoys cooking.

### **Why Zion's?**

Dave and Karen started attending with his parents, and enjoyed their worship experiences at Zion's as well as opportunities such as working in the Community Garden and helping at the Northern Berks Food Pantry.

Let us welcome Dave and Karen into our community of faith in Jesus Christ.

Welcome and Outreach Committee



## Reminder

This month's Adult Choir Rehearsal will be  
Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm and  
Wednesday's, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.



## Crochet Group

Get your hooks and yarn ready as we  
start our next project.  
Invite your friends and bring your ideas.  
Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 am.



## Spaghetti Dinner

Girl Scout Troop #114  
is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser  
**Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> 4~7pm**  
at Zion's Lutheran Church

Tickets include, Spaghetti & Meatballs,  
Salad and Drink

Dessert available for purchase

Adults \$10 (13 & up) ~ Kids \$7 (5 - 12)  
~ Free (4 & under)

Tickets are available for purchase in  
the Church Office.



## Knotters Group

Please consider joining us in the Gold Room  
at **9:00 am Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>.**

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

Patches are available in the church office.

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



The next WELCA meeting will be held on  
**Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.**  
All women of Zion's are welcomed to attend.  
Hope to see you there!

Zion's Card Outreach Ministry - Cards of any kind  
such as birthday, thank you, get well, sympathy,  
blank cards, etc. are always needed to provide  
outreach to the congregation and community. Cards  
should be placed in Virginia Werley's mailbox  
located in the church office. Thank you for your  
support and kind donations of cards.



## Senior Group

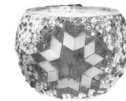
Our next Senior Group will meet  
**Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**in the Fellowship Hall,**  
**11:00 am – 2:00 pm.**

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

## Fellowship Time

Our April Fellowship Time is  
**Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

Please plan to join us after worship.  
Sign up on the bulletin board to  
donate snacks or help set-up and clean up.



## Zion's Craft Night

Join us on  
**Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30pm**  
in the Fellowship Hall.  
B's Art Studio will be here to teach us  
how to make Turkish Lamps.  
The activity will cost \$20.  
Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board  
in the Narthex.



## **VBS 2026 Announcement**

Prepare to step through the mist into  
**Rainforest Falls**

overflowing with wild waterfalls,  
towering trees and colorful creatures.

### **Vacation Bible School**

**June 22-26, 2026 from 9:00 – 11:30am**

Plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering  
the nature of God.

Learn what it means to be rooted  
in relationship with God,  
their creator, a safe place in life's storms.



## **Garden News**

*Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!" ~  
Robin Williams*

Spring is here and, in a few weeks,  
we will start our 12<sup>th</sup> Garden season.  
Please listen for Sunday announcements  
or check Zion's Facebook page  
for news of our work days.

Previous volunteers will be called/emailed  
the scheduling information.

If you want to be put on the Garden volunteer  
contact list, please email us at

[communitygarden@zionslutheran.org](mailto:communitygarden@zionslutheran.org)

or contact Lori at 610-401-1186.

Thank you, and hope to see you at the Garden!

## **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 publishing is desired.



## **Zion's Library**

Two natures beat within my breast. One is foul the  
other is blessed. One I love and one I hate. The one  
I feed will dominate.

Dr. David Jeremiah

### **New Additions**

DVD Captured by Grace

~ Dr David Jeremiah

DVD Power of Inspiration

~ Dr Norman Vincent Peale

DVD Hope Is the Best Thing

~ Joni Eareckson Tada

DVD 40 Days of Love

~Rick Warren

DVD The Final Events of Bible Prophecy

~Pastor Doug Batchelor

*thank you*

Thank you to everyone who attended  
the Jeff Krick Gospel concert  
on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>,  
we had an amazing turnout of 125 people.

Keep an eye out for our next concert  
coming in November.

The Geist Family

~~~~~  
Thank you for the birthday card shower.

It made my 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday even better.

Carolyn Geist



## **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](mailto:whoherchak@gmail.com) or my  
phone number is 570-778-8403.

Thank you, Wanda Hoherchak.

### **2026 Schedule:**

May 15 September 18

July 17 November 20



## Time to Dream about summer and going to Bear Creek Camp!

Classic camp is a Sunday through Friday experience with 3 sessions of try camp from Sunday to Wednesday for those who have completed grades 1-3. There are rafting trips for Jr. and Sr. high as well as an expanded high ropes course.

**First session of camp is June 21-26.**

**Last session of camp is August 9-14.**

WELCA strongly believes in the value of the outdoor Christian education of Bear Creek camp. Therefore, they offer scholarships for Zion's members and Zion's Sunday school attendees.

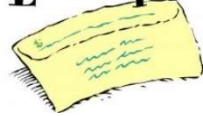
Try Camp - \$300

Classic Camp - \$425

Family Camp - \$300 (Family camp is July 5-10)

Check the website [bearcreekcamp.org](http://bearcreekcamp.org) for details about camp, dates, forms and FAQ. For details about how to sign up for camp and how to use the church code to access the scholarships, contact Carol Rothermel - [chipmunk\\_hill@comcast.net](mailto:chipmunk_hill@comcast.net) or 610-562-7620.

## **Offering Envelopes**



As we continue to give thanks for God's blessings and the many ways He provides for our community and congregation, we invite everyone to take part in our special March offering opportunities. Your generous gifts help sustain our ministry, care for those in need, and keep our church a warm and welcoming place for all.

### **Holy Week Envelopes:**

We offer these gifts in solemn remembrance of our Lord's passion and in hope of the resurrection to come.

### **Local Outreach – Lutheran Congregational Services Envelope:**

The Lutheran Congregational Services offering supports cooperative ministry, leadership development and shared resources among Lutheran congregations in Eastern Pennsylvania. These funds support programs like Lutheran Disaster Response – Eastern PA, grief recovery, and lay eucharistic ministry training.

### **World Hunger Envelope:**

Through the World Hunger Envelope, we join together with the ELCA World Hunger program to reach out beyond our walls, supporting efforts to feed the hungry and combat poverty both locally and around the world.

Every gift—big or small—helps bring hope and nourishment to those in need.

Every envelope, every gift, and every offering helps us share God's love in word and deed. Together, we can continue to build a vibrant, caring church community—rooted in faith and reaching out with compassion.



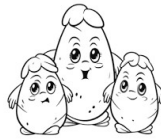
## **Zion's Cemetery Co., Inc.**

**Our Monthly Board Meeting will be held on  
Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> 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



## **Seed Potato Cutting**

A unique Christian ministry outreach addressing local hunger issues.

*"Feed my lambs."... "Tend my sheep" ...*

*"Feed my sheep"*

Volunteers needed for seed potato cutting

Saturday & Sunday, April 18 & 19, 2026 at 1pm Rain or Shine

265 Maiden creek Rd. *on the hill* in Molltown -Becker St. Peter Lutheran Church

Email: [ihh@ihartharvest.org](mailto:ihh@ihartharvest.org) Phone: 484-648-0381

Website: <http://www.IHartHarvest.org>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/potatoproject>



## **Shoemakersville Fire Company - R&K Subs**

Woman's Auxiliary of the Shoemakersville Fire Co. is selling R & K Subs to raise funds towards purchasing new equipment.

Orders are due by May 9, 2026.

Subs will be delivered to the church refrigerator in the fellowship hall on May 26, 2026 at 11 am for pick-up at your convenience.

Seven sub flavors are available at \$8.00 each.

Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Any questions and payment should be directed to Susie Lutz.



## Food Pantry

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

### **Paper Products: Toilet Paper, Tissues & Paper Towels**

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 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., April 28<sup>th</sup>, 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

We are 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.



## **April Birthdays**

2nd Lucas Price  
3rd Hailey Denatala  
5th Brielle Reinhart  
7th Autumn Eyer  
9th Neil Hoffman  
Gerald O'Brien  
10th Rev. Aaron Decker  
Mary Mengle  
Olivia Wilhelm  
11th Liam Brennan  
Sherry Houser  
13th Bobbe-Jean Madeira  
14th Emily Kohler  
Russell Olszewski  
Dorothy Seidel  
16th Amy Smith  
Jacob Fegley  
18th Jessica Long  
20th Veronica Heckman  
21st Evelyn Hoppes  
Gloria Machemer  
22nd Jordan Smith  
23rd Michael Houtz  
25th Carol Justice  
27th Linda Bowling  
29th Noah Bensinger  
30th Karen Brown  
Daniel Geist  
Andrew Heckman

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

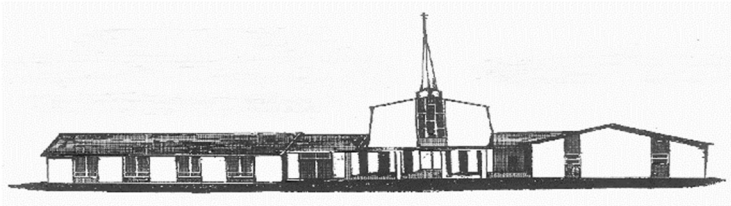
Lester Wessner  
350 Witchcraft Rd  
Hamburg, PA 19526

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



## April 2026

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 Zion's Church Road  
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

### Zion's Monthly Calendar – April 2026

| Sun                                                                                                                                                     | Mon                                                        | Tue                                                                                                 | Wed                                               | Thu                                                            | Fri                                                                                                   | Sat                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                         |                                                            |                                                                                                     | <b>1</b>                                          | <b>2</b><br>7 pm Maundy Thursday                               | <b>3</b><br>7 pm Good Friday                                                                          | <b>4</b><br>9:30 am Egg Hunt                                          |
| <b>5 Easter Sunday</b><br>F.H. Renal<br>7:30 am Worship<br>8:30 am Easter Breakfast<br>10:30 am Worship                                                 | <b>6</b><br>Office Closed                                  | <b>7</b><br>7 pm Adult Choir<br>7 pm A.A. Meeting                                                   | <b>8</b><br>6 pm Girl Scouts                      | <b>9</b>                                                       | <b>10</b><br>F.H. Rental<br>10 am Children of the King                                                | <b>11</b><br>4 pm -7 pm Girl Scout Spaghetti Dinner                   |
| <b>12</b><br>9:15 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship<br>“Change for Change”<br>Blessing<br>6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts                            | <b>13</b><br>Office Closed                                 | <b>14</b><br>9 am Knotters Group<br>6 pm WELCA Meeting<br>7 pm Council Meeting<br>7 pm A.A. Meeting | <b>15</b><br>7 pm Adult Choir                     | <b>16</b><br>11 am Senior Group<br>7 pm Property Meeting       | <b>17</b>                                                                                             | <b>18</b><br>F.H. Rental                                              |
| <b>19</b><br>Fellowship Time<br>9:15 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship<br>6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts                                            | <b>20</b><br>Office Closed<br>May 2026 Newsletter Deadline | <b>21</b><br>7 pm A.A. Meeting                                                                      | <b>22</b><br>6 pm Girl Scouts<br>7 pm Adult Choir | <b>23</b><br>10 am Crochet Group<br>5:30 pm Zion's Craft Night | <b>24</b>                                                                                             | <b>25</b>                                                             |
| <b>26</b><br>9 am Joint Sunday School<br>10:15 am Joint Worship ~<br>Saint John's Lutheran<br>(No service recording)<br>6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts | <b>27</b><br>Office Closed                                 | <b>28</b><br>9 am Knotters Group<br>7 pm A.A. Meeting                                               | <b>29</b><br>7 pm Adult Choir                     | <b>30</b>                                                      | <b>** Services will be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook page every Sunday</b> | <b>** Watch for service info in bulletins, calendars &amp; online</b> |