

Zion's Messenger – May 2026



As we move through the Easter season, the church calendar gently carries us toward Ascension and Pentecost—two moments that remind us that God is still at work even when life feels uncertain, stretched, or in-between. This year, those themes feel especially close to my heart.

Recently, as many of you know, my husband was hospitalized for 27 days. Anyone who has sat beside a hospital bed knows how time begins to feel different there. Days blur together. Waiting becomes its own kind of work. Hope and fear often sit side by side in the same chair.

In the middle of this season, I found myself returning again and again to the words of Julian of Norwich, who wrote during a time of plague, uncertainty, and upheaval:

“All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.”

Julian did not write those words because life was easy. She wrote them because life was hard. She wrote them because suffering was real and loss was near. Yet she believed—deeply—that God’s love held the final word.

That promise echoes beautifully in the season ahead.

Ascension feels like a strange celebration at first. Jesus departs. The disciples are left looking up at the sky, wondering what comes next - a moment of holy uncertainty. They are between what has been and what will be.

If I’m honest, that is exactly what hospital hallways felt like.

In between test results.

In between treatments.

In between prayers whispered and prayers answered.

The disciples must have felt that same mixture of confusion and hope. Jesus tells them to wait. To trust. To believe that God’s story is not finished yet.

And then comes Pentecost.

The waiting gives way to wind.

Silence gives way to voices.

Fear gives way to courage.

The Holy Spirit arrives not as a gentle whisper, but as a rushing promise: *You are not alone.*

This is the movement of our faith.

From uncertainty → to promise.

From waiting → to presence.

From fear → to courage.

During those long hospital days, I experienced Pentecost through you. Through prayers, cards, messages, and quiet acts of care. Through the steady reminder that the Spirit moves powerfully through community. You have been the rushing wind.

Julian of Norwich also wrote that “the greatest honor we can give Almighty God is to live gladly because of the knowledge of his love.” Some days that gladness feels easy. Other days it feels like an act of faith. But it is always rooted in the same truth: God is present, even here. Especially here.

As we journey toward Ascension and Pentecost together, may we remember that the disciples’ story is also ours. We are a people who wait. A people who hope. A people who trust that God continues to breathe life into weary hearts and anxious days.

And so we hold on to the promise:

All shall be well.

Not because life is simple.

Not because the road is easy.

But because God is with us in the waiting—and the Spirit is already on the way.

With gratitude for your prayers and with hope in the risen Christ,

Pastor Stephanie



**** SUMMER SCHEDULE ****

Sunday School begins its summer break on June 7, 2026. Sunday School will return in the fall. Our upcoming summer hours will be in effect from Sunday, June 7th through Labor Day weekend. During this time, worship will begin at 9:00 am.



Blessing of the Graduates

Sunday, June 7, 2026

If you have a graduate in your life this year,
please fill out a form located on the table in the Narthex.

Please submit the forms to the church office by **May 18th**

Zion’s church family looks forward to celebrating this milestone with your family.



Pentecost Red Geraniums

It’s time to order your Red Geraniums for Pentecost.

The cost is \$5.50 each. Orders and payment are due by Friday, May 15, 2025.

Pick up geraniums on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 2025 after worship
or call the church office to plan pick-up.



Church Council

Church council met on Tuesday, April 14 at 7 pm. The meeting started with a devotion – Stepping Up.

We discussed the Easter breakfast. The breakfast will start about 8:30 am after the 7:30 am service. We discussed Easter breakfast which was successfully executed. All help was greatly appreciated from the congregation.

We need two people from the congregation to attend Synod Assembly, June 4-6 at Split Rock Lodge. The computer was updated in the library. Six cabinets now line the wall in the Gold Room.

A suggestion was made for property committee to look into possibly cutting out a pew on the other side of the aisle where the one already exists to accommodate additional wheelchairs.

East Berks Mission District Assembly will be held May 7th. A representative is needed from our area.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Lutz



Financial Report

We finished the month of March	\$2,957.43
in the black (monthly income over expenses).	
Monthly – Income for February	\$21,063.75
Monthly – Expenses for February	\$18,106.32
The General Offering	\$17,311.08
Online Giving	\$ 2,676.15
Loose Change	\$ 190.00
Other Income	\$ 4,886.42
ELCA Pool Trust	\$ 4,000.00
Subtotal	\$21,063.75

Thank you for your continued support!
Consider online giving



Card Shower

We would like to have a **birthday card shower** for Mabel Fry who will be celebrating a birthday on **May 10.**

Cards should be addressed to:
Mabel Fry
65 Fry Lane
Auburn, Pa 17922



Zion's Craft Night Update

Zion's Craft Night has been rescheduled for Thursday, May 21st at 5:30 pm.

If you are unable to attend on the new date, please contact Lori Palubinski or Eileen Puglia for a refund.

Additional participants will be accepted until Sunday, May 17th.



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.

If anyone would be willing to help at VBS please see Faye Heckman or to call the church office.





Garden News

We will begin work in the garden on
Tuesday, May 5.

We will pull weeds, hook up the irrigation
and plant the cabbage.

All are welcome to help!

Please listen for Sunday announcements or check
Zion's Facebook page for news of our work days.

Previous volunteers will be called/emailed
scheduling information. If you want to be put on
the Garden volunteer contact list, please email us at
communitygarden@zionslutheran.org or
contact Lori at 610-401-1186.

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



Crochet Group

We will be taking the summer off
to enjoy the great outdoors.
Please join us again in September.



Knotters Group

Please consider joining us in the Gold Room
at **9:00 am Tuesday, May 12th & 26th.**

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

Patches are available in the church office.

We will be doing a Blessing of the Quilts on
June 7th during service.

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



Bike Rides

Please join us for our first bike ride of the year!

Saturday, May 16th at the Bartram Trail.

Please meet in the Bartram Trail parking lot,
at 9am start to our ride.

Bring your bike, water, and a snack to share for
some fellowship time at the end of the ride.

All ages are welcome!

See John Smith or Eileen Puglia
for questions or information.

We hope you can join us this year!



Senior Group

Our next Senior Group will meet

**Thursday, May 21st, 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.

All ages welcome to join.

Hope to see you there!



Fellowship Time

Our May Fellowship Time is

Sunday, May 31st, 2026.

Please plan to join us after worship.

Sign up on the bulletin board to
donate snacks or help set-up and clean up.



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.

thank you

Thank you to everyone for the cards, visits & prayers while I was stuck at home, it was much appreciated.
~Jean Daub

We thank our church family for their prayers and cards as David recuperates from his medical condition.
~David & Mary

We would like to thank you for your generous donation to our pantry. Your support of the Food Pantry is greatly appreciated. It is through people like you that we can continue to serve our neighbors and supplement their food supply each month. We appreciate all the donations we receive from our local churches, organizations and individuals who show their support for this project.
Our sincere thanks.
Northern Berks Food Bank Panty

Thank you for your gift of \$452.06 to the Cancer Research Institute (CRI), received on 4/8/26. Your new support brings us closer to a world immune to cancer.
With gratitude, Alicia Zhou, PhD
Chief Executive Officer

Thank you very much for the stamps you sent to the Stamp Ministry. As of the end of March 2026, \$7,000 has been generated this year in support of the Sunday School Program.
In 2025 we generated a total of \$40,000.
Thank you for serving the Lord with us
~ Stamp Ministry Volunteers.

“Change for Change”

Mary’s Shelter is so grateful for the generosity and heart of Zion’s Sunday School students and our entire church family. Through your joyful giving and commitment to “Change for Change”, we were able to collect **\$642!**

Every coin and dollar given is a reflection of kindness, compassion, and a willingness to help others following the example of Christ. How inspiring it is to see how small acts, when done together, can make a big difference.



New Member Spotlight

In November, Zion's received Scott Boltz into membership. Scott grew up in Lebanon, PA and attended Cedar Crest high school. Upon graduation he served 4 years in the Air Force. He then attended Penn State University. Before retirement Scott worked as an electrical engineer at the Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome, NY.

Scott enjoys learning to play the guitar, playing Candy Crush, eating out and traveling. He also enjoys driving his 2024 Ford mustang. Scott met Eileen Puglia and began attending services with her. He enjoys the worship experience at Zion's and is active with the Northern Berks Food Pantry, the Community Garden and Zion's mowing team.

Scott, we warmly welcome you and look forward to growing together in faith.

~Welcome and Outreach Committee



Zion's Library

Remember, a small trouble is like a pebble. Hold it too close to your eye and it puts everything out of focus. Hold it at a proper viewing distance and it can be examined and classified. Throw it at your feet and it is in its true setting...just one more tiny bump on the pathway.

God answers Knee-mail.

New arrivals:

Joshua ~ Joseph Girzone
Never Alone ~ Joseph Girzone
(See Guidepost)

Two Testaments, One Bible ~ Apollo
(See Reference)

Revelation ~ Guidepost
(See Bible Study)

Talking to Heaven ~ James Van Praagh
(See DVD)



Shoe Us the Love

Make a difference one pair at a time.
Drop off your gently worn or new shoes that are still wearable, with intact soles and laces.

What kind of shoes you ask!

Athletic Shoes, Crocs, Boots, Cleats

Heels and Sandals

All Shoes, All Sizes

Collected shoes are often donated to support micro-entrepreneurs in developing countries, creating opportunities for people to start small businesses.

Be sure to ask, friends, family, neighbors and co-workers to donate too!

Collection box located in the Narthex.



Grab-A-Tab

We are excited to announce that we will continue to collect soda tabs to go to Hamburg Area School District as they are participating in the "Grab-A-Tab" program.

Ronald McDonald House "Grab A Tab" Story

Once a beverage or a product can is opened, the little tabs used to do the trick are often forgotten and discarded. A tool once vital to fulfilling its cause is suddenly rendered useless and ends up at the bottom of a garbage pail. That little tab, however, is indispensable to the Ronald McDonald Houses. The Ronald McDonald House relies on its collection and recycling to help finance the many programs it offers, as well as the day-to-day operation of the House. The tabs are weighed and cashed in by the pound. The "Grab-a-Tab" program is a community friendly fund-raising program. It allows people of all ages to join in the effort of providing a "Home-Away-from-Home" to children with cancer and other serious illnesses and their families.



The next WELCA meeting will be held on
Tuesday, August 11th at 6:00pm.
All women of Zion's are welcomed to attend.
Hope to see you there!



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:

May 15 September 18

July 17 November 20



Faith Night at the Movies

Hamburg Strand Theatre

May 12, 2026 The Sound of Hope

June 9, 2026 The Forge

July 14, 2026 Rocky

Aug. 11, 2026 When the Game Stands Tall

Sept. 8, 2026 Unsung Hero

Oct. 13, 2026 Beautiful Mind

Nov. 10, 2026 Priceless

Dec. 8, 2026 The Christmas Hope

All movies start at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$10.00 at the door and include a popcorn & medium soda.



Zion's Cemetery Co., Inc.

**Our Monthly Board Meeting will be held on
Thursday, May 14th 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



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 May 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.

Charity and Emergency Fund:

The Charity and Emergency Fund provides immediate, compassionate help to individuals and families in times of unexpected need. These donations allow our church to respond quickly and quietly when crises arise, both within our congregation and in the surrounding community. This fund gives our congregation the ability to be Christ's hands and feet in real time—offering hope, care, and practical help when it is needed most.

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.



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

Classic camp is Sunday through Friday with 3 sessions of try camp from Sunday to Wednesday for those who have completed grades 1-3. Jr. and Sr. high program include a rafting trip and 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 for details about camp, dates, forms and FAQ. For details about how to access Zion's WELCA scholarships, contact Carol Rothermel - chipmunk_hill@comcast.net or 610-562-7620.



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.



Food Pantry

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

Cereal

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., May 26th, 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.



May Birthdays

- 2nd Jason Dewald
- 3rd Lorelee LaVentura
- 4th Edmund Adam
- 7th Taylor Gruber
Jara Heckman
- 8th Victoria Walsh
- 10th Mabel Fry
Grayson Gnade
Taryn Seidel
Ty Seidel
- 11th Zachary Onulack
Christina Seidel
- 13th Brooke Bensinger
- 14th Tyler Seidel
- 15th Howard Hoppes
Marc Schroeder
- 17th Jamie Heckman
- 21st Dylan Gough
Kathryn Reinhart
- 23rd Matthew Clark
Jean Daub
Carrie Price
Leslie Seidel
- 24th Kami Rodeffer
- 25th Heather Stitzer
- 26th Sandra Masters
Brandi Seidel
- 28th Lathum Mazaika
Sandra Moroney
Bradley Reinhart
- 29th Tammy Eyer
- 30th Jenelle Reinhart
Susan Schriver
- 31st Tara Bachman

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

Jean Daub
1020 Railroad Rd.
Dauberville, PA 19533

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

Kathrine Reinhart
Grandview Manor
129 Houck Road
Fleetwood, PA 19522

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

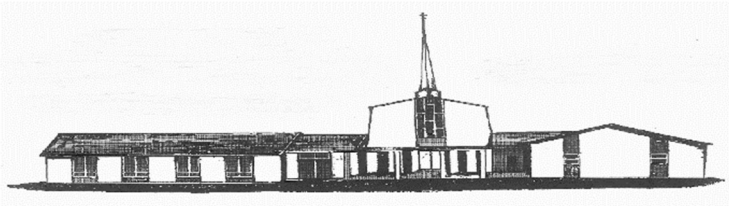
Barbara Shafer
21 East Noble
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

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



May 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 – May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 6:30pm Cub Scouts &	4 Office Closed	5 9 am Garden 7 pm A.A. Meeting	6	7	8 10 am Children of the King	9 Girl Scout First-Aid & CPR Class R&K Sub orders due
10 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	11 Office Closed	12 9 am Knotters Group 7 pm Council Meeting 7 pm A.A. Meeting	13 6 pm Girl Scouts	14	15 Pentecost Flower Orders Due	16 9 am Bike Ride (Bartram Trail)
17 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	18 Office Closed June 2026 Newsletter Deadline Graduation Form Deadline	19 7 pm A.A. Meeting 11 am R&K Sub pick-up	20	21 11 am Senior Group 5:30 pm Craft Night 7 pm Property Meeting	22	23
24 Pentecost 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	25 Office Closed	26 9 am Knotters 9 am Food Pantry 7 pm A.A. Meeting	27 6 pm Girl Scouts	28	29	30
31 Fellowship Time 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts					** Services will be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook page every Sunday	** Watch for service info in bulletins, calendars & online