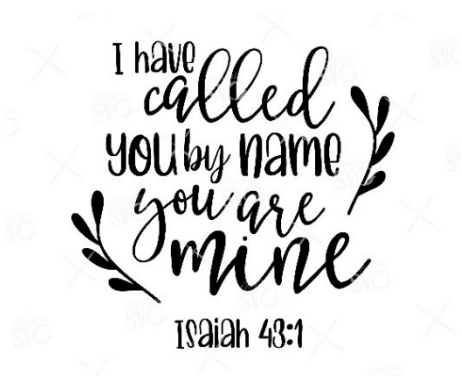


Zion's Messenger – October 2026



I Am With You Always

As October unfolds, we notice the changes all around us. The days grow shorter. Darkness arrives earlier each evening. Trees exchange their green leaves for brilliant shades of gold, orange, and red before eventually standing bare against the autumn sky.

For many people, however, the increasing darkness is more than a change in the weather. This season can bring feelings of loneliness, discouragement, grief, anxiety, or depression. The struggles we carry throughout the year can feel heavier as daylight fades and schedules become busier. We may find ourselves wondering how we will make it through difficult circumstances, losses, uncertainties, or challenges that seem overwhelming.

Scripture reminds us that God never abandons us in these seasons. Jesus' final promise to his disciples is also a promise for us today: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." *Matthew 28:20*

Notice that Jesus does not promise a life free from hardship. He promises his presence. In times of joy and in times of sorrow, in moments of confidence and in moments of doubt, Christ walks beside us.

The prophet Isaiah offers another beautiful reminder of God's steadfast love:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine." *Isaiah 43:1*

What a powerful promise. God knows us by name. God claims us as beloved children. Even when we feel forgotten, isolated, or overwhelmed, we belong to God. Nothing—not darkness, fear, grief, or uncertainty—can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus.

As the evenings grow longer this month, may we remember that God's light shines even in the darkness. May we reach out to one another with kindness and compassion. And may we hold tightly to the promises of our faith: Christ is with us always, and we are God's own.

May the peace of Christ surround you and sustain you through every season.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Stephanie



WELCA's Annual Drive-thru Favorite Food Sale **Saturday, October 10th**

WELCA is again holding a food sale of some of your favorite Bazaar foods, including barbecues, soups, and apple dumplings.

Pre-order and pay by Sunday, October 4th
Drive-thru and pick up your food on Saturday, October 10th from 11am until 1pm.

Baked goods will be available for sale the day of pick up.

Sign-up sheets are posted in the Narthex for baked good donations and for volunteers to help in the kitchen or the day of the sale.

Order forms are available in the Narthex and on Zion's Facebook page and website. Order forms and payment can be put into Sunday's offering basket, dropped off at the church office, or mailed to the church c/o WELCA. Please make checks payable to WELCA.

Thank you in advance for your support!
~The Women of WELCA



Fill the Truck for Opportunity House **On Saturday, October 10 from 11am ~ 1pm** **In the Church Parking Lot**

Donate gently used furniture, clothing, and household items to help families get back on their feet after experiencing homelessness.

Please donate only items in good, usable condition.

Items accepted: Furniture, Clothing, Household items

Items not accepted: Electronics, Baby furniture

Your generosity can make a meaningful difference in helping families create a fresh start.

Tell your friends and neighbors. Everyone is welcome to participate!

Thank you for your support!

Meet Our New Bishop

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod's new Bishop, Jennifer Dee will be joining us for worship on Sunday, November 8th.

A time of fellowship will be held in the social hall after worship



Bishop Jennifer Dee's installation will be Saturday October 31, 2026
The service will start at 1:00pm.

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
2344 Center st.
Bethlehem, PA 18017



Council Corner

Church council met on Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00pm. The meeting started with a devotion – Wise in your own eyes. Sunday School starts on September 13, 2026. The church picnic will also be on September 13, 2026. The next Fellowship time aka coffee bar will be on September 20, 2026 following the church service. The boy scouts are currently selling popcorn. They will be setting up outside the narthex soon. Stay tuned for the exact dates! Stephanie found a video for the AED model that we have. A viewing of this video will happen on October 11, 2026 after the church service. The video is 38 minutes long.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandra Moroney



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.

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.



Youth Group Kick-Off

Students' 6th grade and up are invited to join us on Sunday, October 25th, from 5:30–7:00 PM!

Bring a friend and join us for a fun evening of meeting new friends, fellowship, and a pizza party!

We can't wait to see you there!



Financial Report

We finished the month of August \$ 2,337.23 in the black (monthly income over expenses).

Monthly – Income for August \$16,146.27

Monthly – Expenses for August \$18,483.50

The General Offering \$14,640.00

Online Giving \$ 1,598.74

Loose Change \$ 40.00

Other Income \$ (132.74)*

Subtotal \$16,146.27

*AED donations moved from general fund to Memorial Fund for future AED maintenance.

Thank you for your continued support!

Consider online giving

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



Prayer Corner for Our Community of Faith

Immediate Concerns:

Dan Adams, Izzy Crespo, Robin Henry,
Bill Gundrum, Jim Jones, Dean Lawrence,
Steve Mengle, Pat Potts,
Pastor Stephanie Roth & Family,
Reid Schrack, Jeff Shagnaw, Leslie, Norma

Ongoing Concerns:

Colson and Courtney Dougherty, Hazel Gough,
Tracy Schaeffer, Don Roth

Shut-Ins and Nursing Home/Personal

Care Residents:

Ruth Bensinger, Jean Daub, Mabel Fry,
Lee Gehringer, Helen James, Grace Ketner,
Kathrine Reinhart, Christine Ryan, Carl Sechler,
David Seidel, Barbara Shafer, Shirley Sohon,
Lester Wessner

Family and Friends Grieving

Recent Losses:

Family of Carl Hein, Family of Gene Miller,
Family of Caralyn Mummer



Sock It To 'Em

The most requested item by military personnel deployed overseas is “Socks”, yes socks. The 2026 Stockings for Soldiers “Sock It to Em” campaign is starting now! Help us provide socks for every soldier this year. Please place your sock donations in the drop box in the narthex.

All socks must be new, no used socks!

ALL TYPES OF SOCKS ARE BEING ACCEPTED.

Men's & Women's Boot Socks
Black or White & Mostly Cotton

The Keystone Military Families thank you for your donation!



COMING SOON – JESUS, JAMMIES and JOY

“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 will be collecting new kid's winter pajamas to be distributed to children in need through local agencies in time for Christmas.

Be on the lookout for sales on any size girls or boys one or two-piece warm pajamas.

WATCH FUTURE BULLETINS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Thank-you for sharing the love of Jesus with children in need during the upcoming holiday season through the warm hug of new winter pajamas!



Imagine the impact you can make in the community!

We want to hear from our members!

Take a moment to think about a project, program, or outreach idea that could make a positive difference in our community.

What is something you would love to see us do to help our community?

Write down your ideas, big or small.

There are no bad ideas—we want to **Imagine** What is possible when we work together!

Please fill out a form to share your idea and place it in the “Imagine” mail box in the narthex.

All ideas will be reviewed by Zions' leadership and considered to be incorporated into our next outreach endeavor.



Crochet Group

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

We will be meeting in the library on Thursday, October 15th & 29th at 10am Bring your imagination and a friend.



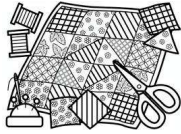
Senior Group

Our next Senior Group will meet

**Thursday, October 15th, 2026
in the Fellowship Hall,
11:00 am – 2:00 pm.**

You are welcome to bring a side dish to share for lunch. Join us and invite a friend to play board games and cards.

All ages are welcome.
Hope to see you there!



Knotters Group

Please consider joining us in the Gold Room at
9am on Oct. 13th & Oct 27th

We assembled & blessed 100 back packs
with school supplies in them to be
delivered to New Windsor, Maryland.

Thank you for all the donations and
help completing this project.

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

Patches are available in the church office.

Currently, we are in need of 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.



Bike Rides

On October 17th, we will be having
our last bike ride which will take us to
the Bartram Trail.

We will meet at the Bartram Trail
Parking lot at 9am to start our ride.

All ages are welcome to join.

Bring your bike, water, and also a snack to
share for some fellowship time.

Questions? More info?

Contact John Smith or Eileen Puglia.



Fellowship Time

Sunday, October 18th, 2026.

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



Garden News

"The garden year has no beginning and no end."

Elizabeth Lawrence

The end of our 12th Garden season is drawing near.

We are finishing up our tomatoes, peppers, and
cabbage and are hard at work with Garden clean up.

We have surpassed a ton of produce donated to
local food pantries this year!

Thank you to all of our Garden volunteers,
as well as those church and community members
who have supported our ministry this year.

Your prayers and support have seen us through
another Garden season!

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.



Zion's Library

TAKE TIME TO LAUGH:

It's the music of the soul.

TIME TO PLAY:

It's the source of perpetual youth.

TIME TO PRAY:

It's the greatest power on earth.

TAKE TIME TO LOVE AND BE LOVED:

It's a God-given privilege.

TAKE TIME TO BE FRIENDLY:

It's the road to happiness.

TAKE TIME TO GIVE:

It's too short a day to be selfish.

TAKE TIME FOR GOD:

It's the way to life.

New Additions to the Library:

Ten Questions Christians are Asking

~David Jeremiah ~Evangelist

Circle Time Activities for Young Children

~Deya Brashears Sharron Werlin ~ Christian Ed.

In the Presence of Mine Enemies ~

Howard & Phyllis Rutledge ~ Bio



Dear Zion's Lutheran Church,
We would like to thank you for your generous
Harvest Home donations to our food pantry.

Your support of the Food Pantry is greatly
appreciated. It is through people like you that we
can continue to serve your neighbors and
supplement their food supply each month.

Our sincere thanks.

~**Northern Berks Food Pantry**

Thank you to everyone who kept our family in your
prayers over the past few months as we struggled
with my mother's declining health. We are deeply
grateful for the prayers, flowers, and cards we
received following her passing in September.

Your love and support during this difficult time
have been a true blessing to us

~**Pastor Stephanie Roth & Family**



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:

November 20



Zion's Cemetery Co., Inc.

**Our Monthly Board Meeting will be held on
Thursday, October 8th 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



Grab-A-Tab Outreach

We are excited to announce that we will continue to
collect

soda can tabs

to go to Hamburg Area School District for the
"Grab-A-Tab" program.



The "Grab-a-Tab" program is a community friendly
fund-raising program
that allows people of all ages to join the effort to
provide a "Home-Away-from-Home"
to children with cancer and other serious illnesses
and their families.



Faith Night at the Movies

Hamburg Strand Theatre

Oct. 13, 2026 Beautiful Mind

Nov. 10, 2026 The Great Awakening

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.



**** Special Notice ****

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

Monday, Dec. 07, 2026.

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 10th, 2026

This year's Annual Meeting is scheduled for
Sunday January 24th, 2026.

The snow date is January 31st, 2026.



Music Together Berks Youth Chorus

A community of families and friends, singing, laughing and learning together.

The perfect place to imagine, improvise, express creativity, and relate to others through music.

A playful, inclusive family activity, fun for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and parents and caregivers too!

There are two groups you can join, mixed ages & rhythm kids.

Both groups are 9-week classes which are held at Zion's Lutheran Church, Shoemakersville or St. Daniel's Lutheran Church, Robesonia.

There will be Demo classes on Wednesday, October 14th at 10:00am and 4:30pm.

Fall Schedule

Classes start on October 20th.

Tuesdays

Zion's Lutheran Church
4:30pm Mixed Ages
5:30pm Rhythm Kids

Wednesdays

Zion's Lutheran Church
10:00am Mixed Ages
11:00am Mixed Ages

Thursdays

St. Daniel's Lutheran Church
9:30am Mixed Ages
10:30am Mixed Ages

Mixed Age Class

Ages 0-5 years old with parent/caregiver
45 minutes per week for 9 weeks

The class will include singing, creative movement, rhythm and instrument play with scarves, rhythm sticks, egg shakers, resonator bells, gathering drums & more, while bonding with your little one!

Rhythm Kids Class

Ages 4-7 years old with some caregiver support
45 minutes per week for 9 weeks

The class will include singing, dancing, and jamming to rhythms and tunes inspired by musical traditions around the world through group and individual activities that get students up and moving as they learn to compose, choreograph, and conduct.

If you are interested in joining a class, please go to

<https://www.berksyouthchorus.org/music-together>

or contact Megan Charlesworth, Director

info@berksyouthchorus.org

(610) 898-7664



MARK YOUR
CALENDAR

10/25/26	Reformation Sunday
11/01/26	All Saint's Sunday
11/29/26	1 st Sunday in Advent
12/24/26	Christmas Eve
	4:00 pm & 7:00 pm



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 October 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.

Fuel Envelope

The Fuel Envelope offering helps to cover the cost of heating fuel during cold winter months. Your gifts enable us to keep our sanctuary and church building comfortable and inviting for worship, outreach, and fellowship during throughout the year.

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.



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

*Paper towels

*Hamburger/Hotdog Buns

3 million collected thus far 6 products given.

Teaches about sustainability and
to give back to others.

Collection bin on table in Narthex



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., October 27th, from 6 pm to 7 pm.

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



2026 Wreaths Across America

“Remember Me”

Zion's Cemetery of Perry Township is a registered location for W.A.A. for the third year!

Please join us on Saturday, December 19, 2026 at Noon in the cemetery to honor our veterans by placing a wreath on the veteran's grave. Our theme for this year is “Remember Me.” As we continue to celebrate our country's 250th anniversary, let's also remember how individual veterans contributed and served to help build an independent nation. If you would like to suggest a veteran interred at Zion's Cemetery for us to spotlight this year, please contact W.A.A. volunteer location coordinator Michelle Koletar at (610) 781-4037 or Boy Scout sponsorship group leader, Heather Gring at (610) 334-7476. We ask that you do so before November 8, 2026 so we may plan our ceremony's itinerary to include the individual veteran's story on December 19, 2026.

Nationwide in 2025 W.A.A. volunteers placed more than 3.1 million veteran wreaths at over 5,500 locations! Please consider sponsoring a veteran wreath, volunteering to place wreaths on Saturday, December 19, 2026, or joining us at Zion's Cemetery for our Ceremony at 12:00pm. We will have light refreshments and restrooms available in the fellowship hall in the lower level of Zion Church immediately following the wreath placements. We have 278 veterans interred at the cemetery and a wreath sponsorship is only \$17.00. Sponsorship can be done on the W.A.A. website for Zion's Cemetery (location ID# PAZTPT) through the Boy Scout Troop. (Sponsorship group ID# 0868)

Everyone is welcome to join us at 12:00pm on Saturday, December 19, 2026 in the cemetery. Let's remember and honor our veterans together as America's 250th anniversary comes to an end!

We hope to see you all on there.
www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

October Birthdays

2nd Brittny Billig
Dean Kauffman
Chase Weachter
3rd Amanda Gallagher
4th Amber Auchenbach
Nancy Seidel
6th Shelley Strunk
7th Denise Kopicz
Jennifer Neuin
9th Wasyl Onulack Jr.
10th Timothy Olszewski
Makenna Seidel
12th Eleanor Dietrich
Heather Wagner
13th Robert Kopicz
Neil Schaeffer
Connor Troutman
14th Lucille Gough
Eileen Puglia
15th Matthew Deibler
16th Bella Denatala
Joanne Reidenhour
17th Norman Dresher
19th Tanner Mish
20th Ruth Ann Adam
Evan Herr
Aryton Miller
Barbara Reinhart
Brandon Schroeder
21st Alannah Daub
22nd Reece Heckman
Carl Sechler
24th Heather Gring
Jennifer Kepner
25th Abbie Baer
26th Lillian Dusko
Nancy Holland
Brianna Ulrich
30th Micheal Heckman
Dawn O'Brien
Lori Smith
31st Amanda Maberry
Linda Weidner

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

Lee Gehringer
501 Hoch Rd
Blandon, PA 19510

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

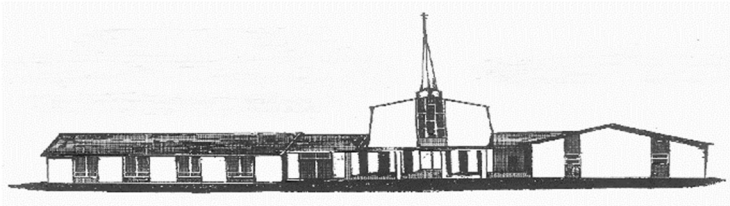
Barbara Shafer
21 East Noble
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

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: 9:00 am, Holy Communion,
Indoor recorded service



October 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 Zions Church Road
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
** Services will be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook page every Sunday	** Watch for service info in bulletins, calendars & online					
4 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	5 Office Closed	6 7 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm A.A. Meeting	7	8 F.H. Rental 9 am Zion's Cemetery Meeting Room 201	9 F.H. Rental	10 F.H. Rental Food Sale Fill The Truck
11 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship AED Training following Worship 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	12 Office Closed	13 9 am Knotters 7 pm Council Meeting 7 pm A.A. Meeting	14 10 am BYC- Music Together Demo 4:30 pm BYC – Music Together Demo 7 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	15 10 am Crochet Group 11 am Senior Group 7 pm Property Meeting	16	17
18 Fellowship Time 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	19 Office Closed November 2026 Newsletter Deadline	20 6 pm Altar Guild 7 pm A.A. Meeting	21 7 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	22	23	24
25 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	26 Office Closed	27 9 am Knotters 7 pm A.A. Meeting	28 7 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	29 10 am Crochet Group	30	31