Zion's Messenger – November 2026



I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart (Psalm 9:1)

As November arrives, we begin to turn our thoughts toward Thanksgiving. The days grow shorter, the leaves fall, and the world around us prepares for winter. In the midst of our busy lives, this season invites us to pause and reflect on the many blessings God has given us.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Paul writes, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Giving thanks in all circumstances does not mean that life is always easy or that we never experience sadness, worry, or disappointment. Rather, it reminds us that even during difficult seasons, we are never alone. God continues to walk beside us, offering comfort when we are weary, strength when we feel weak, and hope when the road ahead seems uncertain.

As Christians, our gratitude is rooted in the love and grace of Jesus Christ. We see God's goodness not only in the big moments of life but also in the simple, everyday gifts we sometimes overlook: a kind word, a shared meal, the laughter of a child, the beauty of creation, or the presence of someone who cares.

Here at Zions, we have much for which to be thankful. We give thanks for our congregation, for those who faithfully serve, for the hands and hearts that make our ministries possible, and for the ways we share God's love with our neighbors and community.

At Zions, we have many opportunities throughout November to put our gratitude into action through giving, serving and caring for others. Every act of kindness, every prayer, every helping hand offered and every opportunity to serve is a reminder that we are blessed to be a blessing to others. As we remember all that God has given us, may we find joy in sharing those blessings with others.

As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, may we remember those who are lonely, grieving, struggling, or facing difficult circumstances. May we find ways to share our blessings and extend the welcome and compassion of Christ to all.

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

May this season fill our hearts with gratitude, strengthen our faith, and remind us that God's love surrounds us in every season of life.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and peaceful Thanksgiving!

In Christ's love and grace,

Pastor Stephanie



** 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, 2027.

This year's Annual Meeting is scheduled for
Sunday January 24th, 2027.
The snow date is January 31st, 2027.



Nativity Sets on Display

Saturday, December 12th, noon to 3:00 pm

Zion's Lutheran Church will open its doors to take in 3 rooms to the public,
with a display of over 300 Nativity Sets from a private collection.

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

11/01/26	**All Saint's Sunday**
11/29/26	**1st Sunday in Advent**
12/12/26	**Nativity Display**
12/13/26	**Sunday School Christmas Program**
12/24/26	**Christmas Eve 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm**



Council Corner

As heating season approaches, please consider giving to the Fuel Fund, that was the Special Offering envelope for October, but you can still use it if you have not already. We are anticipating greater than normal fuel costs due to the price of heating oil this season.

The new Bishop Jennifer Dee will be joining us for worship on Sunday, November 8. Please join us for this special service! We will have Fellowship time after the service to meet and talk to the Bishop.

We will hold an AED Training session and watch a training video after worship on Sunday, November 22.

If you are a Committee Chairperson, please start working on your Annual Report for the Congregational Meeting! The deadline will be here sooner than you realize.

Respectfully Submitted,
Faye Heckman



Financial Report

We finished the month of September $ 4,281.34 in the red (monthly income over expenses).

Monthly – Income for September	$12,508.07
Monthly – Expenses for September	$16,789.41

The General Offering	$ 8,395.00
Online Giving	$ 2,530.06
Loose Change	$ 71.00
Other Income	$ 1,512.01
Subtotal	$12,508.07

Thank you for your continued support!
Consider online giving
visit http://zionslutheran.org/donate/



Prayer Corner for Our Community of Faith

Immediate Concerns:

Robin Henry, Bill Gundrum,
Dean Lawrence, Kyle Lord, Steve Mengle,
Karen Montag, Pat Potts,
Pastor Stephanie Roth & Family,
Reid Schrack, Adam Selfridge, Jeff Shagnaw,
Linda & "Chick" Stewart, Robert Sunday,
Leslie, Norma, Sharon, Shirley

Ongoing Concerns:

Dan Adam, 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 Maria Maletta, Family of David Martin



The November Adult Choir rehearsals are

Tuesday, November 3rd & 24th and
Wednesday, November 11th & 18th 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 5th, 12th & 19th
Brass at 6:00pm Bells at 7:00pm



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 3 options to donate.



JESUS, JAMMIES and JOY

November 1 – November 30, 2026

"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 size 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!



Volunteers for Northern Berks Food Pantry

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

We need volunteers at the Hamburg Area Middle School Cafeteria at 5:30pm on Tuesday, November 17th for their Thanksgiving distribution.

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

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



Fellowship Time

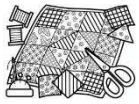
Sunday, November 8th, 2026.

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

WELCA Meeting

Our next WELCA meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, November 10th, at 6pm in the Gold Room.

All women of Zion's are welcome, upcoming opportunities to support our church ministries and our community. Hope you can join us!



Knotters Group

Please consider joining us in the Gold Room at 9am on Nov. 10th & 24th
Our current needs:

- sheet sets or blankets for quilt backing
- help to sew quilt patches together

Patches are available in the church office.

Helping hands and donations are always welcome.

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



Double Trouble Christmas Gospel Show with Jeff Krick & Jeff Krick Jr.

Sunday, November 15th at 2:00 pm
Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Free will offering will benefit:
Lutheran World Relief and
Cancer Research Institute



Senior Group

Thursday, November 19th, 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!



Crochet Group

We will be taking the rest of the year off.
With the upcoming holidays we want everyone to have the time with family.
See you next year.

Opportunity House 2026

We are always looking for additional volunteers to assist with the food service at Opportunity House.
Please contact me if you are willing to captain a team or assist with the food service in 2027.
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 Library

Kindness:
Have you had a kindness shown?
Pass it on;
'Twas not given for thee alone.
Pass it on;
Let it travel down the years,
Let it wipe another's tears,
Till in Heaven the deed appears……..
Pass it on.
~Henry Burton

New Additions:
Living with Purpose – Isaiah by Guidepost
A Bible study
Miracle in the Woods - DVD



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 supported our Girl Scout Fall Product Sale. The funds we earn will help us to learn new skills doing badges, visit places in the area to learn about nature, to go camping and to have fun.
We really appreciate your help!
~Ava & Evelyn Potts

To Zions Church Family:
Many thanks for your continued love, care, compassion, patience and prayers in my time of grief following the passing of my mother.
I feel truly blessed to have been called to shepherd Zions' congregation.
~Pastor Stephanie



A huge congratulations to Chick Stewart who has been awarded a quilt of valor for his military service. This is a bright light in the midst the health struggles of both his & Linda's.



Zion's Cemetery Co., Inc.

Our Monthly Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12th at 9 am.
Meetings are held at Zion's Church (formerly Zion's UCC Church) in Meeting Room 201.

We have set the week of November 1st thru 7th 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 maybe placed November 8, 2026.

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.



We had our first meeting on the 25th of October, 7 youth came together to brainstorm some wonderful outreach ideas! We are excited to see their enthusiasm and look forward to putting these ideas into action.

The next meeting will be on Sunday, November 29th from 5:30pm – 7:00pm at St. Luke's in Shoemakersville where dinner will be provided. We will be making Christmas cards, and having a game night.

On December 13th from 5:30pm – 7:30pm we will be meeting at St. Luke's in Shoemakersville. We will leave from there to go Christmas caroling to spread cheer through song! Please remember to bring a flashlight! When we return, we will warm up with cookies and hot chocolate.

The youth is always encouraged to bring a friend to join us for fellowship and fun!

We look forward to sharing these special moments of fellowship, service, and Christmas joy with you!



Zion's Caring Connection

Zion's Caring Connections is a ministry of friendship and compassion, reaching out to our homebound, elderly, and ill members through visits, conversation, prayer, and fellowship. Even when someone cannot join us in worship, they remain an important part of our congregation. Through this ministry, we will share the love of Christ and remind one another that we are never forgotten.

If you are interested in joining this new ministry, please sign up on the bulletin board or contact the church office. Pastor Stephanie will provide an overview for those who sign-up.



Children of the King

You are invited to join The Children of The King homeschool group on
Friday, November 13th from 10am to Noon
Our guest presenter, Eric Troutman, will be telling us about
Berks County in the American Revolution.
Mr. Troutman has a long history studying this topic and is an officer in the POS of A & the Sons of the American Revolution.
After his presentation we will make Thanksgiving cards.
Join us in the Fellowship Hall



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 November 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.



"Be in the Loop with Zion's" Weekly E-mail

Beginning next week, we will be sending out a weekly informational e-mail containing upcoming events, new prayer requests, death notifications and other important information.

If you wish to receive a weekly e-mail and are not currently on our e-mail list, please contact the church office for assistance.

If there is news or information that you feel is important to be added in the weekly e-mail, please forward it for consideration to the church office no later than Thursday of that week.



Help Keep Zion's Warm in 2027

As we look ahead to our 2027 budget, we anticipate a significant increase in heating costs due to rising fuel prices. Our projected heating expense for the coming year is approximately $25,000— nearly double what we have paid in the past.

As we explore ways to manage these increased costs, we invite you to prayerfully consider making a special donation designated to help cover our heating expenses. Every gift, no matter the size, will make a difference.

Thank you for helping Zion remain a welcoming place where faith grows, friendships flourish, and God's love is shared with all.



Food Pantry

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

Baking Items ~
Flour, sugar, cake mixes, choc. chips, ect.

And of course, **<u>any shelf stable item</u>** 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!

<u>Food Pantry Distribution:</u>

On the 3rd Saturday, at 9:00 am at the Lutheran Church of Holy Trinity, Leesport
The next <u>Northern Berks Food Pantry</u> distribution is currently scheduled for
Tues., November 17th, 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
<u>"Remember Me"</u>

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



1st	Vernie Noecker
	Elaine Schroder
2nd	April Reitenauer
3rd	Jeanette Heckman
4th	Shelly Strunk
5th	Janelle Kramer
6th	Nancy Dresher
	Paul Weidner
7th	Tiffany Gruber
	Rylee Strunk
8th	Kai Hawk
9th	William Heckman Jr.
	Kevin Koehn
	David Weidner
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	Jason Gough
	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

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

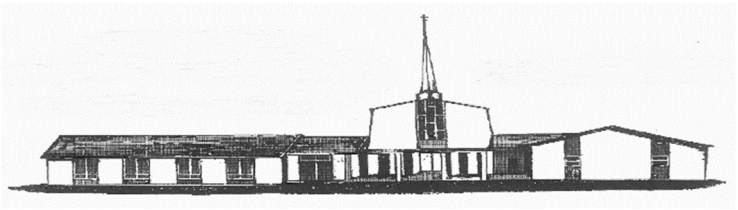
Barbara Shafer
21 East Noble
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

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



November 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

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saint's Sunday 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	**2** Office Closed	**3** 4:30 pm BYC-Music Together 7 pm A.A. Meeting 7 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	**4**	**5** 6 pm Food Pantry Meeting in Gold Room	**6**	**7**
8 Bishop Visit Fellowship Time 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm Confirmation Class @ St. John's 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	**9** Office Closed	**10** 9 am Knotters 4:30 pm BYC-Music Together 6 pm WELCA Meeting 7 pm Council Meeting 7 pm A.A. Meeting	**11** 6 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	**12** 9 am Zion's Cemetery Meeting Room 201 6 pm Worship & Music Meeting	**13** 10 am Children of the King	**14**
15 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 2 pm Jeff Krick Concert 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	**16** Office Closed December 2026 Newsletter Deadline	**17** 4:30 pm BYC-Music Together 7 pm A.A. Meeting	**18** 7 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	**19** 11 am Senior Group 7 pm Property Meeting	**20**	**21**
22 Christ the King Sunday 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship AED Training Church Set-up (advent) 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	**23 8am-1pm**	**24 7am-1pm** 9 am Knotters 7 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm A.A. Meeting	**25 8am-1pm** 6 pm Girl Scouts	**26** Thanksgiving Office Closed	**27** Office Closed	**28**
29 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm The Youth Group @ St Luke's 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	**30** Office Closed				**** Services will be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook page every Sunday**	**** Watch for service info in bulletins, calendars & online**