The Zion Herald

**April 2024**

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*With Christ at the center of all that we do,*

*we share our God given gifts, love one another, and gather as a community of faith.*

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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Pastor’s Letter

Zion Family,

As I write, we are on the edge of Holy Week and our Easter celebration. April brings with it the "Sundays of Easter," the seven Sundays that exceed the season of Lent and lead us to the Day of Pentecost on Sunday, May 19 when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. Many churches will celebrate the Rite of Confirmation on Pentecost.

My plan is to wrap up the 9 AM Sunday bible study for the summer on Pentecost. We are working on an off site worship service for Sunday, May 26, perhaps at the Union Meeting House, in order to celebrate Memorial Day. Look for the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter about gathering the names of veterans among our families, friends and congregation who have completed their race of faith and who we will remember on May 26.

We are going to have Vacation Bible School! It will be held June 10-14 from 9:30 AM-12 Noon each day, concluding with a light lunch. Please begin to enlist children from your friends and family to attend! It will be fun. I haven't decided on a theme yet, but each day will include music, games, crafts, bible story and food. This is exciting!

More excitement ... two of our children will be attending summer camp at Camp Kirchenwald. Madison McCarty and Ophelia Knapp, a recent & regular Zion visitor, will head there for Day Camp the week of June 17 to June 21 from 9 AM- 4 PM. I will provide transportation and remain at the camp to volunteer with the grounds crew for the week, then bring them home at the end of the day.

During the summer, on Sundays, July 7, 13 & 21 at 9 AM, I'll offer a refresher on what it means to be a Lutheran Christian. We'll explore Lutheran history, theology and organization. It will be fun! Come early for church and we'll talk and learn over coffee before the service.

Congratulations to Lauren and Anthony DiLoreto who are the proud parents of baby boy, Anthony David DiLoreto! Anthony was born on March 11, weighing in at 6 pounds 12 ounces.

Blessings!

Pastor Geib

**Pastor Styer to Supply**

Pastor Emily Styer will supply our service on Sunday, April 28 when Pastor Geib and Cathy are indulging their bluegrass music interest at Merlefest in Wilkesboro, N.C. If you are interested in learning more about Merlefest, look it up on Google. It is one of the largest bluegrass festivals in the country- four days of banjos, fiddles and high tenors, food from local high schools, Boy Scout troops and non profits, everything from traditional bluegrass to country to alt rock groups.

Plan to be in worship to support Pastor Styer and welcome her back to Zion! There will be no bible study that morning. Pastor Geib will return to the office on Tuesday, April 30.

**Prime Time Dessert Request**Prime Time meets the first Tuesday of the month. If you are a dessert baker/maker your culinary contribution would surely be appreciated. Please contact Janice Wise here at church on Sundays or call me at 717-951-3114 if you are interested or have questions. Thank you for considering this every now and then. This is not a request that would tie you to every month.

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*- Members and friends of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, I want to thank you for the beautiful Christmas card and gifts. Mary and I enjoyed the candy very much, it was very good. We also want to thank you for the very generous gift card! Your kindness is deeply appreciated!*

*Sincere Thoughts,*

*Barry & Mary Eppley*

*- Thank you to all who attended and helped with Zion’s St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon! We not only had a good time but received $305 to purchase potatoes for the East Donegal/Conoy Food Bank.*

**LIVING LUTHERAN UPDATE**

*The Living Lutheran* is no longer be available in printed form. It will continue existing by way of an online platform at LivingLutheran.org. Take a moment or two to check out *The Living Lutheran* online to learn more about the different stories and ministries continuing across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**https://www.livinglutheran.org/**

**Do you have a Thrivent Product?**

**(Life Insurance or Investments)**

One of the benefits of having a Thrivent Product is the having access to receiving $250 for each of 2 different Community Impact projects.

The process is to identify a project and then to apply to Thrivent for the funds for the projects.

For information about the Community Impact Program, possible projects and how it works, see Suzette McCarty, 717-538-1252.

**Access Zion’s services online through YouTube using this link.**

<https://www.youtube.com/@zionevangelicallutheranchu9521>

**April**

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**3 – Peggy Bare**

**17 – David Sadler**

**18 – Dave Shireman**

**23 – Hap Witmer**

**30 – Lorraine Deibler**

**Chester County Christian Chorale**

The 25th Annual Lancaster County Messiah Sing-a-long will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, on Friday, April 5, 2023 at 7 PM. The church is located at 2151 Oregon Pike north of Route 30 in Lancaster. 717-569-2151 www.messiah-singalong.org

* **Sing or listen.** Those singing will be organized in voice parts behind the 17-piece professional orchestra.
* Professional soloists. We will be singing all of Parts II and III.
* Appropriate dress is business casual. Join us for a relaxed evening of worship and music-making.
* Come as you are. No rehearsals are required. Early seating is advised.
* Bring your own scores or Messiah scores (Schirmrer edition) are available for rent ($10) or purchase ($15)
* Program length with intermission is approximately 2.5 hours.

**Fellowship Happenings**

The fellowship committee met recently and began planning activities for the year. Please mark your calendars now for the opportunity to gather, eat, and enjoy fun times and fellowship with each other.

**Movie Day at Zion - Saturday, May 11th, starting at 2:00**

“The Good Lie,” a movie based on the book, “The Lost Boys of Sudan” will be shown. It follows a group of Sudanese orphans, who flee their destroyed village, make their way to a refugee camp in Kenya, and then get the chance to settle in the U.S. We’ll have snacks to eat, and we may have some Sudanese guests, who have settled in the Harrisburg area, to talk with us.

**Ice Cream Social after worship on Sunday, July 21st**

We’ll have ice cream and lots of toppings to cool us on a hot summer day.

**Miniature golfing at Boulder’s in Mountville**

**Sunday evening, August 11**

After the game, we can go next door to Scoop’s for an ice cream treat!

**Zion’s Annual Church Picnic - Sunday, September 15th**

The delicious picnic food, games and social time can’t be beat.

We hope you can join us!

**Zion's Lent Appeal for Donegal Power Packs Program**

You may use the "Lent" envelopes in your envelope pack or an envelope from the pew to make a gift.

The Power Packs Program provides food for families to pick up for the weekend to supplement meals since children are not in school for lunches.

In 2023 an average of 136 Power Packs were distributed each month. 115 families were served. The families encompassed 261 Kids, 206 Adults (ages 18-59) and 19 Seniors.

Each Power Pack includes approximately 7 lbs. of food, totaling 950 lbs. per month at a cost of $1,000 per month. The program is run by approximately 25 volunteers.



**Thank You for volunteering and donating food!**

Thank you to everyone who donated candy for the Easter boxes.

Zion’s next turn to serve at the food bank is on Wednesday, April 10.  There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers on the bulletin board downstairs by the mailboxes.  The food bank is open from 2:00-4:00pm.  Volunteers should arrive around 1:30pm.  Volunteers check in clients, pack boxes, shelve donations and help carry items to cars.

Remember the food bank is open every Wednesday from 2:00-4:00pm and serves anyone in need in the Donegal-Conoy area (Marietta, Maytown, Bainbridge and the areas between them).

For more information, please contact Gail Houck

717-684-3616  houckgail@msn.com.

**Bazaar Crafting**

Our next bazaar crafting session will be on Saturday, April 6th, at 1:00 PM. Please join us for some creative fun as we work on projects for our annual bazaar. Thank you to all who have donated corks, buttons, cards, etc. Any craft supplies that you can donate are greatly appreciated.



There are several prayer shawls and prayer squares on the stand in the narthex.  You are welcome to share them with friends or family as you wish.

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**Tuesday, April 2nd**

**Mobile Library 11:30 AM**

**Luncheon at 12:00 PM**

**Bingo at 1:00 PM**

**Join us & invite a friend!**

**Office Hours**

Tuesdays & Thursdays

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Council Meeting**

The next council meeting will be on Thursday, April 18 at 6:30 PM.

**Communion Assistant Schedule**

Sunday, April 7th Derek McCarty

Sunday, April 14th Gail Houck

Sunday, April 21st Suzette McCarty

Sunday, April 28th Karen Sullivan

Sunday, May 5th Janice Wise

**2024 Congregation Council Members**

Mary Ann Eshleman (2022-2024)

Tara McCarty (2022-2024)

Jason Spickler (2023-2025)

Jim Zuch (2023-2025)

Gail Houck (2024-2026)

Linda Paris (2024-2026)

Mary Eppley

**April Prayer Points**

* War in Ukraine
* People in war torn Gaza
* Violence in Sudan

**Connections – For all ages in the fellowship hall.**

Please join us in the fellowship hall at 9:00 am Sunday, April 28 for our next intergenerational Connections event. We will focus on Jesus who is the vine and we are the branches. Help us explore the fruits of our faith  as we make our own vine with Zion’s branches. As usual we will have snacks, and following Connections we will have an informal worship service in the fellowship hall.  Hope to see you there.

**Seeds of Wisdom Lunches**

The April Seeds of Wisdom Lunch will be at the Park City Diner, 884 Plaza Blvd., Lancaster, on Tuesday, April 16th. We’ll meet at the restaurant at 11:45 AM, for lunch (or breakfast) and good conversation. In May we will be going to The Hershey Bistro, 3853 Hershey Rd, Elizabethtown. The May date is Tuesday, May 21st, at 11:45 AM. If you are interested in joining us, please sign the poster on the bulletin board beside our mailboxes, by April 14th, so that we can let them know how many will be coming. All are welcome!

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**Adult Sunday Bible Study**

Bible study continues Sundays at 9 AM. We are reading through the book of Genesis to examine its stories from a Jewish perspective and discuss how these ancient stories have influenced our faith and life. Hope you’ll come! We will meet in the social hall. Coffee provided.



I Love You, I Love You, I Love You

The voice of despair says, “I sin over and over again. After endless promises to myself and others to do better next time, I find myself back again in the old dark places. Forget about trying to change. I have tried for years. It didn’t work and it never will work. It is better that I get out of people’s way, be forgotten, no longer around, dead.”

This strangely attractive voice takes all uncertainties away and puts an end to the struggle. It speaks unambiguously for the darkness and offers a clear-cut negative identity.

But Jesus came to open my ears to another voice that says, “I am your God, I have molded you with my own hands, and I love what I have made. I love you with a love that has no limits, because I love you as I am loved. Do not run away from me. Come back to me—not once, not twice, but always again. You are my child. . . . I am your God—the God of mercy and compassion, the God of pardon and love, the God of tenderness and care. Please do not say that I have given up on you, that I cannot stand you anymore, that there is no way back. It is not true. I so much want you to be with me. I so much want you to be close to me. I know all your thoughts. I hear all your words. I see all your actions. And I love you because you are beautiful, made in my own image, an expression of my most intimate love. Do not judge yourself. Do not condemn yourself. Do not reject yourself. Let my love touch the deepest, most hidden corners of your heart and reveal to you your own beauty, a beauty that you have lost sight of, but that will become visible to you again in the light of my mercy. Come, come, let me wipe your tears, and let my mouth come close to your ear and say to you, ‘I love you, I love you, I love you.’”

**Looking for those who served in the Military**

At Worship on May 26th we will be remembering and recognizing congregational members and relatives of congregational members who have served in the Military. We plan to prepare a video to share with names and pictures (if possible of these persons). Please submit names and pictures to Suzette by May 12. We will copy the pictures and return the originals to you. Contact Suzette at church, 717-538-1252 or suzettemccarty@comcast.net.

**Donegal Power Packs Program**

$1,297 has been received as of Sunday, March 17.

Thank You!



