

ZIONS NEWZFLASH

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
ZION'S CHURCH

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Just a week or so ago, the Palmer Chocolate Factory explosion occurred, resulting in fatalities and injuries. How tragic and upsetting. These events happen all too often around the country and around the world. In the immediate days after those events, the rescuers are digging through the debris, with dogs and specialized gear hoping to find someone still alive.

In those initial days, there's still hope for the families that maybe, somehow, our particular loved one would be found alive. With each passing day, the chances are diminishing, but they hold onto hope. As long as the body of their loved one hasn't been recovered, then maybe, somehow, they've survived. What a terrible ordeal for those families. We need to continue to remember them in prayer...

The women early Easter Sunday morning must have had similar emotions as they went to visit the grave of Jesus. Clearly it wasn't a rescue effort, but that didn't stop them from wishing, longing, even praying that Jesus somehow, some way was alive.

Then, they arrived at the tomb, and they made the discovery—no body. Jesus' body was gone. They lost it. They were so upset. "The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men (the angels) asked, 'Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn't here! He is risen from the dead!'" Luke 24:5-6

Jesus wasn't there in that ancient Jerusalem cemetery. Do you know why? Because he was alive. Jesus was like a survivor of a natural disaster—alive, but still hidden from view. Jesus was alive, but the women still hadn't yet seen him.

My mother, and now my father, are both buried in St. Thomas Cemetery over in Bernville. If I went to their grave, do you know what I wouldn't find? Their living souls. The part of them that I love, the people who they were, their souls cannot be found in that cemetery. Do you know why? Because they survived the natural disaster of death. They're alive. Looking for them there would be like the actions of the women on Easter Sunday morning—looking for the living among the dead. They're not there.

It's almost as if they are buried among the rubble of a natural disaster, not yet discovered. I'm sad, but there's still hope. There is still hope! They've been resurrected from the dead with Jesus. They are alive with Jesus right now, and in a short time (longer than a few days, but from the vantage point of eternity, not long at all) I will see them again. Why? Because my parents are both survivors of the natural disaster of sin and death. Their souls have not yet been found among the dead, because their souls, actually their resurrected selves, are all fully present, alive, and joyful with Jesus, and one day, I will make the discovery of their survival. I will find them, when I join them, with Jesus.

Jesus is alive, and when we trust in Jesus, we can have confidence that we too will live with him for eternity. Happy Easter!

Randy

HELP WANTED

CHILD CARE VOLUNTEERS

If you love working with young children, we have two opportunities to serve. The infant nursery has been such a success that we're looking for additional volunteers to watch children 0-2 years old during the 9:40 Sunday service. The commitment is one week per month and our hope is to increase our teams from 2 to 3 adults every Sunday. We will help you complete your PA Childcare Clearances if you don't already have them.

We are also looking for additional volunteers to watch one or two pre-K children during Planet Shakers on Wednesday nights from 6:15-8 pm. Please contact Amy at amy.miller08@gmail.com if you are interested in serving in either of these ways.

GREETERS NEEDED

If you would like to serve as a greeter on a Sunday morning, please contact:
Stephanie Reichard - Worship Team at s.reichard2054@hotmail.com

KITCHEN HELP NEEDED

Zion's Kitchen Team is looking for a few people that would be interested in helping to prep, serve, and/or clean-up food that is needed for some Zion's events. Any amount of time you can help serve is appreciated. The times and events vary, but the most recent one was the Children's Ministry SNOW DAY FUN on a Sunday where a lunch menu was served.

Currently we are just looking to create a list of any people willing to help in this capacity so the 'load' is shared by many.

If you are interested in helping in the kitchen area for upcoming Zion's events, please contact Tony Schappell at aesuperworms@icloud.com. Thank you for considering helping out the Kitchen Team.

CELEBRATING A MOTHER'S LOVE

When you have lost a child, Mother's Day is an extremely difficult holiday. This event is to share in the highs and lows of losing a child while celebrating Mother's Day.

We try to put into words how the sorrow of losing a child affects us and we never quite know what to say. What do we do with this grief on Mother's Day? How do we deal with so many different emotions?

This event is in response to that very question.

Please join us and celebrate the love we have for the children who have left this earth. Our goal is to help you find some peace while dealing with your loss.

Enjoy sharing fond memories, listen to speakers on the topic and revel in the fellowship among others experiencing the same pain.

PLEASE JOIN US:

Saturday, May 13, 2023
12 Noon - 3 PM

Hope Lutheran Church
550 Fleetwood Road
Bowers, PA 19511

Lunch includes:
Cold Buffet
Homemade Soup
Miscellaneous Snacks
Beverages, Desserts

\$12 adult

Call 610-682-4970 for information.

Reserve your tickets by May 6, 2023.

BELL CHOIR

EXUBERANT JOY

Can you imagine the joy the women felt on that first Easter morning when they discovered Jesus was risen?!! I am sure one of their emotions had to be exuberant joy!!!

Zion's Bells will be playing prelude music on Easter morning at the 8:15 a.m. service. One of our selections is "Now the Green Blade Riseth." If I were to describe how it makes me feel, I would have to say EXUBERANT! It's a challenging piece but SO WORTH the challenge! We can't wait to add to your joy on Easter morning...

The Lord Is Risen!
He Is Risen Indeed!!!

THANK YOU

CARD SHOWER

Sending a big thank you to all who sent Catherine (Kitty) Shubrooks a birthday card for her 100th birthday! Her family party was a success. She was surprised and grateful. The many cards were such a blessing. Not only to her, but to those she replied to as well. Kitty has 86 pen pals and hand writes all her letters which are usually 3 to 4 pages.

THANK ALL OF YOU. GOD BLESS.

INFANT NURSERY

WE ARE MOVING!

The Infant Nursery will be moving downstairs to Room 105 starting on April 2nd. Infants will now be checked in with other Sunday School children. The former nursery will be available for nursing mothers or parents who need to take their fussy child out of the sanctuary.

THE WALK

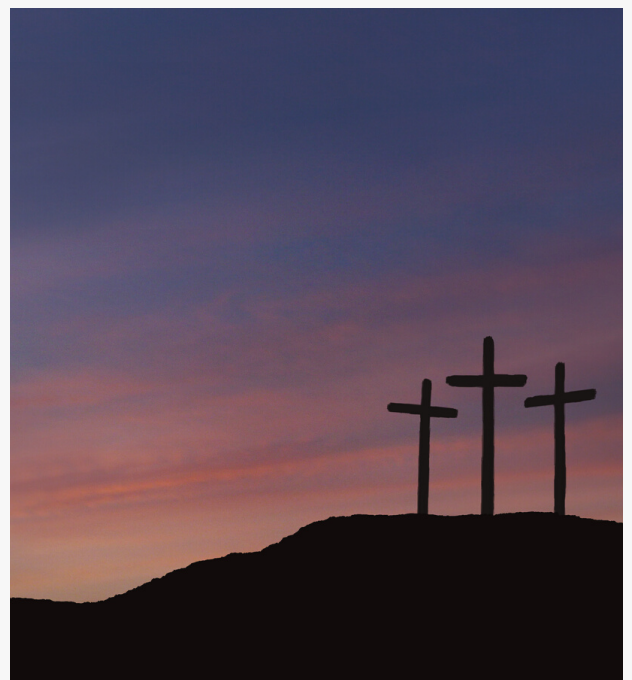
YOUNG ADULT GROUP

April 7th — The Road of Christ

Come on down to The Journey Café on April 7th at 7pm to watch 2 episodes of The Bible Series, specifically the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ episodes. There will be a short discussion afterwards about what we watched and the Gospel. Open to all young adults 18-35. Hope to see you there!

April 22nd — Earth Day Clean Up

This year for Earth Day, the Journey Café and The Walk are teaming up with the rotary club to help clean up Hamburg of trash. We will be meeting at the Journey around 8:30 am and will work into lunch, where they will serve hot dogs. This is for youth and young adults alike. Hope to see you there!



CONNECTIONZ

ZION'S BOOK CLUB

Book Club with Amy Miller! Love to read, and want to meet others who enjoy chatting about a good book? Join Zion's Book Club as we read and discuss The Undoing of Saint Silvanus by Beth Moore on Mondays for 6 weeks beginning April 10 at 7:00pm-8:30pm in Meeting Room 201 at church.

According to Christian Market: Well-known Bible teacher Moore blasts into the world of fiction with a page-turner that is personal, emotional, and spiritual. Enter the doors of an old church-turned-apartment house in New Orleans, a building with a dark presence since its formation. Jillian, the owner's estranged granddaughter, reluctantly stays there after her homeless father is discovered murdered. This California girl gets immersed in the foreign world of the Deep South, surrounded by strangers, and simultaneously becomes the next target in the murderer's vengeful plot. Each intrinsically written character adds much to the story, but Jesus is the ultimate hero. Murders, broken families, bitterness, abortion, and occultism all are a part of this story, but God redeems it all. Told through a woman's lens and primarily for a female audience, this story beautifully illustrates God's power and desire to crush strongholds and evil in all His children's lives.

BLACK [NOT BLECH!] AND WHITE MOVIE NIGHTS

BLACK [not Blech!] and WHITE MOVIE Nights with Deanna Bond! For Fans AND NON-FANS of Black and White Movies.... This group will meet on 4 Sunday Afternoons, beginning April 16 at 4:30. We will first eat snacks and pray together. At 5:15 the movie will Begin! This will be a FUN time – Can't Wait!! [If our addition is finished, we will meet at my home, otherwise we will meet in the Church Library]. This is for ages 14 and up.

GETTING IT RIGHT

Getting It Right with Tony Schappell! A brand new 6-week parenting series by Andy and Sandra Stanley. This group will meet on Wednesdays, beginning April 12 in Room 108 at church from 6:30pm-8:00pm.

As parents of 3 grown children, the Stanleys are seasoned experts on faith and parenting. They have spent decades counseling families & mentoring moms and dads while leaning into mentors of their own. From dealing with colicky newborns to temperamental teens, every parent wonders if they're getting it right! The Stanleys are no exception. With years of experience, they've created this conversational, informative guide that includes learning the 4 stages, clarifying your primary goal, adapting your approach---not your rules---to individual personalities, and deciding on a shortlist of non-negotiables. You don't have to constantly wonder whether you're getting it right as a parent. Start here and feel confident about raising children who will enjoy being together and with you even when they no longer have to be.

WHAT HAPPY COUPLES KNOW

What Happy Couples Know with Bobby and Nicole Hafer! A series by Andy Stanley on Tuesday evenings in Room 201 (upstairs meeting room) 6:00pm-7:30pm.

What's the secret to "happily ever after" with your spouse? Compromise? Commitment?

Communication? Does it ever seem like every couple around you has it all together, while you can't even agree on what's for dinner? Wanna know the secret? In this 4-part series, Andy Stanley introduces three habits of happy couples. Start practicing them today and you just may live happily ever after. Join this class no matter how many years you have been married.

Registration required.

Sign up at zionschurch.org/register OR
call the church office at 610-562-2300 OR
email us at info@zionschurch.org

SPRING CHICKEN 5K

APRIL 29, 2023

It's that time of year for the Life's Choices Spring Chicken 5K! Life's Choices is a pregnancy crisis center in Hamburg and Kutztown, but they do so much more to love and help young women and families. You can help them out by participating in their annual 5k! If you haven't participated in the past, why not make this year the first time? It doesn't matter if you want to run, skip, walk, hop, sashay - you do your thing, but come along! Lots of friends from Zion's participate, and many many more, so we're sure you can find someone to move with.

Register at:

<https://secure.fundeasy.com/ministrsync/event/website/home/?e=24932>

Registration Prices:

Adult 5K - \$30.00 • Child (12 and under) -

\$15.00 • Team (Family of 4) - \$20.00 each

And, if you need a little encouragement or accountability to get yourself ready, visit our Inspired Sister Facebook group, RunWithMe, to post up when you run, walk, bike, or exercise - it'll be a great way to train for the race, and even beyond - scan the QR code to join this private group:



PRIME TIMERS

DATES TO REMEMBER

Apr 1	9:00 AM	Breakfast	Perry Restaurant
Apr 10	11:30 AM	BINGO	Fellowship Hall
Apr 14	1:00 PM	PT Council	Fellowship Hall
Apr 21	10:00 AM	Game Day	Journey Café
Apr 29	12:00 PM	Lunch	Ozgood's Kutztown

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

MAY 13, 2023

SAVE THE DATES!

Our SPRING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE will be on Saturday, May 13th at The Journey Café, and IN-PERSON REGISTRATION begins on April 16th in the Zion's Church Library.

We couldn't be more excited to tell you that this year we welcome guest Associate Pastor and Worship leader, Jennifer Eckhart, of Blue Mountain Community Church for the morning half of our one-day Conference.

You should have already received an email with additional information, but you can also check out all the details on our webpage:

inspiredsisters.org

Sign-ups will also be available online through the website.

THE CHOSEN

SUNDAYS @ 6:30 PM

"The Chosen" Watch Group already started back up on March 19th but feel free to join in anyway (men and women and kids)!

We will be on Episode 3 from Season 3, this Sunday, April 2, and we are meeting at the Journey Café for 6:30pm on Sunday evenings. We'd love to have you watch and discuss with us.

