

ZION'S *Newzflash*

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Greetings Church Family,

I want to share a reflection or two after the "installation service" today, but before I get to that... What a pleasant surprise it was this morning in the third service when my two-year old Judah burst through the side door (by the library) and yelled "daddy!" during the message. I'll never forget that; for me, it was an honor for my son to be a part of our worship service, and we'll always have that fun memory! At that moment, it fit right into the sermon to share that we too can approach our "daddy" in heaven with the same heart to know that he's present and ready to respond.

I was so blessed to hear from some of you that today's services felt anointed, and there was a different feeling in the air. Jesus' presence was felt today. I find that incredibly appropriate on a day when we, as a church family, are celebrating not so much an "installation" of a pastor but God's faithful anointing and call on his people. Today, we came together to recognize God's hand in the past many months and God's faithfulness to his people at Zion's Church. Today, we celebrate our Great Shepherd who cares deeply for his precious sheep. This idea of God's "call" is important, because not only are pastors called but all of God's people are called to work together in this mission to grow God's family by rescuing those who are lost. We are on a rescue mission. One thing I shared with you this morning is found in Ezekiel 34:12, where God the Great Shepherd says, "I will find my sheep and rescue them from all the places

where they were scattered on that dark and cloudy day." That dark and cloudy day is the "day" of every single lost sheep that has wandered away from the flock of God, and we as a church have a clear mission to bring them home. Praise God, we are bringing them home!

Since we're talking about God's faithfulness, after making four unsuccessful offers on four different homes, our fifth offer was accepted! And we thank God for closing every wrong door. We found a lovely home in Lebanon County where we will be blessed to grow our family. Samantha and I both had incredible peace to make this offer, and that was confirmation that God is in this with us. Truly, we thank you all for praying and sending homes our way!

May God richly bless you dear brothers and sisters,
Pastor Roy



A MESSAGE FROM OUR YOUTH MINISTER

1. Youth Ministry News

The Journey Café After-School Program (CASP) has just started its twentieth school year! (The café opened in February 2007 during the '06-07 school year). Over the years, this free and unique program has served to give thousands of middle and high school students a safe, positive and engaging place to congregare in the critical hours right after school lets out. The CASP has also been a place where we get to meet young people, build relationships with them, and introduce them to the Christian faith and to Jesus Christ. Oftentimes, this happens in small, incremental steps as the volunteer staff and I try to be the hands and feet of Jesus. A student may make a small step towards Christ when a volunteer takes time to hear about their day, or when they see a conflict being resolved in a godly way, or when they receive comfort from a volunteer during a minor personal crisis. While we may be helping students take baby steps of faith, these small steps are important. We have many students that initially come to the CASP, then they come to Rock Us (our Wednesday night youth group.) Some accept Jesus as Lord and get baptized. Later, some former CASP students attend The Walk young adult ministry, or our Sunday services at Zion's or the Journey Church. Some become church leaders and serve as youth leaders in the programs that they once attended; some even come to serve on the consistory.

Yes, the small steps of faith that start at the Journey Café After-School Program can have major and eternal life implications. But as important and life-changing as this program can be, every school year it all seems to hinge on a skeleton crew of dedicated volunteers. While this tiny crew keeps the lights on and gets the job done, we are stretched very thin. Simply put, we need more help. All that's required to help at the CASP is a desire to help youth come closer to Jesus and a minimal time commitment of two hours one day a week. So if you have some time to spare from 2:30 to 4:30pm during the weekdays, please consider volunteering at this impactful and rewarding ministry.

2. IMPACT '25 Youth Mission Week: A Short Report

We held our summer mission project Impact '25 this past July (7/6-7/11). We praise God for an excellent week and all that He accomplished during Impact '25, which was our eighteenth year for our home-made youth mission project. A total of 47 people were involved, including 25 youths and 22 adult leaders/helpers. Our theme for Impact '25 was "Yes He Can" and our theme verse was Jeremiah 32:17 (CEV) "Lord God, You stretched out Your mighty arm and made the sky and the earth. You can do anything." Our devotional study for the week was also inspired by a song entitled "Yes He Can" by the Christian group Cain.

Our work at Impact '25 included:

- Painting/landscaping/home repairing at the homes of two local senior citizens
- Mulching of the war monument in Tilden Township, and painting the pavilion & dugouts at Tilden Township Park
- Replacing a pool-house roof and grounds work at the Blue Mountain Olivet Camp (BMOC)
- Demolition work, clean-up & painting in support of LC Medical & Support Services' major renovations in Kutztown
- Mulching & landscaping at the Hamburg Community Garden
- Painting & landscaping at the First UCC's mission house in Hamburg
- Mulching, bench repair, clean-up of the 4-bay-garage, and Z-World set-up work at Zion's Church.

We also conducted several outreaches "random acts of kindness." These included:

- Giving free sno-cones to about 150 children from Reading who attended the day-camp programs at BMOC
- Cleaning up trash in the Borough of Hamburg
- A first-responder appreciation outreach, distributing homemade cards & gift bags to the Hamburg Borough Police, Hamburg Fire Company, Tilden Township Police and State Police-Hamburg Barracks. We also had student-led prayer with the first responder groups.

2. IMPACT '25 Youth Mission Week: A Short Report (cont...)

•A free carwash at the Journey Café during which we washed about 50 cars & also distributed free sno-cones

Another highlight at Impact '25 was the baptism of Bruce Lantz Jr. at the pool at BMOC on Wednesday evening. Bruce is an attendee of both Rock Us and the Journey Church. It was great to see this young man make this public declaration of his faith in Jesus at Impact with all the other youths in attendance. Finally, on Friday (our wrap-up day), our Impact youths gave a series of mini testimonials. Some of the themes from these youth testimonials included:

- Joy in helping people in Jesus' Name
- Feeling closer to Christian brothers & sisters because of the Impact experience
- Happiness in getting out of their normal lives to do something challenging and beyond themselves

As we saw at Impact '25: Yes He Can! God is great and He impacted many people in many ways this year at Impact '25!

*IMPORTANT NOTE: Next year, Impact '26 is scheduled for June 21 to 26.

3. Journey Cafe Refurbishment & Grand Reopening

On August 1, we held a grand reopening at the Journey Café after all the refurbishment work was completed. Approximately 250 people came out to this super fun event, which featured barbeque, live music, lawn games, and tours of the building. Many thanks to the operators and volunteers of Three Strands, who helped run the event and provided much of the food. We also want to thank our excellent contractors who made this grand reopening possible: Modus Construction, who installed the siding, faux stone façade, new windows & doors, etc.; and Tri-County HVAC, who updated the café's HVAC system. If you haven't seen the Journey lately, stop by and check it out.

4. Journey Church News

We were blessed to have two of our faithful Journey Church attendees, McKayla G. Wesner and Livvian Betz, get baptized on August 24 at Jim Hoch's pool. We thank God for their faith and for their testimonies (both ladies shared their personal testimony of God's grace and salvation at the baptism event).

Within the past month, the Journey Church also welcomed two babies born to faithful attendees, and we praise God for these two new additions to our church family! Overall, the Journey Church is doing really well. We have a very dedicated group of regular attendees, and we have new people coming nearly every week. If you know of anyone (particularly young adults) looking for an intimate church experience in a non-conventional space, please recommend the Journey Church to them. Our doors open at 10:30am and the service begins at 11:00am.

5. Three Strands News




Within the past few months, a number of people have walked into the Three Strands just to see what the place was all about. They ended up joining and becoming regular members. Several of them have shared how the gym has become a truly positive outlet in their lives. The Three Strands Community Center has also met people in need and over the past few months they have put their love into action by helping several local families with grocery needs and car repairs. It's great to hear about this and to see the hands and feet of Jesus Christ working and moving at the Three Strands.

God bless you,
Dan Bailey, youth minister

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

1. The Chosen Watch Group & Bible Study

Join us for The Chosen Watch Group & Bible Study!

 Sunday, October 12 |  5:30-8:30 PM
 The Journey Café, Hamburg, PA



We'll gather for soup, snacks, and fellowship as we watch an episode (or two!) of The Chosen Season 5 and dive into meaningful discussion together. Adults and youth are welcome!

Bring your favorite chair or blanket for extra coziness. Soups and snacks will be provided for the first evening—future nights we'll share potluck-style.

Come hungry—for food, faith, and connection.


Questions? admin@inspiredsisters.org


2. Girlfriends' Night Out


 Girlfriend's Night Out at the Corn Maze! 


Pumpkins, sweaters, and crisp fall air—what could be better?

Join us Friday, October 17th at 5:45 PM at Duncan's Corn Maze in Robeson, PA for:

 A night in the corn maze

 A stroll through the pumpkin patch

 Lots of laughs with girlfriends

Join us for a ladies night out—let's fall into fun together! 

Bring a friend and get ready for a cozy, laughter-filled evening.

3. Women's Sunday School

Ladies of Zion's - You're Invited!

Join us for the Women's Sunday School class each week at 9:40 am in Room 111. Together we talk through current topics, grow in God's Word, and encourage one another in faith.

This month, we'll continue diving into Tony Evans' study on God's Names—discovering the character of God and how His names reveal His power and presence in our lives.

All women are welcome!

Questions? Reach out to Katie Keck - 610-406-7441

MEN'S MINISTRY

1. Tuesday Knights

6:30 pm - Fellowship Hall - Zion's Church

We are continuing to better understand our Identity, Purpose and Assignments.

2. Men's Retreat

October 10-12th

Camp Orchard Hill

Contact Matt or Nate

3. Men's Sunday School

9:40 am Sunday School

How to Find Jesus in the Old Testament

UPCOMING EVENTS & EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wreaths Across America

Zion Cemetery Co. Inc. of Perry Township is proud to announce we are once again a registered location for W.A.A. for December 13, 2025! Last year was the first year we participated in this nationwide event to Honor our Veterans with wreath sponsorships. We were incredibly blessed and EVERY single veteran grave received a wreath! The support of this community was amazing and I want to thank everyone who donated, volunteered or attended the ceremony last year! I didn't know if it was realistic to hope for 100% coverage in our first year but Perry Township, the Boy Scouts, and the surrounding towns helped us achieve this goal!

Nationwide, W.A.A. placed more than 3 million wreaths at over 4,900 locations in 2024. And over 4 million volunteers participated, with over a third of them being children! Please join us again this year on December 13 at Noon at Zion's Cemetery to honor our veterans! The current count of veterans buried at Zion's Cemetery is now 270. Wreath sponsorships are \$17.00 through the Boy Scouts Troop 163 (sponsorship group ID# PA0868) on the W.A.A. website. All wreaths sponsored through the Boy Scouts will be placed at Zion's Cemetery on 12/13/25 following the Remembrance Ceremony. Refreshments and restrooms will be available in the church Fellowship Hall.

Please join us in honoring our veterans on Saturday, 12/13/25 at Zion's Cemetery, by sponsoring wreaths, volunteering or attending the ceremony. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend. Please contact Michelle Koletar, W.A.A. Volunteer Location Coordinator, for more information at 610-781-4037 or m68m79@yahoo.com.

www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org



- Boy Scout Troop 163
 - ID# PA0868
- Zion's Cemetery Co. Inc. Of Perry Township
 - ID# PAZTPT

FaithCare

FaithCare invites you to the Global Impact Conference and Annual Banquet, October 24-25, 2025.

Join us to hear powerful stories of lives transformed through healthcare ministry, both locally in Berks County and globally. The event includes inspiring speakers, updates from mission trips, and opportunities to get involved and support this vital work.

Learn more and RSVP at faithcare.net/faithcare-annual-banquet/ or call 860-904-2870 or email hope@faithcare.net

Church Hayride

Saturday, Oct. 18th at 7 PM

The Walk Young Adults are inviting all of Zion's Church to enjoy a FREE hayride and some cozy refreshments! The hayride will be 1 hour long, with the hay wagons leaving at 7 PM on the dot. Please meet us in the fellowship hall by 6:30 PM so we can get those wagons loaded!

Please register here ASAP!
www.zionschurch.org/hayride
or

Scan the
QR code:



SPECIAL NOTES

Business Team

Thank You

Thank you to all who contributed to the Jacob Leiby barn fire fund. Your willingness to share your resources helped support Jacob in his time of need, which reflected the unity and love within Zion's Church. Please continue to pray for Jacob and his family as they continue to work through this time of uncertainty.

Offering Envelopes



As we approach the end of the year, the 2026 Offering Envelopes will be prepared and ready for distribution on Sunday, November 23. If you do not currently receive offering envelopes and would like to receive them or you currently have offering envelopes and no longer want to receive them, please complete the form on the table outside the secretary's office. If you currently have envelopes and want to continue to receive them, no action is required.

Please Note: Anyone who received 2025 envelopes and did not use them, will be removed from the envelope list for 2026 unless a request form is completed.

Prime Timers

Sat. Oct. 4, 9 AM – Fellowship Breakfast
@ Perry Restaurant

Mon. Oct. 13 – NO BINGO (Columbus Day)

Fri. Oct. 17, 10 AM – Game Day @ Journey Cafe

Bell Choir

Do you know what handbell ringers
eat for lunch?

BELLOGNA SANDWICHES!!!

Hahahaha!!!

SPEAKING OF HANDBELLS...

It's time for Zion's Bells to get back to
ringing again!

REHEARSALS BEGIN

Tuesday, October 7 at 6 p.m.

I, for one, can't wait!!!

Linda Hartman

P.S. Hoping to be ringing in church
on November 2nd at the 8:15 a.m. service

Safety Team

MONTHLY SAFETY TIP

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

- Remain calm and try to calm and reason with the disruptive individual.
- Notify a member of the Consistory or Minister.
- Request that the disruptive individual leave and inform them that they are not welcome here while displaying such unruly behavior.
- Contact 911 and notify authorities if the individual refuses to leave or fails to cease their disruptive behavior.
- If you are able, record the individual's behavior via cell phone to show to authorities.
- Be a good witness.

*The Emergency Security Team has prepared a flyer "HOW TO RESPOND" to educate you with information and facts along with preventative actions and suggestive planning tools in case of an emergency. These flyers are located at the entrance to the church for you to take home.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

October 2025

Planet Shakers

Where K-5th graders learn to shake up the world for Jesus
Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
in the fellowship hall

October 1st **Possum Patty Visit**

Join our special guest to learn about and pet some of the furry friends God created

B.L.A.S.T. Kids

Being Light and Salt Together
Sundays at 9:40 am 3-
years-old - 5th grade

October 5th **Fall Celebration**

Celebrate the season and learn to fall in love with Jesus

Fall Festival

**October 4th 4:00-7:00
pm**

Free fun for the whole family
Pumpkin decorating,
hayrides, 200' Alpine slide
rides, walk-through maze,
farm animals, games, food,
campfires, & s'mores

RSVP: zionschurch.org/register

Moms of the Vine

Where moms & kids share life &
grow in faith together

October 14th
10:00 am-12:00 pm

Pinecone birdfeeders &
leaf art for kids
Meaningful fellowship for
moms

More Info

610-562-2300, option 6
Jennifer.Scott@zionschurch.org