

ZION'S HEAVENLY

Look for:

- *Worship Schedule
- *Music Schedule
- *Announcements
- *Youth Group News



- *Exciting Events
- *Monthly Calendar of Events
- *Birthday Calendar
- *Synod & Conference News
- And Much More!**

Happenings



2025

NEWSLETTER



Photo by Gayle Mateyak

*235 Years of worshipping the
Lord with each other....*

**ZION'S STONE CHURCH OF
WEST PENN TOWNSHIP**
A Federated ELCA & UCC Church

45 Cemetery Rd
New Ringgold, PA 17960

570-386-5111

www.zionstonechurch.org

Rev. Russell Campbell, Pastor
Cell # **610-737-2634**
zionstch@ptd.net
revarc@ptd.net

Come Worship with Us!
9:00am – Sunday Worship Service
(1st Sunday of the month is Holy Communion)
10:15am – Sunday School
For All Ages

As of April 2005,
Zion's Stone Church Lutheran Congregation and Zion's Stone Church United
Church of Christ Congregation enter into a shared ministry. Keeping both
heritages in the Sunday Worship Service each week.



CHURCH STAFF...



Pastor: Rev. Russell Campbell

Pastor Russ's Office Hours:

Call for an Appointment if you need to see the Pastor
or you can call or text

Cell Phone # 610-737-2634

Pastor's Home Email: revarc@ptd.net

Pastor's Church Email: zionstch@ptd.net

Church Administrator/Treasurer:

Charlotte Fritz Office Hours: Due to surgery in May

Charlotte will be working from home for the at least the summer.

Please call and leave a message and she will get back to you.

Charlotte's Office Email: zscofc@ptd.net

(Please use this email for information for Charlotte.)



Church Secretary

Amy Mogish **Summer** Office Hours:

Monday – 9:00am – 3:00pm

Email and phone messages will be checked thru-out the week.

Please call ahead if planning to visit, hours may vary.

Amy's Office Email: ZSCSecretary@ptd.net

(Please use this email for information for Amy)

Office is only opened on Monday's



Church Office Phone Number:

570-386-5111 – When calling use:

prompt #2 for Pastor

prompt #3 for Amy

prompt #4 for Charlotte

Check us out on Facebook!

Thanks to Sarah Martinez
for being our Facebook Coordinator!

Zion's Stone Website

www.zionstonechurch.org

Music Director/Organist:

Erin Zelinski – 570-205-3511

Sexton(s):

Fred (& Donna) Gimbi

Home # 570-386-2888

Fred's Cell #570-573-7642

Card Care coordinator:

Nancy Meiser - 570-205-9267

Genealogy Requests:

Todd Cheese

Cell: 570-778-3641

Todd's email:

CheeseT@icloud.com

WORSHIP JUNE 2025

Sunday, June 1, 2025 – 7th SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00am – Worship Service w/Holy Communion (Altar)

Sermon Title: “Endings and Beginnings I”

Acts 16:16-34 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26

Sunday, June 8, 2025 – PENTECOST SUNDAY

9:00am – Worship Service

w/Young People’s Time and King’s Kids

Pastor Russ’s Last Service

Sermon Title: “Endings and Beginnings II”

Acts 2:1-21 Romans 8:14-17
John 14:8-17

Sunday, June 15, 2025 – 1st Sunday after Pentecost

10:00am – Worship Service at West Penn Park

Honoring our Father’s & Graduates

Linnea Meiser leading worship

Sunday, June 22, 2025 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

9:00am – Worship Service

Linnea Meiser leading worship

Sunday, June 29, 2025 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

9:00am – Worship Service

Linnea Meiser leading worship

Rev. Russell Campbell, Pastor

Pastor Russ's last day at Zion's Stone Church will be on **Sunday, June 8, 2025**. A Retirement Party is being planned for Pastor Russ on June 8th after the worship service. Pastor Russ will greet everyone after the worship service over in the Auditorium. Please go over to the Auditorium to greet him. They will have a catered meal prepared for that day, so they will need to know how many people plan on coming. **Deadline to signup is June 1, 2025**. There is a sign-up sheet in the Church narthex to sign-up on or you can call Amy at 570-386-5111 or you can email her at zscsecretary@ptd.net if you and your family intend on being there. Seating may be limited so signup early.

Retirement Dinner will consist of Ham and/or Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Mac & Cheese, Carrots, Mixed Veggies, Rolls, Drinks and Desserts.

There will be a donation basket for anyone who would like to help offset the cost of the meal on that day.

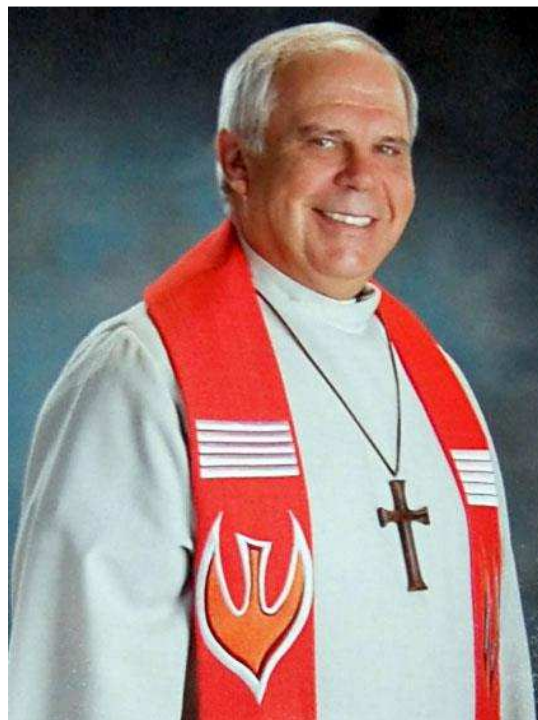
Please keep the Call Committee in your prayers.
Please keep Pastor Russ and Denise in your prayers.

Thank You
Pastor Russ
for your leadership,
guidance, friendship,
prayers, compassion,
love,
teaching, and all you
did for our Church in
these last 7+ years!

We will miss you!

May you have a
wonderful
Retirement!

God Bless you and
Denise!



May God continue
to guide you and
Denise and give you
both peace &
comfort during her
health issues.
May He also give
you strength &
energy to take care
of her & yourself.

*I can do ALL THINGS
through Christ
who STRENGTHENS me.*
—Philippians 4:13

Board Meeting

Zion's Stone Church Board Meeting - Monday, April 14, 2025

X Pastor Russell	Erin Zeigler	X Sam Schaefer	Gene Schaeffer
X Dan Metzger	X Darlene Gruver	X L C Dean	X Stacey Cheese
X Dean Meiser	Brady Miller		

(X)=Board Member Present

Congregation present: Charlotte Fritz

Call to Order: Pastor Russ opened the meeting with a prayer.
President, Sam Schaefer reiterated his suggestions regarding proper protocol for meetings.

Pastor's Report: Pastor's report reviewed, on file.
In addition, 2 new members, Becky Hepler and Eric Ballister will reaffirm their faith in joining the Church on May 18th.

Secretary's Report: Last month's Board minutes were presented and reviewed. Motion to accept: Dan 2nd Dean.

Treasurer's Report: Presented and reviewed. Per Charlotte, \$2,500 donation transferred from Congregational account to Memorial account.
\$1,800 from the checking account and another \$1,500 paid by families was used to pay for the new carpeting in the vestibule.
Also, noted there's been an increase in envelope donations.
Lombard Securities increased by \$8,000 along with a continuing increase in cash value. Motion to accept: Stacey 2nd L.C. Dean.

Committee Reports: (Board Representative in parentheses)

Finance(Erin Zeigler, Charlotte Fritz, Dean Meiser)-Per Charlotte-No report.

Personnel(Stacey Cheese, Erin Zeigler, Brady Miller)-Per Stacey, no report.
Stacey noted, computers in the Church office are obsolete and in the near future they'll need to be updated. Charlotte to talk with Kyle Ketner in regards to this matter.

Property(Dan Metzger, Scot Dietrich, Gary Clemson)-No report. Dan noted he received a call on Saturday, there was no heat in the auditorium or upstairs classrooms. Hollenbach Plumbing & Heating replaced the control board.
Scott Soley cleaned the brush around the sign on 309. Looks great!

CE/Sunday School(Darlene Gruver, Dean Meiser)- No report. Per Eileen, busy working on projects; looking forward to the Easter Egg Hunt April 19th.

Worship and Music(Dean Meiser, Brady Miller)-No report.

Outreach(L.C.Dean, Nancy Meiser)-per L.C.Dean - The committee is working on projects. Everyone on the inactive list was called and the list will be given to Charlotte. Jen Clinton heading the program "Guess, who's coming to dinner?" Looking to hold a Women's Night once a month. Hosting a beach party for the Adult Day Care Center on June 20th.

Fundraising(Charlotte Fritz, Erin Zeigler, Stacey Cheese)-Filling sale April 19th. Spaghetti dinner scheduled for May 17th-proceeds to benefit UPMC transplant department. Baskets & Berries Bonanza to be held July 27th in place of the Church Social.

Youth Group(Charlotte Fritz, Gene Schaeffer, Darryl Fritz)-30 Hour Famine and Youth Sunday cancelled. (Not enough participants)

Safety/Security(Gene Schaeffer, Sam Schaefer, Blair Miller)-Sam planning to attend the Concealed Carry Seminar on May 21st held at the Orwigsburg Veterans Community Memorial Hall in Orwigsburg.

Other committees/Misc-nothing presented.

Old Business: Dean Meiser contacted the call people for minister search. The volunteers are Dean Meiser, Bob Miller, Jim Coombe, Dwane Miller, Linda Schaeffer, Melissa Meiser and Becky Hepler. Pastor's farewell retirement celebration to be held June 8th after the Church service.

New Business: Elders of the Church have concerns regarding the cemetery funds. Pastor Russ recommends engaging an attorney (held on retainer) in case of bankruptcy situations Stacey to invite cemetery board members to the May 12th Zion's Board Meeting.

Next Church Board Meeting is Monday, May 12th at 6:30pm. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Dan 2nd LC Dean.

Respectfully submitted by Board Secretary, Darlene Gruver

NEWSLETTER SUBMITTALS...

Please help the office staff be efficient by having all newsletter submittals emailed to the church office (or placed in the newsletter submittal boxes) by the newsletter deadline, the **Third Sunday** of each month.

If you would like your wedding announcement or if you have a loved one who has entered into eternal life, thank you messages, etc., please contact the office by the newsletter deadline or we may not be able to publish your information until the next month. *Thank You!*

NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIPS... \$20.00 per month

If you are interested in sponsoring the newsletter, Email Charlotte, zscofc@ptd.net, your wording for the newsletter or place your envelope in your packet marked Newsletter Sponsor. The newsletter is printed one time per month except for the July/August newsletter which is a combined newsletter.

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS... We are have a new Florist! Forget-Me-Not Florist in Orwigsburg. The new cost of Altar Flowers are \$55.00 & Rosebuds are \$13.00-\$28.00 (depends on if you order Altar Flowers with it) All Flower Orders must be received at least **1 week in advance**. If you are interest in sponsoring altar flowers please call the office at (570) 386-5111 prompt #3, **before 12 pm on Monday. Leave a message** with your telephone number and the exact wording you would like to see it printed on the slides.

Lectors are needed for every Sunday.

Please sign up in the Narthex. If you or someone you know would like to be a LECTOR ... New volunteers are always welcome.

Acolytes... Last year's class and current confirmation classes please sign up on the calendar in the Narthex. Two acolytes are needed for each Sunday. Please arrive by 8:50am to prepare.

Do you have a new Address or Telephone &/or Cell Phone Number?

Please notify the office either through email (zscofc@ptd.net) or phone (570-386-5111) with your new information. This way we can keep in touch with you and provide you with important information regarding the church. Thank you!

Auditorium Bookings:

The Auditorium is open for events. Please contact the church office use prompt #3 (Amy) or #4 (Charlotte) if you would like to book the Auditorium for your birthday parties, wedding rehearsal dinners, anniversary parties, etc. You will need to sign a contact and return it with the event rental fee 2 weeks prior your event date.

(All the clip art printed in this newsletter was taken from google clip art.)

2025 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FIGURES...

April 2 - ?? (Mid-Week Lent)
 April 6 - 100
 April 9 - 11 (Mid-Week Lent)
 April 13 - 127
 April 17 - 67 (Maundy Thurs.)
 April 18 - 54 (Good Friday)
 April 20 6:30am -55
 April 20 9:00am - 156
 April 27 - 92

May 3 - 102
 May 11 - 127
 May 18 - 104
 May 25 - 79

	<h2 style="margin: 0;">FINANCIAL REPORT</h2>	
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2025 April

Current Giving:

Total Income Budgeted for 2024-----\$ 234,908.37

Total Benevolence income for 2024 -----\$ 11,500.00

Total Income plus Benevolence ----- \$ 246,408.37

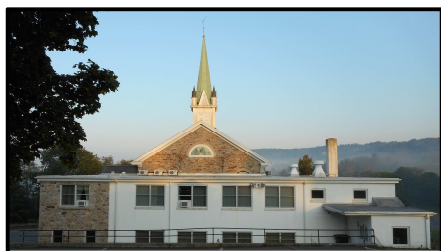
**Thank you for
your continued
support of
Zion's Stone
Church!**

(In order to meet our spending plan,
we need to receive these amounts,)

Monthly Income & Benevolence	Gain/ (-Loss)	Weekly Budgeted Income & Benevolence (\$ 4,517.46 - per week) (\$19,575.70 - per month)
\$25,733.42	\$ 6,157.72	

Newsletter Sponsorship:

Is in honor of the 64th Wedding Anniversary of Bob & Loretta Beers, which they will celebrate it on June 10th.



SPECIAL THANK YOU...

(The church receives thank you letters from other organizations that we support through Benevolence giving throughout the year.)

Special thanks to everyone that came out on Sat. May 17, 2025 and supported the Thomes E. Starzl Transplantation Institute in Pittsburgh, PA spaghetti dinner. We raised \$1000.00 for this important institute. Thank you to everyone who helped set-up, cooked, cleaned up, put tables and chairs back into place. Thank you to Adam & Susan Zeigler for the produce for the Salads and thank you to Stacey Cheese for cooking the meat in advance. Thanks to Gene Schaffer, Sam Schaefer & Dan Metzger for cooking the spaghetti, thank you Linda Schaeffer, Eric Ballister, Erin Ballister, Karen Wood, Susan Zeigler, Nancy Meiser, Amanda Sassaman, Marianne Storch, Makenna Storch, Joy Hauck, Charlotte Fritz & Darryl Fritz, Lillian Huegel, Jessica, Dwane & Maddie Miller, Kyrsten Derr, and David & Adele Snyder, for all your help with the dinner. Everyone's support is greatly appreciated. **Thank You, The Fundraising Committee**

Dear Board Members of Zion's April 1st was the sixth anniversary of my being hired as your sexton. It has been a privilege & blessing to be able to serve in this capacity for these years. Time has flown by & it doesn't seem possible that 6 years have gone by! Thank you Again, God's richest blessing to you! **Fred Gimbi**

Many Thanks to the people of Zion's Stone Church for your many cards and prayers while I am recovering. **Alan Gursky**

Dear Friends of Zion's Stone Church, Thank you so much for all your wonderful cards & phone calls for my birthday! It was so great to hear from you all. I watch the church service online every week and enjoy having the music & the message. Thanks for your thoughtfulness & sharing God's word in our homes.

Sincerely, Shirley Lorah

The Sr. Choir & the Handbell choir are finished for the Summer and will return to the church service and rehearsals in late August. Thank you to Erin Zelinski & the members of each choir for provideing the church service with music that lifts our souls.

Have a great Summer everyone!

Welcome New Members

On May 18, 2025, Zion's Stone Church received 4 New Members. We welcome **Eric Ballister**, husband of Erin Ballister, **Bruce and Carol Leiby** & **Becky Hepner**, daughter of Bruce & Carol, into the household of faith at Zion's Stone Church. Please make our new members feel welcome.

Congratulations goes to....

*Michael Hayes and Danika Beers
On their May 10, 2025 Wedding. They
Were married at Stone Spring Farms
In Hamburg, PA.*

Congratulations Michael & Danika!

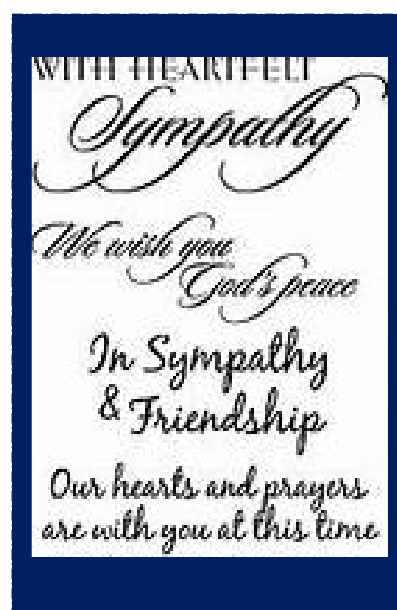
Two Become One



Our Condolences go to:

Gene Schaeffer & Linda Schaeffer and Family & Friends on the death of Gene's mom, **Velma Schaeffer**, who entered into eternal life on May 5, 2025.

Joann & Kyle Dunkleberger and Family & Friends on the death of Kyle's dad, **Kenneth J. Dunkelberger, Sr.** who entered into eternal life on May 9, 2025.



Congratulations to our Graduates:



Bradyn Brothers,

Daughter of Jeremy & Karissa Brothers,
Braydn is graduating from Tamaqua Area High School
and will be pursuing a Chemical Engineering
degree at Auburn University in Alabama.



Elizabeth Davenport,

Daughter of Eric & Michelle Davenport,
Lizzy is graduating from
Pennsylvania virtual charter school and she is planning
on becoming a child Psychologist.

Not pictured



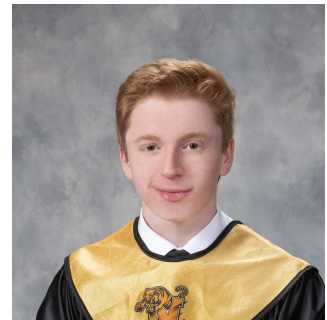
Jacob Hehn,

Son of Jim & Amy Hehn,
Jacob will be attending Lebanon Valley College in Fall 2025.
He was accepted into the accelerated Physical Therapy
program and plans to pursue a career as a
Physical Therapist. Jacob will also be playing football and
throwing discus for the
Lebanon Valley Dutchmen.



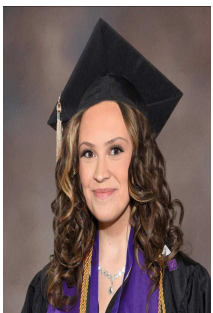
Spencer Meiser,

Son of Dean & Linnea, Spencer will be graduating from
Northwestern Area High School. He will be attending
Penn State University for Architectural Engineering.



Paige Onder,

On April 24th Paige graduated Summa Cum Laude from
Grand Canyon University Honors College with a Bachelor of
Science in Human Resources Management and Behavior Health
Science. Paige managed to do this in only two years along with
working, running a club and doing volunteer work.
She was just hired by the Diocese of Scranton to work part time as a
Residential Manager at Catholic Social Services in Hazleton.
She is getting married on August 2nd to her high school sweetheart Jacob
Michael. In the fall she will be continuing her education with Grand Canyon
University and will be pursuing her Masters Degree in Psychology with an
Industrial Organizational Emphasis and Certification in Life Coaching.



Cara Stern,

Daughter of Bob & Janie Miller and Married to Brent Stern, Cara was awarded her ALM (Master of Liberal Arts) in Industrial - Organizational Psychology from Harvard Extension School in Cambridge, MA. We are so so very proud of her grit, determination, and hard work!



SENIOR
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
2025



*Be bold enough to use
your voice, brave
enough to listen to your
heart, and strong
enough to live the life
you've always imagined.*

Sunday School News...



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We were made to magnify God!!

JUNE 23 - 27 6:30-8:30 PM

This is a community event and is open to all kids age 3 to 5th grade!

Forgot to register? Do it right now on the church's web page.
Can't make it every night? No worries... come when you can.
Invite your friends!! Let's praise God, our Creator, together!!
VBS Contact: Eileen Coombe (570-386-4180)

LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE SUMMER - JUNE 1

We'll be back in the fall... See you on September 7

MAGNIFIED!! VBS - DAILY POINT AND BIBLE STORY

- God sees me - Jesus and the
- DAY 1 Children
- DAY 2 God cares about me - Jesus Calmed the Storm
- DAY 3 God loves me - The Woman at the Well
- God forgives me - Jesus and
- DAY 4 Nicodemus
- DAY 5 God keeps his promises - Jesus Taught about Worry

"O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together."

Psalms 34:3

Youth Group Meeting cancelled on May 18, 2025.

The May 18th Youth Group meeting was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts.

Next Youth Group Meeting will be held on June 8, 2025 at West Penn Park, Ball Field pavilion at 7:00pm. Snacks and Drinks will be provided.

If you cannot attend this meeting, please let Charlotte Fritz, or any Youth Group Advisors know by June 4th.

Special thanks to Kyle Snyder, Marianne Storch, Karen Wood, Joy Hauck, Dorothy Knowlan, David & Adele Snyder, Darryl & Charlotte Fritz for all your hard work & dedication to the Youth Group.

Your time is greatly appreciated by the members!



Phantoms – Hockey Game - 2025



Christmas Caroling - 2024

Anyone in 6th – 12th Grades are welcome to join the Youth Group

Do not need to be a member of the Church to join

We have a 2 hour meeting on the 2nd Sunday of (almost every month) the month from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. We will have snacks & drinks.

Play Games & so much more.

In the past we have gone to Six Flags, Knoebel's, Hershey Park, Dorney Park, Escape Room, Hockey games, baseball games, Laser tag, miniature golf, gone to the movies, swimming, etc.

We also have Movie & Game Sleepovers and so much more!

Father's Day, June 15, 2025
Don't forget about your Dad!



My Dad



MY DAD IS _____ YEARS OLD.

MY DAD'S SUPERPOWER IS _____

IF MY DAD WERE A SUPERHERO HE WOULD BE:

MY DAD IS FUNNY BECAUSE: _____

MY DAD'S FAVORITE THING TO DO IS: _____

MY DAD ALWAYS SAYS: _____

MY DAD'S JOB IS: _____

MY DAD LOVES TO EAT: _____

MY DAD IS REALLY GOOD AT: _____

MY DAD LOVES IT WHEN I: _____

MY FAVORITE THING ABOUT MY DAD IS: _____

***Happy
Father's Day***

Love:
www.allmygoodthings.com

THE END.

Fundraising News...

The Social will be back at the park soon, but not this year. So the Fundraising Committee decided to plan something a little different on Sunday, July 27, 2025 instead of the social....

They will be hosting a...

“Baskets & Berries” Bonanza

Sunday, July 27, 2025

12:00pm – 5:00pm

Come out
For Yummy Ice
Cream and
Fellowship.



MENU:

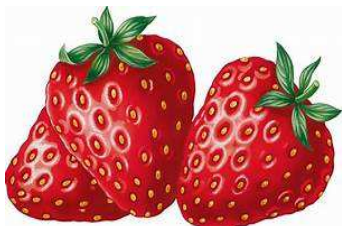
Ice Cream
Waffles
All kinds of Berries
for toppings &
other toppings
Drinks

They will have a basket extravaganza at the “Baskets & Berries” Bonanza.

They will have some big raffle items at the “Baskets & Berries” Bonanza.

THEY NEED YOUR HELP....if you would like to donate an item, wrapped or not (they will wrap them for you) please bring your item to Church on Sunday, July 20th from 8:00am – 11:00am, Monday 9:30am – 3:00pm, or by appointment on Friday & Saturday, July 25 & 26 by calling Charlotte Fritz at (570)952-4689.

If you would like to donate a basket but don't want to shop let Charlotte Fritz & Marianne Storch know and they will shop for you. Give them a donation amount and they will get something on your behalf.



Your donations are greatly appreciated by the Fundraising Committee!



Zion's Stone Coloring Sheet



I ♥
VBS





PNEC Vision Statement:

"United in Faith...Committed to Love...Created to Serve"

Penn Northeast Conference UCC, 431 Delaware Ave., Palmerton, PA 18071

www.pnec.org 610-826-3113

Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates bonnieb@pnec.org Barbara Jennings barbaraj@pnec.org

Patty Rehrig pattyr@pnec.org **SEND ARTICLES TO BE INCLUDED TO** pattyr@pnec.org

Bonnie's Letter

"Do not merely listen to the word & so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." (James 1:22 NIV)

Dear Friends, Well, it's the week after Easter. Are you still carrying Easter joy with you, or have you forgotten the hope and joy that was reborn last week? It's really easy to get involved in all the tasks we must complete, all the work to be done, all the sadness in the news, all the personal challenges in our lives, and forget. We are the people of the Resurrection, people called to live into the Resurrection each and every day. What does that mean for you?

While I was preaching about living into the Resurrection at our New Beginnings Charge congregations last Sunday, I spoke about how we carry the joy of our faith and our belief into the world. Do people even know we are Christian? Is our faith-walk seen in our everyday lives? Can people recognize the Christian love in us and our beliefs beyond our wearing a cross or carrying a bible? I quoted some lyrics from a Contemporary Christian artist, Ryan Stevenson. I share them with you now,

"I talk about grace; I talk about love; I talk about faith; But some days I don't have enough. I talk about forgiveness; But still learning how to give it; Lord, I need your strength to live what I believe.

I want my life to preach; Every breath, every beat; I want my life to preach; When I'm strong, when I'm weak; Through valley lows and mountain highs. Every moment testifies; Further than my words could ever reach; I want my life to preach.

I talk about peace; And I talk about hope; I talk about serving others; But most days I don't. And I talk about freedom; But getting' lost in religion; Lord, give me strength to live what I believe...

Turn my days into your canvas; Let me stay open-handed; With a humble heart to serve the least of these. I want my faith to be in action; Let this flame of compassion; Be louder than every word I speak."

I can't think of better ways to live the joy of the resurrection, to live in our faith and our love than those expressed in this song. I don't know about you, but I truly want my life to preach – and not just because I am a preacher/teacher type of person, but because I want the world to know that Christianity lives in my heart and in my actions. Don't you want that as well? ~ Blessings, Bonnie



Bishop's Staff Changes for 2025

To view the full "Strategic Intent" document in detail, visit godslove.org/2025-strategic-intent

Written by: Bishop Christopher deForest of the Northeastern PA Synod

"Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2)



Our gracious God is in our midst, transforming all of us, as St. Paul writes in his epistle to the Romans. In fact, Chapter 12 of that amazing letter has been our guide, not just for this upcoming Synod Assembly, but also for the past year of being church together. As the Holy Spirit does this work of transformation on us – our church, our communities, our very selves – we recognize more than ever our need to live and work together; in fact, to become more connected than ever before.

To this end, in this past year we have been guided by this statement of purpose – Connecting congregations for life-giving mission and ministry: so they can love like Jesus, heal like Jesus, and engage like Jesus – growing young, gaining strength, and going beyond death to life.

Strategic Goals



1. Ensure and encourage that every congregation can be in partnership with other congregations of their choice, centered around mission and ministry in their communities for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ and grounded in our Lutheran tradition, commonly expressed in our three Values and Lanes.



2. Empower and encourage the roles of all believers in this NEPA Synod, especially lay persons and with particular focus on younger people, to live out their baptismal callings and to love and serve God together in this church and their communities.



3. Make it possible for every congregation in this synod to have a pastor, a deacon, and a licensed lay minister.



4. Strengthen and secure the opportunities for rostered ministers and licensed lay ministers to serve congregations in this synod – faithfully, healthfully, and safely.



5. Reduce the need for congregations to close.



6. Engage and encourage all people – especially those who have been marginalized, harmed, or under-represented – to live and serve and lead well in this synod.



7. Train, inform, onboard, communicate, track and evaluate better, to better achieve these goals.



8. Evaluate and revise our governing documents, structures, and policies to better achieve these goals.



9. Align the roles, responsibilities, goals and evaluation of the bishop and bishop's staff to better achieve these goals and create a more efficient and satisfactory working environment.



10. Engage and encourage individuals, congregations, and partners to deepen their support of these goals – through the sharing of their time, talents, and resources.

Bishop's Staff – New Roles and Changes

Lead Servant for Leader Support: This service area includes support for rostered ministers (pastors and deacons), active and retired; licensed lay ministers (LLMs); candidates discerning calls to lay or rostered ministry; and leaders serving roles as officers and council members in congregations. **Search begins May 16.**

Lead Servant for Congregation Support: This service area includes support for our current congregations, especially those in transition (in search of a new rostered leader). We will also conduct a search for this Lead Servant; however, the roles will be transitioned with care over time, as we work with our current seven Associates of the Bishop and our Committee of nine Mission District Deans to maintain strong and ongoing support. **Search begins May 16.**

Lead Servant for Growing Young and Emerging Ministries: This service area includes support for ministries to youth, young adults and families; and the new and existing special ministry communities designated as "Synod Authorized Worshipping Communities" (SAWCs) and "Synod Authorized Outreach Communities" (SAOMs). This Lead Servant will help us take our "Growing Young" initiatives into new ministries and new directions. **Search begins May 16.**

Lead Servant for Gaining Strength and 6261: This service area includes support for our rostered minister development groups known as "Gaining Strength Cohorts"; and our 6261 Ministry Communities. **This Lead Servant role will be filled by our current Director for Evangelical Mission, Deacon Kat Tigerman.**

Each of these Lead Servants will be the "go-to" person on staff for each service area. They will work alongside:

Director of Operations: With support from administrative staff, this role will be responsible for human resources, onboarding new staff, evaluation processes, calendar, facility needs, staff meetings, and inner-staff communication. This will include the creation of an electronic planning platform and "dashboard" system for keeping track of key goals and metrics. **Eric Gombert will continue in this role.**

Director of Communications: Reporting to the Director of Operations, this role will continue to coordinate all our internal and external communications. **Stacey Burke is continuing in this role.**

Administrative Coordinators and Contract Support: Reporting to the Director of Operations, our two Administrative Coordinator positions will continue: **Laurie Christman as Leadership Support Coordinator**; and **Debbie Skinner as Mission Support Coordinator**. **Pastor Jira Albers** will continue as our part-time LLM Coordinator. We will be adding a third, part-time administrative support for 6261 and LLM. And we will continue to work with as-needed support from **Pastor Doug Hill** for our Gaining Strength Cohorts; and **Pastor Dave DeRemer** as a 6261 Coach.

In depth details are available in the "Strategic Intent" document found at [godslove.org/2025-strategic-intent](https://www.godslove.org/2025-strategic-intent).


If you have additional questions, please call or email Bishop Chris deForest at (610) 266-5101, bishopd@nepsynod.org, or contact our Director of Communication, Stacey Burke, at (610) 266-5101, stacey@nepsynod.org.

And stay connected to our monthly SYNOD NEWS or our synod website, www.godslove.org

ZION'S STONE CHURCH - 2025 JUNE BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Dylan Crowley	Amy Mogish	Mason Gerber	Tyler Hackman Billy Tuckett	Reese Zelinski	Bentley Reed	Fern Hauck Jessica Pistone
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Renee Gerber	Benjamin Hehn	Geri Balliet	Shayna Dietrich			Stacy Bitterman
Lawson Miller		Darlene Clark	Eileen Meiser			Brenda Osenbach
Amanda			Kevin Tyson			Cara Stern
Steigerwalt						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Justin Clinton	Sandy Zehner	Jessica Miller	Tim Lorah	Kelly Lehman
					Laurie Miller	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Wyatt Hamm -	Stephanie Bell	Wayne Miller	Danika Beers	Wayne Kistler	Margaret	
Frankhouser	Michael Coombe	Alan	Landon Kamont		Martinez	Rosalee Rehrig
Larry Stival		Steigerwalt	Nate Shellhamer		Jett Pilla	Kristine Troxell
Jean Tyson						
29	30					
						
Lisa Zehner	Dorothy Knowlan					
	Darin Ruch					

ZION'S STONE CHURCH - JUNE 2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:00am-Worship Service w/Holy Communion (Pew) 10:15am - Sunday School			6:30PM - St. Peter's VS Zion's Softball game	No Choir Rehearsals		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00am - Worship Service w/Young People's Time **Pastor Russ's Last Service Please greet pastor Russ in the Auditorium after the service for his Party and Dinner No - Sunday School	6:30pm - Board Meeting	6:30PM -Muss VS Zion's Softball game		No Choir Rehearsals		
FATHER'S DAY 15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:00am -Worship Service at West Penn Park - Honoring our Graduates & Fathers & Linnea Meiser leading Worship No - Sunday School 11:00am - Newsletter Deadline			6:30PM -LHP VS Zion's Softball game	No Choir Rehearsals 		
Fred Gimbl will be on Vacation from June 15 - 21.						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00am -Worship Service w/Linnea Miser Leading No - Sunday School 10:00am - Newsletter Deadline	6:30PM - St. Peter's VS Zion's Softball game			No Choir Rehearsal		
	6:30PM - 8:30 PM - M A G I N I F I E D V A C A T I O N B I B L E S C H O O L					
29	30					
9:00am - Worship Service w/Linnea Miser Leading No - Sunday School		