

# ZION MOSELEM MESSENGER

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The Roman “god” Janus, for whom the month of January is named, is often shown with one face looking into the future, and the other face looking backwards at what has been. For many of us, this image makes sense. We look backwards, at 2022, and we see some things we’d like to forget—perhaps health problems, disagreements, loss of a pet or loved one, economic struggles. At the same time, we may recall some wonderful times—vacations, times with family members or friends, accomplishments at school or work. What happened in the past, remains present with us in our memories, and might color how we enter the new year—with joy at the new start, or with regret for what will never be again.

The future is also present with us. As we fill in dates on our 2023 calendars, we see we will be visiting the dentist and doctor, perhaps attending a significant family event such as a wedding, or baby shower, perhaps planning a vacation we’ve always dreamed of taking, or planning to return to a place that holds great memories for us. So, we live in three tenses—past, present and future.

One thing Jesus encourages us to do, is not to get too wrapped up in either past or future, but to focus on the present. Jesus said, “Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” (Matthew 6:34) In the Lord’s prayer, we pray for our daily bread, not our yearly ratio on food. Jesus warns us about not putting new wine into old wineskins—not trying to force the present (new wine) into something that is over and done with (old wineskins) So many times, we miss what is happening right now, because we are looking backwards or forwards, rather than around us.

Can we trust God with our future, so we do not have to be consumed by our worries about what might happen? Can we bless the past, and let it go, rather than torturing ourselves for missed opportunities, or trying to hang on to what we loved that now is gone? As we enter 2023, are we open to what is happening right now? Can we trust that God will be with us, through both the daily joys and the daily aggravations? Can we learn from the aggravations to stop fussing over the small stuff, or to handle situations differently?

May God grant us the grace to be present, in the here and now, as we say good-bye to 2022 and hello to a brand new year.

In Christian companionship, Pastor Jane Kropa



## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

On January 29<sup>th</sup> Zion will be holding their congregational meeting immediately after the worship service. Following the meeting we will gather in the Social Room for a Covered Dish luncheon. Hope to see you then.

## Congregational Meeting

**THANK YOU:** The Council desires to thank all those who have helped with our church services and activities this year. A special thank you goes to our Pastors as they guided us forward in 2022. Thank you to everyone who gave in any way to further us on our Christian journey here at Zion and we look forward to many more helping in 2023.

# Thank you!

## COUNCIL REVIEW

- Lenny is working on updating the air flow to reduce the “moldy” smell at church. Provided Council with a detailed proposal that Council accepted. Work to start in 2023.
- Sign up sheets for bulletin, communion bread & flower sponsorships in 2023 now on the bulletin board
- Congregational Meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup>. All reports due to Joanne & Sue by January 8<sup>th</sup> but try & get them to them earlier if possible.
- Approved early communion classes for those 10 and older. Children must have attended Children’s Church at least one year prior to classes
- Norman has volunteered to install an indoor handle on the kitchen door
- If you have an email, please give it to the office staff to save us money on mailing
- Approved having an Ash Wednesday Service on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. It will be held downstairs. Ashes will be dispensed. Maundy Thursday service will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup> with communion and the stripping of the altar.
- Offering will again be collected in the pews
- Approved having a clothing ingathering for Hope Rescue Mission in January
- Approved 2023 budget to go to the congregation



## CLOTHING INGATHERING

Hope Rescue Mission contacted us requesting that we have an ingathering of clothing to support the mission they have been doing in Berks County for decades. In years past they really only restored men’s lives, but now they also have Lighthouse which restores the lives of women and children.

You may bring new or used clothing (men’s, women’s & children’s all sizes), shoes, belts, hats, scarves, purses, sheets, blankets and coats, but they must be in good condition. They are only accepting NEW underwear, undershirts and sweatpants.

So take a break from your other chores and clean out a closet or two and bring your items to church January 8<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>. Invite your friends and neighbors to also donate to this worthy charity as well by cleaning their closets and donating their items.

After the 15<sup>th</sup> Hope Rescue Mission will be picking up the items. We thank you for donating to the Hope Rescue Mission and starting their 2023 out on the right path.



## CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Oh, the sights and sounds! The laughter, the music, the messages for Santa! The gorgeous buildings decked out in beautiful Christmas attire! The carolers who shared Christmas Carols with all! Yes, all could be experienced at our Christmas Open House on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The varied Nativity Scenes brought the true meaning of the season to all of us. The gorgeous evergreens reminded us that just like their needles are always green, Christ is always with us.

He does not fall from our lives as the deciduous leaves do every Autumn. Our true Zion angels who have entered their heavenly homes were honored in our chapel area. Yes, it was a most uplifting experience for all who entered our church. Later everyone joined us for a Christmas cookie or snack and enjoyed conversing with family and old friends. An amazing day to be sure. Thank you to all who helped bring this wonderful day to others in our community.

### **FEEDING OTHERS**

Zion provided several food boxes for both Thanksgiving and Christmas meals this year through Friends, Inc. in Kutztown. These boxes stay local and help to keep our surrounding communities' families happy and healthy by providing healthy meals for the holidays. Thank you to all that donated items to the boxes, to those that decorated the boxes and to Joanne Dietrich for delivering the boxes. We are asked to help our neighbors and through this program we did just that again this year.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY AND MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICES**

The Season of Lent is right around the corner and our Council, and Worship and Music Committee would like to tell you about our upcoming midweek services in 2023.

On February 22 we will be gathering at 6:15pm to 7pm for a Soup Supper and then following will be the Ash Wednesday service in the Sunday School rooms. Ashes will be dispersed for those that want to receive them.

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, again from 6:15pm to 7pm we will join together for a Soup Supper. Then we will proceed to the sanctuary for our Maundy Thursday service. Communion at the rail will be celebrated during this service. Ending the service will be the stripping of the altar.

If you would like to help provide soup, salad or dessert for either of these evenings, please contact Sue Treichler, or see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

We invite everyone to come and partake of these dinner and worship times that will lead up to our Easter Worship Celebration on April 9<sup>th</sup>.



This Photo by Unknown

### **"SOUP"er Bowl Sunday**

How do you celebrate the Super Bowl ballgame? Here at Zion we celebrate by collecting cans of soup that we then donate to the Fleetwood Food Pantry. Soup is something that can boost spirits and warm the heart and soul during those long winter nights here in Berks County.

Bring your cans of soup with you on February 12<sup>th</sup> and use them to vote for the football team in the Super Bowl that you would like to see win that day. Soup kettles will be found on the windowsills as you top the staircases leading to the sanctuary. Just deposit your can(s) of soup in the kettle of the team you desire to win. After the service the soup will be delivered to the food pantry.

We invite everyone to participate in our “SOUP”er Bowl Sunday service. This is yet another way that we help out our neighbors here in rural Berks County.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER to read the lessons during our Worship Services? Are you interested in being an acolyte or Communion Assistant? Would you be willing to help collect the offering, or be a greeter? Then volunteer to any Council member and we will get you on the schedule for 2023. Zion always loves a willing volunteer!

### WORSHIP SERVICES

January 1<sup>st</sup> – No services

January 8<sup>th</sup> – Communion worship Service with Pastor Kistler

January 15 – Worship with Pastor Smart sharing the Word

January 22 – Reverend Kropa will be sharing her inspiring words from the pulpit

January 29 – Randy Schlegel will be in the pulpit; Congregational meeting with covered dish social to follow

Our Zion Council wishes each and everyone of you the healthiest and happiest New Year in 2023. Remember that God always walks with you.