



CHURCH KEY

A NEWSLETTER THAT OPENS PEOPLE
TO THE MINISTRIES OF



ZION'S UNION
CHURCH MAXATAWNY

**329 Church Road
Kutztown, Pennsylvania
610-683-7485**

a Federated Church of
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
and
The United Church of Christ

**November
2023**

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REMINDERS

- ◆ The cost for a vase of flowers is \$20.00 and the cost to be a bulletin sponsor is \$10.00. Payment may be given to Jane Warmkessel or put the money in an envelope with your name, date, and what you are paying for and place in the offering plate.
- ◆ Any checks written out for the offering, altar flowers, or bulletins should be made payable to **Zion's Union Church Maxatawny**.
- ◆ **Any checks for the cemetery should be made out to Maxatawny Zion Cemetery Company, Inc., not to the church.**
- ◆ We have DVDs of regular worship services available for use at home. Contact the church office if you would like to borrow one.
- ◆ Let the church office know if you have been admitted to the hospital. The hospitals **DO NOT** notify the church if members have been hospitalized.
- ◆ Zion's Union Church Maxatawny's website is www.zionsunion.org. Check out our website.
- ◆ Zion's has a prayer chain. If you would like to add a name to the Prayer Chain call Mary Laub at 610-248-2801.
- ◆ Sports cleats are not allowed in the church.
- ◆ Refreshments should be kept on the first floor of the church.

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER WORSHIP

November 5	23 rd Sunday after Pentecost HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 12	24 th Pentecost/Thankoffering	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 19	25 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 22	Thanksgiving Eve Service		7:00 P.M.
November 26	Christ the King Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
December 3	1 st Sunday of Advent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
December 10	2 nd Sunday of Advent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
December 17	3 rd Sunday of Advent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
December 24	4 th Sunday of Advent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
December 24	Christmas Eve Service HC		7:00 P.M.
December 31	1 st Sunday after Christmas	SS 9:00	church 10:15

PASTORAL CARE

Jeremiah Heydt, Vicar at Mt. Zion's Lutheran Church, will continue to do hospital visits, home visits/communions, and other services. Families should let the church (610-683-7485) know of health concerns of members, so that support can be offered to them. Jeremiah may also be contacted directly; his cell phone number is 1-972-839-9363.

SERVICE VIDEOS

A video recording of our worship service will be uploaded to our church website (zionsunion.org) by early Sunday afternoon and can be viewed for the rest of the week. Prior services can be viewed on Youtube — type “Zion’s Union Church” into the Youtube search bar.

CARD MINISTRY

Thinking of you, Birthday, Get Well, Sympathy, Thank You, and Blank cards to add your own message are in the Gathering Area waiting for you to send to someone to let them know they are on your mind. Take advantage of this ministry and make someone’s day a little brighter. Cost is \$1 plus a free stamp. **CHECK OUT THE CARDS IN THE GATHERING AREA.**

ORGAN RESTORATION UPDATE

As of October 1, 2023

Total Restoration Cost - **\$346,000**

Designated Memorials & Estates Received - \$53,410.13

Donations Received - \$100,313

Investments Used for Expenses - \$100,570

Checking Account Monies Used for Expenses - \$23,000 [*Donations to
replenish - \$100*]

Investment Gains - \$63,600

Total Funds Into Organ Restoration Fund – **\$340,993.13**

***any future organ donations will go back into the Church Checking
Account to replenish monies used from there**

ORGAN LOAN ACCOUNT - NO MONEY OWED FOR ORGAN

Amount in Account \$10,325.27 [account closed]

Still owed to Emery Brothers - \$0 -PAID IN FULL

Still owed to Fleetwood Bank for loan - \$0 – PAID IN FULL

LANDSCAPING PROJECT

2023

TOTAL COST **\$4,049.99**

FUNDING:

J. Knabb Memorial **\$1,325.25**

M. Angstadt Memorial **\$1,610.00**

I. Miller **\$1,160.00**

C. Nowotarski Memorial **\$ 500.00**

Donation **\$ 500.00**

TOTAL FUNDING **\$5,095.25**

**EXTRA FUNDING \$1,045.26 TO BE USED FOR MULCH AND
FUTURE PURCHASES**

SOUND SYSTEM PROJECT UPDATE

The total cost for this project was **\$11,644.86**. Donation of **\$5,000**, Memorials totaling **\$3,625**, and church account funds of **\$3,019.86** were used to pay this upgrade.

READERS, USHERS, GREETERS, SHEPHERDS

Schedules for acolytes, +readers, ushers, greeters, and shepherds are on the upstairs bulletin board. A schedule is also included in each newsletter.

TIME CHANGE

Daylight Savings Time ends **November 5th**. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday evening.



HELPING HAND FUND

On **November 5th**, baskets will be available in the back of the church and the Gathering Area for any donations to the Helping Hand Fund. The Helping Hand Fund of Zion's was established to provide financial support for individuals in the congregation who may be experiencing unexpected challenges in their lives. Contributions received go to replenish the fund.



INGATHERING

On the first Sunday of each month the Mission Outreach Committee will continue to collect items to fill backpacks with food staples for needy children and their families in the area. Please participate by dropping off non-perishable items from the list below in the container provided in the Gathering Area.



single serve size macaroni and cheese
single serve size applesauce
single serve cereal
oatmeal packets

peanut butter
canned tuna
granola bars

fruit cups
canned soup
fruit snacks

FLOOD VICTIM RESTORATION WORK

It is with gratitude that I would like to thank the work crews who volunteered their time, talent, and financial assistance to help restore the basement of a home in Blandon flooded by heavy rains. On September 1st, Jim Laub, Kevin and LaRee Fegely, Mike and Jonathan Weidman, Mitch Grim, Sherie Mohn, and Larry Stamm helped to purchase, and/or deliver 19 rolls of insulation, 28 sheets of heavy drywall, spackling, tape, and screws for Summer's basement. On October 7th, a Zion's work crew went over to install the insulation and hang the drywall. We had a talented team who worked well together and completed almost all the work in one very long day. Thank you to Jim Laub, Ray Schell, Joe Karaisz, Dan Cestone, Mike Weidman, Jon Weidman, Steven Gehringer, Lisa Krause, Nancy Wagner, and Sherie Mohn. Some smaller work teams will continue to finish the work throughout October. I am grateful to be able to do God's work with so many talented hands.

Blessings, Sherie.

MISSION OUTREACH

Thank you to everyone who bought or prepared food for Opportunity House on October 4th. Approximately 70 people were served meat loaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, bread, applesauce, cookies, and fresh fruit. Thank you to Kevin and LaRee Fegely, and Sherie Mohn for serving the meal.

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

A Thanksgiving Service will be held **Wednesday evening, November 22nd** at 7:00 P.M. The service will prepare our hearts to give thanks to Almighty God, from whom all blessings flow.



SNACK AND CHAT

We will have lunch in small groups at restaurants in the area. Our Zion's shirts could identify us and hopefully generate interest in our church. The upcoming outing is **November 8th at Jaks and December 13th at Ozgood's**. These social times will continue to take place on the second Wednesday of each month. Notify Nancy Fulton if you are able to join this fun time together.

CEMETERY CLEAN UP



ALL flower/wreath arrangements must be removed from the cemetery by the 3rd Saturday of November. The only exceptions will be the arrangements attached to the top of the tombstones. Cemetery clean-up will take place **November 18th** (weather permitting).



CHRISTMAS SHARING AT LUTHERAN HOME

Deadline is November 19th

Residents shop for a gift **for themselves** which is wrapped and delivered to them Christmas morning by Santa and Mrs. Claus. *All items must be new and unwrapped. A collection box is available in the Gathering Area. Please DO NOT donate any wrapping paper.*

ITEMS FOR WOMEN

Beauty Products
Slippers with soles & backs
Blouses – small to 3XL
Sweat pants – small to 3XL
Purses
Jewelry



Pajama Sets – small to 3XL
Sweaters - small to 3XL
Pull on Jeans – small to 3XL
Socks
Dress Scarves



ITEMS FOR MEN

Men's Skin Care Products
Flannel Shirts – Medium to XL
Sweatshirts – Medium to XL
Pajamas – Small to XL
Hats

After shave or Cologne
White Under Shirts – Medium to 2XL
Sweat pants – Medium to XL
Socks
Watches



GENERAL GIFTS FOR ANYONE

Blankets Wallets

2024 CALENDARS

There is a box in the Gathering Area for any 2024 calendars that you don't want. They will go to the Lutheran Home.

BETHANY'S BRIGHTER FUTURE FUND

On **November 26th** and **December 3rd** baskets will be in the back of the church and the Gathering Area of the church for any monetary donations for the Bethany Children's Home Brighter Future Fund to purchase items for the residents for Christmas.



ANGEL TREE PROJECT

The Sunday School will once again have their Angel Tree Project. Gifts can be put in a gift bag but not wrapped. Date to be determined. **Watch for more information in the bulletin.**



YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group updates are announced during the Sunday School opening and posted in the bulletin



POINSETTIA DISPLAY

We will be decorating our church with poinsettias for Christmas. The cost will be \$10.00 per plant. Please put the tear-off sheet and your check or cash for the poinsettias in an envelope marked "Poinsettias" and place it in the offering plate or give to Karen Warmkessel. You may also mail the sign-up sheet and payment to the church. Any checks should be made out to Zion's Union Church Maxatawny. Deadline for orders is **November 19th**.



POINSETTIA SIGN UP

NAME

NUMBER OF POINSETTIAS: RED..... WHITE

IN HONOR OF or IN MEMORY OF (*circle one*)

.....

WOMEN IN ZION

A group of Christian women in service, mission, and study for the benefit of all.

- November 12 Thankoffering Service. Speakers are Cyndi Dimowitz and Donna Franko.
- November 13 Meeting & Bible Study at 1:00 P.M.
- Week of November 26th – Cookie Baking for sale.
- December 2 Pack cookie boxes at 9:00 A.M.
- December 3 Deliver cookies before and after church.
- December 11 Meeting, cookie exchange, Christmas games, ornament exchange at 1:00 P.M.



For more information contact Linda Ballew-Johnson (484-553-1981) or Loretta Flicker (610-683-3627.)

PLASTIC BAGS PROJECT

The group will meet from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. on **November 8th, November 22nd, December 6th, and December 20th** to weave plastic bags into mats. Evening hours can be arranged. All are welcome and encouraged to participate. Contact Tanya Schaedel at 484-705-5533 or Carol Leiby at 484-695-8318. Plastic bags may be brought to the church and deposited in the box in the Gathering Area.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **November 27th and December 18th** at 12 noon. Persons attending should bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Games provide entertainment for the afternoon. Guests are always welcome.



REJOICING SPIRITS WORSHIP SERVICE

Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County service is at 3:00 P.M. **Sunday, November 5th** at St. Paul's UCC, 47 S. Whiteoak St. Kutztown, PA. All are welcome at this no-shush worship that enriches the lives of all people, especially those with disabilities. Learn more at rejoicingspirits.org or contact Karen Raudenbush at raudyk@gmail.com or phone at 610-608-8290.

CHURCH BOARD MEETING

September 26, 2023

1. Thank you to Sherri Mohn, Lisa Krause, and Jim Laub for the beautiful decorations for Harvest Home.
2. Thanksgiving Eve Service will be led by Nathaniel Haas.
3. We are going to have a 7:00 PM family service for Christmas Eve, the later service has been cancelled this year.
4. The new banners are up on the poles outside. They are double sided so make sure to look at both sides of them. The submissions are hanging upstairs across from the elevator.
5. The new t-shirt order has been submitted. We are hoping that they arrive prior to the October 29th Open House.
6. Open House on October 29th, we will have live music, pet blessings, Top of the Hill Grill food truck, and displays from organizations.
7. Church board is seeking 4 members to join our fun. Please see any board member to inquire.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Archer Scaffidi played bass drum for the Brandywine Heights Marching Band at several parades in the area, including Fleetwood's 150th Anniversary Parade. Jen and Ted Scaffidi were also seen as chaperones, marching with the band.
- Jen, Ted, Archer, and Arden Scaffidi appeared in the audience of a recent episode of the Jennifer Hudson Show, which was taped on the Warner Brothers lot in Burbank.
- Congratulations Archer Scaffidi (grade 11) as a September Bullet P.R.O.U.D. student. He started the year showing tremendous Preparations, Respect, Ownership, Understanding, and Determination.
- Jewel Karaisz is a junior at West Chester University and is the Senator for College of Education and Social Work; Men's Basketball Manager; Track Field/Cross Country Manager; Orientation Leader; WCU Bridges President 22-23; Sykes Student Union Building Manager; and Abbe' Society Secretary 23-24.

MEMBER UPDATES

Losses:

Bortz, Anna M.

Mertz, John P.

MYSTERY VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

I was born in Allentown but we lived in New Tripoli for 2 years and then we moved to a small village called Albrightsville in Carbon County. We lived on a farm which was pre-Civil War and our house had been a hotel in the 1800s. The road leading to our house was 2 miles from the main road so I needed to ride the bus that took me to the nearest school in Jim Thorpe which was 20 miles away. As it turned out, I was the first one on the bus and the last one off.

Several years later we moved to the Kutztown area. I graduated from Kutztown High School and received an award as the outstanding industrial arts student. I enlisted in the Navy for 4 years where I studied naval engineering and was stationed on an aircraft carrier. After leaving the Navy I worked for Mack Trucks as service engineer. After 14 years an opportunity came along to buy a Mack Truck dealership which I had until I retired.

When I moved to Kutztown our house was a short distance from a farm. On the farm I met someone who would become my wife. We were married at Zion's and moved into our newly built house which depleted our resources. So we went camping in a 2 man pup tent for our honeymoon. We recently celebrated our golden wedding anniversary.

I have one brother, two cats, and lots of in-laws.

Currently I am an apiarist in addition to working on and restoring antique engines. I enjoy hunting and fishing. A favorite place to go fishing is St. John U.S. Virgin Island.

I have been on the Church Board for many years and served as the Building and Property Committee chairs. I teach adult Sunday School.

FROM THE RECORD BOOK

FUNERALS: *Anna M. Bortz*, 94, of Topton, died September 15, 2023. Service was September 21, 2023 in Hildenbrand Funeral Home, Kutztown, by Vicar Jeremiah Heydt.

John P. Mertz, 88, of Kutztown, died September 24, 2023. Service was September 29, 2023 in Zion's Union Church Maxatawny by Vicar Jeremiah Heydt. Interment was in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery, Kutztown.

“The foremost quality of a trusting disciple is gratefulness.”

—Brennan Manning, *Ruthless Trust*

FROM THE MAILBOX

Thank you for the prayers and get well wishes for John during his illness and also for the payers, cards, and concerns after John's passing. We appreciate all of your kindness and thoughtfulness during these difficult times.

Betty Mertz
and family

PRAYER REQUESTS

We ask God's blessings upon those who are ill, recovering from surgery, homebound, or have asked for our prayers:

Bonnie Haas, Bill & Karen Howard, Elaine & Paul Heffner, Kay Weidner, Irene Isamoyer, Loretta Flicker, Jamey Webb, Sharon Weigle, Julia Mohn, Liz Jones, Owen Shorette, Walter & Doris Dietrich, John & Marlene Costello, Barry & Ann Miller, Marilyn & Bill Bird, Marian Stettler, Mary Kutz, Gladys Leibold, Donna Slotter, Randy Warmkessel, Karen Weaver, Donna VanDeCar, Chad, Chris, Laura G., Keith Egley, Mark Miller, Colid Hollin, Vera, Bruce Fritzinger, Sherri Gehringer, Leila, Linda Menges, John Laird, Mick O'Neil, Paige Sechler, Ely, Ian Miller, Rosemary LaFratte, Mary Jane Schlenker, Owen Lamendola, Randy Schlegel, Joanne Pauley, Sarah Johnson, Victoria Slotter, Regen Zimmerman, Karen Ames, Elia, Donna Rabert, Tom Seifert, Jo Corrado, Rayann Roth, Chris Szarko, Arthur Sell, Lorraine Miller, Mary Fox, Valerie, Sue Zimmerman, Christy Ryan, Christopher Mercardo, Michele Rodriguez, Judy Redman, Frank Knight, Betty Houck, Mary, Betsy, Gary Sell, family of Anson Burkholder, family of Richard Beggs, family of John Mertz.

If anyone can be removed from this list, please notify the church office.

If you know of other persons in need of prayer and you wish to have a name included on the list please email the church, call the church office, or leave a message on the answering machine. If you want a name included on Zion's Prayer Chain call Mary Laub at 610-248-2801.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO...

... the family of Anna Bortz.

... the family of Richard Beggs.

... the family of Anson Burkholder.

... the family of John Mertz.



Interconnected, Diverse, and Wild Creation

Have you ever worked on a crochet or knit project, and got to a point where your yarn ends up tied in a bird nest-looking mess? Or maybe you're one that works with a fishing line, and while re-spooling a reel you end up with a knot with loops and swoops that make you scratch your head and wonder, "Now what?"

I've noticed that when I experience the dilemma of a knotted skein, I feel frustration and anger. If I'm not in my clearest headspace, I will reactively pull one loop at a time, looking for one with any ability to move. "This one moves? Great!" I'll pull it in either direction until it stops. Still knotted? Find another! And again, and again. If I'm not careful I can end up tightening the knot even further, never to be unwound and destined for the scrap pile.

On my clearer days, I can take a jumbled mess of a knot and get it unwound and collected into a smaller ball of yarn without even needing to cut it from the rest! In Times like this, I have found, that the frustration and the anger are still present, yet in letting them pass while I pause, I create the opportunity to take care and intention in my untangling.

I wonder if God feels like that sometimes when, as the interconnected, diverse, and wild Creation that God so deeply loves, we get ourselves all knotted up through broken relationships, judgments, and ignorant acts. I wonder, does God reactively start pulling at us to take action? Does God accept our jumbled mess, allowing us to make different choices and seek right relationships that honor our connectedness? Does God enjoy the feeling of seeing us come together to co-create something new and beautiful?

May you know and trust that the One who has knit you together in the womb is the One who is eager and ready to create goodness and mercy in and through you this day and always. Blessings on your detangling.

Reverend Lauren Applegate
On Leave From Call





**We Love 2023:
The Reconciling
in Christ Process**

**Saturday, November 4, 2023
8:30AM-3PM
at The Lutheran Center
2354 Grove Rd., Allentown**

Join the synod's LGBTQIA+ Ministry Team as we host a special day of education, information, and fellowship on this year's theme: The Reconciling In Christ process. We are thrilled to welcome Carla Christopher, Assistant to the Bishop for Justice Ministries in the Lower Susquehanna and Delaware-Maryland synods, to work with us on integrating our commitment to racial justice into our RIC efforts.



SAVE THE DATE
synod
assembly
JUNE 8TH 2024

**NATIONAL
YOUTH
GATHERING**

Registration - now open!



www.elca.church/gathering



*This Thanksgiving, we acknowledge
this land is Indigenous*

CARD SHOWERS

We are listing those couples married 50 years or more and those people 70 years or older. If we are missing anyone, please call or email the church office.



November 1	Richard Haas
November 3	David Kamp
November 6	Donald Mertz
November 6	Kay Mertz
November 6	Fay Kamp
November 6	Carl & Loretta Flicker (58 wed)
November 10	Richard Weigle
November 10	Barry Ziegler
November 14	Nancy Held
November 14	Karen Howard
November 16	Barry & Ann Miller (55 wed)
November 17	Leora Haas
November 22	Dale Grim
December 14	Judy Koller
December 16	Diana Gehman
December 16	Victor Berger
December 17	Elaine Silliman
December 17	Jane Warmkessel
December 18	Michael & Evelyn Dietz (58 wed)
December 26	Michael Dietz



MISSION STATEMENT

Energized by the Spirit! Humbled by Christ's Grace! Working for God's glory!

UPCOMING HOLY COMMUNION

You are invited by Jesus Christ to this awesome feast of the Children of God.

November 5

Pew Holy Communion

December 3

Altar Holy Communion

December 24 (7 PM)

Christmas Eve Altar Holy Communion



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next issue of the newsletter will come out the beginning December. If you have any information to be included in the December newsletter, please have it in the church office by **November 15th**.