

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

**April
2020**

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REMINDERS

- ◆ The cost for a vase of flowers is \$18.00 and the cost to be a bulletin sponsor is \$8.00. Payment may be given to Jane Warmkessel or put the money in one of the flower/bulletin envelopes found in the Gathering Area 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 the 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 Marion Angstadt at 610-683-3918.
- ◆ Sports cleats are not allowed in the church.
- ◆ After church refreshments should be kept on the first floor of the church.

THE PASTOR'S PAGE



“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

The above salutation is how St. Paul begins every epistle that he wrote to the early Christians, many of whom were huddled in fear throughout the Roman Empire where they were being severely persecuted. Right now we are facing some fearful times in our own lives as we hear every latest news report about the rise and spread of the coronavirus. And Paul’s words are a reminder of why we are people of faith—because God has given us true peace that can only come from above. As Jesus promised his disciples at the most trying time of his life, the Last Supper: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid” (John 14:27).

As is often the case, Jesus’ divine advice and guidance is not always easy for us mortals to heed. I know many of you are worried and troubled right now. And, sad to say, the cancellation of our recent worship services may have brought you additional worry. At a time when many of you may have been looking for some peace and continuity in your lives by coming to our beautiful sanctuary to worship and have fellowship, you found that even your church was closed. I know this has been very disappointing to some of you. So, I would like to address why Zion’s Church has taken this step and what our plans are for the weeks ahead.

First of all, I want you to know that this decision was made by our Church Board and was not made lightly. While some disagreed, it was the decision of the majority to cancel our services. Personally, I trust that the Holy Spirit guided the members of our Board to the right decision. As a vital part of our community, it was the right thing for our church to follow the advice and guidelines of our national and local leaders. When it was decided to close all schools in Pennsylvania, it would have been rather irresponsible to keep our doors open and perhaps exacerbate the problem, when we want above all to take every possible step to curtail the problem.

Unlike some churches who have already cancelled for several weeks ahead, we are going to make this a week-by-week decision in the hope that things might turn around sooner rather than later. So please check either on WFMZ.com (under snow emergency closings) or call the church office (610-683-7485) where you will hear a message about whether we will be holding services. Please know that I plan to be in the office Monday through Thursday if anyone wants to talk or is in need of prayer. Please do not hesitate to stop. That being said, I also want to make everyone aware that even clergy are being

restricted from visiting hospitals and nursing homes, except in the event of death. Following that guideline, we are also going to cancel the Home Communion visits from our Eucharistic Ministry Team this month. Hopefully we can resume next month.

While we wait for this pandemic to ease (and it most certainly will – Wuhan province where it all began is now experiencing almost no new cases), let us all strive to be a non-anxious presence in a time when so many are anxious. And, in the meantime, please remember that though we are being called as a nation to practice “social distancing,” for Christians that is not the same as “spiritual distancing.” While we may have to maintain some social distance, we do not have to be spiritually apart from each other. We can still phone each other, send cards or e-mails, and keep each other, especially our shut-in and older members, in our prayers. And please do not hesitate to stop to see me at the office or give me a call to talk. I am here if anyone needs anything. And always remember, as our Conference Minister, Bill Worley has reminded us pastors: As Christians we are people of *faith*, not fear.

"For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7)

If anyone would like more information as to how our national churches are responding to the pandemic, please visit these websites:

Lutheran (national church): elca.org

UCC (national church): ucc.org

Northeast Pa. Synod (ELCA): nepasynod.org

Penn Southeast Conference (UCC): psec.org

Peace and blessings to you all, and see you soon!

Pastor Jeff

CHURCH DOORS

As part of our on-going commitment to providing a safe environment to joyfully worship the Lord, we will be keeping the front doors locked on Sunday mornings from 9:15 A.M. on. Greeters will be on duty to open the doors and welcome you to your morning worship. This recommendation came out of the intruder training by the Kutztown Police Department. Thank you, everyone, for your cooperation and understanding.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME AND MAYBE ALL THE EVENTS IN THIS NEWSLETTER MAY NOT HAPPEN DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.

APRIL AND MAY WORSHIP

April 1	Mid-Week Lent 5		7:30 P.M.
April 5	Palm/Passion Sunday HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 9	Maundy Thursday Service HC		7:00 P.M.
April 10	Good Friday Service		7:00 P.M.
April 12	Easter Dawn Service HC		6:00 A.M.
April 12	Easter Service HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 19	Second Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 26	Third Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 3	Fourth Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 10	Fifth Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 17	Sixth Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 24	Seventh Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 31	Pentecost/Confirmation HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15

YES WE “CAN”

Since our Yes We “Can” project from last year was such a success it was decided at the January Church Board meeting to do it again this year. Instead of giving something up for Lent, we are going to *give back for Lent*. **Running through Easter** we will be collecting canned **vegetables, fruit, meat, and fish** to be donated to Friend. Our goal is to collect **1,500** cans. There is a container in the Gathering Area to drop off your cans and we will be keeping a tally on how close we are to our goal. Let’s all rally together and help out our neighbors in need.



OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

The Mission Outreach Committee will serve the evening meal at the Opportunity House on **April 1st**. Volunteers are needed to prepare the meal. Please sign up on the second floor bulletin board. Any questions can be directed to Cindy O’Neil.

INGATHERING

On the first Sunday of each month the Mission Outreach Committee will continue to collect items to fill bags with food staples for needy children and their families in the Kutztown, Brandywine, and Fleetwood School Districts. 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	peanut butter	fruit cups
single serve size applesauce	canned tuna	canned soup
single serve cereal	granola bars	fruit snacks
oatmeal packets		



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY

The Eucharistic Ministry Teams will not make their visits as previously reported. Sorry for the inconvenience.

ANNUAL REPORTS

The 2019 Annual Reports are now available. If you are unable to get to the church to pick up one, one can be mailed to you.



KID'S CHOIR

Kid's Choir rehearsal will be **April 5th** at 8:45 A.M.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday Service	– Thursday, April 9th at 7:00 P.M. Holy Communion.
Good Friday Service	– Friday, April 10th at 7:00 P.M.
Easter Dawn Service	– Sunday, April 12th at 6:00 A.M. Holy Communion.
Easter Service	– Sunday, April 12th at 10:15 A.M. Holy Communion.



EGG HUNT

The Youth Group is sponsoring an Egg Hunt on **April 11th** at 1:00 P.M. (rain or shine). Children nursery through grade 4 are invited.



RELAY FOR LIFE BRUNCH

Zion's Relay for Life Team will hold a brunch immediately after the worship service on **April 19th** to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. Donations are \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children ages 6-12, and children under age 6 eat free. Join us for breakfast items, lunch items, and yummy desserts! Everyone is welcome.



BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Mobile will be at Zion's on **Tuesday, May 5th** from 3:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board on the second floor by the stairs. You can also sign up online at giveapint.org (Group ID: 3303).



MUSIC SUNDAY



Theresa is looking for soloists, groups, and instruments to help with Music Sunday on **May 10th**. All information must be given to Theresa by **May 3rd**.

RELAY FOR LIFE 2020, MAY 29TH AND MAY 30TH AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

Relay for Life, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, is about celebrating survivorship, remembering those we've lost, and bringing awareness to our community. Relay for Life involves teams of 10-15 people, asked to raise \$100 each for the American Cancer Society, who take turns walking, running, strolling around the track. Relay for Life will begin on Friday, May 29th at 3:00 P.M. and end May 30th at 12 noon. See Sue Haas for more information.



STRAWBERRY & ICE CREAM FESTIVAL

The annual Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival will be held **June 7th** from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. Entertainment will be the Dogs of Faulkner Swamp. If you would like to help see Courtney Kellum.



WOMEN IN ZION

*A group of Christian women in service, mission, and study for the benefit of all.
Meetings are open to all women of the congregation.*

- | | |
|----------|--|
| April 25 | Saturday 9:00 A.M to 2:00 P.M. Retreat at the church. See below. |
| May 11 | Meeting at 1:00 P.M. Mother's Day with Nancy Fulton. |



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

WOMEN'S RETREAT

On Saturday, **April 25th**, WIZ will be hosting a retreat for ALL WOMEN at the church. The theme will be "***Caring for Yourself and Others***" and will be led by Rev. Lori Esslinger. Time will be 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. We will be serving a light breakfast and lunch. Cost is \$10. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the second floor bulletin board and the deadline to sign up will be **April 19th**. Bring family and friends and plan to join us!!

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

The Cancer Support Group will meet the second Monday of the month at 6:30 P.M. See Loretta Flicker for more information.

SCRABBLE

Scrabble will meet the third Monday of the month at 1:30 P.M. at the Lutheran Home in the social area near Sylvia's room. See Ellie Merkel if interested.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

*Youth Group meetings are open from age 10.
Schedules are on the upstairs bulletin board.*

Activity Schedule:

April 5	Color eggs from 1:30 to 3:00 P.M.
April 11	Easter Egg Hunt
April 19	Discussion on the Lenni Lenape Indians – Elder Uhma Ruth Py 1:30 to 3:00 P.M. All are welcome.
May 2	Congregational/Church Work Day (Pizza Lunch)
May 10	Mother's Day Handouts
May 17	Picnic at Richard's House



Offering Schedule:

April 5	Nick Perella and Lizzie Schell
April 12 (6:00)	Volunteers Needed (please notify the church office if you are able to help)
April 12 (10:15)	Emily Bortz and Kelly Leiby
April 19	Connor O'Neil and Carson Sheetz
April 26	Sarah Grim and Autumn Edelman
May 3	Ashley DeLong and Maisy Kellum
May 10	Andrew Haas and Owen Shorette
May 17	Julia Perella and Jonah Shorette
May 24	Andrew Schell and Archer Scaffidi
May 31	Ben Heffner and Paige Carvalho

PRAYER SHAWL



Comforting wraps are still available to all who are in need. Please alert the church office or talk to Loretta Flicker or Karen Howard if you or someone you know would benefit from this ministry.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

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



CHURCH BOARD MEETING

February 25, 2020

1. We are investigating the proper fix for our 1928 Mueller Organ which is making groans and squeaks.
2. A \$500 donation in memory of Rev. Heckler will be sent to Ursinus College.
3. An agreement with St. John's Lutheran Church has been reached. In the event of an extraordinary situation precluding use of our church, St. John's will open their church to us, and we will open our church to St. John's should it happen to them.
4. A new congregational survey is being prepared. It will assess the expectations and deeds of the congregation going forward.

MARCH SUNDAY SCHOOL SPIRIT NEWS

Our large group of singers sharing their *Sunday School Spirit* was the 4th and 5th grade class, their teachers, and all of the Sunday School people in attendance! ☺ This was a very special time for singing together the familiar song, "*Praise Him, Praise Him, all the Little Children.*"

Students in the 4th and 5th grade class are: Lauren Perella, Arden Scaffidi, Quinton Zoccola, and Autumn Edelman. Lisa Bartera, Amanda Shorette, and Richard Haas are their teachers.

We invite you to please join our Sunday School on **April 5th** for our next Sunday School Spirit Song. The Nursery class will sing during the opening. Sunday School begins at 9:00 A.M.

SPIRIT ON TAP – READING

Spirit on Tap will be held **April 21st and May 26th** at 7:00 P.M. at the DoubleTree Hotel, 701 Penn St., Reading. The events are free and open to all. On **April 21st**, Charlie Zahm and Tad Marks will present "*Songs of the Earth and the Celtic Soul*". On **May 26th**, Mary Wolfe will present "*One World-Everyone Eats*". For more information, contact Dr. Harry L. Serio at 610-944-7032 or HLSerio@aol.com or Dr. Robert Stewart at 610-775-2836 or rastheo1951@msn.com.

FROM THE MAILBOX

THANK YOU to my church family for all the prayers and concerns sent my way during my recovery process for my hip surgery. The cards, meals, and well wishes were very much appreciated. I missed everyone while I was gone and am thankful to be slowly working my way back.



Peggy Morgan

Dear Church Council,

Thank you for your gift in the amount of \$100 to the Memorial Fund in memory of Herbert Michel. Your donation has been noted in our memorial log, and the family has been notified.

Sincerely,
Augustus Lutheran Church

To our Church family,

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for all of your hugs, text messages, cards, flowers, and well wishes. Losing a parent is never easy, but being uplifted by you all certainly made the days brighter. We are grateful to be blessed and to have such a wonderful circle that surrounds us each day.

Kevin, LaRee,
Jacob & Rachel

Dear Zion's Union Church Maxatawny,

Many thanks for your recent contribution to Ursinus College in memory of the Rev. Heckler. Philanthropic support from our alumni and friends make a difference in our efforts to achieve our mission, while ensuring a brighter future for our students. Thank you again so much.

Rosemary Pall
Executive Director of
Annual Fund Programs

DID YOU KNOW?

- Archer and Arden Scaffidi competed at the Eastern PA District YMCA Championship Meet. Both advanced to the PA State YMCA Championship Meet. However, the PA State Championship Meet has been cancelled. Archer had advanced in the 200 free, 100 breast, and 200 free relay. Arden had advanced in the 200 medley relay and 200 free relay.

MYSTERY MEMBER

If you guessed our mystery person last month was Cindy O'Neil you are absolutely correct. She is the person who makes everyone aware of food that is still needed for Opportunity House, reminds us of the needed items for the Backpack ministry, and reports on the Potato Project, among other things. Now, in a slightly different format let's meet her husband, Steve O'Neil. You do not have to guess because he is being identified immediately.

Steve was born in Reading and spent most of his childhood in Kutztown. And most of that time was spent in the Kutztown Park playing baseball. As a ten year old he was the MVP in Little League. He graduated from Kutztown Area High School where he was class president in his senior year. He received a degree in Environmental Engineering from Penn State University. Steve worked for the PA Department of Environmental Protection until June 2016 when he retired.

He has 5 siblings: 3 older sisters and 2 younger brothers. One of his sisters, Kathy, is a member of Zion Church.

Cindy has already told us that she and Steve were high school sweethearts but Steve remembers that their first date was to the Kutztown Fair where Cindy got sick after a ride on the Tilt-a-Whirl, although she had warned him this would happen. They were married in 1984 in Longswamp Church but Steve has added another memory from that day. During the tossing of the garter one of his friends from college had his watch torn off and broken into pieces.

Steve enjoys fishing and collecting baseball memorabilia.

His comment on pets is that his wife has way too many cats. However, many would agree that she is doing good work with feeding them and spaying and neutering.

He was a member of the Church Board for 8 years, holding various offices in that time. He is also the head of the Mutual Ministry Committee and also serves on the D.E.A.R Committee.

I hope you were able to get to know Steve and Cindy a bit better and are appreciating what they and others have done for the church.

JOURNEYS THROUGH GRIEF

A six-week grief support group will be held at Emmaus Moravian Church, Main Street, Emmaus, Tuesday evenings **April 21st through May 26th** from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M. There is no cost to attend but registration is required. Contact Sylvia Havlish at 610-395-5045 to register.

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

St. James, Pitman: Rural and Vibrant



St. James, Pitman, is a very rural congregation that maintains a vibrant ministry of outreach, Christian education, worship, and social ministry. The congregation recently dedicated its new ADA accessible restrooms and wheelchair lift with Bishop Zeiser and a packed house in attendance. The new restroom and wheelchair lift became a reality after the congregation received a significant bequest from a former member's estate. Making the building accessible was the logical way to open the doors and welcome in the community.

Each year, the congregation, which has 150 baptized members, crafts and ships nearly 200 quilts to Lutheran World Relief sites around the world. Locally, St. James raises thousands of dollars to help people within the community, while meeting its benevolence tithe to our Synod. When Bishop Zeiser learned that the quilts were shipped to places like Madagascar, Tanzania, and Indonesia, he said, "some people may think you're 'in the middle of nowhere', but for the people receiving the work of your hands you are very much somewhere."

The congregation's vision of reaching out and being a welcoming place has already borne fruit. The quilting group, open to anyone in the community, now has its largest membership ever and the quilt production has taken off. As word about the accessibility project has spread in the community, worship attendance has risen as well. For a little church 'in the middle of nowhere', many more are finding that it is really somewhere to be.



HONOR ROLL

If you would like a name included please email the church office or put a note in the secretary's mailbox in the Gathering Area of the church.

Ashley DeLong

Cayden Ciccone-Haas

Katelyn DeLong

St. Paul, Fountain Hill, NFL Canned Food Challenge Award

The Bethlehem-Easton Mission District Council challenged their congregations to participate in collecting canned goods for the food bank(s) of their choice. It was an effort to join forces; and with a bit of a challenge, to help others.

The goal was to collect a canned good for each point scored during the playoffs! Yes, that meant each congregation was asked to collect 523 cans. The prize was not revealed to the congregations ahead of time.

The suspense grew from week to week as the scores piled up and the cans were counted. Who would win the prize? As the points total grew, it seemed like an unreachable goal; yet many remained hopeful and determined.

After 11 play-off games, watching their canned goods pile up at their altar each week to be counted, St. Paul Fountain Hill was honored to receive a framed award for their "Mighty Effort" in the NFL Canned Food Challenge by surpassing the goal as they collected a total of 594 items. A total of 2,279 cans were collected & distributed to several food banks within the district.

Yes, the "Mighty 45" (as their Pastoral Care Provider Marlene Werkheiser calls them) stepped up to the challenge! As she told the them that first week, "This is a great way for our small congregation to help others and to possibly win bragging rights to the prize. "The challenge intrigued them enough to muster up an average of 13 cans per worshipping parishioner.

"I am beyond proud of them", said Werkheiser. "For a small congregation, they really wanted to show others that their congregation can (and wants to) participate in ministries that help to do God's work."

Pictured below is the "Mighty 45" on February 9, after they reached the goal.



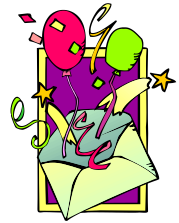
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2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.
View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org>.

KUTZTOWN KITCHEN

Usually the third Sunday of the month from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. a Community Meal is held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 357 W. Main St., Kutztown. There is no cost. All are invited. Parking is in the rear of the church on Sacony Alley.

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 the church office.



April 1	Betty Mertz
April 6	Jeremiah Heffner
April 8	Joanne Stamm
April 10	Gladys Leibold
April 11	Irene Boyer
April 17	Ralph & Helen Noll, Sr. (66 wed)
April 18	Joseph Zajac
April 19	George & Irene Isamoyer (62 wed)
April 24	Marion Angstadt
April 27	Robert Leibold
May 1	Arlan Berger
May 11	Eleanor Nester
May 16	Loretta Flicker
May 16	Donald & Kay Mertz (50 wed)
May 20	Richard & Shirley Derr (59 wed)
May 24	Lennia Mertz
May 24	Harlow Bailey
May 28	Jean Bailey
May 28	Carol Toth
May 31	Irvin Miller

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Gary Miller.
... the family of June Christman.

... the family of Jenny Moser.

THEOLOGY WITH A TWIST

Theology with a Twist will be held **April 14th and May 12th** from 6:00 to 7:30 P.M. at the Kutztown Tavern, 272 W. Main St., Kutztown. Theology with a Twist is free. Food and drink are available for purchase. For more information see facebook page Theology with a Twist; email theologywithatwist@outlook.com, or call 610-926-3907.



MISSION STATEMENT

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

UPCOMING HOLY COMMUNIONS

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



April 5	Altar Holy Communion
April 9	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
April 12 (6 AM)	Pew Holy Communion
April 12 (10:15 AM)	Pew Holy Communion

MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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