

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

**January
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



As I write this, on Monday morning, December 16th, everyone is watching and waiting for a promised ice storm headed our way. Fortunately, we haven't yet had a snowstorm this year, but I'm sure it's just a matter of time! And this got me to wondering: Did Jesus ever see snow? I did a little research, and it turns out he most certainly did. Mt. Hermon, to the north of Galilee is usually snow covered, and it is plainly visible from Galilee. A little snow falls in the Judean hills an average of three days annually. And on December 13th, 2013, Jerusalem, which on very rare occasions receives a light dusting, actually received almost 2 feet of snow, the most that had fallen there since 1950.

There are only a few references to snow in the Bible, but they are interesting. 2 Samuel 23 tells of a valiant Israeli warrior named Benaiah who fought in a war against the Philistines. Verse 20 states, "He also went down and killed a lion in a pit on a day when snow had fallen." The book of 1 Maccabees (in the Apocrypha), tells of a foreign army led by a commander named Trypho who tried to invade Israel, but could not because of a heavy snowfall: "So Trypho got all his cavalry ready to go, but that night a very heavy snow fell, and he did not go because of the snow" (13:22). It seems that even invasions sometimes have to be called off due to snow! Or perhaps it was divine intervention. In the book of Job, God says that he sometimes uses snow to influence the outcome of wars: "Have you entered the storehouses of snow, or have you seen the storehouses of hail, which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war?" (38:22).

But snow is most often mentioned in the Bible as a symbol of cleanness and purity. Psalm 51:7 says, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Isaiah 1:18 says, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow." The book of Proverbs describes snow as refreshing: "Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest are faithful messengers to those who send them; they refresh the spirit of their masters" (25:13). The reference to snow in Psalm 147 is especially appropriate for the upcoming Lenten season: "Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! He sends out his commands to the earth; his word runs swiftly. He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes."

Those words give us something to ponder as we begin the penitential season of Lent next month on Ash Wednesday. Ashes are usually thought of as dirty; but at one time ashes were used as a cleaning agent when soap wasn't available. On Ash Wednesday, one of the symbolic purposes of having ashes put on our forehead is as a sign of penitence and commitment to cleansing

ourselves from sin. Ashes are also a symbol of our mortality. The ashes are placed upon our foreheads with these words: “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” Those dirty ashes become a sign of cleansing and of hope—cleansing from our sins and the hope of new life. The ashes are put on our foreheads in the sign of a cross, which for Christians is a symbol of how new life comes through death.

This month, on the Sunday of the Baptism of Our Lord (January 12th), we will once again have the annual opportunity to reaffirm our baptisms and return to the font to have holy water put on our foreheads in the sign of a cross as I say, “Child, of God remember your baptism when you were marked with the cross of Christ forever.” And in February, on Ash Wednesday, we will have the opportunity to again have that cross traced on our foreheads, this time with ashes as a grim reminder that death will one day come to us all. But thanks to the cross of Christ, we know that death and the grave are the doorway to new life. It is because we have been marked with the cross of Christ that we can go through life with the constant assurance that our sins are forgiven and eternal life is ours.

In the “Bleak Midwinter” that we are now in, may the gray, sooty snow on the roadsides remind us of ashes. And may the cleanness of fresh, white snow remind us of our cleansing from sin and the promise of eternal life. In the book of Revelation, St. John sees a vision of the future—of the multitudes of people in heaven dressed in white robes. And an angel tells him, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal, they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Rev. 22:14). May the white snow of winter help us to look forward to the coming spring of new life.

Pastor Jeff

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY WORSHIP

January 5	Epiphany Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
January 12	Baptism of Christ/Installation	SS 9:00	church 10:15
January 19	Second Sunday after Epiphany	SS 9:00	church 10:15
January 26	Scout Sunday/Third Epiphany	SS 9:00	church 10:15
February 2	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	SS 9:00	church 10:15
February 9	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	SS 9:00	church 10:15
February 16	Sixth Epiphany/Youth Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
February 23	Seventh Sunday after Epiphany	SS 9:00	church 10:15
February 26	Ash Wednesday		7:00 P.M.

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.

A YEAR-END THANK YOU

As we begin another year we need to stop and say thank you to ALL those who gave of their time, talents, and treasures to insure ministry happened here at Zion's these past 12 months. Also thank you everyone that sponsored the altar flowers and/or bulletins at the last minute when no sponsors had signed up and for those who filled in as security persons, greeters, and ushers when needed.

MUSIC THANK YOU

Thank you to all choirs, instrumentalists, and soloists for their talents during the Christmas holiday.

REMINDER ABOUT OUR CARD MINISTRY

Cards are available in the Gathering Area for all occasions – thinking of you, birthday, etc. If you need help addressing, please see Grace Haas. Cards are \$1.00 with postage stamp included. **Why not make someone's day special?**

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Worship service/Sunday School/activities cancellation: www.wfmz.com (click on "storm center update") (**please note:** worship delays or closings will be listed on WFMZ website and not on Channel 69 except for extreme weekend weather conditions) or call the church office (610-683-7485). A message will be on the answering machine.



CHURCH BOARD MEETING

November 26, 2019

- 2020 Worship Schedule was reviewed and updated with changes.
- Reorganization Meeting will be Saturday, January 11, 2020.
- Lori Arndt reported on the Conference Meeting.
- Property Committee is to get 3 bids for the paving and line painting work required across the street from the church.
- As their terms are ending, the Board thanks Lori Arndt, Greg Haas, Sherie Mohn, and Steve O'Neil for their service to the church.

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		

REORGANIZATION MEETING

The Church Board Reorganization meeting will be **January 11th** from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Church committees, group, and organizations are urged to attend at 10:00 A.M.

ANNUAL REPORTS

As the year comes to an end, so does the time for all organizations, groups, and committees to get their annual report information into the church office. All information for the annual report **MUST** be in the church office by **January 15th**.



SCOUT SUNDAY

Scout Sunday will be held **January 26th**. Any active scout or active leader should contact Randy Noll or Kevin Krause so they know who you are.

MEALS

As we begin a new year, this is a reminder that Zion's Maxatawny has a willing group of volunteers who will provide meals for members who are temporarily in need of assistance (surgery, illness, etc.). Usual procedure is to provide 3 meals per week for 1 month. Meals are brought to the church on Sunday and taken to the recipient by a family member or friend. Please contact Peggy Morgan with any questions or if you would like our help. If you'd like to join our dedicated meal making team, there is a sign-up sheet on the upstairs bulletin board.

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.*

January 13 Meeting at 1:00 P.M.
February 10 Meeting at 1:00 P.M.



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

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.

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.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

Activity Schedule:

January 5	Bowling or snow activity, depending on the weather at 1:30 P.M.
January 19	Square Dancing (everyone welcome) at 1:30 P.M.
February 2	Practice for Youth Sunday at 1:30 P.M.
February 16	Youth Sunday.

Offering Schedule:

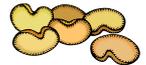
January 5	Connor O’Neil and Sarah Grim
January 12	Carson Sheetz and Ashley DeLong
January 19	Maisy Kellum and Julia Perella
January 26	Andrew Haas and Archer Scaffidi
February 2	Andrew Schell and Jonah Shorette
February 9	Owen Shorette and Paige Carvalho
February 16	Steven Gehringer and Mitchell Grim
February 23	Ben Heffner and Kaylen Leiby



ADVENT SOCIAL – Thank you to all who came to the Advent Social. We appreciate the continued support from the congregation. \$150 was collected and will be split between Friend, Inc. and Family Promise.



NUT SALE – The Youth Group would like to thank everyone that purchased nuts during the Youth Group’s Annual Nut Sale. Your support of Zion’s Youth is overwhelming.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Zachary Haas was a November Student of the Month at Fleetwood H.S.
- Ashley DeLong was wished “Happy Birthday” by the WFMZ morning team.
- Julia Perella performed in Rhythm in Motion’s ‘The Nut Cracker’.
- Sydney Sheetz was honored as a Kutztown Rotary Club’s November Student of the Month.
- Nick Perella received Honorable Mention in the *Reading Eagle Best of Fall 2019* for golf at Kutztown High School.

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.

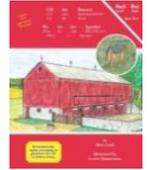
SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **January 27th and February 24th** 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 welcome.



NEW BILINGUAL PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN (DUTCH) AND ENGLISH PICTURE BOOK

Mary Laub has recently published Book 3 in a series of bilingual books. The title is "Uff der Bauerei: Wu iss der Spunky?" (On the Farm: Where is Spunky?). All the books in the series are uniquely different in that there is a phonetic spelling under each word to assist the reader in pronouncing the words. There is also an English translation under the phonetic spelling. A recording of the story is available as a free audio download or a CD can be purchased. Book 3 includes a picture glossary to help in learning PA German words. Books and CDs can be purchased directly from Mary. There is a sign-up sheet on the upstairs bulletin board. The books are also sold at local businesses including Wooden Bridge Fabrics, Leid's Saddlery, Dietrich's Meats, Burkholder Farm Market (Topton Road), and others. They can also be purchased online at Amazon.com or www.masthof.com. Mary will autograph books upon request.



SPIRIT ON TAP – READING

Spirit on Tap will be held **January 28th** at 7:00 P.M. at the DoubleTree Hotel, 701 Penn St., Reading. The events are free and open to all. On **January 28th**, Dr. Stephen Ohnsman will present "*The Lies We've Been Told: Twisting Scripture to Fit Our Needs*". 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.

MYSTERY MEMBER

I hope everyone identified Jacqueline (Jackie) and Barry Ziegler as the Mystery Members last month. I should add that Jackie is the person who makes and sends all the beautifully crafted greeting cards to our senior members. Now let's meet another member who is a relative newcomer to the congregation in comparison to many of us.

She was born in Gloucester City, NJ. She grew up with five brothers and one sister in the small borough of National Park, NJ. "As the middle child things were usually hectic. I was either having a fantastic time with them or being bullied by the other ones. My favorite time was when I could walk in the woods or play on the lawn with the grass fairies and my dollhouse.

She graduated from Woodbury High School, attended MOTA to become a secretary, and was trained at STAR Institute as a Medical Office Tech.

She was married in 2015 after dating her husband for ten years. Theirs was the first wedding performed by Pastor Jeff here at Zion's Church. It was a small family wedding with her oldest son as her "maid of Honor" while her two other sons walked her down the aisle to give her away. Her husband's daughter was his "Best Man". Their honeymoon was in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands where their greatest challenge was remembering to drive on the opposite side of the road.

She has been employed at the Philadelphia Naval Yard, as an assistant teacher in the Pascagoula School System for 15 years, and at the Pocono Medical Center, Lehigh Valley Hospital, which was then St. Clare's Hospital in NJ for 15 years. Her present job allows her to provide a comfortable, clean, well-organized space for many.

She has three sons as previously mentioned. She is also the proud Grandma of 10 and Great Grandmother of 3.

Her hobbies include reading, sewing, finding and bringing life back to old furniture, yard sales, antiques, and flea markets. Her church activities include Seeders and Sowers, Senior Ministry, WIZ, Bible Study, and Reflections.

Who is she??

THEOLOGY WITH A TWIST

Theology with a Twist will be held **January 14th** at 7:00 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 information see facebook page Theology with a Twist; email theologywithatwist@outlook.com, or call 610-926-3907.

FROM THE MAILBOX

The family of Ron Fulton thanks you for the cards, visits, calls, food, plants, and Facebook messages received during Ron's illness and following his death. We are blessed to have your support and care for us. The celebration of Ron's life led by Pastor Jeff, Theresa, Bill, and Liz was meaningful and appreciated.

Nancy Fulton



Dear Friends of Family Promise,

Thank you for the support you have given to Family Promise of Berks County. Your donation enables us to provide care and services to hardworking families who have fallen on difficult times. Thanks again from the Board of Directors, staff, and families that need a helping hand in crisis.

With gratitude,

Elise Chesson, Executive Director

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.

Katelyn DeLong

Ashley DeLong

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.

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Open Arms Senior Connection - Arndt's, Easton



For over 17 years, grants totaling more than a half million dollars have been made possible through mission support giving. Grant applications are received by the Witness and Service Ministry Team and are awarded based on the outreach the grant will accomplish.

The story that follows is written by the founders and the current program director of Open Arms Senior Connection. It tells of an inspiring ministry that got its beginning because of a vision, the need to help others, and the available grant funds that allowed it to thrive.

Over ten years ago a small Welcome and Outreach committee at Arndt's Lutheran Church in Forks Township was looking for another ministry that could use their resources. The congregation came together to modify their existing spaces using funds predominantly from a Transforming Congregations grant and a Witness and Service grant, both of which are mission support grant programs available through the Synod.



Today "Open Arms Senior Connection" continues as a two-day a week program for older adults in the greater Easton community. Realizing that the time some of the participants spend at Open Arms might be the only times during the week that they enjoy a meal with someone, or have any human contact at all, inspires the congregation to make the program as effective and impactful as possible.

The success of this program is due in great part to two paid co-directors and all the volunteers. The program runs on a budget of about \$1000 per month, which goes toward daily beverages and snacks, basic supplies, and salaries.

Donations, fundraisers, and Witness and Service grants from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA has allowed this program to reach and provide long term benefits to hundreds of older adults in the region.

To learn more about the activities and outreach of this ministry, please read the full story on the synod website (nepasynod.org/open-arms-senior/) or look for it on the facebook page "Mission Interpreters of NEPA Synod." Remember to "Like" and Share." You can also print a bulletin insert.



Sharing Life - St. Mark, Allentown



Sharing Life is the brain child of Sue Krasley, a parishioner of St. Mark's, who worked at Allentown State Hospital and who had concerns about individuals losing peer relationships due to the closure of the hospital in 2010. At the time, Pastor Brindjar graciously and enthusiastically afforded the opportunity to begin our mission by opening the doors of St. Mark's for a monthly gathering.

What originated as a modest idea of serving a monthly luncheon nine years ago has expanded into a much sought-after experience by our community; it now includes monthly Craft days led by St. Mark's talented artists Brenda Mann and Charlie Orbin.

As our events grew, our attendees have become diverse; and today, monthly events not only include individuals formerly served at Allentown State Hospital, but also embrace individuals with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities as well as the community at large.

Throughout the years the echo and sentiment of Pastor Brindjar's mantra can still be heard: "Stay Calm and Carry On". Due to the success of our mission, and because we often find ourselves serving upwards of 120 individuals each month, we have adopted another mantra: "fishes and loaves."

Because of St. Mark's willingness to take a risk and open their doors and hearts, our mission isn't just about serving individuals lunch. More important is offering to individuals our acceptance, an opportunity to form new friendships, and a welcome to a faith-based community. All activities and luncheons are free to participants and are funded lovingly by our mighty Committee members, St. Mark parishioners, and community donors.



Deadline for 2019 Mission Support Contributions January 31, 2020

Checks must be in the office (not postmarked) by that date. Also, it is important that the Remittance Form is marked correctly to indicate whether a contribution is intended for the year 2019 or 2020. After the January 31 cutoff date, all receipts will be credited as 2020 contributions.

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.

View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org>.

Companions in Christ



he global church is a reality, not just an abstract concept, for the thousands of Lutherans engaged in ELCA companion-synod relationships.

"Companion synods nurture a church that is global, not only the parochial enclave of being together," said Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of ELCA Global Mission.

Sixty-four ELCA synods have at least one

global-church companion. Because many synods relate to multiple companion churches, more than 120 companion-synod relationships exist. Most participating churches, including the ELCA, are members of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). *Mission Support funding enhances the ministry of the LWF and the companion-synod program.*

For Martin Malley of Ralston, Neb., participating in the Nebraska Synod's relationship with the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania "enlarges my worldview and lets me see outside my box."

Visiting Tanzania during a synod trip was Malley's first peek beyond his "box." "By the end of the weekend, I was so taken with the people and the beauty of the place that I was on fire!" he said.

Now Malley serves as the synod's volunteer coordinator of Tanzania ministries, weaving myriad Nebraska-Tanzania connections into the fabric of the synod and diocese. Scores, if not hundreds, of Lutherans have traveled between Nebraska and

Tanzania and built long-standing personal relationships over time, said Brian Maas, bishop of the Nebraska Synod.

Nebraskans and Tanzanians swap pulpits, visit each other's schools and congregations, and keep in touch via Facebook. Nebraskans have donated generously to the Northern Diocese, funding scholarships, purchasing textbooks, equipping evangelists with motorcycles and more. But "this is not about us doing projects," Malley said. "It's about us having Christian friends on the other side of the world."

In companion-synod relationships, care and support flow both ways. Visitors from the Nkuu Kati Lutheran parish took note when Malley and other members of Messiah Lutheran in Ralston showed how they were retrofitting the church's bathrooms to accommodate people of all abilities. "Three months later [Nkuu Kati] sent a check for \$300 to support our project," Malley said. "We knew then that this was a partnership."



"This is not about us doing projects," said ELCA member Martin Malley of the ELCA Nebraska Synod's relationship with the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. "It's about us having Christian friends on the other side of the world." Your Mission Support gifts enhance the ELCA companion-synod program.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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.



January 2	Joan Stettler
January 4	Marian Stettler
January 14	Irene Isamoyer
January 17	Walter Dietrich, Jr.
January 20	Mary Haas
January 30	Roeller Dietrich
January 30	Elaine Heffner
February 4	Irene Stauffer
February 12	Helen Noll
February 15	Margaret Stettler
February 17	William Bird
February 19	Ted Silliman
February 19	Carol Bauman
February 22	Fred Radcliffe
February 25	George Isamoyer
February 28	Janet Fegely

FROM THE RECORD BOOK

FUNERALS: *Ronald J. Fulton*, 80, died November 19, 2019. Services were November 30, 2019 in Zion's Union Church Maxatawny by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz. Inurnment was private.

Betty J. Faust, 93, died December 12, 2019. Services were December 17, 2019 in Schmoyer Funeral Home by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz. Interment was in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Ron Fulton.
... the family of Joe Weaver.
... the family of Annie Ely.

... the family of Donna Shurilla.
... the family of Anthony Myers.
... the family of Betty Faust.



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.

January 5

February 2

Pew Holy Communion

Altar Holy Communion



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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