

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
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. **Bulletin prices changed to \$10.00 January 1st.** 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.

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY WORSHIP

January 1	Epiphany	SS 9:00	church 10:15
January 8	Baptism Christ/Installation HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
January 15	2 nd Sunday after Epiphany	SS 9:00	church 10:15
January 22	3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	SS 9:00	church 10:15
January 29	4 th Sunday after Epiphany	SS 9:00	church 10:15
February 5	5 th Sunday after Epiphany	SS 9:00	church 10:15
February 12	6 th Sunday after Epiphany	SS 9:00	church 10:15
February 19	Transfiguration Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
February 22	Ash Wednesday (tentative)		7:00 P.M.
February 26	1 st Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15

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.

FLOWER/BULLETIN

Beginning January 1st, the cost to be a bulletin sponsor has increased to \$10.00 (\$20.00 for both bulletins). The price to sponsor Altar Flowers will remain at \$20.00 per vase (\$40.00 for both vases.) The new book for 2023 is now available in the Gathering Area. Sign up for those special dates. You may also call the church to sign up or leave a message on the answering machine.



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.



ORGAN RESTORATION UPDATE as of December 1, 2022

Total Restoration Cost - \$346,000

Designated Memorials & Estates Received - \$53,410.13

Donations Received - \$95,307

Investments Used for Expenses - \$100,570

Checking Account Money Used for Expenses - \$23,000

Investment Gains - \$58,000

Total Funds Into Organ Restoration Fund - \$330,687.13

READERS, USHERS, GREETERS, SECURITY

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

HISTORY BOOK

The Church History Book is available to purchase. Books can be purchased during the week. Please call the church office to make sure someone is there. The cost is \$15.00. Any checks should be made out to "Zion's Union Church Maxatawny". Put "History Book" on the memo line.

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 ensure ministry happened these past 12 months. Also, thank you to those 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, greeters, readers, acolytes, and ushers when needed.

MUSIC THANK YOU

"Thank you" to all our talented singers and musicians for their songs for the musicale and Christmas Eve, and to Theresa for putting it all together.

CHOIR REHEARSALS

There will be NO Senior Choir practices in January. The next Senior Choir practice will be **February 1st** at 6:30 P.M.

PLASTIC BAG PROJECT

Sleeping mats made from the plastic bags are made at St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Topton. There are many ways you can help by folding the bags, cutting and tying the bags and then rolling them into a ball so they are ready to be woven into mats on the loom. Mats are worked on during the week and on Saturdays. Anyone interested in helping please contact Tanya Schaedel at 484-705-5533 who helps prepare the bags for assembling the mats and makes sure our plastic bags get to St. Peters. Thank you, Tanya!

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

CHILDREN'S SERMONS

We are looking for volunteers that are willing to do the Children's Sermon on a rotating basis. See Traci Gehringer to volunteer.

SCRABBLE

Scrabble will meet the third Monday of the month at 1:30 P.M. at the Lutheran Hoe in the social area near Sylvia's room.

WOMEN IN ZION

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

Watch for a new calendar shortly.

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



SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **January 23rd and February 27th** 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.



YOUTH GROUP

Activity Schedule:

January 8

Bowling, leaving church at 1:00 P.M.
returning around 4:00 P.M.



Our usual times are 1:00-3:00 PM, Youth Group updates are announced during the Sunday School opening and posted in the bulletin
Schedule for January-May 2023 coming shortly

ADVENT SOCIAL – Thank you to all who came to the Advent Social. We appreciate the continued support from the congregation.

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



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.

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**.



BANNERS FOR POLES IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH

Thanks to Kevin and Jake Fegely, the new advent banners were placed on the poles. They were paid for by a donor. Members wishing to contribute funds for additional banners that are planned for the future are welcome to do so.

CHURCH BOARD MEETING

November 29, 2022

1. All 4 Board Members have agreed to continue for their second term. No nominations needed and the officers will remain the same.
2. We are working on securing Supply Pastors for January and February. The requests are in, just pending approval.
3. Vicar Jeremiah Heydt will take communion to eight of our shut-ins before Christmas.
4. Temple Talk and Refreshments Schedule – Nancy will have the 2023 schedule done shortly.
5. The Advent Banners are up and have been paid for by an anonymous donor. We are accepting donations towards a new set of general banners.
6. Seeders and Sow On will finish the parking lot in spring. The railroad ties will also be replaced.
7. January 2023 communion will be on January 8th.
8. Thank you to Tim Haas for his continued support and greeting the Supply Pastors.
9. Thank you to Sherie Mohn, Kevin & LaRee Fegely, and Jim Laub for the Harvest Home decorations.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Michael Zimmerman.

REJOICING SPIRITS WORSHIP SERVICE

Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County service is 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.

ADDRESS CHANGES

The church is updating addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. If you have recently changed any of the above, have moved, or have children that are no longer living with you and have their own places, please email the church office at zionsunion@verizon.net with the new information.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Richard Warmkessel, Liz Jones, Lori Arndt, Ellie Merkel, Randy Warmkessel, Owen Shorette, Elaine Heffner, Marilyn & Bill Bird, Kay Weidner, Walter Dietrich, John & Marlene Costello, Betty Dietrich, Beatrice Bennecoff, Barry Miller, Carolyn Wiltrout, Arlan Berger, Marian Stettler, Bill & Karen Howard, Anna Bortz, Ralph & Helen Noll, Mary Kutz, Karen Weaver, Sylvia Heckler, Gladys Leibold, Donna Slotter, Leora Haas, Donna VanDeCar, Donald, Bishop deForest, Mick O'Neil, Paige Sechler, Linda Menges, Owen Lamendola, Rosemary LaFratte, Ukrainians, Randy Schlegel, Karen Bower, Kevin Moyer, Joanne Pauley, Mary Jane Schlenker, Sarah Johnson, Elia, Regen Zimmerman, Ian Miller, Karen Ames, Elaine Seaman, Victoria Slotter, Jo Corrado, Donna Rabert, Tom Seifert, Rayann Roth, Lisa & Chris Szarko, Arthur Sell, Lorraine Miller, Renee Wolfe, Christopher Mercardo, Kim Markham, Valerie, Mary Fox, Sue Zimmerman, Michele Rodriguez, Christy Ryan, Frank Knight, Betty Houck, Judy Redman, Mary, Betsy, Gary Sell, family of Michael Zimmerman.

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.

MISSION MOMENT

Cosmic Praise

Some people make resolutions at this time of year. Others prayerfully select a word or phrase to guide them into the days ahead. Still others prefer to find renewal every day, not setting aside only the first of the year as a day to intentionally promise a fresh start to God or self.

Whichever camp you fall into, take your cue from Psalm 148, and begin with PRAISE.

In difficult times (and for many of us these mid- and post-pandemic days are definitely difficult times) praise can feel unnecessary or even inappropriate. Praise - the outward expression of gratitude - can seem like an extra we can't afford. But scientists today affirm what people of faith have known for centuries. Praise is not just good for God, it's good for you, as studies continue to show that gratitude felt and expressed lowers stress and increases overall happiness. Here are some ways to make your New Year praise-full.

- ❖ Find and maintain a regular prayer practice.
- ❖ Notice God in the glory of creation, whether your vista of nature is a vast desert landscape, a stand of towering trees, a small city park, or simply the sun rising and setting.
- ❖ Make praise a part of your giving to your congregation. (Haven't planned what to give this year to your church? It's never too late!)
- ❖ Bring your praise to social media, which too often trades in snark and unhealthy competition. How can you notice what is praise-worthy and uplift that instead?
- ❖ Look for ways that family members or friends shine God's light in the world through their own acts of praise. Make sure to notice and thank them.
- ❖ Keep a gratitude journal, writing down what you are grateful for each evening or morning.

"A Life of Accompaniment"

In 1982, a month after their wedding, Mark and Linda Jacobson moved to Kenya. Three years later they accepted a call with the Lutheran Church in America, a predecessor church of the ELCA, to serve as community health workers with the Arusha Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT). Little did they know that they would become the ELCA's longest-serving active mission personnel, with 38 years of service.

"Mark and Linda Jacobson are the embodiment of a faithful servant of Christ," said Rafael Malpica Padilla, ELCA executive director for Service and Justice. "Their whole life has been a life of accompaniment." *Mission Support, which funds ELCA mission personnel, makes the Jacobsons' work possible.*


In the beginning, Mark, a doctor, supported Maasai community health workers in six small primary-care clinics. He quickly concluded that "prevention could only prevent a certain amount of disease; people still needed a place to go when they were acutely ill." So, with the ELCT, he developed one of the clinics into Sellan Lutheran Hospital, which now provides care in orthopedics, fistula, hospice and other areas.

Then he and his team opened the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre, creating training programs for medical officers and nurses and opening a rehabilitation center for children recovering from surgery. Mark said he's proud of the work he and his colleagues have done together and loves seeing his colleagues' skillful leadership of the medical center since he stepped down from his leadership role there.

After working briefly in one of the clinics and then in hospital labs, Linda focused on coordinating volunteers, offering hospitality and arranging housing for visiting medical students and interns. But her most substantial accomplishment may be the support group Widow's Might, launched to counter Tanzania's practice of disinheriting widows. When a Tanzanian woman's husband dies, their property goes not to her but to her in-laws. Not every widow's in-laws claim the inheritance, but Evelyn (last name withheld) and her children stood to lose their house. "I'm not going to fight my family," Linda remembers her saying. "I'm just going to work. God will help me." Together, Evelyn and Linda launched Widow's Might, whose members support their families by weaving, sewing, embroidering and beading.

"I'm not going to fight my family, I'm just going to work. God will help me."

Remembering her life in Tanzania, Linda is most struck by her neighbors' faith. "If things get really bad [here], we pray," she said. "My neighbors start by asking us what God wants to do. ... [I] am learning from this tremendous faith."

 *To learn more about the Jacobsons, visit [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://elca.org/SOFIA) for a link to the video documentary *Kuambatana (Accompaniment): The Ministry of Mark and Linda Jacobson*.*

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.



January 1	Glenn Bennecoff
January 2	Joan Stettler
January 4	Marian Stettler
January 14	Irene Isamoyer
January 17	Walter Dietrich, Jr.
January 20	Mary Haas
January 22	Kyle Koller
January 30	Roeller Dietrich
January 30	Elaine Heffner
February 4	Irene Stauffer
February 12	Helen Noll
February 17	William Bird
February 19	Ted Silliman
February 19	Carol Bauman
February 20	Carol Kane
February 20	Jacqueline Ziegler
February 22	Fred Radcliffe

GROUNDHOG LODGE FOR YOUTH

The Pennsylvania German Zammelaaf organization will sponsor a Grundsau Lodscher for Yunge (Groundhog Lodge for Youth) on Sunday, **January 29, 2023** from 1:30-3:00 P.M. at the Midway Diner, Route I-78 Exit 16, Bethel, PA. This event is perfect for youth ages 5-12 and free, with donations being accepted. All youth must be accompanied by an adult. Note that this year Poppy the groundhog from Acorn Acres, Millersville, PA, who appeared on national television, will be a special guest! Safety guidelines will be observed and there is limited availability. For reservations contact pgalice2@gmail.com or 717- 933-5511 by **January 15, 2023**. The snow date is Sunday, February 5, 2023. Check the Facebook page at [zammelaaf@gmail.com](https://www.facebook.com/zammelaaf@gmail.com) for more information and updates in case of inclement weather. A virtual event similar to the one in 2022 will be available on the Facebook page from February 2-16, 2023. For more information contact Mary Laub.



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 8 (change of date) Pew Holy Communion
February 5 Pew 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**.