



THE 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

**July/August
2018**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reminders	page 1
The Pastor's Page	pages 2 & 3
July, August, September Worship, Relay for Life, Cookbook	page 4
Strawberry & Ice Cream Festival, Choir News, Summer Music	page 5
Ingathering, Blood Drive	page 5
Our Graduates	page 6 & 7
Bethany Faith Fund, Vacation Bible School	page 7
Picnic & Rally Day, Member Updates, WIZ, Senior Fellowship	page 8
Youth Group, Prayer Shawl, Zumba, Scrabble	page 9
Did You Know?	page 10
Mystery Member/s, Honor Roll	page 11
Church Board, Unwanted Items, Sympathies, Reminder	page 12
Building Finance Update, From The Mailbox, Kutztown Kitchen	page 13
Card Showers, From The Record Book	page 14
Mission Statement, Holy Communions, Newsletter Deadline	page 15
July and August Calendars	Lilac Insert
<i>Seeds of Zion</i>	Blue Insert
Synod News	Tan Insert
Worship Assistants, Board, Staff	Pink Insert
Vacation Bible School Registration Form	Yellow Insert
Simply Giving	White Insert

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 lower level of the church.

THE PASTOR'S PAGE



As a pastor, people sometimes come to me with deep theological questions like, “Will my dog go to heaven?” A recent one that came up at a Bible study was, “When we die, do our souls go immediately to heaven, or are our bodies resurrected when Jesus returns?” I love to discuss such questions. One of my favorites is, “Where did God come from?” They don’t get any bigger than that!

Jesus once had a really big theological question thrown at him. A lawyer asked him, “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” (Matthew 22:36). That’s a doozy! This question was put to Jesus by the Pharisees in order to test him, to denounce him as a false prophet if he answered wrongly.

The first thing you need to realize is that this was not just a question about the 10 Commandments. The Law of Moses—which Jews call the Torah—contains a total of 613 commandments that God gave to Moses on Mt. Sinai. Most Christians have enough trouble just remembering the first ten, let alone following them. Many Christian don’t realize there are 603 others!

The Pharisees prided themselves on their ability to obey all of the Torah. They were puffed up with self-righteousness. And it’s likely that pride was a big motive in their attempts to trip up Jesus on his knowledge of the Torah. It was a game of one-upmanship. But Jesus refused to be drawn into their game. “You already know the answer to your question,” is what he basically says in response. Jesus simply recites words that were known by heart by every Jew, words they repeated every day before they prayed: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matt. 22:37). Then Jesus adds a corollary, also well known by all: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” We know the latter as the “golden rule”—Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Jesus was not being original here. He was citing the very core of the Jewish religion. That is why he then adds: “On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” The Bible of Jesus’ day consisted of two parts: the Law (or Torah) and the Prophets, which were all the other books. The Jews had a two-part Bible, just as we Christians have the Old Testament and New Testament. Jesus is basically saying that these two commandments sum up the entire Bible.

Jesus responded to a seemingly complicated question with a very simple answer. Sometimes our big religious questions have answers that are simpler than we want to admit! At a teachers’ conference, a question was put to a distinguished professor of education who was leading a seminar for

classroom teachers: “What is the most important quality for a classroom teacher to possess?” The participants likely expected the professor to respond with an in-depth answer like, “There’s a whole host of characteristics that are essential for effective teachers—personality traits, intellectual skills, classroom management skills, a conscientious work ethic, etc.” But the professor simply responded, “Love your students,” and sat down. This is essentially what Jesus did. Jesus said: Love God. Love your neighbor. End of discussion.

To be fair to Jesus’ critics, note that they didn’t ask, “What is the most important *belief*?” What they asked was, “What is the most important *commandment*?” The Pharisees were good Jews who knew that religion is more than just a matter of believing a set of dogmas. Religion is the way that we love God by living lives that God wants by doing what God loves. That’s what Jesus emphasizes in his response: *Act. Do. Love.* Love God; love neighbor.

Remember what Jesus said to his first disciples when he called them? “Follow me!” Jesus didn’t say, “Believe the following six things about me,” or “Follow these ten truths.” In the Gospels, Jesus calls people to go on a journey with him, not attend a seminar about him. Jesus was a prophet who was always on the move, constantly drawing people into his mission. He was not a professor lecturing a classroom full of passive spectators.

Even on the few occasions when Jesus does mention belief, he isn’t talking about a rigorous set of intellectual propositions. Rather, he is talking about an engaging and costly relationship. “Believe in me,” he says. Not, “Believe these assertions about me,” but rather “Walk with me, be engaged with me.” The New Testament portrays the disciples not as students of Jesus, but as pilgrims following Jesus on a long and arduous path, and often having a hard time keeping up. The first disciples were not those who had proper theological beliefs about Jesus, but rather those who had the guts to get into the boat and sail with him even when they didn’t completely understand him.

Today, Christians are often guilty of making Christianity overly complex when it’s really very simple. Both Christianity and Judaism (and Islam as well) answer the question, “What does God want from us?” with a very simple answer: To love God with everything we’ve got, and to love our neighbor as we would want to be loved.

The whole reason for coming to church is to gain skills and insights, and the courage and conviction to follow Jesus by following God’s two great commandments: Love God; love your neighbor. That’s the entire teaching of the Bible summed up in five simple words. Christianity is nothing more than following Jesus by living according to God’s two great commandments.

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

July 1	6 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 8	7 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 15	8 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 22	9 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 29	10 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
August 5	11 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
August 12	12 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
August 17	13 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
August 26	SS Picnic & Rally Day at Longswamp Park 10:00 A.M.		
September 2	15 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
September 9	16 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
September 16	17 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
September 23	18 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
September 30	19 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15

KUTZTOWN'S 2018 RELAY FOR LIFE EVENT

Thank you to all who donated money, purchased luminary, supported our fundraisers, set up and torn down the tent, served as our breakfast crew on Saturday morning, donated items/money for the breakfast items, donated hair to Beautiful Beginnings, walked the track, or played any part in the 2018 Relay for Life in support of the American Cancer Society. Zion's Relay for Life Team has raised over \$6700 so far! Your donations and time given help support cancer patients, continued research, and give HOPE for the many people that continue to fight the battle.



COOKBOOK

The WIZ is gathering recipes for a church cookbook. Each month we will be collecting a different style of recipe. July will be your favorite DESSERT recipe and August is your favorite CASSEROLE recipe. This project is open to all the women of the church. A special box is in the Gathering Area to collect these recipes. Your input of recipes is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions you can call Loretta Flicker at 610-683-3627 or Nikki Phillips at 610-763-6770.



STRAWBERRY & ICE CREAM FESTIVAL

A BIG thank you to everyone who supported the Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival by your help, your donations, or your attendance. It was great to see so many new faces.

CHOIR NEWS

There will be no choir practice during the summer. Sr. Choir will resume practice in **September 6th**. The Choir picnic will be **September 9th** at Theresa's house. The Children's Choir will resume at date to be determined.

SUMMER MUSIC

Theresa is looking for soloists, groups, and instruments to help during the summer while the choir takes a break. Contact her if you can help out.

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 | canned pasta |
| single serve size applesauce | canned tuna | canned soup |
| fruit cups | granola bars | fruit snacks |

BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Mobile will be at Zion's on **Thursday, August 9th** from 3:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. Watch for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board on the second floor by the stairs starting in July. Stop by the church or call the church office to sign up. Information sheets are available in the church office.



OUR GRADUATES



On Sunday, June 10, 2018, Zion's Union Church Maxatawny honored our graduates for the year 2018 including December 2017 graduates. Congratulations graduates!

KUTZTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Ivan R. Fegely, son of Heath and Stacey Fegely. He will attend Alvernia University majoring in English.

Jacob T. Heffner, son of Jarrod Heffner and Tracy Heffner.

Zachary A. Schell, son of Ray and Todie Schell. He will attend Penn State Berks for Mechanical Engineering.

Madison M. Sheetz, daughter of Brian and Charlene Sheetz. She will be attending Temple University for Nursing.

Jillian N. Siefert, daughter of Christine Siefert and Thomas Siefert.

Thomas Siefert, son of Christine Siefert and Thomas Siefert.

Jacob W. Walker, son of Joseph Walker and stepson of Lisa Walker.

FLEETWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Benjamin R. Haas, son of Gregory and Patricia Haas. He will be attending St. Joe's University majoring in Actuarial Science.

Dana S. Gehringer, son of Shane and Traci Gehringer. He will be in the workforce.

BRANDYWINE HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL

Lauren A. DeLong, daughter of Trevor and Melissa DeLong. She will be attending Kutztown University majoring in Environmental Science with a Minor in Spanish.

Bryn E. Keeney, daughter of Tammy Keeney.

Mary Beth Weidman, daughter of Michael and Jennifer Weidman. She will be attending Kutztown University majoring in Art Education.

(continued on page 7)

OUR GRADUATES (continued)

HARTLINE HIGH SCHOOL

Meredith E. Fulton, daughter of Kevin and Angela Fulton.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Samantha J. Morgan, daughter of Ed and Peggy Morgan. Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction.

BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY

Allison M. Witman, daughter of Bill and Sharon Witman. Bachelor of Arts in Communications Studies, Concentration in Interpersonal Communication. Cum Laude.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Julia K. Mohn, daughter of Sherie and Robert Mohn. Bachelor of Science in Speech-Pathology and Bachelor of Arts in Spanish.

SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY

Taylor S. Derhammer, son of Bonnie Levins. Bachelor of Science with dual majors in Mathematics and Computer Science.

BETHANY FAITH FUND DONATIONS

Monetary donations are being collected for the Faith Fund at the Bethany Children's Home. The Faith Fund is a basic necessities fund (field trips, educational programs, Sunday School programs) used for the children at the home. Baskets will be available in the back of the church and in the Gathering Area **July 29th** and **August 5th**.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS is scheduled for the week of **July 30th** – **August 3rd**. The closing program will be **August 5th** during the 10:15 A.M. service. A sign-up sheet is included in this newsletter. Fill out the form and return it to Tara Berger or the church office. If you are interested in helping in any way or have any questions please see Tara Berger. **PLEASE NOTE: All VBS volunteers 18 and older MUST have current Criminal and Child Abuse clearances done.**



SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC AND RALLY DAY



The Sunday School Picnic and Rally Day will be held on Sunday, **August 26th** at 10:00 A.M. at the Longswamp Park (upper pavilion). Entertainment will be magician Eddie Ray. Bring your lawn chairs. Lunch will be served at noon. The Sunday School provides hot dogs and beverages. You must provide anything else you would like to eat. Games begin after lunch.



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.*

July 9 Meeting and guest speaker Ellie Merkel at 1:30 P.M. "Life of the World Traveler".

August 13 Meeting and Bible study at 1:30 P.M.

September 8 Saturday at 10:00 A.M. Guest speaker. "**Surprise**"

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 **July 23rd, August 27th, and September 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 always welcome.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Youth in grades 5 through high school are welcome to join.

Activity Schedule:

August

Offering Schedule:

July 1

July 8

July 15

July 22

July 29

August 5

August 12

August 19

August 26

September 2

September 9

September 16

September 23

September 30

Canoeing.

Jake Heffner and Dane Fegely

Ivan Fegely and Trevor Gilfert

Nick Perella and Johnathan Korutz

Kelly Leiby and Emily Bortz

Connor O’Neil and Elizabeth Schell

Gabby Webb and Zachary Schell

Ben Heffner and Carson Sheetz

Sarah Grim and Lauren DeLong

Sunday School Picnic & Rally Day

Andrew Haas and Emma Heffner

Connor O’Neil and Madison Sheetz

Archer Scaffidi and Julia Perella

Owen Shorette and Andrew Schell

Ashley Korutz and Jonah Shorette



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.

ZUMBA CLASSES

Zumba classes are Sunday evenings at 6:00 P.M. Wear clothes you can move in, sneakers, bring a towel, water, and lots of energy! The goal is to have fun and be more active.

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 Nancy Fulton if interested.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Dana Gehringer received the Fleetwood Area School District Music Department Louis Armstrong Jazz Award.
- Benjamin Haas received the Fleetwood Area School District Curvous Stauffer Memorial Band Award.
- Bill Gehman, Topton Legion Commander, placed a wreath at the Veterans Memorial in Topton.
- Dane and Ivan Fegely were pictured in the *Northern Berks Patriot Item* attending the Kutztown Prom.
- Lauren DeLong was pictured in the *Reading Eagle* attending the Brandywine Heights Prom.
- Lauren DeLong received the Optimist Club scholarship award.
- Debbie Berger was an award finalist in the Northeast Berks Chamber of Commerce's Chamber Member of the Year.
- Cindy O'Neil participated in the Kutztown Middle School Career Day.
- Madison Sheetz was a nominee in Social Studies and in Community Service in the *Reading Eagle* Berks' Best 2018.
- Connor O'Neil was the activity chair for the Kutztown Relay for Life.
- Jewel Karaisz, Kaylen Leiby, Kelly Leiby, and Ashley Bleiler donated their hair to Beautiful Beginnings.
- Zion's Relay for Life Team was spotted on Channel 69 News (WFMZ) during the Opening Program at the Relay..
- Kaylen Leiby and Jewel Karaisz helped serve the food for the Survivor luncheon at the Relay for Life event.
- Benjamin Haas was inducted into the National Business Honor Society.
- Bill Brensinger was pictured with the Gov. Heister Color Guard Unit at First Energy Stadium on June 3rd.
- Acher Scaffidi is participating in the Water Polo Summer League at Wilson High School.
- Archer and Arden Scaffidi are swimming for the Kutztown Dolphins Swim Team.
- Liz Jones was interviewed on Channel 69 (WFMZ) about the opening of the new Mutt Hut (dog building) at The Sanctuary at Haafsville.
- Trevor Gilfert was inducted into the Fleetwood High School National Art Honor Society where he received Outstanding Scholar Art Department Award and also Best Show Award.
- Madison Sheetz was the Salutatorian for the 2018 graduating class at Kutztown High School. She received the John and Laila Silan Salutatorian Award.

MYSTERY MEMBER/S

Meet our mystery couple for the months of July and August.

He was born on the south side of Allentown where “he enjoyed many a summer day playing cowboys and Indians in the woods on South Mountain.” He lost a new pair of glasses in Trout Creek and his “mother was not happy.” He is a graduate of William Allen High School.

She was born in Greenwich Township on the family farm. She was one of four daughters and learned to drive tractors and trucks, bale hay, unload hay in the barn, milk cows, clean stables, and many other farm chores. They created their own fun by ice skating on their big pond and swimming there, too. Also went sledding on the field roads and down the long hill leading to the farm. She also loved going to Lewes, Delaware to fish from her Uncle’s Boat. She graduated from Kutztown Area High School.

Well, Lehigh County met Berks County and they were married in 1979 in St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Hamburg. It was an intimate event with just the two of them in the wedding party. Their wedding dinner was at Shankweiler’s Hotel and their honeymoon was spent in the Caboose Motel in Strasburg, PA.

He sold shoes for both Wetherhold and Metzger and Farr’s. (Can’t help wondering if he ever sold me a pair of shoes!) He retired from Mack Trucks in 2004 after 31 years. She has had two accounting positions, one for 35 years and the other for 8 years.

They are the parents of a son and a daughter and he is the father of another son. They also have 3 granddaughters who “bring so much love and joy into their lives”.

They also have two cats, Mikey and Bernie.

Among his hobbies he lists reading, especially World War II History, and anything related to transportation, especially cars and trains. He also likes riding tourist trains, is a Lifelong New York Yankees fan, and a fan of Penn State Football. She likes word search puzzles, playing games with the grandkids, taking walks, cooking, and riding tourist trains.

They have been active church members and have served on Church Board, Mutual Ministry, Zion’s Men’s Group and Seeders and Sow On.

Have you guessed who they are?

HONOR ROLL

These names were taken from the lists published in the Northern Berks Patriot Item. 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

CHURCH BOARD

May 29, 2018

- Disaster Committee is currently beginning to look at ways to provide services and support to those in the community affected by disaster. Committee members in Sherie Mohn, Kevin Krause, and Pat Kutz. If interested in helping, please see one of the members for more info. Look for more information soon.
- Another way Zion's is being called to serve the community. You might see an 18-wheeler parked in our parking lot. Liz Jones, director of Sanctuary Haafsville, was approached by Shop Rite to help with the distribution of 60 pallets of Beggin Strips being donated for local animal shelters/animal food pantries. Liz approached the board and the board unanimously approved the use of the parking for the trailer to be temporarily parked to provide this wonderful outreach opportunity.
- The Board is currently recruiting for our Sexton position. Advertisements on the Church Website, Synod and UCC websites to be posted also.
- Thank you to Bill Brensinger for updating the list of Zion's members who served or are serving in the military. This list will be updated ongoing.

UNWANTED ITEMS

There is a container marked "Opportunity House" at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Mertztown (near Radcliffe's) where you can donate goods. If you prefer to bring them to church, Lisa Walker will transport donations when the Mission Outreach serves food at Opportunity House.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Terry Bennecoff.

REMINDER

We are NO LONGER collecting Campbell's Labels for Education. Campbell's has discontinued supporting that program. We ARE however collecting Box Tops for education. There is a box in the back of the church with this sign.



BUILDING FINANCE COMMITTEE JUNE 2018 UPDATE

The Summer heat has arrived. As we look at the first 5 months of giving this year, we have been able to reduce the mortgage balance from \$44,000 down to \$31,000. As the saying goes, we can see the summer sunlight at the end of the tunnel. Let's keep this momentum going over the summer! Thanks to everyone for their commitment and continued support. Have a great summer!

The Building Finance Committee:
Karen Howard, Ray Wiltrout, Sharon
Leiby, Evan Slotter, and Richard Haas

FROM THE MAILBOX

Dear Zion's Union Church,

Thank you for the book I received at confirmation. I appreciate all the support I received throughout my journey to my confirmation.



Sincerely,
Katelyn DeLong

Dear Zion's Union,

Thank you for the Amazon gift card in celebration of my graduation. I appreciate all the support I receive from my church family.

Thank you!
Lauren DeLong

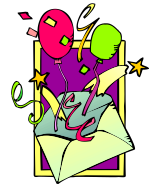
KUTZTOWN KITCHEN

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.

July 2	Richard Warmkessel
July 6	Nancy Fulton
July 10	Sandra Leiby
July 12	Dianne Angstadt
July 13	Carolyn Wiltrout
July 14	Gloria Haas
July 15	Arlan & Elaine Berger (51 wed)
July 18	William Howard
July 19	Janet Geiger
July 21	Beatrice Bennecoff
July 21	Clair Seidel
July 22	William & Marilyn Bird (57 wed)
August 3	Ruth Siegfried
August 3	John Knabb, Sr.
August 4	Marvin Christman
August 5	Earl Christman
August 6	Ruth K. Miller
August 8	Barbara Thomas
August 20	Lowell Thomas
August 27	Walter & Doris Dietrich (64 wed)
August 31	Glenroy & Patricia Miller (50 wed)
September 2	Emmett Fenstermaker
September 3	Earl & Eva Christman (63 wed)
September 6	Kenneth Angstadt
September 7	James Laub
September 18	George Leiby
September 22	Dave Merkel
September 24	Evelyn Dietz
September 27	Barry Miller



FROM THE RECORD BOOK

FUNERAL: *Terry Lee Bennecoff*, 73, of Kutztown, died June 4, 2018. Services were held June 8, 2018 in Ludwick Funeral Home, Kutztown by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz. Interment was in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery.



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.



July 1	Altar Holy Communion
August 5	Pew Holy Communion
September 2	Altar Holy Communion

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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