



# CHURCH KEY

A NEWSLETTER THAT OPENS PEOPLE  
TO THE MINISTRIES OF



ZION'S UNION  
CHURCH MAXATAWNY

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**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  
2021**

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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 an envelope with your name, date, and what you are paying for and place in the offering plate in the rear of the church.
- ◆ 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](http://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.

## THE PASTOR'S PAGE



I recently read an article by a Lutheran pastor from Colorado who, before going into ministry, made a living as a stand-up comic! I think having a sense of humor is very important in ministry, and I often wish I could work more humor into my sermons. But this pastor has the opposite problem. Here's what he wrote:

"In the early 1990s I worked for a few years as a stand-up comic. Now, 20 years later, I'm a Lutheran pastor. I have a pulpit instead of a mic stand and a congregation instead of an audience of drunks. Each of us preachers face different challenges in writing sermons. Mine is to cut out most of the jokes from my manuscript before I preach. But it's hard because I just find the Bible to be so darned funny. Especially parables."

He's right! Many people fail to see the subtle and often sly humor that underlies many of Jesus' parables. He goes on to say:

"Parables are living things meant to mess with our assumptions and subvert things we never even thought to question. They are more like jokes than anything else, and as you know, to explain a joke is to make it no longer funny."

As an example, he cites the Parable of the Mustard Seed. There were probably at least a few people in the crowd who laughed out loud when Jesus said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a *tiny mustard seed*!" Jesus is comparing God's kingdom to a mustard seed, the smallest of all seeds, which when planted grows into a small bush that only reaches a foot or two in height. I can picture everyone's jaw dropping, many of them offended that Jesus would compare the kingdom of God to a mustard bush! Most farmers in Israel considered it a weed because it invaded their fields and destroyed their good crops. But a couple of people in the back get the joke and break out laughing, before realizing that no one else thinks it's very funny.

Jesus goes on to say about the mustard seed: "It is the smallest of all the seeds in earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and become the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

There are just a few problems here, and that's where this parable becomes humorous. A mustard bush hardly gets big enough to have birds nest in it! That's how you can tell that Jesus must have told this as a joke. The author of Matthew's gospel apparently didn't get the humor either, because in his retelling of the story from Mark, he changes the line about the mustard seed

growing into a “great shrub” to a “great tree.” Some people just have no sense of humor!

But humor is widespread in Jesus’ parables, kind of like mustard plants in Palestine. The parables of Jesus are like God’s joke in the form of an invasive species that spreads everywhere. But there is a point to the humor, there is a punchline to the joke. The establishment of a kingdom that started with small and humble beginnings is a wonderful joke on all of us. God’s kingdom is coming into the world and it’s spreading like weeds! It started in the humble beginnings of the tiny nation of Israel, a nation that was a laughingstock to the mighty empires of the Middle East. It continued through a rag-tag bunch of followers of a crucified messiah who were a laughing stock to the Romans.

The Good News of the coming of the kingdom of God started with the subversive humor of a God who came in the form of a lowly servant. It was inaugurated with the ironic nobility of a homeless unwed mother and the joke of the royal greatness of a carpenter from an insignificant little town. God’s jesting continued with a Messiah who dined with prostitutes and cavorted with sinners. God’s grand cosmic joke continued in the ironically stately procession of a beaten criminal carrying his cross to his place of execution. The laughter literally resounded from Jesus’ enemies as God’s Christ died a pathetic death on a tree.

And last, but certainly not least, there is the resurrection—the punch line to the greatest joke in human history—God’s practical joke on Satan and all the forces of evil at work in the world. Many are offended by God’s joke. But some of us, who are Christians, are laughing out loud, laughing in the face of Satan, laughing in the face of evil and death because *we get the joke!* We are laughing all the way to the kingdom.

Nope, not everybody gets it. But the church continues to tell the joke. One day a mustard bush that some consider an invasive weed will become a tall and mighty cedar. One day this little weed called the church will have spread to every corner of the earth.

It is the nature of weeds to spread. One day the mustard bush will become a tree which will one day become a dense forest. And as Jesus wryly said of the birds nesting in a mustard bush, all the people of earth shall one day nest in the shade of God’s kingdom.

Today the church still has a lot of ground to cover. But like a weed it will spread. And while we wait and hope, on many Sundays we hear parables—Jesus jokes—in which we catch a glimpse of what will one day be. God’s kingdom will come. And all the peoples of earth shall laugh together forever and ever.

Pastor Jeff

## JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

July 4	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 11	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost		church 10:15
July 18	8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 25	9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost		church 10:15
August 1	10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
August 8	11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost		church 10:15
August 15	12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
August 22	13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost		church 10:15
August 29	14 <sup>th</sup> Pentecost/SS Rally Day		church 10:15
September 5	15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
September 12	16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
September 19	17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
September 26	18 <sup>th</sup> Pentecost/Harvest Home	SS 9:00	church 10:15

## SERVICE VIDEOS

A video recording of our worship service will be uploaded to our church website ([zionsunion.org](http://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.

## USHERS, GREETERS, SECURITY PERSONS NEEDED

**We are in dire need of ushers, greeters, and security people.** Because of the pandemic, no schedules have been made. We didn’t want to schedule people who may not feel comfortable doing any of the jobs. Please sign up on the sheet on the counter in the Gathering Area or call or email the church office to sign up.

## FLOWER/BULLETIN BOOK

The 2021 Flower and Bulletin sign-up book is available in the Gathering Area for your convenience. You may still call the church office to sign up for your special dates in 2021.



## THE WORK HAS BEGUN



The work to repair the historic Möller pipe organ has finally begun. It took the crew 5 days to dismantle her. The above picture is of the Gathering Area before they loaded the more than 700 parts into trucks headed for the repair place.

Purchased by our forefathers in 1928 (during the Great Depression) at a cost of \$6,000 (almost a million dollars today!), this “grand old lady” celebrated her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday in May. She has served us faithfully, but was having “breathing difficulties” caused by the aging of her wood, leather, and electronic parts. Please support her much-needed transplant of her worn-out parts so she can continue to help us lift up our voices in worship and praise for the next century.

If you are able, prayerfully consider making a contribution to help pay for the major renovation of our historic organ. Envelopes are available in the rear of the church or use any other envelope (put organ fund on the front). Make any checks out to “Zion’s Union Church Maxatawny”. Put “organ fund” on the memo line. You can place the envelopes in the offering basket in the rear of the church or mail them to the church.

## ORGAN RESTORATION UPDATE

As of June 1, 2021

Total Restoration Cost - \$346,000

Designated Memorials Received - \$1,140

Donations Received - \$71,874

Investments Used for Expenses - \$65,000

Checking Account Moneys Used for Expenses - \$15,000

Total Funds Into Organ Restroration Fund - \$153,014

## PICTURES WANTED

If anyone has any pictures of the dismantling of the organ and would like to share them with the church, please contact Theresa Grim. She is trying to get together pictures that can be shared with the congregation and retained by the church as a record of what took place during this project.

## 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. Thanks so much for your continued support of this important community outreach project. 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		

## BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Mobile will be at Zion's on **Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>** from 2:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. Sign up online at [giveapint.org](http://giveapint.org) (Group ID: 3303).



# OUR GRADUATES



On Sunday, June 13, 2021, Zion's Union Church Maxatawny honored our graduates for the year 2021 including December 2020 graduates. Congratulations graduates!

## KUTZTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

*Jewel Xiu Kai Karaisz*, daughter of Joe and Julie Karaisz. She will be attending West Chester University studying Elementary Ed. and Special Ed.

*Alexandria Jade Webb*, daughter of Jamey and Traci Webb. She will attend Delaware Valley University and major in Zoo Sciences. She will be a defender on the Delaware Valley Women's Soccer Team.

## BRANDYWINE HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL

*Jonathan Charles Weidman*, son of Michael and Jennifer Weidman. After 3 years at BCTC, he will pursue a career as an electrician. He is an Eagle Scout from Troop 510 in Topton.

## NORTHWESTERN LEHIGH HIGH SCHOOL

*Owen David Shorette*, son of Amanda Shorette. Leaving June 27<sup>th</sup> for boot camp. Enlisted in U.S. Army.

## PARKLAND HGIH SCHOOL

*Madison Emily Held*, daughter of Michael Held and Lynn Morgan. Graduates with 12 credits and 1200 hours towards her cosmetology license and 2 college English and two psychology classes.

## PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

*Ryan James Korutz*, son of James and Bonnie Korutz. Bachelors of Science Degree in Automation Engineering Technology, Mechatronics, and an Associate Degree in Applied Science in Mechatronics Engineering Technology. Has a job at American Dairy Farmers of America.

## UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF NURSING

*Ashley Lynn Bleiler*, daughter of Enos Bleiler and Christine Bleiler. Bachelors of Science in Nursing Degree. Will be working at UPMC Presbyterian as a cardiac nurse.

## EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY

*Rachel Hannah Fegely*, Master of Science Degree in Speech Language Pathology. Career as school based or medical speech therapist.



## RELAY FOR LIFE

Relay for Life has been scheduled for **September 25, 2021 at the Midway at the Kutztown Fairgrounds**. The event will be a mini Relay for Life. Hours may be 3:00 to 8:00 P.M. (**may not be the exact hours**). We will be collecting Luminary (\$10.00 a bag.) Purple signs will be hung around Kutztown in July and August. Online donations to the American Cancer Society are welcome or see Sue Haas for collected donations. Relay for Life, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, is about celebrating survivorship, remembering those we've lost, and bringing awareness to our community. Anyone interested in being a part of the team please see Sue Haas.



## YOUTH GROUP INFORMATION

The 2022 Youth Gathering will be July 24 - 28, 2022. Early registration begins September 22, 2021. Youth need to be 15 years of age or completed 9<sup>th</sup> grade by the Gathering date. Our first official meeting with youth members and their parents will be **August 22<sup>nd</sup> after the worship service**. This meeting should take about an hour. This will be a great time to find out what the Gathering is all about. If some reason you and your parents cannot make the meeting, please let Sharon Leiby or Richard Haas know so a make up time can be scheduled.

## WOMEN IN ZION

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

July 12	Meeting at 1:00 P.M.
August 9	Meeting at 1:00 P.M.
September 13	Meeting at 1:00 P.M.



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

## SCRABBLE

Scrabble has been cancelled until further notice.

## CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

The Cancer Support Group will meet **September 13<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 P.M. in the Gathering Area.

## SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **July 26<sup>th</sup> and August 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 12:30 P.M. There will be **NO FOOD**.

## 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.

## FROM THE MAILBOX

I want to thank everyone for thinking of me and for all the cards and phone calls I received. Also, thanks to the youth for the flower plant for Mother's Day. It feels good to know I have all these friends that care. I really appreciate them.



Thank you,  
Betty Dietrich

Thanks to everyone for the cards and prayers for my Mom, Althea Moyer, following her hip fracture. It is very reassuring to have so many friends from our church family to support us.

God Bless,  
Diane Herber

A big thank you to Pastor Jeff. I really enjoyed the visits. Also a thank you to my church family for the visits, phone calls, and cards.

Paul Heffner

A big thank you to the youth for the Mother's Day flower.

Elaine Heffner

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

### VBS

Just like last year, we are not holding our traditional VBS. However, we are again happy to be offering families “VBS in a bag”. Interested families should email [courtney.kellum@verizon.net](mailto:courtney.kellum@verizon.net) by **July 10<sup>th</sup>** and let us know how many bags you will need, and we will put a bag together of lessons, activities, and crafts, similar to what we would have done during our normal VBS program. Bags will be available for pick up **July 18<sup>th</sup>** at the church when Sunday School meets. Bags can also be picked up when church meets on **July 25<sup>th</sup>**. If you are unable to pick up your bags, please let us know and other arrangements will be made.

### RALLY DAY

Happiness is fresh air and good friends. Let’s get together and RALLY the start of a new year in Sunday School. Please join us for a RALLY DAY PICNIC on **August 29<sup>th</sup>** after church for lunch and games.

### 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.*

Kelly Leiby

Julia Perella

Andrew Schell

Jewel Karasiz

Alexandria Webb

Gabriella Webb

### FROM THE RECORD BOOK

FUNERAL: *Marion L. Angstadt*, 96, of Kutztown, died June 11, 2021.

Service were June 16, 2021 in Zion’s Union Church Maxatawny by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz. Interment was in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery.

### OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Mary Hoppes.

... the family of Marion Angstadt.

... the family of Jeanette Wetzel.

## WOMEN IN ZION COOKBOOK

The Women In Zion cookbook is available to purchase. Cost of the cookbook is \$12.00. Checks should be made out to “Women In Zion”. Contact Nancy Fulton at 610-682-6357.



### DID YOU KNOW?

- Sarah Grim was a member of Fleetwood High School’s Animal Kingdom team who raised money for the Last Chance Ranch in Quakertown.
- Katelyn DeLong hit a home run to help Brandywine Heights High School win its 10<sup>th</sup> District 3 Title.
- On June 6, 2021, Archer Scaffidi earned his scuba diving certification. So Archer would not have to take the month long training alone, Ted Scaffidi re-certified.
- Archer and Arden Scaffifi are swimming with the Boyertown Mako Sharks for the summer season.
- Katelyn DeLong made Distinguished Honor Roll at Brandywine Heights High School.
- Lauren DeLong made the Dean’s List at Kutztown University.
- Ashley DeLong was on the Distinguished Honor Roll at Brandywine Heights High School.

### QUIET DAYS

Quiet Days takes place **July 6<sup>th</sup>, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, and September 7<sup>th</sup>** from 9:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. at New Goshenhoppen UCC, 1070 Church Road, East Greenville. There is no registration, but a minimum donation of \$5.00 is requested. Bring a Bible, journal, pen, bag lunch. Information: [suewunderlich2@gmail.com](mailto:suewunderlich2@gmail.com).

### BRAKE THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

Brake the Cycle of Poverty will be held **August 14<sup>th</sup>** beginning and ending at Rickenbach Learning Center at Kutztown University, 250 College Blvd., Kutztown. There are four courses that offer something for everyone. For more information or to register go to [www.friendinc.org](http://www.friendinc.org) or call 610-683-7791.

# SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

## MINLAB 21

**How has your church been able to: Heal the Hurting, Love the Land, and Engage the Stranger?**

Learn new ideas to take home and try. And show and tell others about the "vital signs" you've seen "growing" in your midst through God's grace, love and care in your community. On August 14th we will also go deeper into ways the "Growing Young" movement across our Synod is making a difference and changing the ways we are growing as a Jesus-centered community.

We hope every congregation will send at least two participants, to learn and share and grow. **Join us August 14, 2021**

Sign up online at [Godslove.org](https://www.godslove.org)



## Christian Freedom vs. American Freedom

As we gather this month to celebrate July 4<sup>th</sup> and the **Freedom** ascribed to us as citizens of the United States of America, we often think of the individual freedoms that we 'hold dear.' Those "I" statements regardless of impact on another. We must understand these notions of what freedom means for us as **Lutheran Christians** and how we celebrate freedom *from* and *for*. We often see freedom as *from* something: oppression of speech, restriction of arms, etc. However, when God talks about freedom, God speaks of freedom *for* one

### Meet Laurie Christman

Born and raised in Allentown, I now live with my husband of 31 years, two young adult sons, and one tortoiseshell cat in Lehigh Township, Northampton County. Hobbies flow with the seasons - gardening, reading, jigsaw puzzles and upcycling crafts.

During office hours, you'll find me at the front desk in the Lutheran Center. I enjoy answering the phone and greeting folks when they visit. If I don't have the information you need, I'll track it down or connect you with the right person. When you do your yearly congregational report, I'm the person that makes sure we have a copy in the synod's record. I keep the roster of people and congregations updated as well. My most challenging task is scheduling supply pastors for congregations in transition, as there seems to never be enough pastors.



July 2021

another. Jesus states the 'greatest commandment' is to *love one another as he (Jesus) loves us* (John 13:24-25). This biblical freedom, is one which Luther encouraged others to share. The promise that God engages us in freedom for one another. **To build up community** by strengthening relationships with one another and with God. The diversity by which we have been created is something that is meant to offer strength not divide. Luther spends a lot of time with Paul's letters, and the language of the **Body of Christ**. *We are all members of Christ's body, together, united, with differing views, even on the understanding of Freedom.* While we are different we are united. The same blood flows through us all." Luther quotes Romans 6:4 in the Small Catechism to support the above claim: "We were buried with Christ through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too, are to walk in new life."

Let us celebrate this nation's day of independence both from oppression, and for the love of one another: that we may see the unity in the diverse makeup of our nation, which strengthens our resolve as community, to live into the Body of Christ more fully every day.

*Pastor Zach Labagh, Lead Pastor at Allegheny Evangelical Lutheran Church, Knauers, PA*

## 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.



July 2	Richard Warmkessel
July 6	Nancy Fulton
July 10	Marlene Costello
July 10	Sandra Leiby
July 12	Dianne Angstadt
July 14	Carolyn Wilttrout
July 14	Gloria Haas
July 18	William Howard
July 19	Janet Geiger
July 21	Beatrice Bennecoff
July 22	William & Marilyn Bird (60 wed)
August 4	Marvin Christman
August 15	Paul & Elaine Heffner (51 wed)
August 20	Lowell Thomas
August 27	Walter & Doris Dietrich (67 wed)
August 31	Glenroy & Patricia Miller (53 wed)
September 7	James Laub
September 8	Linda Ballew-Johnson
September 18	George Leiby
September 20	Jean & Richard Harter (52 wed)
September 20	Bettina (Tina) Ehrig
September 22	Dave Merkel
September 24	Evelyn Dietz
September 27	Barry Miller
September 27	David Ehrig

## MEMBER UPDATES

unknown Freeby, Catherine I.  
Keystone Villa, Room 204-B, 501 Hoch Road, Blandon, PA 19510  
610-573-7423 Graff, Mandy K.  
314 Lindbergh Ave., Blandon, PA 19510

Asked to be removed: Willard & Susan Brensinger  
Loss: Marion Angstadt



## 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 4	Holy Communion
August 1	Holy Communion
September 5	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 15<sup>th</sup>**.