



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

**June
2018**

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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 lower level of the church.

THE PASTOR'S PAGE



At my previous church I was once called on to perform one of the most difficult tasks a pastor is ever asked to do—perform a funeral service for someone who had committed suicide (and was not a church member). One of the most difficult questions facing the family was: Where is our loved one? Where is their soul?

Losing a loved one to suicide is deeply troubling for many Christians. Some believe suicide is equal to murder in God's eyes. Some claim that suicide is the one unforgivable sin and that someone who takes their own life cannot enter heaven.

In general, the question of the eternal salvation of a loved one who has not accepted Christ before they die can be deeply disturbing to a Christian family, especially if the deceased had led a sinful life. For anyone reading this who has ever been troubled about the salvation of a loved one's soul, I would like to reassure you about two things. First, there is *no* sin that Christ will not forgive. And, second, I firmly believe that at the moment of death, Christ will make himself known to everyone in order to give them a second chance.

Now, I realize that some Christians have trouble accepting this. Many fundamentalist Christians believe that there are *no* second chances, and that if we do not repent and accept Christ as our Lord and Savior in *this* life, that we will be condemned to hell for eternity. I want you to know that I do not personally believe that for a second. How can I be so certain? Let me share with you two scripture passages that should give great hope to anyone who has wrestled with such questions. They come from the letter of 1 Peter:

Christ died once for our sins. An innocent person died for those who are guilty. Christ did this to bring you to God, when his body was put to death and his spirit was made alive. Christ then went and preached to the spirits that were being kept in prison. They had disobeyed God while Noah was building the boat, but God had been patient with them. (1 Peter 3:18-19)

The good news has even been preached to the dead, so that after they have been judged for what they have done in this life, their spirits will live with God. (1 Peter 4:6)

What these words testify to is that Christ will go to *any* lengths to save us. You see, Peter and the early Christians believed that in the period between Christ's death and resurrection, Christ even entered hell to proclaim the gospel and offer forgiveness and salvation to the lost souls imprisoned there. This is why there is the line in the Apostles' Creed that says, "He descended into hell." What that statement in the Creed tells us, and what the letter of 1 Peter is attesting to, is that God's love has *no* bounds. As God offered humanity a

second chance after the flood, God still offers everyone a second chance through Christ.

We can take great hope from the testimony of 1 Peter that, “Christ . . . preached to the spirits that were being kept in prison.” Who were these lost souls? Peter goes on to say, “They had disobeyed God while Noah was building the boat.” Those in hell to whom Christ preached were the very ones who were so evil that God had wiped them out with the flood! Christ even offered *them* a second chance.

And that is the great hope for us all. Despite the sin that permeates us all, despite all we are guilty of, God offers everyone a second chance. That is why God has been called the “hound of heaven,” who never stops dogging our steps, who never stops reaching out to us with his grace and forgiveness—no matter how far we have distanced ourself from God. Neither death nor hell itself can keep anyone from receiving a second chance. There is nowhere we can run, nowhere we can hide, where Christ won’t find us and offer us his unconditional love. That is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is Good News indeed!

In Christ’s love,

Pastor Jeff

JUNE AND JULY WORSHIP

June 3	2 nd Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 10	3 rd Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 17	4 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 24	5 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
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

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.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Thank you to our Adopt -A-Highway volunteers that picked up trash along 222 on Saturday, May 5th. The participants were the O'Neils, Jarrod Heffner, Rich Haas, Ben Haas, Kay Weidner, Craig Weidner, Pastor Butz, Alex Warmkessel, Harry Snyder, LaRee Fegely, Kevin Fegely, Rachel Fegely, Caleb Krause, and Kevin Krause. They picked up 12 bags of trash and debris.



MUSIC SUNDAY THANK YOU

Thank you to Jewel Karaisz, Elizabeth Schell, Nick Perella, Steven Gehringer, the Chime Choir, Maisy Kellum, The Back Row, Ashley Bleiler, the Children's Choir, Joe Karaisz and Connor O'Neil, The Haas Men, Zachary Haas, Dana Gehringer, Kay and Craig Weidner, and the Sr. Choir for the special music on Music Sunday, May 13th. Also, thank you to Theresa Grim for coordinating all the special music for that day.



RELAY FOR LIFE 2018, JUNE 1ST AND 2ND AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

Relay for Life, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, is about celebrating survivorship, remembering those we've lost, and bringing awareness to our community. Held over a twenty-four hour period, the Relay for Life involves teams of 10-15 people, asked to raise \$100 each for the American Cancer Society, who take turns walking, running, strolling around the track. Relay for Life is Friday, June 1st 3:00 P.M. through Saturday, June 2nd 3:00 P.M. We hope you can join us as a participant or just come out to cheer us on.



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.

COOKBOOK

The WIZ is gathering recipes for a church cookbook. Each month we will be collecting a different style of recipe. The month of June will be your favorite SALAD recipe. The month of July will be your favorite DESSERT 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.



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

STRAWBERRY & ICE CREAM FESTIVAL



The annual Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival will be held **June 8th** from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. Entertainment will be Toad Creek Duo. Setup will be Thursday, **June 7th** at 6:00 P.M. Help is needed Friday afternoon to clean strawberries and the night of the festival to serve food, bus tables, help in the kitchen, and clean up at 9:00 P.M. Donations of vegetable soup and baked goods will be greatly appreciated. If anyone has items they would like to donate or purchase for the Chinese Auction let Traci Gehringer know. If you can help in any way, contact Traci at 610-944-1818.

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.

WHO ARE OUR GRADUATES?

Graduate Sunday will be held **June 10th** and we are compiling a list of our graduates for the year 2018, including December 2017 graduates. Please write down the name of your graduate, the school from which he or she is graduating or did graduate, their degree (if applicable), and their plans for the future (including name of college, trade school, any continuing education they may be planning, etc.). Place the information in the secretary's mail slot in the Gathering Area or call the church office with the above information **NO LATER THAN JUNE 3RD**. We do not want to miss anyone, so please help us out.



HIGHER EDUCATION FUND

As part of the Siegfried Bequest, a higher education fund has been established to offer 4% interest loans of up to \$1000.00 (based on the number of applicants and availability of funds) for a maximum of 4 years per student to those members of Zion's enrolled in a higher education program. A student loan application has been developed by the loan committee (Nancy Fulton and Grace Haas) and can be obtained from one of them or in the church office. Deadline is **June 15th**.



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 will be included in the July/August newsletter.** If you are interested in helping, see Tara Berger. **PLEASE NOTE: All VBS volunteers 18 and older MUST have current Criminal and Child Abuse clearances done.**



SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **June 25th and July 23rd** 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.



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.*

June 11

Picnic and games at 12 noon.

July 9

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



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

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.



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.

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.

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.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

Activity Schedule:

June 3	Picnic at Reading Phillies
June 17	Father's Day
June 27-July 1	National Youth Gathering



Offering Schedule:

June 3	Kaylen Leiby and Jewel Karaisz
June 10	Caleb Krause and Benjamin Haas
June 17	Adam Noll and Zachary Haas
June 24	Katelyn DeLong and Sydney Sheetz
July 1	Jake Heffner and Dane Fegely
July 8	Ivan Fegely and Trevor Gilfert
July 15	Nick Perella and Johnathan Korutz
July 22	Kelly Leiby and Emily Bortz
July 29	Connor O'Neil and Elizabeth Schell

YOUTH GROUP THANK YOU

The Youth Group has been the recipient of a \$1,000.00 check from the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Kutztown. This grant is based on the activities of our group in the past year. We are grateful to the F.O.E. for their continued generosity. Also, we have just received a donation from our Ladies Group, WIZ, for over \$5,000.00 to be used toward our Gathering expenses. It seems a simple thank you is not enough. This, together with other ongoing donations we have received, will fully fund our trip this summer and allow us to put some aside for "seed money" for the next gathering in 3 years. We expect to have a fairly large group eligible again for that trip. Thanks so much for all the support we continue to enjoy from within and beyond our church body.

HONOR ROLL

These names were taken from the lists published in the Patriot. However, it appears the school districts may not be getting the lists to the Patriot. 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	Mary Beth Weidman	Lauren DeLong
Kelly Leiby	Gabriella Webb	Maisy Kellum
Julia Perella	Zachary Haas	Mitchell Grim

BUILDING FINANCE COMMITTEE MAY 2018 UPDATE

Summer greetings to everyone! We have had a very steady level of contributions to the Building Fund this year. We have been able to continue paying down on the mortgage balance, which is now down to \$31,000. As our balance keeps reducing, so does the amount of interest we pay. It is great to see so much of our donations going right to lowering the mortgage principle balance.



Thank you everyone for your continued great support!

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

CHURCH BOARD

April 24, 2018

- The Church Board took action to move the mortgage from an individual source to the education funds of the Siegfried account. This will eliminate the private funding and give a higher interest rate to the education fund to be used for our students in the future. Donations to the Building Fund should be kept coming as they have been, as we work to pay down the mortgage balance of \$31,000.
- The Church Board approved our 2018 Confirmands and wishes to extend congratulations and a welcome to all of them. The Confirmands are: Emily Bortz, Katelyn DeLong, Kelly Leiby, Elizabeth Schell, Carson Sheetz, and Gabby Webb.
- Lights in the sanctuary were changed.
- The Stewardship Committee will be redefined and continued. Members are being sought and interested people should speak to Steve O'Neil.
- Enos Bleiler will be leaving his position as sexton at the end of April, therefore the Church is seeking a new sexton. Interested parties can speak to Liz Jones or Sherie Mohn. Sherie Mohn will be looking for volunteers to help clean the church in the interim.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Dane Fegely plays Boys Tennis for Kutztown H.S.
- Connor O'Neil throws discus for the Kutztown H.S. Track and Field Team.
- Jillian Siefert participates in Diversity Awareness at Kutztown H.S.
- Katelyn DeLong's 14U softball team won their first tournament of the season in Palmyra.
- Benjamin and Zachary Haas attended 2018 State Leadership Conference where the Fleetwood H.S. Future Business Leaders of America received Outstanding Chapter for 2017-2018 school year, 4th place for community service hours, and 1st place for Local Chapter Annual Business Report.
- Benjamin R. Haas and his team won 7th place for their Partnership with Business Project at the 2018 State Leadership Conference.
- Lexi Webb, Gabby Webb, Lauren Perella, and Julia Perella are heading to Wildwood for TiA championship with their Dance and Twirl teams. They are all Chapter 2 champions!
- Ivan Fegely is on the Track Team at Kutztown H.S.
- Debbie Berger was seen at the ribbon cutting at Kutztown Printing.
- Ben Haas, president of the Kutztown Education Foundation was a speaker at the dedication of Kutztown High School's renovated athletic stadium.
- Madison Sheetz was pictured in the *Reading Eagle* while attending the Kutztown High School Prom.
- Gretchen Boyer is a member of the Talisman Players.
- Melissa Armstrong was the recipient of the Reading Hospital 2018 Excellence in Nursing Professional Development Award.

FROM THE RECORD BOOK

NEW MEMBERS: *Craig and Kathryn (Kay) Weidner* (April 29, 2018)

BAPTISM: *Brianna Felicity Saul*, daughter of Scott and Taylor (Rice) Saul was baptized May 13, 2018 by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz. Brianna was born February 13, 2018.

CONFIRMATION: May 20, 2018

Emily Rose Bortz, daughter of Dawn Edelman.

Katelyn Elizabeth DeLong, daughter of Trevor and Melissa DeLong.

Kelly Faye Leiby, daughter of Kevin and Melissa Leiby

Elizabeth Jane Schell, daughter of Ray and Todie Schell.

Carson Scott Sheetz, son of Brian and Charlene Sheetz.

Gabriella Camille Webb, daughter of Jamey and Traci Webb.

MYSTERY MEMBER/S

Our mystery couple stumped several people last month. Perhaps a helpful hint might have been the fact that the 19 years she spent as a secretary were here in our church office where she does an excellent job of keeping things well coordinated.

Karen and Randy Warmkessel were the mystery couple.

Although several questionnaires have been given out none have been returned in time for the Newsletter deadline. Anyone who would like to be a mystery member is welcome to speak to Karen Warmkessel in the office or Karen Howard.

In lieu of featuring one person or a couple this month the focus is on all the talented performers who took part in Music Sunday on May 13th. How blessed we are to have so many people who are willing to share their God-given talent!! Also, special thanks are given to Theresa Grim for coordinating the event and accompanying some of the performers.

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Rally To End Racism



On Wednesday, April 4, the National Council of Churches led a rally in Washington DC to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A small group from Hope, Cherryville, led by Pastor Brian Rajcok, joined the Lehigh Valley Council of Churches' bus trip down.

They left at 4:00 A.M. and arrived at the National Mall around 8:30. The official rally began at 9:00, but there had been a worship service going on since 8:00. They heard prayers from a variety of faith traditions, including a Zoroastrian priest. This portion ended with a Confession for the church's complicity in dealing with issues of racism.

The rally's M.C. was an African American pastor from Chicago. Speakers discussed a variety of issues including systematic racism, police brutality, white privilege, and mass incarceration. Some notable speakers included the current pastor of MLK's church, the Rev. Raphael G. Warnock; actor Danny Glover; Black Lives Matter leader, DeRay Mckesson; and Ben Cohen & Jerry Greenfield, who gave a moving speech on white privilege.

One powerful phrase from DeRay Mckesson stood out: that racism is able to adapt and manifest itself in different ways: from to slavery, to Jim Crow laws, to present day mass incarceration. Others reminded the crowd of what MLK called the triple evils of our society: poverty, racism, and militarism; and they called on the church to do more in confronting these evils.

Pr. Rajcok writes: "I left the rally feeling particularly drawn to educating myself and others about mass incarceration and doing my best to help deconstruct this current manifestation of systemic racism. I was honored to be present that day. It was a day I will never forget."

Confirmation Day at the Synod



On Sunday, April 22, over 90 youth and 42 adults gathered at The Lutheran Center for Confirmation Day at the Synod. Organizers Anja Stuckenberger, Inge Williams, and Seth Noggle were excited about the size of the response, with nearly twice the expected number attending. This year's theme was "One Church under one God."

Taking advantage of the wonderful spring weather, the event began with a time outside dedicated to getting acquainted. This was followed by the keynote presentation from Pr. Kurt Garbe, Associate of the Bishop. Pr. Garbe spoke about the four companion synods to our Northeastern PA Synod: Argentina and Uruguay, Saxony, Slovenia, and the South Central Diocese in Tanzania.



Next the attendees rotated among five groups for a time of experiential learning. Four of the groups dealt with each of the four companion synods; and the fifth group was devotional, providing time for meditation and writing prayers. Then Bishop Zeiser presided at a Service of Holy Communion. The event ended with dinner, consisting of 300 empanadas with a side of rice and beans.

Think about bringing confirmation students from your congregation next year. Confirmation Day at the Synod provides a unique opportunity to celebrate our faith with many other young Lutherans!

Our Iceberg is Melting



On Sunday, April 15, the Pocono Mission District Assembly met at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bangor. A significant portion of the meeting focused on developing a vision for the future of the church and practicing how we can impact the people around us and reach out to others.

Pastor Niels Nielsen, Associate of the Bishop, shared *Our Iceberg is Melting*, a book by John Kotter. This parable takes place on an iceberg inhabited by penguins. They are filled with a sense of urgency because their iceberg is melting. The penguins decide change is needed, and they set out to find a new iceberg.

The assembly experimented with working together to find "a new iceberg," that is, a new way to be the church in the future. Two common ideas were: being more kid-friendly and being more open to new people. The Assembly then broke into discussion groups to share stories of compassion from their own faith communities.

Many of the stories were very moving and personal. There were stories of times of tribulation, when people were transformed by an act of kindness or compassion. There were stories of tough financial times, divorce, and illness. People shared how they were changed by the kindness given to them from their church and individuals.

The experience demonstrated how even the smallest acts of kindness and compassion can make a big difference, and how we need to tell these stories of faith to people outside the church.

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View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org/publications/synod-news>.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Mary Lou Wolfe.

... the family of Andy Walker.

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.



June 6	Elaine Berger
June 7	Mary Kutz
June 8	Ron & Nancy Fulton (55 wed)
June 8	Shirley Derr
June 12	Betty Faust
June 15	Jean Kemp
June 15	Eva Christman
June 15	Guerin & Eleanor Nester (55 wed)
June 19	Carol Bennecoff
June 23	Rev. Willis & Sylvia Heckler (56 wed)
June 24	Richard Derr
June 24	George & Sandra Leiby (51 wed)
June 25	John & Betty Mertz (63 wed)
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)

FROM THE MAILBOX

Thank you for your donation of \$260.79, bottles, blankets, diapers, toys, toiletries, socks, towels, paper towels, paper plates, books, and other items, and for your dedication to the success of all our new families. We look forward to spending many more years caring for mothers and their children.



Sincerely,
Mary's Shelter



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.

June 3

July 1

Pew Holy Communion

Altar Holy Communion



JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next issue of the newsletter will come out the beginning of July. Please note that this is a **combined July/August** newsletter. If you have any information to be included in the July/August newsletter, please have it in the church office by **June 15th**.