



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
2020**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reminders	page 1
The Pastor's Page	pages 2, 3, 4
June and July Worship	page 4
Prayer Requests, Outreach Opportunity, Special Music	page 5
Yes We "CAN", Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival	page 6
Ingathering, Senior Fellowship, Scrabble	page 6
Women In Zion, Youth Group News	page 7
Cancer Support, Prayer Shawl	page 7
Church Board, From The Mailbox	page 8
Who Are Our Graduates	page 8
Higher Education Fund, Mystery Member	page 9
From The Record Book, Our Sympathies	page 9
Card Showers, Member Updates	page 10
Mission Statement, Holy Communions, Newsletter Deadline	page 11
Staff, Board, Worship Assistants, June Calendar	Lilac Insert
Synod News	Tan 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 first floor of the church.

THE PASTOR'S PAGE



“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place” (Acts 2:1). So begins the account of the gift of the Holy Spirit to the church in the book of Acts.

On May 31st the church celebrates the day of Pentecost, which is both a celebration of the sending of God’s Holy Spirit to his people and a celebration of the official birth of the Christian Church: “Those who welcomed [Peter’s] message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:41-42).

Sadly, as we celebrate Pentecost in the year 2020, it is not possible for the members of our congregation to be “all together in one place.” While some restrictions are being lifted in some places, the ongoing threat of the Covid-19 pandemic will require that when we are able to return to church we will need to do so in a way that is measured and mindful of the needs of the most vulnerable among us. As much as we all desire to resume regular worship and celebrate communion together again, it is becoming increasingly obvious that this is going to take longer than any of us had anticipated when this crisis began. When I first started doing online worship I assumed it would only be for a few weeks. Now I am looking at investing in better recording equipment and looking at ways to incorporate more music and perhaps, if this goes on long enough, looking at ways to do “virtual” Holy Communion.

So, let me address a question that some of you have raised. Some churches are doing “virtual” Holy Communion by having members use bread and wine (or juice) in their homes. Can we do this? I must be forthright with you that this is a delicate issue for us as a federated Lutheran and UCC congregation because the Lutheran Church and the United Church of Christ have different understandings about this. In fact, it is the only theological issue that still divides our churches. The roots of the difference are deeply theological and go all the way back to hard fought arguments that Martin Luther had with Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin (the founding fathers of the Reformed Church) over the question of the “real presence” of Christ in the bread and wine. For Lutherans, the body and blood of Christ are truly present “in, with, and under” the communion elements. For the Reformed Church and the United Church of Christ, Holy Communion is a memorial of the last supper in which Christ is spiritually present to those who receive the communion elements (“do this in remembrance of me”). Luther, however, emphatically argued “das ist!” (“that is!”) the body and blood of Christ in the bread and the wine. I don’t want to get too technical here, but it is this understanding of the full presence of Christ in the sacraments that causes our best contemporary

Lutheran theologians to strongly discourage virtual Holy Communion, while the United Church of Christ has no problem with it. Ironically, ELCA theologians deem Holy Communion a non-essential component of worship at this time, while UCC theologians deem it almost essential.

I will be honest with you that I am very torn about this. I am an ordained Lutheran pastor and feel bound by Lutheran guidelines, but on the other hand I ask myself the WWJD question: What would Jesus do? I can't help but think that Jesus would find our theological nitpicking as silly as the medieval theologians who argued over how many angels could dance on the head of a pin! The bottom line for me is this: I see "virtual communion" as being opposed to the very idea of *communion* with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Since so many of our older members do not have computer access, they are essentially cut off from sharing communion with those who are able to do so "virtually" by computer. And while I do not see suspending Holy Communion as problematic in the short term, if we cannot return to church in the next couple of months, I may well join my UCC colleagues in trying virtual communion. Our synodical bishop Sam Zeiser has assured us Lutheran pastors that, while he frowns on it, he will not send the "theology police" if we do virtual communion!

In the meantime, we give thanks for the promise of our faith—that the Lord God will bless and keep us, the risen Christ is with us, and the Holy Spirit connects us "virtually" with all believers near and far. As we anxiously track the news in our time—with growing numbers of new cases and numbers of persons who have died—we remember the good news of the gospel: "And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).

Finally, I want to address one other question that is in everyone's hearts: How are we going to safely resume in-person worship when we are able? When our congregation begins to resume public activities, please know that we will do so through a careful process of discussion and discernment, with an abundance of caution and concern for those who are most vulnerable, upon consideration of the best scientific knowledge at our disposal, in accordance with legal/governmental guidelines, and in the spirit of constant prayer with full trust in the "grace of our Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit." Here are just a few issues we will have to face (I plan to address these in more depth in next month's newsletter, when hopefully we will be much closer to re-opening):

- our sanctuary/building's capacity for social distancing (especially if the number of worshippers will be limited) — will we have to have more than one worship service?
- the willingness of all present to wear masks

- how to keep surfaces clean (especially restrooms) and how to assure proper sterilization
- how to safely distribute the communion elements
- how to safely share the peace (will it perhaps need to be temporarily abandoned?)
- how to protect our most vulnerable members
- being fully aware of the particular dangers of group singing as a means of transmitting the virus
- guidance from our church’s insurance carrier regarding our liability in cases of COVID transmission in your building
- holding each other accountable to the guidelines that will be established by our church board

As we address all this, there will surely be times of frustration, disappointment, and grief. We may make mistakes along the way. There will surely be awkward moments as we adjust to new protocols and practices. But there will also be blessings. We will have countless opportunities to exercise the spiritual gifts of patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control. There will be wonderful surprises, great celebrations, and moments of deep satisfaction. We will get to see glimpses of the new thing God is doing, even now. Let us be faithful, then—to God and to one another—as we work through the challenges of this time. Let us be guided by the Word, responsive to the Spirit, and open to the grace of God. And let us always remember that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus!

Peace and blessings to you all!
Pastor Jeff

**SOME AND MAYBE ALL THE EVENTS IN THIS NEWSLETTER
MAY NOT HAPPEN DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.**

JUNE AND JULY WORSHIP

June 7	Trinity Sunday HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 14	2 nd Pentecost/Graduate Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 21	Third Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 28	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 5	Fifth Sunday After Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 12	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 19	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
July 26	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Irvin Miller, John Knabb Sr., Dale Bennecoff, Marlene Costello, Elaine Berger, Todie Schell, Barry Miller, Lisa Walker, Kay Weidner, Loretta Flicker, Bill Howard, Nikki Phillips, Arlene Oswald, Joe Karaisz, Janet Fegely, Anna Bortz, Lucille Zettlemoyer, Leon Neimeyer, Gloria Haas, Richard Warmkessel, Steve O'Neil, Karen Weaver, Beatrice Bennecoff, Ralph & Helen Noll, Mary Kutz, Lowell Thomas, Marilyn & Bill Bird, Richard Derr, Sylvia Heckler, Gladys Leibold, Ruth Siegfried, Althea Moyer, Mary Jane Williams, Leora Haas, Ed & Donna VanDeCar, Donna Slotter, Penny Keller, Tom Seifert, Eva Aguilar, Ian Miller, Victoria Slotter, Donna Rabert, Elia, Nettie Herman, Deb, Lisa Szarko, Christopher Mercardo, Niki Nolte, Arthur Sell, Jo Corrado, Herbert Noll, Jamie Jordan, Michele Rodriquez, Kathy Noll, Rayann Roth, Sue Zimmerman, Kim Markham, Valerie, Renee Wolfe, Drew & Mary Jane Stump, Caitlin Dickey, Frank Knight, Christy Ryan, Lorraine Miller, Larry Hockman, Judy Redman, Mary Fox, Mary, Betty Houck, Betsy, Gary Deder, Gary Sell, Russell Peden, family of Goldie Berger, family of Steven McGowan, family Terry Derr, family of Dorothy Zettlemoyer, family of Jean Winkler, family of Faith Riedel, family of Jane Schell, family of Emmett Fenstermaker, family of Harold Heffner.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

You should have received a letter in your statement envelope about the tremendous need in our communities because of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the months of May, June, and July, the board has decided to match donations dollar for dollar up to \$5,000. The groups receiving the aid will be the Salvation Army, Helping Harvest of Berks County, and Second Harvest of Lehigh County. These groups provide fundamental resources for people in need. You are asked to prayerfully consider contributing. Mark your donations to Mission Outreach COVID-19 and mail to the church.



SPECIAL MUSIC

Anyone who would like to sing or play an instrument for the recorded Sunday services contact Theresa Grim at 610-683-5090.

YES WE “CAN”

The canned food drive for Lent has been suspended. If anyone would like to make monetary donations to support the FRIEND foodbank, please sent them to the church designated “FRIEND”.



STRAWBERRY & ICE CREAM FESTIVAL

At this time, due to the uncertainty of holding large gatherings, the Sunday School officers have decided to not hold the Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival in June as planned.



INGATHERING

On the first Sunday of each month the Mission Outreach Committee will continue to collect items to fill bags with food staples for needy children and their families in the Kutztown, Brandywine, and Fleetwood School Districts. Please participate by dropping off non-perishable items from the list below in the container provided in the Gathering Area.



- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| single serve size macaroni and cheese | peanut butter | fruit cups |
| single serve size applesauce | canned tuna | canned soup |
| single serve cereal | granola bars | fruit snacks |
| oatmeal packets | | |

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **June 22nd and July 27th** 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.



SCRABBLE

Scrabble will meet the third Monday of the month at 1:30 P.M. at the Lutheran Home in the social area near Sylvia’s room. See Ellie Merkel if interested.

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 8 Picnic, fun games at 12 noon. Bring a potluck dish. Begin 'Support Our Troops' project.
- July 13 Meeting at 1:00 P.M. Patriotic Themes by Judy Koller.



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

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Activity Schedule:

June 21 Father's Day Handouts

Offering Schedule:

June 7 Steven Gehringer and Kaylen Leiby
June 14 Mitchell Grim and Jewel Karaisz
June 21 Adam Noll and Zachary Haas
June 28 Madison Held and Jonathan Weidman
July 5 Sydney Sheetz and Ethan Weidman
July 12 Katelyn DeLong and Caleb Krause
July 19 Nick Perella and Kelly Leiby
July 26 Cayden Ciccone-Haas and Emily Bortz



CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

The Cancer Support Group will meet the second Monday of the month at 6:30 P.M. See Loretta Flicker for more information.

PRAYER SHAWL



Comforting wraps are still available to all who are in need. Please alert the church office or talk to Loretta Flicker or Karen Howard if you or someone you know would benefit from this ministry.

CHURCH BOARD

The Church Board met using Zoom technology on April 28, 2020.

1. Given the tremendous need in our communities because of COVID-19, we have an outreach ministry opportunity. For the next three months of May, June and July, the board has decided to match donations dollar for dollar up to \$5,000. The groups receiving the aid will be the Salvation Army, Helping Harvest of Berks County, and Second Harvest of Lehigh County. These groups provide fundamental resources for people in need. You are asked to prayerfully consider contributing. Mark your donations to Mission Outreach COVID-19. Together we can do this!
2. Since resuming regular services is high on our list of priorities, we are gathering ideas how to do it safely. One process developed by the Wisconsin Council of Churches is quite comprehensive and we are reviewing it and will discuss it more at the next meeting.
3. There is a new railing on the lectern side of the altar steps to aid readers going up and down to read the Bible passages. Thanks to Jim Laub for designing, building, and installing it.
4. Ehrlich has recommended installing 4 bait stations on the exterior of the church as well as installing a vapor barrier in the dirt crawl space under the Sunday School room. Both will be done.

FROM THE MAILBOX

Thank you for the birthday cards, phone calls, and carolers for my 90th birthday.

Betty Dietrich



WHO ARE OUR GRADUATES?

Graduate Sunday will be held **June 14th** and we are compiling a list of our graduates for the year 2020, including December 2019 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.). Email information to the church at zionsunion@verizon.net **NO LATER THAN JUNE 7TH**. 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**.



MYSTERY MEMBER

The Mystery Member last month was Madison (Madi) Held, daughter of Michael Held and Lynn Morgan and Granddaughter of Nancy and the late Clark Held.

There is no new mystery member this month so we will just remember all the brave people who have served so selflessly to get us through this pandemic. We will keep them all in our prayers along with all others affected in any way by COVID-19. We will continue to worship together apart until it is safe for all of us to be in the same place again. Stay Strong, Stay Safe, and Be Well.

FROM THE RECORD BOOK

FUNERALS: *Dorothy M. Zettlemoyer*, 92, of Allentown, died April 30, 2020 in Allentown. Graveside service was held May 7, 2020 in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz.

Emmett C. Fenstermaker, 98, of Kutztown, died May 12, 2020 in Allentown. Graveside service was held May 18, 2020 in Zion's Union Cemetery by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Goldie Berger.
... the family of Terry Derr.
... the family of Jean Winkler.
... the family of Jane Schell.
... the family of Harold Heffner.

... the family of Steven McGowan.
... the family of Dorothy Zettlemoyer.
... the family of Faith Riedel.
... the family of Emmett Fenstermaker.

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.

June 1	Diane Herber
June 6	Elaine Berger
June 7	Mary Kutz
June 8	Shirley Derr
June 15	Jean Kemp
June 15	Eva Christman
June 15	Guerin & Eleanor Nester (57 wed)
June 19	Carol Bennecoff
June 24	Richard Derr
June 24	George & Sandra Leiby (53 wed)
June 25	John & Betty Mertz (65 wed)
June 27	David & Diane Herber (50 wed)
July 2	Richard Warmkessel
July 6	Nancy Fulton
July 10	Marlene Costello
July 10	Sandra Leiby
July 12	Dianne Angstadt
July 14	Carolyn Wiltrout
July 14	Gloria Haas
July 15	Arlan & Elaine Berger (53 wed)
July 18	William Howard
July 19	Janet Geiger
July 21	Beatrice Bennecoff
July 21	Clair Seidel
July 22	William & Marilyn Bird (59 wed)



MEMBER UPDATES

610-349-0741	Bailey, Cheryl 276 N. Whiteoak St., Kutztown, PA 19530
484-877-6624	Jones, Elizabeth P.O. Box 792, Fogelsville, PA 18051
610-390-2652	Miller, Ronald 7027 Periwinkle Ct., Macungie, PA 18062
Losses:	Fenstermaker, Emmett Zettlemoyer, Dorothy M.



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 7	Pew Holy Communion
July 5	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**.