

# 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**

## March 2019

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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](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 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



Since not everyone gets a copy of our church Yearbook (a/k/a Annual Report) I am including my annual report to the congregation in this month's newsletter for all to read.

If anyone who is not able to get to church would like a copy of our 2018 Yearbook please call the church office and we will be happy to send one to you.

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PASTOR**

The year 2018 continued to be a year of growth for Zion's Church in so many ways. I would like to highlight just a few of the main ones:

- It was a year of continued spiritual growth as many members continue to faithfully attend our newly formed Bible Study groups.
- It was a year of growth in our worship and music programs as our newly formed Chime Choir got off to a rousing start and surprised us all with their level of musical competence (attained in a very short time under the able direction of John Perella).
- It was a year of growth in evangelism thanks to our Good News Committee (now under the leadership of our new chair, Linda Ballew-Johnson) continuing to come up with new ways of reaching out to the community, as well as our own members, with the beautiful new road banners proudly hanging on Church Road, a new large-screen TV in our Gathering Area to advertise activities and events, and new welcome bags for visitors.
- It was a year of continued growth in mission and outreach as a new Disaster and Environmental Concerns Committee was formed (started up by Kevin Krause, Sherie Mohn, Steve O'Neil, and Pat Kutz). This group is making plans to utilize our building as an emergency shelter, which got off to a solid start with a new shower installed in the basement (thanks to the hard work and dedication of Jim Laub and Carl Flicker).
- It was a year of physical growth as our building expansion is now complete with the finishing of the basement and all our new rooms are now fully in use (again thanks to the hard work of some many of our skilled members).
- It was a year of continued growth in prayer and member support as yet another new group got off the ground—our Cancer Support Group

- (started and led by the inspiration of Loretta Flicker).
- And last, but certainly not least, it was a year of truly amazing growth in stewardship as our mortgage has now been paid off in an astoundingly short time. Watch for announcements about the big celebration we are planning!

The fact that I am sure that there are many other things I have missed shows just how alive and vibrant this congregation continues to be! Almost all of the above was accomplished through the very generous donations of so many members—including our road banners, Gathering Area TV, and the chimes. The level of faithful stewardship among our members (both financial as well as in the sharing of time and talents) has been truly inspiring to me. Time and time again, people step up when a need is seen. In sum, this congregation gets things done!

A full report of my own pastoral activities is on the next page of the church yearbook. As you will see, the main focus areas in my own ministry continue to be in the areas of Christian Education and member visitation (which I reported on in detail last year). The many other reports that follow provide just a glimpse into all of the valuable ministry that has been accomplished at Zion's in 2018. Thank you to everyone who has worked in so many ways to make it all happen. In the words of Jesus, "Well done, thou good and faithful servants!"

Pastor Jeff

## **ANNUAL REPORTS**

The 2018 Annual Reports are now available. If you are unable to get to the church to pick one up, please call the church office and one can be mailed to you.



## **AUDIT NOTICE TO ALL ORGANIZATIONS**

Please remember: All organizations in the church should do an internal audit of their books as stated in the Federated Constitution by the end of March.

## MARCH AND APRIL WORSHIP

March 3	Transfiguration Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 6	Ash Wednesday		7:00 P.M.
March 10	First Sunday of Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 13	Mid-Week Lent Service		7:30 P.M.
March 17	Second Sunday of Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 20	Mid-Week Lent Service		7:30 P.M.
March 24	Third Sunday of Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 27	Mid-Week Lent Service		7:30 P.M.
March 31	Fourth Sunday of Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 3	Mid-Week Lent Service		7:30 P.M.
April 7	Fifth Sunday of Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 10	Mid-Week Lent Service		7:30 P.M.
April 14	Palm/Passion Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 18	Maundy Thursday		7:00 P.M.
April 19	Good Friday		7:00 P.M.
April 21	Easter Dawn		6:00 A.M.
April 21	Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 28	Second Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15

## INCLEMENT WEATHER



Worship service/Sunday School/activities cancellation:

[www.wfmz.com](http://www.wfmz.com) (click on “storm center update”) (**note:** worship delays or closings will be listed on WFMZ website and not on

Channel 69 except for extreme weekend weather conditions) or call the church office (610-683-7485). A message will be on the answering machine.

## 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

## ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

March 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M.

**Ash Wednesday** marks the beginning of Lent with ash on our foreheads. This cross echoes our baptismal anointing, when we were buried with Christ. The ash is a chilling reminder of our mortality, but because our death is now in Christ, our endings are beginnings. The Lenten disciplines of acts of kindness, prayer, and fasting are tools of discipleship that can lead us to renewal as we bury all that is holding us back from being truly alive. (reprinted from *Words for Worship*, copyright Augsburg/Fortress, 2003)



## HELPING HAND FUND

On **March 10<sup>th</sup>**, baskets will be available in the back of the church and the Gathering Area for any donations to the Helping Hand Fund. The Helping Hand Fund of Zion's Union Church Maxatawny was established to provide financial support for individuals in the congregation who may be experiencing unexpected challenges in their lives. Contributions received go to replenish the fund.

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME



Daylight Savings Time begins **March 10<sup>th</sup>**. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday night.

## BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Mobile will be at Zion's on **Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>** from 3:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board on the second floor by the stairs. You can also sign up online at [giveapint.org](http://giveapint.org) (Group ID: 3303).



**Mark your calendar for the 2019 dates:**

**Tuesday, May 7**

**Tuesday, August 13**

**Tuesday, November 5**

If you or anyone you know received donated blood and would like to share their story leave a message with Pat Kutz at 610-944-9456 or write your story down and put it in the secretary's box in the Gathering Area.

## MID-WEEK LENTEN STUDY

### Mary Magdalene and the Female Followers of Jesus



Beginning on Wednesday evening, **March 13<sup>th</sup>**, we will again have our popular mid-week time of fellowship, devotions, and Bible study. The evening will begin with a soup supper and fellowship hour from 6:30-7:30. Then at 7:30 we will have brief devotions followed by Bible study. This year's topic is "Mary Magdalene and the Female Followers of Jesus." The role of Mary the mother of Jesus in his life and ministry is well known, but the vital role of other important women in the ministry of Jesus is not nearly as well known. Mary Magdalene has entered into the consciousness of many people in recent times mainly due to the great popularity of books and movies such as *The Da Vinci Code*, which shockingly portrayed Mary Magdalene as the wife of Jesus. Come discover what modern biblical scholarship and archaeology is revealing about Mary Magdalene and other important female disciples and their little-known but vital role in the formation of the early church. Pastor Jeff will be sharing his own first-hand research on this topic and showing slides from his trip to France this past summer, where Catholic Christians believe Mary and other female disciples fled for safety following the crucifixion. Come find out the real story behind *The Da Vinci Code*.

## SOUP SUPPERS AND LENTEN SERVICES

We will be having soup suppers prior to the Mid-Week Lenten Worship **Wednesdays March 13<sup>th</sup> through April 10<sup>th</sup>**. The soup suppers will begin at 6:30 P.M. The worship service will begin at 7:30 P.M. If you would like to make a pot of soup for one or more of our soup suppers, a sign-up sheet is posted on the second floor bulletin board.



## CEMETERY CLEAN UP



**ALL** flower arrangements must be removed from the cemetery by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of March. The only exceptions will be the arrangements attached to the top of the tombstones. Cemetery clean-up will take place **March 16<sup>th</sup>** (weather permitting).



## FIRST COMMUNION

Zion's Union Church Maxatawny is offering First Communion instruction for students in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades on **March 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup> during the Sunday School hour**. Holy Communion will be given to these students for the first time on **Easter Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, during the 10:15 A.M. service**.



Interested students should contact the church office for a registration form.

## SIMPLY GIVING

Reminder to Simply Giving participants who are making changes in their giving regarding the Building Fund: They need to be submitted to Peggy Morgan by mid-March to go in effect by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

## EASTER FLOWERS

We will be decorating our church with flowers for Easter. Prices are \$8.00 for tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths and \$10.00 for lilies. Any checks should be made out to Zion's Union Church Maxatawny. See Karen Warmkessel to pay for your flowers.



Deadline for orders and payment is **April 7<sup>th</sup>**. A tear-off order form is below for your convenience. It may be returned to the church in the offering plate, given to Karen Warmkessel, or mailed to the church office with payment.

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## EASTER FLOWER SIGN UP

NAME ..... PHONE .....

IN HONOR OF or IN MEMORY OF (*circle one*) .....

.....



NUMBER OF FLOWERS: *Please place number of each on the line.*

..... TULIPS

..... DAFFODILS

..... HYACINTHS

..... LILIES

**KID’S CHOIR**

The Kid’s Choir rehearsals will be **March 31<sup>st</sup>, April 7<sup>th</sup>, and April 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**THANK YOU**

A big thank you to our Thrivent members who designated our church as the recipient of their Thrivent Choice dollars for 2018. We received \$1,166 last year through this program. A reminder, also, that your designation for funds in 2019 needs to be made shortly.

**MENTOR PROGRAM**

The Good News Committee is initiating a program to welcome new members and visitors. The starting team of members of the congregation, who will act as "mentors", will greet visitors and offer assistance to acquaint them with the church and its activities and programs. The "mentors" will work with the pastor to identify common interests and assist newcomers by spreading the "Good News" about Zion's. Additional members of the congregation who might like to serve in this program should contact any member of the Good News Committee: Linda Ballew-Johnson (Chair), Melissa Armstrong, Lisa Bartera, Liz Jones, Nancy Fulton, Ray Schell, Mandy Graff, Jacob Walker. The committee is pleased to welcome a new member--Casey Haas.

**RELAY FOR LIFE BRUNCH**

Zion’s Relay for Life Team will hold brunches immediately after the worship service on **April 7<sup>th</sup>** to raise funds for this year’s event. Donations are \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children ages 6-12, and children under age 6 eat free. Everyone is welcome.



## 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.*

Archer Scaffidi

## RELAY FOR LIFE 2019, MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> AND JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> 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 will begin on Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, at 3:00 P.M. Anyone interested in being a part of the team please see Sue Haas or Enos Bleiler for a registration packet.



## 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.*

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| March 11 | Meeting at 1:00 P.M. Guest speaker, Peggy Morgan, "Stay Fit – Chair Exercise".     |
| April 8  | Meeting at 1:00 P.M. Service Project, Easter favors for St. John's Lutheran Church |



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

## 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.

## 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.

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

### Activity Schedule:

March 3	Potato cutting
March 17	Cooking with Chef Doug, 1:30 to 3:00 P.M.
April 7	Color Eggs, discussion from 1:30 to 3:00 P.M.
April 20	Easter Egg Hunt



### Offering Schedule:

March 3	Kaylen Leiby and Lexi Webb
March 10	Adam Noll and Anthony Blanchard
March 17	Madison Held and Zachary Haas
March 24	Jonathan Weidman and Sydney Sheetz
March 31	Katelyn DeLong and Ethan Weidman
April 7	Caleb Krause and Nick Perella
April 14	Cayden Ciccone-Haas and Kelly Leiby
April 21 (6 am)	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
April 21 (10:15 am)	Emily Bortz and Connor O'Neil
April 28	Elizabeth Schell and Dane Fegely

**THANK YOU** – A Youth Group thank you to all who supported our “Youth Sunday” presentation. Loose plate offering amounted to over \$440 which will be matched and put toward our group's next gathering experience.

## SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **March 25<sup>th</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup>** 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.



## 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.

## D.E.A.R. COMMITTEE

After months of having your home closed up against the cold of winter, you may be looking for a way to improve the indoor air quality. Houseplants can be used to purify indoor pollution and increase oxygen. Just one plant will clean approximately 100 square feet. Here is a list of some top performers.

1. Spider Plant – removes Formaldehyde (F), Benzene (B), Xylene (X), and Carbon Monoxide.
2. Peace Lily – cleans (F), (B), (X), Trichloroethylene (Tri), Toluene (Tol), Ammonia, Acetone, and Mold. Also humidifies the air.
3. Snake Plant – removes (F), (B), (X), (Tri), (Tol), Nitrogen Oxide. Absorbs Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and releases Oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) at night. Good for bedrooms.
4. English Ivy – purifies (F), (B), and 94% of airborne mold particles.
5. Boston Fern – cleans (F), (B), (X). Also humidifies the air.
6. Aloe – removes (F), (B). Absorbs CO<sub>2</sub> and releases O<sub>2</sub> at night.
7. Areca Palm – (F), (X), (Tol). Releases O<sub>2</sub> at night.
8. Rubber Plant, Philodendron (F)
9. Gerber Daisy (B), (Tri); Mum (B)
10. Christmas Cactus + Orchids – absorb CO<sub>2</sub> and release O<sub>2</sub> at night.

P.S. that Poinsettia you bought at Christmas...also removes (F) formaldehyde.

## FROM THE MAILBOX

Dear Congregation,

We would like to thank you for all your efforts in helping this holiday season be a brighter one for all of our families! We are grateful for your donation of 139 pairs of socks and \$300 of gift cards for turkeys. The generosity of everyone was really noticed and appreciated by our many clients.



Friend, Inc.

Dear Rev. Butz and members of Zion Union Church,

Thank you for welcoming my son, Brehson, into your congregation with open arms and hearts! As you know it has been a rough year for us which makes this even more of a blessing. He loves coming to church!

Many thanks,  
Heidi Garrison

## **MYSTERY MEMBER**

**If you guessed that Sydney Sheetz was the Mystery Member last month you were 100% correct. This month you will meet one more of our super talented teens.**

This young man was born in Allentown in 2002. He is currently a student at Kutztown Area High School. He has come a long way since his last day in Kindergarten when he broke his arm falling off the Merry-Go-Round. What a way to nearly ruin a summer vacation.

Among his activities he lists Golf, playing on the school's Golf Team. He is also a member of the Band and Jazz Band. He also plays Baseball. His hobby is playing instruments, especially drums and piano, mostly by ear.

He has two siblings and his pets are both golden retrievers.

He is a member of the Youth Group and enjoyed attending the National Youth Gathering where he was able to hand out the most bracelets (well, it was a tie but who's counting). He has also been a Secret Pal as a part of the youth program and has participated in the Advent Social.

**Can you identify this young man?**

## **DID YOU KNOW**

- Konnor Weisner and his Lehigh County 4-H Youth B Team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Potato Grading and Identification Contest at the Farm Show.
- On March 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Archer Scaffidi will compete for the Boyertown Navy Seals at the YMCA PA East Districts in Sewell, NJ. He has qualified in the following events: 200 IM, 200 Free, 100 Free, 50 Free, 50 Back, 50 Breast. He has not yet decided which 3 events he will swim. Wish him luck!

- On February 2<sup>nd</sup> Arden Scaffdi competed for the Boyertown Navy Seals at the Washington Division Championships and placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in: 50 Free, 25 Breast, 100 Free Relay. Arden will also compete at the Charlie Harlley Silver Championships in Sewell, NJ on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Wish her luck!
- Julia Perella was part of the team from Kutztown Middle School that visited World Electronics in Muhlenberg Township and prepared a video that will compete in the “What’s So Cool About Manufacturing” contest.

## FROM THE RECORD BOOK

**BAPTISMS:** *Hunter Michael Snyder*, son of Dwayne Snyder and Rebecca Andreoni was baptized January 20, 2019 by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz. He was born August 31, 2018.

*Brehson Lee Bortz*, son of Heidi Garrison and Ronald Bortz, Jr. was baptized February 10, 2019 by Rev. Jeffrey J. Bortz. He was born January 8, 2017.

**NEW MEMBERS:** February 10, 2019

*Ronald Lee Bortz and Catherine R. Bortz*

*Stanley Reichart Helbert and Kathy Jean Helbert*

*Gerald Kyle Koller and Judy Ann Koller*

## SPIRIT ON TAP – READING

Spirit on Tap will be held **March 26<sup>th</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 7:00 P.M. at the DoubleTree Hotel, 701 Penn St., Reading. The events are free and open to all. **March 26<sup>th</sup>**, Dr. C.J. Rhoads will present “*The Opioid Crisis*”. **April 23<sup>rd</sup>**, Dr. Spencer S. Stober will present “*A Change in the Weather*” – Climate Change. For more information contact Dr. Harry L. Serio at 610-944-7032, [HLSerio@aol.com](mailto:HLSerio@aol.com); Dr. Robert Stewart at 610-775-2836, [rastheo1951@msn.com](mailto:rastheo1951@msn.com); or Dr. Stephen Ohnsman at [ohnsman@comcast.net](mailto:ohnsman@comcast.net).

## PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN ZAMMELAAF

There will be a special event on Saturday, **March 16<sup>th</sup>**, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Trainer’s Midway Diner, Bethel, PA, to learn more about the PA German (Dutch) language and culture. The PA German word Zammelaaf

means ‘social gathering’. At the Zammelaaf, participants can learn about PA German history, genealogy, and language. There will be traditional PA German crafts and artists, children’s activities, and old-fashioned toys. Featured speakers are entertainer Keith “Butch” Reigert and director of the PA German Heritage Center Patrick Donmoyer. In addition, choral music will be performed by ‘Die Schwadore Schalle’ and ‘Der Dolpehock Sanger Chor’. Delicious PA German food will be available for purchase and a silent auction will be operating all day. Trainer’s Midway Diner is easily accessible, located along Interstate 78, Exit 16. The event is free and everyone is welcome! Contact Mary Laub at [jmlaub@aol.com](mailto:jmlaub@aol.com) or 610-248-2801 for more information.

## KUTZTOWN KITCHEN

Usually 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.

## QUIET DAYS

Quiet Days takes place **March 5<sup>th</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</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. For more information contact Sue Wunderlich at [sawmsw@dejazzd.com](mailto:sawmsw@dejazzd.com).

## THEOLOGY WITH A TWIST

Theology with a Twist will be held **March 12<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 P.M. at the Kutztown Tavern, 272 W. Main St., Kutztown. Theology with a Twist is free. Food and drink are available for purchase. For more information see facebook page Theology with a Twist; email [theologywithatwist@outlook.com](mailto:theologywithatwist@outlook.com), or call 610-926-3907.

# SYNOD NEWS

## Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

### Café Esperanza - Domestic Hunger Grant Recipient



Café Esperanza, a pay-what-you-can model community café, is scheduled to open in late Spring 2019. It is our vision that all people, regardless of financial means, deserve an opportunity to eat delicious, nutritious food. The café will serve breakfast and lunch, utilizing local, organic and seasonal foods as much as possible, highlighting the delicious products of local farmers.

Located in a densely populated neighborhood in the Northwest section of Reading, a city with a poverty rate of 43%, Café Esperanza will provide a place for people of all walks



of life to gather and get to know one another. Most of the labor will be provided by volunteers, including those who are offered a chance to exchange an hour of work for a meal, as well as others who simply enjoy serving their neighbors in this way. There will also be a job training aspect of our work. Young people will learn all aspects of food service, including the opportunity to receive barista training.

We are grateful for our recent grant from the ELCA Domestic Hunger program, as well as support from this Synod, the East Berks Mission District, the Reading Lutheran Parish, the Berks County Community Foundation, and many congregations and individual partners. For opportunities to contribute or volunteer, please follow us on Facebook (search for Café Esperanza).

The goal of the ELCA's World Hunger Appeal is to work toward "a just world where all are fed." Addressing this goal includes not only providing food for hungry people, but perhaps more importantly empowering people to provide a brighter future for themselves through community development, job training, and advocating for a more equitable distribution of the earth's resources.

In addition to supporting projects in more than 60 foreign countries, the World Hunger Appeal also administers a Domestic Hunger Grant program. Last year 77 grants were awarded to ministries and organizations in the United States that both address the root causes of hunger and provide relief services for those in need. Our synod received the two grants featured in this edition of *Synod News*.

Domestic Hunger Grant applications will be accepted again in 2019. Please check the program's web site - [elca.org/domestichungergrants](http://elca.org/domestichungergrants) - to learn about the process and timeline for submitting an application. The web site can also give you more information about ELCA World Hunger's strategic priorities, at home and around the world.



## Synod Assembly 2019



**The 2019 Synod Assembly will be held on June 1 at Genetti Inn and Suites in Hazleton.**

Online registration will open by the end of March – check your eNews and the website – but NOW'S the time to start GETTING READY!

The good news is: we've met the challenge of fitting all the necessary programing into one action-packed day. This means, you can save time and expense this year, saving up for next year (2020) when we will need three days to elect a new bishop.

More good news: REGISTRATION COST for voting members will be only \$100, while visitors this year will pay \$20 (which covers the cost of the full luncheon). Any and all are encouraged to attend.

To bring it all together in one day, we ask your help to make a couple things happen:

**FIRST** – we ask all congregations to select their two voting members by the end of March – for many of us, that means at our March Council Meetings.

**SECOND** – Those voting members should also plan to attend their MISSION DISTRICT ASSEMBLY, which usually happens in April or May. Important information will be shared and actions will take place at these local events, which will help set up and streamline work at the Assembly.

Stayed tuned for more details, as we discover in Christ... "What A Difference A Day Makes!"

## Domestic Hunger Grant Recipient Easton Hunger Coalition



Easton, along with the neighboring cities of Bethlehem and Allentown, comprises the area known as the Lehigh Valley, which is the third most populous region in Pennsylvania. While recently Easton has enjoyed a economic rebirth, largely on high-end restaurants, artisan food shops, and a hugely successful farmers' market, too many households rely on emergency food from pantries and free meal centers. Over 50% of the area school children receive the federally funded free/reduced meal, and close to 1/3 of the Easton households self-identified in the most recent census as earning below the poverty level.

In 2014 a group of activists came together to form the Easton Hunger Coalition with the urging of a member of Arndt's Lutheran Church. The church has a long-standing relationship with food and community, although it is located outside of the Easton downtown. Persistent engagement around hunger relief guided the congregation to support multiple programs to help households reduce food insecurity.

The Coalition applied for an ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant to strengthen the organization; increase collaboration; and develop new tools to increase compassionate response to hunger, reduce stigmas associated with poverty, and to support self-advocacy programming and a significant public awareness program. Arndt's Lutheran Church as fiscal agent for the grant will support and guide this important work over the next three years. Their goal is "Hunger-Free in '23" for the Easton area, enabling a healthy community where all have access to nutritious food.



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## A passion for justice—and Jesus

A simple pot of rice and beans originally brought Eidas Rivas to Santuario Luterano, Waltham, Mass. Rivas, who is 34, made them at her mother's request for a potluck following evening worship. She hadn't planned on getting involved at Santuario; her intention was to "just come that Sunday and be done with it."

But it was the way the community embraced her three children—all with special needs—that kept Rivas coming back. Today she's deeply invested in the new ELCA congregation and so are her children, who serve as acolytes there.

For Rivas, belonging to Santuario is important because "we do a lot of social justice." This passion for service is a common thread among the congregation's young Latino membership, said Ángel Marrero, pastor and mission developer there.

Members lead a variety of outreach efforts, including a free food pantry, GED classes and more. Last fall, in the wake of Hurricane Maria, Rivas and two other young adults at Santuario organized a donation drive for Puerto Rican families whose lives were devastated by the disaster.

Rivas remembers the constant flow of people and donations and calling Marrero to announce that a 24-foot truck had arrived—full of canned food for the people on the island.

"I was expecting 10 boxes," Marrero said of the effort. "We filled two airplanes (of donations) out of this mission church!"

He said the event was a turning point in his ministry with Santuario. New young people had found the congregation through it and asked him: "What's keeping you all together?"

**STORIES  
OF FAITH**  
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2018 • 2019

Marrero answered,  
"We do this  
because of Jesus."

Now 78 people—and counting—are involved in Santuario's life and ministry, a reality that wouldn't be possible, Marrero said, without Mission Support.

**Mission Support from the ELCA New England Synod and the ELCA churchwide organization fund Marrero's work with Santuario, which shares space and a partnership with First Lutheran Church of Waltham.**

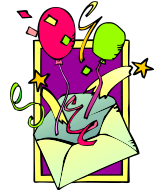
"The dollars you put in your offering ... is what allows me the freedom to work in Waltham [with the Latino community]," Marrero said. "Through the partnership with the larger church, it is possible to do ministry among them."



## 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.

March 1	William Gehman
March 2	David Herber
March 3	Anna Bortz
March 13	Guerin Nester
March 15	Arlene Oswald
March 16	Dorothy Zettlemoyer
March 18	Doris Dietrich
March 19	Carl Flicker
March 20	Robert & Gladys Leibold (65 wed)
March 20	Ralph Noll, Sr.
March 25	Sarah (Millie) Christman
March 26	Marilyn Bird
March 27	Dorothy Moyer
March 28	John Mertz
March 29	Betty Dietrich
March 31	Patricia Miller
April 1	Betty Mertz
April 6	Jeremiah Heffner
April 8	Joanne Stamm
April 10	Gladys Leibold
April 11	Irene Boyer
April 17	Ralph & Helen Noll, Sr. (65 wed)
April 18	Joseph Zajac
April 19	George & Irene Isamoyer (61 wed)
April 24	Marion Angstadt
April 27	Robert Leibold



## FEAR NOT

I wonder if fear is not our main obstacle to prayer. When we enter into the presence of God and start to sense the huge reservoir of fear inside us, we want to run away into the many distractions that our busy world offers so abundantly. But we shouldn't be afraid of our fears. We can confront them, give words to them, cry out to God and lead our fears into the presence of the One who says, "Don't be afraid. It is I."

—Henri J.M. Nouwen



## 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.



March 3	Pew Holy Communion
April 7	Altar Holy Communion
April 18	Table Holy Communion
April 21 (6 am)	Pew Holy Communion
April 21 (10:15 am)	Pew Holy Communion

## APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next issue of the newsletter will come out the beginning of April. If you have any information to be included in the April newsletter, please have it in the church office by **March 15<sup>th</sup>**.