



# 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  
2023**

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## REMINDERS

- ◆ The cost for a vase of flowers is \$20.00 and the cost to be a bulletin sponsor is \$10.00. 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.
- ◆ 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.

## PASTOR'S CORNER



Friends of Zion's Union Maxatawny,

This month we started ministry together. As I reflect on what the search committee has shared with me, what has been shared in brief conversations as I have had the privilege of meeting some of you, and what I have gleaned from your other services I have seen online, I sense a mixture of extreme excitedness, but also a little weariness to let go of what has been known to be "church" for the past several years.

It reminds me of a prophet, maybe you know the one – Moses – who was hesitant to follow God's call to lead, actually coming up with multiple scenarios where things could go wrong whilst he stood in front of the burning bush (Exodus 3). And, it also reminds me of my dog who goes by the same name.

You see, I recently got Moses, my dog, not the prophet, some new treats. And he would cry and run away with his treats still in his mouth. This concerned me because Moses is a small dog and I thought he was maybe having a hard time holding onto these new treats because they were bigger. But, what I found out after some online sleuthing (thanks, Google!) was that a dog who cries with a treat in their mouth is actually showing happiness. Since they can't talk, their perceived cries are *actually* sounds of happiness.

Moses was crying because he was so excited about his new treat and didn't want to put it down – he didn't want anyone (being me, I guess) to steal it. Moses, the prophet on the other hand, wanted to lay down all of his excuses so he wouldn't have to try something new and be a leader of the Israelites.

We know Moses the prophet eventually followed God's call, as the resistant prophets in the Bible tended to *eventually*. And, my dog Moses learned I wouldn't steal his treats, no matter how tempting they may be. Moses the prophet entered into ministry hesitantly. And my dog Moses still finds places to hide the treats I give him.

Perhaps our ministry here is similar to how both Moseses responded. We are hesitant, but excited. We can try new things, but we won't always want to share how we're feeling about them.

I want to encourage each of you, as we enter into this new phase of ministry together – to give yourselves permission to have fun with the Spirit. To lean in where you might be hesitant. To not hide when you might be afraid, or excited about something – but to share it openly. It is through this sharing – of the many joys, worries, hopes, and fears – that we can begin to see where God is calling us.

Peace,  
Pastor Jess (& Moses, the dog) 🌸

## MARCH AND APRIL WORSHIP

March 5	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 12	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 19	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
March 26	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 2	Palm/Passion Sunday HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 6	Maundy Thursday HC		7:00 P.M.
April 7	Good Friday		7:00 P.M.
April 9	Easter Dawn HC		6:00 A.M.
April 9	Easter HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 16	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 23	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
April 30	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15

## SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee is pleased to announce that Synod and Conference have officially activated our profile now for the full time **settled pastor** vacancy. In addition, the Committee was pleased to interview and develop a Call Agreement to facilitate the appointment of our new Interim Pastor, Rev. Jessica Hainley. We are so thankful she has joined our fold. Please continue to pray for the strength of our congregation and its leaders (both elected and those stepping up to do extra during this interim time), for Zion's ministry with Pastor Jess, for our greater church bodies (Conference and Synod), and for the next wonderful pastor that God has for us. We are a blessed people! If you feel called to help the church more as we prepare for the coming of our next minister, please see Nancy Fulton or Lisa Krause. We have several vacancies in committees post COVID and would welcome any individual who is willing to share their time, talents and energy from the rich storehouses that God has graciously given us.

## ANNUAL REPORTS

The 2022 Annual Reports should be available the beginning of March. The reports will be available at the church or call the church office and one can be mailed to you.



## **ORGAN RESTORATION UPDATE as of February 1, 2023**

Total Restoration Cost - \$346,000

Designated Memorials & Estates Received - \$53,410.13

Donations Received - \$96,017

Investments Used for Expenses - \$100,570

Checking Account Money Used for Expenses - \$23,000

Investment Gains - \$58,000

Total Funds Into Organ Restoration Fund - \$331,397.13

### **ORGAN LOAN ACCOUNT**

Amount in Account - \$54,982.08

Still owed to Emery Brothers - \$18,880

Still owed to Fleetwood Bank for loan - \$55,001.84

## **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.

## **READERS, USHERS, GREETERS, SECURITY**

**Schedules for readers, ushers, greeters, and security are on the upstairs bulletin board. A schedule is also included in each newsletter.**

## **INGATHERING**

On the first Sunday of each month the Mission Outreach Committee will continue to collect items to fill backpacks with food staples for needy children and their families in the area. 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

single serve size applesauce

single serve cereal

oatmeal packets

peanut butter

canned tuna

granola bars



fruit cups

canned soup

fruit snacks

## HELPING HAND FUND

On **March 12<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 was established to provide financial support for individuals in the congregation or non-members who may be experiencing unexpected challenges in their lives. Contributions received go to replenish the fund. This confidential fund is administered by the pastor; in the absence of a pastor the board president will make decisions based on the nature of the request. It is hoped that funds donated will be replaced in the future by persons receiving the assistance.



## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME



Daylight Savings Time begins **March 12<sup>th</sup>**. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed that Saturday night.

## 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 18<sup>th</sup>** (weather permitting).



## AUDIT NOTICE TO ALL ORGANIZATIONS

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

## BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

There are many books available for reading located in the main Sunday School room (Maxatawny side). Please help yourself.

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Palm/Passion Sunday – Sunday, **April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:15 A.M.**

Maundy Thursday Service – Thursday, **April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.** Holy Communion.

Good Friday Service – Friday, **April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.**

Easter Dawn Service – Sunday, **April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 A.M.** Holy Communion.

Easter Breakfast – After 6:00 A.M. service.

Easter Service – Sunday, **April 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 A.M.** Holy Communion.

## OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

The Mission Outreach Committee will provide the evening meal at the Opportunity House on **April 4<sup>th</sup>**. Volunteers are needed to supply the meal. Please sign up on the second floor bulletin board. Any questions can be directed to Cindy O'Neil.

## RELAY FOR LIFE



Relay for Life of Kutztown & Eastern Berks will be held **May 20<sup>th</sup>** at William DeLong Park in Bower's. Anyone interested in being a part of Zion's Union Church Maxatawny Relay Team can sign up online at <http://www.relayforlife.org>, then click on "Join A Relay", and click on Relay for Life for Kutztown and Eastern Berks or call 1-800-227-2345 and someone will walk you through the process. Relay for Life is about celebrating survivorship, remembering those we've lost, and bringing awareness to our community.

## WOMEN IN ZION

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

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| March 13 | Meeting at 1:00 P.M. Dottie's and Lori's trip to Netherlands. |
| April 10 | 12:00 P.M. Lunch, meeting, and Nancy's safari trip.           |



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

## WIZ CART LIBRARY

WIZ invites you to take a book or jigsaw puzzle from their WIZ Cart Library, which will be available in the Gathering Area every Sunday. Feel free to keep the item, return it, or add to the inventory. Enjoy reading or ‘jigsaw-ing’ with others in the congregation who share your common interest. Have fun!

## UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| March 5  | Making soup for the Soup Kitchen, 1:30 – 3:00 P.M.  |
| March 19 | Dye Easter Eggs, 1:30 -3:00 P.M.  |
| April 1  | Easter Egg Hunt, 1:00 P.M. (rain or shine).   |
| April 22 | Sight & Sound (Moses).  |
| April 30 | Lenni Lenape, Discussion, Speaker: Uhma Phy - Elder Spokeswoman, 1:30 – 3:30 P.M., All invited. |



\*\*Youth Group updates are announced during the Sunday School opening and posted in the bulletin\*\*\*

## SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **March 27<sup>th</sup> and April 24<sup>th</sup>** at 12 noon. Persons attending should bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Games provide entertainment for the afternoon. Guests are always welcome.



## SCRABBLE

Scrabble will meet **March 20<sup>th</sup>** at 1:30 P.M. at the Lutheran Home in the social area near Sylvia’s room.

## HISTORY BOOK

The Church History Book is still available to be purchased. The cost is \$15.00. Any checks should be made out to “Zion’s Union Church Maxatawny”. Put “History Book” on the memo line.



# **CHURCH BOARD MEETING**

**January 31, 2023**

1. Call to accept Pastor Jessica Hainley as Interim Pastor was approved. Pastor will be introduced to the congregation on February 5<sup>th</sup> and the first official service will be February 12<sup>th</sup>.
2. Ash Wednesday Service will be held as usual on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
3. Lenten Services and soup suppers will not be held this year. They are to be reinstated in 2024.
4. We are asking the congregation to shower Fred Radcliffe with cards for his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Happy Birthday Fred!
5. Holy Week services will be Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, 2 Services on Easter and have Easter breakfast following the sunrise service.
6. The board agreed to donate \$200 to Lehigh Valley Hospice as a thank you for speaking at our service.
7. It was agreed that upon completion we will have an organ dedication service.

## **SNACK AND CHAT**

The Senior Ministry is initiating a new outreach opportunity for Zion's. Pastor Jess suggested that having lunch in small groups at restaurants in the area would make the community aware of our congregation. Our Zion's shirts could identify us and hopefully generate interest in our church. The first date for a get-together is Wednesday, March 8 at 12:15 P.M. at the Quality Shop in Kutztown. Notify a committee member if you are able to join this fun time together. Committee: Nancy Fulton, Diana Gehman, Grace Haas, Karen Howard, Ellie Merkel, and Pastor Jess. Monthly lunches/chats will be determined after we meet for the first time.

## **MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

The Mutual Ministry Committee meets with the pastor to provide support and assistance, as well as to cultivate and maintain effective relationships between the pastor and the congregation. Committee members are as follows: Ellie Merkel - Co-chairman, Melissa DeLong - Co-chairman, Lori Arndt, Traci Gehringer, Greg Haas, Tim Haas, and Lisa Krause. If there are concerns or suggestions, members of the congregation may speak with any of the committee members.

## REJOICING SPIRITS WORSHIP SERVICE

The next Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County service is at 3:00 P.M., Sunday, **March 5<sup>th</sup>**, at St. Paul's UCC, 47 S. Whiteoak Street, Kutztown. All are welcome at this no-shush worship that enriches the lives of all people, especially those with disabilities. Rejoicing Spirits includes music and joyous singing, brief, meaningful messages and the chance to connect with others. We meet the first Sunday of every month, at 3:00 P.M. at St. Paul's UCC, Kutztown. For more information, contact: Charlene Fisher ([charflsh@verizon.net](mailto:charflsh@verizon.net), 610-223-9822) or Erin Webb ([emwebb05@aol.com](mailto:emwebb05@aol.com), 610-894-9949).

## PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN ZAMMELAAF

The Pennsylvania German Zammelaaf organization will hold a special event to learn more about the PA German (Dutch) language and culture on Saturday, **March 18<sup>th</sup>**, from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at Trainer's Midway Diner, Bethel, PA. The event is free and everyone is welcome! There will be traditional PA German crafts and artists, children's activities, and old-fashioned toys. Entertainment will be provided by Jim Dibert whose topic is, 'Following the Trail PA German Ancestors' and Dave Carlson who will speak on the topic, 'Clothing Through the Centuries'. In addition, PA German music will be performed by 'Die Schwadore Schalle' choral group. Doug Madenford & Chris LaRose will provide a session entitled, 'Ask a PA Dutchman: A Mix of PA Dutch Humor & Music'. PA German children's songs and stories will be provided by Mary Laub. 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. For more information see the PA German Zammelaaf Facebook page or contact Mary Laub.

## PLASTIC BAGS

Tanya Schaedel, a regular visitor at Zion's, met with several members to demonstrate the use of the plastic bags the congregation has been collecting. Persons who are interested in cutting the bags are welcome to volunteer by speaking with Tanya, Carol Leiby, or Nancy Fulton. Bags can be cut at home. After the bags are cut and prepared, they will be taken to St. Peter's Church in Topton for weaving into mats for the homeless. A sample will be shown during the service at a later date.



## **Thank you!**

Our congregation  
generously gave  
to  
Mission Support

In 2022, congregations of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod contributed a total of \$1,832,213.00 to undesignated Mission Support. Of this total amount, \$971,072.89 stayed in the Synod and \$861,140.11 was sent on to the ELCA to support various ministries.

This means that 53 cents of every dollar of Mission Support from your congregation supports our commitments below for mission and ministry right here in the Synod.

- **Deepen the spiritual lives of people**
- **Build a network that uses our gifts, skills, and resources**
- **Develop leaders, both lay and ordained**
- **Enhance lives of service to deal with social needs and issues.**
- **Strengthen the work being done with children, youth, and families**

Thank you for your 2022 Mission Support Commitment.

Find out more about what your generous offerings to Mission Support do at the Synod's website:

[www.https://nepasynod.org/resources/](https://nepasynod.org/resources/)



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

# SYNOD NEWS



## Love for the Least

The Global Missions Team at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Emmaus, PA, led an advent appeal this past holiday season to support the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Arusha Lutheran Medical Center in Tanzania, which was established by ELCA medical missionary Dr. Mark Jacobson, and also had the opportunity to lead the church's worship services on their annual Global Missions Sunday, held this year on January 22, 2023, to share about this ministry with those in attendance.

When a baby is born prematurely in Tanzania, it is considered as good as dead. Premature babies there are often referred to as 'stillbirths.' This was not acceptable to the staff of Arusha Lutheran Medical Center. Fifteen years ago they began to offer neonatal intensive care, and pediatrician Dr. Steve Swanson joined the program in 2011. Initially they were only able to save 4% of the babies. Today they serve almost 400 babies annually, and the survival rate in 2022 was 92%.

The care at the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center NICU is the best in Tanzania, and in most of East Africa. No baby is turned away because of inability to pay or insurance status. The five doctors and 26 nurses who staff the NICU do not just care for the tiny infants, but for the parents as well. A hospital bed and meals are provided to every mother with a baby in the NICU and both parents are encouraged and coached on how to interact with their babies.

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit raised \$3,785 from their Love for the Least appeal to be directed to the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center NICU in Tanzania, and 175 preemie knit or crochet hats were lovingly crafted for the NICU infants, which they hope to send to Tanzania. These hats can save lives by helping to keep the babies warm.

**Charlotte Gross, Co-Coordinator**



JUNE 1-3 2023 AT  
KALAHARI RESORT

## ATTENTION ALL CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS

Now is the time to figure out who will be your voting members at the synod assembly! Don't worry, it will be well worth their time and yours! Let's have a record turnout, as we gather together (in person) as a synod for the first time since the Great Disruption of 2020. If you have any questions contact the synod office, and together we'll figure it out together!

## BEING PUBLICLY INCLUSIVE OF ALL SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS IS AN IMPORTANT STEP YOUR CONGREGATION CAN TAKE TO BE THE



COMMUNITY CHRIST CALLS YOU TO BE!

Become a Reconciling in Christ congregation! Reach out to Stacey Burke in the synod office ([stacey@nepsynod.org](mailto:stacey@nepsynod.org)) for more information.

### HONORARIUM UPDATE

How much should we pay a supply minister?  
That question is frequently asked by congregations in transition or when the regular minister is away.

Discussion by the Committee of Deacons produced the following:

That beginning 02/01/2022, minimum honorarium amounts for supply ministers be set as follows:

One worship service	no less than \$175
Two worship services	no less than \$225
Three worship services	no less than \$250

an additional \$50 for multiple point charges

an additional \$50 for leading an adult forum or Sunday School class

an additional \$75 if one of the services is on a day other than Sunday; (Saturday evenings, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, etc.)

Starting  
March

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-  
DATE NEWS AND STORIES  
FOLLOW US ON ALL  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
PLATFORMS OR VISIT US  
AT [GODSLOVE.ORG](http://GODSLOVE.ORG)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Sylvia Heckler, Bill Witman, Dana Gehringer, Richard & Jane Warmkessel, Liz Jones, Ellie Merkel, Randy Warmkessel, Owen Shorette, Elaine Heffner, Kay Weidner, Walter Dietrich, John & Marlene Costello, Betty Dietrich, Barry Miller, Arlan Berger, Carolyn Wilttrout, Beatrice Bennecoff, Marilyn & Bill Bird, Ralph & Helen Noll, Marian Stettler, Bill & Karen Howard, Anna Bortz, Mary Kutz, Gladys Leibold, Sylvia Heckler, Donna Slotter, Karen Weaver, Donna VanDeCar, Leora Haas, Leila, Sherri Gehringer, John Laird, Bishop deForest, Linda Menges, Mick O'Neil, Paige Sechler, Rosemary LaFratte, Owen Lamendola, Randy Schlegel, Karen Bower, Ukrainians, Kevin Moyer, Joanne Pauley, Mary Jane Schlenker, Sarah Johnson, Regen Zimmerman, Elia, Ian Miller, Karen Ames, Elaine Seaman, Tom Seifert, Victoria Slotter, Jo Corrado, Donna Rabert, Rayann Roth, Lisa & Chris Szarko, Arthur Sell, Lorraine Miller, Mary Fox, Renee Wolfe, Valerie, Kim Markham, Sue Zimmerman, Christopher Mercardo, Michele Rodriguez, Christy Ryan, Judy Redman, Frank Knight, Betty Houck, Mary, Betsy, Gary Sell.

**If anyone can be removed from this list, please notify the church office.**

If you know of other persons in need of prayer and you wish to have a name included on the list please email the church, call the church office, or leave a message on the answering machine. If you want a name included on Zion's Prayer Chain call Mary Laub at 610-248-2801.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

Worship service/Sunday School/activities cancellation:  
[www.wfmz.com](http://www.wfmz.com) (click on "storm center update") (**please 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.



**“Faith grows only in the dark. You’ve got to trust [God] when you can’t trace him. That’s faith.”**

—Lyell Rader

## 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.

March 3	Anna Bortz
March 9	John Costello
March 13	Guerin Nester
March 15	Jerry Schwenk
March 18	Doris Dietrich
March 19	Carl Flicker
March 20	Robert & Gladys Leibold (69 wed)
March 20	Ralph Noll, Sr.
March 26	Marilyn Bird
March 27	Dorothy Moyer
March 27	David Herber
March 28	John Mertz
March 28	Sharon Weigle
March 29	Betty Dietrich
March 31	Patricia Miller
April 1	Betty Mertz
April 6	John & Marlene Costello (67 wed)
April 8	Joanne Stamm
April 10	Gladys Leibold
April 11	Irene Boyer
April 17	Ralph & Helen Noll, Sr. (69 wed)
April 22	Randy Kane
April 27	Robert Leibold



## 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.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Ashley DeLong achieved Distinguished Honors for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter at Brandywine Heights High School.



## 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 5	Altar Holy Communion
April 2	Pew Holy Communion
April 6	Table Holy Communion
April 9 (6 A.M.)	Altar Holy Communion
April 9 (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>**.