



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

**May
2016**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reminders	page 1
The Pastor's Page	pages 2 & 3
Wasn't it Delicious, Geraniums for Pentecost	page 3
Annual Reports, Thank You, Ingathering, Blood Drive, Confirmation	page 4
Choirs, Road Rally, Relay For Life, Higher Education Fund	page 5
Summer Music, Strawberry & Ice Cream Festival	page 6
Graduates, Vacation Bible School, 90 th Birthdays	page 6
Valet Parking, Women in Zion, Scrabble, Senior Fellowship	page 7
Prayer Shawl, Zumba, Youth Group, Used Stuff Thank You	page 8
Men's Group, Did You Know, From The Mailbox, Member Updates	page 9
Mystery Youth, From The Record Book, Our Sympathies	page 10
Kutztown Choir, Quiet Days, Bike For Hunger, Spirit On Tap	page 11
Synod News, Personnel Committee	page 12
Synod News, Reminders	page 13
Card Showers, Children's Messages, Matching Funds	page 14
Mission Statement, Holy Communions, Newsletter Deadline	page 15
Board & Staff, Schedule/Assistants, May Calendar	Pink Insert
Building Finance and Building Committee Updates	Green Insert
Caron, Summer Camp, Golf Fore Kids, Kutztown Kitchen	Green Insert
Sunday School <i>Seeds of Zion</i>	Yellow 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 back of the church 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.
- ◆ Don't forget to 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 new 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.

THE PASTOR'S PAGE



The month of May will be full of festive celebration at Zion's Church! Three of the six major festivals of the church year fall in May this year. Can you name all six of the major church festivals? They are: Christmas Day, the Epiphany of our Lord, the Resurrection of our Lord (Easter Day), the Ascension of our Lord, the Day of Pentecost, and the Holy Trinity. It is the last three that will come in May, and they fall three weeks in a row—Ascension Sunday will be celebrated on May 8th, The Day of Pentecost on May 15th, and Holy Trinity Sunday on May 22nd.

The festival of the Ascension of our Lord celebrates the return of the risen Christ to heaven following forty days of resurrection appearances to his disciples. Ascension technically falls on Thursday, May 5th (forty days after Easter), but we celebrate it as "Ascension Sunday" on the following Sunday. On this day we celebrate Christ's return to heaven where, as we say in the Apostles' Creed, "he is seated as the right hand of the Father" and reigns as king of heaven and earth. This also marks the day that Jesus handed on to his disciples the task of spreading the gospel and ministering in his name. In many Christian countries around the world Ascension Day is a festival equal in importance to Christmas and Easter. In the U.S., Mennonite and Amish farmers will not be plowing their fields on this Thursday. Here at Zion's on Ascension Sunday we will also celebrate Church Music Sunday, making this day a most joyous celebration indeed.

The Day of Pentecost is the centerpiece of our celebration. The word "Pentecost," which means "fifty" in Greek, is the culmination of the fifty days of the Easter season. On this day we celebrate the fulfillment of Christ's promise to his disciples that he would not leave them alone, but send the Holy Spirit to be with them as their Counselor, Comforter, and Advocate. God's sending of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost is described in the book of Acts as being like "tongues of flame" that rested on the head of each apostle, and hence the traditional liturgical color for this day is red—the color of fire. So remember to wear something red to church on Pentecost and be on fire with the Holy Spirit! Here at Zion's we will also be celebrating Confirmation Sunday on this day, as eleven of our young people will affirm their faith in Christ and be confirmed in their faith. We pray that the Holy Spirit will fill them, inspire them, lead them and guide them the rest of their lives.

The first Sunday after Pentecost is the last of the six major festivals—The Holy Trinity, also known as Trinity Sunday. This was the last of the major church festivals to be introduced into the church's calendar around the year 1,000 A.D. This is a unique festival that celebrates not an event, but a church doctrine. On this day we acknowledge the mystery of the triune God who has revealed himself to us in three ways: as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We

humbly confess on this day that while God has given us much revelation as to his nature and will—as most fully revealed in the life of Jesus Christ—to fully know God is impossible. We strain hard to express our knowledge of God in the Creeds of the Church, but ultimately God’s revelation in Jesus Christ shows us as much as we can know of the mystery that is God. We know God most fully through his love for us, as revealed most fully in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Please make a commitment to be present in worship for all three of these major, but often overlooked festivals, of the Church Year!

Looking forward to a joyous month of May!
Pastor Jeff

WASN’T IT DELICIOUS?

Easter Sunday morning the early dawn worshipers had the opportunity to share in the breakfast after church. The food was delicious and it filled our stomachs and the Lord filled our souls. A special thank you to all the people who donated food. A great big hand to those who prepared and cleaned up. We share our faith in many ways and the Easter experience is just one of them.



GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST

We will be decorating the church with geraniums on **Pentecost Sunday, May 15th**. The price is \$4.00 per plant. A tear off sheet is below for your convenience. Place the sheet in the offering plate, give to Karen Warmkessel, or mail it to the church office with payment. Any checks should be made out to Zion’s Union Church Maxatawny. Please give payment **DIRECTLY** to Karen Warmkessel. Deadline for orders and payment is **May 1st**.



GERANIUM SIGN UP

NAME

NUMBER OF GERANIUMS

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

.....

ANNUAL REPORTS



The 2015 Annual Reports are available in the back of the church or on the counter in the Gathering Area. 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.

RELAY FOR LIFE BRUNCH

Thank you to all who helped support the Relay For Life Brunch on April 10th. We had a great turnout in spite of the cold! We raised \$518 for the American Cancer Society. A special thank you to all the team members that made this event such a success.



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 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 |

BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Mobile will be at Zion's on **May 3rd** 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 for people interested in donating blood. Information sheets are available in the church office.



RITE OF CONFIRMATION & HOLY COMMUNION



The Rite of Confirmation will take place on **May 15th** during the worship service. The sacrament of Holy Communion will also take place. Please join us to welcome and support the Confirmation Class of 2016.

CHOIRS REHEARSALS

The last Children's Choir rehearsal before summer break is **May 3rd**. The last rehearsal for the Junior Choir is **May 10th**. Sr. Choir's last rehearsal will be **May 21st**. See you all in the fall.



SPRING ROAD RALLY

We will try our luck at another road rally but with a different twist. Do you have a GPS? Do you know how to use it? This **May 22nd** we will try a road rally utilizing our GPS's. We are still in the planning stages but probably will have a sandwich lunch after church and on the road for a ninety minute tour. Then back at church for an ice cream treat. Pray for a nice day and let the GPS do the navigating. [Not to be confused with the biblical GPS (God's Positioning System), our Bible].

RELAY FOR LIFE 2016, JUNE 3RD AND 4TH 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, June 3rd, 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. Zion's Union Church Maxatawny has been a part of Kutztown's Relay for Life since 1996.



HIGHER EDUCATION FUND

As part of the Siegfried Bequest, a higher education fund has been established to offer interest-free 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 Union Church Maxatawny 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**.



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.



STRAWBERRY & ICE CREAM FESTIVAL

The annual Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival will be held **June 10th** from 6 to 9 P.M. Entertainment will be The Good News Travelin' Band. If you would like to help with the festival see Traci Gehringer or contact her at 610-944-1818.



WHO ARE OUR GRADUATES?

Graduate Sunday will be held **June 12th** and we are compiling a list of our graduates for the year 2016, including December 2015 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 5TH**. We do not want to miss anyone, so please help us out.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the week of **June 20th – June 24th**. The closing program will be **June 26th**. If you are interested in helping, please see Tara Berger. **PLEASE NOTE: all VBS volunteers 18 and older MUST have current Criminal and Child Abuse clearances done in order to help with VBS.**



90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Senior Ministry Committee, with approval from the Church Board, will begin celebrating the 90th birthday of members by recognizing them during the worship service and providing cake in the Gathering Area after the service.

VALET PARKING

A discussion about the possible need for valet parking was brought up at a recent Senior Ministry Committee meeting. We would like to find out if there is a need for this before any action is taken. If anyone would be interested in using valet parking please contact the church office or Nancy Fulton.

WOMEN IN ZION

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

May 9	Making tray favors at 1:30 P.M.
June 13	Picnic at 12 noon.
July	TBA Collect soup for Soup Kitchen.
July 11	Meeting and Bible study at 1:30 P.M.
August 8	Meeting and trim soup labels at 1:30 P.M.
September 2	Friday night at 6:30 P.M. Ice Cream Social.
September 12	Meeting and blanket ministry (cut & knot fleece for blankets) at 1:30 P.M.
October 10	Covered dish & Pollyanna gift exchange at 3:00 P.M.
November 13	Thankoffering Service.
November 14	Meeting and Bible study at 1:30 P.M.
December 5	Christmas Sharing at Topton Home at 9:00 A.M.
December 12	Meeting, cookie exchange, and games at 1:30 P.M.



Meetings are open to all women of the congregation.

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

SCRABBLE

Scrabble will meet the third Monday of the month at 1:30 P.M. in the social area near Sylvia's apartment at The Lutheran Home at Topton. See Nancy Fulton if you are interested.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **May 23rd** and **June 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 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.

ZUMBA CLASSES

Zumba classes are Sunday evenings at 6:00 P.M. Wear clothes you can move in, sneakers, bring a towel, and water, and lots of energy! The goal is to have fun and be more active.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

Activity Schedule:

May 1	Discussion/games, 1:30 – 3:00 P.M.
May 15	Bike hike, place to be announced.
June 5	Family picnic.



Offering Schedule:

May 1	Lauren DeLong and Madison Sheetz
May 8	Andrew Haas and Maisy Kellum
May 15	Emma Heffner and MacKenzie Sheetz
May 22	Julia Perella and Ashley Korutz
May 29	Hannah Walker and Owen Shorette
June 5	Jonah Shorette and Amanda Noll
June 12	Jake Walker and Tyler Gilfert
June 19	Dana Gehringer and Volunteer Needed
June 26	Steven Gehringer and Jillian Siefert

BRUNCH – The Youth Group will be having a brunch on **May 1st** after the service. The cost is \$8.50 for adults, \$4.00 for ages 6 to 12, and under 6 are free. Everyone is welcome. Youth Group members are reminded to bring a dessert.



USED STUFF THANK YOU

A big thank you all who helped the Youth Group in their clothing fundraiser. We collected over 3,100 lbs. of material, raising over \$525.00. We're thinking of doing it again in 2 years. Save up!

MYSTERY YOUTH

I hope everyone recognized Kevin Bennecoff, son of Dale and Sharon Bennecoff, as our last mystery person. Kevin has accomplished a great deal in his young life and we are always happy to welcome him back to our church family.

Now let's take a look at the biography of our next young man.

He was born in 1994 in Allentown. He is a graduate of Kutztown Area High School where he played soccer, baseball and basketball. His baseball participation made it necessary for him to undergo "Tommy John" surgery.

He is currently a student at Penn State University where he is majoring in history.

Among his hobbies he lists fly-fishing and hunting. He also likes to read and enjoys going to museums.

He has one sibling.

He was very involved in church activities including Youth Group and Youth Gatherings. He participated in a mission trip to Montana.

Say hello to this friendly young man when he is able to worship with us during school breaks. He is another example of the church's amazing young people.

FROM THE RECORD BOOK

FUNERAL: *Walter J. Seidel, Jr.*, 86, Topton, died April 3, 2016. Services were April 6, 2016 in Ludwick Funeral Home, Topton by Rev. Jeffrey Butz. Interment was in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: *Rev. Dennis W. Haas*, Grinnel, IA died January 18, 2016. Memorial service was April 9, 2016 in Zion's Union Church Maxatawny by Rev. David Jordan-Haas and Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO...

... the family of Rev. Dennis Haas.

... the family of Allen Boyer.

... the family of Janis Shorette.

... the family of Darrell Garber.

... the family of Pam.

... the family of Walter Seidel, Jr.

... the family of Anna Scheidt.

KUTZTOWN COMMUNITY CHOIR CONCERT

The Kutztown Community Choir spring choral concert will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 357 W Main Street, Kutztown, PA on Sunday, **May 15th** at 7:00 P.M. The theme of this year's program is "Songs to Lift Your Spirits" featuring a wide selection of upbeat tunes including *Swing's the Thing* and *God Bless the USA*. This year marks the 50th season for the Kutztown Community Choir and the program will also include a few of the choir's favorites from past concerts. Michael Barron will be directing the choir with the assistance of Adam Rabenold. Laura Cressley is the choir's accompanist and will be joined by Jonathan Quier and Carl Zeplin. There is no admission charge, but an offering will be received for the benefit of the choir's music fund.

QUIET DAYS

Quiet Days takes place **May 3rd and June 7th** from 9:30 A.M. to 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, and a bag lunch. For information contact Rev. Wanda Craner at 610-489-2056, ext. 303 or email her at craner@psec.org.

BIKE FOR WORLD HUNGER

NEPS Bike For World Hunger will be held **May 21st** from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at the Bob Rodale Fitness and Cycling Park in Trexlertown. This annual event, sponsored by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, raises money for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Registration begins at 8:30 A.M. at the picnic pavilion. Every participant **MUST** have an individual registration and signed release to participate. Participants under 18 must have a parent or guardian signature. For information and updates, visit the [NEPS Bike for World Hunger Facebook page](#). Forms are available in the church office.

SPIRIT ON TAP – READING

Spirit on Tap will be held **May 24th** at 7:00 P.M. at the Reading Crowne Plaza Hotel in the Goodnites Lounge, 1741 Papermill Road, Reading. Dale G. Derr, Berks County Director of Veterans Affairs, will present "Serving Those Who Served". Contact Dr. Harry L. Serio at 610-944-7032, HLSerio@aol.com or Dr. Robert Stewart at 610-775-2836, rastheo1951@msn.com for more information.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee is looking for two new members. Please contact Liz Jones (484-788-8062) if you are interested on being on this committee.

REMINDERS!!!

**After church refreshments should be kept on the lower level of the church.
Sports cleats are not allowed in the church.**

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.



May 1	Arlan Berger
May 3	Clark & Nancy Held (52 wed)
May 11	Eleanor Nester
May 13	Clark Held
May 13	Terry Bennecoff
May 20	Richard & Shirley Derr (55 wed)
May 24	Lennia Mertz
May 24	Harlow Bailey
May 28	Jean Bailey
May 29	Ron Fulton
May 30	Charles & Lennia Mertz (63 wed)
May 31	Irvin Miller
June 7	Mary Kutz
June 8	Ron & Nancy Fulton (53 wed)
June 8	Shirley Derr
June 12	Betty Faust
June 15	Jean Kemp
June 15	Eva Christman
June 15	Guerin & Eleanor Nester (53 wed)
June 19	Carol Bennecoff
June 23	Rev. Willis & Sylvia Heckler (54 wed)
June 24	Richard Derr
June 25	John & Betty Mertz (61 wed)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to do the Children's Messages. A sign-up sheet is on the upstairs bulletin board. Please sign your name and include your email address so the scriptures for that Sunday can be sent to you. Thank you.

MATCHING FUNDS

The church is working on finishing of the rooms in the basement. WELCA has contributed \$20,000 to this project and we are looking for matching funds to finish the project. Any contributions should be given to Sharon Leiby. Checks should be made out to Zion's Union Church Building Fund.



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.

May 1

Pew Holy Communion

May 15

Pew Holy Communion

June 5

Altar Holy Communion



JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next issue of the newsletter will come out the beginning of June. If you have any information to be included in the June newsletter, please have it in the church office by **May 15th**.