



# THE 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**

**May  
2018**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reminders	page 1
The Pastor's Page	pages 2 & 3
May and June Worship, Soup Thank You, Delicious, RFL Brunch	page 4
Ingathering, Blood Drive, Geraniums	page 5
Murder On The Grill, Women's Retreat, Relay For Life	page 6
Strawberry & Ice Cream Festival	page 6
Graduates, Choirs, Higher Education Fund, Cookbook	page 7
Women In Zion, Youth Group News, Scrabble	page 8
Senior Fellowship, Zumba, Prayer Shawl, Building Finance Update	page 9
Mystery Member, Supplies	page 10
Honor Roll, Did You Know, Mailbox, Spirit On Tap	page 11
Kutztown Community Choir, Kutztown Kitchen	page 12
Quiet Days, Theology With A Twist	page 12
Register Tapes, Unwanted Items, Unwanted Furniture	page 13
Member Updates, Our Sympathies	page 13
Card Showers, From The Record Book	page 14
Mission Statement, Holy Communions, Newsletter Deadline	page 15
May Calendar, Worship Assistants, Board, & Staff	Yellow Insert
Synod News	Ivory Insert
<i>Seeds of Zion</i>	Blue 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](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



We usually think of cemeteries as peaceful resting places, but that is not always the case. Sometimes cemeteries hum with activity at night. Some people go to cemeteries at night to consult with spirits—not spirits of the dead, but 90-proof spirits! My father used to tell a story about his cousin, who

dearly missed his departed mother, my Great-Aunt. My cousin missed his mother so much that he once took a case of beer and spent the whole night sitting at her grave talking to her! I would guess that my cousin must have had some unfinished business with his mother. Such burdens are not easily lifted from our shoulders.

God has unfinished business to take care of in every cemetery. That is what Easter reminds us of. A lot of unfinished business lingers in every graveyard—things like broken promises, betrayals, hurt feelings, shattered dreams, countless secrets that perished with the departed. We may visit a cemetery to assuage our guilt, to try to apologize, but forgiveness never comes. Silence stands eternal guard over the graves of our departed family and friends.

The women who went to a cemetery to visit Jesus' tomb on Easter morning carried a great burden. They had witnessed the horror of the crucifixion and they surely came to Jesus' tomb to say something. Matthew's gospel tells us, ". . . as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb" [Matt. 28:1]. The Greek word that gets translated as "see"—*theoreo*—means more than mere looking. It really means they *intently studied* it. They surely went to the tomb to share some deep and intimate memories of their departed Lord.

Unfortunately, they couldn't get very close, because Roman soldiers were guarding the tomb. Worried officials had dispatched these soldiers to guard the tomb closely. But, why guard a tomb? What were the officials afraid of? According to Matthew, the Jewish leaders had gone to Pontius Pilate and reported that Jesus had said that after three days he would rise from the dead. The chief priests were worried that Jesus' disciples might steal the body and start telling everyone that their master had risen from the dead. So Pilate not only assigned guards, but had the stone that covered the tomb sealed with mortar.

Why all the fuss? So what if Jesus did rise from the dead? Was he dangerous? He certainly hadn't made any moves to raise up an army and fight Rome as many had expected. If he came back to life, would he try to take revenge on those who had executed him? He certainly made no move to resist his arrest or escape his crucifixion. Were the officials perhaps simply afraid of

what Jesus might *say* if he rose from the dead?

Think about that. If our departed family and friends could come back from the dead, would we really welcome that? Would we really be ready to welcome back our family members, much less our enemies? Think about it. When someone dies, so do the wrongs held in secret between us. Should a loved one return from the grave, memories of our failings and shameful ghosts from our past would once again walk the earth.

Certainly Jesus' disciples also had reasons for not wanting to see him again. They had fled and deserted him, denied him and betrayed him. Would Jesus perhaps say, "Well, how nice to see all of my supposed friends again! What happened to all of you when I was arrested? Peter, do you think you know me *now*?"

What Matthew tells us next is interesting: "So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with great joy . . ." They left with great joy, but fearful as well. Did they really, truly want to see Jesus? What might Jesus say to them? They quickly find out. While they are running from the tomb, Jesus suddenly appears to them and his first words are: "Greetings. Do not be afraid." After Jesus greets the women, he immediately tells them not to be afraid. And he has a request: "Go and tell my brothers to meet me in Galilee." Jesus calls his disciples *brothers*. After all that transpired they were still family! He hadn't come back to get revenge or to condemn anyone. No, he returned for a glorious reunion. Bygones were bygones. You see, all of the sins and betrayals of the disciples had died with Jesus. He took it all to the grave with him and he left it there, forever. The past was forgotten. Completely.

And the same is true for us. When Jesus died he took all of our sins to the grave with him as well. And yet, like the women at the tomb, we still live our lives in both fear and joy. We rejoice one moment, and tremble in fear the next. Amid freshly dug graves, we mourn, we grieve, and we fear. Despite Jesus' promises, death still makes us fearful. We walk the earth balanced precipitously between fear and joy. Our lives go on, and so do our sins. Every day we dump more sins and shameful secrets into that very same tomb in Gethsemane that the soldiers tried so hard to make secure. And the Good News is that nothing we bury there ever comes back. Ever.

But Jesus comes back. Every day. And Jesus tells us, as he told the women, "Do not be afraid." Our sins are forgiven. The past is forgotten. We can leave it all in the tomb. Death has lost its hold on us for Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Pastor Jeff

## MAY AND JUNE WORSHIP

May 6	Sixth Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 13	7 <sup>th</sup> Easter/Mother's Day	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 20	Pentecost/Confirmation	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 27	Trinity Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 3	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 10	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 17	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 24	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15

## SOUP SUPPER THANK YOU

Again in Lent we had great Wednesday pre-worship Soup Supper gatherings (except for the 2 snow cancellations).

Thanks to Loretta Flicker and Enos Bleiler for setting up each week. Thanks to these folks for providing great soups: Mary Laub, Tim Haas, Enos Bleiler, Sue Treichler, Nikki Phillips, Cindy O'Neil, Dorothy Moyer, Peggy Morgan, Bill and Karen Howard, and Jane Warmkessel.



## 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.



## RELAY FOR LIFE BRUNCH

Zion's Relay for Life Team is always so thankful for all the many ways we are supported. Our Sunday Brunch raised \$518.00 and once again proves that our Zion's Union Church Family is dedicated to continuing our mission to fight the battle against cancer. **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/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

## BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Mobile will be at Zion's on **Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>** from 3:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. There is always a dire need for blood. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board on the second floor by the stairs for people interested in donating blood. You can also sign up online at [giveapint.org](http://giveapint.org) (Group ID: 3303).



## GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST

We will be decorating the church with red geraniums on **Pentecost Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**. 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 6<sup>th</sup>**.



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### GERANIUM SIGN UP

NAME .....

NUMBER OF GERANIUMS .....

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

.....

## MURDER ON THE GRILL

The Adult Fellowship is having another Murder Mystery/Potluck Dinner on **May 12<sup>th</sup>**. This year's mystery is set in 1959 at the home of Tom Dooley where he is hosting a BBQ. The night takes an unexpected turn when Tom is murdered. There are six suspects and audience members will try to figure out who did the dirty deed. The fun starts at 5:30 P.M. with a picnic themed potluck and our investigation into the murder begins at 6:30 P.M. Be assured a good time will be had by all. A sign-up sheet is on the upstairs bulletin board.

## WOMEN'S RETREAT

The WIZ will be hosting a retreat for all women on **May 19<sup>th</sup>**. Our topic will be "Stress Management" and the retreat will be led by Pastor Lori Esslinger. It will be held at the church and run from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. with breakfast and lunch included. Cost is \$10 per person. We encourage all women to attend and bring your friends. A sign-up sheet is on the upstairs bulletin board.

## RELAY FOR LIFE 2018, JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</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, June 1<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.



## STRAWBERRY & ICE CREAM FESTIVAL

The annual Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival will be held **June 8<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. 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 10<sup>th</sup>** and we are compiling a list of our graduates for the year 2018, including December 2017 graduates. Please write down the name of your graduate, the school from which he or she is graduating or did graduate, their degree (if applicable), and their plans for the future (including name of college, trade school, any continuing education they may be planning, etc.). Place the information in the secretary's mail slot in the Gathering Area or call the church office with the above information **NO LATER THAN JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup>**. We do not want to miss anyone, so please help us out.



## CHOIRS REHEARSALS

The last Children's Choir rehearsal before summer break is **May 13<sup>th</sup>**. Sr. Choir's last rehearsal will be **May 17<sup>th</sup>**.

## 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 15<sup>th</sup>**.



## COOKBOOK

The Wiz will be helping to gather recipes for a church cookbook. Each month we will be collecting a different style of recipe. The month of May will be your favorite **BREAKFAST** recipe. The month of June will be your favorite **SALAD** recipe. This project is open to all the women of the church. A special box is in the Gathering Area to collect these recipes. Your input of recipes is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions you can call Loretta Flicker at 610-683-3627 or Nikki Phillips at 610-763-6770.



## 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.*

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| May 14  | Meeting and Retreat Planning at 1:30 P.M. |
| May 19  | Women's Retreat, 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.    |
| June 11 | Picnic and games at 12 noon.              |

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



## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

### Activity Schedule:

- |                |                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| May 5          | Work day at church.                  |
| May 6          | Youth Group brunch after the service |
| May 13         | Mother's Day                         |
| May 19 or 20   | Washington D.C./Hopewell Furnace?    |
| June 3         | Picnic at reading Phillies           |
| June 17        | Father's Day                         |
| June 27-July 1 | National Youth Gathering             |



### Offering Schedule:

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| May 6   | Steven Gehringer and Ben Heffner         |
| May 13  | Mitchell Grim and Christopher Blanchard  |
| May 20  | Anthony Blanchard and Lexi Webb          |
| May 27  | <b>Volunteer Needed</b> and Madison Held |
| June 3  | Kaylen Leiby and Jewel Karaisz           |
| June 10 | Caleb Krause and Benjamin Haas           |
| June 17 | Adam Noll and Zachary Haas               |
| June 24 | Katelyn DeLong and Sydney Sheetz         |

**YOUTH GROUP BRUNCH** – Mark your calendars for the Youth Group brunch on **May 6<sup>th</sup>** after the worship service.

## SCRABBLE

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

## SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **June 25<sup>th</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.



## ZUMBA CLASSES

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

## PRAYER SHAWL



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

## BUILDING FINANCE COMMITTEE APRIL 2018 UPDATE

Spring greetings to all! We continue to have a very steady level of contributions to the Building Fund. We have been able to pay down more of the mortgage balance, which now is down to \$39,000! As our balance continues to get lower, so does the amount of interest we pay. We will be making our next interest payment in June. It is great to see so much of our donations going right to lowering the mortgage principle balance.



Thank you everyone for your continued great support!

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

## **MYSTERY MEMBER/S**

**Last month's mystery members were Jim and Mary Laub. Two important facts about their lives could not be included because they would have taken much of the mystery away. Jim enjoys his hobby of beekeeping and Mary is an author of children's books.**

**This month please meet another couple that holds a prominent place in our congregation.**

He was born in Allentown and she was born in Reading the following year. Parts of his early years were spent at his cousins' house, in Atlantic City and then there was the summer he spent on crutches. She lived on a small farm and spent her summers pulling weeds in the "truck patch" and the fall harvesting grain and husking corn by hand. She enjoyed trips to the mountains.

He is a Kutztown High School graduate while she is a graduate of Fleetwood High School. Or as he often says...they went to different schools together.

Their lives came together when they met at a bowling alley and eventually they were married in Becker's St. Peter's Church in Molltown. She recalls that it was a windy day, so much so that it blew the bridesmaids' hairpieces away. They honeymooned in Florida.

Their employment history includes Dorney Park, carpentry, and then 44 years at East Penn Manufacturing for him. She was a shoe inspector at a shoe factory; a waitress; a cashier, stocker, and office worker at a grocery store; and finally as a secretary for 19 years.

Their family includes a daughter, a son, a son-in-law and 2 grandchildren.

Both had cats growing up and they now have a cat.

He includes golf among his hobbies. He is also a former baseball and softball coach. She includes sewing, jigsaw puzzles, Sudoku, and newspaper crossword puzzles in her leisure time activities.

They are both very involved with the church and between them they list as past and present: lifetime membership, choir, Cemetery Board, Property Committee, and many other aspects of church life.

**Hope you can guess who they are.**

## **SUPPLIES IN KITCHEN**

There is plenty of decaf coffee, plates, cups, bowls, napkins, etc. in the pantry for your special occasions. These supplies are for your convenience.

## HONOR ROLL

*These names were taken from the lists published in the Patriot. However, it appears the school districts may not be getting the lists to the Patriot. If you would like a name included please email the church office or put a note in the secretary's mailbox in the Gathering Area of the church.*

Lauren DeLong

Katelyn DeLong

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Kelly Leiby performed in the Berks Junior County Music Festival.
- Dane Fegely received honorable mention in the Best of Winter Athletes of the Year for Boys Basketball in All Division III.
- Danielle Berger from Kutztown School District was pictured with the winner of the Annie Sullivan Award in a recent photo in the *Kutztown Patriot*.
- Many members of Zion's ran in the Kutztown Fool's Run.
- Jillian Siefert plays softball for Kutztown High School.
- Thomas Siefert and Jake Heffner play Boys Tennis for Kutztown High School.
- Dane Fegely plays Boys Volleyball for Kutztown High School.
- Kaylen Leiby and Logan Boyer won first place in their categories in the Region 9 National History Day and advanced to states.

## FROM THE MAILBOX

Thank you to everyone for the cards, prayers, concerns, calls, and visits while recuperating from heart surgery. It is such a blessing to have such a wonderful church family.

Randy Warmkessel



## SPIRIT ON TAP – READING

Spirit on Tap will be held **May 29<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 P.M. at the DoubleTree Hotel, 701 Penn St., Reading. Free parking in the enclosed adjacent garage, enter from Penn St. or Court St. The event is free and open to all. Melissa Haydt will present "*Protecting Our Children*". More information: 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).

## KUTZTOWN COMMUNITY CHOIR SPRING CHORAL CONCERT

The Kutztown Community Choir will present their annual Spring concert on Sunday, **May 20<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 PM, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 357 W. Main St., Kutztown. This year's concert will include a wonderful collection of lively music that is sure to lift your spirits and set your toes a tappin'. Our choral selections will take you on a journey across our land, from tunes of Broadway to *Rocky Mountain High* and *California Dreamin*. Featured pieces include a medley of ever popular John Denver songs, a few pieces by the Mamas and the Papas, and the beloved folk song *This Land is Your Land*. The annual Spring Concert is a great time to greet the return of warm weather along with other music lovers in our community and enjoy an evening that is sure to entertain and delight.

## 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 **May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup>** 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 Sue Wunderlich at [sawmsw@dejazzd.com](mailto:sawmsw@dejazzd.com).

## THEOLOGY WITH A TWIST

Theology With a Twist will be held Tuesday, **May 8<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 P.M. at the Kutztown Tavern, 272 W. Main St., Kutztown. Dr. Greg Carey will present *Immigration: A Christian Conversation*. Theology with a Twist is free. Food and drink are available for purchase. For information go to facebook page Theology with a Twist; email [theologywithatwist@live.com](mailto:theologywithatwist@live.com), or call Maiden creek Church at 610-926-3907.

## REGISTER TAPES

Radcliffe's Super Value and Redner's Market provide a one percent rebate to Zion's Union Church Maxatawny based on receipts submitted to them during each year. Tapes for both Radcliffe's and Redner's may be deposited in the boxes in the rear of the second floor of the church. **For the church to receive credit from Redner's Market, members and friends must obtain a card from the courtesy desk to enroll in the "Save A Tape Program". The card is presented at the register prior to checking out for the rebate to be valid as indicated by the "Save A Tape" notation on the receipt.** Radcliffe's does not require a card for Zion's members to enroll in the program.

## UNWANTED ITEMS

There is a container marked "Opportunity House" at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Mertztown (near Radcliffe's) where you can donate goods. If you prefer to bring them to church, Lisa Walker will transport donations when the Mission Outreach serves food at Opportunity House.

## UNWANTED FURNITURE

If you want to donate furniture to Opportunity House, please call Cindy at 610-374-4696, ext. 221 to schedule a pick up date.

## MEMBER UPDATES

Losses:           Fatzinger, Mary E.

Kerry, Trisha, Marisa, and Sadie Berger transferred to Mt Zion Lutheran Church, Krumsville.

## OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Herman DeLong, Jr.  
... the family of Pat Wily.  
... the family of William Alesi.

... the family of David Kutz Sr.  
... the family of Mary Fatzinger.  
... the family of Anna J.

## 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 (54 wed)
May 11	Eleanor Nester
May 13	Clark Held
May 13	Terry Bennecoff
May 13	Loretta Flicker
May 20	Richard & Shirley Derr (57 wed)
May 24	Lennia Mertz
May 24	Harlow Bailey
May 28	Jean Bailey
May 29	Ron Fulton
May 31	Irvin Miller
June 6	Elaine Berger
June 7	Mary Kutz
June 8	Ron & Nancy Fulton (55 wed)
June 8	Shirley Derr
June 12	Betty Faust
June 15	Jean Kemp
June 15	Eva Christman
June 15	Guerin & Eleanor Nester (55 wed)
June 19	Carol Bennecoff
June 23	Rev. Willis & Sylvia Heckler (56 wed)
June 24	Richard Derr
June 24	George & Sandra Leiby (51 wed)
June 25	John & Betty Mertz (63 wed)

## FROM THE RECORD BOOK

**FUNERAL:** *Mary E. Fatzinger*, 67, of Maxatawny, died March 31, 2018 in Lehigh Valley Hospital. Memorial service was April 7, 2018 in Zion's Union Church Maxatawny by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz.

**TRANSFERRED OUT:** Kerry, Trisha, Marisa, & Sadie Berger to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Krumsville, PA.



## 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 6

Altar Holy Communion

May 20

Altar Holy Communion

June 3

Pew 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 May newsletter, please have it in the church office by **May 15<sup>th</sup>**.