



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
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. 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



Scripture tells us about two important gardens: the Garden of Eden and the garden in which Jesus' body was laid in a tomb after his crucifixion. At first glance, it might seem that one of the gardens marked the beginning of life, the other the end of a life. In the long run, however, people were cast out of the Garden of Eden, while Mary Magdalene and the disciples found the garden tomb to be a place where life had been renewed.

Easter brings us new life that is eternal. The risen Christ promised it. Jesus promised that through the Holy Spirit he would never leave us. Jesus promised that the Spirit would be our comforter, our source of reassurance in difficult times, our guide and our strength. The Son of God could not be defeated and through his death, death has been defeated forever. Jesus' death was a prelude to life everlasting for him and for us.

After his death, Jesus came back to living people. The disciples experienced his comforting, uplifting presence that guided them through extremely difficult times. Eternal life for us, too, is not only hope for a life hereafter, but a hope for something that can begin now, if we are open to Christ's presence through the Holy Spirit. To be sure, evil and suffering and death still exist. All of us endure times when life's goodness is hard to find. Yet, the power of Christ's resurrection restores us. Even when we stumble and fall, or reach the point where we seem to see nothing but darkness, a hand reaches down to lift us up and a divine light shows us a way out.

The "good life" that we all strive to have will inevitably include times of accomplishment, joy and celebration; and other times when sorrow or loss will get us down. At all times, though, if we can feel and experience the power of Jesus' eternal presence with us, there is hope. According to church tradition, each and every Sunday is a "little Easter," a day of renewal, a fresh start for the new week ahead. In the good life that God has given us, God's good news comes to us again and again as we move along toward that final day when we will "dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

May you all enjoy a blessed Easter season!

Pastor Jeff

MAY AND JUNE WORSHIP

May 5	Third Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 12	4 th Sun. Easter/Mother's Day	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 19	Fifth Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 26	Sixth Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 2	Seventh Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 9	Pentecost/Confirmation	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 16	Trinity Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 23	Second Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 30	Third Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15

DVD NEEDED

The church is looking for a DVD from the **December 21, 2018** service. If you have one, please bring it along to church so a copy can be made. Thank you.

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

SOUP SUPPER THANK YOU

Again in Lent we had great Wednesday pre-worship Soup Supper gatherings. Thanks to Loretta and Carl Flicker for setting up each week. Thanks to these folks for providing great soups: Mary Laub, Tim Haas, Cindy O'Neil, Jane Warmkessel, LaRee Fegely, Loretta Flicker, Dorothy Moyer, Grace Haas, Peggy Morgan, Bill and Karen Howard, Judy Koller, and Lori Arndt.



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 brunch on April 7th raised \$536.00 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.**



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Thank you to our Adopt -A-Highway volunteers that picked up trash along 222 on Saturday, April 13th. The participants were the Harry Snyder, Jarrod Heffner, Andrew Haas, Greg Haas, Grace Haas, Diana Gehman, LaRee Fegely, Kevin Fegely, and Cindy O'Neil. They picked up 19 bags of trash and debris.



BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Mobile will be at Zion's on **Tuesday, May 7th** 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 (Group ID: 3303).



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.

RELAY FOR LIFE 2019, MAY 31ST AND JUNE 1ST 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 31st, 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 7th** from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. Entertainment will be the Dogs of Faulkner Swamp. There will be a Basket Raffle. If you would like to donate a basket for the raffle, please let the Sunday School office know. If you would like to help with the festival see Traci Gehringer or contact her at 610-944-1818.



GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST

We will be decorating the church with red geraniums on **Pentecost June 9th**. 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 26th**.



GERANIUM SIGN UP

NAME

NUMBER OF GERANIUMS

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

.....

WHO ARE OUR GRADUATES?

Graduate Sunday will be held **June 16th** and we are compiling a list of our graduates for the year 2019, including December 2018 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 9TH**. We do not want to miss anyone, so please help us out.



HIGHER EDUCATION FUND

As part of the Siegfried Bequest, a higher education fund has been established to offer 4% interest loans of up to \$1000.00 (based on the number of applicants and availability of funds) for a maximum of 4 years per student to those members of Zion's enrolled in a higher education program. A student loan application has been developed by the loan committee (Nancy Fulton and Grace Haas) and can be obtained from one of them or in the church office. Deadline is **June 15th**.



MYSTERY MEMBER

The Mystery Couple for April is Judy and Kyle Koller. We do not have a person for May so take advantage of the time to introduce yourself to a member of the congregation that you do not know well and see what you have in common. I need volunteers so please see me (Karen Howard) if you would like to be profiled in the newsletter. We look forward to getting to know you better.

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.

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 11	Saturday, 10 A.M. to 12 noon, Mother's Day tea. See below.
June 10	12 noon, picnic & games. Bring pot luck.



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

PLAN YOUR MOTHER'S DAY SATURDAY MORNING – BRING A FRIEND

Mark Your Calendars for Saturday morning **May 11th** from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. The WIZ is hosting a light brunch and tea to honor the women in our lives. To celebrate who we are and have been, Susan Nagle will share a program entitled "Vintage Aprons". Susan is an avid apron collector. She has had a passion for aprons since she was a little girl. The oldest apron in her collection is from 1898. Come and learn more about the history and uses of aprons over the years. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the second floor bulletin board. Any questions, see Linda Ballew-Johnson or Loretta Flicker.

MISSION OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD IN BELIZE, SOUTH AMERICA

Jamie Garbutt, a missionary in Belize, South America, asked for our prayers for extremely needy children who live in the mission led by Pastor Stephen Post. The names of the children to be prayed for are: Susie Westby, Myrtle Tracy, Ashanti Obrien, Orlando Jackson, and Stephanie Logan. There are other children at the mission, but these children have immediate, urgent needs. Pastor Post had written nearly 100 letters to other pastors asking for their prayers, but none responded. We can let the pastor and missionary know we at Zion's are praying for those children by emailing them at goodshepherdbelize@gmail.com. In return the children will send a colored picture each month done by one of the children for whom we are praying. **Members of Women In Zion are hoping you will join them in this effort.**

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

*Youth Group meetings are open from age 10.
Schedules are on the upstairs bulletin board.*

Activity Schedule:

May 4
May 19
May 30

Saturday, Workday at the church
Picnic at Richard's house
Youth Group to Opportunity House



Offering Schedule:

May 5
May 12
May 19
May 26
June 2
June 9
June 16
June 23
June 30

Gabby Webb and Sarah Grim
Carson Sheetz and **Volunteer Needed**
Maisy Kellum and Andrew Haas
Emma Heffner and Archer Scaffidi
Julia Perella and Andrew Schell
Owen Shorette and Jonah Shorette
Paige Carvalho and Steven Gehringer
Ben Heffner and Mitchell Grim
Christopher Blanchard and Kaylen Leiby

TO ALL CHURCH YOUTH AGES 12 AND UP – Our weekend camp has been scheduled for **October 25th to October 27th**. Please mark your calendars! More information will follow later.

FROM THE MAILBOX

Dear Friends,

The congregation of St. Peter's sends sincere appreciation for your kind gift toward our flood recovery efforts. Thanks to contributions like yours we have begun our recovery efforts. Please know we are very grateful for and will be good stewards of the contributions we received in our restoration endeavor.

With sincere gratitude,
St. Peter's UCC, Tremont



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.

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.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **June 24th** 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.



DID YOU KNOW

- Ben N. Haas accepted the Organization of the Year Award for the Kutztown Area School District Education Foundation.
- George Leiby and about 70 other Vietnam Veterans received commemorative pins for their service in observance of National Vietnam War Veterans Day held at the Ray A. Master American Legion.
- Rev. Willis Heckler is included in the latest set of “Topton Heroes” trading cards. Anyone interested in this third set of cards can stop by the Topton Borough Mini Museum on West Keller Street with a donation of \$15 per set. Call 610-621-6680 for more information.
- Katelyn DeLong plays softball for Brandywine Heights High School.
- Jillian Siefert plays Women’s Tennis at Kutztown University.
- Steve O’Neil was seen congratulating winners at the Kutztown Fools Run.
- Dane Fegely plays Boys Volleyball at Kutztown High School.
- Dane Fegely received All Division III honors for Boys Basketball in the All Berks Best of the Rest Winter Athletes of the Year.
- Nick Perella plays Boys Tennis for Kutztown High School.

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.

CHURCH BOARD MEETING

March 27, 2019

- The pipe organ is covered under the church's insurance policy.
- Donated \$275 to UCC Pension Board in support of retired and new pastors.
- Multi-purpose sign along Rt. 222 was approved.
- Will pursue training options for mandatory training of S.S. teachers, security, church officers, choir, and those that use the church at off times.
- Strategic Planning Items were identified and may need to be re-evaluated.
- KU Designathon designed an Advent banner.

KUTZTOWN COMMUNITY CHOIR SPRING CHORAL CONCERT

The Kutztown Community Choir will present their annual spring concert on Sunday, **May 19th** at 7:00 P.M., at Trinity Lutheran Church, 357 W. Main St., Kutztown. This year's concert is entitled *Outside Looking In—Songs of Self-Discovery & Acceptance*. We wish to celebrate all the hope and possibility inherent in the spring with music which inspires inward reflection, renewal, and acceptance. Featured pieces include musical theater favorites from *Dear Evan Hansen*, *The Greatest Showman*, *Mamma Mia*, *Jersey Boys*, and more!

QUIET DAYS

Quiet Days takes place **May 7th and June 4th** 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.

THEOLOGY WITH A TWIST

Theology with a Twist will be held **May 14th** 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. Information: see facebook page Theology with a Twist; email theologywithatwist@outlook.com, or call 610-926-3907.

D.E.A.R.

Since spring is here, it's a good time to check or build your emergency kit for your home. We should all be prepared for sheltering in for at least 3 days in the event of an emergency. Here are some basic supplies to have in your kit.

1. Water – 1 gallon per person for 3 days. Chlorine bleach + medicine dropper to disinfect water
2. Food – non-perishable items that do not require heating: peanut butter, energy bars, canned meats, canned pasta, pop tarts, etc.
3. Battery Powered or Hand Crank NOAA weather radio
4. Flashlights/lanterns/headlamps
5. Batteries/batteries/batteries
6. First Aid Kit/medicines (extra supply)
7. Whistle to signal for help
8. Dust mask/plastic sheeting/duct tape to shelter in place
9. Moist towelettes, garbage bags & ties for personal sanitation
10. Wrench/pliers to turn off utilities
11. Manual can opener
12. Cell phone with chargers and backup battery
13. Pet food/water
14. Important documents in waterproof container (personal ID, insurance policies, bank account records)
15. Matches in waterproof container

Build your kit before Mr. Mayhem comes to visit your neighborhood.

SPIRIT ON TAP – READING

Spirit on Tap will be held **May 21st** at 7:00 P.M. at the DoubleTree Hotel, 701 Penn St., Reading. The events are free and open to all. **May 21st**, David McConnell will present “*Sacred Music*”. For more information contact Dr. Harry L. Serio at 610-944-7032, HLSerio@aol.com; Dr. Robert Stewart at 610-775-2836, rastheo1951@msn.com; or Dr. Stephen Ohnsman at ohnsman@comcast.net.

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.

Paige Carvalho

Archer Scaffidi

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA



Synod Assembly 2019 **Saturday, June 1st** **9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.** **Genetti Ballrooms Inn** **and Suites, Hazleton**

Even if you are not a delegate, plan to join us in celebrating our past and looking to our future, as we strive to make this day and each day a new opportunity to give thanks, to worship, to pray, to dialogue, and to seek the good of our neighbors – all by the power of the Holy Spirit and the unconditional love of our great God, all because of what Christ has done for us.

For more information, visit the synod website at godslove.org.

Ministry Fair

Saturday, May 4
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
The Lutheran Center

Learn about ministries of the Northeastern PA Synod, share resources offered by synod teams, and attend mini-sessions (like Learning Ministries Day).

For more information and to register, visit the synod website at godslove.org.

No More Sunday School?



At Holy Trinity Memorial in Catsasauqua, the Christian Education Team decided to try something new. This decision was reached because the church noticed a declining trend in Sunday School attendance. With this trend, the question was asked, "What's more important: Worship or Education?" The team decided that worship is more important and that education can happen inside of a worship service if time is allowed.

If the congregation were going to worship with a group of young people, then it needed talk about what might attract them. The team made sure that parents, educators, theologians, and lay people were present in these talks. In the end, they determined that they would begin a family service during the normal Sunday School times. September would kick off this new worship format.

To be completely honest, the leaders of this new worship service were ready to revert to the traditional Sunday School programming within three months. They just did not see this service taking hold in the community. Wrong these leaders were.

Since the start, the service has grown in attendance, averaging thirty people each week. While the service is not perfect, it is filled with joy by a loving and accepting multi-generational group of people.

This was one church's answer to this question. It's not a solution for everyone. It was a discovery process. The team strongly suggests that all groups talk. Don't try just anything, which may turn out to nothing more than a gimmick. Try to discover a new way of being.

Changes in Synod Staff

Pr. Mary Gade and Pr. Carl Shankweiler Retire

Pr. Kathleen Ash-Flashner and Deacon Marlane Druckenmiller Join the Staff



Pr. Mary Gade

Pastor Mary Gade, Associate of the Bishop since 2009, has been responsible for the Rostered Ministers and Congregations of the East Berks Mission District, Candidacy, Boundary/Misconduct matters, and other duties.

Deacon Marlane Druckenmiller joins the staff as Associate of the Bishop for the East Berks Mission District (part time). She will relinquish her seat on Synod Council.

Associate of the Bishop Pastor Peggy Wuertele will add Candidacy to her current staff role, and Associate of the Bishop Pastor Jean Huber will add Boundary/Misconduct matters to hers.



Deacon Marlane Druckenmiller



Pr. Carl Shankweiler

Pastor Carl Shankweiler, Associate of the Bishop since 2009, has been responsible for Rostered Ministers and Congregations of the Schuylkill Mission District, and he has assisted congregations preparing for closure and the sale of a building.

Pastor Kathleen Ash-Flashner (St. Paul, Summer Hill) will become Associate of the Bishop for the Schuylkill Mission District (part time). She will step down as dean.



Pr. Kathleen Ash-Flashner

The departure of Mary and Carl from the staff will bring a significant change to the life of this synod. They are cherished, respected, and trusted colleagues who have contributed significantly to the work we do together. We are indebted to them for the faith, insight, discipline, and much-needed wit they brought to their ministry with us.

Always Being Made New: Campaign for the ELCA

**Always
Being Made
New.**

The Campaign for the ELCA.

Since the launch of the campaign, ELCA members, including those in our Northeastern PA Synod, have contributed \$181 million in current gifts, as well as an additional \$45 million in planned gifts, to support campaign ministries. You are making a difference in this church and around the world – thank you! With just three months to go, please prayerfully discern whether you can make another “first fruits” gift to the campaign.

Give now by visiting elca.org and clicking on the “Campaign for the ELCA” button.

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.

View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org>.

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 11	Eleanor Nester
May 16	Loretta Flicker
May 20	Richard & Shirley Derr (58 wed)
May 24	Lennia Mertz
May 24	Harlow Bailey
May 28	Jean Bailey
May 28	Carol Toth
May 29	Ron Fulton
May 31	Irvin Miller
June 1	Diane Herber
June 6	Elaine Berger
June 7	Mary Kutz
June 8	Ron & Nancy Fulton (56 wed)
June 8	Shirley Derr
June 12	Betty Faust
June 15	Jean Kemp
June 15	Eva Christman
June 15	Guerin & Eleanor Nester (56 wed)
June 19	Carol Bennecoff
June 23	Rev. Willis & Sylvia Heckler (57 wed)
June 24	Richard Derr
June 24	George & Sandra Leiby (52 wed)
June 25	John & Betty Mertz (64 wed)

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Janet Miller.
... the family of Ronald Phillips.
... the family of Linda Seaman.

... the family of Shirley McGowan.
... the family of John Queman.

**“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap
but by the seeds that you plant.”**

—Robert Louis Stevenson



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 5

Pew Holy Communion

June 2

Pew Holy Communion

June 9

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**.