

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
2020**

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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 first floor of the church.

THE PASTOR'S PAGE



Does all the evil and suffering in the world bother you? Do you worry about the possibility of another devastating terrorist attack here in our country? Do you worry about global warming or the possibility of nuclear annihilation? Are you living in fear and worry right now because of the pandemic sweeping our nation and the world? Do you fret over what the future holds for your children? These are all very legitimate fears. And the ultimate question for Christians is: Does God care?

The events that we just relived during Holy Week remind us emphatically that God indeed cares! From beginning to end, the Bible assures us that God is always watching over us. As Jesus once said, "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:29-31).

The events of Holy Week are an annual reminder that God cares deeply about us. And what the crucifixion and resurrection show us is that in Jesus, God has joined us on our journey through the pain and despair and uncertainty we all face in life. In Christ, God has embraced the fullness of our humanity even to the point of sharing the greatest suffering that anyone could ever know—the pain of crucifixion. Why God in Christ should have to undergo such great suffering is a profound mystery. Why *we* should have to suffer in so many ways on our journey through life is a mystery as well. But the events of Holy Week assure us of one great truth that we can cling to with all confidence throughout life's journey: *God loves us passionately.*

What Holy week reminds us of is that God walks with us on our journey through all of life's trials and tribulations. The resurrection holds out the promise that God will see us through the worst that the world can throw at us and get us through to the other side. The resurrection assures us that, whether we live or whether we die, we belong to the Lord. As Jesus once said of his followers, "No one can snatch them out of my Father's hand" (John 10:29). The resurrection assures us of ultimate victory over the worst that life can send our way.

A few years ago there was a moving book written by Iona McLaughlin called *Triumph Over Tragedy*. It is the true story of how, at the age of 42, the author's life began to totally unravel. Her 14-year-old daughter, Jane, developed a brain tumor and died. One month later, while driving to visit some relatives, Iona, her husband Peter, and their ten-year-old son, Jack, were hit by a train. Peter and Jack were killed instantly. Iona hovered just on this side of death for months. Every rib was broken, an arm, an ankle, the right clavicle, and the pelvic area all suffered fractures. She was lacerated from head to foot. She was in the hospital 72 days before a nurse finally said to her, "I think you're going to make it. No temperature for 24 hours. You're going to make it." After 127 days she was

finally released from the hospital. But to what?

The death of her husband and children made Iona wonder if she really wanted to live. There were days when she asked God to take her. But over a long period of time she slowly began to believe that God had a purpose for her life. She began to live by the motto, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” She went back to college for a graduate degree. Then she got a job teaching in a college. She began to teach Sunday School and grew ever closer to the Lord.

Iona had struggled through unimaginable physical pain, long periods of emotional torture, and a stressful spiritual battle. After years of struggle, she tells how one day sitting in the college chapel meditating, in her mind’s eye she saw a “shining path” open up before her. She writes, “A singing gladness came over me and set me free. It was the quick, unexpected shout of victory at the battle’s end—it was reaching the top of the last high hill.” Iona said that she now saw that through all of her suffering, “the undergirding arms of God had been there all the time.” The tension left. The strain eased. She learned to live in relaxed harmony with God. In time, she remarried and has enjoyed many years of marital bliss again.

The faith that Iona McLaughlin found through her time of tragedy is an *Easter* faith. A faith that believes that God will see us through the worst that life can throw at us. The reality of the resurrection assures us that whatever comes our way, nothing . . . *certainly not a virus!* . . . can separate us from the love of God.

Let me close with words that St. Paul once wrote of his many great sufferings: “If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? . . . Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life . . . nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:31-39).

That is a faith born of belief in the resurrection. That is Easter faith. It brings to mind the words of a beloved Easter hymn: “Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!” My friends, trust in faith that because Jesus is risen we can have the sure and certain expectation that we too shall arise. We shall all soon arise from sheltering in place and social distancing and sing those words together again. And we shall together, side by side, repeat these words: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Jeff

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME AND MAYBE ALL THE EVENTS IN THIS NEWSLETTER MAY NOT HAPPEN DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.

MAY AND JUNE WORSHIP

| | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|---------|--------------|
| May 3 | Fourth Sunday of Easter | SS 9:00 | church 10:15 |
| May 10 | Fifth Sunday of Easter | SS 9:00 | church 10:15 |
| May 17 | Sixth Sunday of Easter | SS 9:00 | church 10:15 |
| May 24 | Seventh Sunday of Easter | SS 9:00 | church 10:15 |
| May 31 | Pentecost | SS 9:00 | church 10:15 |
| June 7 | Trinity Sunday HC | SS 9:00 | church 10:15 |
| June 14 | Second Sunday after Pentecost | SS 9:00 | church 10:15 |
| June 21 | Third Sunday after Pentecost | SS 9:00 | church 10:15 |
| June 28 | Fourth Sunday after Pentecost | SS 9:00 | church 10:15 |

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would like someone included on this prayer list, leave a message of the church answering machine.

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

Dale Bennecoff, Marlene Costello, Schell family, Barry Miller, Lisa Walker, Kay Weidner, Loretta Flicker, Bill Howard, Nikki Phillips, Arlene Oswald, Joe Karaisz, Janet Fegely, Anna Bortz, Lucille Zettlemoyer, Leon Neimeyer, Gloria Haas, Richard Warmkessel, John Knabb Sr., Steve O'Neil, Irvin Miller, Karen Weaver, Beatrice Bennecoff, Ralph & Helen Noll, Lowell Thomas, Mary Kutz, Marilyn & Bill Bird, Richard Derr, Sylvia Heckler, Dorothy Zettlemoyer, Ruth Siegfried, Althea Moyer, Mary Jane Williams, Ed & Donna VanDeCar, Gladys Leibold, Leora Haas, Donna Slotter, Penny Keller, Marvin Kerchner, Tom Seifert, Eva Aguilar, Victoria Slotter, Ian Miller, Donna Rabert, Elia, Nettie Herman, Lisa Szarko, Jean Winkler, Christopher Mercado, Deb, Niki Nolte, Arthur Sell, Jo Corrado, Herbert Noll, Jamie Jordan, Michele Rodriguez, Kathy Noll, Rayann Roth, Sue Zimmerman, Valerie, Kim Markham, Renee Wolfe, Drew & Mary Jane Stump, Caitlin Dickey, Frank Knight, Christy Ryan, Lorraine Miller, Larry Hockman, Mary Fox, Mary, Betty Houck, Betsy, Gary Deder, Gary Sell, Judy Redman, Russell Peden, family of Virginia Zajac, family of Carol Lichtenwalner, family of Renee Cury, family of Connie Eddy, family of Morris Snyder.

SOUP SUPPER THANK YOU

Thank you to Loretta and Carl Flicker for setting up each week for our two soup suppers. Thanks to these folks for providing great soups: Mary Laub, Tim and Sue Haas, Cindy O'Neil, Jane Warmkessel, LaRee Fegely, Loretta Flicker, and Dorothy Moyer.



YES WE "CAN"

The canned food drive for Lent has been suspended. If anyone would like to make monetary donations to support the FRIEND foodbank, please sent them to the church designated "FRIEND".



WOMEN'S RETREAT

The Women's Retreat has been cancelled and there are plans to reschedule it. We will keep you informed of any new information.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Drive scheduled for May 5th has been cancelled. If you are interested in donating blood, call 800-B-A-DONOR (223-6667) to schedule an appointment at one of their blood donor centers.



MUSIC SUNDAY



Music Sunday for this year has been cancelled.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will has been rescheduled for some time in September. The confirmation classes will continue their lessons when we are able to return to our regular activities. Watch for more information.

STRAWBERRY & ICE CREAM FESTIVAL

At this time, due to the uncertainty of holding large gatherings, the Sunday School officers have decided to not hold the Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival in June as planned.



RELAY FOR LIFE 2020

Relay for Life has been cancelled and rescheduled for the fall. More information will appear in future newsletters.



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 | fruit cups |
| single serve size applesauce | canned tuna | canned soup |
| single serve cereal | granola bars | fruit snacks |
| oatmeal packets | | |

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **May 18th and June 22nd** at 12 noon. Persons attending should bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Games will provide entertainment for the afternoon. Guests are always welcome.



PRAYER SHAWL



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

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 Meeting at 1:00 P.M. Mother's Day
with Nancy Fulton.
- June 8 Picnic, fun games at 12 noon. Bring a
potluck dish. Begin 'Support Our
Troops' project.



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

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

Activity Schedule:

- May 2 Congregational/Church Work Day
- May 7 Serving at Opportunity House
- May 10 Mother's Day Handouts
- May 17 Picnic at Richard's House
- June 21 Father's Day Handouts



Offering Schedule:

- May 3 Ashley DeLong and Maisy Kellum
- May 10 Andrew Haas and Owen Shorette
- May 17 Julia Perella and Jonah Shorette
- May 24 Andrew Schell and Archer Scaffidi
- May 31 Ben Heffner and Paige Carvalho
- June 7 Steven Gehringer and Kaylen Leiby
- June 14 Mitchell Grim and Jewel Karaisz
- June 21 Adam Noll and Zachary Haas
- June 28 Madison Held and Jonathan Weidman

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.

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.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR HOMES AND NEIGHBORHOODS?

During this time of sheltering at home the Christian spirit of love and caring is alive at Zions!

A few examples...

Many are appreciating and enjoying Pastor's Jeff's on-line messages and sermons. Thank you to Theresa for the Easter Sunday music!

A car full of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, and fruit was delivered to Opportunity House on April 1st. A great big thanks to those who donated: Richard and Grace Haas, Tim and Sue Haas, Mary Laub, Sharon Leiby, Sandy Leiby, Lisa Walker, Peggy Morgan, Jeff and Sherry Schaeffer, Julie and Jewel Karaisz, Nancy Fulton, and Cindy O'Neil.

The gang from Church Road and Fisher Lane - Nate and Casey Haas, Joe, Julie and Jewel Karaisz, Sue Haas, Connor O'Neil, and Cindy O'Neil "meet on the street" for long walks where they greet church neighbors along the way.

Youth Group members - Nick and Julia Perella, Kaylen and Kelly Leiby, Sarah and Mitchell Grim, and Jewel Karaisz dressed in their finest Easter attire and held a Zoom worship service led by Andrew Haas.

The Ben and Desiree Haas family, the Derek and Laura Teeters family, the Nick and Kate Haas family, and Nate and Casey Haas held an Easter parade on Fisher Lane and Church Road for grandparents, friends, Aunts, and Uncles.

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**.



WHO ARE OUR GRADUATES?

Graduate Sunday will be held **June 14th** and we are compiling a list of our graduates for the year 2020, including December 2019 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.). Email information to the church at zionsunion@verizon.net **NO LATER THAN JUNE 7TH**. We do not want to miss anyone, so please help us out.



MYSTERY MEMBER

Thanks to the O'Neils for sharing some facts about their personal lives. This month the mystery person is a younger member of the congregation.

She was born in Allentown and remembers that while she was growing up she was always with her grandparents. They sometimes went to the beach or she just played in their big yard.

She is a junior at Parkland High School and also attends Lehigh Career and Technical School all day. She is in the Cosmetology School at LCTI. She also has a dual enrollment in English. She is a High Honor Roll Student.

Her siblings are younger twin girls named Emma and Grace.

Her dog, Lucy, is a boxer and mountain cur mix.

Among her hobbies she lists homework (thus the High Honors) and she especially enjoys spending lots of time with family.

She was in Youth Group and her grandmother, plus several other relatives, have been lifelong members of Zion's.

Can you identify this young woman?

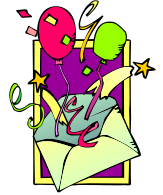
KUTZTOWN KITCHEN

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.

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.

| | |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| May 1 | Arlan Berger |
| May 11 | Eleanor Nester |
| May 16 | Loretta Flicker |
| May 16 | Donald & Kay Mertz (50 wed) |
| May 20 | Richard & Shirley Derr (59 wed) |
| May 24 | Lennia Mertz |
| May 24 | Harlow Bailey |
| May 28 | Jean Bailey |
| May 28 | Carol Toth |
| May 31 | Irvin Miller |
| June 1 | Diane Herber |
| June 6 | Elaine Berger |
| June 7 | Mary Kutz |
| June 8 | Shirley Derr |
| June 15 | Jean Kemp |
| June 15 | Eva Christman |
| June 15 | Guerin & Eleanor Nester (57 wed) |
| June 19 | Carol Bennecoff |
| June 24 | Richard Derr |
| June 24 | George & Sandra Leiby (53 wed) |
| June 25 | John & Betty Mertz (65 wed) |
| June 27 | David & Diane Herber (50 wed) |



Our apologies to John and Marlene Costello for missing their 64th wedding anniversary on April 6th.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Please email the church at zionsunion@verizon.net with the dates of your birthdays and anniversaries. We want to make sure we are not missing anyone.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Virginia Zajac.
... the family of Renee Cury.
... the family of Morris Snyder.

... the family of Carol Lichtenwalner.
... the family of Connie Eddy.



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 3 | Pew Holy Communion |
| June 7 | 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 June newsletter, please have it in the church office by **May 15th**.