

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
2022**

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REMINDERS

- ◆ The cost for a vase of flowers is now \$20.00 and the cost to be a bulletin sponsor is \$8.00. Payment may be given to Jane Warmkessel or put the money in an envelope with your name, date, and what you are paying for and place in the offering plate.
- ◆ Any checks written out for the offering, altar flowers, or bulletins should be made payable to **Zion's Union Church Maxatawny**.
- ◆ **Any checks for the cemetery should be made out to Maxatawny Zion Cemetery Company, Inc. not to the church.**
- ◆ We have DVDs of regular worship services available for use at home. Contact the church office if you would like to borrow one.
- ◆ Let the church office know if you have been admitted to the hospital. The hospitals **DO NOT** notify the church if members have been hospitalized.
- ◆ Zion's Union Church Maxatawny's website is www.zionsunion.org. Check out our website.
- ◆ Zion's has a prayer chain. If you would like to add a name to the Prayer Chain call Mary Laub at 610-248-2801.
- ◆ Sports cleats are not allowed in the church.
- ◆ Refreshments should be kept on the first floor of the church.

THE PASTOR'S PAGE



Are you experiencing phone button burnout? If you've recently tried to call your insurance company, your bank, the phone company, or any other company you deal with, your call was no doubt answered by a pleasant electronic voice inviting you to spend the next hour or so trapped in a kind of electronic purgatory pushing 1 for this, 2 for that, ad nauseum. This is the world known in the industry as IVR, which stands for "Interactive Voice Response," which is nothing more than a way for companies to make you feel like you are talking to someone without actually doing so!

Last year companies spent almost 8 billion dollars beefing up their IVR systems, placing more and more layers of menus and automated responses between themselves and their customers. In other words, many companies believe that it simply costs too much in time and personnel to spend time talking to us personally about our needs.

But now some consumer advocates are fighting back. There are now a number of websites that give you secret tricks to get to talk to a real person. One trick is to lie and say you're using a rotary phone. Another is to consistently push the "0" key to every prompt. Another is to access the Spanish-speaking line; because chances are good you will get someone who is bi-lingual. Also, every company actually has a secret code you can press to connect directly to a customer service rep, and this website lists more than 100 companies and their top-secret codes.

What these companies all forget is that when customers need something badly we want to talk directly to the person who can get it for us rather than working our way through a frustrating maze of menus. There is simply no substitute for a real live human being who will listen and respond to our needs.

Jesus' disciples often talked like the automated voices you hear when you dial up a major corporation. The disciples frequently saw themselves as a bunch of bodyguards whose function it was to keep the crowds from getting too close to Jesus. They kept the little children at bay, until Jesus reminded them that to such as these belongs the kingdom of God. They tried to keep the blind and disabled from getting too close to Jesus as well. They saw themselves as an insulating layer between the people and Christ—as though Jesus needed their protection.

The history of the Christian church too often reflects this way of thinking. The professional clergy, the institution of the church, the stained glass windows and collars and vestments and bureaucracy, often appear to be insulating factors that keep people from connecting directly with God. The question we clergy have to ask ourselves is: Do the members of our

congregation have access? Do you know that you have direct access to God? Do you understand that it is Jesus who offers you access, who serves as God's customer service agent? Do you understand that there is a menu, but it's not an automated phone menu but rather a menu of loaves and fishes, a menu in which you can hear Jesus say to you, "Ask and it shall be given you, seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be opened to you."

Imagine that you've called your insurance company in a panic, and to your amazement a person picks up the phone, and lo and behold, it's the CEO himself wanting to help you! How would that make you feel? That's essentially what happens when we pray. Jesus provides us with direct personal contact and divine customer service.

The good news for us is that we don't have to wade through a myriad of messages and phone prompts in order to have access to Jesus. We can bring our needs directly to him through prayer, and the CEO of the universe makes a direct connection to us! As the Bible tells us, he knows what we need even before we do.

The flip side of this, though, has to do with our accessibility to others who are in need of a connection to Christ. As modern churches generate more and more programs and, in some places get larger and more high-tech, what happens when someone quietly utters a personal need or makes a call for help? Do we give automated, churchy responses like "God helps those who help themselves" (which, by the way is not in the Bible), or do we say with sincere compassion, "How can I help you?"

You could be the "real person" on the other end of the line who makes all the difference in someone's life. We serve a God who is always there for us. As God's customer service reps on earth, shouldn't we be just as accessible?

Your pastoral service representative,
Pastor Jeff

ORGAN RESTORATION UPDATE as of April 1, 2022

Total Restoration Cost - \$346,000

Designated Memorials & Estates Received - \$48,410.13

Donations Received - \$82,351

Investments Used for Expenses - \$100,570

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

Investment Gains - \$58,000

Total Funds Into Organ Restoration Fund - \$312,731.13

MAY AND JUNE WORSHIP

May 1	Third Sunday of Easter HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 8	4 th Easter/Music/Mother's Day	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 15	Fifth Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 22	Sixth Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
May 29	Seventh Sunday of Easter	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 5	Pentecost Sunday HC	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 12	Trinity Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 19	Second Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
June 26	Third Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15

SERVICE VIDEOS

A video recording of our worship service will be uploaded to our church website (zionsunion.org) by early Sunday afternoon and can be viewed for the rest of the week. Prior services can be viewed on Youtube — type “Zion’s Union Church” into the Youtube search bar.

PLEASE USE PARKING LOTS

It has come to our attention that the township does not want us parking on the street, so please only park in our parking lots. There is also a secondary lot behind the church next to the cemetery garage which you may use.

ANNUAL REPORTS

The 2021 Annual Report is now available at the church. If you can't get to church to pick one up, call the church office and one can be mailed to you. Reports have been placed in the mail slots in the Gathering Area for committees, groups, and Church Board to pick up.



USHERS, GREETERS, SECURITY PERSONS

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

THANK YOU

Thank you to the “Haas Men” for singing on Palm Sunday.

FLOWER/BULLETIN BOOK

The Flower and Bulletin sign-up book is available in the Gathering Area. Sign up for those special dates or call the church office Monday, Wednesday, or Friday to sign up.



INGATHERING

On the first Sunday of each month the Mission Outreach Committee will continue to collect items to fill backpacks with food staples for needy children and their families in the area. Please participate by dropping off non-perishable items from the list below in the container provided in the Gathering Area.



- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| single serve size macaroni and cheese | peanut butter | fruit cups |
| single serve size applesauce | canned tuna | canned soup |
| single serve cereal | granola bars | fruit snacks |
| oatmeal packets | | |

GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST

We will be decorating the church with red geraniums on **Pentecost, June 5th**. The price is \$4.00 per plant. Deadline for orders and payment is **May 22nd**. A tear-off order form is below for your convenience. Put the money and form in an envelope marked Geraniums and put in the offering plate or give to Karen Warmkessel. Any checks should be made out to Zion’s Union Church Maxatawny.



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 19th** and we are compiling a list of our graduates for the year 2022, including December 2021 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 12TH**. 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 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, Grace Haas, Jennifer Weidman) and can be obtained from one of them or in the church office. Deadline is **June 15th**.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

Activity Schedule:

May 14	“David “ at Sight and Sound.
June 1	Providing the meal at Opportunity House
July 24-30	Mission Trip



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 provide entertainment for the afternoon.



WOMEN IN ZION

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

- May 9 1:00 P.M., Meeting & Mother's Day with Nancy Fulton. Bring in photos of your mom or someone like a mother to you.
- June 13 12 noon, meeting and pizza picnic, fun and games, Bingo!



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. at the Lutheran Home in the social area near Sylvia's room.

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.



STRAWBERRY AND ICE CREAM FESTIVAL

The Sunday School has agreed to hold this event this year, and it is scheduled for Friday, **June 3, 2022**. This event will be different in that we plan to approach this as a "Take Out" not on a "Dine In" basis with respect for health concerns. We expect to feature a number of the usual menu items, just in this different format. We are hoping to find a person or persons that would be willing to organize and coordinate this festival. Please contact Sue or Tim Haas, either in person or by phone (610-683-6099) to receive more information. Thanks for considering assisting and we value your interest!



RELAY FOR LIFE

Kutztown's 25th Relay for Life will be held **May 21st from 10:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.** at the Kutztown Fairgrounds. Relay for Life, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, is about celebrating survivorship, remembering those we've lost, and bringing awareness to our community. You can sign up for Zion's Team at relayforlife.org, then enter our zip code 19530 and follow the information. See Sue Haas for more information.



WOMEN IN ZION COOKBOOK

The Women In Zion cookbook is still available to purchase in the Gathering Area. Cost is \$12.00. Checks should be made out to "Women In Zion".

KUTZTOWN COMMUNITY CHOIR SPRING CONCERT

The Kutztown Community Choir will present a Spring Concert on Sunday, **May 15th** at 7:00 P.M. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 357 W. Main St., Kutztown. We are so glad to be singing again! 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 include music from *Grease*, Elton John's *Rocketman*, Frank Sinatra, and *Les Miserables*, as well as patriotic and folk tunes. Our Spring Concert is a great time to greet the return of warm weather along with other music lovers in our community and to enjoy an evening that is sure to entertain and delight.

UPDATE ADDRESSES

The church is updating addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. If you have recently changed any of the above, have moved, or have children that are no longer living with you and have their own places, please email the church office at zionsunion@verizon.net with the new information. Any information is strictly for church use.

FROM THE MAILBOX

Thank you for the cake for my 90th birthday. I also thank everyone for the cards and birthday wishes. I thank Pastor Butz for his kind words.
Betty Mertz



Dear Members of Zion's,

The members of the Susquehanna Area Mission Council add our gratitude to that of Karl Jones for your church's generous contribution to the disaster fund at St. Mark's. The PA Southeast Conference was able to provide seed funding for a car for a family in Berks County that lost their car to Hurricane Ida. Contributions of time, talent, and money to Disaster Ministries provide the means by which we can counsel, support, and provide hope to people who might be experiencing the worst time of their lives. Thank you very much!

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Nancy Hardy
for Susquehanna Area Mission Council

The family of Althea Moyer would like to thank everyone for the expressions of concern and cards and prayers during this sad time. Thank you to the Women in Zion for providing and serving refreshments after the service. Also thank you to Pastor Jeff for his support and compassion during this difficult time. It is a comfort to have the compassion of our church family.

David and Diane Herber

UFF DER BAUEREI: IN EM BAAMGAARDE

Books and CDs can be purchased from Mary Laub, at Dietrich's Meats (also sell the CDs), Leid's Saddlery, Wooden Bridge Dry Goods, Burkholder's Farm Market, or online at Amazon.com and Masthof.com. Books \$10 and CDs \$5.



NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD NEWS

MAY 2022 • ISSUE 5 • VOLUME 30

What's it like to be a Pastoral Intern in NEPA?

By Melissa Hrdlicka

It is hard to believe I have been on internship with Common Ground Recovery Community for nine months already! My time with Common Ground has been a deep blessing to me and to my education. I have witnessed the presence of God in the open vulnerable sharing during our Wednesday worship, in the heartfelt reverent “thank you’s” when serving communion and meals in downtown Reading and in our study of the scriptures and 12-steps. Common Ground truly is a place of radical love and where God’s grace embraces our brokenness.

As part of my internship project, I invited our worshipping communities and ministry partners to reflect on these three questions: What does Common Ground mean to you? What does community mean to you? And where do you see God here and in the world? They then drew on white cotton squares that will be sewn together to make an altar cloth to fit all of our communion tables. The responses were profound and beautiful!

There are drawings of stick figures holding hands around the globe, animals peacefully living together, a place of refuge in the storm and in the desert, flowers, hearts, and crosses. There are phrases like, “Freedom, break the chains”, “God is love”, “We are better together”, “Never give up hope because there is hope in everything”, and so much more on these 33 squares!

As these squares are knit together to make one, we are reminded that God weaves all of us together in a tapestry of love to bring warmth, comfort, grace, and peace to a weary world! May we live out this good news and may it spill over into thanksgiving! (Colossians 2:2-7)

**S
A**  **20
22**
Stronger

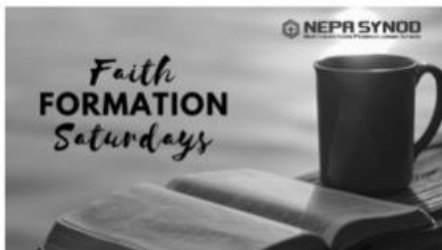
TOGETHER

Our 2022 Assembly will be held online on June 10-11. Each congregation is entitled to bring two voting members. Register on the synod website today!
Godslove.org

**STEWARDSHIP
EXTRAVAGANZA**



JUNE 18, 2022
**TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH, LANSDALE**
AN EVENT ORGANIZED BY THE
SEPA AND NEPA SYNODS
(REGISTRATION FORTHCOMING)



Join us on the 2nd
Saturday of every month!
(more information on our website)



APRIL 23 & 24, 2022, 1PM-4PM
RAIN OR SHINE, BAREBONES EVENT, BRING YOUR OWN KNIFE, CUTTING BOARD, DRINKS, AND SNACKS. WE'LL BE CUTTING THE SEED POTATOES FOR PLANTING SEASON! ALL ARE INVITED! JUST WALK-IN AND HELP!

BECKER'S ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
265 MAIDENCREEK ROAD
FLEETWOOD, PA 19522

Three Years of Growth and Change



GROWING YOUNG



GAINING STRENGTH



BEYOND DEATH TO LIFE

THE WAY FORWARD

Saul, the persecutor of God's people became Paul, champion of the living Christ, after a powerful singular experience on the road to Damascus. For Silver Lake Award honoree Valerie Tutson, the powerful, singular moment that Christ came alive for her was not on the road, but in the pews of her childhood church.

Valerie Tutson is a storyteller by trade and her eyes widen with joy when she tells the story of the first time she saw a performance by some of her church friends after they returned from a camp experience at Silver Lake Conference Center (SLCC), a United Church of Christ facility. She recounts that in seeing those young women - dressed in plastic garbage bags meant to represent frog costumes and singing about the plagues and pharaoh - her life was changed forever. From then on, scripture stories were not merely words on the page, but a living breathing story, one that became hers to tell with creativity and wonder. After that she attended camp as soon, and as often, as she could.

"Silver Lake has been a part of my life since I was 11 years old," Val said. "Without a doubt, Silver Lake has helped to shape the person I am in the world. It has always been a place where my life, my creative work, and my faith get explored and braided together. I tell people all over the world that all the good stuff I learned about life and caring for God's people I learned and keep learning at camp!" She has been a camper or staff member of the camp since 1977.

SLCC Executive Director, the Rev. Ryan Gackenheimer, says that even many decades after her "come to Jesus moment" in the pews of her home church, "It is difficult to be in the presence of Val and not know that God is alive and loves you to the deepest core of who you truly are."

Do you have a "road to Damascus" moment? How does it continue to inform your life to this day?

Information about the Silver Lake Award adapted from the Silver Lake Conference Center website:

<https://www.silverlakeect.org/newsdetail/valerie-tutson-recognized-with-4th-annual-silver-lake-award-14029263>

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Randy Warmkessel, Linda Ballew-Johnson, Carl Flicker, Owen Shorette, Elaine Heffner, Marilyn & Bill Bird, Kay Weidner, Steve O'Neil, Walter Dietrich, John & Marlene Costello, Betty Dietrich, Pat Miller, Beatrice Bennecoff, Barry Miller, Carolyn Wiltrout, Arlan Berger, Marian Stettler, Bill & Karen Howard, Joe Karaisz, Anna Bortz, Ralph & Helen Noll, Mary Kutz, Karen Weaver, Sylvia Heckler, Gladys Leibold, Donna Slotter, Leora Haas, Donna VanDeCar, Lloyd & Nancy, Ukrainians, Losito family, Randy Schlegel, Kevin Moyer, Linda Menges, Joanne Pauley, Richard Harter, Mary Jane Schlenker, Sarah Johnson, Juliana Leshner, Bill Rinear, Michael Zimmerman, Regen Zimmerman, Elia, Beverly Keller, Ian Miller, Karen Ames, Elaine Seaman, Victoria Slotter, Betty Wiltrout, Jo Corrado, Donna Rabert, Tom Seifert, Deb, Rayann Roth, Lisa & Chris Szarko, Arthur Sell, Lorraine Miller, Renee Wolfe, Christopher Mercardo, Kim Markham, Valerie, Mary Fox, Sue Zimmerman, Michele Rodriguez, Christy Ryan, Drew & Mary Jane Stump, Frank Knight, Betty Houck, Judy Redman, Mary, Betsy, Gary Sell, family of Lowell Thomas, family of Frank Orlando, family of Althea Moyer.

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

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

DID YOU KNOW?

- Swimming for the Boyertown Navy Seals, Archer Scaffidi competed at the YMCA State Championship in York, PA. His 4 X 100 free relay came in 6th place. His 4 X 50 medley and 4 X 50 free relay both came in 4th place.
- Paige Carvalho and Archer Scaffidi performed with the Brandywine Heights Area School District Marching Band at Disney Springs in Orlando, FL.
- Ashley DeLong made distinguished honor for the 3rd quarter at Brandywine Heights High School.

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 16	Loretta Flicker
May 16	Donald & Kay Mertz (52 wed)
May 24	Lennia Mertz
May 24	Harlow Bailey
May 28	Carol Toth
June 1	Diane Herber
June 7	Mary Kutz
June 8	Shirley Derr
June 15	Eva Christman
June 15	Guerin & Eleanor Nester (59 wed)
June 19	Carol Bennecoff
June 21	Dave & Tina Ehrig (53 wed)
June 24	George & Sandra Leiby (55 wed)
June 25	John & Betty Mertz (67 wed)
June 27	David & Diane Herber (52 wed)

FROM THE RECORD BOOK

FUNERAL: *Lowell A. Thomas*, 85, formerly of Hamburg, died March 12, 2022 in Laurel Center, Hamburg. Graveside service was March 29, 2022 in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery, Kutztown by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz.

Althea C. Moyer, 97, formerly of Kutztown, died April 10, 2022 in Fellowship Manor, Whitehall. Graveside service was April 16, 2022 in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery, Kutztown by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Lowell Thomas.
... the family of Althea Moyer.

... the family of Frank Orlando.



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	Holy Communion
June 5	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**.