



THE CHURCH KEY

A NEWSLETTER THAT OPENS PEOPLE
TO THE MINISTRIES OF



ZION'S UNION
CHURCH MAXATAWNY

**329 Church Road
Kutztown, Pennsylvania
610-683-7485**

a Federated Church of
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
and
The United Church of Christ

November 2018

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<i>Seeds of Zion</i>	Goldenrod 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. 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



"Do not let your hearts be troubled. . . . In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?"

— John 14:1-2

These words from Jesus are used at funerals more than any other scripture passage except perhaps the 23rd Psalm. Grieving hearts find great comfort when they hear Jesus' words of hope and promise. And we shall be reminded of them again when our congregation celebrates All Saints Day on the first Sunday in November.

When we hear Jesus' words we are comforted by the promise of eternal life in heaven. But that is not all that Jesus is promising us. If you can imagine it, Jesus is promising his followers something even more wonderful than a place in heaven after we die. He also promises his followers a heaven on earth that all Christians can experience *right here, right now*.

When a tragedy strikes, many people ask, "Where is God?" Most people think of God as being in heaven, far removed from the trials and tribulations of our life on earth. We picture God seated on a throne behind the pearly gates, where it really doesn't matter whether the family pet has run away, or whether a child has been run over by a car, or whether Mom's biopsy has come back positive. We think of God as being far removed from all our earthly worries, in a far-off place called heaven.

But this is a great misconception. What Jesus also tried to assure his followers of is that heaven is not just a place we can only go to when we die. Jesus also tried to assure us that in the words of a popular song, "Heaven is a place on earth." And we can experience heaven *right here, right now*.

You see, Jesus spoke these words to his disciples at a time when he himself was facing great fear and tribulation. He spoke these words in the Upper Room on the night of his arrest, the night before he would be nailed to the cross and suffer in the most horrific way imaginable. Our Lord was not at all removed from our human condition when he said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." Jesus spoke these words at a time when his own heart was deeply troubled, when the hearts of all his disciples gathered with him in the Upper Room were deeply troubled. Jesus comforts them by going on to say, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?"

It is rather tragic that when Jesus talks about dwelling places in heaven, that we think of heaven as only being accessible to us when we die. But nothing could be farther from the truth. What Jesus was also trying to teach us

is that we don't have to wait to experience heaven. Heaven is ours *right here, right now*.

Do you doubt that such a thing is possible? So did the disciples. Jesus goes on to tell them, "And you know the way to the place where I am going" (John 14:4). And it was good old doubting Thomas who responded, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" To which Jesus answered, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. *From now on you do know him and have seen him.*"

In other words, through Jesus, God was in their midst at that very moment when their hearts were so deeply troubled. Jesus' words are not simply the pie-in-the sky promise of "a mansion in the sky by and by." Jesus is telling us that we can have a piece of heaven *right here, right now*. When we are baptized in Jesus' name, he promises to be fully with us *right here, right now*, for when we are baptized the Holy Spirit dwells *within* us. This is symbolized by the Spirit coming down from heaven like a dove at Jesus' baptism. Heaven has come down to earth. Jesus emphasizes this when he says, "If you know me, you will know my Father also. *From now on you do know him and have seen him.*" In other words, God the Father was in their midst. And if God is in heaven, then *heaven was in their midst*. And, likewise, if God's Holy Spirit is within us, God the Father is in *our* midst. Heaven is in our midst *right here, right now*.

Before he left his disciples Jesus promised them, "I will not leave you alone." He promised them the Holy Spirit: "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth . . . he abides with you and he *will be in you* (John 14:16-17).

And so, my friends, the Good News of Jesus Christ is that heaven is not far off, removed from us in time and space. Heaven is *everywhere*. And therefore heaven is also *within us*. The disciples once asked Jesus when the Kingdom of God would arrive. Here is his answer: "The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' For, in fact, *the kingdom of God is within you*" (Luke 17:20-21).

If Christ dwells within us, heaven is within us. And we can experience the joy of heaven every moment of every day. In the words of that beloved children's hymn, we can have "the 'joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart.' We don't have to wait until we die. Heaven is right here, right now "for those with eyes to see."

Do not let your hearts be troubled,

Pastor Jeff

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER WORSHIP

November 4	24 th Pentecost/All Saints	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 11	25 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 18	26 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 21	Thanksgiving Eve Service		7:00 P.M.
November 25	Christ The King Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
December 2	First Sunday of Advent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
December 9	Second Sunday of Advent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
December 16	Third Sunday of Advent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
December 23	Fourth Sunday of Advent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
December 24	Christmas Eve Family Service		6:00 P.M.
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service		9:00 P.M.
December 30	S.S. Christmas Pageant	SS 9:00	church 10:15

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

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY

The Eucharistic Ministry Team made their visits after the October 7th Communion Service. They would like to thank those members who welcomed them into their homes to share the sacrament.



TIME CHANGE

Daylight Savings Time ends **November 4th**. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday evening.



OVER 70 DINNER



If you are a Zion's member over 70, the annual Over 70 Day celebration is **November 4th** when we worship and commune together at the church. Invitations have been mailed with all the details. We try hard to be aware of our over 70 members, but if we have missed you, call it to our attention. We want to honor you, too.

Confirmation Classes of 1967 & 1968 Reunion *Service and Dinner*

Sunday, November 4, 2018

Service 10:15 A.M. Dinner after the service

ALL MEMBERS OF ZION INVITED TO HONOR THEM

All you can eat! Two meats! Dessert included!

A sign-up sheet is on bulletin board.

ACTIVE INTRUDER TRAINING

Thanks to Sgt. Ray Schell and Corporal Walt Skavinsky of the Kutztown Police Department, our congregation's leaders recently received Active Intruder Training in the event of an armed intruder at our church. This is the same training that is being offered by police departments across the country to schools and other organizations at risk of an armed intruder. It was an invaluable learning experience and our Safety Committee is implementing a number of new procedures at the church to make us more secure.

In addition, we urge all our Sunday School teachers and other interested persons to watch an on-line video used at Penn State to educate their students and faculty to the best way to respond in case of an attack. It is a brief seven minute video and can be viewed here: <https://police.psu.edu/run-hide-fight-surviving-active-attacker>.

STARTING A NEW KIDS CHOIR

A new kids choir is starting sometime in November. Practice will be Sunday mornings at 8:45 A.M. Watch for the dates. Children nursery through grade 4 are welcome. The choir will sing one or two times a year. Theresa would like to give the choir a new name. If you want to join the choir or have ideas for a name see Theresa.

HELPING HAND FUND

On **November 4th**, baskets will be available in the back of the church and the Gathering Area for any donations to the Helping Hand Fund. The Helping Hand Fund of Zion's was established to provide financial support for individuals in the congregation who may be experiencing unexpected challenges in their lives. Contributions received go to replenish the fund.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Mobile will be at Zion's on **November 6th** from 3:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board on the second floor. Stop by the church or call the church office to sign up.



NEW SOCKS FOR THE HOMELESS

It's SOCKtober! Socks are a much needed item for the homeless and shelters. We will be collecting new socks for men, women, children, and infants to be distributed to local organizations. Please place donations in the box located in the Gathering Area. Collection will run **until November 11th**. Any questions contact Melissa Leiby at melkleiby@yahoo.com.



THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

A Thanksgiving Service will be held **Wednesday evening, November 21st** at 7:00 P.M. The service will prepare our hearts to give thanks to Almighty God, from whom all blessings flow.



CEMETERY CLEAN UP



ALL flower/wreath arrangements must be removed from the cemetery by the 3rd Saturday of November. The only exceptions will be the arrangements attached to the top of the tombstones. Cemetery clean-up will take place **November 17th** (weather permitting).



ANGEL PROJECT

The Sunday School will once again have their Angel Project. It will begin the end of November. This program allows needy children and adults in our community to receive Christmas gifts through Zion's generosity. Watch for more details in the church bulletin.



BETHANY'S BRIGHTER FUTURE FUND

On **November 25th** and **December 2nd**, baskets will be in the back of the church and the Gathering Area of the church for any monetary donations for the Bethany Children's Home Brighter Future Fund to purchase items for the residents for Christmas.



COOKBOOK

WIZ is gathering recipes for a church cookbook. November will be Pa Dutch recipes. This project is open to all the women of the church. A special box is in the Gathering Area to collect these recipes. Questions: call Loretta Flicker at 610-683-3627 or Nikki Phillips at 610-763-6770.



ALLEN ORGAN HOLIDAY CONCERT

The Adult Fellowship Committee has obtained 15 tickets for the matinee holiday concert on Saturday, **December 1st**, at 2:00 P.M. at Allen Organ. Cost of a ticket is \$15.00. See Nancy Fulton for tickets.

LIVE NATIVITY



The Sunday School’s Live Nativity will be held **December 8th** from 5:00 to 7:30 P.M. Shows will be held every ½ hour. The final show will be at 7:00 P.M. Refreshments will be served. Help is needed with set up, acting, parking, and serving refreshments. Anyone from 3rd grade through adult is welcome to help. You do not need to be a Sunday School member. Anyone interested in helping out, contact Sue Haas at 610-683-6099.

ZUMBA CLASSES

Zumba has been discontinued because of poor attendance.

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.

POINSETTIA DISPLAY

We will be decorating our church with poinsettias for Christmas. The cost will be \$10.00 per plant. A tear off sign-up sheet is below and may be placed in the offering plate during worship. Please see Karen Warmkessel to pay for your poinsettias. You may also mail the sign-up sheet and payment to the church. Any checks should be made out to Zion’s Union Church Maxatawny. Deadline for orders is **December 9th**.



POINSETTIA SIGN UP

NAME

NUMBER OF POINSETTIAS: RED..... WHITE

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

.....

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.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **November 26th** at 12 noon. Persons attending should bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Games will provide entertainment for the afternoon. Guests are welcome.



ADOPT A HIGHWAY

On October 13th our Adopt-A-Highway cleanup volunteers picked up trash along Rt. 222. Our volunteers include Pastor Jeff, Jarrod Heffner, Harry Snyder, Dan Blanchard, LaRee Fegely, Kevin Fegely, and the O’Neils. They collected 12 bags of trash, 8 highway cones, couple of signs, and tires.



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.*

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| November 11 | Thankoffering Service |
| November 12 | Meeting & guest speaker, Peggy. “Do You Know Why?” |
| December 3 | Christmas Sharing at Lutheran Home at Topton 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. |
| December 10 | Meeting and cookie exchange at 1:30 P.M. |



For more information contact Linda Ballew-Johnson

(484-553- 1981) or Loretta Flicker (610-683-3627).

COLLECTING WALL CALENDARS FOR THE YEAR 2019. They can be placed in the container in the Gathering Area through **December 16th.**

CHRISTMAS SHARING – November 26th

ARTICLES FOR WOMEN

Costume jewelry *
Full slips (all,esp.M,L,XL) *
After-bath lotion *
Tie robes
Panties (all sizes) *
Bedroom slippers with soles/back *
Camisoles (undershirts) (M,L,XL)
Sachet
Afghans
Sweat shirts



Body powder
Knee-hi's *
Cologne *
Elastic waist slacks
Dusters
Light weight nighties (all sizes) *
Sweat pants
Sweaters *
Tops *



ARTICLES FOR MEN

Shorts (boxers, underwear) *
Bedroom slippers with soles/back *
Electric pre-shave lotion *
Flannel shirts (M,L) *
Hand held video games
After shave
Socks *



Handkerchiefs
Gloves
Sweat pants (M,L,XL)
Light weight pajamas (M,L,XL) *
Sport books
Old Spice *
Tie robes



GENERAL GIFTS FOR ALL AGES

Perfume *
Combs/brushes
Ballpoint pens
Plain canned cookies *
Plain packaged candy *
Children's games, toys
Picture frames



Plain soaps *
Postage stamps *
Toothpaste *
Books on tape
Videos
Ornaments
Teen items



Board games
Large print books
Cheese crackers
Tissues *
Talcum powder
Infants items
Umbrellas



PLEASE REMEMBER

Christmas gift wrapping paper, tissue paper, gift bags, tape, and gift boxes are needed. All items must be new. These items will be given by the residents to loved ones. Items marked with an asterisk (*) are popular items. Articles that are not selected for the Christmas Sharing by residents are saved, sorted, and given to residents, as needed, during the year and used as prizes and gifts for various in-house activities throughout the year.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

Activity Schedule:

November 4	Progressive meal, 4:30 to 8 P.M.
November 18	Advent practice at 1:30 P.M.
November 25	Advent practice at 1:30 P.M.
December 2	Advent Social, Senior dinner
December 8	Pack nuts?
December 16	Caroling to shut-ins at 1:30 P.M.
December 20	Volunteer at Friends



Offering Schedule:

November 4	Adam Noll and Madison Held
November 11	Anthony Blanchard and Zachary Haas
November 18	Jonathan Weidman and Katelyn DeLong
November 25	Sydney Sheetz and Ethan Weidman
December 2	Caleb Krause and Cayden Ciccone-Haas
December 9	Nick Perella and Kelly Leiby
December 16	Emily Bortz and Elizabeth Schell
December 23	Connor O’Neil and Dane Fegely
December 24 (6 PM)	Volunteers Needed
December 24 (9 PM)	Volunteers Needed

NUTS – The Youth Group will once again be selling nuts for the holiday season. Watch the bulletin for the dates and prices.



ADVENT SOCIAL – The Youth Group will be having their Advent Social on **December 2nd** at 7:00 P.M. The congregation is welcome to join them for some fun and fellowship during the Advent season.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Dane Fegely plays golf for Kutztown High School.

- Debbie Berger, owner of Hasch Daal Custom Embroidery, Silk Screening, & Promotional Items, was honored as Influencer at the Northeast Berks Chamber of Commerce Annual Shining Star Awards Banquet.
- Benjamin Chapkovich plays soccer for Brandywine Heights High School.
- Sydney Sheetz is the junior representative to the Kutztown School Board.
- Dane Fegely was a member of the Kutztown H.S. Homecoming Court.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

There have been a lot of address and phone number changes since the last pictorial directory was made. So a new Membership Directory has been made. It contains members' addresses and phone numbers (no photographs). The directories are available in the back of the church or the Gathering Area. If you can't get to church to pick one up, one can be mailed to you just let the church office know.

CHURCH BOARD

September 25, 2018

- Worship calendar approved for 2019.
- Treasurer's report approved pending audit. Ongoing information found in weekly bulletins.
- Special thanks to Sherie Mohn for another beautiful Harvest Home display and decorating of the church.
- Letters of thanks sent to Kutztown Police Department for their ALICE training offered at church and Norman Williamson for his assistance in hanging the banners.
- Disaster Recovery/Relief/Environmental Stewardship committee planted trees in Kutztown at the dog park. Work on shower in basement to begin next month. More information to follow regarding this new and exciting committee at Zion's.

FROM THE MAILBOX

I just wanted to convey my appreciation for Zion's involvement in the iHartHarvest potato harvest last Sunday (September 16). It was a pleasure to meet members of the congregation and work alongside them in the field. Thank you for all you do as a congregation to shine God's light of love in our community.



Blessings,
Carolyn Witt
Community Engagement Leader
Thrivent Financial

Pastor Jeff,

Just wanted to let you know how much I appreciated worshipping at Zion Union Church yesterday (September 16). The people were so friendly and immediately came up to us when we came in the door to welcome us and to explain everything about getting around the church. The congregation has such a great outreach program and I was impressed with all the church activities. After such a meaningful worship service and the extravagant welcome by the congregation and you, if I were looking for a church, I definitely would be back next Sunday. I am sure your leadership has a lot to do with this. God bless you in your continued ministry at Zion Union.

Doris Esslinger

MYSTERY MEMBER/S

The Mystery Couple in October was Linda Ballew-Johnson and her husband Bill Johnson. The family she lived with when her parents passed away included Evan Slotter and his parents. In addition to other church related involvement Linda is the Co-president of WIZ. Some of these facts were omitted because they revealed too much information.

For the next several months the focus will be shifted to some of the younger members of the church. It is fascinating to become familiar with the interests of these young people and to see just how involved they are in school and extra-curricular activities. Credit goes to them and to their parents who provide transportation, time scheduling assistance, and, most of all, support.

The first young woman was born in Lehigh Valley Hospital in 2002. Her first vacation was to Baltimore, Maryland. She attends Kutztown Area High School where she participates in Band, Chorus, the School Musical, Leo Club, and History Day. She is a member of National Honor Society and also participates in 4-H and Grange. She held the title of PA State Grange Princess in 2016-2017.

She has a younger sibling and also has several pets. She spends her leisure time reading, watching her favorite TV shows, and sewing and knitting. As a member of the church youth group she recently participated in the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. While attending this event she added several firsts to her life-list: first time flying, first time to a Japanese Restaurant, first time to a Major League Baseball Game. Among her favorite Youth Group activities were canoeing, camp, and playing spoons. In her younger days she was in the church children's choir.

Can you name this young woman?

SPIRIT ON TAP – READING

Spirit on Tap will be held **November 27th** at 7:00 P.M. at the DoubleTree Hotel, 701 Penn St., Reading. The events are free and open to all. Dr. Kenneth Hawlinson, Kutztown University President, will present “*Higher Education in Contemporary Culture*”.

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@concast.net.

THEOLOGY WITH A TWIST

Theology With a Twist will be held Tuesday, **November 13th** at 7:00 P.M. at the Kutztown Tavern, 272 W. Main St., Kutztown. Rev. Dr. Craig Atwood will present “*The Inklings: Faith and Fantasy in an English Pub*”. He will discuss the inklings, a group of English writers and scholars who met regularly at the Eagle and Child Pub in Oxford to discuss literature, philosophy, God, and modern life.

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, or call Maiden creek Church at 610-926-3907.

KUTZTOWN COMMUNITY CHOIR'S CONCERT

The Kutztown Community Choir will present their annual Christmas concert on Sunday, **December 9th** at 3:00 PM, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 357 W. Main St., Kutztown. This season's selections include the lovely medley *Rejoice!*, *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*, and *Ding Dong! Merrily on High. This Holy Night*

combines an original tune with the much-loved *O Holy Night* and a sprinkling of holiday fun is injected into our program with secular favorites, including *It's the Holiday Season*. In what has become an audience favorite, the concert will once again conclude with the *Hallelujah* chorus, from *Händel's Messiah*, in which the audience is invited to join the choir.

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 **November 6th and December 4th** 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.

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Monthly Mailing to Be Sent Using Email

In an effort to be more faithful stewards both of the synod's financial resources and of the earth God has entrusted to our care, the synod "Monthly Mailing" will no longer be reproduced on paper and mailed through the post office.

Beginning with the January 2019 mailing, materials will be emailed to each congregation and also posted for download on the synod website.

For this to work, it is important that each congregation have a current email on file with the synod office. If your congregation is not receiving the weekly E-News (sent out on Tuesday mornings), it is probably best if you contact the synod at nepsinfo1988@gmail.com with the email you wish to use for the monthly materials.

If your congregation does not use email, please recruit a member who does have an email address to receive your materials, and forward that address to the synod.

The synod recognizes that it may be inconvenient for a few congregations, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation with this transition. If you have any questions about what you need to do, please contact the synod at nepsinfo1988@gmail.com or 610-266-5101.

Living into Common Mission



St. John Lutheran Church and Church of the Redeemer (Episcopal) in Sayre enjoyed the fruits of its partnership this summer in at least two ways: sending 10 youth from both parishes to the Lutheran Youth Gathering in Houston, and worshipping together for the summer months. Both experiences have enriched the relationships between the two parishes.

Some years ago, the two parishes began discussions about sharing clergy with the Synod and Diocese. Early in 2017 an Episcopal priest was called to serve both parishes, bringing a full time presence to each at a part-time cost. Building on a successful youth program at Redeemer, the youth of both parishes combined to form a single youth group.

In December, the group decided to attend the LYG; and in less than six months they raised sufficient funds to send to Houston all ten eligible youth and four adult companions, including the pastor. As far as it is known, this was the only interdenominational youth group in attendance! And the youth found that for them, the Youth Event motto "this changes everything" was in fact true.

Because of construction projects at each site, the two parishes worshipped together during the summer months, alternating between Lutheran Worship and the Book of Common Prayer from week to week. Majorities of both congregations attended services, regardless of where the service was held. Both memberships remarked on how nice it was to worship in a full church and how much they appreciated the opportunity to get to know one another better.

A Year Long Celebration of Serving

For we are God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works. (Ephesian 2:10)



At St. John's Lutheran Church, Hamburg, Rally Day is more than the kick-off to Sunday School. It is an introduction to a year-long focus not only for Sunday School, but for the entire congregation. The ELCA theme, "God's Work Our Hands" was selected by the Parish Education Committee to celebrate the talents which we have been given by God to serve our community and the world.

To introduce the theme, the children were asked to bring cans of food to donate to a local food pantry, make first aid kits, and sing songs about being a helping hand.



Hand prints listing community service ideas were hung on the church walls to encourage young and old to offer their gifts to others. Located around the church are specific "God's Work Our Hands" crosses. St. John's members place a "hand" sticker on one of the crosses when they have used their hands to do God's work. As the crosses fill up with hands this year, they will serve as a way to celebrate all the good work being done by one church in Berks County, collectively using unique God-given gifts to make a difference in the world.

More Stories from God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday



Faith, Mount Penn

Several other stories about God's Work. Our Hands. community outreach projects are posted on the synod website (<http://nepasynod.org/events/stories-gwoh-sunday>). If your congregation participated in one, send a short story with one or more photos to georgiasuranofsky@hotmail.com.

As you can see from the article above, these projects can take place throughout the year!



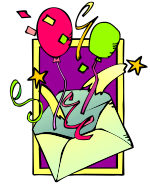
Good Shepherd, Reading

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2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. nepinfo1988@gmail.com.
View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org/publications/synod-news>.

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.

November 1	Richard Haas
November 3	David Kamp
November 4	Ernest Wiltrout
November 6	Donald Mertz
November 6	Carl & Loretta Flicker (53 wed)
November 6	Kay Mertz
November 6	Fay Kamp
November 10	Althea Moyer
November 10	Mabel Guldin
November 10	Barry Ziegler
November 14	Nancy Held
November 14	Karen Howard
November 15	Catherine Freeby
November 22	Dale Grim
December 2	Leon Neimeyer
December 3	Kenneth & Dianne Angstadt (58 wed)
December 12	Lucille Zettlemoyer
December 16	Diana Gehman
December 17	Elaine Silliman
December 17	Jane Warmkessel
December 18	Michael & Evelyn Dietz (53 wed)
December 25	Sylvia Heckler
December 26	Michael Dietz
December 30	Rev. Willis Heckler



OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Earl "Duke" Christman. ... the family of Kermit Berger.

ADDRESSES CHANGES

Please notify the church office if you have moved or your address has changed. We must pay a fee for every piece of bulk mail returned to our office for an updated address. Please help us save postage.



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.



November 4	Pew Holy Communion
December 2	Altar Holy Communion
December 24 (6 PM)	Pew Holy Communion
December 24 (9 PM)	Pew Holy Communion

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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