

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
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 first floor of the church.

THE PASTOR'S PAGE



Just imagine if you could go to the doctor and get a shot that would make you immune to temptation—a temptation vaccination! We would no longer be tempted by all things that lead us to sin. This wild idea is actually not all that far-fetched. The pharmaceutical industry is closing in on a new approach to treating drug and alcohol addiction. Vaccines are being developed that would attack drugs in the bloodstream and keep them from reaching the brain. A vaccinated addict would find that their favorite drug no longer has any effect. Parents could get their children vaccinated and never again have to worry about them getting addicted to anything!

This sounds like an amazing breakthrough that could solve the problem of addiction forever. People use drugs for many reasons. The most basic reason is that it simply makes you feel good. The great guitarist, Eric Clapton, went through quite a battle with heroin addiction. He said in an interview that the very first time he tried heroin he immediately knew why there were so many junkies. Using heroin was so pleasurable that he knew he would use it again despite all the dangers. It was such an incredibly ecstatic experience that he was willing to take the risk. And within short order he was hooked.

Most drug users use drugs for the wonderful feelings of serenity they can bring. Most alcoholics drink in order to feel happy (that's why they call it "happy hour"!). Drugs and alcohol are often used to find an escape from the pressures and worries of life. But there has always been a much safer way. I recently read an article about how neurological researchers have located the portion of the brain that is activated when people meditate and achieve a feeling of "nirvana"—inner bliss—a feeling of oneness with God and the universe. Many monks, whether they be Christian, Buddhist, or Hindu, spend a lifetime cloistered in monasteries and convents in order to devote themselves full-time to prayer and meditation in order to achieve what are called "ecstatic states of consciousness." Many drugs, especially "psychedelic" drugs, seem to be a short-cut to doing that. Many native American Indians, as well as many Hindu ascetics, have been using hallucinogenic drugs for centuries as part of their religious rituals.

But today recreational drug use is a dangerous short-cut to attaining inner peace and serenity. I believe that, deep down, what drug users are really seeking is the inner peace that many religions of the world try to cultivate through the much safer means of prayer and meditation. Jesus once said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (John 14:27).

Wouldn't we all love to have that kind of peace and contentment in our

lives. But we may not be so eager to do what it takes to achieve it. Like anything else, a deep devotional life takes work and practice. It's not something that can be easily achieved by just showing up at church on Sunday mornings. That's only the first step! Having a deep relationship with God is no different than having a deep relationship with our spouse or children or a good friend. We can't have a close relationship if we only see someone one hour a week.

If we can develop a more intimate relationship with God, we will be much less likely to turn to drugs or alcohol when we hit a rough spot in life. We sometimes refer to tough times as encountering a "storm" in our life. It's a good analogy. Storms at sea, like storms in life, often sneak up without warning. A good sailor has to be ready and prepared. Skills that were learned and honed through long experience are needed when a storm hits. The middle of a storm is not the time to suddenly learn those skills, it's the time to use them.

What about us and the metaphorical "storms" we encounter in our lives? The storms of life often hit suddenly and unexpectedly. Sudden illness. An unexpected death. Divorce. Natural disasters. Are we ready when a storm hits, or does it really wallop us because we're totally unprepared? Have we learned the skills it takes to cope—skills such as prayer and meditation and other spiritual disciplines? In a future Lenten study, I plan to offer mid-week classes on meditation and prayer and developing a spiritual life—watch for future announcements!

If we haven't built a strong relationship with God—or with family and friends—the middle of a storm is not the time to do so. And it is then that we may seek some seemingly easier, but much more dangerous way out—such as drugs or alcohol or an illicit relationship. There is no vaccination that can give us the peace and tranquility and wisdom for coping that only God can provide. And God has tried to prepare us by sending his Son to show us the way that leads to true life. God "vaccinated" us with his Holy Spirit at our baptism. Christ has given us a "shot" of peace that only he can give. But it's up to us to activate that spiritual power in our lives. Coming to church regularly is just one component to achieving a regular spiritual discipline. We also need to be regularly in touch with God through daily prayer and meditation. We need to regularly be in communion with God through the Lord's Supper. If we can nurture a more intimate relationship with God, we will be ready and prepared when a storm in life hits. Thankfully, storms do not last forever. But when they hit, we can greatly lessen their impact and successfully navigate through them with God by our side.

Wishing you the peace only Christ can bring,

Pastor Jeff

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER WORSHIP

November 3	All Saints/Over 70/50 th Conf.	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 10	Thankoffering	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 17	23 rd Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 24	Christ The King	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 28	Thanksgiving Day		9:00 A.M.
December 1	First Sunday of Advent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
December 8	Second Sunday of Advent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
December 15	Third Sunday of Advent	SS 9:00	church 10:15
December 22	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 29	S.S. Christmas Pageant	SS 9:00	church 10:15

CHURCH DOORS

As part of our on-going commitment to providing a safe environment to joyfully worship the Lord, we will be keeping the front doors locked on Sunday mornings from 9:15 A.M. on. Greeters will be on duty to open the doors and welcome you to your morning worship. This recommendation came out of the intruder training by the Kutztown Police Department. Thank you, everyone, for your cooperation and understanding.

EUCHARISTIC 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.



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

October 19th our Adopt-A-Highway cleanup volunteers picked up trash along Rt. 222. Our volunteers were Angie Wagaman; Paige Carvalho; Harry Snyder; Alex Warmkessel; Diana Gehman; Grace and Greg Haas; Sherie Mohn; Shanna Mason; Jake, Rachel, LaRee, and Kevin Fegely, and the O'Neils. They collected 14 bags of trash and debris.



OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

On October 10th, we served between 70-75 people at Opportunity House. All very appreciative of the yummy mashed potatoes and meatloaf (and turkey). Thank you to the following people. Food prep: Richard Haas, Peggy Morgan, Nancy Fulton, George and Sandy Leiby, LaRee Fegely, Mary Laub, Greg Haas, Joe and Lisa Walker. Servers: LaRee, Kevin, and Rachel Fegely; Pastor Jeff and Kathy Butz; Lisa Walker; Zachary and Greg Haas.

TIME CHANGE

Daylight Savings Time ends **November 3rd**. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday evening.



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 |

50th Reunion of 1969 Confirmation Classes

*Presentations
Service and Dinner*

Sunday, November 3, 2019

(in conjunction with the over 70 day)

Service 10:15 A.M. Dinner at noon

OVER 70 DINNER



If you are a Zion's member over 70, the annual Over 70 Day celebration is **November 3rd** 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.

HELPING HAND FUND

On **November 3rd**, 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 5th** from 3:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. A sign-up sheet is on the second floor bulletin board. Stop by the church or call the church office to sign up.



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 16th** (weather permitting).



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.

BETHANY'S BRIGHTER FUTURE FUND

On **November 24th** and **December 1st** 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.



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.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual Congregational Meeting to elect Board Members and to approve the annual operating budget will be held **December 8th** immediately following the worship service. This year we have 4 Board Member openings. Please consider attending this important meeting.

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 8th**.



POINSETTIA SIGN UP

NAME

NUMBER OF POINSETTIAS: RED..... WHITE

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

.....

LIVE NATIVITY

The Sunday School's Live Nativity will be held **December 14th** 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.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

Activity Schedule:

November 3	Advent Social practice, 1:30-3:00 P.M.
November 17	Advent Social practice, 1:30-3:00 P.M.
December 1	Advent Social at 7:00 P.M.
December 7	Pack nuts at 9:00 A.M.
December 15	Caroling in afternoon followed by ice cream sundaes.
December 19	Work at Friend, Inc. between 4:30 and 7:30 P.M.



Offering Schedule:

November 3	Steven Gehringer and Kaylen Leiby
November 10	Mitchell Grim and Jewel Karaisz
November 17	Adam Noll and Madison Held
November 24	Zachary Haas and Sydney Sheetz
December 1	Jonathan Weidman and Katelyn DeLong
December 8	Ethan Weidman and Nick Perella
December 15	Caleb Krause and Cayden Ciccone-Haas
December 22	Kelly Leiby and Autumn Edelman
December 29	Emily Bortz and Lizzie Schell

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 1st** at 7:00 P.M. The congregation is welcome to join them for some fun and fellowship during the Advent season.



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 10 | Thankoffering Service |
| November 11 | Meeting and program "A Patriotic Life", Election of Officers. |
| December 9 | Cookie Exchange and Christmas games at 1:00 P.M. |



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

COLLECTING WALL CALENDARS FOR THE YEAR 2020. They can be placed in the container in the Gathering Area through **December 15th**.

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO!

On Sunday, **November 10th**, Dawn Baxter, from the WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT (a coalition of area Lutheran churches working together to do effective cooperative ministry) will present the message at our 10:15 worship service. Dawn will share information about **FAMILY PROMISE FOR BERKS – a new mission in Berks County to help keep homeless families together until adequate housing can be found for them.** Also view the DVD in the gathering area before and after the service for examples of how the mission has helped families and youth achieve sustainable independence.

WIZ COOKBOOK UPDATE

We very much appreciate all the recipes submitted for our proposed cookbook. Unfortunately we have encountered some unforeseen issues in the process of publishing the book. We are working hard to resolve these issues and hope to move forward soon. Thank you for your patience.

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 25th and December 23rd** 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.

CHURCH BOARD MEETING

September 24, 2019

1. The 2020 worship schedule was approved.
2. We want to thank the committee for a wonderful and successful Mortgage Shredding Event.
3. Randy and Adam Noll generously donated 22 Walkie Talkies for the Safe Church initiative.
4. Emory Brothers Service Agreement for the bi-annual organ tuning was approved.
5. St. John's Lutheran Church in Kutztown is looking for volunteers to help paint benches under the bandshell in Kutztown Park on October 6th beginning at 11:30 A.M. The town is providing the supplies.
6. Prayerfully consider becoming a Church Board member.

REMINDER ABOUT OUR CARD MINISTRY

Cards are available in the Gathering Area for all occasions – thinking of you, birthday, etc. If you need help addressing, please see Grace Haas. Cards are \$1.00 with postage stamp included. **Why not make someone's day special?**

MYSTERY MEMBER

I hope everyone recognized Peggy Morgan as our Mystery Member in October. If all her positions in the church had been revealed your job would have been too easy so here is the list: Church Board, Church Co-Treasurer, Finance Committee, Preparation of the Communion Table, Choir, Sunday School Teacher, Sunday School Vice-president, WIZ, Adult Fellowship, and more. Thank you Peggy for being such an integral part of Zion's Maxatawny. Peggy is married to Ed Morgan who usually attends a different church. Their daughter, Samantha, lives in Henderson, Nevada. Thank you for all your hard work, Peggy.

Watch your newsletter to learn more about your church family. Looking for more members who will share their lives and interests.



2 CANS OF SWEET POTATOES
2 CANS OF CRANBERRY SAUCE
2 CANS OF DIFFERENT VEGETABLES
LARGE CAN OF FRUIT JUICE
BOX OR BAG OF STUFFING MIX
BAG OF APPLES (may substitute applesauce)
BAG OF POTATOES (may substitute canned
potatoes or mashed potatoes)
CAN OF FRUIT COCKTAIL
COOKIES
1 CAN OF COCOA or COFFEE
HOLIDAY NAPKINS

Please drop your donations in the designated box in the Gathering Area.
The deadline for donations is **November 17th.**

CALLING ALL GEEKS!

The Good News Committee needs help developing calendars that download to smartphones and tablets. If you are able and willing to take on a challenge like this, contact Linda Ballew-Johnson either at church or by phone 484-553-1981.

FROM THE MAILBOX

To my friends and family at Zion,

I would like to thank you all for recognizing my college graduation and the wonderful certificate and gift card you presented me. My church family has been there for me through my entire college experience, with support, advice, and the occasional care package. I am truly blessed to have such a loving group of people behind me. Your support was truly throughout my whole college experience.



Thank you again,
Jonah Arndt

DID YOU KNOW

- Nick Perella and Andrew Haas took first place at the Youth Group Bean Bag Tournament.
- Zachary Haas and Emily took second place at the Youth Group Bean Bag Tournament.
- Zachary Haas was a member of the Fleetwood Homecoming Court.

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.

UNWANTED ITEMS

\There is a container marked “Opportunity House” at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Mertztown (near Radcliffe’s) where you can donate goods.

QUIET DAYS

Quiet Days takes place **November 5th and December 3rd** 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, and bag lunch. For more information contact Sue at sawmsw@dejazzd.com.

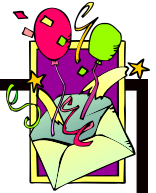
THEOLOGY WITH A TWIST

Theology with a Twist will be held **November 12th** at 7:00 P.M. at the Kutztown Tavern, 272 W. Main St., Kutztown. Rev. Kimberly Berenotto will present “*Faith & Fandoms: How Millennials are Finding Beloved Community in Pop Culture*”. Theology with a Twist is free. Food and drink are available for purchase. For information see facebook page Theology with a Twist; email theologywithatwist@outlook.com, or call 610-926-3907.

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



READING CHORAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Under the direction of Dr. Graham Bier

December 1, 2019, 4pm

Muhlenberg High School Auditorium

RCS will be joined by soloists, Muhlenberg Camerata Choir
& Orchestra

Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at door, \$10 Students



Reading Choral Society
*Enriching the Community
through Music since 1875*

To purchase tickets contact:
RCS Phone: 610.898.1939
www.readingchoral.org

November 6	Donald Mertz
November 6	Kay Mertz
November 6	Fay Kamp
November 6	Carl & Loretta Flicker (54 wed)
November 10	Althea Moyer
November 10	Richard Weigle
November 10	Barry Ziegler
November 14	Nancy Held
November 14	Karen Howard
November 15	Catherine Freeby
November 16	Barry & Ann Miller (51 wed)
November 17	Leora Haas
November 22	Dale Grim
December 2	Leon Neimeyer
December 3	Kenneth & Dianne Angstadt (59 wed)
December 12	Lucille Zettlemyer
December 16	Diana Gehman
December 17	Elaine Silliman
December 17	Jane Warmkessel
December 18	Michael & Evelyn Dietz (54 wed)
December 25	Sylvia Heckler
December 26	Michael Dietz
December 30	Rev. Willis Heckler

FROM THE RECORD BOOK

FUNERAL: *Sally Wach*, died September 2019. Interment October 2, 2019 in Cedar Hill Memorial Park, Allentown by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Sally Wach.

... the family of Gale Wiltrout.



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 3	Pew Holy Communion
December 1	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**.