



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
2020**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reminders	page 1
The Pastor's Page	pages 2, 3, 4
Service Videos, Prayer Requests	page 4
November and December Worship, Time Change	page 5
Over 70 Dinner, Helping Hand Fund	page 5
Ingathering, Blood Drive, Cemetery Clean Up, Congregational Meeting	page 6
Bethany Brighter Future Fund, Angel Tree, Prayer Shawl, Cookbook	page 7
Women In Zion, Cancer Support, Scrabble	page 8
Senior Fellowship Group, Did You Know	page 8
Church Board, Eagle Scout Project, Thank You	page 9
From The Mailbox, Clearances Needed	page 10
Member Updates, Church Sign, Solitude As Soul Care	page 11
Synod News	page 12, 13
Card Showers, Our Sympathies To	page 14
Mission Statement, Holy Communions, Newsletter Deadline	page 15
November Calendar, Staff, Board, Worship Assistants	Yellow 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 an envelope with your name, date, and what you are paying for and place in the offering plate in the rear of the church. The sign-up book and envelopes are currently in the church office. Contact the church office to access them.
- ◆ 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 Marion Angstadt at 610-683-3918.
- ◆ Sports cleats are not allowed in the church.
- ◆ Refreshments should be kept on the first floor of the church.

THE PASTOR'S PAGE



On the first Sunday of November, the church celebrates All Saints Day. While this is a day that brings tears for many who have lost loved ones, All Saints Day is also a *holiday* that we *celebrate*. For the word “holiday” is a contraction of the words “holy day.” All holidays were originally “holy days” to celebrate or remember a holy person or event. And the original purpose of All Saints Day was to celebrate and remember the lives of all the departed Christian saints.

It was part of Martin Luther’s reform of the church to emphasize that everyone who believes in Jesus Christ is a saint, not just especially holy people. And All Saints Day is not only a day for sadly remembering our departed loved ones, but a day for *celebrating* that we are very much in communion with them as together we share a “foretaste of the feast to come,” a foreshadowing of that day when we shall celebrate with them in heaven the feast that has no end.

But except for those Christians who gather in churches on this day, there is probably no one else celebrating All Saints Day. There certainly aren’t any All Saints Day parades to watch on TV. But a huge holiday being celebrated with parades at this time of year is Halloween. Halloween decorations are getting to be just about as widespread and elaborate as Christmas decorations. But most people aren’t aware of the close connection between Halloween and All Saints Day.

Halloween has its roots in an ancient Celtic harvest festival called *Samhain* (pronounced Sow-in) that fell on October 31st, the mid-point between the autumnal equinox and the winter solstice. On the night of October 31st, it was believed that the veil which separated the world of the living from the nether-world was especially thin, and the Celts believed that on that night the souls of the departed would revisit their old homes to keep warm from the cold. So the people took to wearing scary masks in the hopes of scaring the ghosts away. It became an extremely popular festival with much partying and revelry.

In the early middle ages, when Christianity came to the Celtic countries, church leaders quickly realized that it was impossible to stamp out all of the beliefs and practices associated with the popular festival of Samhain. So they decided to Christianize the festival by reinterpreting it in light of Christian beliefs. In order to try to downplay the pagan aspects of the festival, the church changed the date of the Christian holy day called the Festival of the Blessed Virgin and All Martyrs from May 13th to November 1st, and changed its name to All Saints Day. In Great Britain it was called “All Hallows’ Day,” from the old English word “hallowed,” which means “holy” (as in “hallowed be thy name”). The evening before All Hallows’ Day was called “All Hallow’s

Even,” which eventually got shortened to “Hallowe’en.” It became a tradition on Halloween that church bells would be rung all night to prepare the people for remembering all the saints the next day.

But in modern times, Hallowe’en has lost its Christian associations, and taken back much of its pagan association with ghosts and goblins. And for that reason, some Christians today believe that Christians should have nothing to do with Halloween, which they think of as Satanic. But, personally, I don’t think that the churches should be so quick to abandon All Hallows Eve. I think Christians need to recapture it as an important preparation for observing All Saints Day. There is, after all, a natural tie-in between Halloween and All Saints Day. Just look around your neighborhood at how many yards are decorated with tombstones. A tombstone is a very appropriate symbol for All Saints Day. For on this day we remember all the departed saints who now enjoy life. For Christians, tombstones should not be a source of fear, but of hope. Those granite stones bear silent testimony to the bedrock of our Christian faith: that death is not the end of our existence. Christians should see tombstones as gateways to heaven. A tombstone is a sign that God has brought to completion what was first begun at baptism. At our baptism God gave us the promise that we, along with all the saints, would be inheritors of eternal life. For Christians, a tombstone is a sign that God’s promise has been fulfilled.

In many European countries it is a tradition on All Saints Day to fill their cemeteries with light by placing a lighted candle in front of every tombstone. That night, people visit the cemeteries to soak up the light and be reminded that they are always surrounded by the light of the saints who have gone before them.

We are blessed here at Zion’s Church to have our own cemetery. Fewer and fewer churches do. And that is a real loss. In the past, if you wanted to pay your respects to a departed loved one, you went to the cemetery of the church of which you were a member. Graveyards were intentionally planted around the church building in order to create a community of the living and the dead—a communion of all the saints. In olden days it was important for believers to be buried on the sanctified ground from which the church building rose, for it was the center of the living saints’ worship life, and the cemetery was the communal resting place for the departed saints. By moving our cemeteries away from our churches we have fractured that symbol of the communion of saints. It has made us forget that a graveyard is *holy ground*. It’s sad that few people today think of cemeteries as holy ground. We have been brainwashed by too many horror movies where dead hands pop up from the grave. As a result, most people today think of cemeteries as scary, horrible places. A cemetery is no longer thought of as a holy resting place for the mortal bodies of the saints, but as a place haunted by ghosts and evil spirits.

It is tragic that All Saints Day is less important in our culture than Halloween, and that we have lost the real meaning of All Hallows' Eve. In actuality, the modern observance of Halloween is like a trick. It is focused on death. All Saints Day is the treat. It is focused on life. For Christians, All Saints Day is a foretaste of the great and promised feast to come when we shall celebrate with all the saints the feast that has no end. So, to all of you saints at Zions's, have a blessed All Saints Day!

Pastor Jeff

SERVICE VIDEOS

A video recording of our worship service will be uploaded to our church website (zionsunion.org) by early afternoon every Sunday 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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Dave Merkel, Cindy Nowotarski, Marian Stettler, Lisa Walker, Loretta Flicker, Marlene Costello, Barry Miller, Kay Weidner, Bill Howard, Nikki Phillips, Arlene Oswald, Joe Karaisz, Janet Fegely, Anna Bortz, Lucille Zettlemoyer, Gloria Haas, Richard Warmkessel, Beatrice Bennecoff, Steve O'Neil, Ralph & Helen Noll, Mary Kutz, Lowell Thomas, Marilyn & Bill Bird, Richard Derr, Karen Weaver, Sylvia Heckler, Gladys Leibold, Althea Moyer, Donna Slotter, Ed & Donna VanDeCar, Mary Jane Williams, Leora Haas, Karen Ames, Taylor Moyer, Betty Wilttrout, Joyce Kemp, Penny Keller, Ian Miller, Tom Seifert, Victoria Slotter, Donna Rabert, Elia, Deb, Lisa Szarko, Arthur Sell, Herbert Noll, Niki Nolte, Christopher Mercardo, Jo Corrado, Jamie Jordan, Rayann Roth, Michele Rodriquez, Sue Zimmerman, Renee Wolfe, Kim Markham, Valerie, Drew & Mary Jane Stump, Caitlin Dickey, Frank Knight, Christy Ryan, Lorraine Miller, Judy Redman, Betty Houck, Mary Fox, Larry Hockman, Mary, Betsy, Gary Deder, Gary Sell, Russell Peden, family of Pamela Zettlemoyer, family of Russel Hartman, family of Dora Dierolf.

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

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER WORSHIP

November 1	22 nd Pentecost/All Saints Sunday	church 10:15
November 8	23 rd Sunday after Pentecost	church 10:15
November 15	24 th Sunday after Pentecost	church 10:15
November 22	Christ the King Sunday	church 10:15
November 25	Thanksgiving Eve (tentative)	7:00 P.M.
November 29	First Sunday of Advent	church 10:15
December 6	Second Sunday of Advent	church 10:15
December 13	Third Sunday of Advent	church 10:15
December 20	Fourth Sunday of Advent	church 10:15
December 24	Christmas Eve Service (tentative)	6:00 P.M.
December 24	Christmas Eve Service (tentative)	9:00 P.M.
December 27	First Sunday after Christmas	church 10:15

TIME CHANGE

Daylight Savings Time ends **November 1st**. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday evening.



OVER 70 DINNER

The Church Board and the Worship and Music Committee have decided there will not be an Over 70 Day and Senior Dinner this year.

HELPING HAND FUND

On **November 1st**, 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.

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. Thanks so much for your continued support of this important community outreach project. **Items may be put in the box 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		

BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Mobile will be at Zion's on **Tuesday, November 3rd** from 3:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. Sign up online at giveapint.org (Group ID: 3303).



The 2021 Blood Drive dates are for the third **Thursday of the months, February 18, May 20, August 19, November 18** from 3:30 to 7:00 P.M. Please mark your calendars.

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 21st** (weather permitting).



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual Congregational Meeting to elect Board Members and to approve the annual operating budget will be held **December 13th** immediately following the worship service. Please consider attending this important meeting.

BETHANY'S BRIGHTER FUTURE FUND

On **November 29th** and **December 6th** 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 TREE PROJECT

The Sunday School will once again have their Angel Tree Project. We are aware of the increased strain this virus has put on agencies who are helping out local families and the Sunday School is still committed to doing our part. That is why we have made the decision to again do the Angel Tree project to provide Christmas gifts. This year, however, because of circumstances beyond our control, we will only be getting 30 names. We will be getting the names in the beginning of November so those opting to purchase gifts have the opportunity to buy online if they don't feel comfortable going into stores. We will also be taking monetary donations which will be sent to the Salvation Army for the sole purpose of purchasing gifts. We ask you to prayerfully consider helping out in any way you can and thank you, in advance, for your support. **Gifts can be put in a gift bag.** Gifts are due back by **December 6th**.



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.

THE LONG-AWAITED COOKBOOK

The cookbook organized and published by the Women In Zion is available to purchase. Nancy Fulton will have them in the parking lot following the Sunday worship services. Cost of the cookbook is \$12.00. Checks should be made out to "Women In Zion". Other arrangements for getting the cookbook may be made by calling Nancy at 610-682-6357.



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 9 Meeting at 1:00 P.M. in the
Gathering Area (Ketchup Day).
Must wear masks, use hand sanitizer,
and sign in.
- December 14 Meeting at 1:00 P.M.



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

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

The Cancer Support Group will meet the first Monday of the month,
November 2nd and **December 7th** at 6:30 P.M.

SCRABBLE

Scrabble has been cancelled until further notice.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will **NOT MEET** until at least
January or there is a change on the status of worship services.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Carson Sheetz plays football for Kutztown High School.
- Andrew Schell plays Boys Soccer for Kutztown High School.
- Sandy Leiby, LaRee Fegely, and Peggy Morgan were pictured in the *Northern Berks Patriot Item* holding the “large” checks the church donated through matching funds from congregation members to Helping Harvest, Second Harvest, and Salvation Army.
- Ashley DeLong plays girls soccer for Brandywine Heights High School.

CHURCH BOARD MEETING

September 29, 2020

1. Upon re-opening, there was a thank you from members that the services had started again.
2. Youth Group is planning to help at Friend, Inc at Christmas handing out gifts.
3. The Harvest Home designation will be for Friend, Inc. We are asking that the donations take the form of cash this year. It will be celebrated on October 25th.
4. Also on October 25th will be a special congregational meeting to approve the Board's plan to secure funding in order to proceed with the much-needed restoration of the Möller pipe organ.
5. During October, there will be a Northeast PA Synod Assembly held virtually over 4 days to elect a new Bishop.
6. The red carpet in the gathering area will be replaced.
7. Thank you notes were received from Friend, Inc. for \$20, from Second Harvest Food Bank for \$2,722, and from Helping Harvest for \$4,146. In addition, a "keep up the good work" note was received from PA State Representative Gary Day.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Hello, my name is Andrew Haas, and I am a Boy Scout of Troop 183. For my Eagle Scout Project I am collecting new winter hats and gloves for Opportunity House in Reading. The people at Opportunity House would be extremely thankful and joyful for your "warm donation." You may choose to donate any new children or adult winter hats and/or gloves. There will be a bin in the Gathering Area from **October 25th to November 22nd**. An alternative location to drop off the winter hats and gloves will be at my home at 298 Mine Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522. The last day for donations is Sunday, **November 22nd**.



THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU to Donald Dietrich, Valley View Landscaping, for donating his time and equipment for the "updating" of our new sign coming soon!

FROM THE MAILBOX

Thank you for supporting the work of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania with your recent donation of \$2,722. Your contribution will provide 16,332 meals to our neighbors in need. With the support of friends like you, we are able to provide nourishment to thousands each month through our network of more than 200 non-profit member agencies across six counties. Thank you, again, for joining us to help end hunger in the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania. Together, we are strengthening our community and making a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Katarah Jordan, Director
Second Harvest Food Bank



Thank you for your donation of \$4,146.00 to Helping Harvest. We sincerely appreciate that during this crisis, when we are all more conscious of our budgets, you have generously given to help those less fortunate. Your kindness has truly made things a bit easier for families and seniors who find themselves struggling with food insecurity, some for the very first time. Your gift helps us to bring emergency food to our partner agencies, so that together, we can continue to meet the expanding needs of our community. Thank you for your generosity and support in the fight against hunger.

Jay Worrall, president
Helping Harvest

Our sincerest thanks for all the thoughts and prayers our family received with the passing of Elaine Berger. The many sympathy cards reminded us that we are not alone. We feel blessed to be part of a caring church family.

Arlan Berger, Glenn & Heidi Berger & family, Charles & Karen Berger & family, Ronald & Tara Berger & family, Keith Berger & Dawn Stauffer

CLEARANCES NEEDED

Please make copies of your completed Criminal and Child Abuse clearances and send them to the church along with the other paper that needs to be signed. Clearances must be on file in the church office when Sunday School and church events resume. Put "Attention Karen" on the outside of envelope. Thank you to those of you who have returned their clearances.

CHURCH SIGN

The Church Board has given the approval to upgrade the church sign along the Rt 222 highway. This upgrade will allow us to post messages electronically instead of the manual lettering we now use. Our sign has been a source of wonderful messages in the past to many people passing by and we want to continue that service, however working with the old sign and the lettering has become cumbersome and needs attention. The upgrade will cost approximately \$45,000. The majority of the funding has already been donated or pledged but we are looking for help with the remainder of the cost. If you are interested in donating to this sign expense, send your donation to Peggy Morgan, Church Treasurer, 39 S. Church St., Macungie, PA 18062. Checks should be made out to Zion's Union Church Maxatawny with Church Sign on the check's memo line. Thank you in advance for considering to help fund this project.

SOLITUDE AS SOUL CARE

Richard J. Foster (*Celebration of Discipline*) says solitude is “more a state of mind and heart” than a place: “There is a solitude of the heart that can be maintained at all times. Crowds, or the lack of them, have little to do with this inward attentiveness.” Although Jesus preferred crowd-free alone times, that's not always feasible. But no matter your surroundings and responsibilities, you can carve out intentional time to “be still” (Psalm 46:10). Try these tips for adding solitude to life's rhythms:

- Take a day. Every month or two, enjoy a day of solitude. Turn off your phone and spend the day with God.
- Take an hour. Treat this time as an important calendar appointment. Keep it free to protect your solitude.
- Take a minute. Before a big meeting or as you're answering the phone, breathe deeply and invite God into the moment.

—Janna Firestone

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Blessed to be a Blessing



The Church Board (council/consistory) of Zion's Union Church Maxatawny recently challenged its members to raise \$5,000 to help three local service agencies in these difficult times. The congregation has been blessed to be financially stable during the pandemic and the Board pledged to match any donations received from various church accounts.

Despite having only virtual on-line worship, thanks to the generous stewardship of its members over a three-month period the goal was exceeded and \$5,755 was received, which the Board matched for a total of \$11,510. The Salvation Army received \$4,642; Helping Harvest of Berks County received \$4,146; and Second Harvest of Lehigh County received \$2,722.

Zion's Union Church was organized in 1826. In 1987, under the guidance of UCC pastor Willis Heckler, Zion's helped forge a new concept known as "shared ministry," in which Lutheran and UCC worship services were merged and one pastor served both congregations. Things went so well that in 2013, under the leadership of Lutheran pastors Jimmy Lee Werley and Herb Michel, the congregation took the further step of legally merging both congregations to become one of the very first "federated" congregations.

As a federated congregation, members take pride in being both Lutheran and UCC at one and the same time as the congregation is affiliated with both the ELCA and the United Church of Christ and supports both national churches 50/50 with their benevolence dollars. Zion's is currently served by Lutheran pastor Jeffrey Butz.

Thank You for Your Support!

Congregations of the Northeastern PA Synod have been faithful and generous in their mission support offerings throughout the months of COVID-19 restrictions. This strong support of synod-wide and church-wide ministries has sustained and invigorated mission endeavors in partnership with congregations across the ELCA.

Such a bold response in challenging times gives us confidence that the Triune God into whom we are baptized hears our relentless petition: Give us this day our daily bread.

Thanks be to God! And, thank you. Thank you for your regular mission support offerings. Thank you for your witness to new life in the Risen Jesus to neighbors near and far.

Bishop Samuel Zeiser



Learning Ministries Day 2021 Save the Date - January 23



On Saturday, January 23 Learning Ministries Day will be held via Zoom for the first time ever. We will offer three one-hour workshop sessions with over 15 workshop options total. Our keynote speaker will be Barbara Rossing, professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, where she has taught since 1994. She will be speaking on "Journeys through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today."

A \$25 fee will be charged for each participant which will include the keynote, three workshops of their choice, and a goodie bag mailed directly to their home. Satellite churches will be established for people without computer access to participate in a safe and socially distanced manner. Workshop descriptions will be available in November and registration will be open from December 1, 2020 to January 15, 2021 (Check the synod website at nepasynod.org).

Keep an eye out for additional learning opportunities provided by the Faith Formation Ministry Team starting in March 2021. Faith Formation Saturdays will be initiated as a monthly opportunity for any and all to gather and learn from the comfort of your own home.

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.
View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org>.

CARD SHOWERS

We are listing those couples married 50 years or more and those people 70 years or older. If we are missing anyone, please call or email the church office.



November 1	Richard Haas
November 3	David Kamp
November 4	Ernest Wiltrout
November 6	Donald Mertz
November 6	Kay Mertz
November 6	Fay Kamp
November 6	Carl & Loretta Flicker (55 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 (52 wed)
November 17	Leora Haas
November 22	Dale Grim
December 3	Kenneth & Dianne Angstadt (59 wed)
December 12	Lucille Zettlemoyer
December 16	Diana Gehman
December 17	Elaine Silliman
December 17	Jane Warmkessel
December 18	Michael & Evelyn Dietz (55 wed)
December 25	Sylvia Heckler
December 26	Michael Dietz

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Pamela Zettlemoyer. ... the family of Russel Hartman.
 ... the family of Dora Dierolf.

“Look forward and be hopeful, look backward and be thankful, look down and be helpful, look up and be humble.”

— Unknown



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 1 Holy Communion (tentative)
December 6 Holy Communion (tentative)
December 24 (6 PM) Holy Communion (tentative)
December 24 (9 PM) Holy Communion (tentative)

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**.