



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

October 2018

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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 lower level of the church.

THE PASTOR'S PAGE



Two intertwined themes that constantly recur in many of Jesus' parables are God's great compassion for those in need, and God's divine *abundance*. In the famous "Parable of the Sower," Jesus tells a story of a farmer who abundantly sows seed, and though most of it was lost due to poor soil conditions, it still produced an abundant harvest. In the "Parable of the Mustard Seed," Jesus tells how a tiny mustard seed grew to be a large shrub that was a home to many birds. In one of Jesus' most famous miracles, when the wine ran out at the wedding banquet at Cana, Jesus produced 180 gallons of the finest wine, even though a lesser quantity and quality would have sufficed. And in the story of the feeding of the five thousand, the wonder of the great miracle is not just that Jesus produced enough food to satisfy everyone's hunger from a few loaves and fish, but that a large amount of food was left over!

In the story of the feeding of the five thousand, which we heard in our gospel readings this summer, the disciples were highly doubtful of their ability to feed so many with the meager resources they had. They urged Jesus to send the hungry people away to fend for themselves. But Jesus responded with great indignation: "They need not go away; *you* give them something to eat" (Matthew 14:16). Jesus told his disciples to take the responsibility for the needs of the people they were so anxious to cast off. I think this says a lot to our society today where so many lack food, housing, and access to health care. Many today are doubting our nation's ability to care for the growing number of people living in poverty. Jesus' disciples felt there was nothing they could do, but Jesus taught them in an unforgettable way that even the most seemingly insurmountable problems are *no* problem if one has faith in the power of God and is *willing to share one's own resources*.

The disciples overlooked two critical factors: their own resources and the power of God. Overlooked resources and a lack of faith have been a tragic hindrance to the church throughout the ages, and I believe they are a tragic hindrance to our nation and to the problems of famine in our world today. People often throw up their hands in despair saying, "There is nothing we can do, we don't have the resources," when in fact they have a lot which could be put to great use if they trusted in God's abundance. Through the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus taught the disciples an unforgettable lesson about taking responsibility for the needs of others and trusting in God's abundant grace.

In the U.S. today, these are lessons we need to be reminded of. Although our currency bears the words "In God We Trust," trust in the Almighty is becoming an increasingly scarce commodity in our nation. Back in

the 1960s, a popular slogan among young people was, “Don’t trust anyone over thirty.” And now as the counter-culture generation of the 1960s is reaching late middle-age, it would seem that distrust of those over thirty has become distrust of *anyone*, period. Distrust has become epidemic in our society. Ever since Vietnam and Watergate, mistrust of our government has become a normal expectation. And it’s not only the government and politicians we distrust. Polls show that the levels of trust people place in doctors, lawyers, judges, clergy, and the church have plummeted significantly. Many say we can no longer trust in government programs like Social Security, Medicare, Welfare, or a new national healthcare program.

We could all learn something from Jesus feeding the 5,000. If we look back at our nation’s history there have been many times of great struggle, financial and otherwise, but we have always come out on the other side more prosperous than ever. We have to trust that God has blessed our nation *so that we can be a blessing to others*. I think we are in danger if because of financial fears, our nation would cut back on our charity and outreach to the needy. To do so would show a great lack of trust in God and our divine calling as a nation under God.

And if this is true for our nation, it is certainly true for our church. If you look back at the history of Zion’s Union Church, our congregation has gone through many times of struggle, but God has always gotten us through and we have come out on the other side more prosperous than ever—as glowingly evidenced by our building expansion a decade ago, and how quickly we have been able to pay off our debt. It has always been our leaders’ faith in God’s overflowing abundance that made our continued growth possible.

If we keep our trust in God, and always keep before us our mission as God’s people to serve the needy, we will thrive and prosper. Miracles will happen when we are willing to give of what we have, and then trust God to do the rest. It is vital to keep in mind that Jesus did not feed the 5,000 without the human instrument. Jesus put to great use the meager resources the disciples brought him. Through those measly five loaves and two fish Jesus has taught us that God will always multiply beyond measure what we entrust to him in faith.

As your pastor, I pray that God will continue to give this congregation the ability to see the many resources God has blessed us with, and that all our members will continue to be inspired to do the work of ministry that God calls us to. All that any church really needs is inspired, faithful people who trust in God’s abundance. Over the past four years as your pastor, it has become abundantly obvious to me that we have an overflowing abundance of inspired, faithful people here at Zion’s. And as Jesus so memorably taught through the feeding of the five thousand, miracles will happen if we are willing to use what resources we have and continue to trust in the abundance of God.

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER WORSHIP

October 7	20 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
October 14	21 st Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
October 21	22 nd Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church 10:15
October 28	Reformation Sunday	SS 9:00	church 10:15
November 4	24 th Sunday after Pentecost	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

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 will make their visits after the **October 7th** communion Service. If you know of anyone who is temporarily unable to come to the service for communion and would like a visit from one of our Eucharistic ministers in order to receive the Sacrament, please notify Grace Haas at 610-683-3910 ASAP.



OFFERING ENVELOPES

As of **October 1st** offerings received in envelopes that are left blank will be designated to current or benevolence, where needed, at the discretion of the Church Board.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Sunday, **October 7th**, we will be receiving the Neighbors In Need special mission offering. Your gift to the Neighbors In Need offering will support United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One third of the NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two thirds is used by the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives. Please think about how your own generosity can help reflect the Neighbors In Need theme, "Love of Neighbor" and consider making a gift to the Neighbors in Need offering on October 7th.



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 from **October 7th until November 11th**. Any questions contact Melissa Leiby at melkleiby@yahoo.com.

OVER 70 DINNER



If you are a Zion's member over 70 prepare yourself for the annual Over 70 Day celebration when we worship and commune together at the church. Invitations will be on the way shortly, with all the details. We try hard to be aware of our over 70 members, but if we have missed you, or you fear being overlooked because you just turned 70, call it to our attention. We want to honor you, too. So mark your calendar for Sunday, **November 4th** and watch for your invitation in the mail.

BLOOD DRIVE

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



Classes of 1967 & 1968 Reunion

It's been 50+ years!

*Service and Dinner
Presentations*

Sunday, November 4, 2018

(in conjunction with the over 70 day)
Service 10:15 A.M. Dinner at noon

**We honor the
Confirmation Classes of
1967 and 1968**

**ALL MEMBERS OF ZION INVITED
TO HONOR THEM**

All you can eat! Two meats! Dessert included!

A sign-up sheet will be on bulletin board.

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).



POTLUCK AND PROGRAM

The Adult fellowship will host a potluck dinner and informational program on **October 20th** at the church. After our potluck meal at 5:30 P.M., Ben Haas will tell us about the new tax code and how it changes your ability to deduct charitable donations. We will discuss how that may impact your giving in the future. Ben will explore several ways to continue to benefit from charitable giving. Come with your questions. This will be a worthwhile program! A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board. Please sign up by **October 16th**.

COOKBOOK

WIZ is gathering recipes for a church cookbook. October will be crock pot recipes. 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.



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.*

October 8	Meeting, gift exchange Pollyanna at 12 noon.
November 11	Thankoffering Service
November 12	Meeting & guest speaker, Peggy. "Do You Know Why?"

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



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

Activity Schedule:

October 7	Bean Bag Tournament at 1:30 P.M.
October 19-21	Youth Group Camp
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.



Offering Schedule:

Watch for a new schedule coming out shortly.

YOUTH GROUP CAMP – Youth Group camp will take place **October 19th – 21st**. It's always a great time to catch up with your church friends and enjoy games, fun, and early morning prayer (☺). (And don't forget the choc-chip pancakes, yum....yum.) Watch for the registration forms in early October.



CAMP COST – The camp cost is about \$1,200 to \$1,300. Anyone who would like to help fund camp should see an advisor.

EAGLE FIELD TOUR – The Youth Group is planning a tour of Lincoln Financial (Eagle) Field on **January 5th**. Cost for this event is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 3-12 & seniors, and children under 3 free. See Dale Bennecoff for a form. Deadline is **October 14th**.

ZUMBA CLASSES

Zumba classes will be held A Sunday evenings at 6:00 P.M. Wear clothes you can move in, sneakers, bring a towel, water, and lots of energy! The goal is to have fun and be more active.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **October 22nd and 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.



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.

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 Nancy Fulton if interested.

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Allen Leiby, chair, Maxatawny Township Board of Supervisors, was part of the groundbreaking of the Hampton Inn in Maxatawny Township.
- Maisy and Cooper Kellum appeared in the Northern Berks Patriot News for their first day of school.
- James Renninger was the event organizer for the Unity in the Community event at Renninger's Market.

FROM THE MAILBOX

Thank you for your generous gift of \$165 to the Faith Fund at Bethany Children's Home. This fund provides services needed to support physical, emotional, and spiritual growth of our youth. It helps provide life skill training, birthday parties, church services, and incentive trips. Thank you for helping our youth take the right steps to a Brighter Future.



Sincerely,
Megan Kerber
Director of Development

BUILDING FINANCE COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 2018 UPDATE

Fall has arrived and Zion's is reaping what we have sown. We planted the spirit into the congregation and it resulted in a bountiful harvest towards reducing the mortgage balance. At the beginning of this year, our mortgage balance was \$44,000. We are now down to a balance of \$17,000!! Fantastic!!!



Keep in mind that the end of the tax year is coming and if you are looking to make any last minute donations and/or wish to redeem any stocks or securities, please keep the church building mortgage reduction campaign in mind. We can assist with the redemption process.

Thanks to everyone for their commitment and continued support. Enjoy the fall colors!

The Building Finance Committee:
Karen Howard, Ray Wilttrout, Sharon
Leiby, Evan Slotter, and Richard Haas

CHURCH BOARD

April 24, 2018

- Cemetery shed roof will be painted.
- Harvest Home collections will go to Friend, Inc.
- Working on new address directory.
- Reviewing insurance policy about outside groups using building.

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 Zion's 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.



MYSTERY MEMBER/S

This month we introduce a couple, although we confess that some of you may be more familiar with the female part of the duo.

She was born in the Allentown Hospital and grew up in the East Greenville area. Sadly both her parents were deceased by the time she was a pre-teen. She lived with her brother and his family. She was educated at Upper Perkiomen High School where she was a cheerleader, sang in district chorus, and played basketball.

She has been married twice. While they were in the Air Force they lived in Maine, New Hampshire, the Philippines, and Minot, ND.

Her second husband was born and grew up in Brooklyn, NY. He was educated in Catholic schools. He was the youngest of 8 children and was born as his brothers and sisters were returning from WWII. He is a Naval Academy graduate and also a graduate of the Wharton School of Business. His father was a longshoreman.

Their marriage took place in 1994 in New Jersey. Her whole family was gathered in the church for the ceremony and his family had yet to show up, but they eventually arrived---15 minutes late! Yes, the ceremony went on and they are still together. Maybe it was the weeklong honeymoon cruise in the Caribbean that sealed the deal.

She is now retired but previously worked for Alpo, Nestle, Confab, and Tyco in marketing and marketing research. He was a Naval Officer during the Vietnam War. He has worked as a Purchasing Agent, Importer, College Adjunct Professor of Economics, and Sports Photographer.

Her family consists of 3 older brothers and a sister who died this year. She has 2 sons, 4 stepsons, and a stepdaughter. Her grandfather was a Lutheran minister while her other grandfather was a baker.

He is the father of five of the children and stepfather to her two sons.

They also have 10 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren. Spending time with the children, the grandchildren, and the great grandchildren has created one happy, busy group!

Her hobbies include reading, golf, photographing tombstones, and spending time with the grandchildren.

He enjoys golf, watching TV, and “teasing” the grandchildren.

She is involved with the Church Board, Women’s Group, Good News Committee, Choir, and NEPA Women of the ELCA.

Is anyone confused? Have you guessed who they are?

DISASTER COMMITTEE

When we think of disaster we see a major hurricane, tsunami, earthquake, or tornado. But even small things can have a huge impact on families or communities. Just a few days of excessive rain can flood homes and towns. Several days of excessive heat can threaten people's health with heat stroke or dehydration. A weather related power outage lasting several days can have many devastating effects on an area. We can't stop disastrous things from happening, but we can be prepared for when they do. It is our goal to guide you through preparing for disaster, learning ways to lessen the impact of disaster, and how to respond to a disaster – all with the help of God who directs our path.

The Disaster Committee
Kevin Krause, Pat Kutz, Jim Laub,
Sherie Mohn, Steve O'Neil, Ray Schell

UNWANTED FURNITURE

If you want to donate furniture to Opportunity House, please call Cindy at 610-374-4696, ext. 221 to schedule a pick up date.

SPIRIT ON TAP – READING

Spirit on Tap will be held **October 23rd and November 27th** at 7:00 P.M. at the DoubleTree Hotel, 701 Penn St., Reading. The events are free and open to all. On October 23rd, Dr. Sudha Allitt, director of Kula Kamala Foundation, will present “*Balancing Life Through Meditation*”. On November 27th, Dr. Kenneth Hawlinson, Kutztown University President, will present “*Higher Education in Contemporary Culture*”. CFor 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.

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 **October 3rd and November 6th** 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.

JOURNEYS THROUGH GRIEF

A Lutheran Congregational Services six-week grief support group will be held at Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Leesport, Monday evenings **October 1st through November 12th** from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M. There is no cost to attend but registration is required. Contact Sylvia Havlish at 610-395-5045 to register.

REGISTER TAPES

Radcliffe's Super Value and Redner's Market provide a one percent rebate to Zion's Union Church Maxatawny based on receipts submitted to them during each year. **For the church to receive credit from Redner's Market, members and friends must obtain a card from the courtesy desk to enroll in the "Save A Tape Program". The card is presented at the register prior to checking out for the rebate to be valid as indicated by the "Save A Tape" notation on the receipt.** Radcliffe's does not require a card to enroll in the program. Tapes for both Radcliffe's and Redner's may be deposited in the boxes in the rear of the church.

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.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO

... the family of Ronald Bortz, Jr.

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.



October 1	Mary Jane Williams
October 11	Willard Brensinger, Jr.
October 13	Paul Heffner
October 14	Richard & Jane Warmkessel (51 wed)
October 16	Jeanette Fegely
October 21	Ernest & Carloyn Wilttrout (62 wed)
October 22	Grace Haas
October 23	William & Karen Howard (53 wed)
October 25	Willard Angstadt
October 25	Edward VanDeCar
October 26	Larry Stamm
October 30	Richard & Grace Haas (53 wed)
October 30	Jean Harter
October 31	Eleanor Merkel
November 1	Richard Haas
November 3	David Kamp
November 4	Ernest Wilttrout
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 11	Barry Ziegler
November 14	Nancy Held
November 14	Karen Howard
November 15	Catherine Freeby
November 22	Dale Grim



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.

October 7

November 4

Pew Holy Communion

Pew Holy Communion



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next issue of the newsletter will come out the beginning of November. If you have any information to be included in the November newsletter, please

have it in the church office by **October 15th**.