



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

**September
2021**

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

THE PASTOR'S PAGE



Most of us grew up being told breakfast was the most important meal of the day, but we assumed that was just Mom's way of getting us to at least wolf down a bowl of cereal as we burst out the door to get to school. Well, it turns out that Mom was right! According to a study done by the Mayo Clinic, breakfast really is the most important meal of the day, especially when it comes to the health of your heart. Throughout the course of 20 years, doctors tracked the breakfast habits and health statistics of 21,000 individuals. Respondents who grew up in homes where breakfast was skipped, or later stopped eating breakfast as adults, had significantly more health issues. Their waistlines were larger. Their cholesterol was higher. Their insulin levels were out of whack. The bottom line is that their hearts were at risk as a result. Many doctors who have studied the report now recommend eating a substantial breakfast as an essential step in avoiding serious problems later in life.

But moms and doctors aren't the only ones concerned about heart trouble, so is Jesus. One of his most famous quotes is: "Let not your hearts be troubled" (John 14:1). Now, Jesus isn't talking about cholesterol levels or clogged arteries. He's talking about a different kind of heart trouble, the kind that can be classified as worry, fear, or stress; the kind of heart trouble that keeps you up at night fretting over money, worrying about your children, or devastated by a crumbling marriage. That's the kind of heart trouble Jesus is talking about. It's the kind we've all experienced. Any doctor will tell you that there are two keys to the physical well-being of your heart: a good diet and regular exercise. The same is true with your heart of faith. It must be well-fed and exercised in order to be strong and healthy.

Here's what Jesus advises about maintaining a healthy heart of faith: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. *Believe in God, believe also in me*" (John 14:1). Jesus tells us that the key to spiritual heart health is to trust in God and feed our soul: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty . . . the one who eats this bread will live forever" (John 6:35&58). Far too many Christians have heart trouble stemming from the fact that their lives involve no regular *consumption* of Christ and no *exercise* of their faith. As a result, they're unable to withstand the daily anxieties of life. We skip spiritual meals in favor of worldly solutions. We binge on earthly things, believing they'll make us whole and well. You may join a gym and begin obsessing about your physical appearance and calorie count, wrongly believing that regaining control over your body will give you control over your starving soul. Meanwhile our unfed souls are growing flabby

and lazy. Our troubled hearts of faith sit on the couch and consume nothing but junk. We become spiritual couch potatoes.

So, how do we feed our hearts with Christ? It comes down to being connected to the promises of his Word found in the Scriptures, and the power of his presence found in fellow Christians. Just as someone who's cultivating physical health by taking up running might subscribe to *Runner's World* and join a local running club for companionship and accountability, God's Word and God's people are essential for a strong heart of faith. Get more actively involved with your church family in the many activities provided at Zion's Church. Worship regularly, read the Bible regularly, get involved in a Sunday School class, Bible study, or fellowship group, get involved in an outreach ministry.

Once your heart of faith is fed with Christ, the other essential element is to make sure it's regularly stretched, exercised, and put to the test in a lifestyle of Christian living. Could it be that the very reason you feel so ill-equipped to face life's obstacles is because you only try to avoid them? Could it be that the very means of strengthening your heart of faith is to jump at opportunities that will *test* it? For example:

- What if, rather than avoiding that difficult conversation with your sister-in-law, you prayed for courage and guidance and then approached her in an attempt to reconcile?
- What if, rather than live in fear and mistrust of people different from you, you pushed aside fear and inconvenience and signed up to help out at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter?
- What if, rather than worry about your finances, you trusted God's Word and attempted to tithe?
- What if, rather than feeding your heart with excuses to stay where you are in life, you took bold steps to take classes, train, and learn to do new things, especially things that would help others?

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, heart disease is the number-one health issue among adults. And on the spiritual level, each day millions of Christians will feel a few shooting pains run through their hearts as their work-stress rises, a relationship gets rough, money gets tight, or their health grows weak. If you've been feeling all stressed out, it's time to heed Christ's words, feed on his Word, and begin flexing your faith. After all, if Mom was right about breakfast, surely Jesus is right about our hearts!

Pastor Jeff

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER WORSHIP

September 5	15 th Sunday after Pentecost HC	SS 9:00	church	10:15
September 12	16 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
September 19	17 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
September 26	18 th Pentecost/Harvest Home	SS 9:00	church	10:15
October 3	19 th Sunday after Pentecost HC	SS 9:00	church	10:15
October 10	20 th Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
October 17	21 st Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
October 24	22 nd Sunday after Pentecost	SS 9:00	church	10:15
October 31	Reformation Sunday	SS 9:00	church	10:15

SERVICE VIDEOS

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

PLEASE USE PARKING LOTS

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

USHERS, GREETERS, SECURITY PERSONS NEEDED

We are in dire need of ushers, greeters, and security people. Because of the pandemic, no schedules have been made. Sign up on the sheet on the counter in the Gathering Area or call or email the church office to sign up.

FLOWER/BULLETIN BOOK

The 2021 Flower and Bulletin sign-up book is available in the Gathering Area for your convenience. You may still call the church office to sign up for your special dates in 2021.



ORGAN RESTORATION UPDATE

As of August 1, 2021

Total Restoration Cost - \$346,000

Designated Memorials Received - \$1,140

Donations Received - \$72,624

Investments Used for Expenses - \$73,370.88

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

Total Funds Into Organ Restroation Fund - \$170,134.88

BIBLE STUDIES TO RESUME!

Here's some more good news as we return to normal post-Covid life at Zion's. Both of our regular Bible Study groups will resume meeting in Fall (with a couple changes to meeting times):

"Monday Morning Reflections" is being changed to: "**Mid-Week Reflections**" and will meet every **Wednesday morning at 11:00** (not 10:00 as previously) **beginning Wednesday, September 8th**.

"First Tuesday Bible Study" is being changed to "**First Monday Bible Study**" and, as the name implies, will meet the **first Monday of every month from 6:30-8:00 P.M. beginning in October**. This year we will complete our study of the book of Genesis and begin studying Exodus.

If you haven't been able to join us previously for either of these Bible Studies, we would love to have you take part. No prior knowledge is required and spiritual blessings will be provided!

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. Please participate by dropping off non-perishable items from the list below in the container provided in the Gathering Area.



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

CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir practice will resume on **Thursday, September 9th** at 7:00 P.M. We will meet in the church. Please consider joining the choir. Singing is a very important part of the church service and the choir also contributes to the service. If you have any questions, please contact Theresa.

RELAY FOR LIFE

Relay for Life has been scheduled for **September 25, 2021 at the Midway at the Kutztown Fairgrounds**. The event will be a mini Relay for Life. Hours are 3:00 to 9:00 P.M. Luminary are \$10.00 a bag. Online donations to the American Cancer Society are welcome or see Sue Haas for collected donations. Relay for Life, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, is about celebrating survivorship, remembering those we've lost, and bringing awareness to our community. Anyone interested in being a part of the team please see Sue Haas.



MUMS FOR HARVEST HOME

The church will be decorating the sanctuary with mums on **September 26th** for our Harvest Home service. The cost is \$7.00 per mum. 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 mums. 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 to order your mums is **September 12th**.



MUMS SIGN UP

NAME

NUMBER OF MUMS

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

.....

HARVEST HOME COLLECTIONS

On Sunday, **September 26th** we will observe our annual Harvest Home celebration. It is a time that we offer thanks to God for providing us with “daily bread” during a time that we are surrounded by the plantings of spring being harvested. We show our thankfulness for that not only by gathering for worship on that day, but also by giving actual offerings of non-perishable food items and supplies for infants that we then donate to a local food pantry. Those donations extend our appreciation to God beyond that one morning, as we give help in the lives of those of our local communities who might not be quite as blessed by those basic things as we are. Here’s the collection schedule for the Sundays in September.



- Sunday, September 5th** – cans/bottles of vegetables, fruits, soups, meats
- Sunday, September 12th** – boxed items of cereals, pastas, rice products
- Sunday, September 19th** – diapers, boxed/bottled baby foods and cereal, as well as other supplies for infants
- Sunday, September 26th** – any other non-perishable food items

We are also collecting Weis gift cards throughout the month that will be used to purchase turkeys for holidays for needy families.

ALSO – please consider attaching a dollar bill to each item you donate. The monies collected can multiply the offerings we give many times over. Food banks have connections to places to purchase food in “bulk” and so our individual dollars buy many more supplies. Containers for your Harvest Home offerings are located in the Gathering Area.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Sunday, **October 3rd**, we will be receiving the Neighbors In Need special mission offering. NIN is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. NIN grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.



CHURCH BOARD

JUNE 29, 2021

1. There is an agreement with the township (developed when the parking lot was extended) that no parking would be allowed in the street. We have not been following that agreement. We will be enforcing that with barriers, bulletin notices, and also in the newsletter.
2. The service agreement with Otis Elevator will be extended in order to get an annual 5% discount.
3. Nancy Fulton has agreed to be a board member.
4. Organ update – re-leathering is going great, however the supplier for the parts needed for the console is backed up and that repair may be delayed until September.
5. Board is asking the task force to evaluate when we can return to more normal worship.
6. If kitchen opens, a Fall Fund Raiser selling apple dumplings will be held in October. Funds will be directed to the parking lot repair.

FROM THE MAILBOX

Dear Zion's Congregation,

Thank you for the recognition, gift card, and congratulations and well wishes for my recent college graduation. I'm so thankful to have such a supportive and encouraging church family!



Thank you,
Ashley Bleiler

Thank you for recognizing my graduation and for the Amazon gift card. I will definitely miss coming to church on Sundays but I promise to keep my faith as strong as ever. I also want to thank all my friends in the Youth Group for all the fun memories over the years. Go Army! Hooah!

Your friend,
Owen Shorette

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

The Cancer Support Group will meet **September 13th** at 6:30 P.M. in the Gathering Area.

WOMEN IN ZION

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

September 13 Meeting at 1:00 P.M.
October 11 Meeting at 1:00 P.M.



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

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Senior Fellowship Group will meet **September 27th** and **October 25th** at 12 noon. Persons attending should bring a bag lunch. Games will provide entertainment for the afternoon.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Archer and Arden Scaffidi completed the summer swim season for the Boyertown Mako Sharks. The Sharks took the Atlantic Division title with an undefeated season of 5-0!
- Archer and Arden Scaffidi's summer season ended with the Berks County Swim Association's (BCSA's) County Championship. At Championships: Archer's 13-14, 200 Medley Relay came in 1st place; 200 Free Relay came in 1st place and Archer came in 2nd place in the 13-14, 200 IM, and 3rd in the 13-14, 100 Breast. Arden's 11-12, 200 Medley Relay came in 3rd place, 200 Free Relay placed 4th, and Arden placed 6th in the 11-12, 50 Breast.
- Lila Berger received the Good Citizenship Award in her second grade class at Willow Creek Elementary.
- Jewel Karaisz was the recipient of Superintendent's Award; Blue and White Award; The Graceful World Award; The George W. Grauer and Anna I. Grauer Educator's Scholarship; Niki Nolte, Class of 2018 Fighting Spirit Award; Huguenot Lodge No. 377, Free & Accepted Masons Scholarship; David Haas Memorial Scholarship; Grimley Trust Scholarship; Judith L. Schwank Healthy Living Award; Social Studies Department Citizenship Award; and Dale Bennecoff Memorial Fund.
- Jewel Karaisz was the 2021 Prom Queen for the Kutztown Area High School.

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. Check with Ellie Merkel to make sure the home is open to visitors.

FROM THE RECORD BOOK

FUNERALS: *Donna M. (Nolan) Vetrosky*, 61, of Carbondale, PA, died July 21, 2021. Service was July 25, 2021 in Carmine J. & Louis C. Parise Funeral Home, Carbondale by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz. Interment was in Our Mother of Sorrow Cemetery, Greenfield Twp., PA.

George U. Isamoyer, 85, of Mertztown, PA, died July 21, 2021 in his residence. Graveside service and burial was July 26, 2021 in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz.

Sue Ann Nein, 63, of Fleetwood, died July 23, 2021. A memorial service was July 31, 2021 in Ludwick Funeral Home, Kutztown by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz. Interment was private at convenience of the family.

Ernest H. Wiltrout, 94, of Topton, PA, died August 4, 2021 in his residence. Service was August 9, 2021 in Zion's Union Church Maxatawny by Rev. Jeffrey J. Butz. Interment was in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery.

Gloria A. Haas, 89, of Allentown, PA, died August 15, 2021 in Allentown. Memorial service was August 19, 2021 in Zion's Union Church Maxatawny by Rev. MaryAnn Hamm. Interment was in Zion Maxatawny Union Cemetery.

MEMBER UPDATES

484-331-5802 Bennecoff, Kevin M.
124 Berwick Pl., Lansdale, PA 19446

610-207-6768 Bennecoff, Sharon S.
124 Berwick Pl., Lansdale, PA 19446

unknown Dietrich, Betty J.
Rm 266A, Fellowship Community, 3000 Fellowship Dr.,
Whitehall, PA 18052

610-349-8438 Gehringer, Traci L.
405 E. Locust St., Fleetwood, PA 19522-1608

unknown Moyer, Althea C.
Rm 305, Fellowship Community, 3000 Fellowship Dr.,
Whitehall, PA 18052

unknown PFC Shorette, Owen
BLDG 5960 Rothwell St., Bravo Battery 1-19 FA BN 4,
CN 64-21, Fort Sill, OK 73503

unknown Snyder, Andrew H.
169 Meadow Chase Way, Palmetto, GA 30268-8500

610-763-2728 Wiltrout, Carolyn
The Lutheran Home at Topton, 1 South Home Ave.,
D3, Room # 308, Topton, PA 19562

Losses: Haas, Gloria A.
Isamoyer, George U.
Wiltrout, Ernest H.

HONOR ROLL

Kelly Leiby	Julia Perella	Andrew Schell
Jewel Karasiz	Elizabeth Schell	Maisy Kellum
Cayden Ciccone-Haas		

QUIET DAYS

Quiet Days takes place **September 7th and October 5th** 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, bag lunch. Information: suewunderlich2@gmail.com.



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

SEPTEMBER 2021 • ISSUE 9 • VOLUME 29

AN INCREDIBLE RETURN TO THE WOODS AT THE END OF THE RED DIRT ROAD

BY COLLIN GROOMS

No one would have asked to have a summer of youth camp canceled because of COVID, but certainly, as with any challenge, it is good when the positives of a situation can be found. Having a summer away from the routines of camp as it has "always been" gave Bear Creek Camp an opportunity to truly look at creating the camp experiences that campers and staff need right now.

In a world where we've been separated from our friends and families, taking the time to build a small, intentional community was most essential. This summer, each quest group crafted their own experience as they creatively planned their week's activities. For some that meant nature hikes into the depths of our woods or discovering every swimming location. For others that meant time on the high ropes course or writing new songs to be sung at bonfires.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- + Bear Creek Camp
- + MinLab Reflection



*Continuing
Promises*

For every group that meant finding unique ways to explore their faith through daily bible study and worship experiences. Camp has an enduring quality of being the place where campers can find whatever they are needing in the moment. Faith can be discovered and strengthened. Lifelong friends can be made. Personal discovery happens constantly as we're taken away from our comfort zones and shown a newly revealed world.

Summer 2021 was an incredible return to the woods at the end of the red dirt road. We are so deeply grateful for our entire community that supported us in reaching this new beginning.



GROWING TOGETHER IN NEPSYNOD: MINLAB

On August 14, 2021 people from all over the NEPSynod gathered at the Lutheran Center to share ministry, ideas, and God's love with one another. Individuals who participated in MinLab were able to work together to build relationships with one another and the ministries of the other through authentic engagement, conversation, and questions. *The relationships we build at synod assemblies, special events, and through mutual collaboration are paramount to our work as Church.*

At MinLab, participants learned more about Growing Young and elements that are present in ministries that are actively "growing young." Participants also learned that congregational and organizational ministry is at the center of our work as a synod. *The synod is not a top-down organization, but instead, a collaboration of people working together to serve God's people.* Leaders in our synod, both lay and ordained, can't wait to see where the Spirit will lead us next.

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.

September 7	James Laub
September 8	Linda Ballew-Johnson
September 18	George Leiby
September 20	Jean & Richard Harter (52 wed)
September 20	Bettina (Tina) Ehrig
September 22	Dave Merkel
September 24	Evelyn Dietz
September 27	Barry Miller
September 27	David Ehrig
October 13	Paul Heffner
October 14	Richard & Jane Warmkessel (54)
October 16	Jeanette Fegely
October 22	Grace Haas
October 23	William & Karen Howard (56 wed)
October 23	Mary Laub
October 26	Larry Stamm
October 30	Richard & Grace Haas (56 wed)
October 30	Jean Harter
October 31	Eleanor Merkel



OUR SYMPATHIES TO

- ... the family of Helen Breidegam.
- ... the family of Gene Bielecki.
- ... the family of George Isamoyer.
- ... the family of Sue Ann Nein.
- ... the family of Ernest Wilttrout.
- ... the family of ClenRoy Geist.
- ... the family of Gloria Haas.
- ... families of victims of Florida condo collapse.

WOMEN IN ZION COOKBOOK

The Women In Zion cookbook is available to purchase. Cost of the cookbook is \$12.00. Checks should be made out to "Women In Zion". Contact Nancy Fulton at 610-682-6357.





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.

September 5	Holy Communion
October 3	Holy Communion



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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