

ZION'S HEAVENLY

Look for:

- *Worship Schedule
- *Acolyte Schedule
- *Music Schedule
- *Announcements
- *Youth Group News



- *Exciting Events
- *Monthly Calendar of Events

- *Birthday Calendar
 - *Synod News
- And Much, Much More!**

HAPPENINGS



N e w s l e t t e r



Photo by Gayle Mateyak

*231 Years of worshipping the
Lord with each other....*

**ZION'S STONE CHURCH OF
WEST PENN TOWNSHIP**
A Federated ELCA & UCC Church

45 Cemetery Rd
New Ringgold, PA 17960

570-386-5111 (& Fax)

www.zionstchurch.org

Rev. Russell Campbell, Pastor
Cell # 610-737-2634
zionstch@ptd.net
revarc@ptd.net

Come Worship with Us!

9:00am – Sunday Worship Service

*(1st Sunday of the month alternates Altar Communion and Pew
Communion)*

10:15am – Sunday School

(No Sunday School until further notice)

5:00pm – 1st & 3rd Saturday Night Worship Services

(1st Saturday Night of the month we will have communion)

***(Saturday night Services have been cancelled until further
notice)***

As of April 2005,
Zion's Stone Church Lutheran Congregation and Zion's Stone Church United Church of Christ
Congregation enter into a shared ministry. Keeping both heritages in the Sunday Worship
Service each week.



CHURCH STAFF...

**Due to COVID-19
The Pastor Office
Hours
and Church
Office hours will
remain closed
until further
notice. However,
you may still
reach the Pastor
on his cell phone
and you can
leave a phone
message for the
office staff and
they will get back
to you. Or you
can send them
an email.**



**Pastor: Rev. Russell Campbell
Office Hours:**

Pastor's Office is currently closed

Cell Phone # 610-737-2634

Pastor's Home Email: revarc@ptd.net

Pastor's Church Email: zionstch@ptd.net

Church Administrator/Treasurer:

Charlotte Fritz Office Hours:

Office is currently closed

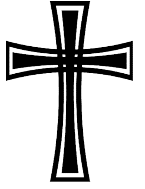
Charlotte's Office Email: zscofc@ptd.net
(Please use this email for information for Charlotte.)

Church secretary:

Brenda Osenbach Office Hours:

Office is currently closed

Brenda's Office Email: zscbrenda@ptd.net
(Please use this email for all bulletin information
and other information for Brenda.)



Church Office phone number:

**570-386-5111 – When calling use
prompt #2 for the Pastor, prompt #3
for Brenda, & prompt #4 for
Charlotte**

Check us out on Facebook!

Thanks to Sarah Martinez
for being our Facebook Coordinator!

Zion's Stone Website

www.zionstonechurch.org

Sexton(s):

Fred (& Donna) Gimbi - Home # 570-386-2888

Fred's Cell #570-573-7642

CDC Guidelines are still in place for Worship Services:

We will be adhering to the CDC guidelines for regarding sanitation and social distancing. Everyone, who does not have a medical condition, will have to wear a mask/face covering when entering the church, during the church service and leaving the building. If you forget yours, there will be a mask provided by an usher.

There will be no “lingering” in the Narthex. The Pastor will be at the Altar railing and he won’t be able to personally greet everyone.

You will be ushered into the Sanctuary by a Board Member. Every other pew is closed off. You will be dismissed by an usher pew by pew.

There will be no sharing of the peace, hand sanitizers are in all pews and we encourage you to use them when needed. Along with washing your hands with hot water and soap for 20 seconds after using the restrooms.

There will be no Lectors or Acolytes at this time. There will be no printed bulletins, newsletters, and no communion cards to be filled in.

On Communion Sundays you will receive communion on the way out of church after the service. (We will have someone on Staff keep a record of everyone that takes communion.)

Congregational singing will be done while wearing your mask/face covering.

The Auditorium will be used when the sanctuary fills. The worship service will be broadcast onto the screen in the Auditorium.

Hymnals and Bibles have been removed from the pews. We strongly encourage you to bring your bible from home to use.

A collection plate will be placed in the narthex for you to place your offerings in when entering the narthex. (If you are not attending church services in the building, please consider continuing to mail in your offering envelopes.)

If you are not feeling well or have concerns about attending the service in person, you're encouraged to stay home and continue watch the service on YouTube. The areas of the church used for worship will be cleaned and disinfected prior to the next week's service.

You may call Pastor Russ on his cell phone or the church office and leave a message or email them. All events besides church services are still cancelled until further notice.

PLEASE NOTE:

All Fundraising Activities/Events have been cancelled until further notice.

WORSHIP IN JANUARY 2021

Sunday, January 3, 2021 – Epiphany Sunday

9:00am – Worship Service w/Holy Communion

Sermon Title: “God With Us”

Isaiah 60:1-6

Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, January 10, 2021 – Baptism of Christ

9:00am – Worship Service

Sermon Title: “The New Alliance”

Genesis 1:1-5

Mark 1: 4-11

Sunday, January 17, 2021 – 2nd Sunday in Epiphany

9:00am – Worship Service

Sermon Title: “Open Enrollment”

I Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

Sunday, January 24, 2021 – 3rd Sunday in Epiphany

9:00am – Worship Service

Sermon Title: “Follow Me”

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, January 31, 2021 – 4th Sunday in Epiphany

9:00am –Worship Service

Sermon Title: “Teaching With Authority”

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

**** Scripture Lessons may change**

****No Lectors or Acolytes are needed in until further notice**

ZSC Board Meeting Minutes:

Wednesday, November 11, 2020

Board Members:

Pastor Russel Campbell	X Nancy Meiser	Paul Miller	X Amanda Sassaman
X Charlotte Fritz	X Blair Miller	X Gary Clemson	X Jeremy Brothers
Scot Dietrich	X Gene Raymond	X Dan Metzger	

(X) = Board Members present

Member of the congregation – Brenda Osenbach

Congregation Comments – None

Pastor's Report – Approved.

Secretary Report – None presented

Treasurer's Report – Approved. Motion to accept by Gene Raymond / 2nd by Dan Metzger

Committee Reports

Worship & Music – None presented

Property – Urinals were fixed. (*Correction: Urinals still need repairs done*)

Finance – 2021 Budget presented and reviewed. Motion to accept by Jeremy Brothers / 2nd by Blair Miller. Congregational Meeting on 6th December as well as New Board Member selection. Motion to accept by Gary Clemson / 2nd by Dan Metzger

Outreach/Evangelism – Gift Bags for Shut-ins; donations received by 13 December and delivery by 20 December.

Fund Raising – None presented.

Personnel – Nothing presented.

Safety/Security Committee – Nothing presented.

Other Business – New Board Member to be announced on 18 November. Prayer list to be started new on 1 January 2021. Communion to be offered on November 29th & December 6th. No communion on Christmas Eve.

Next Church Board Meeting on Wednesday, 16 December 2020 @ 7 pm

Motion to adjourn by Gene Raymond / 2nd by Jeremy Brothers.

Respectfully Submitted by Board Secretary, Amanda Sassaman

Zion's Stone Church Congregational Meeting 2021 Budget Vote

Sunday, 6 December 2020

X Pastor Russel Campbell	X Nancy Meiser	X Paul Miller	X Amanda Sassaman
X Charlotte Fritz	X Blair Miller	X Gary Clemson	X Jeremy Brothers
Scot Dietrich	X Gene Raymond	X Dan Metzger	

X = Board Members present

Member of the congregation – All present

Nancy Meiser: Motion to open meeting for 2020 Budget review. Accepted by Barb Lushia / 2nd by Karissa Brothers. Opened acknowledging accomplishments of church (congregation). How blessed we are to be open and how much congregational support is appreciated.

Introduced Budget Committee member Gary Clemson

Gary Clemson: Budget: Explained changes within the church over the past year, position salary increases, items acquired/completed not within budget due to congregational donors, benevolence changes, as well as spending plan due to COVID-19 challenges. Gary also explained how we plan to proceed in 2021 regarding forecasting of expenses and income. Opened discussion to congregation for questions. Member Karissa Brothers requested explanation of Sexton House reduction in utilities during vacancy of house. Also asked about insurance review for possible savings. Gary Clemson explained review in early 2020 for possible savings in this area and assured that due to complexity of insurance coverage that our current policy was the best value.

Nancy Meiser/Gary Clemson: Thanked Jeremy for his Board Service.

Gary Clemson: Continued budget increases/decreases for 2020 (budget pages 4-8 operational expenses) explaining each item. Opened discussion to congregation for questions. None were presented.

Nancy Meiser: Motion to accept 2021 Budget. Accepted by DelRoy Haas / 2nd by Barbara Lushia

Motion to close meeting by Darlene Grover / 2nd by Dennis Wood

Congregational Meeting Minutes taken by Board Secretary, Amanda Sassaman

NEWSLETTER SUBMITTALS...

Please help the office be efficient by having all newsletter submittals emailed to the church office (or placed in the newsletter submittal boxes) by the newsletter deadline. If you would like your wedding announcement or if you have a loved one who has entered into eternal life, thank you messages, etc., please contact the Office by the newsletter deadline or it may not get put in. *Thank You!*

ALTAR FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSORSHIPS...

If you are interest in sponsoring altar flowers or bulletins, please call the office at (570) 386-5111 before 12 pm on Wednesday. **Leave a message** with your telephone number and the exact wording you would like to see printed in the bulletins. We still have Sundays available for the months ahead. Bulletins and altar flowers are available. Please call the office every time you want to sponsor them.



***Please do not put your request in the envelopes,
because it may not be seen until it is too late.
YOU MUST CALL THE OFFICE.***



COST OF SPONSORSHIP:

ALTAR FLOWERS \$25.00

Rosebud: \$10.00

Make checks payable to

Bulletin: \$10.00

Zion's Stone Church. Thank You!

LECTOR & GREETERS:

are not needed until further notice

TO SCHEDULE THE CHURCH/AUDITORIUM:

Please call the church office at (570) 386-5111. If you or someone you know is planning a wedding at Zion's Stone Church, please contact Pastor Russ. You will have to adhere to CDC guidelines until further notice.

Do you have a new Address or Telephone &/or Cell Phone Number?

Please notify the office either through email (zscofc@ptd.net) or phone (570-386-5111) with your new information. This way we can keep in touch with you and provide you with important information regarding the church. Thank you!

(All the clip Art printed in this newsletter was taken from google clip art.)

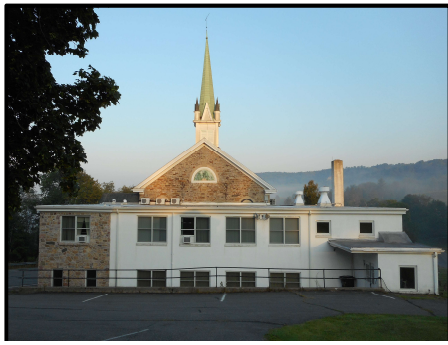


Photo taken by Gayle Mateyak

Special THANK YOU...

(The church receives thank you letters from other organizations that we support through Benevolence giving throughout the year.)

Special thank you to everyone who donated items for the homebound gift bags! You put a smile on all our members that aren't able to come to church. They were thrilled with their gift bags! Thank you to the members of the Outreach Committee for organizing and delivering the 17 gift bags to our homebound members.

To Our Church Family – Harry and I would like to thank everyone who was involved with making the Christmas Bags. Lots of goodies. We thank you for thinking of us. **Merry Christmas to everyone, Harry & Sally**

Dear Church Family – Thank you very much for the surprise gifts and treats. They are appreciated, you are so thoughtful and caring. **Bless You, Janet Faix**

Dear church Family, We were surprised and grateful to receive the goody basket from our friends from Church. We sure are enjoying them! We also had to chuckle because we realized that now we are the “shut-ins” despite our desire to fill our spiritual hearts with weekly church attendance, at this time we can no longer do so. It feels wonderful to know that we remain in your hearts and prayers. Also the wonderful blanket is the perfect size to keep Junior warm and cozy on his recliner. Thank you so very much. Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year to all!
Junior & Pauline Steigerwalt.

(The clip Art used on this page was taken from Samaritan's Purse website.)



2021 Offering Envelopes

are available for pick up. The offering envelopes will be in the Auditorium until the middle of January. If you haven't already picked yours up please do so as soon as possible... please help us to not have to mail offering envelopes by taking along family members/neighbors. You can pick up your envelopes **AFTER** the worship services or call Brenda & pick them up on ***TUESDAYs from 7:30am – 9:00am*** or ***THURSDAYs from 7:30am – 10:00am*** (weather permitting).

Please call Brenda first so she can have them ready. You can also call and have her put them in a bag on the door if you will be later then 9:00am/10:00am on Tuesdays or Thursdays. **Please do not just take your offering envelopes off the table.** There will be a form to sign when you receive your envelopes.

2020 Offering Statements

2021 offering statements be available starting after January 10, 2021. If we are closed due to covid-19, your statements will be mailed to you. Once you receive your 2020 offering statements, please look them over and notify Charlotte Fritz if there are any errors/corrections that you may find by Feb. 28, 2021. After Feb. 28, 2021 all statements will stand as printed. As always thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Zion's Stone Church.

PLEASE DO NOT USE 2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES (throw away any unused 2020 offering envelopes) **IN 2021!**

Numbers change from year to year. Thank You!!

2020 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FIGURES...

November 1 - 100

November 8 - 49

November 15 - 64

November 22 - 52

November 29

December 6 - 91



December 13 - 106

December 20 - 80

December 24 - 78
(4:00pm)

December 24 - 88
7:00pm)

December 27 - 74

	FINANCIAL		
2020 November			
Current Giving:			
Total Income Budgeted for 2020-----\$209,939.17			
Total Benevolence income for 2020 ----- \$ 11,700.00			
Total Income plus Benevolence ----- \$221,639.17			
Monthly Income & Benevolence	Gain/(Loss)	Monthly Budgeted Income & Benevolence (\$4,262.29 – per week) (\$18,469.93 – per month)	
\$15,192.33	\$ -3,277.60		

Thank you for your continued support of
Zion's Stone Church!

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Due to Covid-19 all choirs will be postponed
till further notice.



Thank you to Choir Director,
Erin (Raymond) Zeliniski
share her musical
talents with us during the
Worship services!



Come Join Us!

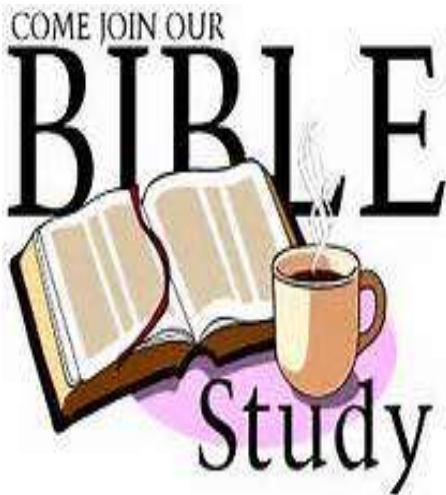
SATURDAY WORSHIP SERVICES...

w/The Rev. Russell Campbell

are cancelled until further notice.



THURSDAY MORNINGS



& THURSDAY NIGHTS

w/The Rev. Russell Campbell

are cancelled until further notice.

*If you are interested in a zoom
(computer meeting site) bible study,
please let Pastor Russ know.
If there is enough interest, Pastor
Russ will gladly start Zoom Bible
Studies.*

*Bring your own
bible that you can
write in!*



Christian Sympathies go to...

Marie Zehner and Family & Friends
on the death of her Sister-In-Law,

Mary Fritz,

who entered into eternal life on
Thursday, December 3, 2020.



Barbara Lushia and Family & Friends
on the death of her Sister-in-Law,

Shirley Gerber,

who entered into eternal life on
Saturday, Dec. 20, 2020



Adam & Susan Zeigler, David Zeigler, Betty &
William Bitterman, Doris & Dale Kressley and
Family & Friends
on the death of Adam, David, Betty & Doris's dad,

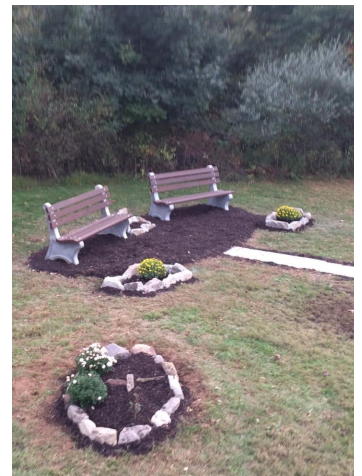
Ernest D. Zeigler,

who entered into eternal life on
Tuesday, December 22, 2020

May the *love* of those
around you
help you
through the
days ahead.

Due to the COVID-19, Youth Group meetings will be postponed until further notice.

Congratulations to Allan Knowlan for becoming an Eagle Scout in December! Allan completed his Eagle Scout project for the church. He designed and created a sitting area in our cemetery for anyone who would like to sit and visit with their loved ones buried in our cemetery. Allan (and his helpers) did a great job! Thank You Allan!



If anyone needs to talk with us, the advisors are all available. We will continue to pray for you all and we miss you so much!



2021 Confirmation

Meetings will be done through Zoom during
Sundays in January.

PERSONAL CARE NEEDED PART TIME

Experience a plus, but will train the right, caring applicant. 65 year-old male
quadriplegic.

Two shifts available:

NIGHT SHIFT: 8:30 PM – 6 AM, 9 1/2-38 hrs/wk. Trac/Vent experience a plus but
not necessary.

Training is provided.

DAY SHIFT: 7 AM – 10:00/11:00 AM, Monday, Thursday, Friday. Trac experience
a plus but not necessary.

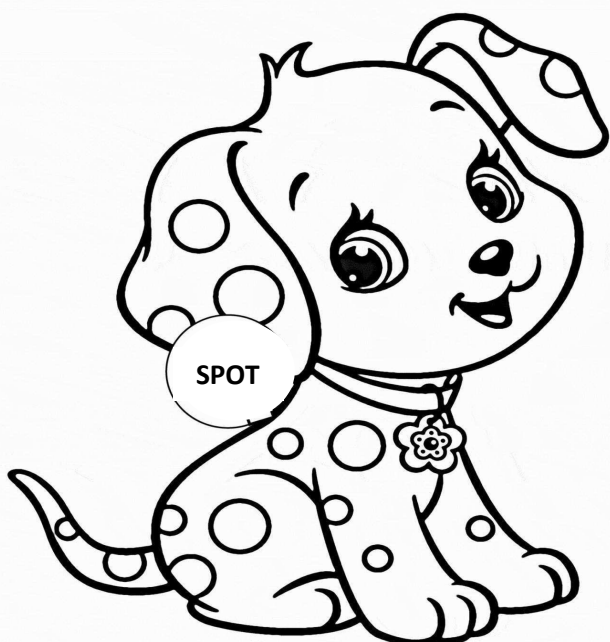
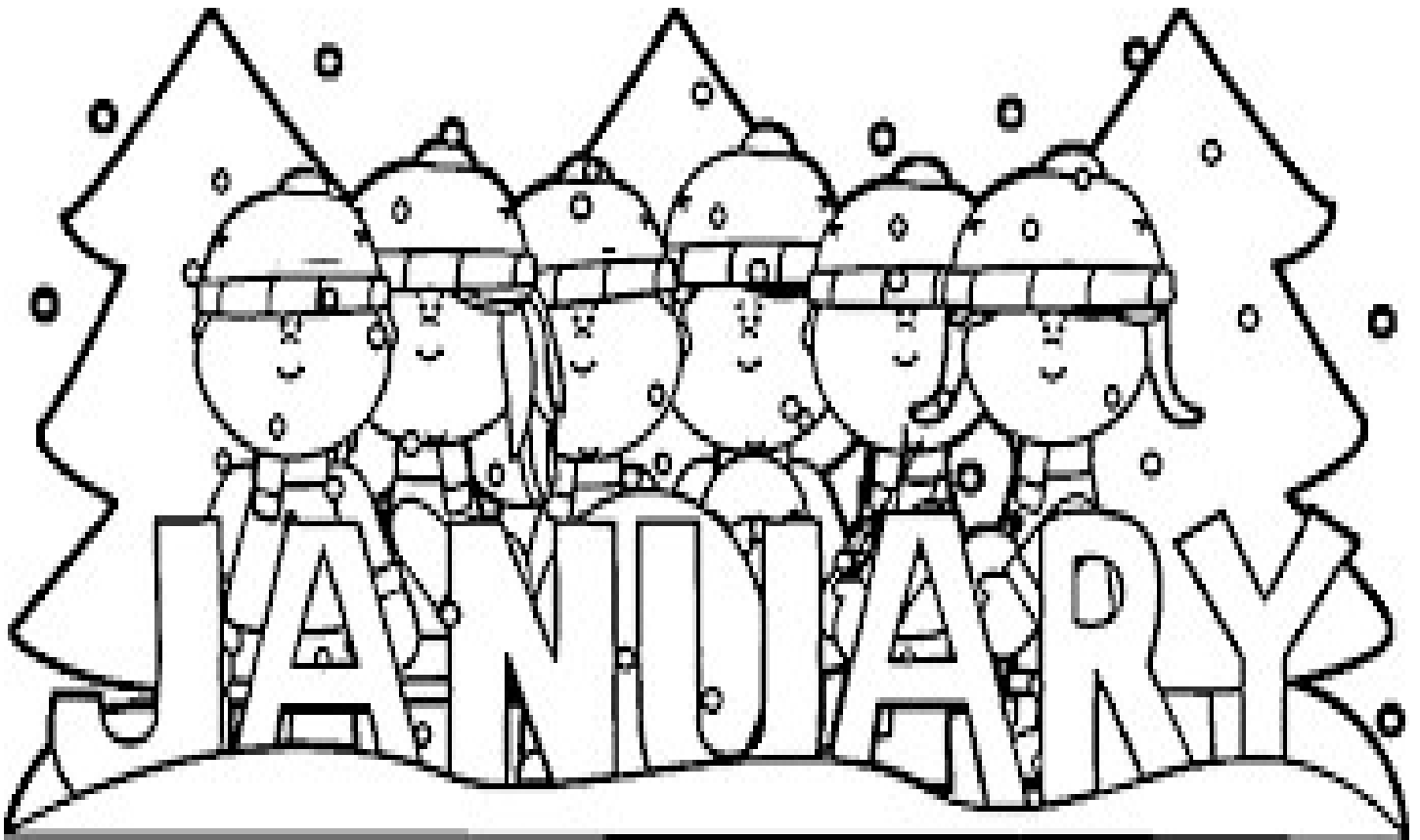
Training is provided.

Relaxed, family atmosphere. NON SMOKER. \$12.51 hr., Mahoning Valley,
Lehigh/Tamaqua

If you are interested, please see Charlotte Fritz for contact information.



ZION'S COLORING CORNER



PNEC NEWS....

Penn Northeast Conference UCC, 431 Delaware Ave., Palmerton, PA 18071

www.pnec.org 610-826-3113; 610-826-5464 FAX

Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates bonnieb@pnec.org

Rev. Gilberto Garcia Rodriguez hispanicucc@rcn.com

Rev. Christian Creyer christianc@pnec.org

Barbara Jennings barbaraj@pnec.org

Patty Rehrig patty@pnec.org

Christmas Time is here!

I love that phrase from a Christmas song. It announces a celebration time for me. Even in this year of pandemic there are joys and reasons to celebrate. Are you able to be with even one of your family members? Do you have family with whom to be in touch? Are there friends who you can count on for help and prayers? Do you have food to eat and a warm bed in which to sleep? Do you have faith?

I suppose that last question is the most important. Do you have faith – faith in God, in the coming of Jesus, in the presence of the Holy Spirit; faith in family and friends; faith that there are those in the world striving to make the world better for each and all of us? The celebration of Christmas is one of the celebrations of our faith, the knowledge that God has come into the world, yet again, in the difficult and challenging times in which we live. The celebration of the birth of Jesus reminds us that God transforms the world – sometimes through the most unlikely people, in the most unlikely times.

So, my friends, Christmas time is here! It is time to remember that God loves us so much that Jesus came into the world to be Emmanuel, God-With-Us. It is time to pause, take a deep breath and feel the presence of the living and loving God. As we celebrate this Christmas Season, and it is a season and not just a day, may we feel that living presence. May we know we are loved. May we celebrate.

Blessings, Bonnie

To Hear a Christmas Message from Bonnie please go to the
[Penn Northeast Conference Facebook Page](#).

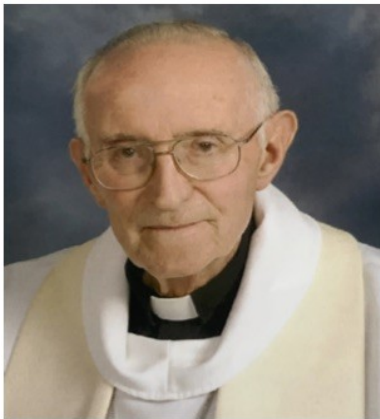
SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

A Note from the Bishop Elect

Dear Friends in Christ - The Seasons of Christmas and Epiphany proclaim the good news: "Christ with us" and "Christ revealed to us!" I cling to these words. I long to hold tight, loved ones who must stay apart for a time: my parents, siblings, nephews and nieces. And I grieve for those we have lost, cry out for an end to this present suffering. But I also hear this great promise with new ears and insights: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in deep darkness a light has dawned" (Isaiah 9:2 NIV). Let us trust that the Light of the World is here already, and yet his coming is on the cusp, ready to start making all things new. In the coming days, I so look forward to sharing the vision that God is ready to reveal, for new life and renewed purpose across our Synod. More to come: keep watch! - Chris deForest, Bishop Elect

The Rev. Richard H. Stough Honored for Navy Chaplaincy



The Rev. Richard H. Stough was recently recognized for 30 years of service as a U.S. Navy Chaplain with a \$1,000 contribution to the ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Ministry Fund for Leaders Scholarship Endowment Fund in honor of his service. The Endowment supports word and sacrament ministry candidates who will minister to military service members, and those who will serve as Veteran's Administration Chaplains or as Federal Prison Chaplains.

Because of its role in lifting up the Endowment Fund, this synod is designated an "ELCA Medallion Synod." Congregations can become "ELCA Medallion Congregations" by similarly supporting the Endowment Fund. Contact the synod office for more information.

Learning Ministries Day 2021 - Registration Deadline is Jan. 15

On Saturday, January 23, Learning Ministries Day will be held via Zoom for the first time ever; and you are invited! 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. Online registration will be open until the end of the day on January 15, 2021. Checks must be received to the Synod Office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 15. Workshop descriptions and the registration link can be found on the synod website at godslove.org.

Hope, Reading Receives NAACP Community Impact Award



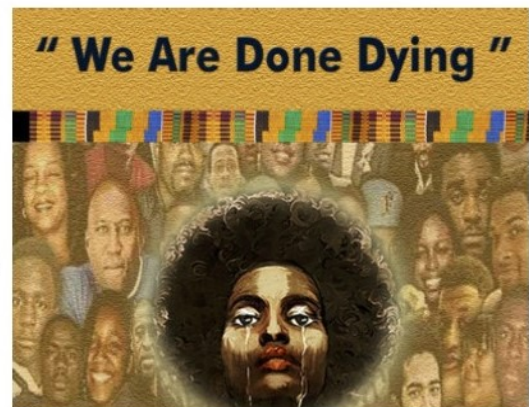
Food distribution staff at Hope

On Saturday, November 14, the Reading Chapter of the NAACP met for its 33rd annual Freedom Fund Gala - virtually, of course. Meals from "Grill Then Chill" were delivered to the homes of attendees. Following the meal, awards were presented to local organizations for their racial justice efforts. The Gala theme was, "We Are Done Dying."

Among the recipients of the 2020 Community Impact Award is a congregation of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod - Hope Lutheran Church in the Northwest section of the City of Reading. The award citation reads, in part, "We are thrilled to honor the church's dedication and commitment to making a difference with programs supporting the fullness of life for the residents living in our community."

Hope hosts the largest food pantry in the Helping Harvest Food Bank service area. Additionally, Hope's Table community outreach ministry provides a weekly meal for area residents; and Hope sponsors Café Esperanza, a One World Everybody Eat affiliate. The congregation has also offered summer and after-school programs for the multicultural children and youth who live in the neighborhood.

Pastor Mary Wolfe, who accepted the award on behalf of the congregation, commented, "We are so honored to be considered for this award. Hope has been enriched in many ways through the relationships we have been privileged to form with all of our neighbors."



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>.

ZION'S STONE CHURCH OF WEST PENN TWP

JANUARY 2021 BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
						Johnny Hamm
						Sylvie Hauck
						Amanda Hill
						Pat Lorah
						Rick Zelinski
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Ronald Rega, Jr. Janice Steigerwalt			Amy Buchman Amy Hehn Dean Ruch	Kate Frank	Linda Schaeffer	Kathy Kromer
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Charles Cravotta, IV	Marie Gursky Amelia Ristila Chad Weaver		Nadine Belsak	Debra Hill Brian Ruch Mary Troxell	Taylor Fritz	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Gabe Gustafson	Paul Green	Hannah Davenport Gerald Oswald	Chris Loughman Doug Miller, Sr.	Nancy Osenbach Austin Troxell	Lizzy Lehman	Miranda Amey Kerry Gursky Rick Johannides
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Kris Bellhorn Anthony Ciavaglia Janet Faix James Kemmerer Jean Marie Zehner	Ronald Troxell Karen Wood Susan Zeigler	Hunter Moyer	Lisa Sharpe		Elizabeth Davenport Mary Faenza	Pamela Hoppes
31						
Doris Kressley						

Please Note: Due to Covid-19 virus – All church activities, Events, & Bible Studies have been cancelled so there will be no Calendar of Events until we are back to normal. Thank you for your understanding and patience! We are in this together!