

ZION'S HEAVENLY

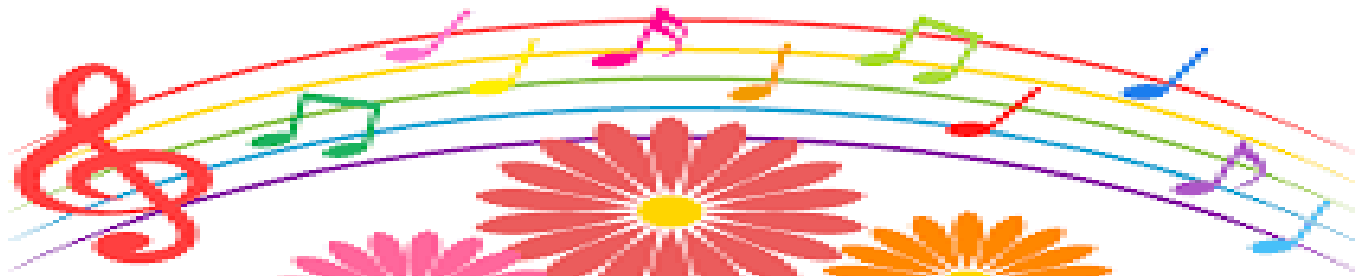
Look for:

- *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



APRIL
Newsletter

DESIGNA LINKIE



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)

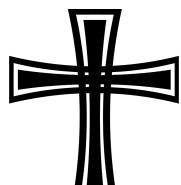
5:00pm – 1st & 3rd Saturday Night Worship Services

(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...

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:

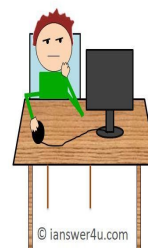
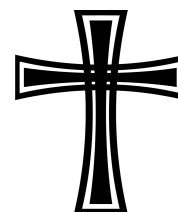
Brenda Osenbach Office Hours:

Office is currently closed

Brenda's Office Email: zscbrenda@ptd.net

(Please use this email for all bulletin information and other information for Brenda.)

**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**



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

MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST:

Erin Zelinski – 570-205-3511

CARD CARE

COORDINATOR:

L.C. Dean: 570-449-0677

SEXTON(S):

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

Fred's Cell #570-573-7642

CDC Guidelines are still in place for Worship Services when we are worshipping together at the Church:

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 APRIL 2021

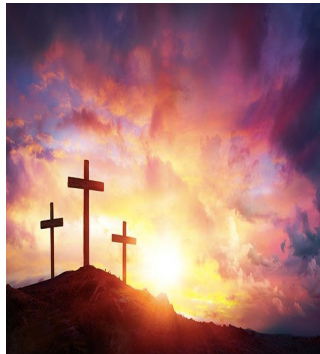
Thursday, April 1, 2021 – Maundy Thursday

7:00pm - Worship Service

Sermon Title: "A New Commandment"

Exodus 12:1-14

John 13:1-17, 31b-35



Friday, April 2, 2021 – Good Friday

7:00pm - Worship Service

Sermon Title: "I Am"

John 18-19:42

Sunday, April 4, 2021 – Easter Dawn Sunday

6:30am – Easter Dawn w/Holy Communion

******Please Bring Your Own Lawn Chair!******

Sermon Title: "Who Are You Looking For?"

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

John 20:1-18

Sunday, April 4, 2021 – Festival of Easter Sunday

9:00am – Easter Worship Service w/Holy Communion

Sermon Title: "Who Are You Looking For?"

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

John 20:1-18

Sunday, April 11, 2021 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

9:00am - Worship Service

Sermon Title: "Through His Stripes"

Acts 4:32-35

John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 18, 2021 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

9:00am - Worship Service

Sermon Title: "Good News'd"

Acts 3:12-19

Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday, April 25, 2021 – 4th Sunday of Easter

9:00am - Worship Service

Sermon Title: "Shepherd Love"

Psalms 23

John 10:11-18

**** Scripture
Lessons may
change.**

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

Crucifixion of Jesus

[Matthew 27:1-54](#), [Mark 15:1-40](#), [Luke 23:1-48](#), [John 19:1-30](#)

Jesus had prophesied of his death in Matthew "from that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." Jesus understood that his life would be required as a sacrifice for the sins of man.

At the height of his ministry and miracles, many Jews came to believe in Jesus as Messiah, the Son of God. Jewish leaders feared Jesus because of his growing followers. With the help of Judas Iscariot, Roman soldiers arrested Jesus and he was put on trial for claiming to be the king of the Jews. According to Roman law, the punishment for rebellion against the king was death by crucifixion.

The Roman governor Pontius Pilate was reluctant when it came to the punishment for Jesus. Pilate could find no wrong in Jesus, yet he wanted to give the people what they wanted, and that was the death of Jesus. Pilate washed his hands in front of the crowd to symbolize that he was not taking responsibility for the bloodshed of Jesus and then handed Jesus over to be beaten and lashed. Jesus had a crown of thorns thrust on his head and made to carry his cross along the pathway to the hill where he would be crucified. The location of Jesus' crucifixion is known as Calvary, which is translated from "a place of a skull".

Crowds had gathered to mourn and watch Jesus' death. Jesus was nailed to the cross between two criminals and his sides pierced by a sword. While Jesus was mocked, one of the criminals asked Jesus to remember him and Jesus responded: "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." Jesus then looked to heaven and asked God to "forgive them, for they do not know what they do." When taking his last breath, Jesus spoke: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit...it is finished."

Extraordinary events marked the death of Jesus. The sky was completely dark for three hours as Jesus hung on the cross. At the moment of his last breath, the earth shook, the temple curtain split from top to bottom, and the tombs of saints opened and their bodies raised from the dead.

The crucifixion of Jesus was a part of God's plan from the very beginning of the birth of Jesus. The sin of mankind would require a sacrifice. The sinless life of Jesus was lived and given so that man could receive salvation and eternal life in heaven.

Resurrection of Jesus

[Matthew 28](#), [Mark 16](#), [Luke 24](#), [John 20](#)

Jesus was arrested, tried, and found guilty of claiming to be a king. His body was hung on a cross between two thieves. After his death, Jesus' body was wrapped in linen cloths and placed in a tomb with a large stone rolled across the opening. On the

third day, an early Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene and another Mary came to the tomb and found it empty. Sitting on the rolled away stone was an angel of the Lord who told them to not be afraid because Jesus had risen. As the women left to tell the disciples, Jesus Christ met them and showed them his nail-pierced hands.

Both the Old and the New Testament speak of the truth of Jesus being raised from death - Jesus testified of his resurrection before he died on the cross and his disciples witnessed his body after the resurrection. Below are the Bible verses and Scriptures that both prophesize the resurrection and testify of its reality after Christ's death.

(Excerpted from BibleStudyTools.com)



ZSC Board Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, February 9, 2020 – Zoom Meeting

Are unavailable at this time.

Please Note: Auditing of the Financial Reports will be held at 7:30pm on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 in the Church Auditorium after the Board Meeting.

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.)



From Northeastern PA Synod:

Thank You!

We have often heard that the word “synod” comes from a root that means “walk together.” In the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod we walk together to engage in ministries that no congregation can do alone. One of the ways that congregations support the synod’s ministries of outreach, service and support is by sharing a portion of their offerings in the form of mission support. Thank you! Your generosity makes a difference. A little over half of your mission support funds ministries on our synod territory. Some of it comes back to congregations or groups of congregations in the form of grants! The rest is sent to the ELCA church wide organization to support ministries done in our name across the country and around the world.

Jesus calls his church to look outward to bring his good news to the world. Your faithfulness throughout the year in mission support sharing is one way your congregation answers that call. Thank You!

For more information to share stories of how your giving is doing God’s work, please contact georgiasuranofsky@hotmail.com.



Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for the card and prayers!
I am feeling much better!
Love,
Maisie Schock

2020 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FIGURES...

February in person Worship
Services were cancelled –
Attendance totals are from
live streaming...

February 7 – 49

February 14 – 50

February 17 – 36

(Ash Wednesday)

February 21 – 54

February 24 – 21 (Lent)

February 28 – 40

March in person Worship
Services were cancelled –
Attendance totals are from
live streaming, except for
March 28th...

March 3 – 14 (Lent)

March 7 – 77

March 10 – 5 (Lent)

March 14 – 59

March 17 – 8 (Lent)

March 21 – 65

March 24 – 8 (Lent)

March 28 –

FINANCIAL REPORT

2021 February

Current Giving:

Total Income Budgeted for 2021-----\$213,228.25

Total Benevolence income for 2021 -----\$ 11,700.00

Total Income plus Benevolence -----\$224,928.25

Monthly
Income & Benevolence

\$16,032.20

Gain/(Loss)

\$ -2,711.82

Monthly Budgeted
Income & Benevolence
(\$4,325.54 – per week)
(\$18,744.02 – per month)

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

Please continue to pray for our neighbors, sister churches, all those who have/had Covid and their families, all those that have lost loved ones during this pandemic, all the health care workers and their families, our leaders in government, and pray, pray for our Nation.

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your hearts be troubled,
neither let them be afraid."
—John 14:27*

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

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



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



YOUTH GROUP NEWS...

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

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 April.



Sunday School News...

Sunday School classes are cancelled until further notice.
We will continue to pray for all you.

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...

Scott & Amanda Sassaman, Holly Brennen, & Michael &
Lori Sawka and Family & Friends
on the death of Scott, Holly & Lori's Mother,

Ann Marie Sassaman

who entered into eternal life on
Thursday, March 18, 2021.



Our Deepest Sympathies...



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
WILL BE HELD ON
SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE
WORSHIP SERVICE



BEN SALEM UCC

1965 Church Hill Road, Lehighton



Spring Bazaar

Saturday, April 24 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

- Large Items Raffle
- Basket Raffle (*100+ Items!*)
- Food & Bake Sale
- Quilt Raffle, Knotted Blankets & Homemade Crafts
- Wooden Handcrafted Items

10% of the profits will be divided between Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Company and Mahoning Valley Ambulance Association.

***Rain date: Sunday, April 25
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM***

Questions, please contact Nancy Smith at 570-778-0839



Save the Date Christian Artisan Fair May 22, 2021

Blue Mountain Christian Retreat Center is hosting a Christian Artisan Fair on Saturday, May 22, 2021 from 12:00pm – 5:00pm. It will be held in the gymnasium.

They are looking for interested artisans who would wish to display their talents used for His glory, and sell their products as well. (Their items must be available for purchase- it is not just a show.)

This will encompass all areas of the arts:

Fine art/crafts/textiles/books/music/worship related etc...

Anyone who has questions or is interested in participating could contact Bonnie Miller, manager at BMCR Bookstore, at bmcrcbookstore@gmail.com

There is a limit to the number of applicants they can accept in each category due to space, so it will be on a first come first served basis.

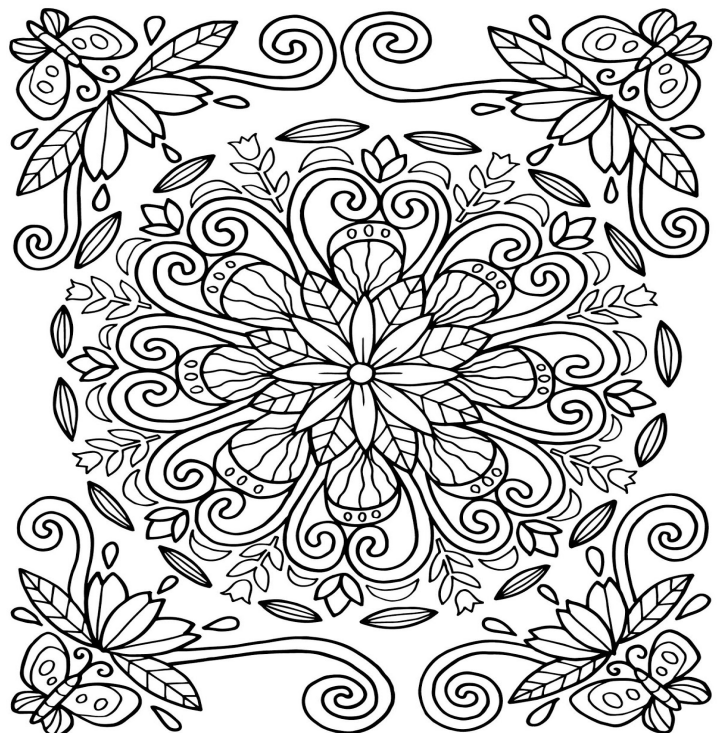
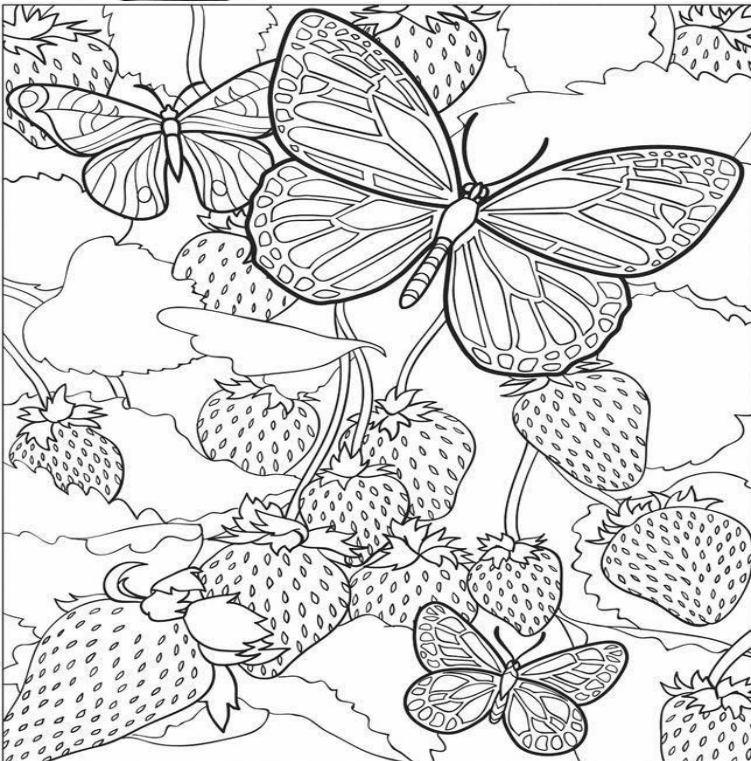
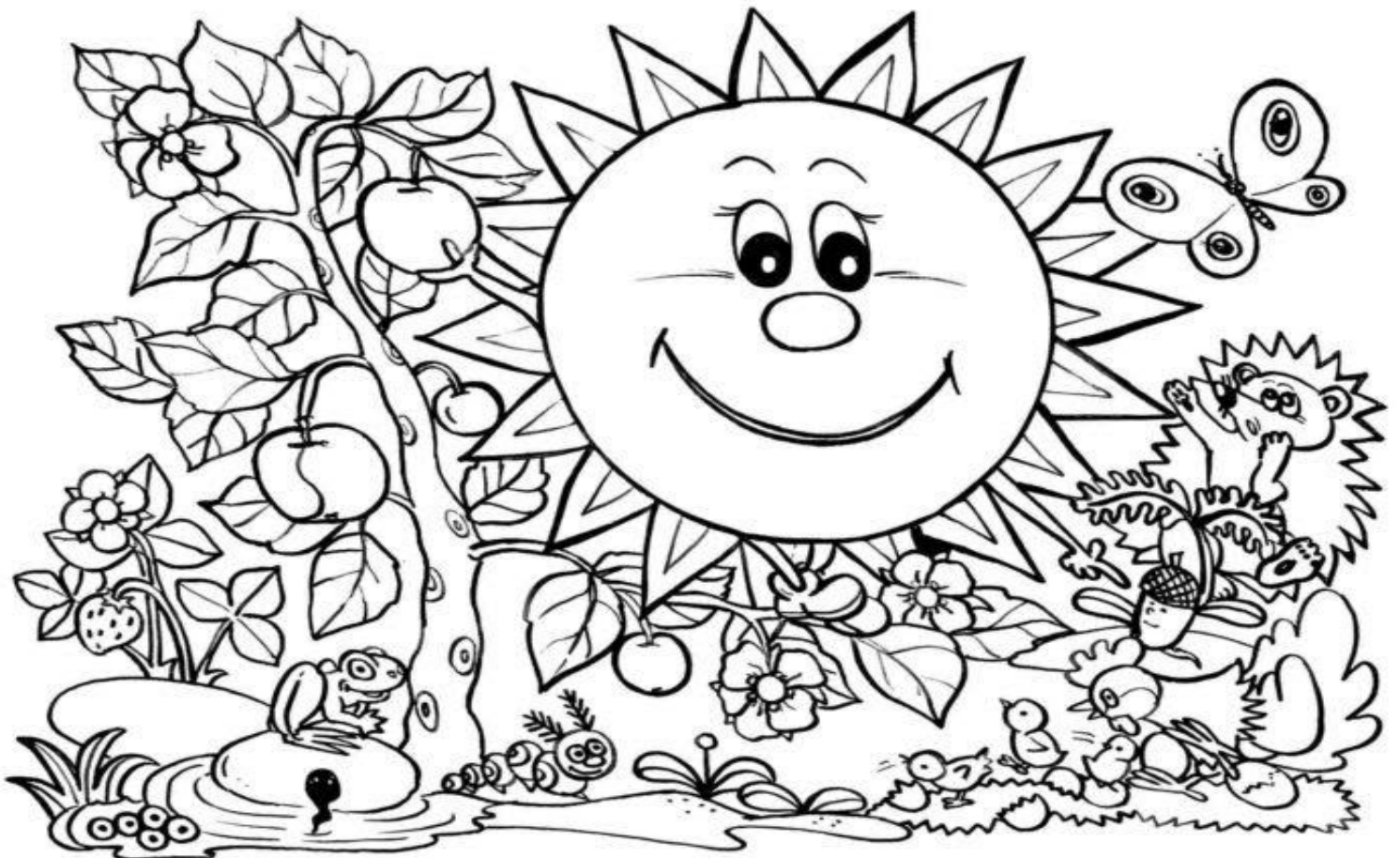
They are not asking for a fee to rent a table, but that the artisan would donate back to the retreat 10% of their sales for the day. That way, they can bless the artisan with a space at no risk to them, and also bless the retreat as well. They would love for this to turn into an annual community event!

Please join them in supporting our community of Christian artists!

*Also- at 7 pm that same day we will be having a Night of Worship at BMCR, which everyone is invited to attend.



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 pattyr@pnec.org

Letter from Bonnie, Conference Minister

Friends, In recent weeks I have written about our conference continuing education requirements and their importance for healthy ministry and the maintaining of covenantal relationships with authorized ministers, congregations, the conference, and the national setting of the UCC. Some people have been very angry about our expectations and have called or written the conference office, the staff or members of the Oversight Working Group. We have tried to be responsive in clarifying the policy and answering questions. Others simply don't reply at all and that leaves us wondering about our relationships.

These continuing education requirements have been in place since 2018 and we have worked with authorized ministers to prepare them to use the Breeze database to record continuing education, sometimes offering individualized support or logging the continuing education ourselves, rather than requiring the authorized minister to do so. As you can imagine, this adds a burden to the conference staff and the volunteers serving on our committees, who are already donating their time.

As 2021 moves ahead, we are hopeful that we will be able to gather for in-person meetings and continuing education events. These may assist ministers in achieving the continuing education requirements, but so many have completed and exceeded the requirements, even during the pandemic, that we believe the continuing education requirements are not onerous. Please know we are appreciative of your ministry among us. The continuing education requirements will remain in effect. It is our hope you will partner with us in maintaining life-long learning as a vital part of ministry through your continuing education activities.

Those who have not completed their 2020 continuing education activities or contacted us to log the activities they have completed but which we were unaware of, will be listed as "Out of Compliance" in our own database, in our Oversight Working Group Advance Report to the Spring Conference meeting, and with the national setting. Simply adhering to the policy and completing the continuing education activities is so much easier. Please partner with us in these efforts. Blessings, Bonnie

SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

Growing Young & Vital: June 4&5, 2021

Registration for the 2021 Virtual Synod Assembly will run from the beginning of April through May 17, 2021. Our theme for this year is "Growing Young and Vital," which engages three different lanes: loving the land, healing the hurt, and engaging the stranger. We are a church in three expressions, Churchwide, synods, and congregations. In each expression of the church we seek to find joy and vitality in ministry with people of all ages.

This year we'll welcome Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to participate in the installation of our Bishop, Christopher deForest! We'll also elect members of our synod to attend the Churchwide Assembly (CWA) as voting members in 2022.

Along with electing voting members to the CWA, we will be engaging important issues



"So then if any person is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things are gone away, and look, new things have arrived".

2 Corinth. 5:17, CEB

New Life and Vital Signs

We are resurrection people living in the hope and promise of eternal life in Christ. For us as Christ's followers, new life follows death, and there are signs of new life everywhere!

Sometimes, it feels as if we have been in a place between sleep and waking for these past twelve months, but new life is happening! If last spring was a time when we experienced more closely than ever the kind of fear and sadness the disciples may have felt at the death of Jesus, this year, while there is still much grief and weariness of these difficult days, we are also experiencing the newness of life, in powerful ways, as we head toward the empty tomb and lives of liberation, aliveness, and joy of the resurrection!

Some of the most moving moments of new life for me in recent weeks has been visiting people in local nursing homes for the first time since last year. It was wonderful to be physically present and spending time with God's people.

There is much energy and new life at **Christ Lutheran**

and topics, attending to the business of our synod as outlined in the constitution, and participating together in festival worship.

While we talk about, wonder about, and carry out our theme: Growing Young and Vital, we'll be setting the stage for asking congregations and ministries throughout our synod to identify their vital signs and places they're healing the hurt, engaging the stranger, and loving the land!



BISHOP INSTALLATION

You're invited to worship with us as we install our Bishop, Christopher deForest. This will take place after the synod assembly. Whether you attend the synod assembly or not, you're invited to participate fully in the Installation Worship! We will broadcast the installation worship live for all to participate and witness this truly joyous occasion. More information will follow letting you know how to connect to the worship and specific start time. Please plan to attend as we connect all three expressions of the church!

Conyngham, and it feels exciting, like when the beautiful spring flowers pop out of the thawing ground in spring. Some of the new and renewed life, includes getting started with **Growing Young**, and having our first get together this week to dive into the book and the six essential strategies so that we might continue to engage people of all ages in the life of the church. We hope to create excitement and vitality for people of every age on the disciple's path engage in leadership, and God's ministries in action. For Easter there are various exciting things happening... Among them, Christ Lutheran will have its first Outdoor Sunrise Easter Service, and stations of the cross set up in the outdoor areas. We've invited people from the congregation and community to pick up a devotional, and take a self-guided prayer walk any day during Holy Week. **We are also re-establishing a congregational care team** and adding some new ways for folks to minister to one another. We also experience new life in getting back to many of the already established life-giving ministries here! Thanks be to God for new life, new creation, and new beginnings!

Meet Eric Gombert

I was born and raised in the Lehigh Valley where I graduated from Whitehall High School. College years found me at Westminster Choir College, completing my degree in Sacred Music with a concentration in organ. During the thirty plus years since, I've taught both piano & organ, directed a community chorus, performed with regional ensembles, worked in business with roles including payroll, accounts payable, & technology, and served both part-time and full-time as musician for Lutheran congregations. All of this has come together to a place in my life when I am actively utilizing my gifts in both the musical & administrative areas. As **Director of Operations at the Synod**, I am responsible for overseeing building resources & technology, & the functions of bookkeeper and financial administrator. My husband, Matthew, and I have been together since 2000 & married since 2015. We are actively involved with raising our Great Dane puppy, wiping dog drool from everything, including the ceiling, roasting coffee, and tending our organic garden.



ZION'S STONE CHURCH OF WEST PENN TWP

April 2021 BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
 BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH				Madelyn Miller	Steven Christ	Spencer Meiser Jared Sharpe
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Russell Blaker Emma Knittle Dean Meiser Harry Roush Brianna Rubright	Jimmy Towers		DeAnn Osenbach Toddy Tyson, Sr	Jeanine Hill-Jacob Melissa Hunsicker		Aubrey Oswald
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Barbara Lushia Linda Meckes Dawn Rabenold	Dorothy Fritz		Brentley Kurtz Benson Trexler Hudson Trexler	Stacey Cheese	Judy Rosa Aaron Ruch
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Jackie Clemson Marlin Zehner	Brenda Ruch Jr. Steigerwalt		Connor Ruch	Ella Balliet Shirley Lorah Daniel Miller	Kennedy Webb
25	26	27	28	29	30	
	Leah Crowley Neal Houser	Brandon Miller Donald Moyer	Susan Bonner	Nancy Ketchledge	Adam Zeigler	

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!**