



Zion Lutheran Monthly



May 2011

Crossing the Finish-Line? Hardly!

For many, the start of the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday is like the start of a race. Palm Sunday initiates the “sprint to the finish,” which is reached on Easter Sunday. “Alleluia,” we cry, as the race concludes. Christ is risen! Everyone return to your home.

Not so fast! Easter is not the end of the race; the resurrection of Christ is not God’s last word to us. Now that death has been overcome and God has promised that we will rise from the dead, the good times have just begun! Now, free from the fear of dying forever, we can live our lives as a joyful response to God’s grace; unafraid and without reservation. That sounds nice and spiritual (or religious), but what it means for us as a congregation is several things.

First, over the next three weeks there will be an insert in the worship bulletin explaining the opportunities we have for people to serve in and around the church (from as little as one hour per month) in a variety of roles. (This insert will be available in electronic format on our website: www.zlcb.org.)

Second, for the first time in a long time, Zion Lutheran Church is going on a “Mission Trip” to Lutheran Island Camp in Henning, Minnesota (www.islandcamp.org). This “LIMiT” trip will leave on June 25th and return on the 2nd of July. While this trip is geared for our high school youth, anyone with a heart for service is more than welcome to go on this trip. Details for this trip are available on the church’s website; there are also “LIMiT” brochures available at the church.

Lastly, Zion Lutheran Church has numerous opportunities for Bible Study and fellowship throughout the week. The men have a combination Bible Study/ Breakfast on Monday mornings at 6:00am, currently studying the book of Genesis in the fellowship hall/ undercroft/ basement. The women meet on Tuesday night in the same location at 8:00pm to study the book of Hebrews. There are Bible studies for everyone on Wednesday (7:00pm) and Thursday (10:00am) in the Conference Room (also downstairs), where the text for the coming weekend’s sermon will be looked at in greater detail. And, of course, there is the Sunday morning Adult Bible Study in the fellowship hall at 9:30, where we are studying the Gospel of Matthew.

Easter is not the end. It is just the beginning. Death has been overcome... now the fun starts!

All the best,
In Christ,
Pastor Duncan

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“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and...
honor and glory and praise!”
Revelation 5:12, NIV

Church, Mission & Synod (CMS) & Plate Finances



As of April 14, 2010, we are estimating \$23,948 cash on hand. All bills through the end of April 16 have been paid.

March Income	\$32,256.00
March Expenses	<u>35,251.00</u>
Unfavorable to Income	\$-2,994.00



Several reasons accounted for the unfavorable monthly expense. One reason was the overlay of salary for a pre-school teacher out on maternity leave and providing for her replacement. Also, giving was less than budgeted for weekly giving and tuition was below budget because of the great number of full year prepayments. Partially, it was just how payments fell that caused the discrepancy. Currently, we are running favorable to our year-to-date budget by \$6,012.

Continue to pray for Zion that we are able to grow our outreach ministry and that we can maintain this positive financial picture for 2011.



Community Outreach

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

We will again use the Good Friday offering to support the local community. This year's offering will be shared between three charities: Bridgeville Food Bank, Lutherans for Life (who will be using our facilities to hold a Strawberry Festival on June 12th) and in support of the newly announced Pittsburgh area Lutheran High School to be opening in the coming year.

~Bob Schmidt
Chairman

10	George and Dawn Geregach	1997
12	August and Linda Seibel	1990
12	Dean and Roberta Stewart	1979
22	George and Jane Kozak	1953
27	Harry and Paula Jones	2006
29	Pastor Duncan and Alissa McLellan	2010
30	Brad and Jessica Boyle	2009
30	Larry and Janet Zreliak	1981
31	Steve Dibert and Janet Walleck	2008

3 Janet Hickey	22 Carly Seibel
3 Dominic DeRosa	24 Amy Morgan
5 Doreen Carswell	24 Kenneth Wuerthele
9 Rita Sheldon	25 Nadine Carswell
10 lola Schmidt	25 Norma Lynch
10 Bethany Seibel	26 Mary Hutula
14 Jack Oelschlager	27 Dorothy Vogel
17 Timothy Fitzgerald	29 Nicholas Coyle
20 Frank Vallelunga	29 Curt Watters
21 Stephanie Eckels	30 Christa Coyle
21 Irene Bourg	30 Bill Schrag
22 Dan Harris	31 Melanie Becker

Celebrating an Anniversary





Early Childhood Center

It is always with bittersweet feelings that I write the last notes of the school year. The is always so exciting and fun-filled and it comes to a close much too quickly. There are children who are leaving the school to go on to “higher education,” but there are always new happy faces ready to start the next year. However, this year as I am writing the last of my Early Childhood Notes, the anticipated joy of greeting excited new families and seeing old friends is no longer on the horizon.

It is through teary eyes that I reminisce of the past eight years. Nine years ago, Pastor Matzat told me that I had too much experience and education and that they could not afford me. He smiles when I told him I was retired and had come to the school looking for a volunteer job. That “volunteer” statement is what landed me this position, I am sure. I looked to the Lord for guidance as the board charged me with two tasks, grow the school and put the finances of the school in the black. The Lord smiled down and with His guidance in using His own people, we prospered. I would like to mention a few people who were instrumental in the school’s growth. Penny Armbruster with her great faith and vision set the stage for the school’s expectations. Gwen Robinson with her fantastic organizational skills and experience in public relations along with a strong Christian faith continued Penny’s vision. I will hold these women in my heart and prayers always. I also want to

Notes From the Preschool

mention Bill Bishop, my “financial advisor” and touch task-master, who set the school’s financial framework. I hold Bill in high esteem and call him my friend. Together with prayer we accomplished what was charged to us. There are so many more workers that I could mention who were instrumental in the success of the school that I am afraid that I would miss someone if I tried to mention them individually. So, collectively, thank you all for making this school what Penny would call a “Premier” school. I do want to single out two gentlemen who were great influences on my growth. Norm Erbrecht, who kept me in line with his expectations of church stewardship and grounded me in the reality of what the church could and could not do in support of the school. And Dick Wible, who was never too busy to do anything that was asked of him. He was always willing to listen and eager to do things for the school. I will miss you, Dick, not only for your help, but also for your sage advice.

Nine years ago, you had about twenty-five students and three employees in the school. This year, we brought the Good News to seventy-six students and their families and employed eleven teachers and staff. From the first year, the school has been financially independent (Thanks, Bill—looks like the Lord saw that we met the goal). With the increase in students, many services and activities were added. We have two new classes, Small Steps and, beginning next year, Stepping Stones. We utilized Paula Gardner’s phenomenal talent in having her teach a special music program to our pre-K classes. This year

the summer camp program has grown to five camps, with parents asking for more. We expanded the Lunch Bunch program to include the PreSchool and we also added the Christmas Shopping Lunch. We initiated the Dads & Donuts and Moms & Muffins events. The fund-raising profits grew and we were able to pay for programs from the Pittsburgh Zoo, Phipps Conservatory, Carnegie Science Center, and Mad Science along with installing the water and restroom in the Small Steps classroom. We have been able to secure, at no cost, yearly vision, hearing, and dental check-ups for the children.

I can’t leave without thanking the most fantastic staff I have ever had the pleasure with whom to work. The current staff: Terri Cline, Stacy Fleck, Melanie Fowler, Paula Gardner, Janet Hickey, Kim Lewandowski, Barb Oeschlein, Lori Reich, Rita Sheldon, and Jennifer Smith are hard-working, dedicated Christian women. They are always there for the children and each other. Nowhere will you find so much talent, ability, and love in one school location. Bless you all.

As I move into the “second half” of my life, I will carry with me many memories and wonderful experiences. I thank you all for the wonderful journey that has made my life so much richer. God bless us all. My prayer is for the continuance and growth of this beautiful school. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In His Service,

Carole Davis, Director

Preschool News

Zion Lutheran Early Childhood Center currently still has a few openings in the 3 year-old Preschool class, the 4 year-old Prekindergarten class, and the 4+ Transition class. Registration packets are available in the office. If you know of anyone who might be interested in sending their children to the preschool, please inform the office of their name and address so that we can mail them an information packet.

Summer Camp registration is under way. There is still availability in the following camps:

Small Steps Music Camp (June 7-9, 9:00-11:30 am) for children 2-3 years old who have already been to Small Steps class. Cost is \$45.

Fun & Games Camp (June 13-17, 9:00-11:30 am) for children 3-5 years old. Cost is \$80.

Mozart Math Camp (June 20-24, 9:00-11:30 am) for children 3-5 years old. Cost is \$80.

Registration forms are available in the office.

You're Invited!

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 8th – 12th, 2011

9:30am – 12:00pm

Preschool – Grade 6



Grab a vine, brave the rapids, and prepare for a Big Jungle Adventure, this year's VBS program where kids will learn about Jesus' amazing love every day!!

Please complete the registration form below and attach the registration fee (\$5.00 per child) to the form. Make checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church. Return the completed form **and** fee to the box labeled "VBS Registration" located in the church narthex and school lobby. **To ensure the best VBS experience for each child, class sizes are limited, so please be sure to register early to reserve your spot. There is no guarantee we'll be able to accommodate registrants on the first day of VBS.**

Contact Katie Gielarowski with any questions at 724-713-6523 or email winechick123@yahoo.com
PS! Don't forget to collect **pennies** to bring on **Day 1** for our VBS mission project!!!

(cut here)

"Big Jungle Adventure" Registration Form

Parent's Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Home# _____ Cell# _____

Emergency name & number _____

Email Address _____

Paid by – (please circle one) Cash OR Check

CHILD'S NAME(S)

****GRADE COMPLETED**

ALLERGIES?

(**VBS classes are for children who have attended **at least** one year of 3-year preschool through 6th Grade)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

*** Please note that if your child has any food allergies, we request that you bring a snack from home for your child to enjoy each day. The snack should be clearly labeled with your child's full name and brought to the church kitchen.

Service Participants in May

Greeters & Acolytes			
DATE	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTES
May 1	8:00 am	Joan Kovach	Anthony Vallelunga
	10:30 am	Brian & Megan Pasquini	Mitchell Fitzgerald
May 8	8:00 am	Susen & Missy Radovich	Joshua Gielarowski
	10:30 am	Bob & Diane Schmidt	Sydney Harris
May 15	8:00 am	Jack & Jacque Oelschlager	Sara Vallelunga
	10:30 am	Jay & Kim Anderson	Jennifer Fitzgerald
May 22	8:00 am	Carl & Karen Bauer	Missy Radovich
	10:30 am	Eric & Michelle Hunsberger	Molly Oelschlager
May 29	8:00 am	Bill & Melanie Becker	Anthony Vallelunga
	10:30 am	Michelle Jenkins & Family	Mia Case
June 5	8:00 am	Wayne & Kathleen Conn	Joshua Gielarowski
	10:30 am	Harris Family	Ryan Harris

ELDERS	Ken Wuerthele & Mike Sterba
ALTAR GUILD	Diane Schmidt, Barb Oeschlein, & Megan Pasquini
USHERS @ 8:00 am	Kathleen Conn, Jack Oelschlager, Ben Ivancza, & Barb Oechslein
USHERS @ 10:30 am	Neil Ackerman, Steve Kovach, Bob Schmidt, & Brian Pasquini

If you are unable to participate on the assigned date, please find your own substitute and notify the Church Office (412) 221-4776) of the change.



My Zion Lutheran Church Family,

Thank you so very much for your prayers, phone calls, and visits during my surgery and hospital stay.

Pastor, the times we just had long talks was a blessing that fulfilled all my needs and gave strength to my healing.

“All we need to do is take it to the Lord!”

With sincere love to all,
Lois Klemash

Thank you to everyone who helped us in reaching our goal of 200 bars of soap from our church families. After a last minute donation on Sunday we have collected **363** bars from our church families and **362** bars from our school families, for a grand total of **725** bars! This is **435** bars over what we collected last year. Thank you to Pastor for getting the entertaining contest going between the church and the school. The friendly competition really helped to benefit those in need. The soap will be shipped out to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Maryland.



Thanks
for Giving

In Christ's Service,
Barbara Oechslein,
Zion Early Childhood Center

Zion Lutheran Church

3197 Washington Pike
Bridgeville, PA 15017
Phone: 412-221-4776



Visit ZLCB.ORG

For updated information throughout the month.

The Rev. Duncan McLellan



Youth News



Youth Ministry

LIMiT The second LIMiT meeting is scheduled for May 22nd after the late service in the church Undercroft (basement). This is the "Commitment" meeting where we will have people sign up and commit to going on the trip.

The cost for LIMiT is \$300 and includes transportation and meals, lodging and "program" when we get to the camp. We're keeping the costs low by using private vehicles to drive to and from Lutheran Island Camp. If you want to drive your vehicle, the church will cover the cost of your expenses at Lutheran Island Camp (\$270). Half of the \$300 will be due on June 1st and the second half on the 22nd.

If finances are keeping you from going on this trip, please speak with Pastor Duncan!

Dear Members of Zion Lutheran Church,

The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. -Isaiah 58:11 Thank you so much for your very generous check! I am excitedly awaiting graduation in a few weeks before student teaching at Christ the King Lutheran School in Southgate, MI this fall. I will really need some money for food and gas - especially as I will not have any income while student teaching - and your money will help me out immensely. May God continue to bless you as you faithfully serve Him. Let us never forget how much He loves us!

In Our Forever Risen Savior,
Rachael Quinlan, senior at Concordia University Ann Arbor



ANNOUNCEMENTS



FOOD BANK

Collection for this month's Bridgeville Area Food Bank drive is Sunday, May 15. The "item of the month" is picnic supplies. You are also welcome to help at the Food Bank every third Saturday of the month between 7:45 and 12:00 at Bethany Presbyterian Church.

Donate your used eyeglasses to those in need. You can drop your used eyeglasses in the box located in the narthex through Pentecost Sunday, June 12.

**NEW EYES
FOR THE NEEDY**

VBS

This year, Zion's Vacation Bible School, BIG JUNGLE ADVENTURE, will be held August 8th-12th and we are in need of volunteers. There are many ways that you can help. Volunteer forms are available in the church narthex and the school lobby. Volunteers are encouraged to wear Zion Lutheran T-Shirts which are available at the special price of \$5.00.

Did you know that Zion has an email prayer chain standing at the ready to pray for your needs? Martin Luther said that "Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness." Lay hold of God's willingness and send an email to secretary@zlc.org or call the office with your prayer requests.

**EMAIL
PRAYER CHAIN**

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Our monthly newsletter is available online at zlc.org. Inform the church office of your email address in order to receive the newsletter via the cyber highway. Let's save money and trees!