



# Zion Lutheran Monthly

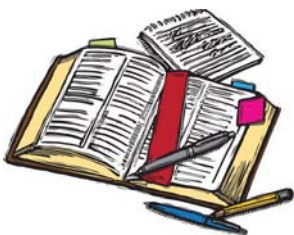
January 2012



## REAL CHANGE IN 2012

Losing weight this year? Working out more? Drinking less? Spending time on what matters most in '12? New Year's are all about new beginnings, starting over, and making this trip around the sun better than the last one. With all the resolutions that will get made, we see a beautiful picture of the gospel: starting over and starting fresh. In Christ, we've all been given a chance to start over and get it right, to make decisions and choices in our lives that will benefit ourselves and others. But unlike New Year's Resolutions, we don't have a wait for 1/1/13 to have a clean-slate when it comes to our standing before God. In Christ, we are continually made-new, sin is continually washed away, and we are continuously forgiven and empowered to live a Spirit-filled life.

This year, as you might expect, I am encouraging you to resolve to read the Bible in one year with many other members of Zion Lutheran Church. There is a list of readings for you in this month's newsletter, as well as on the church's web site ([www.zlcb.org](http://www.zlcb.org)) and in the weekly church bulletin.



If you've never read the Bible all the way through, you can't tell me I don't know what I'm talking about when I tell you that you don't know what you're missing out on. And if you have read the Bible all the way through, you know it was a blessing. Why not do it again?

Personally, the last time I read the Bible all the way through in one year was 13 years ago when I was in college. It's time for me to commit to reading the "Good Book" in its entirety again! I'm excited to re-read familiar stories as well as reacquainting myself with the less familiar ones.

Join me, and others at Zion, in reading God's Word together in 2012! And unlike giving up desserts or fast food, it's a resolution you can enjoy keeping.

God's blessings!  
In Christ,  
Pastor Duncan

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## THANK YOU!

Alissa and I would like to thank the members of Zion for their generosity towards us. You have given us more baby "stuff" than we imagined possible and you were more than generous with your Christmas gifts as well. We have been in awe at the Lord's provision for us through you. Your example of generosity is a reflection of the faith you have in the generosity of our God, who gave his Son Jesus to be our Savior. Thank you!

-Pastor Duncan & Alissa

Thank you so much for the thoughtful Christmas gift to the staff. We love serving the congregation and very much appreciate your generosity.

-Rhonda, Paula, & Darren

# Church, Mission & Synod (CMS) & Plate Finances



As of December 24, 2011, we are estimating \$922.00 cash on hand. All bills through that period of time have been paid.

November <b>Income</b>	\$30,023.00
November <b>Expenses</b>	\$36,663.00
Unfavorable to Income	\$ -6,640.00



The unfavorable monthly expenses were due to the timing of receiving tuition payments and repairs to the boiler. Continue to pray for Zion that we are able to grow our outreach ministry.

- Bob Schmidt, Chairman

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Eph.2:10-1*



December 8, 2011

Dear Members of Zion.

Thank you very much for your generous gift to our school ministry. We continue to be blessed with support from our sister congregations, and value your partnership. Teaching children is a vital ministry in the Lord's Kingdom as you well know. It is a privilege and honor to serve so many, and we are humbled at the many blessings the Lord has afforded us to do so.

Your offerings will ensure those children who are in the most need of tuition assistance, enabling them to receive an excellent Christ-centered education. Twenty-eight percent of our students receive tuition assistance, and yet there are still those who struggle to meet their financial obligations. Support from our sisters in ministry help to meet this need. Thank you.

God's richest blessings to you as you prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas and again for all eternity.

In Christ.

Dear Members of Zion Lutheran Church,

"Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever!" 1 Chronicles 16:34 Thank you so very much for your generous offerings!! I had a very wonderful, blessed student teaching experience at Christ the King Lutheran School in Southgate, MI. I was very sad to leave the first and second graders! They taught me so much! After four and a half years, I am now officially graduated from Concordia. I am praying to receive a Call to an elementary school in the St. Louis, MO area next fall, after I marry Adam Steinbrenner, who attends the Seminary there.

Your financial aid and support during my college education has been so encouraging and helpful to me. It is incredible to have such a giving home church. May God continue to bless you as you have blessed me.

Thank you!!!!

In Christ Alone,  
Rachael Quinlan, CUAA Graduate!

## January Birthdays

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Lois Klemash       | 7 Luke Lemonovich    |
| 4 John Eckels        | 12 Ronald Valentino  |
| 4 Christine Chilcott | 13 Debra LaJeunesse  |
| 5 Gloria Godfrey     | 14 Barbara Oechslein |
| 5 Steve Dibert       | 14 Shirley Bicusky   |
| 6 Decklan Pasquini   | 16 Paula Gardner     |
| 7 Tom Bicusky        | 16 Marylou Neill     |



- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 18 Vickie Buzzell  | 24 Will Schrag         |
| 20 Carol Schrag    | 27 Molly Oelschlager   |
| 22 Jessica Boyle   | 27 Callista Chilcott   |
| 23 Tim Sheldon     | 28 Alissa McLellan     |
| 23 Don Oelschlager | 31 Lillian DallaPiazza |
| 24 John DeRosa     |                        |

# Happy New Year

We meet today  
 To thank Thee for the era done,  
 And Thee for the opening one.  
 ~John Greenleaf Whittier

We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.

~Edith Lovejoy Pierce



Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
 Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
 The year is going, let him go;  
 Ring out the false, ring in the true.  
 ~Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man.  
 ~Benjamin Franklin

Glory to God in highest heaven,  
 Who unto man His Son hath given;  
 While angels sing with tender mirth,  
 A glad new year to all the earth.  
 ~Martin Luther

A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.  
 ~Author Unknown



## January Anniversaries

7	Mark and Laurie Coleman	2006
20	Michelle and Gary Jenkins	1990
26	Susan and John Stone	1974
28	Jim and Marylou Neill	1967
31	Darren and Jennifer Elikor	1998



## 2012 Food Bank "items of the month":

January	Packaged meals (hamburger helper, rice-a-roni, etc)
February	Cereal & breakfast food
March	Fruit (canned and dried)
April	Rice, noodles, & beans
May	Picnic condiments
June	Paper products
July	Fruit juices and drinks
August	Crackers
September	Personal hygiene products
October	Baking supplies
November	Canned meats and proteins (tuna, beans, etc.)
December	Hot drinks

# The year at Zion that was...

# 2011

**2011 was a very busy year for the members and staff of Zion. Below are just some of the highlights from last year.**

We completed a 5-year plan that serves as a foundation for the seven key focus areas: *Outreach, In-reach, Youth Ministry & Early Childhood Program, Worship Service, Stewardship, Technology, and Church and Parsonage Facilities.*

We saw an increase in our community *Outreach* support throughout the year: Bridgeville Food Bank, Pittsburgh Community Lutheran High School, Lutherans for Life, World Relief (bars of soap), South Fayette Chili Cook-off (third place), Oktoberfest, paper recycling, aluminum can recycling (with the Boy Scouts), and a donation to Ian Loewe (a young boy from Pastor's previous church in Nebraska who is fighting cancer without health insurance). These are just some of our *Outreach* efforts of 2011.



Our *In-reach* activities were numerous as well. For example: Pirate Game, Golf Outing, Baby Shower, Interaction Group events and dinners, support for full-time church worker Rachael Quinlan, increase in Bible studies, and a new church directory for all members.

We also made great use of our facility: Boy Scouts, Lutherans for Life Strawberry Festival, Central Blood Bank Blood Drives, Preschool fundraiser (spaghetti dinner), Preschool Summer Camps, and Vacation Bible School.

We continued to show strong *Stewardship* with another balanced budget and no carry-over expenses from the previous budget year. This was accomplished throughout the year with increased Church, Mission & Synod (CMS) giving, special gifts, and strong expense control. The preschool continues to be self-funded and has shown strong growth and future potential growth.

We set an aggressive 3-month target to retire our outstanding mortgage of \$90,000. Together with our Lord's help, we accomplished this goal within the 3-month period. We plan to "*Burn the Mortgage*" next year, so keep an eye out for details. This accomplishment will now give us an opportunity to utilize these funds, which represents 9% of the budget, to establish a fund to support Zion's ministry. God does amazing things when you put your trust in him.



We consolidated the *Youth Ministry and Early Childhood* roles into one Director position. We added a new 5-year old Stepping Stones class and hired a number of new teachers and aides. We are now actively inviting the preschool children to participate in church activities: singing in church, hay ride/bonfire, etc. We saw an increase in the number of preschool students for the year.

The Youth had a number of team building activities and outings: bowling, skating, and confirmation lock-in where 30 kids showed up with a dozen or so non-member friends. The youth went on a mission trip to Lutheran Island Camp in Minnesota where they built an outdoor luggage rack for the female campers and a shed for recreation supplies. This camp has a significant outreach ministry in the community and serves the Lutheran Church in northern Minnesota. They also went on a grueling hike up Mt. Marcy in upstate New York.

We established a *Worship Service* team that is open to the congregation and meets on the third Thursday of each month to discuss ways we can improve the human aspects of worship at Zion. The choir continues to grow. We introduced multimedia to the Children's message and made some new ministry options and worship service trends. One of our key focus areas in our 2012 worship services will be on the Bible readings from the previous week in our "Read the Bible in a Year" schedule.

We now have the ability to live-stream video to our website with high speed *Technology* improvements made to our Internet. Zion's website continues to undergo major improvements with increased information content and features in the support of our members and community. The key objective is to proactively leverage technology to improve overall ministry.



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# Service Participants

# January

## Greeters & Acolytes

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTES
January 1	8:00 am	Bill & Melanie Becker	TBD
	10:30 am	Clara Hayes	Josiah Ackerman
January 8	8:00 am	Susen & Missy Radovich	Missy Radovich
	10:30 am	Fitzgerald Family	Sydney Harris
January 15	8:00 am	Joyce Wood	Joshua Gielarowski
	10:30 am	Sam Dragan	Mitchell Fitzgerald
January 22	8:00 am	Carl & Karen Bauer	Grant Geregach
	10:30 am	Brian & Megan Pasquini	Jennifer Fitzgerald
January 29	8:00 am	Jack & Jacque Oelschlager	Missy Radovich
	10:30 am	Michael & Deborah Sterba	Ryan Harris
February 5	8:00 am	Larry & Janet Zreliak	Joshua Gielarowski
	10:30 am	Rose Steranko	Mitchell Fitzgerald
February 12	8:00 am	Vallelunga Family	Anthony Vallelunga
	10:30 am	Bob & Diane Schmidt	Josiah Ackerman

<b>ELDERS</b>	TBD
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Elsie DallaPiazza & Jean Endler
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Bill Becker, Brent Miller, Barb & Wayne Oechslein
<b>USHERS @ 10:30 am</b>	Ross Chilcott, Sam Dragan, Robert Oelschlager, & Richard Quinlan

# February

<b>ELDERS</b>	TBD
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Sarah Ali & Melanie Becker
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, Ron Meier, & Jack Oelschlager
<b>USHERS @ 10:30 am</b>	Neil Ackerman, Chuck LaJeunesse, Brian Pasquini, & Lois Sauro

If you are unable to participate on the assigned date, please find your own substitute and notify the church office (412) 221-4776 or secretary@zlc.org of the change.

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Maintenance to *Church and Parsonage Facilities* represents 20% of the overall budget. So what did we do this past year? A lot! New carpeting for the church, school and parsonage, new furnace and air conditioning for the parsonage, cleaned and sealed the cross, new marquis sign, replaced the locks on the doors, fixed roof leaks, fixed the boiler, removed trees, plus lots of small maintenance projects. We will also be replacing our cleaning service with a part-time custodian (Jim Oelschlager, a member of Zion).

Overall, this year we have seen an increase in participation at church services, Bible studies, and new highs in preschool enrollment and vacation Bible school attendance.

On behalf of the Church Council, I want to thank the congregation, staff, officers and Pastor for their time, talent, prayers and gifts in support of growing the ministry of Zion. We thank our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for using Zion to share the Good News. These efforts have helped to *"Build the Light of Zion and Let the SON Shine Out!"*



Happy New Year!

Bob Schmidt  
Chairman

## 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 Bowling!** Junior high and high school youth are invited to bring their friends and enjoy an afternoon bowling @ the AMF in Mt. Lebanon on Saturday, January 14th from 2-4. The cost will be under \$10.00 per person and food will be included in the price! Please RSVP to [pastor@zlcbl.org](mailto:pastor@zlcbl.org) or [tharris@zlcbl.org](mailto:tharris@zlcbl.org)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### FOOD BANK

Collection for this month's Bridgeville Area Food Bank is **Sunday, January 8th**. The "item of the month" is packaged meals such as hamburger helper, rice-a-roni, etc. 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.

If you would like to add a prayer request to our Sunday Prayer Bookmark or send out a prayer request to our email prayer chain, please call the church office at 412-221-4776 or send an email to [secretary@zlcbl.org](mailto:secretary@zlcbl.org). The Sunday Prayer Bookmark goes to print on Thursday mornings.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

### UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

Please make sure to inform the church office if you change your mailing/email address or phone number. Just call the office at 412-221-4776 or send an email to [secretary@zlcbl.org](mailto:secretary@zlcbl.org) to inform us of the change. If you would like to be added to our email list to receive the monthly newsletter or email announcements throughout the month, please inform the office of your email address. Thank you!

Please consider reading the Bible in a year with us, beginning this month. The time you invest will be surprisingly short and the rewards are enormous! We'll be including a reading list in the monthly newsletter and calendar. Online, we'll post the readings on [www.zlcbl.org](http://www.zlcbl.org) each and every day at 5 a.m. They'll be formatted for viewing on your computer or mobile devices. And one other thing ... you'll have the option to "LISTEN" to each day's reading ... so if you like, listen to the Bible in a year! You'll be glad you did!

### READ THE BIBLE IN a YEAR!