



# Zion Lutheran Monthly

February 2012



## BABY MCLELLAN

It's Wednesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of January, early afternoon. I'm in the parsonage basement being watched by two dogs of varying size. Having just finished a summary review of Genesis 10-12 and talking with Tracey and Rhonda about upcoming church and youth events, I'm ready for a break. No, it's not that there's too much work to do. It's not that I'm tired, bored, or anything but positive about all that has to get done today, the direction of Zion, or life in general. I'm ready for a break because I'm having a harder time focusing on what I'm doing than at any other time in my life (except maybe the week before I got married).

You see, Alissa is due to give birth to our first child in three days and I can't stop thinking about the God-given miracle that is our unborn child. I want to share some thoughts I've had about being a parent-to-be in this month's newsletter. My reasons for doing it are simple: I want to impress on you, in some way, what has been impressed on me during the 8 months that we've known Alissa has been pregnant. For those of you who have children, I hope to give voice to what you know to be true. For those of you who do not have children, I hope to illustrate, in some way, just how miraculous and wonderful your own creation in the womb was, and how God lovingly and with all wisdom knit you together in your mother's womb.



*Blessing from God*

When Alissa told me that she was pregnant, my first reaction was: "are you sure?" After all, we'd only been not trying not to try for a month. The first shot on goal always gets blocked. Or so I thought. But every pregnancy test Alissa took showed a + and not a - . We were going to be parents.

At three months in, we got to see our child on an ultrasound machine, alive and kicking. At four months, Alissa could feel the kicks. And at that time we had another ultrasound where we were able to see the hands and feet, eyes and heart, all operating as they were designed to. The kicking got more frequent and more powerful. This surprised no one; Alissa played soccer through college. The hiccups started and our baby has gotten into the ritual of kicking up a storm around 9:30pm. Now, as we are only 3 days away from the medical community's best guess as to when we will move from an "innie" to an "outie," the movements are slower and more forceful, the heartbeat slower and more powerful, and the features of the baby are even sometimes visible through the skin on Alissa's stomach.

I've been "prolife" as far back as I can remember. But after seeing, feeling and even hearing a baby grow in a woman's womb, I cannot understand how

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*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you."*

*-Jeremiah 1:5a*



Leonardo da Vinci,  
15th Century

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



As of January 21, 2012, we are estimating \$7,934.00 cash on hand. All bills through January 21st have been paid.

December <b>Income</b>	\$41,669.00
December <b>Expenses</b>	\$36,363.00
Favorable to Income	\$ 5,306.00



The monthly financial picture looks good, but we did have a few unexpected maintenance expenses relating to the front roof and boiler. Continue to pray for Zion that we are able to grow our outreach ministry.

## **VOTER'S MEETING UPDATE:**

The Voter's approved a motion to establish a new *Kingdom Fund*. This fund would be used to enhance the internal and external ministries of Zion.

How would the fund be funded? Initially by redirecting budgeted mortgage dollars to the *Kingdom Fund*.

How would the fund be administered? The Pastor and Board of Elders will administer the *Kingdom Fund* in a similar manner as the Board of Trustees administers the Trustee Discretionary Fund. The distribution of funds would be based on the constitutional level of financial responsibility for the Board of Elders, Church Council and Voters.

What would the fund be used for? To promote and enhance the Kingdom of God through charitable giving, Christian education (adult and youth), missions, community outreach ...

This is a great opportunity for Zion to use and share our financial gifts. May God guide us in using these gifts and our talents to spread the Good News!

- Bob Schmidt, Chairman

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anyone would think it is ever the best option to not bring this already-living person into the world. As God spoke to the prophet: "BEFORE I formed you in the womb, I knew you."

But maybe even more than that, I cannot understand how anyone who has experienced what I have could come to the conclusion that we are all the result of the equation: random chance + time. The more we discover about the human body and how it grows and forms in the womb, the more complex it becomes. The more we learn about how a human being grows in the womb, the more we realize we do not know. We are an infinitely complex creation. A countless number of infinitely complex events have to take place at the right time and in the right way for a human being to be born healthy (or be born at all). I am convinced the only entity that can make something so complex come together so often so perfectly is God.

Those of you who have children know what I am talking about. Those of you who have been blessed in other ways know that you have been created by the hand of God in a way that can only be described as miraculous.

All the best,  
In Christ,  
Pastor Duncan

PS- please remember that our child is a miraculous blessing and gift from God down the road when his or her expressions of discontent and displeasure "enhance" your time in worship! ☺

## Notes From the Preschool

Greetings from the Preschool! January has come and gone and registrations are underway for the 2012-2013 year. Crazy, isn't it... but we still have a lot to do before the end of this school year. Our first day back after Christmas break was a little challenging as Mother Nature decided to hit us with a snow storm right as parents were dropping off their children at school. Thankfully, everyone arrived safely and our 2012 year began.

We started the month off with chapel with Pastor. The children were learning that Jesus was once small just like them, and grew, just like them. The children love when Pastor Duncan comes to share Jesus time with them...they are even teaching him all of the fun songs we do during Kids Praise.

The teachers are also busy conducting PreKindergarten evaluations. Before children enter Kindergarten we test them on specific skills that are needed for Kin-

dergarten. We then hold conferences with their parents and review the test results. It is our goal to give the parents as much information as possible before having to make the decision to send to Kindergarten, or to put them into a class like our Stepping Stones class.

Some exciting news.... Although Miss Janet is not back in the classroom, she has been coming to school several times a week to help the teachers with various jobs. The children and parents have greeted Janet with big hugs and smiles and are so glad to see her (and looking great, I might add). We couldn't be happier to have Janet back with us. Praise God!

We will finish up January with a visit from the Pittsburgh Zoo. Both the Preschool and the PreK will enjoy a program called "Color Zoo". "Color Zoo" is a journey through a rainbow of colors in the animal kingdom which allows the children to discover



the many patterns and shades of the natural world. Pretty cool!

Please continue to keep our school in your prayers especially as we enter registration for the next school year. What a tremendous opportunity we have to preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to small children. "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Luke 18:16-17

Blessings,  
Tracey Harris

**Thomas Walter McLellan** was born at 1:28 p.m. on Wednesday, January 25th and weighed in at 9 pounds 9 ounces and is 22 inches long.

He is the son of Pastor Duncan and Alissa McLellan.



**Riley Elizabeth Becker** was born at 2:12 a.m. on Wednesday, January 18th and weighed in at 7 pounds 5 ounces and is 18 inches long.

She is the daughter of Lauren Becker and the granddaughter of Bill and Melanie Becker

## BRIDGEVILLE AREA FOOD BANK

BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

740 WASHINGTON AVE.

BRIDGEVILLE, PA 15017

December 29, 2011

Zion Lutheran Church  
3197 Washington Pike  
Bridgeville, PA 15017



To the Members of Zion Lutheran Church:

The volunteers and recipients of the Bridgeville Area Food Bank thank you for the \$496.33 check #3214 dated 12/5/11 from the Thanksgiving offering. We truly appreciate your generous donations throughout the year.

The Bridgeville Area Food Bank is an all volunteer mission serving the needy families in our area, operating through donations and food drives. We could not help our less fortunate neighbors without the donations and support of individuals in our local communities, churches and businesses.

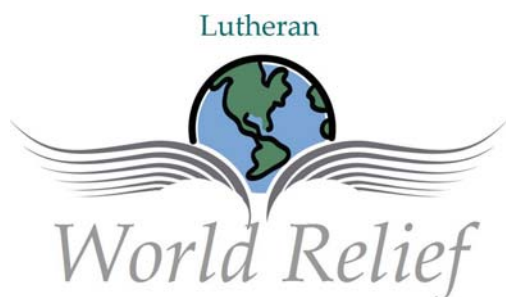
May God bless you.

**Rita B. Rozell**

Treasurer

"FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT..."

MATTHEW 25:35



Lutheran World Relief is experiencing an increased need of supplies. A brand new bar of soap signals dignity and cleanliness. Zion Early Childhood Center is collecting soap for Lutheran World Relief throughout the months of February and March. We are hoping to collect 300 bars (last year we collected 363) of any brand soap in its original wrapping. All bar sizes are accepted; however, bath-size bars (4 – 5 oz.) are highly preferred. Please help us reach our goal by placing your donations in either the church narthex or greenhouse areas.

You may remember the church collected one more bar than the school last year. Maybe the school will collect one more bar than the church this year! ☺

If you have any questions see Barbara Oechslein or call 412-221-1584.

# Service Participants

# February

Greeters & Acolytes			
DATE	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTES
Feb 5	8:00 am	Larry & Janet Zreliak	Joshua Gielarowski
	10:30 am	Rose Steranko	Mitchell Fitzgerald
Feb 12	8:00 am	Vallelunga Family	Anthony Vallelunga
	10:30 am	Bob & Diane Schmidt	Josiah Ackerman
Feb 19	8:00 am	Bob & Nancy Spotti	Grant Geregach
	10:30 am	Quinlan Family	Sydney Harris
Feb 26	8:00 am	Ron & Judy Meier	Missy Radovich
	10:30 am	Rob Oelschlager	Jennifer Fitzgerald
March 4	8:00 am	Joan Kovach	Joshua Gielarowski
	10:30 am	Harris Family	Ryan Harris
March 11	8:00 am	B & M Miller, Millie Thielet	Anthony Vallelunga
	10:30 am	Neil Ackerman	Josiah Ackerman

<b>ELDERS</b>	Michael Sterba & John Gielarowski
<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

# MARCH

<b>ELDERS</b>	Jim Neill & Vic Herschaft
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Janet, Marian, & Molly Oelschlager
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Kathleen Conn, Bill Schrag, Janet & Larry Zreliak
<b>USHERS @ 10:30 am</b>	Joe Gielarowski, Rachel Klemash, Steve Kovach, & Andy Weldon

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.

# February



- |                    |                       |                         |                  |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Amber Seibel     | 9 Michele Jenkins     |                         |                  |
| 2 Katherine Neill  | 10 Dorothy Smelko     |                         |                  |
| 3 Carol Lockhart   | 12 Darren Elikor      |                         |                  |
| 4 Ginny Kimberland | 13 Tracey Coyle       |                         |                  |
| 5 Hope Mance       | 13 Charles LaJeunesse | 21 Pastor Donald Matzat | 26 Tom Erbrecht  |
| 5 Alice Miller     | 17 Lauren Becker      | 21 Joyce Wood           | 27 Kathleen Conn |
| 6 Tracey Harris    | 18 Sarah Erbrecht     | 25 Gladys Kolljeski     | 27 Kristen Neill |
| 9 Jenna Eckels     | 20 Kathy Pallaria     | 25 Betty Jo Valentino   | 29 Bill Becker   |

## 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



February is **MISSION OUTREACH MONTH** at Zion's Sunday School!

We begin the year by teaching children the importance of outreach - sharing the Gospel with others through words and acts of kindness. Here is what we have planned for February:

**Sunday, February 5th** - Crafts and brownies for Meals on Wheels.

**Sunday, February 12th** - Valentine's cards for Zion's shut-in's and prayer list members.

**Sunday, February 19th** - Sunday school children will sing a Mission-based song during the 10:30 am service.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### FOOD BANK

Collection for this month's Bridgeville Area Food Bank is **Sunday, February 12th**. The "item of the month" is cereal and breakfast food. 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.

Join us as Zion supports the Pregnancy Resource Center of the South Hills! Fill a baby bottle with your loose change and return it to the receptacle in the church narthex by Sunday, February 12th. Join with Zion and the Pregnancy Resource Center in the work of saving lives!

### BABY BOTTLE COIN DRIVE

### Vacation BIBLE SCHOOL

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!** Vacation Bible School is now scheduled for the week of **June 25th - 29th!** Stay tuned for more details to follow!

Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Services will be on Wednesdays during the season of Lent, starting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, at 7:00pm and will focus on the prayers of Jesus. Following the services, there will be desserts and coffee in the church basement. We hope to see you at our midweek services, a great way to refresh and be encouraged by the Gospel of Christ, enjoy fellowship and sing praises to our Good and Gracious Father in heaven!

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR LENT