



# Zion Lutheran Monthly



## November 2012

### The Election, Thanksgiving, and Ezekiel

As I'm writing this, it feels like we've been in Ezekiel for as long as... well... at least as long as we were in Jeremiah. Three days to go before we enter the Apocalyptic world of Daniel and then the dysfunctional-family world of Hosea. It's obvious by now that the intended readers of Jeremiah and Ezekiel did not have the aversion to repetition that 21<sup>st</sup> Century readers have.

That being said, there is a curious repetition in Ezekiel that even the biggest fans of text-messaging, bullet-points, Cliff Notes, and Executive Summaries can appreciate: Ezekiel's stubborn insistence on calling human rulers PRINCES and not KINGS. You ask: Why princes and not kings? Good question! During Israel/Judah's tumultuous history, she had the nasty habit of trying to look like the nations around her, ditching her God-given distinctiveness for a quasi-national-ecumenism. (No, I don't get paid by the word, why do you ask?) Two examples from Israel/Judah's history stand out: when the people asked Samuel for a king and when David (and later Solomon) set out to build God a temple. God warned his people about the dangers of a king, and made a strong case for why he didn't need a temple. In God's economy, Judges and the Tabernacle would do just fine. But no matter, his people were going to have a king for themselves and a temple for God.

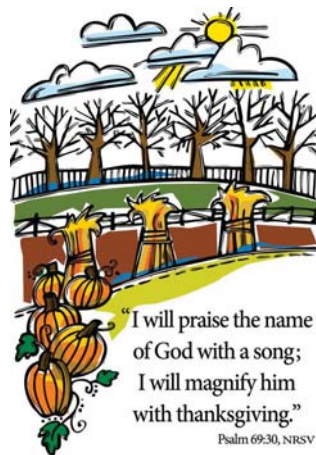
In refusing to call human dignitaries, rulers and authorities "kings," Ezekiel drives home the point that God alone is the sovereign potentate of his people. His people dare not ascribe the power, authority, and honor due God to one of their own, nor seek the same for themselves.

Where are you going with this, Pastor? Two directions are possible. One would be to offer a commentary on the election of 2012, and how the only vote that matters was the one cast by Christ on the cross whereby he became our king for all time. But you're probably as sick as I am at anything to do with politics. So, instead, we'll go in the other direction and focus on the holiday that happens at the end of the month: Thanksgiving.

After coming to the "New World," the Pilgrims celebrated what became our holiday of Thanksgiving. As Christian refugees, they recognized that it was God, and not the state or their own genius that had provided for their physical (and spiritual) needs. They recognized that God is king—a king whose governance provided for them in the voyage to and life in the New World.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I ask you to consider two things: first, is everything the Lord has blessed you with (beginning with the most important thing of all: salvation through Jesus Christ); but also recognize and honor him as King, the ruler of heaven and earth, for time and eternity.

Yours, in Christ,  
Pastor Duncan McLellan



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### Stephen Ministry Training

#### Updated Stephen Ministry Training Schedule

- 11/4 2-7pm
- 11/17 1:30-6:30pm
- 11/25 12:30-5:30pm
- 12/1 1:30-4:00pm
- 12/9 12:30-5:30pm
- 12/16 Stephen Ministry Commissioning at 10:30 worship service.

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

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

September Income	\$29,805.00
September Expenses	<u>26,953.00</u>
Favorable to Income	\$ 2,852.00

As of November 2012, we are estimating \$9,722.00 cash on hand. All bills through October have been paid.

Continue to pray for Zion that we are able to grow our community outreach ministry, support local charities and Christian education for youth and adults. May God guide us in using these gifts and our talents to spread the Good News!

Bob Schmidt  
Chairman



## Spaghetti Dinner

Friday, November 9

4:30-7:30 pm

The date for this year's Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Preschool Art Show & Bake Sale is Friday, November 9th. This year, we will do a "buffet" style dinner including spaghetti with marinara & meatballs and Fettuccini Alfredo. This fundraiser is a great opportunity for us to work, and enjoy an evening together, for the benefit of the Early Childhood Program.

We are also having a **bake sale** as part of the Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser. If you would like to donate a dessert or "goodies" of your choice to the cause, they would be greatly appreciated! Please bring any donations to the school on Thursday, November 8 or Friday, November 9.

Dinner on November 9 will be served from 4:30-7:30 pm.

There are three available seating times: 4:30-5:30, 5:30-6:30, and 6:30-7:30. In order to eliminate over-crowding and a long waiting time, only a certain number of tickets will be printed for each seating time.

Tickets will be sold in the school lobby and office from October 15-November 9.

The monies raised this year will go towards new playground equipment.

Ticket prices are as follows:

Adult Eat-in Ticket:\$9.00  
Child Eat-in (ages 3-10) Ticket: \$5.00  
Children 2 and under: Free  
Carry-out Dinner Ticket: \$9.00



Don't miss this great evening of delicious food and beautiful artwork!

## Notes From the Preschool

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." The Lord has truly been good to our school. We have been blessed with beautiful children, supportive and loving families, and a wonderful staff.

October has been a month full of excitement and exploration. The children explored so many of God's creations including October's most popular creation (at least, according to the children) the PUMPKIN!! I had the pleasure of presenting the chapel lesson this month with the children. The lesson was called "The Parable of the Pumpkin" I wanted to convey the Gospel message in a visual way, so we used pumpkins. Two carved pumpkins were presented side by side to the children. One has a smiling face and a lit candle inside, emitting a pleasant and warm glow. The other frowning pumpkin is dark inside. The children were asked which pumpkin they would rather be. "The happy one" they shouted! The children are told that Jesus is the Light of the World, and that He can provide a light to guide their lives if they love Him with their whole heart. When the children saw the sad and dark pumpkin I explained that life

without Jesus would be dark and sad. The children were then asked how they think the "light" got inside of the pumpkin since the top was not cut. After guessing many interesting ways, I turned the pumpkin around and pulled out a heart shape, carved in the back of the pumpkin. The children are told that if they faithfully love Jesus with their hearts, souls and minds He will always be with them. The book "The Pumpkin Patch Parable" was also read to the children. It is our prayer that these two activities help to make the Gospel message more clear and meaningful to the children.

The month was also filled with field trips to local pumpkin farms, a visit from Firefighter Phil, picture days, and Fall Harvest parties. What a pleasure it is to hear all of those happy voices each day. Please come and look at some of the wonderful pictures Mrs. Rita took this month. They are posted in the hallway outside of the classrooms.

Our Road Rally fundraiser again proved to be a huge success. All proceeds from the Road Rally will go to

Zion Lutheran Church



help fund our new playground.

Spaghetti Anyone? The date for this year's Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Art Show is Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. We will do a buffet style dinner including spaghetti with marinara and meatballs and Fettuccini Alfredo. And, of course, we will have our delicious bake sale. If you would like to donate some "goodies" to the bake sale, please drop them off either Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup>, or Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> before 1:00 pm. Tickets are on sale now. Look for Dwight Weldon or Kim Anderson on Sundays, or contact the school office. The monies raised will help fund our new playground.

The Lord is good, indeed!

Blessings,

Tracey Harris  
Director

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## Birthday Musings



I dread November. Not because the days are getting shorter or because the sky gets gloomier. Not because the NHL refuses to entertain us this year and MLB will come to an end. Not because we will begin the countdown to the NEXT election or possibly have to scrape ice off the windshield. Not for any of those reasons do I dread this November. No, I dread this November because on the first day of the month, I turn 35. While I'm thankful that I am not over-the-hill, I am also aware that half of the best decade of my life will be designated "Memory."

"Our young Pastor thinks 35 is old. Wait until he's [insert your age here]." I know 35 is not the end of the world (although, technically, the world might end while I am 35). But I do know I have lived 35 years that I will not get back. And while I wouldn't change or trade any of them (except for maybe the awkward Middle School years), I wonder if I have made the most of my 35 trips around the sun. Looking down the road at the next 35 years, Lord willing, I have a lot to be excited about: growing closer to Alissa, watching Thomas grow up, adding to our clan, and continuing to proclaim the best news given to mankind, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

To say the "best is yet to come," while theologically true is also tragically trite. But I think it is important that you know that myself, Alissa and, as far as I can discern, Baby Thomas feel very blessed to have spent the first years of our lives as a family at Zion. As you have ours, we continue to ask for your prayers and support as we, together, do our sinfully-flawed best to serve the Lord and look forward to the day of His coming.

# Bridgeville Area Food Bank

I feel compelled once again to make a concerted effort with the members of Zion Lutheran Congregation to help the needy families in our area. In an average month we serve around 85 households. Many who are elderly or have small children.

We have been blessed with faithful families donating each month and I thank them for their continued giving.

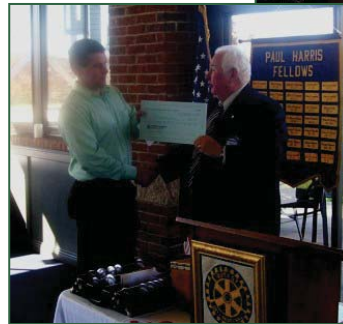
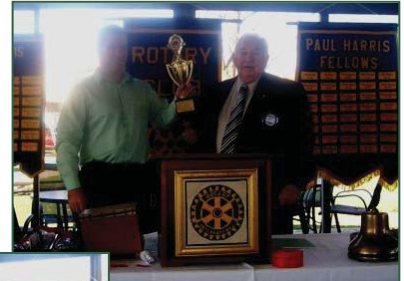
I would like to designate each Sunday in November as a food drive Sunday. All non-perishable items will be appreciated. Items that are especially needed are what we call "the extras"; boxed meals, packaged side dishes, dessert mixes, treats such as crackers, cookies, and nuts. Please place your items in the narthex under the table. We appreciate all that you do to help us serve those in need.

I would also like to bring to your attention we will be distributing gifts to the children on our rolls during the December distribution. Starting November 18, you will have the opportunity to participate in purchasing a gift of clothing or a toy for a child in need. There will be more information on this next month.

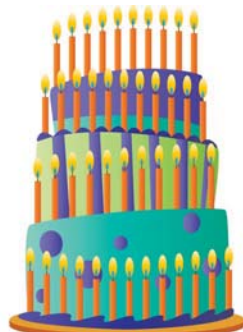
In Christ's Service,  
Barbara Oechslein  
Bridgeville Food Bank Representative

# CHILI COOK-OFF VICTORY LAP

Remember the Chili Cook-Off? We took home first place in the voting as well as a \$500 prize. We were honored to more than double the \$500 prize to \$1020 and donate it to the Bridgeville Food Bank (represented at the Rotary Club meeting by our own Barb Oechslein). Thanks for your support at the Chili Cook-Off!!!



- |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Samuel Bishop          | 22 Marian Oelschlager |
| 1 Pastor Duncan McLellan | 23 William Becker     |
| 2 Salina Howcroft        | 24 Jacque Oelschlager |
| 2 Nikolas DeRosa         | 26 Jennifer Lewis     |
| 6 Loren Luedeman         | 27 Marian Siek        |
| 9 Vince Kimberland       | 28 Brent Miller       |
| 10 Rose Steranko         | 29 Brian Pasquini     |
| 12 Jared Gardner         | 29 Melissa Radovich   |
| 12 Jane Kozak            |                       |
| 13 Sydney Harris         |                       |
| 14 Dustin Geregach       |                       |
| 14 Ruth Trudel           |                       |
| 15 Joan Kovach           |                       |
| 18 Shelly James          |                       |
| 19 Bob DeBoe             |                       |
| 20 Megan Monaghan        |                       |
| 21 Shannon Mance         |                       |



# BIRTHDAYS!



- |    |                      |      |
|----|----------------------|------|
| 1  | Bob & Nancy Spotti   | 1986 |
| 11 | Bernie & Jean Blanco | 1961 |
| 20 | Dan & Tracey Harris  | 1993 |
| 23 | Gene & Sharon Koop   | 1963 |
| 29 | James & Sarah Ali    | 1986 |
| 30 | Loren & Kim Luedeman | 1996 |

# Service Participants

# November

Greeters & Acolytes			
DATE	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTES
November 4	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bob & Nancy Spotti Mark & Laurie Coleman	Missy Radovich Sydney Harris
November 11	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Clara Hayes Dan & Tracey Harris & family	Joshua Gielarowski Jennifer Fitzgerald
November 18	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Joan Kovach Steve & Lori Gauger & family	Grant Geregach Michelle Fitzgerald
November 21 Thanksgiving Eve	7:00 PM	Bob & Diane Schmidt	Joshua Gielarowski
November 25	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	David & Mary Hutula Sam Dragan	Anthony Vallelunga Josiah Ackerman
November 28 Advent	7:00 PM		Elder
December 2	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	John & Katie Gielarowski & family Frank & Dione Vallelunga & family	Joshua Gielarowski Ryan Harris
December 5 Advent	7:00 PM		Elder
December 9	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Gene & Sharon Koop Elsie DallaPiazza	Missy Radovich Jennifer Fitzgerald

<b>ELDERS</b>	John Gielarowski, Jay Anderson
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Kathleen Conn, Shelley James
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Kathleen Conn, Bill Schrag, Janet Zreliak, Larry Zreliak
<b>USHERS @ 10:30 am</b>	Joe Gielarowski, Rachel Klemash, Steve Kovach, Andy Weldon

# December

<b>ELDERS</b>	Frank Vallelunga, Ken Wuerthele
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Janet Oelschlager, Marian Oelschlager
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Bill Becker, Brent Miller, Barb & Wayne Oechslein
<b>USHERS @ 10:30 am</b>	Steve Gauer, Dan Harris, Loren Ludeman, Jim Oelschalger

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.

## Voter's Meeting

On Sunday, October 28, the voters of Zion approved the following slate of candidates:

Chairman	Bob Schmidt
Financial Secretary	Nancy Klemash
Recording Secretary	Megan Pasquini
Elders	Vic Herschaft John Gielarowski James Neill Ken Wuerthele Brian Pasquini
Trustee	John Lemonovich Wayne Oechslein Richard Wible Gene Koop Bob Morgan
Board of Education	Dwight Weldon

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of the above individuals for agreeing to serve Zion in one of the six offices. As it is written - If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. - Romans 12:7

Please provide your support to these new and existing officers. I'm sure throughout the year they will be requesting your support on various initiatives and projects.

The voters also approved a bridge loan to the Pre-school to complete the installation of the new playground for the school, church and Thomas.

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**

# CSI: Bethlehem



"Hi! I'm Sally Wannaknow from Z-I-O-N News inviting you to watch a special news report to be aired in December. CSI: Bethlehem tells a story about three Magi who are on a quest to find a king - someone who will save all mankind. What they find is a Savior who will free them from the grips of sin and who will offer full and free salvation for all who believe! Our reporters are working hard to bring us this story which will "broadcast" live on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> in the church sanctuary following the Christmas dinner. Don't miss this exciting news report!!"



You are cordially invited to join the Sunday school children in celebrating together the birth of our Savior, Jesus!

*"And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9: 6*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## FOOD BANK

Collection for this month's Bridgeville Area Food Bank is **Sunday November 11**. The "item of the month" is canned meats and proteins (tuna, beans, 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.

## SOFTBALL

We've had a terrific initial response for a Zion Softball Team! Here's what we can tell you...

We will be joining the Chartiers Valley Church Softball League. The cost for the season will be covered by the budget, but we will ask our team's members to voluntarily contribute to cover costs as they are able.

The league is recreational (as opposed to professional or extraordinarily competitive), co-ed, slow-pitch and open to all members of Zion Lutheran Church. (They have special rules for letting non-members play. Basically, one year on the team for non-members to avoid our bringing in the proverbial "ringers" year after year.) The season runs from April through August, with one game per week. If you are interested in learning more, or signing-up for the team, please contact the church office or sign up in the lobby!



Beginning Sunday November 25th, you may order poinsettias to remember the special people in your life and to decorate our altar area during Christmas. The poinsettias will be \$6.50 each and are available in red, white, and pink. Orders will be accepted until Sunday December 16th. However, please note that the later the orders are received, there is a lesser guarantee that the florist will have your desired color available. Order forms will be available beginning the 25th.

## POINSETTIA

## ORDERS