



Zion Lutheran Monthly



February 2013

From Fear To Faith

From Bible-in-a-Year to Verse-a-Week, our focus has shifted from immersing ourselves with the general contents of Scripture to focusing in on a number of verses that speak to the important matters of faith and life, of Christ and salvation, of God and man. As I am writing this, the passage we are memorizing is Hebrews 1:1-3. This is the first memory passage that is... well... a passage and not a verse. It's long. It's also incredibly jam-packed with content about who Jesus is.

The book of Hebrews is unique. It is the only book of the New Testament whose author is unknown to us. This may not seem interesting, but when you consider that the two litmus tests a book had to pass to be considered part of the New Testament Canon were apostolic authorship and doctrinal purity, you begin to realize just how high an opinion the early church had about the content of the book of Hebrews that it was willing to waive one of the requirements for being in the Bible to allow for its acceptance in the canon. It's as if the early church said: "We don't care who wrote the book of Hebrews; we want this in the canon, we recognize it is divinely inspired."

And so this book, this unique, divinely-inspired book, begins with the words we have memorized: Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. It is said that if you want to know what Jesus did, read the gospels; but if you want to know who Jesus is read Hebrews. And it is hard to imagine three verses of Scripture that teach us as much about who Jesus is than the opening three verses of Hebrews!

When we come to the knowledge of who Jesus is (the creator, sustainer, heir and redeemer of creation), and that this Jesus chose us to be saved in him before the foundation of the world, things change. Eternally they are changed because of his atoning death on the cross, which reconciled the Father to us. And things are changed for us right now too! No longer do we need to live in the shame of past mistakes. We do not need to live with the guilt of our sins that hurt our neighbor and shame our Lord. We also do not need to live in fear of what lurks on the other side of every decision we make, because Christ is with us, beside us, and in front of us.

Faith trusts the words of Hebrews 1:1-3. It joyfully acknowledges that Christ right now is sustaining creation and that he has a vested interest in the creation increasing in value because he will one day inherit it. We trust that all things are in the all-powerful hands of the one who has demonstrated his love by shedding his blood for us. Fear rejects this. Fear paralyzes us and tricks us into thinking that it is virtuous to remain perfectly still, to do nothing. Fear makes us think that the universe is out to get us, or that as the forces of evil conspire against us our Lord is either unwilling or unable to come to our aid and work out all things together for good. Faith compels action. As Luther wrote: "Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them."

As individual people and as a corporate body of faith, may God continue to give us the Holy Spirit and faith, so that we would not be paralyzed by fear, but energized and motivated by the Gospel—who our Lord Jesus Christ is and what he has done!

Yours,
In Christ,
Pastor Duncan McLellan

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Church, Mission & Synod (CMS) & Plate Finances



December Income	\$41,138.00
December Expenses	<u>36,307.00</u>
Favorable to Income	\$ 4,831.00

As of January 31, 2013, we are estimating \$3,726.00 cash on hand. All bills through January 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

ASSESSMENT SURVEY

The overall survey participation was 28%. The percentage of participants by age group was:

13/20	- 3%
21/35	- 20%
36/45	- 17%
46/55	- 13%
56/65	- 17%
66+	- 30%

The percentage of participants by member year was:

Less than 3	- 17%
3/10	- 24%
11/19	- 15%
20+	- 44%

The ranking of importance was:

- Worship
- Bible Study
- Education
- Youth Ministry
- Social Activities
- Outreach
- Social Ministry



The Long-term Planning Committee will prioritize our time, energy, resources and investments based on importance ranking. We will target the top focus areas to develop recommendation to the congregation.

Bob Schmidt
Chairman

Notes From the Preschool

Greetings from the Preschool! January has come and gone and registrations are underway for the 2013-2014 year. Crazy, isn't it?... but we still have a lot to do before the end of this school year.

During chapel this month, the children will learn that Jesus was once small just like them, and grew, just like them. Pastor Duncan will be teaching the lesson. 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 Kindergarten. 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.

Each February our school focuses on Jesus' love for us. As a way for us to show love to others, our school has teamed up with the Sunday School in participating in a mission project that reaches out to the local community and beyond. This February we will be supporting our troops overseas through the non-profit organization **Operation: Stars and Stripes, Inc.** We are collecting items that are desperately needed, and appreciated, by our troops and their families. If you would like to help our cause, we are collecting travel sized items such as soaps, shampoo, lip balms, gum, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and drink mix singles. Collection boxes are located outside the classrooms in the school lobby.

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



Voter's Meeting

On Sunday, January 13, the Voter's of Zion approved moving forward with a one year Vicarage Program. This is the first time in the 115 year history of Zion that we will pursue a vicar.

As Pastor mentioned, the Vicar will benefit from experiencing ministry in a healthy growing congregation like Zion. The church that eventually calls him to be there Pastor will benefit from his learning and experience that we provided Vicar during the year. Zion benefits from the Vicar's gifts and talents.

If you have any questions or would like more information, or share your thoughts please let Pastor or me know.

Bob Schmidt
Chairman

Tee-Up For Mites



On Wednesday, June 26, 2013, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League will be offering a "Pre-Convention" charity golf outing at nearby Hickory Heights Golf Club here in Bridgeville (South Fayette Township). This charity event is designed to provide fellowship for all and, at the same time, to help finance the LWML's "Mite Box" missions program (based on the biblical story of the Widow's Mite). This program has contributed over 100 million dollars to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world since 1942 (check it out at www.lwml.org).

A shotgun start will be scheduled for 8:00 AM, and an awards luncheon will conclude the day at 1:00 PM. Greens fees and lunch will be \$100 per golfer.

Mark your calendars for June 26, and join lots of golfers from all over the United States for a great day of fellowship and sportsmanship!

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW IN THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League was founded in 1942. Right from the beginning, missions have been the focus of LWML. Many women and men have supported this mission effort by placing funds in their "Mite Box". During these years God has blessed these donations to bring His saving message to multitudes. Throughout the LWML's history, over 100 million dollars have been gathered to spread the Gospel message through Mite donations.

www.lwml.org.

BIRTHDAYS



1 Amber Seibel	6 Londyn Luedeman	26 Tom Erbrecht
2 Katherine Neill	9 Michele Jenkins	26 Timothy Schroeder
3 Carol Lockhart	10 Dorothy Smelko	27 Kathleen Conn
4 Virginia Kimberland	11 Jenna Eckels	27 Kristen Neill
5 Hope Mance	12 Darren Elikor	29 William Becker
5 Alice Miller	13 Tracey Coyle	
6 Tracey Harris	13 Benji Ivancza	
	13 Charles LaJeunesse	
	17 Lauren Becker	
	18 Sarah Erbrecht	
	20 Kathy Pallaria	
	21 Joyce Wood	
	21 Dr. Donald Matzat	
	25 Gladys Kolljeski	28 Paul and Evelyn Green
	25 Betty Valentino	1962



Service Participants

February

Greeters & Acolytes			
DATE	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTES
February 3	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bill & Carol Schrag Rose Steranko	Anthony Vallelunga Ryan Harris
February 10	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Joyce Wood Rob Oelschlager	Missy Radovich Mitchell Fitzgerald
February 13 Ash Wednesday	7:00 PM		Joshua Gielarowski
February 17	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Ron & Judy Meier Vince & Ginny Kimberland	Joshua Gielarowski Sydney Harris
February 20 Lent Service	7:00 PM		Elder
February 24	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bob & Shelly James Brian & Megan Pasquini & family	Grant Geregach Josiah Ackerman
February 27 Lent Service	7:00 PM		Elder
March 3	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Larry & Janet Zreliak Bob & Diane Schmidt	Anthony Vallelunga Jennifer Fitzgerald
March 6 Lent Service	7:00 PM		Elder
March 10	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Gene & Sharon Koop Neil Ackerman	Missy Radovich Ryan Harris

ELDERS	Michael Sterba, John Gielarowski
ALTAR GUILD	Sara Ali, Tracey Harris, Sydney Harris, Mary Hutula
USHERS @ 8:00 am	Kathleen Conn, Bill Schrag, Janet Zreliak, Larry Zreliak
USHERS @ 10:30 am	John Buerkle, Joe Gielarowski, Simon Martin, Andy Weldon

March

ELDERS	Jim Neill, Brian Pasquini
ALTAR GUILD	Janet Oelschlager, Marian Oelschlager, Molly Oelschlager
USHERS @ 8:00 am	Kathleen Conn, Bill Schrag, Janet & Larry Zreliak
USHERS @ 10:30 am	Neil Ackerman, Sam Dragan, Kari & John Gresh

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.

Thank You!

The staff members of Zion Lutheran Church want to thank the Congregation for your generous giving at Christmastime. It was very much appreciated!

In Christ,
Pastor Duncan,
Darren,
Elizabeth,
Sam,
Paula,
& Jim



Teacups



Concordia of South Hills Activities Department is asking for donations of teacups to be used by the residents at tea parties. The residents look forward to a monthly tea party with their special teacup and saucer. Please place them in the marked box in the church entrance or give them to Barbara Fisher. Thank you very much!

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

C. A. L. M.

Interested in our MISSION TRIP this Summer?

Camp Pioneer
Adirondacks
Lake Placid
Mission Trip

We will be having our first informational meeting about CALM on February 24th after the 10:30 service in the undercroft (church basement) to answer any questions you may have, as well as to present a preliminary itinerary and cost estimate for the trip.

Open to all ages and ideal for families, this Mission Trip will give you an opportunity to serve in Jesus' name in ways you will remember for the rest of your life.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



FOOD BANK

Collection for this month's Bridgeville Area Food Bank is **Sunday February 10**. 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.

Baby Bottle Coin Drive

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 10th. Join with Zion and the Pregnancy Resource Center in the work of saving lives!

Ash Wednesday, February 13th marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Services will be on Wednesdays during the season of Lent, starting on the 13th 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