



# Zion Lutheran Monthly



## February 2014

Pop Quiz: what's the time between Christmas and Lent called? Winter.

What's it called in the Church Year? Epiphany.

Epiphany is that time in the church year when we focus on things Jesus did that reveal to us who he really is.

Usually Epiphany is a time for your pastor to relax and enjoy some down-time between the hectic holiday Christmas season and the hectic penitential Lenten season. But this year it's a little different. I'm actually enjoying Epiphany more than I can remember. I've enjoyed studying the stories of the Magi, turning water into wine, and healing lepers and servants of centurions. I've enjoyed seeing Gentile astrologers worship the newborn king Jesus. I've enjoyed seeing Jesus reveal himself to caterers at a wedding, lepers at the base of a mountain and a Roman Centurion's servant in Capernaum. I've enjoyed seeing Jesus reveal himself to people like me: ordinary nobodies whose only commonality is the ability to sin.

I've enjoyed seeing Jesus do all of this, but I'm also a little bit jealous. I believe what the Scriptures teach about Jesus. I trust that Jesus will save me from death and the punishment my sins deserve from the justice of a holy God. But there are moments when I would like a supernatural wink from the deity; something special beyond what has been revealed and passed-on to me from the Scriptures and the traditions of the church. It's not because I think I deserve it; it's simply because I want something I can keep between God and myself—the spiritual equivalent of the unspeakable and relationship cementing events of Pledge Week at your local college frat.

But there is a benefit to not having been there when Jesus turned water into wine, healed lepers and the servants of centurions and did all of the other Epiphany-esque signs that have been recorded for us in Scripture. There is a benefit to not having our faith based on our memories with Jesus, or our ability to remember what we saw. Time can play tricks on what our eyes see and our ears hear. Our faith is rooted not on experience and feeling, but on the unchangeable Word of God, the historical events of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, objective truths that cannot be shaken.

As we move through the rest of this Epiphany season, let us give thanks to God for inspiring the Apostles to record what needed to be recorded for us to believe in Jesus as our Savior.

God's blessings!

-Pastor Duncan McLellan

### Inside this issue:

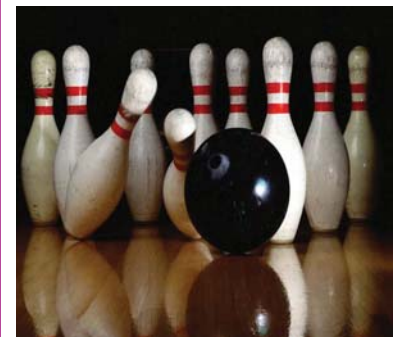
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### Bowling Schedule!

Week 12: Friday, Feb. 7

Week 13: Friday, Feb.  
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All games are played at  
6:30pm at  
AMF Mt. Lebanon  
Lanes



# YOUTH GROUP

Do you like throwing heavy balls? Maybe you enjoy knocking down pins. Either way, come join us for a night of bowling! On Sunday, February 23, at 5pm we



will be going to Mt. Lebanon Lanes and participate in a bowl off! The person with the highest game will win a prize! Please bring a friend and join us for a night of fun!

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!

February is when we focus on missions and outreach!! We will meet in the school during the 9:15am church hour.

Check out what we will be doing!

February 2nd - Making cards for Zion's shut-in's and those who are sick

February 9th - Operation Bags of Love assembly

February 16th - Zion welcome packet assembly and 10:30am song with the Day school

February 23rd - TBD

We will resume with the "Symbols of Holy Week" Unit in March. Please consider volunteering!

### VBS News

Weird Animals are coming to Zion! Mark your calendars - June 23 - 27th



Welcome Packet Contents

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

<i>December</i> Income	\$48,754.00
<i>December</i> Expenses	<u>52,264.00</u>
Unfavorable to Income	(\$ 3,510.00)

The unfavorable month was due to a delay in posting Christmas Eve and New Years Eve offerings. As of January 31, 2014, we are estimating \$1,726.00 cash on hand. All bills through January have been paid.

May God continue to guide Zion in using our financial gifts and our talents to spread the Good News!

Bob Schmidt  
Chairman

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## Voter's Meeting

I'm pleased to announce that on Sunday, January 19, the Voter's of Zion approved continuing the Vicarage program for another year.

As Pastor mentioned at the meeting, the Vicar will benefit from experiencing ministry in a healthy growing congregation like Zion. The church that eventually calls the Vicar to be their Pastor will benefit from his learning and experience that Zion provided during the year. Zion will benefit from the Vicar's gifts and talents in our worship, bible study, youth ministry, missions and social ministry.

Bob Schmidt  
Chairman



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



28. Paul & Evelyn Green

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## 2013 By the Numbers?

Ministry is more than numbers. Much more. It's about flesh and blood people coming to know and believe the best news they will ever hear: the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and then, by the power of His Spirit, conforming their lives to his will in ever increasing measure.

It's tempting to want to boast about the increases Zion saw in membership, attendance, financial health, and preschool registrations. Some of this information was made available at the Voters' Meeting in January. However, to prove the point that ministry isn't about the numbers, all I'll say here is that Zion has been blessed to see God at work in many areas of her overall ministry. Please keep your church in your prayers; to whom much is given, much is expected.

-Pastor Duncan

# SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

## FEBRUARY

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTES
February 2	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM		Elder or Vicar
February 9	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM		Elder or Vicar
February 16	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM		Elder of Vicar
February 23	8:00 AM 10:30 AM		Chris Yellig Augie Bishop
March 2	8:00 AM 10:30 AM		TBA Jennifer Fitzgerald

<b>ELDERS</b>	Paul Klemash John Gielarowski
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Sara Ali Mary Hutula Elsie DallaPiazza
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Bill Becker, Shane Bryant, Barb and Wayne Oechslein
<b>USHERS @ 10:30 am</b>	John Buerkle, Vince Kimberland, Loren Ludeman, Jim Oelschlager

## MARCH

<b>ELDERS</b>	Jim Neill Brian Pasquini
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, Ron Meier and Jack Oelschlager
<b>USHERS @ 10:30 am</b>	Neill Ackerman, Ross Chilcott, Kari Gresh and 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@zlcg.org](mailto:secretary@zlcg.org) of the change.



Greetings from the Preschool! It's hard to believe but registration for the 2014/2015 school is upon us. Please continue to keep our school in your prayers as we prepare to welcome new students and families to Zion. 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

Current school families can register now with open registration starting February 10<sup>th</sup>. Registration information can be found in the school lobby at our new workstation, or it can be found on our website. If you know anyone interested in our school, please have them call the office and ask for me. I'm scheduling tours now.

January was full of winter related activities like snowball fights (play snowballs, of course), singing and acting out the melting snow man song and pretending to be a polar bear in a snow storm! Oh, what fun! It actually felt like we lived in the North Pole...we were actually looking for polar bears and penguins from our windows! We even had a visit from the Pittsburgh zoo...they left the polar bears and penguins at the zoo, but brought some cute furry animals for us to pet and learn about. The kids loved it!

January has come and gone and hopefully the "Polar Vortex" has gone with it! Even though the weather was unbearable, we still felt the warmth of the Son in our school. What a blessing to be able to share Jesus' love to our little children. 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 again 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: Bags of Love**. We are collecting items that are desperately needed, and appreciated, by our troops and their families. We have been collecting single serving sizes of cereal cups, crackers and cookies. Hopefully between the school and the church we will have plenty of items, or "**Bags of Love**" to send to our troops.

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.

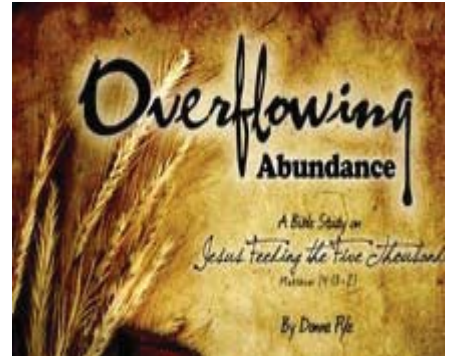
As always, we welcome you to come down to the school and see what is going on. There's always something new and exciting. We would love to see you!

Blessings,  
Tracey Harris



# Women's Bible Study

Join us Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-8:45pm as we begin a six week study about Jesus Feeding the five thousand. We invite you to join us as we dig deep into Scripture to see a compelling picture of our compassionate Savior. ALL women are encouraged to attend, feel free to bring a friend! Please consider making this study part of your week. You won't regret it! Contact Alissa McLellan at 412-295-5452 or by email at [alissamclellan@yahoo.com](mailto:alissamclellan@yahoo.com) if you have any questions!



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## MEN'S RETREAT

The First Annual Zion's Men's Retreat is only two months away!

We're heading up to Camp Pioneer (199 miles from the church) from April 10-13.

We'll enjoy the camp, time around the bonfire and relaxing in a Christian environment, but this men's retreat is going to be intentional with its time in Scripture and prayer. For our time in Scripture, we'll take a look at some of the Biblical examples (good and bad) of what it means to be a man. For our time in prayer, we will lift up our families, friends, church, co-workers and many other people and things we value.

The cost for the trip is \$50 per day, or \$120 for all three days. This cost includes food and lodging, but not transportation. We will leave from church at 6pm on Thursday and return by mid-afternoon on Sunday. Please let Pastor Duncan know if you would like to come to the retreat or sign-up on the sheet in the narthex (once we're back in the sanctuary for worship).



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Collection for this month's Bridgeville area food bank is Sunday, February 9. 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 7:45am and 12:00pm at Bethany Presbyterian Church

## FOOD BANK

