



Zion Lutheran Monthly



July 2014

The Christian Life in a Fast Food Bullet-point Hook-Up Culture

I promised myself I wouldn't be "that" guy. I didn't like "that" guy. I rolled my eyes whenever "that" guy spoke up. "That" guy wanted to tell his life story instead of contributing to the discussion. I did not want to be "that" guy.

It had been nine years since I last set foot in a classroom. What could have possibly changed since May, 2005 in the hallowed halls of Academia? Plenty, I found out as the first day of the '13-'14 school year began in late August at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. I was the only person in the classroom without bifocals with a pen and paper. All of the millennials had computers. (I found out later that taking class notes on these computers was really their secondary function; up-to-the-minute sports scores and Facebook status updates were their true *raison d'être*.) But the reliance on more computing power than was necessary to land man on the moon to take notes on a lecture wasn't the biggest change I saw in the classroom; it was the reluctance of the 20-something students to attempt to convey cogent thoughts to the professor in prose. One of the students in a class this spring actually asked if he could write his final essay in bullet-point format. As strange as this was to hear in the moment, upon further reflection, the student's request made perfect sense.

By now, I hope you're well aware that I see Post-Modernism as the greatest opportunity to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ since the Holy Spirit gave His gift at Pentecost. But one of the unintended consequences of Post-Modernism has been a shift in communication (not only from printed to electronic, but also) from lengthy, organized and well laid-out arguments to one-liners, zingers and bullet-points. People no longer want to be bothered by details; only an executive summary in bullet-point format will do. Because contemplation is an unacceptable form of entertainment, the addicts of visual stimulation have no need for it. And so the question is asked in a graduate-level class: can I do my term paper in bullet-point format.

Not surprisingly, we have done to food what we have done to reading and writing. The production of a family meal is no longer enjoyable. It is an evil thing that needs to be cut as short as possible. A sit-down dinner with the family, or a conversation in the kitchen while mom carefully prepares the family meal, is seen as a terrible waste of time. Time is better spent in front of a screen with as little activity going on between the ears as possible. So intent are we on avoiding that horrible waste of time known as "family time" that we're willing to eat a pile of grease and saccharine ingredients from a bag that we know will make us lethargic, fat and unhealthy.

Promiscuity is nothing new. (I hope this doesn't come as a revelation to anyone.) But in years gone by, the misuse of God's gift of sexuality was done in the (mistaken) hope that it might create love and commitment, or (at the very least) give some kind of advantage to one or both partners. (The stories of Ruth and Esther come to mind.) But today, (usually younger) people sacrifice their purity and innocence on the altar of dishonest acceptance and soulless pleasure. There is no thought of love or commitment, let alone God's plan and design for marriage and children. The hook-up culture is a short-term problem looking for a solution in all the wrong places.

So how does a Christian live out their faith when all around them functional expedience trumps virtue, relationships, and contemplation? Rather easily, I would argue. See, in this culture, the Christian life stands out. It looks different. And it is something that not a few of those on the outside would want for themselves. So go ahead, Christ has given you permission to live out your faith with boldness and conviction. Take time over the family dinner table—the internet and T.V. can wait. Instead of talking about superficial nothingnesses with people, challenge them (and yourself) with conversations about things that matter. Spend time alone contemplating these things too. And don't be afraid to say "no" to the ungodliness of the hook-up culture. It is an empty well that steals but does not give back. Love is not found in the bedroom of a stranger, but in the empty tomb of a Savior. Freedom is not found in the guilt of the morning after, but in the darkness of the afternoon of the first Good Friday. You really are salt; you are truly light. The post-modern era has defined itself as a relativistic search for what works. The death of Christ works. The resurrection of Christ works. And the new life we have in Christ works. It works for us. It works for all! Dear Christians, now more than ever, let your light shine!

-Pastor Duncan

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Zion Lions Softball Schedule

July 2 - 9:45

July 8 - 6:45

July 9 - 9:45

July 15 - 8:15

July 23 - 6:45

July 29 - 8:15

Come out and support the team!



See you later.

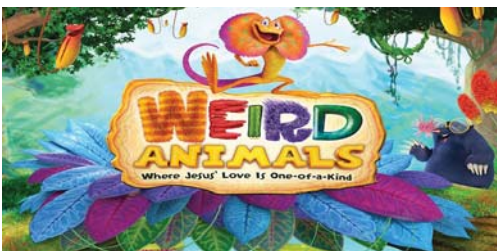
Zion has been blessed this last year by the Schultz family.

David, Jenna and Leah, we will miss you all. We have gotten to know and love you, worship with you, pray with you, even root against the Reds and Brewers with you. It is our hope that this year at Zion was a blessing to your family and a valuable tool to prepare you for whatever the Lord has in store for your life as workers in His vineyard.

This is not “good-bye.” It is “see you later.” The next time we meet each other, whether in time or eternity, we will be able to share many stories of God’s grace and work in and through us. We look forward to that day. You have made your mark on this congregation; God has used you here in the lives of many, it has been our privilege to see Him working through you. Thank you, David, Jenna and Leah. Christ’s blessings as you continue to follow Him in faith.



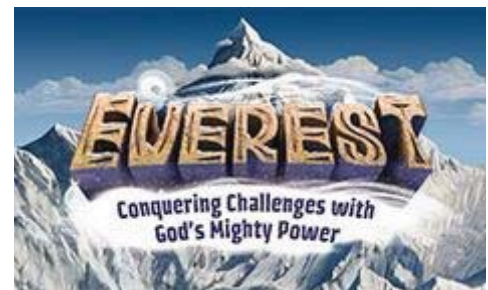
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS!



Weird Animals Vacation Bible School was a huge success!! 95 children and 46 volunteers experienced the love of Jesus through amazing Bible stories, Science experiments, Games, Music and Creative Snacks. The theme revolved around Jesus' love for every-

one: Even though you feel left out, different, don't understand, do something wrong, or feel afraid - JESUS LOVES YOU!! They also learned about school children in India who don't have clean water to drink. \$515.00 was raised which will provide clean water to 206 children for a year!

THANK YOU to those who offered support through monetary donations and words of encouragement! THANK YOU to all volunteers who offered their time and talents by sharing the Gospel to our VBS children and their families. We are already looking forward to next year...."Everest" June 22-26, 2015!!!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1 Nathaniel Howcroft	11 Dione Vallelunga
1 Lawson Luedeman	12 Mamie Papeaka
2 Shelley Killinger	14 Dominic Dibert
3 Karen Bauer	14 John Oelschlager
3 Joann Brookfield	15 Brad Boyle
3 Corey Larson	15 Bob Liberatore
5 Timothy Albert	16 Tim Albert
7 Eric Rose	16 Tommy Gielarowski
8 Roxanne Burgh	18 Emily Trentini
8 Valarie Derosa	19 Lindsey Kovach
8 Megan Hartman	20 Paul Hayes
8 Richard Trudel	20 Tim Wood
9 Neil Ackerman	23 Lara Luedeman
9 Florence Boehme	24 Doris Oelschlager
10 Anthony Vallelunga	26 Ella Hunsberger
11 Sam Dragan	26 Kristen LaJeunesse
11 Clara Hayes	30 Eric Hunsberger

Happy
Anniversary

7 Vince & Ginny Kimberland
16 Norm & Helen Erbrecht Sr.
17 John & Katie Gielarowski
26 Paul & Nancy Klemash

Schultz's See-you-later Event

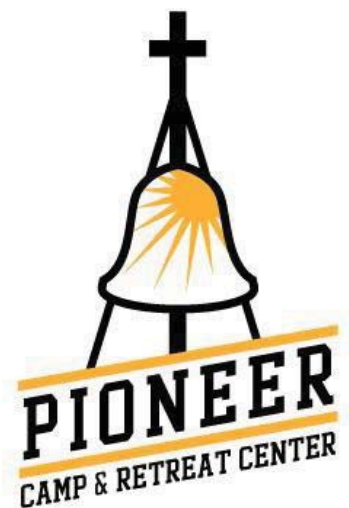
If you have not received your invitation to a See-you-later get-together for Vicar and his family and you would like to come or know more, please contact the church office. Sorry for the oversight.

Youth Group

Once again the Youth are busy this month! Here are a few updates...

This month the Youth are going on a mission trip. Youth and parents are encouraged to join Zion at Camp Pioneer. Camp Pioneer is one of our own Lutheran Camps. We will serve by repairing cabins, painting, and helping out where needed. Our Youth will also have free time with the ability to swim, play games, climb an obstacle course, etc...Please consider joining J@CK; July At Camp for the Kingdom. For more information check your bulletin or the Church website.

This month the Youth get a new Youth Leader. We say good bye to Vicar David and say hello to Vicar Chris. Chris will be joining our Youth at Camp Pioneer. He looks forward to getting to know everyone. May God continue to bless your summer, Vicar David



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

July

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTES
July 6	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Darla & Carley Rockovich Lois Klemash	Carley Rockovich Chris Yellig
July 13	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Gene & Sharon Koop Chuck & Debra LaJeunesse	Josiah Ackerman Lara Luedeman
July 20	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Frank & Dione Vallelunga & family Janet & marian Oelschlager	Nathan Morgan Jennifer Fitzgerald
July 27	9:00 AM	Brian & Megan Pasquini & family	Chris Yellig
August 3	9:00 AM	George, Jane & Michael Kozak	Carley Rockovich
August 10	9:00 AM	Bill & Melanie Becker	Lara Luedeman

ELDERS	Paul Klemash, Ken Wuerthele
ALTAR GUILD	Clara Hayes, Penny Miller, Mary Hutula
USHERS @ 8:00 am	Kathleen Conn, Bill Schrag, Janet & Larry Zreliak
USHERS @ 10:30 am	Sam Dragan, Dan Harris, Vince Kimberland, Richard Quinlan
USHERS @ 9:00 am	Sam Dragan, Dan Harris, Vince Kimberland, Richard Quinlan

August

ELDERS	Frank Vallelunga, David Hutula
ALTAR GUILD	Volunteers
USHERS @ 9:00 am	Joe Gielarowski, Loren Ludeman, Jim Oelschlager, 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@zxcb.org of the change.

Stephen Ministry

“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2). As Christians we are called to bear one another's burdens and sufferings. Zion has equipped members of our church to provide Christ-centered confidential care for those who are hurting. We call these people, Stephen Ministers. If you are hurting or suffering, perhaps, lonely or simply need someone to talk to, please consider a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers are here to listen. Please contact Pastor Duncan if you would like more information on receiving Care.



J@CK



It's hard to believe that our Mission Trip for this year is less than one month away! We are going back to Camp Pioneer for a week of service and spiritual refreshment and growth. Leaving on the 27th in the afternoon and returning on the 1st of August, we will spend five days together on what promises to be a richly rewarding experience for the whole family.

If you are thinking about going, please contact Pastor Duncan ASAP! We need to give Pioneer a count of who is going this week. All are welcome; there will be things to do for all ages.

A Note of Thanks

This past year has been a wonderful time of learning, making friends, and serving God's people at Zion. I can whole heartedly say that I would not trade vicarages with any other vicar. I am blessed beyond measure to have been able to serve at Zion.

I thank you so much for everything that you have done for my family and I this past year. You have given us a wonderful place to live and have given us an amazing church family to be a part of. You have been so kind to Jenna, Leah, and I. We thank you for all of the kind words, dinners, gifts, and love.

I thank you so much for helping me be a better pastor. You have had an opportunity to watch me grow as a future pastor throughout this year. You were there to offer me words of encouragement and you have been there to offer me constructive criticism. You have allowed me to see the whole spectrum of what parish ministry is all about; preaching and teaching, visiting the sick and the shut-ins, going to meetings, helping with youth, helping with VBS, throwing church parties, and even church softball. I can confidently say that Zion has enabled me to be a better pastor. I thank you so much for this wonderful learning year.

I thank you also for a great supervisor in Pastor Duncan. He has been a great example of what a faithful, loving, and Christ-centered pastor looks like. He has always made time to answer questions and show me how a pastor acts. This has been an invaluable year, a year that means so much to me.

I look forward to hearing about the wonderful things God has in store at Zion and I look forward to visiting in the years to come. May God richly bless Zion and keep her always in the Word of God which reveals to us Jesus.

Blessings in Christ,
Vicar David

Address for next year (Starting August 1st)
David & Jenna Schultz
9D Founders Way
St. Louis, MO 63105

Cell Phone: 618-972-3887
Email: schultz137@gmail.com



Voters Meeting - Outcome

On June 29, 2014 the Voters of Zion approved the 2014/2015 fiscal budget that included:

Overall budget increased from last budget by 3%

Average salary increases of 4% for church and school staff

Continued support for Vicar ministry and outreach programs

Support for youth and mission ministry programs

Increase in school tuition and number of students

Increase in music ministry budget with a Music Director

We were pleased to present another break-even budget (\$520,409 expense equal \$520,409 revenue), but we were especially pleased to announce for the sixth year that we have no major carry-over expenses. The Preschool continues to be self-funded. This financial picture was accomplished throughout the year with increased Church, Mission & Synod (CMS) giving by 3%, special project (sanctuary improvement and air conditioning) gifts of \$100,000 and strong expense controls.

Just a reminder, as we enter into summer vacations we tend to see giving decrease, so we encourage you to remember Zion while you are away on vacation, since our expenses don't go on vacation. Please continue to pray for Zion that we are able to end this new budget year with a positive cash flow.

Coming Soon – “Air Conditioning”!

We reached our Air Conditioning (A/C) fund raising goal. The contract has been signed. We are estimating the A/C installation will start the first week of July and be completed by the second week of July. Just in time for the hot summer months.



Long-term Planning Committee Report

The Long-term Planning report was reviewed at the Voter’s meeting. The objective of the Planning Committee was to develop a high-level plan that supports the mission of Zion. The committee developed a new mission statement:

Zion equips, educations and encourages believers in Christ, sending them into the world to share the Gospel.

All of the slides are available on Zion’s web site (zlcb.org).

Chairman

Bob Schmidt



Zion Night at PNC Park!

Friday, July 18, 2014 at 7:00 pm

Bucs vs. Colorado Rockies

\$23.00 per person (includes ticket and bus rental)

Sign Up Sheet in the Front Narthex

or call Dick Wible at (412) 841-3147

Only 60 tickets available!

Bus will depart Zion at 5:30pm

Thank You

The Brookfield and Scott family would like to thank Pastor Duncan and Vicar David for their visits and prayers. They were very comforting and appreciated along with the prayers and cards from the members of Zion church.

We are so blessed to be members at Zion church.

The Lords blessings to all,

Joanne and Debbie

FOOD BANK

Collection for this month's Bridgeville area food bank is Sunday, July 13. The "item of the month" is fruit juices and drinks. 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.

