



# Zion Lutheran Monthly



## September 2014

### CALIPHATE

Caliphate. It's a word that has been tossed around lately, usually in the context of ISIS. But unless you're a student of Islam, you probably don't know what this word means, or why it should matter to you. Bear with me as I give you a quick history lesson. Muhammad kicks off Islam in the first several decades of the 7<sup>th</sup> Century. Unable to convince the neighboring Christian and Jewish communities that he was a prophet from God, Muhammad resorted to the sword to spread the "religion of peace." He conquered the Arabian peninsula (and then some) before his death. His successors were called Caliphs and they ruled their territory by "Shariah," what we today call "Muslim Law," a legal system resting on the teachings of the Qu'ran. Territory ruled by the Caliphs was called a "Caliphite." ISIS (the "Islamic State Iraq and Syria") has started calling itself simply "IS," or "Islamic State." It views itself as a modern-day Caliphite. But Caliphites were more than territory governed by Islamic Law, or Shariah; they spread violently, demanding conversion by conquered foes. Those who would not convert would be shown the end of the sword. By claiming to be a Caliphite, the Islamic State is doing more than projecting what its governing authority is, it is projecting how it will spread.

So what does this have to do with us? We are not the primary focus of the hostilities of the "IS." And while an attack on American soil might help them raise money from its radical supporters, conquering our country is not one of its strategic objectives. Yet we should care. People who share our faith, who have been called by the Gospel and proclaim as we do that Jesus Christ is Lord are being asked to do the impossible or face the unthinkable; they are told they must deny Christ or be put to death. And so we pray.

But as we look at the "IS" abroad and the evils in our culture here at home, we do not do so from a position of weakness or uncertainty. Rather, we approach the situation in Iraq and Syria in the same way we approach the narcissistic culture of materialistic boredom in our Brave New World. We do it through the lens of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; we see a world loved by its creator, and people redeemed by one of their own. We also view the events of this failing age through the lens of the resurrection of the Son of God; we see creation under the authority of one who calls himself our brother, and who invites him to call his Father our father. We know the beginning and we know the end. We know who wins and we know who to trust.

The threats and the dangers we, and others who share our faith, face are real, but they are defeated. They are serious, but they cannot win. As Paul writes in Romans 9:33, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

### Inside this issue:

Sunday School News	Pg 2
A Few Notes From The Music Ministry	Pg 2
September Birthdays	Pg 3
September Anniversaries	Pg 3
Sunday School Volunteer Opportunities	Pg 4
Sept/October Participants	Pg 5
Men of Zion	Pg 6
Confirmation Students and Parents	Pg 6
Church Directory	Pg 7
Women's Bible Study	Pg 8
Food Bank	Pg 8

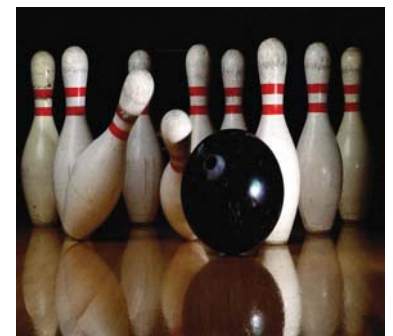
### Bowling Schedule!

Week 1: Friday Sept 12

Week 2: Friday Sept 26

All games are played at 6:30pm at

AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes



# Sunday School News

September Unit on Creation

Grades Preschool - 5th Grade

The Bible story of Creation helps us develop a sense of wonder and awe over what God has made and helps us discover our Christian responsibility to take care of our world. In September, the children will explore the beginning of the universe as found in Genesis 1:1 - 2:4, learning that God created everything in 6 days, God saw that everything he created was good, that humankind was created in his own image and that we have been given responsibility to take care of his creation.

Grades 6th - 8th grades will meet in the conference room with Vicar Chris.

Grades 9th - 12th grades have the option to meet with Vicar Chris or attend the adult Bible study with Pastor Duncan.

Sunday school begins September 7th at 9:20 am!!

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A few  from the Music Ministry

**We are getting ready to kick off the fall season with not only our Adult Choir, but a brand new Children's Choir! Both groups will rehearse on Thursdays in the choir loft. Children's Choir will go from 5:30pm-6:15pm and the Adult Choir will go from 7:00pm-8:00pm. We are looking forward to having you a part of these ensembles! Schedule a little tight? Kids are involved in too many activities? Talk with Mark Killinger after church on Sunday August 24<sup>th</sup> to see what we can do!**

**For those of you who got cut from American Idol last season, or booted off the karaoke stage on vacation; do not fear! Hopefully you played an instrument earlier in your life or are currently playing one. If this is the case then we want YOU to share your love and talent for music with us Sunday mornings. Sign up in the back of the church if you are interested in getting involved in the instrumental music ministry! We have music for all ability levels! See Mark Killinger if you have any questions!**

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- |    |                     |    |                   |
|----|---------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1  | Evelyn Green        | 17 | Catherine Watters |
| 1  | Mileah Rose         | 18 | Nancy Koester     |
| 3  | Leah Quinlan        | 18 | Jim Neill         |
| 3  | Rita Trudel         | 18 | Lawrence Zreliak  |
| 4  | Jean Blanco         | 19 | Max Gresh         |
| 5  | Brady Long          | 19 | James Neill       |
| 7  | Judith Dames        | 21 | Cletus Kroeger    |
| 7  | Elaine Ivancza      | 22 | Gene Koop         |
| 8  | Andrew Klemash      | 25 | Bernice DeBoe     |
| 9  | Tammy Long          | 25 | Nathan Morgan     |
| 10 | Wayne Conn          | 26 | Melissa James     |
| 10 | Matthew Oelschlager | 27 | Marianne Miller   |
| 10 | Ken Schrag          | 30 | Deborah Scott     |
| 11 | James Eckels        |    |                   |
| 11 | Grant Geregach      |    |                   |
| 13 | Carl Bauer          |    |                   |
| 13 | Karyssa Larson      |    |                   |
| 13 | Hannah Quinlan      |    |                   |

## Happy Anniversary

- |    |                             |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 13 | Jon and Andrea Vogel        |
| 16 | Craig and Deborah Scott     |
| 18 | Bob and Jennifer Liberatore |
| 22 | Nate and Hailey Smidt       |
| 26 | Tom and Kim Erbrecht        |
| 30 | Bob and Shelly James        |

## Zion Lutheran Sunday School 2014-2015 Volunteer Opportunities for ALL congregation members

There are lots of opportunities to help make our Sunday school year a success. Please take a look at the following list and choose *at least* two areas where you can help. Give this sheet or email your choices to Katie Gielarowski – [winechick123@gmail.com](mailto:winechick123@gmail.com).

**Teaching a Unit** – Our Sunday school program is utilizing a rotation-style format, which allows children to study one theme over a 4 week period in 4 different ways. Children learn God’s Word through listening to stories, creative art projects, fun games, science experiments, and even cooking! Volunteers love the fact that Units are simple to learn and very customizable, plus only one lesson is required for the month. More importantly, the gap between child and adult is bridged because Bible Study adults are interacting with the Sunday school children, and the children love it! A minimum of 4 volunteers are needed each month. Put a circle around the Units and Stations where you can help below.

September Unit – Creation; September 7, 14, 21, 28

March Unit – Go and Tell; March 1, 8, 15, 22

October Unit – Jeremiah; October 5, 12, 19, 26

April Unit – Teach Us How to Pray; April 12, 18, 26

November Unit – Follow the Star; November 2, 9, 16, 23

May Unit – Paul; May 3, 10, 17, 24

January Unit – Building the Temple; January 4, 11, 18, 25, 14,21

June Unit – Three Women of Faith; May 31, June 7,

Interested in the following Stations:

Art      Cookery      Games      Science      Storytelling

**Christmas Program** – Our Sunday school children produce a Christmas program with some light acting and joyful, holiday music. There is *some* work that goes into making this program a success! Place a checkmark to volunteer.

Program Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ 2-3 volunteers are needed to review/edit the Christmas program, assign parts, choose music, gather props and/or costumes and assist with program practices. Practice begins in early November and runs through late December. Practices occur on Sunday during Bible study hour and on one Saturday in December. (3 meetings, 8 Sundays)

Christmas Party

- \_\_\_\_\_ Donuts and juice
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donuts and chocolate milk
- \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas Art project
- \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas Game

**February Mission Month** – For the last 2 years, our Sunday school children have shared their love of Jesus with others through missions. Please consider volunteering in one or more of the following areas.

Operation: Stars and Stripes

\_\_\_\_\_ 2-3 participants who will meet to discuss items such as when to begin collections, what items will be collected, when children will assemble items, etc. Participants will also assist in organizing the assembly and boxing the items for shipment. (2 meetings, 1 Sunday)

Welcome Packets

\_\_\_\_\_ 2-3 Participants who will meet to discuss items such as what goes into each Welcome Packet and helping to gather those items. Participants will also assist in organizing the assembly of the packets. (1 meeting, 1 Sunday)

Other mission ideas being considered include: trip to Country Meadows to sing and visit, Cards or art project to Zion’s sick and shut-in

**End of Year Party**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Donuts and juice
- \_\_\_\_\_ Donuts and chocolate milk

# SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

## September

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTES
September 7	8:00 AM	Joyce Wood	Nathan Morgan
	10:30 AM	Lois Klemash	Chirs Yellig
September 14	8:00 AM	Wayne & Barb Oechslein	Augie Bishop
	10:30 AM	Jim & Marylou Neill	Lara Luedeman
September 21	8:00 AM	Frank & Sandy Hervert	Jennifer Fitzgerald
	10:30 AM	Dick & Carolyn Wible	Carley Rockovich
September 28	8:00 AM	Brent & Marianne Miller, Millie Thielet	Josiah Ackerman
	10:30 AM	Bob & Diane Schmidt	Chris Yellig
October 5	8:00 AM	Peter & Barbara Fisher	Nathan Morgan
	10:30 AM	Bob & Jennifer Liberatore	Lara Luedeman
October 12	8:00 AM	Gene & Sharon Koop	Jennifer Fitzgerald
	10:30 AM	Michael & Deborah Sterba	Augie Bishop

<b>ELDERS</b>	Ken Wuerthele, Pete Fisher
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Rose Steranko Helpers Needed
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, Ron Meier, Jack Oelschlager
<b>Ushers @ 10:30 am</b>	Sam Dragan, Steve Gauer, Josh Gielarowski, Chuck LaJeunesse

## October

<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Judy Meier Marianne Miller Millie Thielet
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Kathleen Conn, Bill Schrag, Janet & Larry Zreliak
<b>USHERS @ 10:30 am</b>	Neil Ackerman, Ross Chilcott, Kari Gresh, 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](mailto:secretary@zlc.org) of the change.

## Men of Zion!

We're going back to Camp Pioneer November 13-16 for a weekend of fellowship and growing in our faith. We'll have a sign-up sheet in the narthex area in the next couple of weeks. More information will be available online and in the worship bulletin in the coming weeks as we plan to make this retreat even better than the one we did in spring.

Mark your calendar, you won't want to miss it! Men of all ages are encouraged to attend.



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## CONFIRMATION STUDENTS AND PARENTS

We will have a mandatory meeting after the late service, September 7<sup>th</sup> to preview the year's events. It won't take long, but please plan on being there!





# CHURCH DIRECTORY

Zion is getting a brand new church directory! It's been a few years since our last one and Zion has grown so much that many of you aren't in the current directory. Keep your eyes open for a photo sign-up sheet so that you can make sure you and your family are included in the new directory. Photos will be taken November 19-22, plenty of time to get pictures ordered (if you so choose) in time for Christmas! Stay tuned for more info.



CHURCH  
D I R E C T O R Y

# Oktoberfest

Ein Prosit, Ein Prosit der gemutlichkeit! This is the opening sentence to one of the most popular Oktoberfest songs. I remember my first Oktoberfest at the seminary. There were copious amounts of food and drinks, so that we were eating brats for the next week. There was a live polka band which played all night and took requests. A friend of mine, who had just come back from Germany, kept requesting “Ein Prosit”. It got annoying. But it probably reminded him of the Oktoberfest he had celebrated in Munich a year earlier.

Munich is the city where it all started. On October 12, 1810 Prince Ludwig (who would later become King Ludwig) married Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen. In order to celebrate this joyous occasion, the Crown Prince Ludwig held a massive party. The citizens of Munich were invited to come to the meadow, “wiesn”, in front of the city gate where there would be food, games, horse races, an agricultural show and, of course, beer. The meadow where the celebration was held was renamed to *Theresienwiese* or “Therese’s meadow” and is still called this today. Eventually the date of the celebration would be moved to September and end in October.

When German immigrants came to the United States for many reasons, they kept their traditions, cuisine, and language. This is the same case for the Saxon immigrants who would eventually found the Lutheran Church of Missouri, Ohio and other States, or as we know it today, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Up until the First World War, services were conducted in German. There were very few services that were in English before this, and even today, some members of the LCMS were taught Luther’s Small Catechism in German. In my home church, we sing Christmas carols in German. Other traditions are things such as potlucks, jell-o, and burnt coffee. Here at Zion, we are continuing a tradition that harkens back to our German roots and engages us in good fellowship.

Zion will be having its 6<sup>th</sup> annual Oktoberfest this year on Sunday, Sept 7 from 4:00-7:30 P.M. There will be traditional German food, such as brats, schnitzel, and German chocolate cake, as well as games for kids. It will be a good time to enjoy one another’s company, and an opportunity to tell the good news about Christ, as all are welcome. Oktoberfest is even open to all sister churches in the area to strengthen the bond that we have in Christ. So, mark your calendars for Sunday September 7 and join us for some Gemutlichkeit!

In Christ,  
Vicar McCarthy

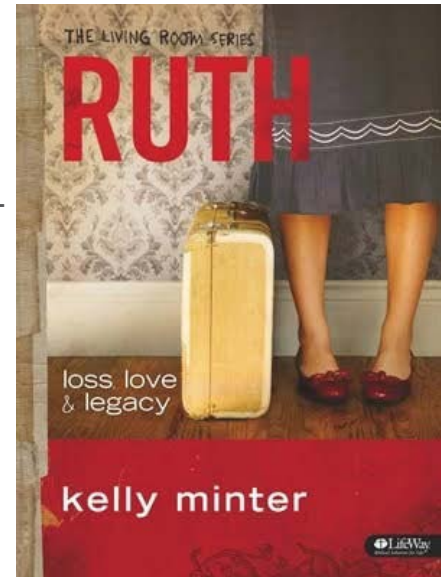


# Women's Bible Study

Kicking off Tuesday, September 16th, 7:30 - 8:45 PM! Ruth: Love, Loss and Legacy

Ruth's journey of unbearable loss, redeeming love, and divine legacy comes alive in Kelly Minter's Ruth: Loss, Love and Legacy-the second study in the Living Room Series. This 6-week Bible study delves into the virtuous character of Ruth, her unique relationship with her mother-in-law Naomi, and her blossoming love with Boaz. If you've ever felt devastated, struggled as a stranger, longed to be loved, or wept along the way, you'll find a loyal sister in Ruth.

There is still time to reserve a book. Contact Alissa McLellan with questions. [Alissamclellan@yahoo.com](mailto:Alissamclellan@yahoo.com)



Collection for this month's Bridgeville area food bank is Sunday, September 14. The "item of the month" is personal hygiene products. 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.

## FOOD BANK

