



# Zion Lutheran Monthly



January 2015

## Back to the Basics

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you have learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

These words were originally written to a young pastor, serving in a difficult missionary outpost at a time when Christians were sporadically persecuted. This year, we are going to take Paul at his word. The sermons in 2015 will take us Back to the Basics of the Christian faith we have learned and have firmly believed. They will take us through the Sacred Writings, which have made us wise for salvation through Jesus Christ.

Why go back to the basics? Because it is too easy to miss the forest for the trees. No matter how strong or knowledgeable your faith in Christ is, it's good (from time to time) to go back and spend time focusing on the foundational principles and core beliefs of our Christian faith. For some of us, this will be the first time we have studied the Christian faith in an organized, systematic way. For others, it will be a year of review—spiritual comfort food as familiar topics are brought up and brought to light by the Word of God.

The plan is to mirror the course of study of our Confirmation students. We'll start off with a sermon series on the 10 Commandments. We'll move into a series on the Trinity and our life in Christ now and in the future. We'll study the Lord's Prayer in detail and the discipline of prayer in general. Baptism, Confession and Absolution and the Lord's Supper will each receive attention, as will a mini-series on living the Christian Life in modern times.

If you've ever wondered what we believe as Lutheran Christians, or wanted the teachings of the Bible summarized in bite-size-chunks, then this year of going Back to the Basics won't disappoint! Personally, I'm excited to spend time in God's Word, being reminded of the foundational principles and teachings on which our faith in Christ is built!

See you in the New Year, as we go Back to Basics!

-Pastor Duncan

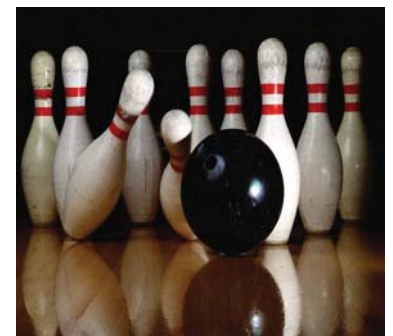
## Inside this issue:

Preschool News	Pg 2
Chairman's Report	Pg 3
Preaching Topics	Pg 4
Thank You Notes	Pg 5
January Birthdays & Anniversaries	Pg 6
January Participants	Pg 7
Announcements	Pg 8-9
Church Events	Pg 10

## Bowling Schedule!

Week 9: Friday, Jan. 2  
Week 10: Friday, Jan. 16  
Week 11: Friday, Jan. 30

All games are played at  
6:30pm at  
AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes



# School News!

Happy New Year from the Preschool! I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas season.

December was a very busy month for us. We had two Christmas Programs, two Christmas shopping days (which is an extra- long lunch bunch) with pizza and a movie, vision screening, Chapel , a scavenger hunt looking for Christmas symbols and class Christmas parties! Whew....I'm still tired! I hope some of you had a chance to see our Christmas Programs....the children did an amazing job lifting their little voices up to God. Their favorite song was "Go Tell it on the Mountain" and their voices weren't so "little" as they blasted out those words. Pastor invited the Preschool families to worship with us on December 28<sup>th</sup> to sing "Go Tell it on the Mountain" with our Sunday School. Just a warning... be ready to hold on to your pew...they really belt it out!

January will be no different, which is a good thing , as getting the children back into a routine can sometimes be difficult after a long break. During Chapel we will continue with the Christmas story as we learn about Epiphany (visit from the Magi, or the Wisemen). We're also looking forward to visits from the Zoo and celebrating Lutheran School Week during the last week of January. Lutheran Schools Week will include PJ day (which the staff loves) Beach day, Crazy Sock day and lots of fun-filled activities to go along with these themes.

Crazy as it sounds, we will start registration for the 2015/2016 school year at the end of the month. Our current enrollment is 120, our biggest so far, and we anticipate a similar enrollment for next year. With classroom sizes increasing, we now face the issue of not having enough room for all who want to attend. We have been so blessed at Zion so please pray that God will continue to guide families to our school, and that as a school we can accommodate all of the "little" souls who walk through our doors. It is an honor to be a part of these children's lives and to be able to teach them the good news of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to watch them "teach" their families. AMEN!

Blessings,  
Tracey Harris  
Director



# Chairman's Report

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

<i>November</i> Income	\$36,109.00
<i>November</i> Expenses	<u>33,979.00</u>
Favorable to Income	\$2,130.00

As of January 2014, we are estimating zero cash on hand in the General Fund. Most bills through December have been paid.

We recently conducted a survey to determine whether we should begin offering Online Giving. The results of the survey indicated that Zion should pursue investigating Online Giving for both the church and school.

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 this coming year.

Bob Schmidt  
Chairman

# Happy New Year!

## Happy New Year!

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Church Council to wish everyone a Peaceful and Healthy New Year!

Bob Schmidt  
Chairman



# 2015 Preaching Topics

- 1.4 Back to Basics—the importance of Biblical Teaching
- 1.11 Commandment 1
- 1.18 Commandment 2
- 1.25 Commandment 3
- 2.1 Commandment 4
- 2.8 Commandment 5
- 2.15 Commandment 6
- 2.22 Commandment 7
- 3.1 Commandment 8
- 3.8 Commandment 9-10
- 3.15 God the Father
- 3.22 God the Creator
- 3.29 God the Son
- 4.5 EASTER SUNDAY
- 4.12 Prophet
- 4.19 Priest
- 4.26 King
- 5.3 2 Natures/ 1 Person
- 5.10 God the Holy Spirit
- 5.17 Holy Christian Church
- 5.24 The Communion of Saints
- 5.31 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
- 6.7 The Forgiveness of Sins
- 6.14 The Life Everlasting
- 6.21 Prayer
- 6.28 Our Father
- 7.5 Hallowed Be Thy Name
- 7.12 Thy Kingdom Come
- 7.19 Thy Will Be Done
- 7.26 Daily Bread
- 8.2 Forgive Us As We Forgive
- 8.9 Lead Us Not Into Temptation
- 8.16 Deliver Us From Evil
- 8.23 The Mandate
- 8.30 What Baptism Does
- 9.6 Who Baptism Is For
- 9.13 Baptism Across Denominations
- 9.20 Confession and Absolution
- 9.27 The Office of the Keys
- 10.4 The Pastoral Office
- 10.11 The Last Supper
- 10.18 The Lord's Supper
- 10.25 Communion Across Denominations
- 11.1 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
- 11.8 The Christian Life: Saint and Sinner
- 11.15 Life in the Family
- 11.22 Life in the Church
- 11.29 Life in the World
- 12.6 Where We Are
- 12.13 What Is Next
- 12.20 Catch-up Sunday-1
- 12.27 Catch-up Sunday-2



*I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to the members of Zion for your outpouring of support to help me after the house fire that destroyed my belongings last week. Your generosity made it possible for me to purchase immediate necessities as I begin to recover from this loss. Thank you.*

*May God bless you this Christmas season.*

*John Kohlhepp*

*Dear Friends at Zion:*

*I want to say thank you for your kind notes, phone calls, and visits during my recent illness and hospital stays. What a comfort it is to know that friends have prayed to God on my behalf and haven taken the time to offer me encouragement. I am feeling much better following several treatments and a minor heart procedure, but would appreciate your continued prayers for a healthy heart.*

*God's blessings to each of you,*

*Dorothy Smelko*

*We would like to thank the members and friends of the congregation for their ongoing support of the work that we do through the church in service to the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Your support for the ministry allows us to do what we do. Especially are we thankful for your generosity in supporting our Staff Gift (or "Christmas Bonus"); your contributions helped make our celebration of the birth of Jesus all the more merrier. THANK YOU, and may God bless you all as you bring in the New Year!*

*The Zion Staff*

*Rev. Duncan McLellan—Pastor*

*Mark Killinger—Music Director*

*Sandra Quinlan—Organist*

*Jim Oelschlager—Custodian*

*Megan Pasquini—Secretary*

*Amanda Conway—Secretary*



# January Birthdays

1 Lois Klemash	16 Paula Gardner
3 Frank Ivancza	16 Jacob Hartman
4 Christine Chilcott	16 Mary Lou Neil
4 John Eckels	18 Riley Becker
5 Steve Dibert	18 Vickie Buzzelli
5 Gloria Godfrey	19 Diane Shuman
6 Jay Gardner	20 Carol Schrag
6 Decklan Pasquini	21 Shane Bryant
6 Susen Radovich	22 Jessica Boyle
6 Joseph Walsh	23 Tim Sheldon
6 Julie Walsh	24 John Derosa
7 Thomas Bicusky	24 Will Schrag
7 Luke Lemonovich	25 Thomas McLellan
10 Lexie Meyer	27 Callista Chilcott
12 John Buerkle	27 Molly Oelschlager
12 Ronald Valentino	28 Linda Kroeger
13 Debra LaJeunesse	28 Alissa McLellan
14 Shirley Bicusky	29 Sara Gielarowski
14 Brooke Glasser	31 Lillian DallaPiazza
14 Barbara Oechslein	31 Theodore Siek



# January Anniversaries



7 Mark & Laurie Coleman  
28 James & Mary Lou Neil  
31 Darren & Jennifer Eliker

# SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

## January

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTES
January 4	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Gene & Sharon Koop Jim & Marylou Neill	Josiah Ackerman Lara Luedeman
January 11	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Joyce Wood Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Jennifer Fitzgerald Carley Rockovich
January 18	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Carl & Karen Bauer Kristen Neill	Nathan Morgan Matthew Liberatore
January 25	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bernie & Jean Blanco Peter & Barbara Fisher	Augie Bishop Chris Yellig
February 1	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bernice DeBoe Vince & Ginny Kimberland	Josiah Ackerman Lara Luedeman
February 8	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Clara Hayes David & Penny Miller & family	Jennifer Fitzgerald Matthew Liberatore

<b>EDERS</b>	John Gielarowski David Hutula
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Elsie DallaPiazza Mary Hutula
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Kathleen Conn, Bill Schrag, Janet & Larry Zreliak
<b>Ushers @ 10:30 am</b>	Steve Gauger, Kari Gresh, John Gresh, Michael Kroeger

## February

<b>EDERS</b>	Klemash Sterba
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	TBD
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Melanie Becker, Bill Becker, Shane Bryant, Michael Kozak
<b>Ushers @ 10:30 am</b>	Vince Kimberland, Kitt Kroeger, Lin- da Kroeger, Rich- ard Quinlan

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.



# Food Bank 2015

It is a great joy to have such an outpouring of generosity from the members of Zion congregation for the area children of families in need. On behalf of the Bridgeville Area Food Bank (BAFB) thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas Angel Tree project. May those who gave and those who received be blessed with knowing that Jesus is the best gift of all.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in giving food throughout this past year. It has helped many families within our community. If you wish to help out we accept all non-perishable items each month. You may place these items in the church narthex. In addition an "item of the month" will be suggested to collect what the BAFB calls extras. These items normally are not purchased on a regular basis by the BAFB but are much needed supplies for individuals and families.

The following is a list of the upcoming, "item of the month":

January – Packaged meals (Hamburger helper, Rice-a-Roni, etc.)	July – Cookies
February – Cereal and Breakfast food	August – Crackers
March – Fruit (canned and dried)	September – Personal Hygiene products
April – Rice, noodles, and beans	October – Baking supplies
May – Picnic condiments	November – Canned meats and proteins (tuna, salmon, nuts, etc.)
June – Paper products	December – Hot drinks

---

## Free Coffee Friday Volunteers Needed

Coming in February At Zion, we like our coffee best when it is **FREE!**

**But We NEED your help to make this happen!**



Why? To reach out in a small, imperfect way with the love of Christ to the people in our community. You'll be on the front lines of ministry and be the direct link between people we don't know, who Christ died for, and our congregation.

**Contact Pastor or the Church office if you would like to help!**



# Food Bank

Collection for this month's Bridgeville area food bank is Sunday, January 11. The "item of the month" is packaged meals. 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.



## Sunday School NEWS

Beginning January 5<sup>th</sup>, Preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades will be learning about prayer in the January Unit called, "Teach Us to Pray".

Prayer is talking with God. There are many ways to talk with God and many different kinds of prayers. Jesus taught his disciples to pray and gave them an example that we still use today (The Lord's Prayer). Bible Story Reference: Luke 11: 1 - 4

6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grades – Meet in the conference room with Robb Oelschlagger.

9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grades – Meet in the school office with Mark Killinger.



## FEBRUARY MISSION MONTH

Sunday school has dedicated the whole month of February to missions: local, global and even right here at Zion! Here is what we will be doing:

Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> – Homemade cards for Zion's shut-in and sick

Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> – Operation Stars and Stripes assembly

Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> – Field trip to sing (destination TBD)

Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Welcome bag assembly

If anyone is interested in helping out, please contact Katie Gielarowski at [zionlutherankids@gmail.com](mailto:zionlutherankids@gmail.com).

