



# Zion Lutheran Monthly



**February 2015**

## We Don't Need Your Help

*Thanks for the uplifting and encouraging newsletter article title, Pastor. Are you feeling OK?*

Just fine, thank you. But really, we don't need your help.

*Then explain the "Announcements" part of the Sunday bulletin where we are asked to help in any number of areas at church; Free Coffee Friday, Sunday School, VBS, Oktoberfest... you know. The list goes on and on. And on. Sounds to me like the church DOES NEED OUR HELP.*

Actually, no. We don't need it. The Kingdom of God will get along just fine without your help and mine. It doesn't need us to grow and thrive. It was getting along just fine in the years before we came into the world and it will get along just as well after we're gone. But while we are here we have the privilege of participating in God's mission of seeking and saving the lost, of connecting people to Jesus, and (through eyes of faith) seeing God at work in the world he created, redeemed and is in the process of sanctifying.

*So then it's OK if I just show up every so often on Sunday morning?*

Sure—if you view your time in church as an obligation, something you have to do; if it's just another box to check. But then we should probably talk because if you think your time in church—in the place(s) where God is doing his saving work—is an obligation and not a privilege, something you drudgingly drag yourself to instead of something you look forward to, we probably want to take a look at your priorities.

What better use of time is there than watching God at work changing and saving lives? On Sunday morning, for sure. But also during the week—at Bible studies, during the upcoming Free Coffee Friday, on Mission Trips, Men's and Women's Retreats, Confirmation Lock-ins, and even places like the bowling alley and softball field.

*So you're saying the Church doesn't need my help, but I need the Church?*

Again with the Law! You don't need the Church so much as you need Jesus. Who has a habit of revealing himself through what goes on at Church. And you get to—have the privilege of—participating in what God is doing through his Church to bring people to faith in Jesus. We don't need your help so much as we want you to participate in what God is doing through his Church because we know you will be blessed—your faith strengthened and your life changed.

-Pastor Duncan

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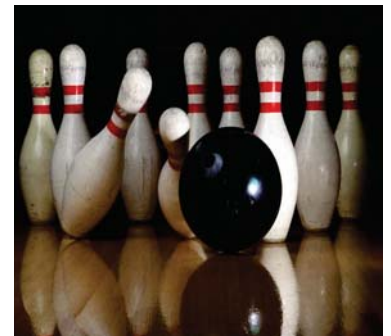
## Bowling Schedule!

Week 12: Friday, Feb. 13

Week 13 Friday, Feb. 27

All games are played at  
6:30pm at

AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes





## School News!



Greetings from the Preschool! It's hard to believe but registration for the 2015/2016 school is under way. 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 9<sup>th</sup>. Registration information can be found in the school lobby at the 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 snowman 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! To help celebrate Lutheran School Week, we even had a visit from the Pittsburgh zoo...they left the polar bears and penguins at the zoo, but brought some cute, (and some not so cute), animals for us to pet and learn about. We got to see and pet a chinchilla, a Madagascar cockroach (yuck!) and a Rosy Boa snake (again, yuck!), but the kids loved it! The rest of Lutheran Schools Week involved PJ day and Beach day. There are over 1,250 Early Childhood Centers included among the grade schools, colleges, and seminaries. We are blessed to have the opportunity to share the gospel message to so many children and their families.

January has come and gone and hopefully the snow and cold temperatures has gone with it! (one can dream...right?) Even though the weather was miserable, 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 again teamed up with the Sunday School 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 cereal bars, beef jerky and chewing gum. Hopefully between the school and the church we will have plenty of items for "**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,





Mark your Calendar for our 1st Women's Retreat! We will be going to Camp Pioneer from May 1st - 3rd. The theme of the weekend is *it's a WR@P.*



*More information coming soon!*

**Men's Retreat:** Mark your calendars for April 30th – May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The men are going "ALL IN" at Camp Pioneer. Meeting up with men from three other congregations, we're going to take a look at what it means to go ALL IN with our Christian faith. An itinerary will be available by the time you read this, and a sign-up sheet will be posted in the back narthex area of the church later in February.



### **Annual Audit**



In compliance with the results and recommendations of the Financial Audit Review Committee and Church Council some members of the church have been randomly selected to send back a post card.

If you receive this postage paid post card please fill it out and return it to the church. Any questions you can contact Nancy Klemash or the church secretaries.

### **Alter Flowers & Eternal Light 2015**

*Alter Flowers & Eternal Light dates are still available for 2015. Dates available can be checked in the back of the church or by contacting the church secretaries at [secretary@zlcg.org](mailto:secretary@zlcg.org). The cost to sponsor Alter Flowers is \$15.00 per vase and the Eternal Light can be sponsored for \$5.00*



# February Birthdays

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



# February Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary

28 Paul & Evelyn Green

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## Save the Date

Did you know we have a calendar of events in the church office?? If you would like to have an event at Zion please contact the church secretaries so we can add it to the calendar of events. You can email us at [secretary@zlc.org](mailto:secretary@zlc.org)



# SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

## February

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTES
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
February 15	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Wayne & Barb Oechslein Darren & Jennifer Elikor & family	Nathan Morgan Carley Rockovich
February 18 Ash Wednesday	7:00 PM		Augie Bishop
February 22	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Shane & Sandy Bryant Dick & Carolyn Wible	Chris Yellig Lara Luedeman
February 15 Lenten Service	7:00 PM		Elder
March 1	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bill & Melanie Becker Bill & Susie Bishop & family	Josiah Ackerman Jennifer Fitzgerald
March 4 Lenten Service	7:00 PM		Elder
March 8	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Joyce Wood Lee & Megan Glasser	Nathan Morgan Sydney Harris

<b>EDERS</b>	Paul Klemash Mike Sterba
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Janet, Marion & Molly Oelschlager
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Melanie Becker, Bill Becker, Shane Bryant, Michael Kozak
<b>Ushers @ 10:30 am</b>	Vince Kimberland, Kitt Kroeger, Linda Kroeger, Richard Quinlan

## March

<b>EDERS</b>	Bill Bishop Peter Fisher
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Janet, Marion & Molly Oelschlager
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Josh Gielarowski, Dale Miller, Barbara Oechslein, Wayne Oechslein
<b>Ushers @ 10:30 am</b>	Ross Chilcott, Sam Dragan, Dan Harris, Chuck LaJeunesse

### Did you know that we have an awesome website?

If you haven't checked out our website ([zlc.org](http://zlc.org)) lately, you're truly missing out on one of the best things we have going. Daily updates, interactive surveys, literally hundreds of sermon downloads, informative videos, thought-provoking articles, and pictures from recent church events are just some of what you'll find on your church's website.

Check it out: [zlc.org](http://zlc.org)!!

# The First Ever Free Coffee Friday is here!

It's finally here! Free Coffee Friday! February 13<sup>th</sup> is when we kick things off. We'll be getting together at 6:30 to make the coffee and bring everything up and outside to give away to the good commuters on Washington Pike. We've got the cups and such ordered and will have plenty of coffee, doughnuts and other confections (is that the right word?) ready to go on the 13<sup>th</sup>.



**If you haven't signed-up, you can still come and help out, Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30am for our First Ever Free Coffee Friday!!!**

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## Free Coffee Friday Volunteers Needed

**Coming on February 13th 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

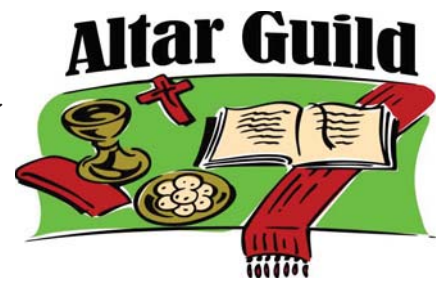
Collection for this month's Bridgeville area food bank is Sunday, February 8. The "item of the month" is cereal and breakfast food. You are also welcome to help at the food bank every third Saturday of the month between 7:45am and 12:00pm at Bethany Presbyterian Church.



## Back to Basics

For 2015 Zion is going Back to Basics! We're spending time on Sunday morning going over the basic truths of the Christian Faith. We're starting with the 10 Commandments and will generally be following the outline of Luther's Small Catechism. If you miss a week here or there, recordings of the sermons are available on our website (zlcb.org). Also, at our Wednesday Evening Service of Prayer and Preaching, we take what we looked at on Sunday and take it a little bit more in depth. We also answer the questions that are asked on Sunday... or try to answer them as best we can at our Wednesday Evening Service of Prayer and Preaching. We hope you can join us for worship!

Altar Guild is looking for new members to join this group. If you would like to be part of Altar Guild or find out more please contact Janet Oelschlager or the church secretaries at [secretary@zlcb.org](mailto:secretary@zlcb.org).



## 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).

