



# Zion Lutheran Monthly

March 2015



## Don't Celebrate Lent

Two weeks ago, Alissa became an aunt and I became an uncle for the first time. Theodore Joseph German was born to Paul and Alexandra German. We celebrated God's goodness and grace to our ever-expanding extended-family.

Last month, mom had a check-up with her oncologist. After beating cancer two years ago, she was (once again) pronounced cancer-free! We celebrated God's goodness and grace to our aging-but-healthy family.

We've also had occasion to celebrate the marriage of family and friends, new babies, jobs, promotions, wins, awards, degrees, friendships, and many others. Celebrating is fun. It's high-fives, cake, breaking open some bubbly, and kissing. It's a care-free moment that can do just fine without responsibility and worry. It's convertibles and parades, looking good and being with friends. Even the stodgy among us like a good celebration.

Which is why I am asking you not to celebrate Lent.

Lent is not a season we celebrate because it is a season that asks us to take a good, hard, honest look at who we are. And when we do that, we find that we are people who need nothing less than the death of the Son of God to reconcile us to our Creator. Lent is a mirror that shows us just how far we have fallen; fallen short of the glory of God, fallen short of the perfect standards God has demanded of all people, and therefore fallen short of salvation. That's not something you celebrate; it's something you try to hide, repent of and lament.

But Lent is also a journey. It began with ashes on the forehead and takes us to a place where we can take a good, hard, honest look at who we are. It is a journey that takes us down the path of the valley of the shadow of suffering and death of our Lord Jesus, and ends at the entrance to a newly-emptied tomb. It is then that we will celebrate. But today we repent. Today we confess. Today we recognize what it is we have been saved from, and what it took to save us from it.

Keep Lent? Yes. Remember Lent? Absolutely. Worship on Wednesdays during Lent? Please. But celebrate? Soon, but not today.

Yours, in Christ,  
Pastor Duncan

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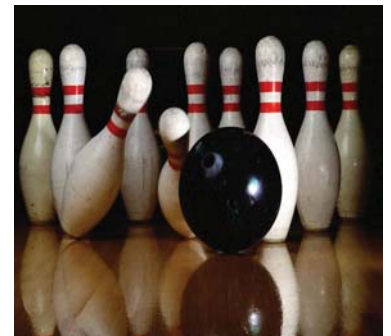
## Bowling Schedule!

Week 14: Friday, March 13

Week 15 Friday, March 27

All games are played at  
6:30pm at

AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes





## School News!

Happy March! Has anyone seen Spring? This is what we will be asking our Preschool children this month. Hopefully we will all start to see signs of Spring soon as this winter just does not want to end! The children are ready to go outside and play on the playground and let the warm sun hit their little faces. We even pray at the end of Kids Praise for good weather to come soon!

March is also the month that we focus on the color green...may all of the green remind us that Spring is coming! We also talk about St. Patrick's Day. We explain that the shamrock, a plant with three parts to its leaf, like a 3 leaf clover, is like the Trinity. Even though the leaf has three parts, it is still one leaf, as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are three in one God.

*Just like the leaves on each Shamrock I see,  
There are three parts to the Holy Trinity.  
First is God the Father, then Jesus, His only Son,  
And the Holy Spirit together as ONE.*



Registration continues to go very well. Both preschool and small step classes are full for the morning sessions. We have a few spots left in our Pre-K and afternoon Preschool class. Hard to believe we are just about full! We are looking forward to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ to all of these precious children next year.

Blessings,

Tracey

# Chairman's Report



## Chairman's Report

### Special Voter's Meeting – March 22

We will be holding a Special Voter's meeting on Sunday, March 22 between services. One of the key topics for this meeting is to review the part-time Youth/Young Adult Ministry Leader, which was tabled at the January 25, regular voters meeting.

This part-time position would include a partnership with Young Life to develop programs for youth, junior and senior high ministry. The focus of this relationship will be to build a program for Zion youth and outreach to local youth with Young Life to the surrounding communities (South Fayette and Chartiers Valley). If you are interested in finding out more information about this position, there will be an information session after the 10:30am service on March 15. We will also discuss the long-term planning document key initiatives and potential future investments.

Bob Schmidt

Chairman

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Zion,

We have been so blessed by the outpouring of support following Dick's sudden passing! Thank you for all of your comforting words, cards, food, flowers, memorial donations to Zion, and many other acts of kindness. Your prayers to God on our behalf are being answered, as He gently guides us day by day through our grief. What a comfort it is to have friends and family speak the Good News to us during this time, as we are reminded of how God worked through Dick to do the same!

Love in Christ,

The Wible, Bishop and Lemonovich families

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**FREE** coffee and donuts every **Friday??** Sounds like a great way to



Free Coffee Friday is happening every Friday morning from 7-8am in the church parking lot. Stop by for some breakfast and fellowship on your way to work!

If you are interested in signing up to volunteer, contact the church office at 412-221-4776 or talk to Pastor.

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. Please contact [secretary@zlcb.org](mailto:secretary@zlcb.org) with any questions!



A sign-up sheet is posted in the back Narthex area of the Church!

**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.



## 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 started with the 10 Commandments and are 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](http://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!

## Food Bank

Collection for this month's Bridgeville area food bank is Sunday, March 8. The "item of the month" is canned and dried fruit. 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.



# March Birthdays

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Evelyn Binder     | 16 Carol Pracel       |
| 4 Lori Gauger       | 16 Claire Schrag      |
| 5 Jared Fitzgerald  | 17 Gregory Howcraft   |
| 5 Deborah Sterba    | 18 Joseph Gielarowski |
| 7 Robert James      | 22 Nathan Smidt II    |
| 8 Lee Glasser       | 23 Mia Case           |
| 8 Mark Oelschlager  | 23 Peter Fisher       |
| 11 Michael Sterba   | 23 Mark Killinger     |
| 12 Caitlyn Thompson | 24 Bonnie Lewis       |
| 12 Jonathan Vogel   | 25 Ruth Miller        |
| 14 Susie Bishop     | 26 Katie Gielarowski  |
| 15 Braeden Boyle    | 26 Nancy Spotti       |
| 15 Mason Thompson   | 27 Christian Vogel    |



# March Anniversaries

*Happy Anniversary*

- 4 Bill & Carol Schrag
- 26 Tim & Rita Sheldon
- 29 Brian & Megan Pasquini

## 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

## March

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTES
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	Matthew Liberatore Sydney Harris
March 11 Lenten Service	7:00 PM		Elder
March 15	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Brent & Marianne Miller & Millie Thielet	Augie Bishop Lara Luedeman
March 18 Lenten Service	7:00 PM		Elder
March 22	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Jack & Jacque Oelschlager Darla & Carley Rockovich	Josiah Ackerman Carley Rockovich
March 25 Lenten Service	7:00 PM		Elder
March 29	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Gene & Sharon Koop Darren & Jennifer Eliker & Family	Chris Yellig Jennifer Fitzgerald
April 1 Lenten Service	7:00 PM		Elder
April 5	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Carl & Karen Bauer Jay & Kim Anderson	TBA TBA
April 12	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bill & Carole Schrag Elsie DallaPiazza	Matthew Liberatore Lara Luedeman

<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

## April

<b>EDERS</b>	Robert Oelschlager, David Hutula
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Debra LaJeunesse, Carrie Lemonovich, Carolyn Wible
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, Ron Meier, Jack Oelschlager
<b>Ushers @ 10:30 am</b>	Loren Luedeman, Vince Kimberland, Jim Oelschlager, Ted Siek

### 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)!!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

**Operation Stars and Stripes** assembly was a HUGE success! With donations from Zion's members and preschool families, the Sunday school children were able to assemble 277 bags of love! We were able to collect:

Granola Bars = 425  
Ramen Noodles = 319  
Beef jerky = 380  
Drink Singles = 451  
Twizzlers = 360  
Gum = 276  
Over 400 Ziploc bags!

Any items left over were also shipped overseas, given and appreciated by a member of our military. Also included in each bag was a tract filled with the Gospel message and a letter or coloring page offering some more encouragement and words of gratitude. Thank you to all who participated and shared the love of Jesus around the world!

### **MARCH UNIT: Building the Tabernacle**

The Hebrew people gave generously of their possessions, skills, and time to build the Tabernacle, a sacred place to worship God. Today, we can use our possessions, skills, and time for the church, the special place where we worship God. I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" (Psalm 122: 1)

Children will learn about the tabernacle and discover how our sanctuary is a special place to worship God. Children will explore opportunities when we can use our time and skills to serve God through the church.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Mark your calendars for **EVEREST** –  
June 22 – 26, 2015!



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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@zlc.org](mailto:secretary@zlc.org).

