



Zion Lutheran Monthly

July 2015



Celebrating Independence

Five days from today I'll be on vacation, spending a week or so on Pelican Lake in the Great White Lutheran-land of northern Minnesota. Vacationing at Alissa's folks' lake cabin is one of the few traditions our young family has already established. Every summer the 4th of July beckons, and we heed the call. Fireworks over the lake at night celebrate and remember our nation's independence from the British crown. How does your family celebrate Independence Day?

The connection between a nation celebrating independence from a foreign, oppressive, loveless ruler and the freedom we enjoy as Christians from the devil, the world and our own sinful flesh is the low hanging fruit of a church's July newsletter. But I'll take the bait.

As Christians we have the privilege of celebrating our independence from true tyranny and oppression every week when we come together for worship. Every day, we have the opportunity to live life free from the heavy hand of a power-hungry sovereign and the fear of incurring his displeasure while we pursue life, liberty and happiness. We do not need to wonder in fear with what our future holds, because we know in whose hands it is held. We do not have to worry about the eternal consequences of the worst mistakes we have made, because we know that all is forgiven in Christ.

If celebrating the overthrow of the British crown 239 years ago is worth celebrating with vacations and bar-b-ques, fireworks and traveling, hot dogs and non-pietistic beverages, how much is the present reality of eternal, God-given spiritual freedom worth celebrating! As St. Paul writes: "It is for freedom Christ has set us free."

God's blessings as you and your families as you celebrate on the 4th. But as you do, know that your true independence from real evil happened not with the drafting of a Declaration, but with the shedding of the blood of Christ, his death and his resurrection.

In Christ,
Pastor Duncan McLellan

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Soft Ball Schedule!

July 1 @ 10:00pm

July 9 @ 7:00pm

July 15 @ 7:00pm

July 21 @ 7:00pm

July 29 @ 7:00pm

All games are played at
McLaughlin Run Park

ZION



LUTHERAN



Nursery

Starting July 19th we will be offering a Nursery for children ages infant to 2 years. This will allow parents of small children to participate in church with no distractions.

Parents will drop their children off prior to church beginning and pick them up as soon as service is complete. If there are any problems or the child needs a diaper change you will be paged via cell phone text.

We are still looking for volunteers for this ministry. Please sign up in the narthex if you would like to volunteer your time.

RESCHEDULED!

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE
SUMMER AT ZION WITH A
FAMILY COOKOUT

 we'll bring the food
...and the guitar 

HICK BACK, UNWIND, AND JOIN US FOR A GOOD,
OLD FASHIONED COOKOUT & SING-A-LONG!
*Just bring your appetite and
a voice to praise our savior!*

 **WE'LL SEE YOU
OUT BACK!**

JULY 18TH AT 5:00PM

Since we got rained out on the original date, the Family Cookout has been rescheduled for July 18th at 5:00pm.



**Orange Out Sunday is back!
Wear your orange shirts to
church again on July 19!**

Chairman's Report

Voters Meeting - Outcome

On June 28, 2015 the Voters of Zion approved the 2015/2016 fiscal budget that included:

- Overall budget increased from last years budget by 2%
- Average salary increases of 3.5% for church and school staff
- Support for part-time Youth Minister position
- Increase in school tuition and number of students (127)
- Focus on needed repairs to the church and parsonage
- Trustee projects:
 - Repairing the church roof seams to address minor leaks
 - Energy efficient roof coating as part of the repair
 - Parsonage kitchen improvements and maintenance



A LOOK
at the
BUDGET

We were pleased to present another break-even budget (\$532,137 expense equal \$532,137 revenue) and no major carry-over expenses.

We reduced Weekly Operating Giving - Church, Mission & Synod (CMS) by 9% from last year budget. We increased the preschool budget do to increased student enrollment by 18%. The Preschool continues to grow and is self-funded. The Council will continue to ensure a strong expense control process.

Just a reminder, July and August are the most difficult times for Zion to cover monthly expenses, 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.

Bob Schmidt
Chairman

On Tuesday, July 7th, the Evangelii Youth Choir is coming to Zion and will be singing a number of traditional Christian songs. Free to all, we encourage you to take advantage of this uplifting concert! The music begins at 7pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Special
MUSIC

The logo for 'Special Music' features the word 'Special' in a black, sans-serif font. To the right of 'Special' is a stylized musical note (a yellow note with a black stem) positioned above a blue circle. Three blue lines representing a musical staff extend from the right side of the circle. Below this graphic, the word 'MUSIC' is written in a large, bold, teal-colored serif font.

Notes from the Eastern District Convention

The Eastern District of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod held its 98th Regular Convention last June. Pastor Duncan and Lay Representative Jay Anderson represented Zion at the Convention, which was attended by over 170 Pastoral and Lay Delegates, various District Officials and even the President of the Synod, Matthew Harrison.

Several of the highlights include:

- District President Chris Wicher was re-elected on the first ballot.
- Our new Regional Vice President is the former Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of the South Hills, Rev. Daniel Strussenberg.
- The motion was approved to swing the balance of control of the District Board of Directors from Clergy to Laity, with 7 Ordained Members and 8 Lay Members.
- President Harrison reported that the number of missionaries the Synod will have in the field will, in several years' time, be at an all-time high! The Synod has also undertaken an ambitious "Wittenberg Project" to renovate an historic building, turning it into a hotel and historical center for those visiting the cite of the start of the Reformation for its 500th Anniversary in 2017. Also, the Lutheran Church in Africa continues its rapid growth. Did you know that Ethiopia alone has almost double the number of Lutherans than the United States?
- What I took away as being "interesting" was that 91% of the Voting Delegates at the Convention were over the age of 40; with 80% being 50 and above. And of the congregations represented, 95% had a weekly worship attendance under 200.

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 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). 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, June 12. The "item of the month" is cookies. 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.



July Birthdays



- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Nathaniel Howcroft | 10 Anthony Vallelunga | |
| 1 Lawson Luedeman | 11 Susan Dragan | |
| 2 Shelley Killinger | 11 Clara Hayes | |
| 3 Karen Bauer | 11 Brenna Long | |
| 3 Joann Brookfield | 11 Dione Vallelunga | |
| 3 Corey Larson | 12 Mamie Papeaka | 19 Lindsay Kovach |
| 5 Timothy Albert | 14 Dominic Dibert | 20 Paul Hayes |
| 7 Eric Rose | 14 John Oelschlager | 20 Tim Wood |
| 8 Roxanne Burgh | 15 Brad Boyle | 23 Lara Luedeman |
| 8 Valarie Derosa | 15 Robert Liberatore | 24 Doris Oelschlager |
| 8 Megan Hartman | 16 Timothy Albert | 25 Frank Hervert |
| 8 Richard Trudel | 16 Tommy Gielarowski | 26 Ella Hunsberger |
| 9 Neil Ackerman | 18 Amanda Gardner | 26 Kristen LaJeunesse |
| 9 Florence Boehme | 18 Emily Trentini | 30 Eric Hunsberger |

July Anniversaries



- 7 Vince & Virginia Kimberland
16 Thomas & Shirley Bicusky
16 Norman & Helen Erbrecht Sr.
17 John & Kathryn Gielarowski

26



I would like to thank everyone for the cards and phone calls for my 90th birthday, I certainly appreciate being remembered. God bless you all.

Iola Schmidt

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

July

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTES
July 5	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Gene & Sharon Koop Rose Steranko	Augie Bishop Anna Gresh
July 12	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Ron & Judy Meier Kristen Neill	Josiah Ackerman Carley Rockovich
July 19	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bernice DeBoe Bill & Susie Bishop & Family	Chris Yellig Lara Luedeman
July 26	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Jack & Jacque Oelschlager John & Kari Gresh & Family	Matthew Liberatore Anna Gresh
Aug 2	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Brent & Marianne Miller and Millie Thielet John & Katie Gielarowski & Family	Augie Bishop Carley Rockovich
Aug 9	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Wayne & Barb Oechslein Vince & Ginny Kimberland	Josiah Ackerman Lara Luedeman

EDERS	Paul Klemash, Ken Wuerthele
ALTAR GUILD	Clara Hayes, Penny Miller, Mary Hutula
USHERS @ 8:00 am	Josh Gielarowski, Dale Miller, Barbara & Wayne Oechslein
Ushers @ 10:30 am	Ross Chilcott, Sam Dragan, Dan Harris & Chuck LaJeunesse

August

EDERS	James Neill, Neil Ackerman
ALTAR GUILD	
USHERS @ 8:00 am	Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, Ron Meier, Jack Oelschlager
Ushers @ 10:30 am	Loren Ludeman, Vince Kimberland, Jim Oelschlager, Ted Siek

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@zlcb.org of the change.

Did you know that we have an awesome website?

If you haven't checked out our website (zlcb.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: zlcb.org!!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS

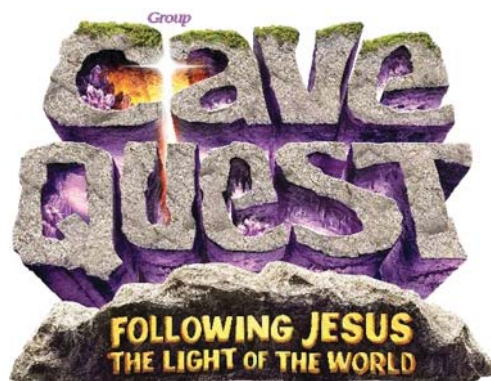


We did it! 125 children and 50 leaders made the trek up Mount Everest – Everest VBS that is! Through amazing Bible stories, Science experiments, Games, Music and Creative Snacks, they experienced how God's mighty power helps us all conquer big challenges. God provides all we need, offers comfort and healing, has the power to forgive the biggest of sins and love us forever.

Money was collected to donate the New Testament written in the Thai language for children in Thailand. \$4 = one Bible. We raised \$591.25 which was enough to buy 147 New Testament Bibles!

THANK YOU to those who offered support through monetary donations, words of encouragement and prayer. 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...."
Cave Quest: Following Jesus, the Light of the World
June 20-24, 2016!!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday school children have had a busy year. Here are some of the highlights:

- "Christmas by the Book" Christmas Program
- Cards of Love to Zion's sick and homebound members
- Collected and assembled 277 Bags of Love for Operation: Stars and Stripes
- Assembled 125 Swag Bags for welcoming visitors to Zion
- 2 Field trips to Broadmore Senior Living

New this fall, children will learn about Martin Luther, the Reformation, and the importance of keeping Christ at the center of our lives. Sunday school sessions will resume on September 13th, 2015.





Earlier this year, we did a survey to determine whether there was any interest in Zion offering Online Giving. Based on the survey results we have decided to begin offering an electronic option for those members who would like to use this service.

Therefore, we are pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making regular and special offerings. Contributions can now be transferred automatically from your checking or savings account. The secured service provider is Vanco Payment Service, which is used by most LCMS churches throughout the country. As you know weekly offerings can fluctuate significantly from week to week due to vacation, travel, illness and other circumstances, but when contributions are automated there tends to be less fluctuation in giving throughout the year.

For those individuals who are interested in signing up for the Online Giving just follow the instructions below.

To set up your electronic donation on our web site:

Go to www.zlcb.org

Click on the *Online Giving button*

Click on the *Create Profile button*, then

Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

If you have any questions about the process, please contact Bob Schmidt.

Chairman