



Zion Lutheran Monthly

September 2015



Too Busy to Worship...

...and other lies we tell ourselves and others.

From the moment we wake up (or are woken up) until the moment we go to sleep, we make decisions. These decisions, taken together, reflect the priorities we have established for ourselves. From the simple, “will I brush my teeth this morning?” to the complex, “will I re-evaluate my investment portfolio based on the market fluctuations?” to the frivolous, “will I have a non-fat iced chai latte or a regular coffee?” to the serious, “do I need to have a talk with my child about what I saw them looking at on-line?” we have an unfathomable amount of decisions to make each and every day. (“Will I finish reading this article?”)

One decision, more than any other, that can profoundly effect the rest of your week is the decision whether or not to come to worship on Sunday morning (or Wednesday evening!). So many people tell me the same thing: “I feel like something is off when I skip church.” And something is off.

All during the week the world, the devil and your own sinful flesh beat you up, drag you down and try to convince you that a loving God does not exist, and that if he does, you certainly are unworthy of his grace and mercy. Hopelessness, or worse, apathy sets in and you find yourself going through motions that seem increasingly meaningless. The one place you can go to take a deep breath and be reminded of the truth, that there is a God who loves you, a Savior who died for you, and that you have already been given the gift of eternal life, is church. But whether or not you come to church is up to you. No one is going to honk the horn outside of your house on Sunday morning and offer you a ride; you (and you alone) have to make the decision to set the alarm clock on Saturday night to get you up out of bed on Sunday morning. You (and you alone) have to decide if kids games, a late night on Saturday, a long easy breakfast, or spending time in the great outdoors is more important than hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and receiving the body and blood of your Savior.

As many times as I’ve heard people tell me that something is off when they skip church, I’ve heard people tell me the tired old excuse: “we’re just too busy” to make time for worship on Sunday morning or Wednesday evening. Now, I’m not saying people do not have a lot going on. As the father of two young kids, I know what it is like to be pulled in many different competing directions. But let me say, at the risk of sounding insensitive, that if you have time to go on-line, watch TV, or go out to dinner, you are not too busy to find time to go to church; there are simply other things you have chosen to prioritize over church.

Nobody is too busy to worship. We are too busy to do everything else and worship.

Now, that’s a lot of LAW for Pastor’s Monthly Newsletter. But I think it needs to be said because too many of us have convinced ourselves that Sunday Worship is what we do when there is nothing else going on, instead of marking it on the calendar as a non-negotiable priority.

So, in good Lutheran fashion, I’ll follow up that LAW with some GOSPEL...

Well, not here. This is already plenty long. But you’ll find some good news in the following articles in the newsletter: “BIAY’16,” “ROMANS!” and “Adult Bible Class: More Than Just Intermission with Doughnuts.” Please keep reading...

In Christ,
Pastor Duncan McLellan

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Nursery

We now offer a Nursery during the 10:30 am service for children ages infant to 2 years. This will allow parents of small children to participate in

church with no distractions.

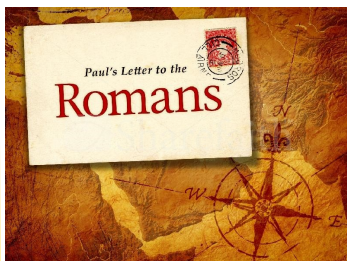
Parents will drop their children off prior to church beginning and pick them up as soon as service is complete. If there are any problems or the child needs a diaper change you will be paged via cell phone text.

We are still looking for volunteers for this ministry. Please contact Megan Pasquini or Alissa McLellan if you are interested in helping!

- Sept 6 - Tracey Harris / Sydney Harris / Kristen Neill
- Sept 13 - Jodi Fitzgerald / Jennifer Fitzgerald
- Sept 20 - Alissa McLellan / Lara Luedeman
- Sept 27 - Megan Pasquini / Marion Oelschlager
- Oct 4 - Linda Kroeger / Kitt Kroeger / Tess Carter
- Oct 11 - Susie Bishop / Carley Rockovich
- Oct 18 - Carrie Lemonovich / Jenna & Stephanie Eckels
- Oct 25 - Brittany Dill / Megan Glasser / Debbie Sturba
- Nov 1 - Sharon Bogden / Kristen Neill
- Nov 8 - Tracey Harris / Sydney Harris
- Nov 15 - Jodi Fitzgerald / Jennifer Fitzgerald
- Nov. 22 - Alissa McLellan / Lara Luedeman



ROMANS! Coming this October, the Romans are invading our Midweek Service of Prayer and Preaching! We'll have our regular service of Prayer and Preaching, followed by a Small Group study of the book of Romans. The sermon will be based on what we'll be studying in our Small Groups, to give you a head's up and equip you for a lively, fruitful, and Christ-centered discussion.



Come for worship, stay for Bible study! Childcare will be provided for the little ones, and the youth will have a Small Group with Joe! Bring the whole family for midweek worship and Small Groups, starting in October here at Zion!

Chairman's Report

Church, Mission & Synod (CMS) & Plate Finances

July is the beginning of our new fiscal year.

July Income	\$21,566.00
July Expenses	<u>23,141.00</u>
Unfavorable to Income	-\$ 1,575.00

Please continue to pray for Zion that we are able to end this new budget year with a positive cash flow. May God continue to guide Zion ministry in using our financial gifts and our talents to spread the Good News!

Online Giving Available

Just a reminder, that Zion now offers electronic online giving on our web site:

To set up your electronic donation on our web site:

- Go to **www.zlcb.org**
- Click on the **News** tab the top of the page
 - Then click on the **Online Giving for Zion** text
 - Click on the **Online Giving** button
 - Click on the **Create Profile** button
- Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile



Bob Schmidt

Chairman

Adult Bible Class: More Than Just Intermission with Doughnuts.

Having wrapped-up our three-week study of Islam, the Adult Bible Class looks to keep the excitement and learning going in September and October! Starting 8/30, we'll begin a short unit on studying the Office of the Pastoral Ministry (what it is, who should be called to it, and what Pastors should be doing); we'll have a guest teacher, Rev. Edward Naumann in 9/6 to talk with us about his mission work in South Asia, as well as his comments on the Pastoral Office. On October 4th, the President of Training Leaders International, Darren Carlson, will share with us how his organization is training men to be Pastors in the developing world. For the rest of October (and potentially the first week in November), we will be Reformation-Minded, as we watch and discuss the movie, "Luther."



There's a lot going on in Adult Bible Class in the coming months; it's a whole lot more than Sunday Morning Intermission with Coffee and Doughnuts! Hope to see you there...

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 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!

BLAY 16 Back in 2012, Zion embarked on the ambitious task of reading through the Bible in one year. Daily readings were posted on-line, in the worship bulletin and in the monthly newsletter. Downloadable audio files of the Bible being read were made available on our website, the sermon came from the previous week's readings, and the midweek Bible studies focused on the reading for that day. Zion went all-in to get as many people as possible committing to the marathon goal of reading the Bible cover-to-cover. Feedback was, to put it mildly, positive.

And so now, four years later, we are going to do it again!

For 2016, we are going to read the Bible In A Year. Like last time, the sermon on Sunday will be based on one of the readings from the previous week. On Wednesday, when we're not studying Romans or celebrating Lent or Advent, the Midweek Sermon will be on the Bible in a Year reading for that day. We will have a reading list posted on-line, in your weekly Bulletin, and in the monthly Newsletter. For those who would prefer to listen to the Bible being read instead of reading it for yourself, audio files of the Bible being read will also be available on the Church Website.

Why are we doing this?

Like running a marathon, you have a greater chance of success to reach your goal of reading the Bible in a year if you are part of a team. Knowing what is in God's Word helps you navigate through the twists and turns of life in the world as a child of God. Reading the Bible draws you closer to Christ, strengthens your faith, and gives the Holy Spirit room to work in your life! If you read through the Bible back in 2012, my guess is that (like me) you either forgot some (most?) of what you read, or had a hard time understanding some (most?) of it the first time around. Why not do it again? I'll be joining you as we, once again, Read the Bible In A Year in 2016.



Food Bank

Collection for this month's Bridgeville area food bank is Sunday, September 13. The "item of the month" is personal hygiene items. 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.



September Birthdays

1 Evelyn Green

1 Mileah Rose

3 Rita Balach

3 Leah Quinlan

4 Jean Blanco

6 Rex Carter

7 Judith Dames

7 Elaine Ivancza

8 Andrew Klemash

9 Tammy Long

10 Wayne Conn

10 Matthew Oelschlager

10 Ken Schrag

11 James Eckel

11 Grant Geregach

13 Carl Bauer

13 Karyssa Larson

13 Hannah Quinlan

14 Nancy Klemash

14 Rachel Steinbrenner

15 Sophia Gielarowski

17 Catherine Watters

18 Nancy Koester

18 Jim Neil

18 Larry Zreliak

19 Max Gresh



19 James Neil

21 Cletus Kroeger

22 Gene Koop

24 Christopher Malachosky

25 Bernice DeBoe

25 Nathan Morgan

26 Melissa James

27 Marianne Miller

30 Deborah Scott

September Anniversaries



6 Jason & Pam Trentini

13 Johnathan & Andrea Vogel

26 Craig & Deborah Scott

17 Lee & Megan Glasser

18 Robert & Jennifer Liberatore

22 Nathan & Hailey Smidt

26 Tom & Kim Erbrecht

30 Raymond & Rose Steranko

30 Robert & Shelly James

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

September

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTES
September 6	8:00 AM	Frank & Sandy Hervert Darren & Jennifer Elikor & family	Augie Bishop Carley Rockovich
	10:30 AM		
September 13	8:00 AM	George, Jane & Michael Kozak	Matthew Liberatore
	10:30 AM	Norm & Brittany Dill & family	Anna Gresh
September 20	8:00 AM	Carl & Karen Bauer	Josiah Ackerman
	10:30 AM	Eric & Michelle Hunsberger	Lara Luedeman
September 27	8:00 AM	Bill & Melanie Becker	Chris Yellig
	10:30 AM	David & Penney Miller & Family	Carley Rockovich
October 4	8:00 AM	Bernie & Jean Blanco	Augie Bishop
	10:30 AM	Lauren & Kim Luedeman & Family	Anna Gresh
October 11	8:00 AM	Joyce Wood	Matthew Liberatore
	10:30 AM	Lois Klemash	Lara Luedeman

EDERS	Ken Wuerthele & Mike Sterba
ALTAR GUILD	Diana Schmidt Megan Pasquini & Barb Oechslein
USHERS @ 8:00 am	Kathleen Conn, Bill Schrag, Janet & Larry Zreliak
Ushers @ 10:30 am	Sam Dragan, Steve Gauger, Kari & John Gresh

October

EDERS	Ken Wuerthele, Mike Sterba
ALTAR GUILD	Judy Meier, Marianne Miller, Millie Thielet
USHERS @ 8:00 am	Melanie Becker, Bill Becker, Shane Bryant, Michael Kozak
Ushers @ 10:30 am	Michael Kroeger, Vince Kimberland, Lois Sauro, Richard 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.

Did you know that we have an awesome website?

If you haven't checked out our website (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!

E-Blasts: If you are not receiving the E-Blast emails every Monday, please let us know! Email secretary@zlc.org and we will get you on the recipient list. We can't add you if we don't know you aren't on there! E-Blasts are a great way to stay informed about the upcoming events and announcements for each week.

Sunday School News

Sunday school resumes on September 13th! Children ages 3 and up are welcome and encouraged to attend. Opening devotions begin in the sanctuary at 9:15 am.

Our focus this month is about Moses and how God was able to use him for great things. Hey! You are called by God, too! There are lots of ways to respond to God as we trust in his guidance and care.

PARENT AND VOLUNTEER MEETING: We will meet for our Sunday school "Kick-off" meeting on September 13th at 9:15 am in the sanctuary. It is highly recommended for anyone who is a parent of a Sunday school child or who may be interested in volunteering this year to attend.

On the agenda:

- Volunteer Security Clearance Requirements All volunteers who have contact with children are required to obtain Security Clearances. This law includes Sunday school and VBS volunteers.
- Rotation Units Please prayerfully consider volunteering to lead, or help in, a station. There are 7 months to fill. (exclude October, December, and February)
- October Reformation Unit NEW this year! Children will have the opportunity to learn about Martin Luther and the Reformation, make a memorable art craft, and even meet Martin Luther "himself"!
- 2015-2016 Calendar of Events We will review the "year at a glance" together. Ideas are welcome!



Concordia of the South Hills Hosts Open House

Mt. Lebanon, PA – **Concordia of the South Hills** is happy to announce that we are currently featuring newly refurbished one-bedroom traditional apartments at our location on 1300 Bower Hill Rd. in Mt. Lebanon. We continue to offer special financing options. Learn more about why Concordia is the best retirement value in the area on **Sunday, September 13 from 1 – 3 p.m. at our Open House.**

Those in attendance will have the opportunity to tour the building including retirement living apartments as well as personal care and short term rehab/skilled nursing units. Refreshments will be served in our new multi-purpose room.

Please call Jean Ragazzino at 412-278-1300 or register at www.concordialm.org/events-news/CSHsept2015openhouse.

Personal tours are available any time by appointment.

Founded more than 130 years ago, Concordia Lutheran Ministries is a faith-based, CARF-CCAC accredited Aging Services Network and recipient of the inaugural Pennsylvania Department of Aging Excellence in Quality Care Award. As one of the largest, most financially secure senior care providers in the country, the organization serves over 20,000 people annually through home care and inpatient locations. Concordia offers a lifetime continuum of care that includes adult day services, home care, hospice, medical and rehabilitation services, memory support, personal care, respite care, retirement living, skilled nursing, spiritual care and medical equipment.



Men at Pioneer 3 is scheduled for November 12-15th.

If you've never been to one of our Men's Retreats, now is the time to start!

For those who can make it, we'll have a time of fellowship Thursday evening and a day of activities and worship on Friday morning and afternoon. Our "program" will start Friday evening with Bible Study and a bonfire. We'll have a full day of Bible Study, activities and fellowship on Saturday and a closing worship service on Sunday.

The focus of our retreat will be on getting to know Jesus better through studying and discussing his parables from the Gospel of Luke.

Men of all ages are welcome!

We will have pricing information and program details in next month's calendar.

A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex/entryway, or you can call or e-mail Pastor Duncan or the Church Secretaries if you are interested in attending!



~Starting September 15th we will be having "Moms in Prayer" @ 9:00am. We will meet in the conference room! Come join us as we pray together.

Coming soon in October!

Zion will be having a pig roast complete with all the fixings. There will also be s'mores and a movie starting at sun down. Stay tuned for more info coming soon!

