



# Zion Lutheran Monthly

**October 2015**



## WHY ARE WE HERE??

Why are we here?

Really, Pastor, you're going to answer the question of the age and give us the meaning of life in your one page Church Newsletter front page article. Let me get the popcorn, this is going to be good.

No. Not "here." Here. Right here. Where you are. Why does God have you where you are?

We've been studying Baptism in our Back to Basics series for the last several weeks and one of the text we looked at for our Midweek Service of Prayer and Preaching was the baptism of Simon the Magician and the Samaritans by Philip in Acts 8:4-24. It's a fascinating texts with many twists and turns (Simon believes and is baptized, but then makes the unforced error of trying to buy the ability to give the Holy Spirit from the Apostles Peter and John), but what's the most interesting part of the text, I think, is why Philip finds himself among the Samaritans, and what he does once there.

There's not enough time to give a history lesson on the hard feelings between the Jews (of which Philip was one) and the Samaritans (of which Philip was not), suffice it to say the two did not get along. This is why it's a big deal when a Samaritan helps a roughed-up Jew in Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan. And yet, here's Philip, telling them about Jesus, proclaiming the Gospel and baptizing. Why was he there?

Back chapter seven, Stephen is arrested for speaking the name of Jesus and put on trial, where he proclaims the gospel. He is stoned to death and a great persecution against the church arose in Jerusalem, "and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria" (Acts 8:1b). The Christians in Jerusalem were better off fleeing to places like Samaria than to remain in the "holy city."

We've seen pictures of refugees pouring out of war-torn counties like Syria. Desperate for a better live, thousands of refugees risk everything to leave their native land, unsure of the fate that awaits them at their intended destination and unsure if they will reach their final destination at all. This was the plight of the early church too. And when they arrived in places like Samaria, the Christians had a decision to make: would they, for the sake of safety and convenience, keep their faith in Jesus to themselves, or would they put themselves back in the same precarious situation that caused them to flee Jerusalem; would they speak the name of Jesus or not?

Well, we know from history which path the first generation of Christians chose. No sooner did Philip arrive in Samaria than he goes full missionary and "proclaimed to them the Christ" (Acts 8:5).

Why are you here? Let's get back to our original question. The circumstances of how you got to where you are do not determine the reason for why you are there. Whether you are where you are because you want to be, because it is the last link in a long chain of events, or the unfortunate result of difficult events and circumstances, the reason why you are where you are is the speak the name of Jesus. Whether it is to people you like or people you don't particularly care for (it's hard to imagine Philip having warm feelings for the Samaritans in general and Simon the Magician in particular), the reason God has placed the people in our lives as he has is so that we will speak to them the saving name of Jesus. He is why we are here.

In Christ,  
Pastor Duncan McLellan

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# Voters' Meeting



## Voter's Meeting November 1st – Election of Officers

On Sunday, November 1, 2015 the Voter's of Zion will be electing officers to fill the following positions: Chairman, Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, Elders, Trustees, Board of Education, and Events Coordinator

**CRITICAL Officer Positions - We are in need of 3 to 4 men or women to become Trustees. The Trustees are responsible for the oversight and maintenance of the church facilities and property. Please prayerfully consider running for this position.**

Bob Schmidt  
Chairman



*~Join us on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 9:00am in the conference room. We will be praying for our children and the area schools.*

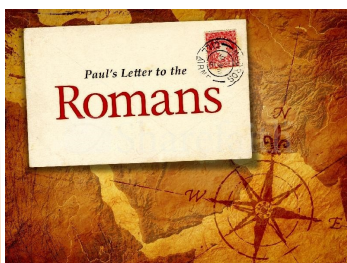
- Oct 4 - Linda Kroeger / Kitt Kroeger / Tess Carter
- Oct 11 - Susie Bishop / Carley Rockovich
- Oct 18 - Carrie Lemonovich / Jenna & Stephanie Eckels
- Oct 25 - Brittany Dill / Megan Glasser
- Nov 1 - Sharon Bogden / Kristen Neill
- Nov 8 - Alissa McLellan / Sydney Harris
- Nov 15 - Jodi Fitzgerald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



Nursery Volunteers

**Nursery  
10:30 Am Service  
Schedule**

## 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

August Income	\$47,053.00
August Expenses	<u>40,452.00</u>
Favorable to Income	\$ 6,601.00



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 to spread the Good News!

Bob Schmidt  
Chairman

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## October is Pastor Appreciation Month!


Did you know that October is Pastor appreciation month? So on behalf of Zion congregation, I would like to publicly thank Pastor Duncan for his spiritual leadership and especially for his outstanding preaching and teaching ministry.

I would also like to encourage each of you to take the time to thank Pastor Duncan for his spiritual leadership this month and throughout the rest of the year.

Bob Schmidt  
Chairman



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The men are going back to Pioneer!  
We're heading up to Angola, New York to Camp Pioneer November 12-15 (or 13-15, if you can't get away Thursday after work). We'll be enjoying a time of recreation, relaxation and fellowship. But more than that, we will spend time in God's Word, listening to the words of Jesus from the parables he taught in the Gospel of Luke. Never been on a men's retreat? Great!  
Been to a bunch of men's retreats? Great!  
Not sure if you want to go? Go!  
There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the church entryway, along with a bulletin for more information. Or you can call or e-mail Pastor Duncan.

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# Food Bank

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



# Back to Basics 2015

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** Did you join us reading the Bible in a year back in 2012? Whether you did or did not, it's always a good time to spend time in God's Word. We'll be reading through the Bible together as a congregation in 2016. Like last time, the readings (and audio recordings of the readings being read) will be available on-line in the worship bulletin and in the monthly newsletter. The sermon on Sunday will be based on the readings for the week. If you've never read through the Bible, now is the time! If you've already read through the Bible, you know what a blessing it is; time to do it again! If you do not have a Bible, or are looking for a good Bible, talk with Pastor or contact the church office! We can hook you up.



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**PIG ROAST 2015**

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup>**  
**4:00 PM Rain or Shine**  
Pig Roast & the fixings  
**BONFIRE, SMORES, DESSERT**  
OUTDOOR MOVIE & POPCORN  
"Little Rascals" Rated [G]  
CHECKS PAYABLE TO ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

**ADULTS \$14.00**  
**KIDS (4-12) \$7.00**  
TICKETS AVAILABLE  
DOWNSTAIRS AND  
OUTSIDE THE SANCTUARY  
BEFORE & AFTER 10:30  
SUNDAY SERVICE

 • BRING A READY TO SERVE DESSERT TO SHARE  
• BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS AND BLANKETS  
• WATER AND KIDS BEVERAGES PROVIDED  
• ADULTS BYOB

# OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



- |                     |                        |                       |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Dale Miller       | 12 Sandra Bryant       |                       |
| 2 Aiden Dibert      | 12 Sheryl Piper        |                       |
| 3 Bill Bishop       | 13 Renee Trudel        |                       |
| 3 Jodi Fitzgerald   | 14 LaVerne Eckles      |                       |
| 3 Dwight Weldon     | 14 Steve Gauger        |                       |
| 4 Stephanie Watkins | 14 Craig Scott         | 21 Lois Sauro         |
| 5 Rebecca Ivancza   | 15 Nathan Boyle        | 22 Jennifer Elikor    |
| 7 Dorthea Heslop    | 15 Kimberly LaJeunesse | 22 Patricia Neill     |
| 7 Carolyn Wible     | 16 Samuel Jenkins      | 23 Kristy Ivancza     |
| 9 Jesse Carter      | 16 Sara Jones          | 26 John Gielarowski   |
| 9 Aaron Hunsberger  | 16 John Lemonovich     | 26 Lindsey Liberatore |
| 10 Daniel Jenkins   | 17 Donald Jones        | 27 David Miller       |
| 10 Diana Schmidt    | 18 Wayne Oechslein     | 29 George Boehme      |
| 11 Robert Long      | 19 Maylee Thomas       | 30 Laurie Coleman     |
| 11 Dylan Walsh      | 19 Carolyn Wuerthele   | 30 Sharon Koop        |

# OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES



- |                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 George & Florence Boehme   | 19 James & Stephanie Eckles   |
| 3 Donald & Sara Jones        | 19 Gregory & Salina Howcroft  |
| 11 Wayne & Kathleen Conn     | 20 James & Sarah Lunch        |
| 13 Ross & Christine Chilcott | 22 Eric & Michelle Hunsberger |
| 15 Paul & Theresa Hayes      | 23 John & Carrie Lemonovich   |
| 18 Wayne & Barbara Oechslein | 26 Roxanne & George Burgh     |
|                              | 30 John & Kathleen Derosa     |

# SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

October

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTES
October 4	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bernie & Jean Blanco Lauren & Kim Luedeman & Family	Augie Bishop TBA
October 11	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Joyce Wood Lois Klemash	Matthew Liberatore Lara Luedeman
October 18	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Sarah Ali Michael & Linda Kroeger	Josiah Ackerman Carley Rockovich
October 25	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Clara Hayes Bob & Diane Schmidt	Augie Bishop Chris Yellig
November 1	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Gene & Sharon Koop Bill & Susie Bishop & family	Matthew Liberatore Lara Luedeman
November 8	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bill & Carole Schrag Janet Hickey	Josiah Ackerman Carley Rockovich

<b>EDERS</b>	Ken Wuerthele, Mike Sterba
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Judy Meier, Marianne Miller, Millie Thielet
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Melanie Becker, Bill Becker, Shane Bryant, Michael Kozak
<b>Ushers @ 10:30 am</b>	Michael Kroeger, Vince Kimberland, Richard Quinlan, Sam Dragan

November

<b>EDERS</b>	John Gielarowski, James Neill
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Kathleen Conn, Mary Hutula
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Larry Zreliak, Dale Miller, Barbara Oechslein, Wayne Oechslein
<b>Ushers @ 10:30 am</b>	Ross Chilcott, Sam Dragan, Dan Harris, Chuck LaJeunesse

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](mailto: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](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)!

**E-Blasts:** If you are not receiving the E-Blast emails every Monday, please let us know! Email [secretary@zlc.org](mailto: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.

# Preschool News

Our school year is off to another great start. We have the highest number of students enrolled in the history of the school...140! Our classes include 1 Stepping Stones class, 2 PreKindergarten classes, 3 PreSchool classes and 3 Small Steps classes.

Starting in October, we will also have 2 Enrichment classes which meet Wednesday afternoons from 11:30 – 2:00. The Enrichment class for our PreKindergarten students concentrates on several components vital to the success of all students entering Kindergarten including language arts and handwriting. Language arts will focus of three main components: listening, reading and speaking. Within these components, the students will work on listening skills, phonics/ beginning reading, rhyming words, opposites, upper/lower case letter recognition, nursery rhymes, poetry awareness and the alphabet. We will also focus on handwriting. We use a program called “Handwriting Without Tears”. This program has unique strategies that work for diverse learners. Letters and numbers are taught in a sequence that makes sense developmentally.

New this year, we are also offering a Science and Social Studies based Enrichment class for our oldest students, the Stepping Stones class. This program is designed to reach outside the traditional PreK/Stepping Stones curriculum and allow the children to learn about the world around them through hands on activities, stories, crafts, cooking, experiments and much more! The Social Studies program will take the students to a different country every month. They will explore the culture, language, holidays, food and traditions of other families around the world. The Science program will choose a famous scientist and/or science concept to learn about each month. They will utilize hands on experiments and books to illustrate these concepts in an age appropriate manner.

Dinner anyone? Mark your calendar for Thursday October 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be having our first ever Spirit Night at Chick-Fil-A. 15% to the total profits from 4:30 – 7:00pm will come back to our school. Please join us during that time. You can eat in, or take out/drive thru. Just mention Zion Lutheran preschool....it's that easy. Hope to see you there!

Blessings,  
Tracey Harris



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## 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](http://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





The Sunday school kids will be learning about Martin Luther and the Reformation in the month of October. Our focus will be on the Bible verse from Romans 1:16 – 17. *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is by faith from the first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith.’”*

### HERE ARE SOME OF THE FUN THINGS THE KIDS GET TO DO!

- LEARN A HYMN WRITTEN BY MARTIN LUTHER
- MAKE A UNIQUE PROJECT TO LEARN ABOUT THE MEANING BEHIND LUTHER’S SEAL
- ENJOY A PRESENTATION BY MARTIN LUTHER “HIMSELF” AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK HIM QUESTIONS
- WATCH AND DISCUSS “A MAN NAMED MARTIN” BY LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES (GRADES 6 – 12) [HTTP://WWW.LHM.ORG/LUTHER/](http://www.lhm.org/luther/)
- ALL OUR OFFERINGS THIS MONTH WILL GO TOWARDS THE WITTENBURG PROJECT. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [HTTP://THEWITTENBERGPROJECT.ORG/](http://thewittenbergproject.org/)

### ZION YOUTH / YOUNG LIFE PARTNERSHIP IS OFF TO A GOOD START!

- ★ BLOW DART BATTLE
- ★ SLIP N SLIDE KICKBALL
- ★ GIANT PIZZA
- ★ YOUNG LIFE LEADERSHIP
- ★ WYLD LIFE POOL PARTY
- ★ CARYLTON + SOUTH FAYETTE FOOTBALL GAMES



Dear Members of Zion,

I want to thank you for all the kindness you have shown to my mom (Iola Schmidt) both while she was attending services and while she was in the nursing home. She loved the church and those of you that shook her hand while taking communion really made her day. I also want to thank those that sent in a donation to the church as I believe that truly would have made my mom happy that she was able to help the church that way. The cards, visits and calls were a highlight in her day. I was also very glad that Pastor Duncan was able to see her and give her communion before she went to her final home. I believe that was her signal it was ok to let go.

God Bless you all,

Sarah Ali

thank  
you!