

Zion Lutheran Monthly

February, 2016



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“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

These opening verses of the 12th Chapter of the book of Romans come after Paul has laid out his case for the Gospel. He has taught the reader that all are guilty of breaking the Law and stand under God’s condemnation and justice. But God sent Jesus, to provide an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world and bring us out from under the control of the sinful nature of the flesh and put us under the controlling influence of the Holy Spirit. Now, in the opening verses of Chapter 12, Paul gives us the practical application or appropriate response to what he has just written. In view of God’s mercy for us in Christ, how are we to live?

It is one thing to choose to die for someone. Whether taking a bullet for a person in battle or on the streets, or rushing back into the burning building, personal perilous sacrifice is a very noble, commendable, honorable thing. And without disparaging the sacrifices made by many selfless individuals, I would be bold to suggest that what Paul describes as the normal Christian life is exponentially more difficult than a single act of self-sacrifice. Paul says that we should consider ourselves “living sacrifices.” We are to give ourselves up for Christ on a continual basis. Everyday we are told to live our lives for Christ.

How do I offer myself as an ongoing offering for God? Paul gives us two ways to do this. First, Paul gives the negative command to not be conformed by the world. Second, he tells us to allow our minds to be transformed by continually renewing them with the Gospel.

I was doing a Skype session with a good friend of mine who is a Lutheran School Teacher. He had a class of High School Seniors who had learned about postmodernism and were wrestling with how to reach out to their friends who do not believe in Jesus. Now, in times past, I would have told them to use logic and reason to show that the Christian faith is the most logical, scientific and reasonable world view. But today (and especially with younger people), I have become more convinced that the best way to make a persuasive case for the Christian faith is to ask people who disagree with it how things are going. And, somewhere along the way, if they are unwilling to admit that things are not moving along as they should, mention the problem of mortality. How does this relate to what Paul said? The world (that is every world view, philosophy, or way of life) entices us to believe that it knows what is best for us. It tells us that we were made for a combination of money, sex, popularity, pleasure and entertainment. It is easy and works for most people; until it doesn’t. But we have been rescued from this empty, lazy and predictable way of life to something better: the challenge and blessing of faith, the sure and certain hope of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the upward calling of a sanctified life.

It’s not an easy thing, to live by faith in the Son of God who loves us and gave himself up for us. It’s easy for us to think that what we see and hear is all there is to reality. And so Paul is careful to tell the reader of Romans to continually transform their minds. This comes from reading God’s Word and surrounding yourself with people who believe in Jesus—coming to worship, participating in small groups, even listening to TV and radio shows that speak the name of Jesus. Faith does not come naturally, it comes supernaturally through the Word of God.

In telling us to offer our bodies as living sacrifices to God, Paul is telling us that we are to follow imperfectly in the perfect footsteps of Christ, who offered his body as a sacrifice—during his life as a living sacrifice, and as the ultimate sacrifice on the cross—and who now lives and reigns to all eternity.

God bless you as you live by faith and present your bodies as a living sacrifice to the one who sacrifices even his life for you.

--Pastor Duncan McLellan

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

VOTERS' MEETING

On Sunday January 24, the Voters' Assembly of Zion Lutheran Church met to discuss and vote on the proposed changes to the ZLCB Constitution and Bylaws. Unfortunately, a quorum was not established so no action was taken. A Special Voters' Meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 6th between services at which time action will be taken on the proposed changes. Please mark this date on your calendar.

Church, Mission & Synod (CMS) & Plate Finances

November Income	\$42,952.68
November Expenses	<u>49,270.16</u>
Unfavorable to Income	(\$6,317.48)

December Income	\$49,007.70
December Expenses	<u>46,536.66</u>
Favorable to Income	\$2,471.04

At the end of December, we have a cash position totaling \$10,088.55. The Growth Fund balance is \$50,571 divided among 7 designated funds and undesignated memorials.

Continue to pray for Zion that we are able to grow our community outreach ministry, support local and international charities and Christian education for youth and adults. May God guide us in using these gifts and our talents for the remainder of this year.

Jay Anderson



THANK YOU to the church and school staff! (Tracey, Joe, Mark, Megan, Amanda, Jim, Sandy, Kim and Brent.) You are all doing a great job in your different callings here at Zion; I hope you can see the good things that are happening through what you are doing in service to Christ through the ministry of the church.

We also have a great group of re-elected and newly elected volunteer leadership here at Zion (Jay, Vince, John G, John L, Kim A, Kim L, Nancy, Katie, Brittany and Tracey), as well as a number of boards (Council, Elders, Trustees, Education, Sunday School, Events and others) and groups (Stephen Ministry, Women's and Men's Bible Study, Youth, Altar Guild, Ushers, Assimilation and others). Thanks to the many people who serve on these boards and groups, and who are unified around our mission to educate, empower and equip disciples of Jesus to spread the Gospel!

*We would like to thank you all for your very generous Christmas gift!
It is a privilege to serve in Christ's Church and to have the support of our congregation.
God's blessings as we continue to walk together by faith and speak the saving name of Jesus into the world that he loved enough to take on flesh and die for.*

In Christ,

Your Church Staff

<i>Duncan McLellan</i>	<i>Megan Pasquini</i>	<i>Jim Oelschlager</i>	<i>Sandra Quinlan</i>
<i>Mark Killinger</i>	<i>Amanda Haesemeier</i>	<i>Joe Faini</i>	

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. We continue to experience the blessings growth at Zion. We are adding an afternoon PreKindergarten class for next year, in addition to our afternoon preschool class. 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 1st. 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.

Every January we celebrate Lutheran School Week. We started the week with 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 named mouse, a super cute and furry rabbit, named Roscoe, Maize the corn snake and a bearded dragon! The rest of Lutheran Schools Week involved PJ day, backwards 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.

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 or "**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,

Tracey Harris

younglife.

Pittsburgh Campaigner Weekend 2016

Get ready for an
incredible weekend!
February 26-28, 2016
Marriott @Robinson Area

Just fill out the form and either turn it in with your
payment to your leader or mail to Young Life office
by Feb 15th
Young Life
816 Middle Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

IF YOU ARE IN HIGH SCHOOL AND ARE INTERESTED IN GOING WITH ME (JOE) TO YOUNG LIFE'S CAMPAIGNER WEEKEND PLEASE CONTACT JOE @ YOUTH@ZLCB.ORG. THERE WILL BE A COUPLE HUNDRED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT FROM AROUND PITTSBURGH FOR WHAT'S GOING TO BE A MORE IN DEPTH LOOK AT FOLLOWING JESUS. AND, IT HAPPENS TO BE RIGHT IN OUR BACK YARD AT THE ROBINSON AREA MARRIOTT.

BLOW DART BATTLE RECAP:

Sunday Jan. 24 we paired up with Brigam, from Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center, & Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for big Blow Dart Battle! It was a high energy mess of fun for kids and adults! At the end I was able to get up and talk about Jesus' interaction with Levi (Matthew) the tax collector. Jesus intentionally walks up to Levi and asks him to, "Follow Me," two words that I think Jesus asks us all the time.

I encouraged the kids to do 2 things:

1- Ask themselves this tough question: "Do I really believe that Jesus is worth following?"

2- Read the book of Matthew from Levi's (Matthew's) perspective to get an idea of what it was like to follow Jesus as a disciple.



Zion Youth News



What? Zion Youth Group: **MINUTE TO WIN IT Night!**

When? Feb. 21, **5:30-7:00pm**

Where? Zion Lutheran Church - 3197 Washington Pike, Bridgeville

Who? Anyone in Middle or High School

Cost? \$0

Change in Time!
Now:
1:45-4:00pm



Zion Youth Group
Feb 7, 1:45-4:00pm

Schedule: Drop off at Flight Trampoline Park:

1401 Washington Pike Suite #200, Bridgeville, PA 15017 - Behind Kmart

@ 1:45pm, Jump from 2-3:00pm. Walk to Kmart for Little Caesars Pizza.

Pick up from Kmart at 4:00pm.

Cost: \$18 - 1 Hour Jump + Socks

IMPORTANT: If you are interested in going please contact Joe: youth@zlc.org

Please then go to Flight's website: <http://flighttrampolinepark.com/pittsburgh>

and **Sign the Waiver** online!

Who: Anyone in Middle or High School

Questions - Concerns

Contact Joe Faini

youth@zlc.org





Sunday school has dedicated the whole month of February to missions: local, global and even right here at Zion!

Here is what we are doing:

- Sunday, January 31st - Homemade cards for Zion's home bound and sick
- Sunday, February 7th - Operation: Stars and Stripes assembly
- Sunday, February 14th - Luther's Seal ornament assembly
- Sunday, February 21st - Field trip to Broadmore Senior Center to sing, teach about Luther's Seal, distribute ornaments, meet and greet residents.

Upcoming March unit will focus on Mary of Bethany.

Anyone interested in helping out, please contact Katie Gielarowski or Zion's secretary.

♪♪♪ ZION MUSIC NOTES ♪♪♪

The music ministry at Zion Lutheran Church has big plans for 2016! We hope that you enjoy listening to the Adult Choir, Children’s Choir, Reverence (a.k.a M@ZE), and the various solo/duet performances by many of our talented church members. The goal for this year is to create another performing group that is accessible for just about anyone....Bell Choir! Musical talent/experience is not required to participate in this group. However, we need to purchase the bells before we start recruiting “ringers”. The approximate cost for a standard 3 octave set of bells is \$12,000 which includes not only the bells themselves, but protective cases, performance tables, foam mats, music stands, gloves, polishing materials, and music. Whew!

Last October church council established a bell choir account for anyone that would like to contribute to this area of the music ministry. If you would like to give to this ministry, please make a note on your check or offering envelope that you wish to give to the bell choir account. We are also providing an opportunity for members to “buy a bell” in honor or memory of loved ones or your family. The price for the “buy a bell program” is \$325 per bell. If you would like to participate in this program, please include the information below with your contribution.

Thank you again for all of your support of the music ministry here at Zion Lutheran Church!

Mark Killinger

Buy a Bell Program

Person making the contribution: _____

Person(s) or family for whom the bell is in honor/ memory: _____

*Please make check payable to Zion Lutheran Church and make a note that the gift is for the bell choir account.



Service Participants

Date	Time	Greeters	Acolytes	Nursery
February 7	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Wayne & Barb Oechslein Eric & Michelle Hunsberger & family	Matthew Liberatore Lara Luedeman	Alissa McLellan & Carley Rockovich
February 14	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Dale & Alice Miller Chuck & Debra LaJeunesse	Augie Bishop Carley Rockovich	Susie Bishop & Sydney Harris
February 21	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bill & Melanie Becker Sam Dragan	Chris Yellig Anna Gresh	Carrie Lemonovich & Jen- na & Stephanie Eckels
February 28	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Clara Hayes John & Kari Gresh & Family	Augie Bishop Leah Luedeman	Brittany Dill & Sharon Bogden
March 6	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Joyce Wood Vince & Ginny Kimberland	Matt Liberatore Lara Luedeman	Lara Luedeman & Megan Pasquini
March 13	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Gene & Sharon Koop Michael & Linda Kroeger	Joey Ackerman Carley Rockovich	Kristen Neill & Marian Oelschlager

Month	Elders	Altar Guild	8:00 AM Ushers	10:30 AM Ushers
February	Paul Klemash & Shane Bryant	Janet & Marian Oelschlager Sarah Ali	Melanie Becker, Bill Becker, Shane Bryant, Michael Kozak	Vince Kimberland, Bill Koester, Loren Ludeman, Richard Quinlan
March	Bill Bishop & Peter Fisher	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Brian Pasquini, Dale Miller, Barbara Oechslein, Wayne Oechslein	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 of the change.



Visit our website for past sermons, informative videos, thought-provoking articles, pictures from recent church events, and updated information about upcoming events. Check it out: zlc.org

February Birthdays

1 Amber Seibel

2 Katherine Neil

4 Virginia Kimberland

5 Hope Mance

5 Alice Miller

6 Tracey Harris

6 Londyn Luedeman

9 Nancy Gielarowski

9 Michele Jenkins

10 Dorothy Smelko

11 Jenna Eckles

12 Darren Elikor

12 Kitt Kroeger

13 Tracey Coyle

13 Benji Ivancza

13 Charles LaJeunesse

17 Andy Thompson

18 Sarah Erbrecht

20 Kathy Pallaria

21 Joyce Wood

25 Gladys Kolljeski

25 Betty Valentino

26 Tom Erbrecht

27 Kathleen Conn

27 Kristen Neil

28 Bryson Nicodemus

29 William Becker



February Anniversaries



Happy
Anniversary

28 Paul & Evelyn Green

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



Food Bank

Collection for this month's Bridgeville area food bank is Sunday, February 14. 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 7:45 am and 12:00 pm at Bethany Presbyterian Church.



To the Members of Zion Lutheran Church:

Thank you for the generous donations during the year of 2015. It is the kindness and community spirit of people like you that allow the doors of the Food Bank to remain open. Please know that your donations help to provide much needed food for those less fortunate than ourselves. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

The Bridgeville Area Food Bank is an all volunteer mission serving the needy families in our area, operating through donations and food drives. We could not assist those in need each month without the donations and support of individuals, churches, and businesses in our local communities.

May God bless you,

Rita B. Rozell

Treasurer, Bridgeville Area Food Bank





February, 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:00 PM Children's Choir 7:30 PM Adult Choir	4 7:00 pm Prayer, Preaching, and Romans Bible Study	5 10:00 am Bible Study	5	6
7 Transfiguration of Our Lord 8:00 am Worship w/ Communion 9:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 12:00 pm Board of Education 1:45 PM - Youth Event Flight Trampoline (Bridgeville)	8 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting	9 9:00 am Moms in Prayer 6:00 pm Children's Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	10 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	11 10:00 am Bible Study 7:30 pm Church Council Meeting	12	13
14 First Sunday of Lent 8:00 am Worship w/ Communion 9:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion & Children's Church 12:00 pm Events Committee Meeting FOOD BANK COLLECTION	15	16 6:00 pm Children's Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	17 7:00 pm Lenten Worship	18 10:00 am Bible Study	19	20 8:00 AM Men's Bible Breakfast 6:00 PM Family Fun Night (Pot Luck, Magician & Trivia)
21 Second Sunday of Lent 8:00 am Worship w/ Communion 9:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 5:00 pm Youth Event - Minute to Win It	22	23 9:00 am Moms in Prayer 6:00 pm Children's Choir 6:30 pm Sunday School Meeting 7:30 pm Adult Choir	24 7:00 pm Lenten Worship	25 10:00 am Bible Study	26	27 8:00 AM Men's Bible Breakfast
28 Third Sunday of Lent 8:00 am Worship w/ Communion 9:15 am Voter's Meeting 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion & Children's Church	29	<p>This is love, not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.</p> <p>1 John 4:10</p>				



Zion Lutheran Church

3197 Washington Pike
Bridgeville, PA 15017
Phone: 412-221-4776
Web: zlcb.org



Sunday morning worship at 8:00am and 10:30am



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