

Zion Lutheran Monthly



March 2016

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Contemporary Philosophy and the Resurrection of Jesus

“Pastor, my son came home from school today and asked me what we believe about dinosaurs.” “Pastor, my daughter came home from school today and asked me what we believe about evolution.” “Pastor, the guy I work with wants to know if we believe in marriage equality.” “Pastor, my parents asked me if we believe in angels.” I love my job and the questions I get asked. I get excited when I hear the words, “Pastor, do you have time to meet? There’s something important I want to talk with you about.” Behind every serious question is a person with a life story, questions about

their faith, and a unique lens through which they see the world. Every serious question presents an opportunity to bring glory to God by speaking the name of Jesus.

For this month’s newsletter article, I want to address what I think is the major, unarguable flaw in the contemporary philosophy that challenges our faith on so many fronts. What is strange is that this “contemporary philosophy” has been around since the beginning of humanity. Every generation believes it has surpassed the one before it in wisdom and knowledge to a degree that renders all previous ages primitive and simple. Today, people are certain that the universe is 14.6 billion years old, that all life evolved from a common ancestor, and that it all came into existence from the “Big Bang.” Today, people are certain that the major world views, religions and philosophies that came before it represent less educated thinking and were based on inferior knowledge. We are advanced; they were backwards. We are moving forward! We must leave the past behind. Relativism replaced modernism, which replaced rationalism, which replaced what came before it. What is new is better; in material goods as well as human thought and expression.

How Contemporary Philosophy sees the world is constantly changing, it is always evolving. Every new revelation changes the lens through which the world sees itself and replaces what came before it. But most people cannot see that it has always been this way and that what is believed to be true today is just the next thing to be replaced by what is discovered to be true tomorrow.

But it doesn’t have to be this way. This month, we celebrate the resurrection of Christ. That is, the singular event in human history that fundamentally changes the way we see the world, God’s role in it, and what our future holds. The resurrection of Christ destroys what we thought we know about being human, bends the laws of nature to God’s will, and gives us a lens through which to see the world that is radically different than every Contemporary Philosophy that came before it, or that has come since. Death has been defeated. It is tragic, but it is not final. That God raised Jesus means more than that he is real; it means that he is concerned with the affairs of the people living on the third rock from the sun. It means we matter to him. The resurrection of Christ does not need to accommodate itself to whatever the Contemporary Philosophy is; it stands apart from the always-changing opinions of men, judges them, and renders them all inadequate to wrestle with the longings and desires of human hearts.

Christ is risen!

-Pastor Duncan

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Voters' Meeting

A Special Voters' Meeting will be held at 9:30 am on Sunday March 6th. We will be voting on proposed changes to the ZLCB Constitution. We will also discuss the potential for participating in the Vicarage Program once again for the upcoming year. Please plan to attend this meeting.



Council Meeting

At the Council Meeting held on February 11th, two committees were approved. The Budget Committee for the fiscal year 2016/2017 will be meeting in the coming months to develop and present the preliminary budget to Council. The budget will be brought to the Voters' Assembly for approval at the meeting scheduled for June 26th.

An exploratory committee was established to develop a framework for potential upgrades to the kitchen in the fellowship hall. This committee will report back to the Council once they have identified needed improvements, associated costs and suggestions as to how to pay for any proposed renovations.

Church, Mission & Synod (CMS) & Plate Finances

January Income	\$68,845.24
January Expenses	<u>48,828.39</u>
Favorable to Income	\$20,016.85



At the end of January, we have a cash position totaling \$29,819.76. The Growth Fund balance is \$51,143 divided among 7 designated funds and undesignated memorials.

Although our financial situation is currently stable, please pray for Zion's ability to grow our community outreach ministry, support local and international charities and Christian education for youth and adults. May our Lord continue to bless the ministries and all members of the congregation at Zion Lutheran Church Bridgeville.

Jay Anderson

Chairman

Hey Zion!

We've been given a tremendous opportunity to serve our sister congregations, encourage the faith of our extended church family, and even reach the greater Pittsburgh Community with the Gospel, but we need your help.

The Pittsburgh Lutheran is looking for new editors.

What is the Pittsburgh Lutheran? The Pittsburgh Lutheran is produced by PALM (Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries) to inform the LCMS congregations in Pittsburgh what the other LCMS congregations in Pittsburgh are doing. It is a monthly publication.

What do the editors do? Three things. First, they send out monthly e-mails to the LCMS congregations, reminding them when their articles are due. When articles arrive (via e-mail), they arrange and format the articles to fit into the newsletter template. And lastly, they send the finished product to the printer who copies and distributes the magazine. In all, it takes about 8 hours per month.

What are we looking for? A team of Zion volunteers to take on the project. You would not personally be responsible for everything, but would work with a team to get it done, improve the product over time, and be part of an effort to inform and encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ who belong to sister congregations in the Pittsburgh area.

Do I need to be a professional journalist, writer or editor? No. Anyone who can send e-mail and be willing to be trained to learn the software that formats the magazine, who has a heart for outreach and mission, and who has a desire to serve would be a valuable team member.

What is the commitment? The total time it takes to gather, edit and arrange is 8 hours. Depending on the size and ability of the team, an individual's responsibilities could be very minimal (sending out an e-mail). We are not asking for a large commitment; ideally we will have a team that can spread the work around.

If you are interested, or would like to learn more, please contact Pastor Duncan or the church office.





Greetings from the Preschool!

Happy March! We love March here at Zion Preschool. It's a time when we focus on Spring and all the new signs of life that come with Spring. Our biggest lesson this month will be spent on the Easter story. I have the pleasure of teaching the chapel lesson this month, and honestly, it is my favorite lesson to teach. I use a set of plastic Easter eggs, each filled with an item that helps tell the story. The children are so excited to see what is in each egg, but will not understand why the last egg is empty, at least, not at first. "Mrs. Tracey....did you forgot to put something in the last egg?" This is what I usually hear when I open the last empty egg. I then explain that the last egg represents the empty tomb on Easter morning...Jesus is alive and we have new life in Him!

We also focus on the color green, and 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.*

We will be starting a new mission project in March, as well. It's called "Feed my starving children". We are partnering with South Fayette School District to feed as many starving children around the world as possible. Each child will go home with an M&Ms tube filled with mini candies which they can enjoy with their family. When all the candy is gone, we are asking each family to fill the empty tube with quarters and return it to Zion. If the tube is filled with quarters it will feed 63 children as it is only 22 cents per meal! I will be going to each classroom during Jesus Time to talk about this project. Children are always so eager to help other children... I think it will be a huge success.

Registration continues to go very well. We currently have 131 children signed up for the 2016/2017 school year and it's only March. Gooooo Zion!!

*Blessings,
Tracey*



"TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M NOT EVEN THAT HUNGRY... BUT WHEN I SEE THOSE MARBLES, I JUST LOSE IT."



Zion Youth Group Hungry Hungry Hippos



When? **Sunday, March 6**
Time? **5-7:00pm**
Who? Anyone in Middle or High School
Where? Zion Lutheran Church
3197 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA

Questions?
Contact Joe Faini:
youth@zlcg.org

GLOW IN THE DARK DODGEBALL



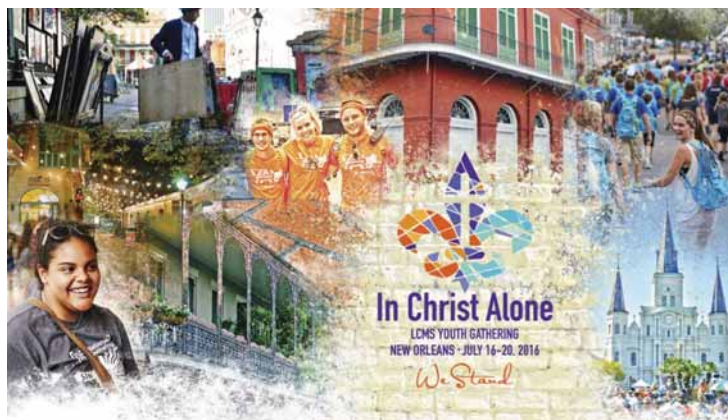
Where? Zion Lutheran Church
When? Sun, March 20 5-7:00pm
Who? Anyone in Middle or High School

Contact Joe Faini for more info:
youth@zlcg.org



Zion Youth News

Minute it 2 Win it Fun!



WE ARE GOING!

WHO? ANYONE AGE 14-19 [At the time of the event]
WHEN? JULY 16-20, 2016
WHERE? NEW ORLEANS, LA
WHAT? EVERY 3 YEARS: ALMOST 30,000 YOUTH
GATHER TOGETHER TO WORSHIP, SERVE, AND LEARN
ABOUT JESUS!

Check Out

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_xJrnbljMP8
More info to come!

****If you're interested in going****

Please contact Joe Faini:
youth@zlcg.org

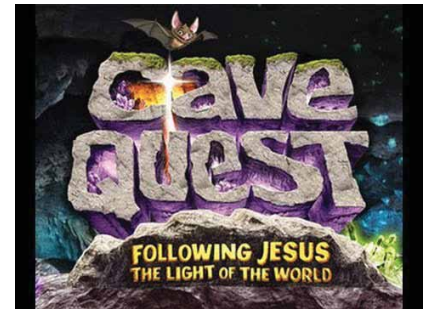
Zion Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod 



OPERATION STARS AND STRIPES was another HUGE success! With donations from Zion's members and preschool families, the Sunday school children were able to assemble 264 bags of love! We were able to collect: Granola Bars = 370; Ramen Noodles = 344; Slim Jims = 264; Drink Singles = 269; Twizzlers = 360 Gum = 263; and 300 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 encouragement and words of gratitude. Thank you to all who participated and shared the love of Jesus around the world!

MARCH UNIT: MARY OF BETHANY When Jesus came to visit his good friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus in Bethany, Mary recognized Jesus as the Messiah. She responded to his love by anointing Jesus' feet with oil. Through this Bible story children will learn about customs among the Jewish people of Jesus' day such as foot washing, anointing, and preparation for burial. Children will be encouraged to consider ways that they can worship God and ways they can honor Jesus by caring for others. Bible verse focus is from Romans 12: 10 "Love one another with brotherly affections. Outdo one another in showing honor."

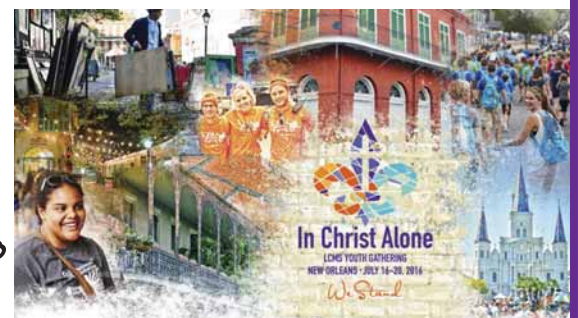
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Mark your calendars for CAVE QUEST – June 20 – 24, 2016!



Paperwork and Deposit are due!!

Please turn in your paperwork with a \$100 deposit check (checks made out to Zion Lutheran Church, Memo line: NYG)

If you have any questions please email or talk to Joe - youth@zlcb.org



WE ARE GOING!

WHO? ANYONE AGE 14-19 [At the time of the event]

WHEN? JULY 16-20, 2016

WHERE? NEW ORLEANS, LA

WHAT? EVERY 3 YEARS: ALMOST 30,000 YOUTH GATHER TOGETHER TO WORSHIP, SERVE, AND LEARN ABOUT JESUS!

Check Out

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_xJrnbIjMP8
More info to come!

"If you're interested in going"

Please contact Joe Faini:
youth@zlcb.org



MARCH Reading PLAN

Read the Bible in a Year!

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1: Numbers 16-18; Psalm 61 | 10: Deuteronomy 7-9; Psalm 70 | 22: Luke 6-7; Psalm 82 |
| 2: Numbers 19-21; Psalm 62 | 11: Deuteronomy 10-12; Psalm 71 | 23: Luke 8-9; Psalm 83 |
| 3: Numbers 22-24; Psalm 63 | 12: Deuteronomy 13-15; Psalm 72 | 24: Luke 10-11; Psalm 84 |
| 4: Numbers 25-27; Psalm 64 | 13: Deuteronomy 16-18; Psalm 73 | 25: Luke 12-13; Psalm 85 |
| 5: Numbers 28-30; Psalm 65 | 14: Deuteronomy 13-21; Psalm 74 | 26: Luke 14-15; Psalm 86 |
| 6: Numbers 31-33; Psalm 66 | 15: Deuteronomy 22-24; Psalm 75 | 27: Luke 16-17; Psalm 87 |
| 7: Numbers 34-36; Psalm 67 | 16: Deuteronomy 25-27; Psalm 76 | 28: Luke 18-19; Psalm 88 |
| 8: Deuteronomy 1-3; Psalm 68 | 17: Deuteronomy 28-30; Psalm 77 | 29: Luke 20-21; Psalm 89 |
| 9: Deuteronomy 4-6; Psalm 69 | 18: Deuteronomy 31-34; Psalm 78 | 30: Luke 22;
Psalm 90 |
| | 19: Luke 1; Psalm 79 | 31: Luke 23-
24; Psalm 91 |
| | 20: Luke 2-3; Psalm 80 | |
| | 21: Luke 4-5; Psalm 81 | |



🎵 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
March 6	8:00 AM	Brent & Marianne Miller & Millie Thielet	Matt Liberatore Lara Luedeman	Marian Oelschlager & Megan Pasquini
	10:30 AM	Vince & Ginny Kimberland		
March 9 Lenten Service	7:00 PM		Elder	
March 13	8:00 AM	Gene & Sharon Koop	Joey Ackerman Carley Rockovich	Tess Carter Linda & Kitt Kroeger
	10:30 AM	Michael & Linda Kroeger		
March 16 Lenten Service	7:00 PM		Elder	
March 20 Palm Sunday	8:00 AM	Wayne & Kathleen Conn	Chris Yellig Anna Gresh	Kristen Neill Alissa McLellan
	10:30 AM	Bill & Susie Bishop & Family		
March 23 Lenten Service	7:00 PM		Elder	
March 27 Easter Sunday	8:00 AM	Bernice DeBoe	Matt Liberatore, Joey Ackerman Crucifer: Chris Yellig Augie Bishop, Carley Rockovich Crucifer: Bill Bishop	EASTER
	10:30 AM	Norm & Brittany Dill & Family		
April 3	8:00 AM	Bill & Carole Schrag	Matt Liberatore Leah Luedeman	Megan Glasser, Carrie Lemonovich
	10:30 AM	Elsie DallaPiazza		
April 10	8:00 AM 10:30 PM	Bob & Diana Schmidt Kristen Neill	Joey Ackerman Anna Gresh	Megan Pasquini & Marian Oelschlager

Month	Elders	Altar Guild	8:00 AM Ushers	10:30 AM Ushers
March	Bill Bishop & Peter Fisher	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Brian Pasquini, Dale Miller, Barbara & Wayne Oechslein	Ross Chilcott, Sam Dragan, Dan Harris, Chuck LaJeunesse
April	Michael Sterba & Robert Schmidt	Debra LaJeunesse, Carrie Lemonovich, & Carolyn Wible	Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, Ron Meier, Jack Oelschlager	Loren Ludeman, Vince Kimberland, Kari & John Gresh

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

March Birthdays



1 Evelyn Binder

4 Lori Gauger

5 Jared Fitzgerald

5 Sandy Hervert

5 Deborah Sterba

7 Robert James

8 Lee Glasser

8 Mark Oelschlager

11 Michael Sterba



12 Caitlyn Thompson

12 Jonathan Vogel

14 Susie Bishop

15 Braeden Boyle

15 Mason Thompson

16 Carol Pracel

16 Claire Schrag

17 Gregory Howcroft

18 Joseph Gielarowski



22 Nathan Smidt II

23 Mia Case

23 Peter Fisher

23 Mark Killinger

24 Bonnie Lewis

25 Ruth Miller

26 Katie Gielarowski

26 Nancy Spotti

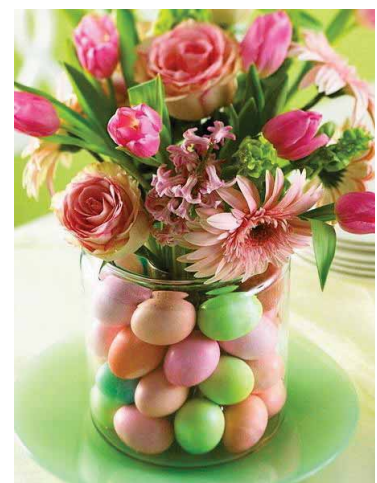
27 Christian Vogel

March Anniversaries

4 Bill & Carol Schrag

26 Tim & Rita Sheldon

29 Brian & Megan Pasquini



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, March 13. The "item of the month" is fruit (canned and dried).

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.



Easter Flower Orders~

Easter Sunday is March 27th

If you would like to order flowers to decorate the church for Easter, please fill out this form and place it with your payment in the Flower Collection Box in the narthex. The last day to order flowers is Sunday, March 13th. You may take your flowers home with you after the 10:30 am service on Easter Sunday.

Please make checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Flowers Offered

Hyacinths	\$8.00 each
Tulips	\$8.00 each
Mums	\$8.00 each
Lilies	\$8.00 each
Azaleas	\$20 each
Hydrangeas	\$20 each





March 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree.</i></p> <p><i>1 Peter 2:24</i></p>		<p>1</p> <p>6:00 pm Children's Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm Women's Bible study</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 pm Lent Service</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Elders Meeting</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast</p>
<p>6 Fourth Sunday of Lent</p> <p>8:00 am Worship w/ Communion 9:30 am Sunday School & Voters Meeting 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 5:00 pm - Youth Event - Hungry Hungry Hippos</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 pm Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:00 pm Children's Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm Women's Bible study</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 pm Lent Service</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study 7:30 pm Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast</p>
<p>13 Fifth Sunday of Lent</p> <p>8:00 am Worship w/ Communion 9:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion & Children's Church 11:45 am Board of Education Meeting</p> <p>FOOD BANK COLLECTION</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00 pm Children's Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm Women's Bible study</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 pm Lent Service</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast</p>
<p>20 Palm Sunday</p> <p>8:00 am Worship w/ Communion 9:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 5:00 pm Youth Event - Glow in the Dark Dodge Ball</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:00 pm Children's Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 pm Lent Service</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00 pm Good Friday Service</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 Easter Sunday</p> <p>8:00 am Worship w/ Communion 9:14 am Easter Breakfast 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion & Children's Church</p> 	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:00 pm Children's Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study</p>	<p><i>He is not here, for he has risen, as he said.</i></p> <p><i>Matthew 28:6</i></p>	
	<p><i>Zion Lutheran Church</i></p>		<p>3197 Washington Pike Bridgeville, PA 15017 Phone: 412-221-4776 Web: zlcb.org</p>			