

Zion Lutheran Monthly

February 2017



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Vicar's Corner

Where do you go for comfort? In times of great trial and tribulation, what is it that you look to? As Christians, the obvious answer is that we look to Jesus. Maybe another question is in order. How do you look to Jesus for comfort? There are many ways to be comforted by Christ. We experience many of them on Sunday morning. We hear God's Word preached and by faith we receive the message of salvation. Our sins are forgiven and we depart at peace with God. We console one another with the good news of Christ and our new identity in him. There are other ways as well, recalling the Gospel on your own,

reading God's Word, listening to a sermon. Another place we can go for comfort is to the promise that God made to us in our baptisms.

Baptism is the power of God. In Baptism God acts, uniting you with the death and resurrection of Jesus. In Baptism, you are washed, cleansed from sin that has made you unacceptable in God's sight. In Baptism you are saved, rescued from the kingdom of darkness. Baptism "works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe". When faced with difficulty and trial we can run to our Baptism for assurance that we are children of God and for endurance against the schemes of the Devil. Not only is Baptism the power of God unto salvation but it is a weapon against sin, death, and the devil. The baptized child of God can look to Baptism to soothe his or her guilty conscience. The baptized child of God can look to Baptism as encouragement to avoid sin and evil on the basis of his or her new identity in Christ (Romans 6). The baptized child of God can rejoice in the promise of eternal life, victory over death, given in his or her Baptism.

In the coming month, we are going to be spending time in our Bible Studies looking at God's gift of Baptism. In our Wednesday Evening Bible Study we will explore Baptism, starting with the Old Testament foundations for Baptism and moving to what Jesus, Paul, and Peter say about Baptism. We'll also be reading Robert Kolb's book on Baptism (see page XXXX for more on this book). We'll have a baptism during our worship service and discuss baptism in our sermons as the weeks move on. You are baptized! You are God's own child! May these blessings encourage, comfort, and motivate you!

-Vicar Joshua

Chairman's Report

Special Voters Meeting – Sunday, February 12

There will be a **Special Voters meeting on Sunday, February 12, at 9:00 AM to 10:15 AM**. The purpose of this Voters meeting is to present a number of candidates to be considered by the congregation for a call to Zion. The Voters meeting will be between services in the church sanctuary to ensure that we have a quorum of qualified voting members who are part of this important selection process of calling our next Pastor.

Please pray that God will guide us in selecting the next Shepard to lead Zion ministry.

Church, Mission & Synod (CMS) & Plate Finances

December Income	\$62,617.73
December Expenses	<u>\$57,499.36</u>
Favorable to Income	\$ 5,118.37

Fiscal Year Income	\$345,849.08
Fiscal Year Expenses	\$320,561.33

Tuition from Early Childhood Development Program and weekly offerings are at budget or slightly ahead. Overall income and expenses are both ahead of budget year to date.

The various Growth Funds continue to have a strong cash positions. We also continue to transfer money into the Pastor vacancy fund to cover moving and miscellaneous expense for a new Pastor. Overall, Zion's financial situation continues to be solid.

Please continue to pray for Zion and support our ministries with your time, talents and treasures. May God continue to bless us during a Pastoral vacancy.

Parsonage Repairs & Renovation Project

The Trustees received quotes for the repair and renovation for the parsonage. The project will include new flooring, tread and risers on stairs, new sub floor in both bathrooms, cabinets in bathroom and new lighting. The project should take about a 2½ week to complete.

Thank you – Anderson's

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jay and Kim Anderson for their leadership over the past 10 years. May God continue to bless Jay and Kim, as they start a new chapter in their professional and Christian journey.

Bob Schmidt
Chairman

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Special
**VOTERS'
MEETING**

Preschool News!

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.

We started February with a visit from the Pittsburgh zoo for the Small Steps and the Preschool classes... they left the polar bears and penguins at the zoo, but brought some cute animals for us to pet and learn about. We got to see and pet a chinchilla named Mouse and a super cute and furry rabbit, named Roscoe. Our PreKindergarten and Stepping Stones classes had a visit from Snapology. Snapology uses a mixture of activities using building toys (legos) that combine play with education. The students build fun and simple models using DUPLO blocks. By playing and manipulating the models, they experience pulleys, leavers, gears, wheels and axels while exploring energy, buoyancy and balance. The program we did was called Jr. Engineers. They had to listen to instructions step by step to build a push car using the levers, gears, axels and wheels...what a blast. They program finished with car races....oh the competition!

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



Zion Youth News and Events

We had a blast the other day for our first combined St. Clair / Lebo / South Fayette Middle School event! We went bowling, played laser tag, arcade games, ate pizza, and traveled on a bus all for \$15! It was great relational time with the kids and at the end of the night we were able to hear about how much we are worth to God. In the same way a twenty dollar bill is still worth twenty dollars even if it's crumpled up and dirty, so we are still worth a great deal to God despite being sinful!



Duck Tape
A Mix between Hockey and LAX

Paddle Ball

When? Feb. 17
Where? Basement of Zion Lutheran Church
Who? Anyone in Middle Sch.
Address? 3197 Washington Pike
Time? 8-10pm
Food? Pizza!
Cost? \$0

younglife
wylolife

**Join us for
our upcoming
events!!**

Black Light Night

younglife
wylolife

When? March 30
Where? Basement of Zion Lutheran Church
Who? Anyone in 6-8th Grade
Time? 8-10pm
Address? 3197 Washington Pike, Bridgeville
Food? Pizza!
Cost? \$0

Wear something
White or Neon

Christian Schools

Are they Relevant in our Church, our Community, our Culture?

Zion Lutheran Church has a rich tradition of educating men, women and children in the faith, thanks be to God! Teaching has been a core component of our church for many years through Sunday School classes, adult and youth Bible studies throughout the week, and of course, worship services.

What about Christian schools? Where do they fit in the church today, and the lives of its members?

Christian schools integrate a child's academic growth with spiritual growth realizing that children thrive when their minds and souls are fed in a complementary manner. As a member of Zion's Preschool Board of Education and Jubilee Christian School's Board of Trustees (K-8th grade), I have seen the life-changing effect Christian schools have on children, including my own.

At Zion's preschool, and at Christian elementary/secondary schools like Jubilee, it's all about the Gospel. Students learn about God, His love for them in Jesus Christ, and why HE MATTERS in their everyday lives ... no matter what discipline they're learning, or in which activity they're participating. At Christian schools, students live in the reality that Christ is relevant beyond Sunday mornings. He matters when they're studying math on Tuesday because He is a God of order ... and in science lab on Thursday afternoon, and history on Wednesday, and even when a conflict arises that must be dealt with in the Principal's office after school. Christ is Lord of all ... Lord of all knowledge, all achievement, Lord of the universe. As Paul says in the first chapter of Colossians, "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."



The good news is that Christian schools are relevant in our world, today more than ever. And, they are alive and vibrant in places like Zion, and throughout the Pittsburgh area. They are helping to build a faith foundation in students from Christian homes, preparing young hearts and minds for service to the Church and the community at large. Luther understood their importance 500 years ago when he wrote, **"For the sake of the Church, we must have and maintain Christian schools"**. Today's Christian schools are also instilling faith in students who do not attend church, whose parents may not even identify as Christians. Truly, they are local mission fields.

Just like Christianity itself, Christian schools today face many challenges on a variety of fronts. There is intense pressure to conform to societal norms and abandon Biblical positions on today's hot-button topics. What can we, the Body of Christ, do to support Christian schools?

- Schedule a tour or attend an open house to experience what a Christian school has to offer your preschool- or elementary-aged child. January and February are peak enrollment months for the next school year. You might be surprised to experience first-hand the real value of a Christian school education.
- Offer your TIME/share your TALENT/donate your TREASURE at a Christian school. Zion needs church members on our Board of Education. The time commitment is small, but the impact you can make on our preschool is significant. You can volunteer in countless other ways: Doug Krantz, Zion's assistant organist, volunteers for an hour, twice a month to lead our preschool's Kid's Praise ... ask Doug what a joy it is to lead 100 children in praise to God! Elementary schools are also in need of grandparents and others who have a heart for Christian education to serve in a variety of volunteer capacities.
- Donate your Box Tops for Education to Redeemer Lutheran School. Located 25 miles northeast of Bridgeville, Redeemer is the area's only Lutheran K-12 school! Collecting Box Tops and placing them in the receptacle in the Fellowship Hall is a simple way for Zion members to support this vital ministry of our sister LCMS congregation. www.boxtops4education.com.

Most of all, please pray for Christian schools as they continue their mission of building disciples and reaching the lost by educating hearts and minds.

In Christ,

Susie Bishop

Zion Board of Education, Jubilee Christian School Board of Trustees

Women's Ministry

SAVE THE DATE!

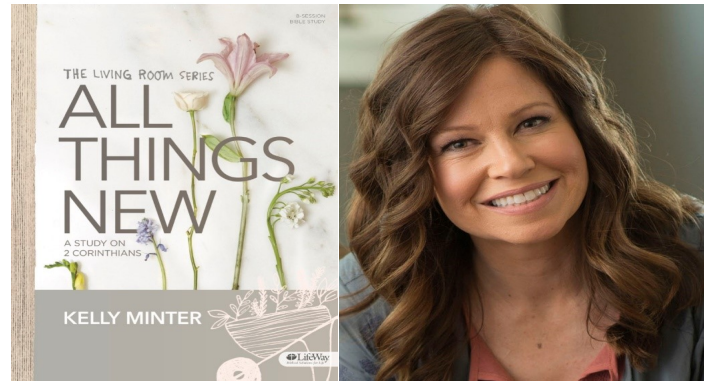
Zion Women's Retreat

MARCH 10TH - 12TH AT CAMP PIONEER

Join us for a weekend of Bible Study,
Fellowship, Games, Food, and Wine!
Friends welcome!



More information to come!
Interested? Sign up in the Narthex
or contact Megan Pasquini!



(Jesus said), "**Behold, I am making ALL THINGS NEW.**" Rev. 21:5 (ESV)

Brand New Year...Brand New Bible Study!

Kelly Minter's ALL THINGS NEW, an 8-session Women's Bible Study of 2 Corinthians

The city of ancient Corinth was much like our own modern-day cities: a melting pot of electrifying cultural experiences with all the pitfalls of spiritual depravity. Still, Paul wrote to the Church of God in Corinth - meaning **God's Church is meant to thrive in any city and every circumstance.** *Paul's letter is as timely as ever!*

Explore the anchoring truths of: 1. Bearing **treasures in jars of clay** 2. Meeting Christ through a **pressing thorn** 3. Opening wide your heart in the midst of **hurtful relationships** 4. What it means to embrace **the lost and lonely** as ministers of the new covenant.

Each of us has a message to proclaim and live by:

Because of Jesus the old has gone, the new has come.

WHEN: Tuesday, January 31, 7:15-8:45 PM

HOW: Please sign up in the narthex or email

linda.w.kroeger@gmail.com.

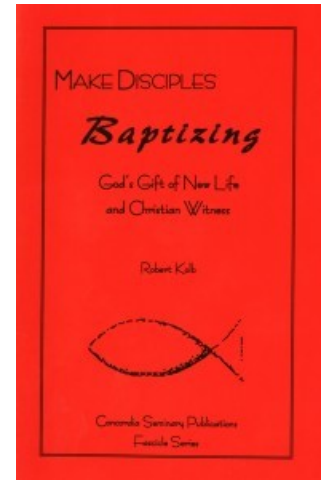


A special thank you to Zion members who generously contributed to our local Adopt A Grandparent program. We were able to provide over 500 gifts to seniors in the South Hills area. Ginny Granke-Kimberland

Adopt Grandparent

Vicar's Book of the Month

Please read this book! If I could recommend three books for you to read besides the Bible and Luther's Small and Large Catechisms, this would make the list! "Make Disciples, Baptizing" is a wonderful overview of the gift that God gives to us in Holy Baptism. Baptism isn't something in the past that has no meaning today, it is evidence of the fact that you are God's own child, it is a daily reminder that you are a new creation in Christ, it is a weapon against sin and Satan. This little book focuses on the text of Scripture and explores what baptism is and how it has an impact on your life 10 or 20 or 90 years removed from the day you were baptized. The book also puts forth Baptism as a tool (and the goal) for Christian witness. Telling others of what God has done in your baptism is a wonderful way to share the Gospel with them! Kolb states, "Baptism is the Spirit's tool for bringing sinners into death with Christ in his tomb and bringing them into the new life of the reborn children of God. That is the message of the New Testament regarding Baptism." May God encourage and uplift you in your baptismal faith as you explore this wonderful gift!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday school has set aside the month of February to learn about service and outreach through various missionary projects. Children will talk about different ways we can care for our neighbors and share the love of God through our words and actions. Children will put this into action for Zion's homebound and sick members, people in our own community and our U.S. troops overseas.

Mission Schedule

February 5th – Children will make homemade cards for Zion's homebound and sick members. Donuts/beverage provided.

February 12th – Write letters / color flag pages for our U.S. troops. Donuts / beverage provided.

February 19th – Operation: Stars and Stripes Assembly.

February 26th – Field trip to Broadmore Senior Living. Chaperones needed.



MARCH UNIT – Jesus Calls Helpers

Storytelling – Brittany Dill

Science – John Lemonovich

2 more volunteers needed for one of the following stations: Art, Cookery, Games, or Spiritual Practices

Anyone who is interested in being a part of Sunday school activities is welcome! Contact Katie Gielarowski at sundayschool@zlcg.org for more information or to volunteer.

Food Bank

Collection for this month's Bridgeville area food bank is Sunday, February 12th . 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.



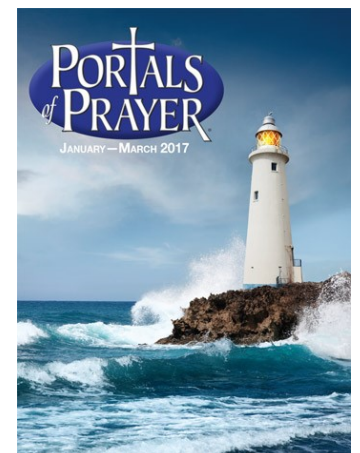
NEED SOMEONE TO LISTEN OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?

A STEPHEN MINISTER IS HERE TO HELP!

For information, contact Kristin Neill at Kristin.neill@gmail.com or Pastor Carlson at pastor-carlsonlcms@gmail.com.



Please continue to donate your used Portals of Prayer in the basket located in the welcome center. The Chaplain that distributes these at a Women's Jail said they are much appreciated and used. Thank you for your continued donations!



Service Participants

Date	Time	Greeters	Acolytes	Nursery
February 5	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Jack & Jacque Oelschlager Max & Jean Ma	Ava Pasquini Leah Luedeman	Jenny & Jodi Fitzgerald, Barb Oechslein
February 12	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Wayne & Barbara Oechslein John & Katie Gielarowski	Matt Liberatore Augie Bishop	Nell Wilson, Tess Carter & Susie Bishop
February 19	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Brian & Megan Pasquini John & Kari Gresh & Family	Ava Pasquini Lara Luedeman	Adele Goodge, Sharon Bogden & Christine Chilcott
February 26	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bill & Melanie Becker Sam Dragan	Joey Ackerman Anna Gresh	Carrie Lemonovich, Jenny & Stephanie Eckels
March 5	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bill & Carol Schrag Kristen Neill	Matt Liberatore Leah Luedeman	Megan & Ava Pasquini & Marian Oelschlager
March 12	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bernice DeBoe Bill & Susie Bishop & Family	Joey Ackerman Augie Bishop	Megan Glasser, Deb Sterba & Lara Luedeman



Month	Elders	Altar Guild	8:00 AM Ushers	10:30 AM Ushers
February	Peter Fisher Shane Bryant	Sarah Ali, Janet & Marian Oelschalger	Ed Malachosky, Michael Kozak, Bill & Melanie Becker	Vince Kimberland, Bill Koester, Mike Wallace, Chuck LaJeunesse
March	Bill Bishop Peter Fisher	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Brian Pasquini/Debbie Ford, Dale Miller, Barba- ra & Wayne Oechslein	Ross Chilcott, Dan Har- ris, Sam Dragan,

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@zxcb.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: zxcb.org

February Birthdays

1 AMBER SEIBEL

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 ELIKER

12 KITT KROEGER

13 TRACY 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 NEILL

29 WILLIAM BECKER



February Anniversaries

Happy
Anniversary

28 PAUL & EVELYN GREEN



February 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 pm Bible Study & Prayer	2 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm Elders Meeting	3	4 8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast 9:30 am Men's Choir Practice
			5 8:00 am Worship w/ Communion 9:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 11:45 am Children's Choir Practice 11:45 am Seamless Bible Study 11:45 am Stephen Ministry	6 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting	7	8 7:00 pm Bible Study & Prayer
12 8:00 am Worship 9:00 am SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Children's Choir Practice 11:45 am Seamless Bible Study 11:45 am Stephen Ministry FOOD BANK COLLECTION	13 7:00 pm Confirmation	14	15 7:00 pm Bible Study & Prayer	16 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice	17 8:00 pm Middle School Youth Group	18 8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast 9:30 am Men's Choir Practice
19 8:00 am Worship 9:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Children's Choir Practice	20 7:00 pm Confirmation	21	22 7:00 pm Bible Study & Prayer	23 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice	24	25 8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast
26 8:00 am Worship 9:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Children's Choir Practice	27 7:00 pm Confirmation	28 6:30 pm Sunday School Meeting	<p><i>How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!</i> 1 John 3:1</p>			

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



Zion Lutheran Church

3197 Washington Pike

Bridgeville, PA 15017

www.zlcb.org

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