



# Zion Lutheran Monthly

November 2011



## Giving Thanks Together

The men's Monday Morning Bible Breakfast has been spending its time studying Luther's Large Catechism. (Luther wrote the Large Catechism as the companion piece for the Small Catechism. Ideally, the Head of the Household would study the Large Catechism so that he could better teach the Small Catechism to his family.) Last night, I had a request for a copy of Luther's "95 Theses" from a member of the congregation. This weekend our focus in worship is on the gospel of Jesus Christ as it was rediscovered in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century through what became known as the Protestant Reformation.

November is a month overshadowed by football and the start of the holiday season with the celebration of Thanksgiving. For my family, this year has been one with many blessings for which to be thankful. For others in our congregation this year has been one of unmatched difficulties: death, sickness, unemployment and personal struggles. And for some other families, this year came and went without so much as memory worth holding onto. Regardless of the events that made up the last year, we all have much for which to be thankful.

We have the gospel of Jesus Christ: the forgiveness of sins on account of the person and work of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Man and Son of God, the promise and reality of eternal life now, and a relationship with our Father in heaven. We also have a strong tradition of Bible-based teaching and doctrine that goes back to the prophets and apostles of the Old and New Testament. This teaching was "rediscovered" by the reformers of the church in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and has been carefully handed down to us through the years.

At a time when truth is a commodity more questioned than trusted, it's good to have a solid foundation when it comes to the most important things in life: our belief in a good and gracious God, the full forgiveness given to us by His Son, and a rebirth and regeneration by His Spirit. As a congregation of believers, this is something we can all be thankful for!

### Advent is rapidly approaching!

Like last year, Advent services will start at 7:00pm on Wednesday starting the week after Thanksgiving. A dinner will be provided before the service starting at 6:00pm.

Our theme will be "**Before Christ in the Gospels.**" We'll be taking a look at how each of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) treats the time before Jesus was born. No two gospels are alike and I think you'll be excited by what you'll discover!

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Before Christ  
in the Gospels

In Christ,  
Pastor Duncan

# Church, Mission & Synod (CMS) & Plate Finances



As of October 22, 2011, we are estimating \$886.00 cash on hand. All bills through October 22nd will have been paid.

September <b>Income</b>	\$47,363.00
September <b>Expenses</b>	\$38,025.00
Favorable to Income	\$ 9, 338.00



Continue to pray for Zion that we are able to grow our outreach ministry.

- Bob Schmidt, Chairman

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## Voter's Meeting

At the regular Voter's Meeting on Sunday, October 30th, the voter's approved the following slate of candidates:

Vice Chairman	Neil Ackerman	Trustees	Bart Fleischmann
Treasurer	Kim Luedeman		Jim Oelschlager
Sun. Sch. Sup'td	Katie Gielarowski		Loren Luedeman
Elders	David Hutula		
	Frank Vallelunga		
	Robert Oelschlager		

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of the above individuals for agreeing to serve Zion in one of the six offices. As it is written - If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. - Romans 12:7

Please provide your support to these new and existing officers. I'm sure throughout the year they will be requesting your support on various initiatives and projects.

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Starting November 20, you will have the opportunity to participate in purchasing a gift of clothing or toy for a child registered with the Bridgeville Area Food Bank. If you wish to participate, choose an angel gift tag from the tree set up in the back of the church. Each gift tag is marked with an age and size for clothing. If the tag has child's age and gender only, the gift should be a toy. Your unwrapped gift costing around twenty dollars will need to be returned with the gift tag attached no later than Sunday, **DECEMBER 11**.



Angel Tree

Zion Lutheran Church is a part of the area ministerial. The ministerial is formed by many local churches in the surrounding Bridgeville area. Volunteers representing the area churches come together to serve the people in need who live in the South Fayette and Chartiers Valley School districts. Our ministry is ongoing throughout the year and serves around one hundred-twenty families each month.

There are many ways in which you are able to support the food bank throughout the year. You may bring non-perishable food and place it in the Narthex. Financially, you may give a monetary donation with the check written to the Bridgeville Area Food Bank. The third Saturday of the month between 8:00 AM and 12:00 PM is when we set-up and assist recipients in the distribution of food at the Bethany Presbyterian Church on Washington Pike. We would welcome your help.

If you have any questions about the food bank please don't hesitate to ask.

In Christ's Service,  
Barbara Oechslein  
Bridgeville Area Food Bank Representative

# Notes From the Preschool

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." This is the Bible verse the preschool will be focusing on for the month of November. The Lord has truly been good to our school. We have been blessed with beautiful children, supportive and loving families, and a wonderful staff.

October has been a month full of excitement and exploration. The children explored so many of God's creations including October's most popular creation (at least, according to the children) the PUMPKIN!! I had the pleasure of presenting the chapel lesson this month with the children. The lesson was called "The Parable of the Pumpkin" I wanted to convey the Gospel message in a visual way, so we used pumpkins. Two carved pumpkins were presented side by side to the children. One has a smiling face and a lit candle inside, emitting a pleasant and warm glow. The other frowning pumpkin is dark inside. The children were asked which pumpkin they would rather be. "The happy one" they shouted! The children are told that Jesus is the Light of the

World, and that He can provide a light to guide their lives if they love Him with their whole heart. When the children saw the sad and dark pumpkin I explained that life without Jesus would be dark and sad. The children were then asked how they think the "light" got inside of the pumpkin since the top was not cut. After guessing many interesting ways, I turned the pumpkin around and pulled out a heart shape, carved in the back of the pumpkin. The children are told that if they faithfully love Jesus with their hearts, souls, and minds, He will always be with them. The book "The Pumpkin Patch Parable" was also read to the children. It is our prayer that these two activities help to make the Gospel message clear and meaningful to the children.

The month was also filled with field trips to local pumpkin farms, a visit from Firefighter Phil, picture days, and Fall Harvest parties. What a pleasure it is to hear



all of these happy voices each day. Please come and look at some of the wonderful pictures Mrs. Rita took this month. They are posted in the hallway outside of the classrooms.

Our Road Rally fundraiser again proved to be a huge success. We raised nearly \$2,700. We are hoping to raise enough money to provide some much needed new playground equipment.

The Lord is good, indeed!

Blessings,  
Tracey Harris  
Director



*Happy Anniversary!*

- |    |                      |      |
|----|----------------------|------|
| 1  | Bob & Nancy Spotti   | 1986 |
| 11 | Jean & Bernie Blanco | 1961 |
| 20 | Tracey & Dan Harris  | 1993 |
| 23 | Sharon & Gene Koop   | 1963 |
| 29 | Sarah & James Ali    | 1986 |
| 30 | Kim & Loren Luedeman | 1996 |

- |    |                        |    |                    |
|----|------------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1  | Pastor Duncan McLellan | 22 | Marian Oelschlager |
|    | Sam Bishop             | 23 | Bill Becker        |
| 2  | Salina Howcroft        | 24 | Jacque Oelschlager |
|    | Nickolas DeRosa        | 26 | Jennifer Lewis     |
| 6  | Loren Luedeman         | 28 | Brent Miller       |
| 10 | Rose Steranko          | 29 | Melissa Radovich   |
| 12 | Jane Kozak             |    |                    |
| 13 | Sydney Harris          |    |                    |
| 14 | Dustin Geregach        |    |                    |
|    | Ruth Trudel            |    |                    |
| 15 | Joan Kovach            |    |                    |
| 18 | Shelly James           |    |                    |
| 19 | Bob DeBoe              |    |                    |
| 20 | Megan Monaghan         |    |                    |
| 21 | Shannon Mance          |    |                    |





*Congratulations to Paul Hayes and Terry Johnson who were united in marriage at Zion Lutheran Church on Saturday, October 15, 2011*

The Ladies of Zion are cordially invited to:

An Essentials Baby Shower  
honoring

Alissa McLellan

Sunday, November 6th @ 3:00 pm  
at Zion Lutheran Church

Please help us welcome Baby McLellan by bringing one of the following UNWRAPPED gifts to the celebration:

Huggies, Pampers, or Luvs Diapers - Sizes 1, 2 or 3  
Pkgs of Huggies, Pampers, or other quality UNSCENTED baby wipes  
Unisex cotton burp cloths

**\*\*In the event that a return might be necessary due to allergies, etc., please attach a gift receipt \*\***

If you have any questions, please contact Megan Pasquini @ 412-973-1569  
or Susan Bishop @ 412-257-5089



## BLOOD DRIVE!

Zion Lutheran Church has a proud tradition of supporting mission projects in our local community and beyond. One of these activities is sponsoring a blood drive. To help the local hospitals and patients who desperately rely on a safe and adequate blood supply in this region, we have scheduled a **Thanksgiving Weekend Blood drive** for **Saturday, November 26th, 2011 from 9:00am to 2:00pm** in the playroom. Our goal is to collect 60 pints of blood, which will be used to help save lives over the crucial Thanksgiving holiday period. All donors will receive two movie tickets to Carmike Cinemas!

To donate, you must be at least 16 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good health. You are eligible to donate every 56 days. Medications such as insulin, aspirin, and high blood pressure treatments do not defer you from donating. If you have any medical questions, please call Central Blood Bank's Medical Help Line at 412-209-7160.



We ask all donors to pre-register for the drive by going to [centralbloodbank.org](http://centralbloodbank.org) and using sponsor code Q0060008 or by calling 1-866-donors1 or 412-209-7622. Let's support our local hospitals and patients in the spirit of giving by donating blood this Thanksgiving!

# Service Participants

# November

## Greeters & Acolytes

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTES
November 6	8:00 am	Larry & Janet Zreliak	Sara Vallelunga
	10:30 am	Bob & Nancy Spotti	Jennifer Fitzgerald
November 13	8:00 am	Bob & Shelly James	Missy Radovich
	10:30 am	Bob & Diane Schmidt	Mia Case
November 20	8:00 am	George & Jane Kozak	Anthony Vallelunga
	10:30 am	Rose Steranko	Mitchell Fitzgerald
November 23	7:00 pm	Michael & Deborah Sterba	Missy Radovich
November 27	8:00 am	Wayne & Barb Oechslein	Joshua Gielarowski
	10:30 am	Tom & Kim Erbrecht	Sydney Harris
November 30	7:00 pm		Jennifer Fitzgerald
December 4	8:00 am	Carl & Karen Bauer	Sara Vallelunga
	10:30 am	Neil Ackerman	Ryan Harris
December 7	7:00 pm		Sydney Harris
December 11	8:00 am	Bob & Shelly James	Missy Radovich
	10:30 am	The Gauger Family	Mitchell Fitzgerald
December 14	7:00 pm		Jennifer Fitzgerald

<b>ELDERS</b>	John Gielarowski & Jay Anderson
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Vickie Buzzelli, Kathleen Conn & Shelly James
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, Ron Meier, & Jack Oelschlager
<b>USHERS @ 10:30 am</b>	Joe Gielarowski, Rachel Klemash, Steve Kovach, & Andy Weldon

# December

<b>ELDERS</b>	David Hutula & Ken Wuerthele
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Janet, Marian, & Molly Oelschlager
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Kathleen Conn, Bill Schrag, Janet & Larry Zreliak
<b>USHERS @ 10:30 am</b>	Steve Gauer, Dan Harris, Loren Luedeman, & Jim Oelschlager

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@zlcbl.org of the change.



Pastor, Friends and Members of Zion,

*My heartfelt thanks for your prayer support, cards and phone calls which sustained me during my recent illness.*

*Pastor McClellan, your hospital visits and prayers were greatly appreciated during my hospital stay.*

*My family and I are truly blessed to have Zion as a part of our Christian life. Many, many thanks to all of you.*

*In gratitude and love,  
Clara Hayes*

Dear Members of Zion,

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Pastor and all the members of Zion who prayed for my dad or the family. I kept dad apprised of the many who asked about him, prayed for him or called in those last days; for that he was truly grateful.

Thanks also go out to all those who considered dad's plight, whether you offered kind words, called, sent a card or visited with us on the day of his burial.

Your kindness did not go unnoticed, it helped all the Miller's to know that you cared and that God's love was present in a real and tangible way.

God Bless you all and thank you for the comfort you offered.

With love,  
Brent, Marianne and the Miller family

# Zion Lutheran Church

3197 Washington Pike  
Bridgeville, PA 15017  
Phone: 412-221-4776



Visit **ZLCB.ORG**

For updated information throughout the month.

**The Rev. Duncan McLellan**



# THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Many of us either love that tune or cringe whenever it is played. Whether you love it or not, the Sunday school children have a surprise for YOU!! Did you know that this song was written by some teachers in England to help their students remember the basics of faith? Each of the 12 verses has to do with faith and Christian living. For example, the two turtle doves represent the Old and New Testaments.

On the evening of **Sunday, December 18**, the Sunday school children will perform a new kind of production - a play entitled, "The Twelve Days of Christmas"!! You will hear the meaning of each verse, tied together with wonderful music and a rendition of the Christmas story from the book of Luke. After this program, you will have a renewed affection for "The Twelve Days of Christmas".

We encourage you to join the Sunday school children and celebrate with us the birth of our Savior, Jesus!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### FOOD BANK

Collection for this month's Bridgeville Area Food Bank drive is **Sunday, November 13th**. The "item of the month" is meats and proteins. You are also welcome to help at the Food Bank every third Saturday of the month between 7:45 and 12:00 at Bethany Presbyterian Church.



Beginning November 20th, you may order poinsettia's to remember the special people in your life and to decorate our altar area during Christmas. You may order the flowers until December 11th. Order forms will be available beginning Sunday, November 20th.

**Poinsettia  
ORDERS**

### WINE DOWN

You are invited to attend the "Wine Down" celebration hosted by Peace Lutheran Church at Simmons Farm Greenhouse on November 12th beginning at 7:00 pm. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Kathy Stanis at 724-941-9441 or [peacechurchsecretary@verizon.net](mailto:peacechurchsecretary@verizon.net). Just bring a wine glass per person, a bottle of wine (under \$15) and an appetizer to share (hot, cold, or a dessert). If you have any other questions, contact Wendy Hardy at 724-969-4210 or [whardy74@yahoo.com](mailto:whardy74@yahoo.com).

Did you know that Zion has both a phone and an email prayer chain standing at the ready to pray for your needs? Martin Luther said that "Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness." Lay hold of God's willingness and send an email to [secretary@zlc.org](mailto:secretary@zlc.org) or call the office with your prayer requests.

**PRAYER CHAIN**

If you would like to be added to either list, please inform the church office.