



# Zion Lutheran Monthly

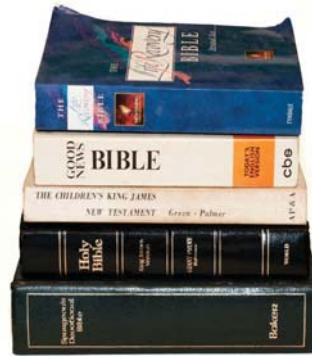


March 2013

## NEVER STOP LEARNING

At seminary, one of the students asked a favorite professor what commentaries he should put on the bookshelves of his office when he became a Pastor. The professor's answer stuck with me: "Buy big books." "Which books?" "It doesn't matter. Buy big books." Even though I wasn't the one asking the question, I took the professor's advice (as much as I could) and have surrounded myself with big books.

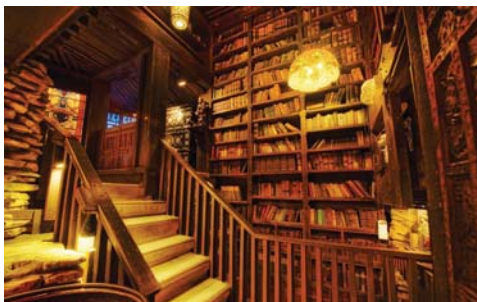
I've been asked by members of Zion on occasion what they should read for a devotion, which Bible is the best one, or, like the seminary student, which commentaries they should read. The answer, I hope, reflects what the professor said: MANY. Read as many devotional books as you can, have several different translations of the Bible in your home or at your office, and read as many pages of commentaries of the Scriptures as you have time for—and then borrow time from something else and read some more. You may not agree with everything you read, but what's the point in reading someone who simply states what you already think?



I am enjoying being a part-time student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. It's fun for me to be on the other side of the desk, taking notes, preparing for class, and engaging in a vigorous back-and-forth with the professors and fellow-students. What has made this experience exciting for me is knowing that I am going to disagree with what I am reading (in places) and being taught (at times), and that if I am going to disagree out loud and in class, I had better come loaded for bear.

Read big books. Many of them. Disagree or agree with the author; be challenged by what you read. Scripture tells us that the members of the early church "devoted themselves to the apostles teaching." We read in Acts 17:11 that the ones in Berea "were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, *examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.*" Read big books. Be challenged by them, question them, learn from them. Check them against the Scriptures. (And if you have questions, call your Pastor!)

The Christian Church has a 2,000 year history of writing. Augustine, Athanasius, Origen, Clement, Chrysostom, Guibert of Nogent, Aquinas, Anselm, Luther, Melancthon, Chemnitz, Walther, Pieper, Bonhoeffer, and many other Christian writers are well worth your time. If you are so led this Lenten Season to do something you may not be in the habit of, let me suggest reading a Big Book. A Big Book that gives glory to God and the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you don't have any, the church has plenty to spare :)



In Christ,  
Pastor Duncan McLellan

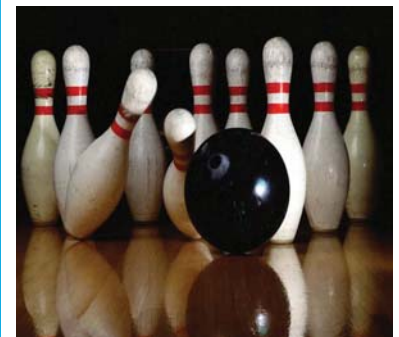
## Inside this issue:

What's New at Zion?	Pg 2
Sunday School News!	Pg 2
In the Beginning...	Pg 3
March Birthdays	Pg 3
March Anniversaries	Pg 3
Chairman's Report	Pg 4
March/April Participants	Pg 5
Youth Group	Pg 6
A New Ministry	Pg 6
Men!	Pg 7
Put Me In Coach!	Pg 7
Friendship Sunday	Pg 7
Notes From the Preschool	Pg 8
Thank You. May I Have Another?	Pg 9
Food Bank	Pg 9

## Bowling Schedule

Week 14: Friday, March 7  
Week 15: Friday, March 21

All games are played at  
6:30pm at  
AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes



# What's New at Zion?

We recently established a new committee to build upon the 2010 Strategic Plan by focusing on building a long-term planning with an eye to how the campus can support the various ministries at Zion (church, school, community, missions, service and out-reach). The members of this committee are:

- MaryLou Neill
- Laura Berkebile
- John Lemonovich
- Jay Anderson
- Tracey Harris
- Pastor McLellan
- Bob Schmidt

If you have any ideas or suggestions for the committees above, please let anyone of the members know.

Bob Schmidt  
Chairman

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!

**Operation: Bags of Love** was a HUGE success! With donations from Zion's members and Preschool families, the Sunday school children were able to assemble 267 Bags of Love! The total amount collected is as follows:

- Cookies = 311
- Crackers = 391
- Drink Singles = 320
- Gum = 169
- Granola Bars = 220
- Cereal = 152

Over 500 Zip Loc Bags

Any items left over were shipped overseas, given and appreciated by a member of our military over in Afghanistan. Also included in each bag was a tract filled with inspiring Bible verses and either a letter or coloring page to add some more encouragement and words of thankfulness. Thank you to all who participated and shared the love of Jesus half way around the world!



### MARCH UNIT: Symbols of Holy Week

Palm branches...30 silver coins...cup and bread...praying hands...purple robe...cross...stone

Children will study these and other symbols to recognize, comprehend and tell the stories surrounding Holy week.

These stories can be found here:

Matthew 21: 1-17; 26-27

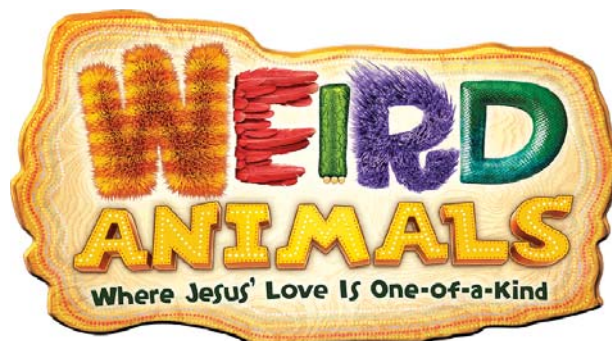
Mark 11: 1-11; 14-15

Luke 19: 28-40; 22-23

John 12: 12-19; 13-19

**Vacation Bible School** - Mark your calendars!

Weird Animals are coming to Zion June 23 - 27!!



## In the Beginning...

Come join us in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30 -10:15 on Sunday morning as we study the book of Genesis! Led by Pastor Duncan, this study examines the Biblical text and will focus on God's grace through the early years of the life of mankind on the earth.



Happy  
Birthday

1. Evelyn Binder
4. Lori Gauger
5. Jared Fitzgerald
5. Deborah Sterba
7. Robert James
8. Mark Oelschlager
11. Michael Sterba
12. Emma Gardner
12. Jonathan Vogel
14. Susan Bishop
15. Braeden Boyle
16. Carol Pracel
16. Claire Schrag
17. Gregory Howcroft
18. Joseph Gielarowski
23. Mia Case
23. Peter Fisher
23. Mark Killinger
24. Bonnie Lewis
25. Ruth Miller
26. Kathryn Gielarowski
26. Nancy Spotti
27. Christian Vogel



4. Bill & Carol Schrag
5. Dick & Carolyn Wible
26. Tim & Rita Sheldon
29. Brian & Megan Pasquini

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

January Income	\$55,080.00
January Expenses	<u>39,815.00</u>
Favorable to Income	\$15,265.00

As of February 28, 2014, we are estimating \$6,200.00 cash on hand. All bills through February have been paid.

May God continue to guide Zion in using our financial gifts and our talents to spread the Good News!

Bob Schmidt  
Chairman



I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Sanctuary Improvement Committee:

- Gene and Sharon Koop
- Bill and Susie Bishop
- Jay and Kim Anderson
- Pastor and Alissa McLellan

For their leadership, guidance and management of sanctuary improvement project Phase 1 to a successful implementation.

I hope everyone has had an opportunity to give praise to God in our upgraded sanctuary!

# SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

## March

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTES
March 2	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bill & Carole Schrag Rob Oelschlager	Josiah Ackerman Jennifer Fitzgerald
March 9	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bob & Diane Schmidt John & Kari Gresh & Family	Elder Lara Ludeman
March 16	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Ron & Judy Meier David & Penny Miller & Family	Nathan Morgan Sydney Harris
March 23	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Joe & Carol Pracel Michael & Deborah Sterba	Nathan Morgan Augie Bishop
March 30	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Larry & Janet Zreliak Sam Dragan	Chris Yellig Josiah Ackerman
April 6	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Brent & Marianne Miller, Millie Thielet Rose Steranko	TBA Jennifer Fitzgerald

<b>ELDERS</b>	Jim Neill Brian Pasquini
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Janet Oelschlager, Marian Oelschlager, Molly Oelschlager
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, Ron Meier and Jack Oelschlager
<b>USHERS @ 10:30 am</b>	Neill Ackerman, Ross Chilcott, Kari Gresh and John Gresh

## April

<b>ELDERS</b>	Rob Oelschlager, David Hutula
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Debra LaJeunesse, Carrie Lemonovich, Carolyn Wible
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Kathleen Conn, Bill Schrag, Janet Zreliak, Larry Zreliak
<b>USHERS @ 10:30 am</b>	Sam Dragan, Dan Harris, Simon Martin, Richard Quinlan

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.



# Youth Group

Do you like throwing heavy balls? Maybe you enjoy knocking down pins. Either way, come join us for a night of bowling! On Sunday, March 9th, at 3:30pm we will be



going to Mt. Lebanon Lanes and participate in a bowl off! The person with the highest game will win a prize! Please bring a friend and join us for a night of fun!

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## A New Ministry “For the Glory of God!”

Each Sunday the Lord’s Table is adorned with beautiful flowers provided by our members. They are dedicated to the “**Glory of God**” and in loving memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a birth, a birthday, or an anniversary. A lot of times these beautiful gifts are left to wither and die, if no one takes them home. It has been suggested that they be given to the members of our congregation that are in the hospital, that are in nursing homes, sick at home, or just can’t get around and are shut-in. We are asking that if you are not going to take the flowers that you have giving to the “**Glory of God,**” that you please let us know ahead of time so arrangement can be made to take them to someone in our church family. These flowers will help to brighten their day and let them know that we at Zion Lutheran Church are praying for them.

It is such a delight to be the one that delivers these gifts and see the happiness and love that it brings. If you are interested in occasionally helping with this ministry, please call or email me. Especially at Easter and Christmas we will need more people to help with this ministry because there will be even more flowers to be delivered. And holidays are a time when people that are not feeling their best need to know “*That the members of Zion Lutheran Church care about them and are praying for them.*”

**“For the Glory of God!”**

Carol Ann Pracel

(412) 257-9705

Email address: [wildone2003cap@aol.com](mailto:wildone2003cap@aol.com)

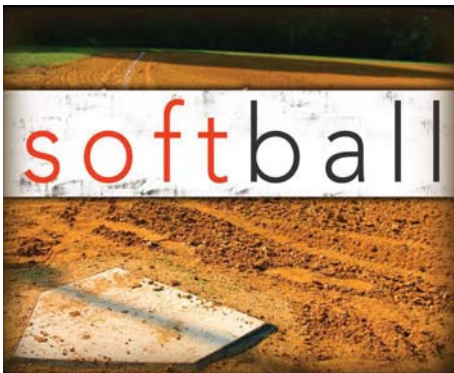


# MEN!

It's not too late to sign-up for the men's retreat @ Camp Pioneer. (April 10-13.) There are brochures for the retreat in the narthex area at Church, or you can e-mail Pastor Duncan or Vicar David for more information. We hope you can make it to this important time of devotion, prayer and fellowship with the men from Zion.



## Put Me In Coach!



Sign-up to be a part of the Zion Lions Softball Team! The sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex, or you can contact Pastor Duncan, Vicar David, or the Church Office. We're looking to improve on last year's perfect record.

# Friendship Sunday

On May 11<sup>th</sup> (Mother's Day), Zion is going to have a Friendship Sunday. We will have a time of fellowship in between the services, familiar hymns, a worship service that is easy to understand and a back-to-basics sermon. Please pray for the Lord to give you discernment, wisdom and boldness to invite those you know who would benefit from coming with you to church.

Who are you inviting?

# NOTES FROM THE PRESCHOOL

Happy March! Has anyone seen Spring? This is what we will be asking our Preschool children this month. Hopefully we will all start to see signs of Spring soon as this winter just does not want to end! The children are ready to go outside and play on the playground and let the warm sun hit their little faces. We even pray at the end of Kids Praise for good weather to come soon!

March is also the month that we focus on the color green...may all of the green remind us that Spring is coming! We also 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.*

Registration continues to go very well. Both preschool and PreK classes are full for the morning sessions. We have now opened up afternoon sessions for Preschool and PreK. Room is still available in our Stepping Stones class (5 year olds) and Small Steps (2 year olds). Please continue to keep our school and Miss Janet in your prayers. As many of you know, Miss Janet will be receiving Cancer treatments and will be unable to continue working for right now. We will all truly miss Janet, as will the children, but it's most important for her to focus on getting well and making a full recovery. We look forward to Janet's return in the Fall. She promises to check in regularly, even helping out when she's feeling up to it. We love you, Janet and we are all praying for you!

Some upcoming exciting events and lesson plans for March:

A visit from the Carnegie Science Center  
A visit from a Dental Hygienist  
"Barnyard Buddies" mission project  
Noah's Ark  
Lent

Blessings,  
Tracey





# Thank You. May I Have Another?

A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our Sanctuary Improvement project. From the Planning Committee to our prayer warriors, from those who gave joyfully to those who helped clean the sanctuary when the work was done, we are grateful for your support! God willing, we will use the sanctuary to receive God's gifts of Word and Sacrament and sing His praises until the Lord Jesus Christ returns.

But the work is not done yet. The last phase of the Sanctuary Improvement Project still waits to be completed. And what better time to focus on this last phase than the changing of the season from winter to spring? As the temperature begins to warm, it's time for us to make one last push as a congregation to accomplish the long-awaited goal of having the sanctuary air conditioned.

Our final goal for the Sanctuary Improvement Project is to have air conditioning installed in time for the summer season. Look in the bulletin and on-line for updates to the status of the project. Please pray for, and if you feel so inclined, support the completion of this project with your cheerful support.

This is an exciting time for Zion, as we have been blessed to be able to make these improvements to the church we have been given in service to the Gospel and the glory of God.

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## FOOD BANK

Collection for this month's Bridgeville area food bank is Sunday, March 9. The "item of the month" is fruit (canned & dried). 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

