



# Zion Lutheran Monthly

August 2015



## Committing to Commitment

A funny thing happened to my cell phone bill a couple of months ago. I question whether or not I should tell you what happened because you might think I, your pastor, am some kind of cheat, or that I have some sort of twisted control over the telecommunications industry. Are you sitting down? Maybe you should have a drink of water. Are you calm? OK. Here goes: my cell phone bill went DOWN. It went down about \$20 per month. I know, right? Do you know why it went down? When we signed up to get our “free phones” the good people at the cell phone store locked us into a two year contract; a commitment that we would be wise to keep. During that contract period, they charged us what they wanted; we were not going anywhere. But now that we are not under contract, they are playing nice and do not want us to take our newly freed up business anywhere else. Contract. Commitments.

Sometimes they lock us into things we don't want; or don't want anymore. Car Payments, Mortgages, Marriages, Employment Opportunities, Cable and Cell Phones, and Credit Cards. The list of commitments and contracts we have is substantial. Some commitments we have are good: the vows we made to our spouse, the terms of our employment, and (for those of us who are godparents) the promise to help family and friends raise their children in the knowledge of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But sometimes we commit ourselves to silly things: the 84 month car loan with no money down, a 50 year adjustable rate mortgage, six figure student loans, and a maxed out credit card.

God knows all about making commitments too. From his promise in the Garden of Eden to crush the head of the serpent, to his promise to Noah never to flood the earth again, to his promise to Abram that he would become a great nation and a blessing to all people, to his promise to Moses that he would lead him to a land flowing with milk and honey, God has a history of making promises, of committing himself to do things. Only with God, promises go beyond simple “commitment” and into the sacred trust of Covenant. And God has made a covenant with you. When Jesus came, God promised to make atonement for sins, open the door of salvation to all people, and conquer the “last enemy,” death. Now that Jesus has come and worked salvation for all people, God has chosen to make a covenant with you that what Jesus did has been applied to you for all eternity. When you were baptized, God said to you: “All that my son, Jesus, has accomplished and earned, I give to you. Forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are yours. I promise that nothing in all creation will separate you from me and my love; I will raise you up on the last day.” When you read the Scriptures and learn who Jesus is and what he has done, the Holy Spirit creates faith in you to trust that this is all for you; that Christ did not do what he did for some other people at some other time, but that he did all that he did for you. Not because you deserve salvation and the love of God, but precisely because you do not deserve it and could never earn it even over thousands of lifetimes.

So now the ball is in your court. God has made a Covenant with you. He has brought you into his family, forgiven you all of your sins, and given you the Holy Spirit that you would trust in him and make your life look increasingly like that of Jesus. You have to decide: do I want to commit to this life of faith and fellowship with God through Jesus Christ? Do I want to give up living my life the way I want and live the way he wants? Do I want my wants and desires to be subservient to his? Is this a commitment I want to make? No. Sorry. That's the wrong question. Is this a commitment I should make?

Yes. Yes it is. Absolutely it is. As Paul wrote: “for me to live is Christ” (Philippians 1:21). When reading about Church History, two undeniable facts emerge. First, every good thing to ever happen in the church happens because the Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of God's people through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Second, the Holy Spirit has a habit of working in the lives of people who are firmly committed to their Lord. If history favors the brave, Church History favors the faithfully committed. At a time when living out the Christian faith increasingly sets one apart from culture; at a time when the darkness of the world grows darker, the light of Christ in the lives of his people shines brighter and brighter. Weigh the cost of commitment to Christ. And then deny yourself, pick up your cross and follow him.

Pastor Duncan

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# Nursery

We now offer a Nursery during the 10:30 am service for children ages infant to 2 years. This will allow parents of small children to participate in

church with no distractions.

Parents will drop their children off prior to church beginning and pick them up as soon as service is complete. If there are any problems or the child needs a diaper change you will be paged via cell phone text.

We are still looking for volunteers for this ministry. Please contact Megan Pasquini or Alissa McLellan if you are interested in helping!

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Aug 2 - Linda Kroeger / Kitt Kroeger / Tess Carter

Aug 9 - Susie Bishop / Carley Rockovich

Aug 16 - Carrie Lemonovich / Jenna & Stephanie Eckels / Mary Hutula

Aug 23 - Christine Chilcott / Megan Glasser / Debbie Sturba

Aug 30 - Brittany Dill / Sharon Bogden

Sept 6 - Tracey Harris / Sydney Harris / Kristen Neill

Sept 13 - Jodi Fitzgerald / Jennifer Fitzgerald

Sept 20 - Alissa McLellan / Lara Luedeman

Sept 27 - Megan Pasquini / Marion Oelschlager

Oct 4 - Linda Kroeger / Kitt Kroeger / Tess Carter

Oct 11 - Susie Bishop / Carley Rockovich

Oct 18 - Carrie Lemonovich / Jenna & Stephanie Eckels / Mary Hutula

Oct 25 - Brittany Dill / Megan Glasser / Debbie Sturba

Nov 1 - Sharon Bogden / Kristen Neill

Nov 8 - Tracey Harris / Sydney Harris

Nov 15 - Jodi Fitzgerald / Jennifer Fitzgerald

Nov. 22 - Alissa McLellan / Lara Luedeman



10:30 Am Service

**Nursery  
Schedule**

## Events Committee

*We are excited to begin planning new and exciting things at Zion! Our Events Committee is going to begin meeting and planning. We would love your ideas! If you would like to join this committee please join us on Tuesday August 4th at 7:00pm. Any questions please contact Tracey Harris or the secretaries.*



Jim and Norma Lynch have moved.  
Please note that their new address is:  
Jim and Norma Lynch  
319 Wellness Way Room 107  
Washington, PA 15301

Zion,

Thank you for the generous gift you gave me in recognition of my 10 year anniversary of being in the Office of the Public Ministry and 5 years at Zion. I joked with some of you that we're celebrating 10 years of not being fired. But this is about right, as I could never see myself voluntarily giving up the call to preach and teach the good news of Jesus Christ. Thank you for allowing me this privilege.

Thank  
You!



Our Summer Service Project/ Mission Trip is right around the bend! We leave from Zion on Sunday, August 2nd and will come back on the 7th. Cost is \$150 per person, or \$300 per family and includes the program, lodging and meals. Let the Church Office, Pastor or Andrea Vogel know if you are interested in coming; there is also a sign up sheet in church entryway. Hope you can make it to our 2015 Summer Mission Trip!

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## Back to Basics

For 2015 Zion is going Back to Basics! We're spending time on Sunday morning going over the basic truths of the Christian Faith. We started with the 10 Commandments and are generally be following the outline of Luther's Small Catechism. If you miss a week here or there, recordings of the sermons are available on our website ([zlcb.org](http://zlcb.org)). Also, at our Wednesday Evening Service of Prayer and Preaching, we take what we looked at on Sunday and take it a little bit more in depth. We also answer the questions that are asked on Sunday... or try to answer them as best we can at our Wednesday Evening Service of Prayer and Preaching. We hope you can join us for worship!

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## Food Bank

Collection for this month's Bridgeville area food bank is Sunday, August 9. The "item of the month" is crackers. You are also welcome to help at the food bank every third Saturday of the month between 7:45am and 12:00pm at Bethany Presbyterian Church.





# August Birthdays



- |                        |                         |                        |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 Carrie Albert        | 13 Samuel Trentini      |                        |
| 3 Leif Luedeman        | 14 Brittany Buzzelli    |                        |
| 4 Nicholas Buzzelli    | 14 Paula Jones          |                        |
| 4 Louise Prager        | 14 William Koester      | 28 Kim Luedeman        |
| 5 Anna Gresh           | 15 Christine Thomas     | 29 Henry Dittmer       |
| 5 Darla Rockovich      | 19 John Bishop          | 29 Helen Erbrecht      |
| 6 Megan Gauger         | 21 Matthew Oelschlager  | 29 Shelia Ferry        |
| 6 Mark Pracel          | 22 Jane Lenhart         | 29 Christina Scott     |
| 8 Paul Klemash         | 24 Rebekah Ackerman     | 29 Jaclyn Scott        |
| 9 Matthew Monaghan     | 24 Joseph Pracel Jr.    | 30 Bernie Blanco       |
| 9 Pamela Trentini      | 25 Robert James III     | 30 Dawn Geregach       |
| 10 Matthew Liberatore  | 25 Edward Malachosky II | 30 George Kozak        |
| 12 Jennifer Fitzgerald | 25 Megan Meyer          | 31 Mitchell Fitzgerald |

# August Anniversaries



- |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Brian & Christine Thomas  | 18 John & Jean Endler        |
| 3 John & Tracey Cole        | 22 Ronald & Betty Valentino  |
| 5 Jack & Jacque Oelschlager | 24 John & Kari Gresh         |
| 11 Ken & Bethany Schrag     | 29 David & Mary Hutula       |
| 12 Peter & Barbara Fisher   | 30 Joseph & Carol Pracel Jr. |
| 16 Henry & Lois Dittmer     | 30 Bob & Diana Schmidt       |
| 16 Robert & Amy Morgan      | 31 Bill & Susie Bishop III   |

# SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

## August

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTES
August 2	8:00 AM	Brent & Marianne Miller and Millie Thielet	Matthew Liberatore
	10:30 AM	John & Katie Gielarowski & Family	Carley Rockovich
August 9	8:00 AM	Wayne & Barb Oechslein	Josiah Ackerman
	10:30 AM	Vince & Ginny Kimberland	Lara Luedeman
August 16	8:00 AM	Shane & Sandy Bryant	Augie Bishop
	10:30 AM	Jay & Kim Anderson	Chris Yellig
August 23	8:00 AM	Peter & Barbara Fisher	Matthew Liberatore
	10:30 AM	Elsie DallaPiazza	Anna Gresh
August 30	8:00 AM	Bernie & Jean Blanco	Josiah Ackerman
	10:30 AM	Ken & Carol Wuerthele	Lara Luedeman
September 6	8:00 AM	Frank & Sandy Hervert	Augie Bishop
	10:30 AM	Darren & Jennifer Elikor & family	Carley Rockovich
September 13	8:00 AM	George, Jane & Michael Kozak	Matthew Liberatore
	10:30 AM	Norm & Brittany Dill & family	Anna Gresh

<b>EDERS</b>	James Neill, Neil Ackerman
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Janet, Marion & Molly Oeschlager
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, Ron Meier, Jack Oeschlager
<b>Ushers @ 10:30 am</b>	Loren Ludeman, Vince Kimberland, Jim Oeschlager, Ted Siek

## September

<b>EDERS</b>	Ken Wuerthele & Mike Sterba
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Diana Schmidt & Megan Pasquini
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Kathleen Conn, Bill Schrag, Janet & Larry Zreliak
<b>Ushers @ 10:30 am</b>	Sam Dragan, Steve Gauger, 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@zlcb.org](mailto:secretary@zlcb.org) of the change.

### Did you know that we have an awesome website?

If you haven't checked out our website ([zlcb.org](http://zlcb.org)) lately, you're truly missing out on one of the best things we have going. Daily updates, interactive surveys, literally hundreds of sermon downloads, informative videos, thought-provoking articles, and pictures from recent church events are just some of what you'll find on your church's website. Check it out: [zlcb.org](http://zlcb.org)!

**E-Blasts:** If you are not receiving the E-Blast emails every Monday, please let us know! Email [secretary@zlcb.org](mailto:secretary@zlcb.org) and we will get you on the recipient list. We can't add you if we don't know you aren't on there! E-Blasts are a great way to stay informed about the upcoming events and announcements for each week.

## Sunday School News

- **Sunday school classes begin on September 13th. Children ages 3-18 are welcome. For any child who has not yet attended Sunday school, please register your child at the church office or email [secretary@zlcg.org](mailto:secretary@zlcg.org).**
- **Volunteers are needed to teach the September Sunday school unit (TBD) on September 13, 20 & 27. Contact Katie Gielarowski or email [winechick123@gmail.com](mailto:winechick123@gmail.com).**



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### Zion Welcomes Joe Faini

Joe Faini, our new Director of Youth Ministry will be installed at the 10:30 service on August 9<sup>th</sup>. We welcome Joe and his wife, Lindsey to our church family and look forward to supporting him in his work with our youth.

God's blessings,  
Joe and Lindsey!





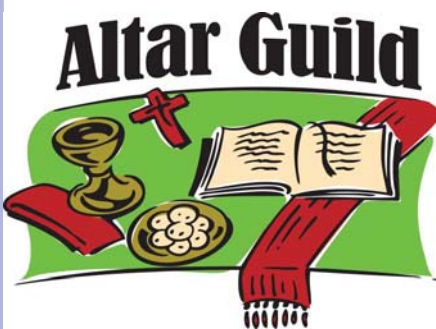
On Tuesday, August 18th at 7:30 the Women kick off a new Bible Study (7 sessions worth) as they take a look at 1, 2 and 3 John using the book "What Is Love" by Kelly Minter. Let Alissa or the Church Office know if you are interested in taking part in this study.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

*~Starting September 15th we will be having "Moms in Prayer" ... Keep your eyes open for more information!*

*~Starting Wednesday October 7th we will be having a Small Group Co-Ed Bible Study from 7:00pm - 8:15pm. The study will be on the First Half of Romans. This is an 8 session bible study with childcare provided.*



## Altar Guild

*The Altar Guild is seeking more volunteers. This ministry is a great way to get involved at Zion. If you would like more information about how to join the Altar Guild please contact Janet Oelschlager or the church secretaries.*