

# Zion Lutheran Monthly



## August 2016

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## The Real Attack on Christianity

Two days before I sat down to write this newsletter article, Muslim Jihadists slit the throat of an elderly Catholic Priest conducting the Mass in France. A week earlier, another Muslim Jihadist mowed down over one hundred people in Nice, France. And before that, there were other attacks done in the name of Allah to people whose worldview did not conform to that of Muhammad. Christians are concerned about being attacked by Jihadists for their faith in Christ.

Having removed Christianity from a position of privilege in the public square, many in the church wonder if the government will take a position hostile to the Gospel. Many are concerned that "freedom of religion" will only apply to worship, and not the exercise of their faith in society. Christians are concerned about being attacked by a secular state.

And while these threats to the faith should not be casually brushed aside as some are content to do, they do not, in my opinion, at this time constitute a systematic threat to Christianity as an institution or the personal faith of Christians. They present difficulties that need to be seriously addressed, but not a crisis worthy of panic.

Is there, then, a real attack on Christianity? Yes. Absolutely. And it is one that has been ongoing and virtually unnoticed. Every week, a majority of people who claim to be Christian attack their brothers and sisters in Christ by refusing to worship alongside them. They refuse to give a visible witness to the world by not worshipping the God they claim has saved them in Christ. Christians attack Christianity when they make excuses for the words of Scripture and refuse to speak the name of Jesus—even to other people who claim to believe in him. It is when Christians live with one foot firmly planted in the world, and dip their toes into the water of Christ-centered faith and obedience.

We will get into this more in the coming months, but suffice it to say that the people of our country know we are headed in the wrong direction and want change. Over 70% of all Americans call themselves Christian, yet only about 30% of all Americans are in worship on any given Sunday. What if that changed? What would happen if, seemingly out of the blue, everyone who identified as Christian made a one-hour-per-week commitment to go to church, regardless of what else vied for their attention? What if workers called-off and kids didn't show up to the game? What if people set alarm clocks and called a halt to Saturday Night at a decent hour, woke up and came to church? And what if they did it over and over again? Too much to ask? I'm sure that it is. But what if all of the people who call Zion their church home took the commitments they made in the sight of God and his church seriously and, without excuse, came to church? What would it be like to have 440 people in worship each and every Sunday (and what if those people brought friends and family)?

# Vicar's Corner

## “So Why Did I Choose That Text?”

When I sat down to pick a text for my installation, I looked at many of the passages that Pastor brought up in his sermon. Paul’s words to young Timothy would have been fitting, “Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.” The call of Moses, where God says “I will be with you” as Moses puts forth excuse after excuse as to why he should not be sent to the people in Egypt would have been comforting as well. I saw those texts. I realized the significance, but I chose not to pick any of them (little did I know, my choice would be dissected for 10 minutes of the sermon).

Instead, I went with 1 Samuel 1:1-20. The simple answer for why I chose it? 1 Samuel 1:1-20 is about Jesus. I know that isn’t very helpful, but in the previous week’s reading Jesus said “everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”. Even in 1 Samuel, a book that marks the transition from the period of the Judges of Israel to the period of the Kings of Israel, we find Jesus. Of course, we bring with us the 20/20 vision that hindsight provides (we know the name Jesus, we have the New Testament in our hands, etc.), but with it we can learn of Jesus even in this text from the history of Ancient Israel.

Beyond that, there are several reasons why I thought that it had a place in a vicarage installation service. First, as pastor mentions, it tells us about the God we serve, and the God whose Word it is my privilege to spend the next year studying and sharing with you. The God that would grant the prayer of a faithful yet downtrodden woman. The God that holds together all creation, while at the same time listens to simple prayer of Hannah. The God that would send His Son to redeem his creatures who spat in His face and rejected Him, and the God who sends His Holy Spirit to yank us out of unbelief and into His reign. Second, the use of an Old Testament passage is very helpful in giving context to my vicarage experience. In 1 Samuel we see God orchestrating history to his purposes. He opens Hannah’s womb and she gives birth to Samuel, who will anoint David, from whose house the Savior of the world will come. God is in control. He is running the show, and Vicar Joshua is one teeny tiny student, spending a year among God’s people learning from Pastor Duncan in hopeful preparation for service as a pastor. While it is an honor, privilege and responsibility to be your Vicar, the God who granted Hannah a child does not need me, I need Him. Lastly, it is a great example of faith on the part of Hannah. God has given us examples in Scripture of men and women who are beggars before God, humbled by various circumstances, bringing nothing to the table. As we sang in “Rock of Ages, *“Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to thy cross I cling”*. Hannah is one of those examples, and she will serve as a reminder to me and to all of us of our need for the grace and mercy of our God.

Well now you know why I chose the text. I truly cannot wait to get to know all of you this next year. It has been an incredible start and I look forward to the year to come.

Blessings in Christ Jesus!

Vicar Joshua

To the People of Zion:

Thank you! My family and I have been absolutely blown away by your warm welcome. You have shown so much love to us in this first week, from the gift basket that was waiting for us when we arrived to the amazing reception on the morning of my installation. We cannot thank you enough for your support during this time of transition for our family. We look forward to getting to know each of you throughout the next year. We pray this experience will be a blessing to Zion and to us as we grow together in God’s Word!

Joshua Ulm



# Chairman's Report

## Council Meeting

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday August 11, 2016.

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

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| June Income           | \$25,776.26        |
| June Expenses         | <u>\$38,243.81</u> |
| Unfavorable to Income | (\$12,467.55)      |
|                       |                    |
| Fiscal Year Income    | \$577,914.18       |
| Fiscal Year Expenses  | \$576,234.67       |



June is the end of Zion's fiscal year. For the year, our receipts were \$1,679.51 in excess of expenses. Our cash position at year end is \$2,829.90. Compared to budget, receipts were \$46K to the good, an excess of 8.6%.

As we begin the next fiscal year, please consider how you can support our ministries with your time, talents and treasures. If you have questions about specific service opportunities, please speak with me or another of the ZLCB officers. May God guide us in using these gifts and our talents as we endeavor to spread the Gospel, telling all around us of the love of Christ Jesus.

## July Council meeting

At the Council Meeting held on July 14<sup>th</sup>, Rick Porter District Vice President of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund gave a presentation titled "Developing Facilities: Counting the Cost". As the financial extension of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, LCEF has provided financial services supporting the LCMS since 1978. Nearly 60,000 investors enable LCEF to assist hundreds of ministries.

Thanks to Rick and his wife Deb for the informative presentation and lively discussion.

Christ's Blessings,

Jay Anderson  
Chairman of ZLCB



**Small Group is happening now:** Looking for a good midweek Bible Study Small Group? We have been getting together in conjunction with our Service of Prayer and Preaching to study the books of James and Jude. Open to all ages, we encourage you to come! Our Small Group study started in July and is still meeting. Childcare will be provided!

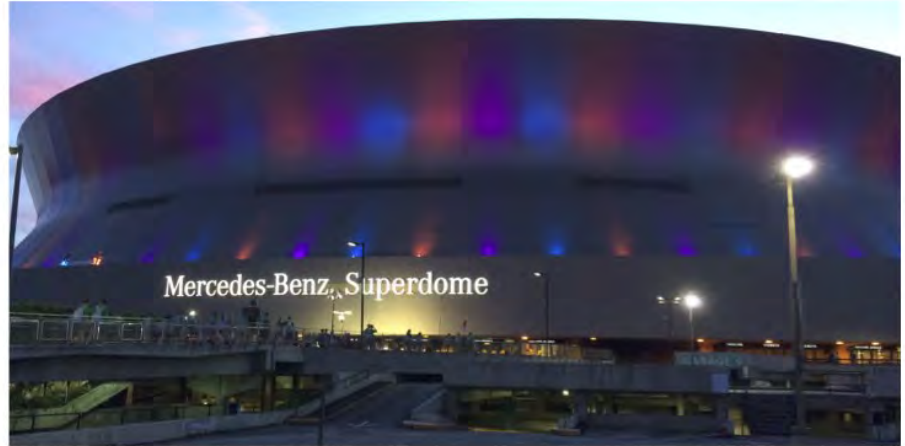
# Food Bank

Collection for this month's Bridgeville area food bank is Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. The "item of the month" is **Crackers**.

You are also welcome to help at the food bank every third Saturday of the month between 7:45 am and 12:00 pm at Bethany Presbyterian Church.



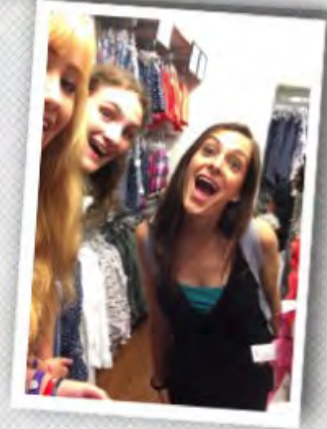
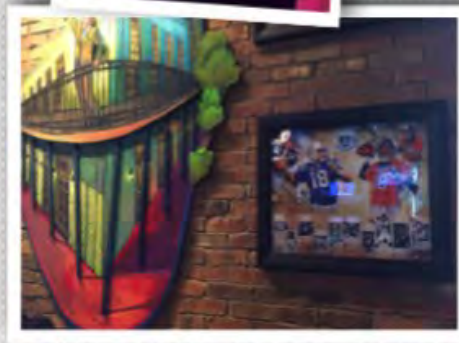
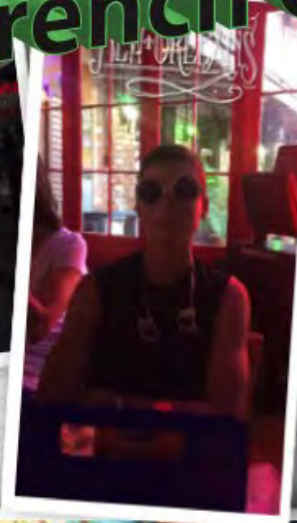
# Zion Youth News and Events



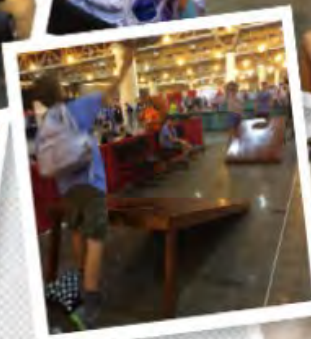
## LCMS Youth Gathering 2016

Thank you for making the gathering possible for the nine of us to go! It was a great trip! There is something great about knowing you're not alone in your relationship with Jesus; Therefore, being surrounded by 25,000 people who are seeking the same thing, you get sense of security in Christ.

# The French Quarter



# Fun activities in the Convention Center



# Nashville, TN



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday school classes begin on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

All children ages 3 - 18 are welcome. For any child who has not yet attended, please register your child at the church office or email [secretary@zlcg.org](mailto:secretary@zlcg.org).



**SUNDAY  
SCHOOL**



The season is almost over! Come support your Zion Lions Softball team! There are only a few games left before playoffs start. All games are played at McLaughlin Run Park in Bridgeville. You can find softball schedule updates and changes at [www.cvsl.net](http://www.cvsl.net). See you at the games!

# AUGUST Reading PLAN

Read the Bible in a Year!

|                              |                               |                        |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>1:</b> 2 Chronicles 1-3   | <b>10:</b> 2 Chronicles 28-30 | <b>21:</b> Esther 7-10 |
| <b>2:</b> 2 Chronicles 4-6   | <b>11:</b> 2 Chronicles 31-33 | <b>22:</b> Job 1-3     |
| <b>3:</b> 2 Chronicles 7-9   | <b>12:</b> 2 Chronicles 34-36 | <b>23:</b> Job 4-6     |
| <b>4:</b> 2 Chronicles 10-12 | <b>13:</b> Ezra 1-5           | <b>24:</b> Job 7-9     |
| <b>5:</b> 2 Chronicles 13-15 | <b>14:</b> Ezra 6-10          | <b>25:</b> Job 10-12   |
| <b>6:</b> 2 Chronicles 16-18 | <b>15:</b> Nehemiah 1-3       | <b>26:</b> Job 13-15   |
| <b>7:</b> 2 Chronicles 19-21 | <b>16:</b> Nehemiah 4-6       | <b>27:</b> Job 16-18   |
| <b>8:</b> 2 Chronicles 22-24 | <b>17:</b> Nehemiah 7-9       | <b>28:</b> Job 19-21   |
| <b>9:</b> 2 Chronicles 25-27 | <b>18:</b> Nehemiah 10-13     | <b>29:</b> Job 22-24   |
|                              | <b>19:</b> Esther 1-3         | <b>30:</b> Job 25-27   |
|                              | <b>20:</b> Esther 4-6         | <b>31:</b> Job 28-30   |



Several years ago, Zion hosted its first Creation Conference. We had scientists and theologians come and present the evidence for the Biblical account of creation. Since then, we have had interest in a second Creation Conference. We will be cohosting the Genesis Seminar II August 12-14 right here at Zion. You can learn more about our cohost, Creation Science Fellowship of Pittsburgh at their website: [www.csfpittsburgh.org](http://www.csfpittsburgh.org). Look for fliers and pamphlets with more detailed information on the speakers and an in depth schedule of events in the narthex.

An overview schedule for this three day conference is as follows:

**Friday 7:00pm:** All speakers will be introduced and each will summarize the scientific reason why he rejects comprehensive evolution. Q&A will follow if time allows.

**Saturday 9:30am-12:30pm:** Illustrated lectures by R. Gillmann, D. Wert, and R. Walsh.

**Saturday 2:00-5:00pm:** Lectures by Dr. Steinmann, A. German, D. Wert by power point.

**Saturday 7:00-9:30pm:** Dr. Siek on evolutionists admitting bias; more Q&A by panel.

**Sunday 2:00-4:00pm:** Dr. Steinmann on interpreting Genesis by letting scripture interpret scripture.

Please join us and allow highly qualified scientist and theologians help you to understand the creation-evolution controversy and to defend the Biblical account of creation in six literal days.

## Stump the Scientists!

Have a question about evolution or creation?

Email your questions to [secretary@zlc.org](mailto:secretary@zlc.org) and they might be featured during the Q&A sessions of the Genesis Seminar II happening here at Zion, August 12-14!



# Service Participants

| Date         | Time                | Greeters  | Acolytes                            | Nursery                              |
|--------------|---------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| August 7     | 8:00 AM<br>10:30 PM | Wayne & Kathleen Conn<br>Michael & Lind Kroeger           | Ava Pasquini<br>Augie Bishop        | Susie Bishop<br>Jessica Boyle        |
| August 14    | 8:00 AM<br>10:30 PM | Jason & Pam Trentini & Family<br>Jim & Marylou Neill      | Josiah Ackerman<br>Carly Rockovich  | Jenna &<br>Stephanie Eckels          |
| August 21    | 8:00 AM<br>10:30 AM | Shane & Sandy Bryant<br>Kristen Neill                     | Matthew Liberatore<br>Lara Luedeman | Megan Pasquini<br>Marian Oelschlager |
| August 28    | 8:00 AM<br>10:30 PM | Rose Steranko<br>Vince & Ginny Kimberland                 | Ava Pasquini<br>Leah Luedeman       | Jodi &<br>Jenny Fitzgerald           |
| September 4  | 8:00 AM<br>10:30 AM | Bill & Carole Schrag<br>Darren & Jennifer Elikor & Family | Josiah Ackerman<br>Anna Gresh       | Megan Meyer<br>Lara Luedeman         |
| September 11 | 8:00 AM<br>10:30 AM | Bob & Diana Schmidt<br>Elsie Dalla Piazza                 | Augie Bishop<br>Carly Rockovich     | Alissa McLellan<br>Jessica Boyle     |



| Month            | Elders                            | Altar Guild                       | 8:00 AM Ushers  | 10:30 AM Ushers   |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>August</b>    | Michael Kroeger,<br>Neil Ackerman | Janet & Marian<br>Oelschlager     | Carl Bauer, Gene Koop,<br>Ron Meier &<br>Jack Oelschlager | Debbie Ford,<br>Vince Kimberland,<br>Bill Koester,<br>& Lois Sauro      |
| <b>September</b> | Rob Oelschlager,<br>Neil Ackerman | Diane Schmidt &<br>Megan Pasquini | Kathleen Conn,<br>Bill Schrag,<br>Janet & Larry Zreliak   | Ross Chilcott,<br>Dan Harris,<br>Chuck LaJeunesse, &<br>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@zxcb.org](mailto: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](http://zxcb.org)



# August Birthdays

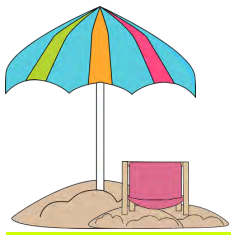
|                     |                        |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 Carrie Albert     | 12 Jennifer Fitzgerald | 24 Joseph Pracel Jr.   |
| 3 Leif Luedeman     | 13 Sam Trentini        | 25 Robert James III    |
| 4 Nicholas Buzzelli | 14 Brittany Buzzelli   | 25 Ed Malachosky       |
| 4 Louise Prager     | 14 Paula Jones         | 25 Megan Meyer         |
| 5 Anna Gresh        | 14 Bill Koester        | 28 Kim Luedeman        |
| 5 Darla Rockovich   | 15 Christine Thomas    | 29 Henry Dittmer       |
| 6 Megan Gauger      | 19 Jack Bishop         | 29 Helen Erbrecht      |
| 6 Jonathan Kohlhepp | 21 Matthew Oelschlager | 29 Chrissy Scott       |
| 6 Mark Pracel       | 22 Pippa Carter        | 29 Jaclyn Scott        |
| 8 Paul Klemash      | 22 Jane Lenhart        | 30 Bernie Blanco       |
| 9 Matthew Morgan    | 24 Rebekah Ackerman    | 30 Dawn Geregach       |
| 9 Pam Trentini      |                        | 30 George Kozak        |
| 10 Matt Liberatore  |                        | 31 Mitchell Fitzgerald |



# August Anniversaries

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





# August 2016



| Sunday  | Monday                        | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday                   | Saturday  |
|---|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--------------------------|---|
|   | 1<br>7:00 pm Trustees Meeting | 2<br>7:00 pm & 8:30 pm Zion Lions Softball Double Header | 3<br>7:00 pm Service of Prayer and Preaching & Small Group Bible Study<br>7:00 pm Zion Lions Softball Game | 4<br>10:00 am Bible Study<br>7:30 pm Elders Meeting                                    | 5                        | 6<br>8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast                        |
| 7<br>8:00 am Worship w/ Communion<br>9:30 am Bible Class<br>10:30 am Worship w/ Communion & Children's Church<br>11:45 am Board Of Education Meeting            | 8                             | 9  | 10<br>7:00 pm Service of Prayer and Preaching & Small Group Bible Study                                    | 11<br>10:00 am Bible Study<br>7:30 pm Council Meeting                                  | 12<br>Genesis Seminar II | 13<br>8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast<br>Genesis Seminar II |
| 14<br>8:00 am Worship w/ Communion<br>9:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship w/ Communion<br><b>FOOD BANK COLLECTION</b><br>Genesis Seminar II | 15                            | 16   | 17<br>7:00 pm Service of Prayer and Preaching & Small Group Bible Study                                    | 18<br>10:00 am Bible Study<br>7:30 pm Church Council Meeting                           | 19                       | 20<br>8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast                       |
| 21<br>8:00 am Worship w/ Communion<br>9:30 am Bible Class<br>10:30 am Worship w/ Communion & Children's Church  | 22                            | 23   | 24<br>7:00 pm Service of Prayer and Preaching & Small Group Bible Study                                    | 25<br>10:00 am Bible Study   | 26                       | 27<br>8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast                       |
| 28<br>8:00 am Worship w/ Communion<br>9:30 am Meet the Vicar Breakfast<br>10:30 am Worship w/ Communion   | 29                            | 30<br>6:30 pm Sunday School Meeting                      | 31<br>7:00 pm Service of Prayer and Preaching & Small Group Bible Study                                    | <p><i>Mightier than the waves of the sea, is His love for you.</i><br/>Psalms 93:4</p> |                          |   |



**Zion Lutheran Church**

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