

# Zion Lutheran Monthly

## INSide THIS ISSUe:

Vicar's Corner	Pg 1
Chairman's Report	Pg 2
Christmas Decorating	Pg 3
Preschool News	Pg 4
Youth & Sunday School News	Pg 5
Announcements	Pg 6-7
Upcoming Events	Pg 8
Bible in a Year Readings	Pg 9
Service Participants	Pg 10
Birthdays & Anniversaries	Pg 11
Calendar of Events	Pg 12

## December 2016



## Vicar's Corner

Christmas is coming! Now I'm sure you've heard the standard Christmas newsletter article before. "Jesus is the reason for the season", "Focus on Jesus even when things get busy", "It isn't about the presents". All those things are true. We are celebrating the birth of the Son of God this month! It is an exciting time. I pray that you are able to focus on Jesus even as things are busy, and I hope to see you in church as we see God's love on display in Christ and dig deep into the text of Scripture- Old and New Testaments- in our Bible Studies about the coming of Jesus.

But because I'm sure you know that Jesus is the reason for the season and I'm sure you will be doing everything you can to get a break during the holidays, I have a bit of a different encouragement for you. Around Christmas, our church building will be fuller than at almost any other time of the year. We will have many guests, visitors, and others walking through the doors. You know the significance of the birth of Christ. That little baby in the manger grows into a man who suffers and dies for the sins of the world and rises from the dead. There is nothing more important than Jesus and what he has done for us. The visitors walking in our doors might not know this. This might be the only time they step into a church all year.

So at our services this year, find someone you don't know and go talk to them. It might just be a hello or a quick conversation. You probably won't end up talking about the deep significance of what Christ has done (although they will hear it in the sermon). You might miss out on a chance to say hello to your friends. But this Christmas we have an opportunity. Let's take it! Jesus Christ is the light of the world who shone into the darkness of fallen creation. He has come for you, for our visitors, and yes, even for those who don't even come to church at Christmas. Let's take this opportunity, with our church as full as it gets, to engage those who come in our doors and welcome them back to continue hearing the greatest news anyone will ever hear!

May God bless you this Christmas season and always!

Vicar Joshua

# Chairman's Report

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

October Income	\$ 49,991.56
October Expenses	<u>\$ 64,341.48</u>
Unfavorable to Income	(\$ 14,349.92)
Fiscal Year Income	\$235,182.92
Fiscal Year Expenses	\$212,941.94

Large outflows designated as Plant Operation caused the month's negative cash flow. At the end of October, Zion has a cash position totaling \$24,665.68 and is slightly behind the year-to-date budget.

Please continue to pray for Zion and support our ministries with your time, talents and treasures. May God continue to bless us as we boldly speak the name of Jesus to a world in desperate need of His grace.

## November Council Meeting Highlights

On behalf of the Audit Committee, Dale Miller presented recommendations from the Committee's work. A large number of operational improvements were noted. The key to capturing these opportunities will be follow through and accountability.

ZLCB Youth Director Joe Faini described his process for reaching middle and high school students with the Gospel. These are critical years when friendships tend to drive interests and perspective of individuals. Joe challenged ZLCB to plan and execute on events geared toward the younger students within this age group.

The Council appointed the following as members of a committee whose mandate will be to determine what ZLCB needs from Shepherd's Staff and who will have responsibility, accountability and ownership of the data. ZLCB owns the rights to this system and has been utilizing it but not to its full capability.

Bill Bishop (Chair)	Megan Pasquini
Nancy Klemash	Linda Kroeger
Kim Luedeman	Brian Pasquini (technical advisor)

## Prayer Reminders

Please pray for Vicar Joshua Ulm and the leadership during the period as we seek the next shepherd to lead God's people at Zion Lutheran Church.

Christ's Blessings,  
Jay Anderson  
Chairman of ZLCB



# Food Bank

Collection for this month's Bridgeville area food bank is Sunday, December 11th. The "item of the month" is hot drinks.

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.



Save the date for the...

# Zion Christmas Decorating Party!

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> 4:30PM**

**DINNER SERVED AT 5PM**

**PLEASE BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE**

*Bring the whole family and help us  
decorate Zion for advent and Christmas!*

**WE'LL HAVE BABYSITTING,  
CRAFTS, AND ACTIVITIES  
FOR ALL AGES!**

**PLEASE RSVP IN  
THE NARTHEX BY  
NOVEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>**





# PRESCHOOL NEWS!

Greetings from the Preschool! We have been busy little Pilgrims and Indians. As we usually do in November, we asked the children to bring in food items for the Bridgeville food bank. We explained that the food bank is where people who don't have enough money to buy food can go and get food. Wow....the children were certainly up to the challenge. We were able to send bags and bags of food to help those less fortunate. It made the children feel good to know that they were helping little children and their families. Children truly are amazing in their capability to understand real topics when presented in a way that relates to them.

We had our first Chick-fil-A spirit night.....what a blast! So many of our families came out to support our school and fun was had by all. The children love seeing their teachers outside of the school. I think many of the kids think that we live at the school. Their little eyes light up in disbelief that we enjoy some of the same things that they do....like eating at Chick-fil-A. Chick-fil-A donates 15% of total sales back to the school. We love to support this wonderful Christian business and they support us back.

We also put Vicar Joshua to work this month. He did a fabulous job teaching the Chapel lesson. He taught the children the story of the 10 men whom Jesus healed and how only one said thank you. He had the children totally engaged and acting out the story with him...what an awesome sight! He then asked the children what they were thankful for and prayed with them. Great job Vicar Josh!

December will be filled with lots of fun Christmas activities. In addition to our Christmas parties, kids praise, Chapel, Lunch Bunch Moms Morning Out and our Christmas programs, we will host two "Shopping days". This is a time when parents can leave their children at school until 2:00 (with pizza, games and a movie, I might add) while their moms and dads have some shopping time "kid free". I'm sure it doesn't come as a surprise that this is very popular! The best part is that the kids love to stay at school longer with their wonderful teachers.

Our Christmas program will be on two days again this year due to the number of students and their families who attend. We would love for you to come and enjoy a night of beautiful Christmas music sung by our preschool children. What a joy it is to hear the good news of Jesus' birth through the voices of these little children. The program dates are Monday December 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday December 6<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there.

Blessings,

Tracey Harris  
Director



# Zion Youth News and Events

Where? Mt. Lebanon Rec Center (Ice Rink)  
Location? 900 Cedar Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15228  
When? Dec. 2  
Time? 9:00-10:30  
Who? Anyone in Middle School



**Broom  
Ball** Cost? \$10

**POSTPONED!!!**

WHEN? SAT. DEC. 3  
TIME? 6-8PM  
WHO? ANYONE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL  
WHERE? ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
LOCATION? 3197 WASHINGTON PIKE, BRIDGEVILLE, PA 15017  
COST? \$0  
FOOD? PIZZA

**UNTIL  
JANUARY**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Attention ALL ZION MEMBERS! You are cordially invited to hear the story of Jesus' birth by Zion's Sunday school children in "S is for Savior".

Ponder as the children explore the story of Jesus' birth through Scripture.

Listen as children sing along with several of Zion's musicians. Enjoy the crafty talents of Zion's artists in a spectacular, giant Christmas book.

To remember that salvation through Jesus is a free gift for all people, a free gift will be handed out at the end of the program.

*S is for  
Savior*

### Sunday School December Calendar

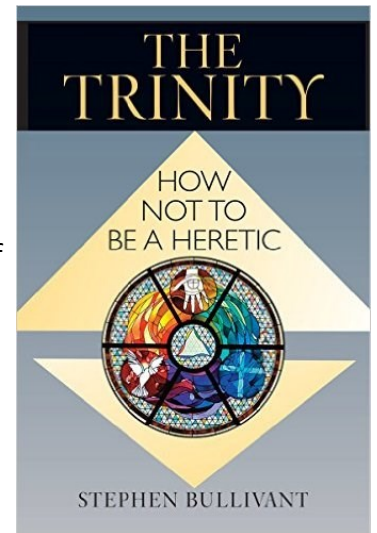
- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Sunday, December 4:  | Dress Rehearsal during the Sunday school hour in the sanctuary   |
| Sunday, December 11: | Full Rehearsal during the Sunday school hour in the sanctuary<br>Pizza/Subs/Salad Luncheon – 11:45 – 1pm<br>S is for Savior CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, 1-2pm |
| Sunday, December 18: | Sunday school Christmas party  |
| Sunday, December 25: | No Sunday school classes   |
| Sunday, January 1:   | No Sunday school classes   |

# Vicar's Book of the Month

Coming in December we will be beginning Vicar's Book of the month. We read a lot of Scripture here at Zion- as we should! But if you are looking to expand your reading to another book, which book should you start with? Every month we will have 2 copies of the book of the month in the library, free for you to check out! This month's book is "The Trinity: How not to be a heretic" by Stephen Bullivant. Here is a brief description of the book from Amazon:

The Trinity is Christianity's most basic description of who God actually is and who he needs to be in order to save us. It is at the very heart of what Christians believe, and very little else in Christianity makes sense without it.

The central idea of this book is that, contrary to popular assumption, the Trinity is a very simple doctrine. It consists of just three short, deeply scriptural convictions: i) There is only one God; ii) Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all God; and iii) Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not the same. The Trinity: How Not to Be a Heretic explains how the earliest Christians came to be convinced by each statement, why they matter, and how slowly, over a period of several centuries it found a way of saying all three at once. Its sole purpose is to help Christians of all kinds better understand the Trinity so that they can then help others Christians, non-Christians, and maybe even some not-yet-Christians better understand it too.



On Saturday, November 11th, a group from Zion went to pray outside the planned parenthood abortion clinic in Pittsburgh. It was an eye-opening experience that taught us about sin, the great need that women and families have in our country, and being mocked for the sake of Christ. I could tell you all about it here, but I'd rather you talk to Kenny Wuerthele, Susie Bishop, June Malachosky, or Dwight Weldon, who were there. Go talk to them and hear about this experience!



## Vicar Joshua Goes "Black & Gold"

Cleveland-area native, and die-hard Browns fan Vicar Joshua was a great sport Sunday November 20th when the (5-5) Steeler routed his hapless (0-11) Browns 24-9 in Cleveland, Ohio. In an effort to raise funds for Zion's new "Bell Choir," Vicar Joshua agreed wear the following items if specific (financial) goals were met, they included: black & gold socks, a Steelers necklace, a Terrible Towel around his neck, a Steelers hat, a Steelers jersey and black & gold face paint.

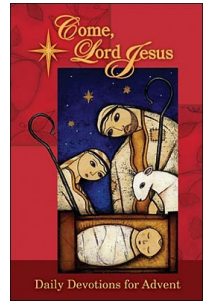


Zion's Vicar endured a great deal of taunting by good-natured Steelers fans as a crowd gathered to watch the game with him in Zion Lutheran Church's basement. But it was Vicar Joshua who got the last laugh because his efforts helped raise a total of \$2,300 to the cause.

If you would like to contribute to the fund, visit: [goo.gl/FqgXSF](http://goo.gl/FqgXSF)

# Advent Devotionals

Free Advent devotionals are available on the welcome center in the narthex. Advent is a season where we prepare ourselves to reflect on the birth of Jesus and prepare our hearts for his return. A great way to do this is by adding a daily devotion for advent! These short 5-minute devotions are a great way to focus on Christ during the busy Christmas season.



## HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Kim and Jay Anderson will be hosting a Zion Holiday Open House for all members of Zion to express their appreciation for their 10 years at Zion before they move. Join them on Sunday, December 4th in the undercroft from 5:00-8:00pm. Hors de oeuvres, dinner, and drinks will be provided. Please stop by as time permits. To get a count for food, Please sign up in the narthex by November 30th!

Join us on December 4th as we spread Christmas Cheer to the shut in's of our congregation! We will meet at Zion at 4:00 pm so we can break into teams and visit as many people as we can. Everyone is welcome to attend.



## Advent Dinners

Join us on Wednesday evenings during the Advent Season for dinner and service. Each week a dinner of soups and salad will be served at 6:00pm. Our Advent Services will follow at 7:00 pm. Hope to see you there!



### Christmas Week Schedule

- ◆ December 21st - 7:00pm Advent Service
- ◆ December 24th - 7:00pm Christmas Eve
- ◆ December 25th - 9:00am Christmas Day
- ◆ December 31st - 7:00 pm New Years Eve
- ◆ January 1st - 8:00am & 10:30am Sunday Services



# Poinsettia orders!



Every year we decorate our altar area with poinsettias at Christmas. The poinsettias will be displayed on Christmas Eve. You can pick them up after that service or at the Christmas Day service. Orders are due by Sunday December 4th. Each poinsettia is \$6.75. Order forms are in each Sunday's bulletin!

## Remember our Shut In's this Christmas

Tom Bicusky - 3275 Washington Pike Bridgeville PA 15017

Don Jones - 313 Liberty St. Bridgeville PA 15017

Ruth Miller - 615 N. Pike Road PC Rm 107 C Cabot PA 16023

Jim Lynch - Strabane Woods, 319 Wellness Way,  
Room 107, Washington, PA 15301

Norm & Helen Erbrecht - 104 Twin Ponds Lane Bridgeville PA  
15017

George & Florence Boehme - Paramount Senior Living  
240 Cedar Hill Drive McMurray PA 15317

During the Christmas Season our Shut-in members would love to hear from you. Please consider sending a quick note to wish these members a Very Merry Christmas!



Starting November 13th 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 red gift tag marked with a size is to be for clothing. If the tag has child's age and gender only, it is to be for a toy. Your wrapped or unwrapped gift costing around twenty dollars will need to be returned with the gift tag attached no later than Sunday, **DECEMBER 11.**

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 ninety 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 cash donation or write a check to the Bridgeville Area Food Bank. The third Saturday of the month between 8:00 AM and 12:00 PM is when we distribute 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,  
Barb Oechslein  
Bridgeville Area Food Bank Representative





# December Reading Plan

Read the Bible in a Year!

1: Revelation 1-2	11: Isaiah 7-9	21: Isaiah 37-39
2: Revelation 3-5	12: Isaiah 10-12	22: Isaiah 40-42
3: Revelation 6-8	13: Isaiah 13-15	23: Isaiah 43-45
4: Revelation 9-11	14: Isaiah 16-18	24: Isaiah 46-48
5: Revelation 12-14	15: Isaiah 19-21	25: Isaiah 49-51
6: Revelation 15-17	16: Isaiah 22-24	26: Isaiah 52-54
7: Revelation 18-20	17: Isaiah 25-27	27: Isaiah 55-57
8: Revelation 21-22	18: Isaiah 28-30	28: Isaiah 58-60
9: Isaiah 1-3	19: Isaiah 31-33	29: Isaiah 61-63
10: Isaiah 4-6	20: Isaiah 34-36	30: Isaiah 64-66
		31: We did it!



---

## Fifth Annual "Adopt a Grandparent"

During this holiday season, our local group of Mary Kay independent consultants is adopting nursing home residents of Allegheny County. Many of these people have few, if any, visitors and receive little, if anything, during the holidays. Last year, through the generosity of local businesses and customers, we delivered over 700 gifts to residents of John J Kane Regional Hospital, Scott Twp and Concordia of South Hills., and Baptist Home, and Marion Manor. This year we hope to deliver 1,000 gifts and spread cheer to even more men and women who now live in assisted care facilities! By partnering with me, your \$15 donation will sponsor a very special gift for the residents and enable them to have a very Merry Christmas. Your kind donation will purchase two of our Satin Hands lotions. These items are specifically requested by caregivers for the benefits the residents receive. The lotions will soothe their hands and feet and bring joy as well by the simple "touch therapy" of applying them.

With your help, we look forward to sharing these gifts of joy. The gifts will be hand delivered by consultants and their children to nursing homes in December.

Please consider what a blessing this is for the men and women in these facilities who once lived and worked in our local communities. Let them know they are remembered! THANK YOU!!

Make your check payable to Ginny Granke or if you have questions about how you, your school, or your business can become a sponsor.

Please contact:

Ginny Granke-Kimberland

1610 Glenn St, McDonald, PA 15057

412-427-9013 or 724-926-2670,



# Service Participants

Date	Time	Greeters	Acolytes	Nursery
December 4	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Ron & Judy Meier Elsie DallaPiazza	Augie Bishop Anna Gresh	Nell Wilson, Tess Carter, Susie Bishop
December 7 Advent Service	7:00 PM	_____	Elder	_____
December 11	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bernie & Jean Blanco Megan & Lee Glasser	Ava Pasquini Leah Luedeman	Adele Goodge, Sharon Bogden & Christine Chilcott
December 14 Advent Service	7:00 PM	_____	Elder	_____
December 18	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Shane & Sandy Bryant Robb & Alaina Oelschlager	Joey Ackerman Lara Luedeman	Carrie Lemonovich, Jenna & Stephanie Eckels
December 21 Advent Service	7:00 PM	_____	Elder	_____
December 24 Christmas Eve	7:00 PM	Peter & Barbara Fisher <b>Crucifer:</b> Chris Yellig	Anna Gresh & Matt Liberatore	No Nursery
December 25 Christmas Day	9:00 AM	Brent & Marianne Miller & Millie Thielet <b>Crucifer:</b> Elder	Augie Bishop	No Nursery
December 31 New Year's Eve	7:00 PM	_____	Elder	_____
January 1	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bill & Melanie Becker Rose Steranko	Matt Liberatore Leah Luedeman	No Nursery
January 8	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bob & Diana Schmidt Marian & Janet Oelschlager	Joey Ackerman Augie Bishop	Megan Glasser, Deb Sterba, Lara Luedeman

Month	Elders	Altar Guild	8:00 AM Ushers	10:30 AM Ushers
<b>December</b>	John Gielarowski Neil Ackerman	Janet Oelschlager Marian Oelschlager	Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, Jack Oelschlager & Ron Meier	Ross Chilcott, Dan Harris, Chuck LaJeu- nesse & Rich Quinlan
<b>January</b>	John Gielarowski Mike Sterba	Mary Hutula Elsie DallaPiazza	Kathleen Conn, Bill Schrag, Janet & Larry Zreliak	Sam Dragan, Loren Luedeman, 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@zlc.org](mailto:secretary@zlc.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: [zlc.org](http://zlc.org)

# December Birthdays

1 Tess Carter

9 Michele Wallace

23 Megan Pasquini

1 Laurie Eckels

10 Megan Glasser

24 Jeremy Dyczewski

2 John Coyle

10 Michael Oechslein

24 Michael Dyczewski

2 Sharon Oechslein

13 Susan Stone

27 Kay Case

3 Augie Bishop

17 John Gresh

27 Rebekah Quinlan

3 Linda Seibel

18 Bob Spotti

29 Kathleen Derosa

5 Benjamin Ackerman

22 Casper Carter

29 Leah Luedeman

5 Jim Goodge

23 Adam Eliker

29 Riese Smidt

6 Lucas Dill

30 Jordan James



# December Anniversaries

22 Jesse & Tess Carter





# December 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign;  <i>Behold</i>, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,            and shall call his name <i>Immanuel</i>.            Isaiah 7:14</p>				<p>1</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study</p> <p>7:30 pm Elders Meeting</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00 pm Middle School Youth            Event: Broom Ball</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast</p> <p>10:00 am Men's Choir Practice</p> <p>4:30 pm Christmas Decorating Party</p>
<p>4</p> <p>8:00 am Worship w/ Communion</p> <p>9:30 am Bible Class &amp; Sunday School Program Dress Rehearsal</p> <p>10:30 am Worship w/ Communion</p> <p>11:45 am Children's Choir Practice</p> <p>11:45 am Board of Education Meeting</p> <p>4:00 pm Christmas Caroling</p> <p>5:00 pm Anderson's Holiday Open House</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00 pm Trustees Meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Confirmation</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:00 pm Advent Dinner</p> <p>7:00 pm Advent Service</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast</p> <p>10:00 am Men's Choir Practice</p>
<p>11</p> <p>8:00 am Worship</p> <p>9:30 am Bible Class &amp; Sunday School Program Dress Rehearsal</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p> <p>11:45 am Christmas Program Luncheon</p> <p>FOOD BANK COLLECTION</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00 pm Confirmation</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:00 pm Advent Dinner</p> <p>7:00 pm Advent Service</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast</p>
<p>18</p> <p>8:00 am Worship w/communion</p> <p>9:30 am Bible Class &amp; Sunday School Christmas Party</p> <p>10:30 am Worship w/communion</p> <p>11:45 am Children's Choir Practice</p> <p>11:45 am Events Committee Meeting</p> <p>11:45 am Stephen Ministry Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00 pm Confirmation</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:00 pm Advent Dinner</p> <p>7:00 pm Advent Service</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 Christmas Eve Service</p> 
<p>25 Merry Christmas!</p> <p>9:00 am Worship w/communion</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:00 New Year's Eve Service</p> 



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



Zion Lutheran Church

3197 Washington Pike

Bridgeville, PA 15017

[www.zlcb.org](http://www.zlcb.org)

(412) 221-4776

Zion Lutheran Church  
3197 Washington Pike  
Bridgeville, PA 15017

