

Zion Lutheran Monthly

January 2017



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Vicar's Corner

One of the games that we like to play in confirmation class is "Is it Law or Gospel?". I mention a situation or event to the students and then they have to decide if it is the good news of the gospel from God (something God does for us, Jesus) or terrifying news of the law (something God requires from us). As an example we'll take the pastor's words in the absolution "I forgive you all your sins". Is that law or gospel? The answer is gospel! What about the apostle John's exhortation "love one another?". Is this law or gospel? Because it is something required of us, we would label this command as law. The primary use of

this law/gospel distinction is in the interpretation of Scripture. For the preacher and the reader it is important to know "is God requiring something of me or freely giving me something in this text?". But law and gospel show up in our lives as well.

As we begin the new year, I'd like us to consider the law and gospel aspects of the new year. Is the coming of the new year law or gospel for the Christian? It depends on how you think of it. If a new year is a fresh start, a new beginning, then you probably think the start of the year is "good news" at least in the general sense. There are, however, law aspects to the new year. Many people start the new year with a new year's resolution, something they require of themselves, something to do. Many people fear what will come in the new year, fearing they won't meet their goals, or that the next year will fall short of their expectations.

More specifically for the Christian, we see both law and gospel elements to the new year. The new year does have some law aspects to it. As Christians, considering anew what God requires of us is appropriate as we enter a new year. Have you been attending church? How is your thought life? How is your prayer life? Are you reading God's Word? Is there a sinful habit that you need to eliminate?. These are law questions, but important ones as Christians, and the new year is a good time to ask them. All of us will have different answers to those questions, but we all share in the fact that those answers will be insufficient, which is why we also take note of the gospel aspects of the new year. 2017 will be another year as a baptized child of God. 2017 is another year where God offers you his grace again and again and again in His Word and Sacraments. 2017 will be another year of God's forgiveness covering your sins. Most exciting of all, 2017 may just be the year our Lord returns!

May God bless you this new year and always!

Vicar Joshua

Chairman's Report

Church, Mission & Synod (CMS) & Plate Finances

October Income	\$48,048.43
October Expenses	<u>\$50,120.03</u>
Unfavorable to Income	(\$ 2,071.60)

Fiscal Year Income	\$283,231.35
Fiscal Year Expenses	\$263,061.97

Income and Expenses are both ahead of budget year to date. Tuition from ECDP and Weekly Offerings are at budget or slightly ahead. On the Expense side, several ministries have contributed to the variance to budget. Overall, ZLCB's financial situation continues to be solid.

Continue to pray for Zion and support her ministries with your time, talents and treasures. May God continue to shower down blessings upon His church body in Bridgeville.

December Council Meeting Cancelled

The decision was made to cancel the Council Meeting scheduled in December. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 12th at 7:30 pm.

Call Committee

District President Wicher provided personal information of 18 candidates for the vacant pastoral position at ZLCB. The Call Committee met on Monday December 12th receiving the information on the candidates. In the coming weeks, Committee members will review, discuss and streamline the list to a manageable number of men for the next phase of the process.

Please pray that God would grant wisdom to this body to accept the Holy Spirit's guidance in order to discern the next shepherd willed by God to lead ZLCB.

Expressing Appreciation

Kim and I want to thank the membership at Zion Lutheran Church for having welcomed us into your family when we arrived in Pittsburgh 10 years ago. Our time spent with you was a blessing and a joy. May God's love, peace and mercy rest upon you and your labors. "Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you." (Isaiah 12:6)

Christ's Blessings,

Jay Anderson



Dear Members of Zion,

On behalf of the staff here at Zion, we want to say a big THANK YOU to the congregation for your generous staff Christmas gifts. We appreciate all of your support for the work that we all do here at Zion. You are what makes our Ministry here at Zion continue to grow. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Zion Staff:

Pastor Carlson, Vicar Joshua,
Megan, Amanda, Joe, Jim, Mark, & Sandra

PRESCHOOL NEWS!

Believe it, or not, December has come and gone and what a whirlwind of a month it was! We had two Christmas programs, two Christmas shopping days, Chapel and countless classroom Christmas parties. And did I mention....ugly sweater week? I've never see so many "beautiful" sweaters in one place...ones that jingled, sparkled and yes, even twinkled, and that was just the staff!

Our Christmas programs were a huge success again this year. We started the program with a Christmas video detailing the events in Luke 2. We waited to process the children down the aisle until after the video. With over 400 people over the course of two nights, and for some the only time they would spend in church during the Christmas season, we wanted to make an impactand boy did we ever. The children entered the church and the joyous singing commenced. It was awesome!!

We'll start the new year getting the children back into a routine which can sometimes be difficult after a long break. We will look forward to visits from the zoo, continuing the Christmas story and lots of winter time fun.

Registration for the 2017/2018 school year (yikes) will start at the end of January. We will be adding an afternoon Stepping Stones class on Monday/Tuesday/Thursday, in addition to our afternoon PreKindergarten and Preschool. That is the last class that we can add to our school... we will be officially "out of space" in both the morning and afternoon....GOD IS GOOD! Please continue to pray that God will continue to guide families to our school and that we can continue our level of excellence both academically and spiritually.

Happy New Year!

Blessings,

Tracey



Altar Flowers & Eternal Lights

Altar Flowers and Eternal Light sponsorship sign ups are now available in the back of the church for 2017. Please pick up the corresponding envelope for the date that you sign up for. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Lemonovich.



Zion Youth News and Events



South Hills Wyldlife

We will be combining with South Hills Wyldlife this month. (Middle School group with Young Life) It is more of a school based thing which will allow kids to bring their friends from school! Feel free to invite someone it's going to be a lot of fun!

We will be meeting at Zion Lutheran Church (3197 Washington Pike and driving together to Legacy Lanes in Baldwin. We will let you know when we are meeting as soon as we get the time nailed down. Plan on Friday night around 7:30pm.

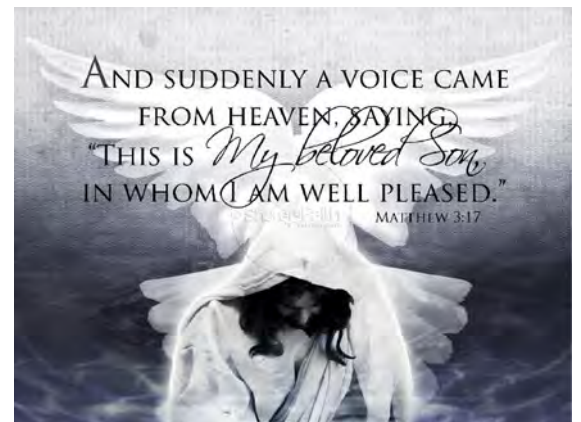
Please Contact Joe Faini
if you are willing to drive.
681-945-5655
joe@zlcb.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

January Unit

In Luke's description of Jesus' baptism, the Spirit descended on Jesus while he was praying. Accompanying the Spirit, a voice from heaven declared, "You are my Son, whom I dearly love." This heavenly declaration affirms Jesus as God's Son. God's blessing also serves as a model for us. All of us benefit from affirmations of love. God love you! ~Luke 3:22

Want to get involved with Sunday school?
Email Katie Gielarowski at sundayschool@zlcb.org.



"S is for Savior" Christmas Program

T is for THANKFUL.....for OUR CHILDREN who shared the Gospel so beautifully, THEIR PARENTS who encouraged and enabled them to do so, OUR VOLUNTEERS who donated time and talent behind the scenes, OUR AUDIENCE who valued and enjoyed hearing the Word of God from Zion's youngest, ...and GOD OUR FATHER, who so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

February Mission Month Events

- February 5th: Cards for Zion's homebound and ill
- February 12th: Letters and drawings for U.S. Troops
- February 19th: Operation Stars and Stripes Assembly *volunteers needed
- February 26th: Field Trip (location TBD)

Operation:
Bags of Love

♥♥♥
Help support our

Last year, we sent 264 bags of love to American troops in Afghanistan, Korea and Greenland.

Help make our 5th year the BEST EVER.

Your mission? Bring the following items and place in one of the Operation Stars and Stripes collection boxes:

Ramen Noodles

Drink Mix Singles (Propel, Coffee, etc.)

Snack sized packages of **Granola Bars**

Snack sized packages of **Jerky** or **Slim Jims**

Chewing **Gum**

Gallon-sized **ZipLok** Bags

Other ways you can help:

Monetary donations to help with shipping costs (*make checks payable to Zion Lutheran church and label "OSS"*)

Write a **Letter of Encouragement** to a soldier. Must be written on provided letterhead.

Draw a **Picture** on our Operation: Bags of Love drawing page.

Pray for our troops.

Help Sunday school kids assemble items on February 19th at 9:15am.

(Letterhead and drawing pages are available in the Narthex, school lobby and on the Sunday school tab at www.zlcb.org.)

Thank you for your donations!

~Zion Lutheran Sunday school

For more information about Operation: Stars and Stripes, Inc., please visit their website at www.operationstarsandstripes.org.

A Bible Study for Teen Girls

Seamless

Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story



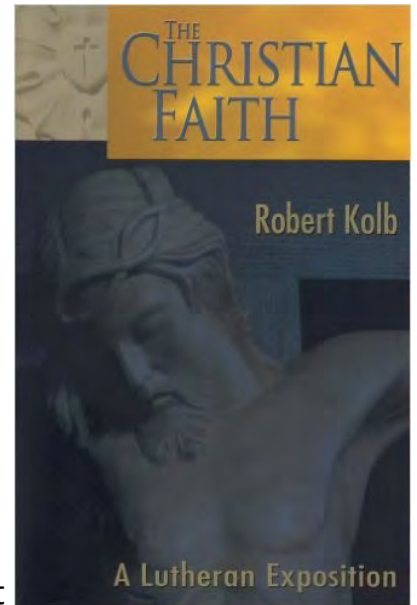
angie smith

Who: Girls 7th grade and up
Begins: Sunday, January 8th
Time: 11:45 am - 12:45 pm
Sign up: Use the sign-up sheet in the sanctuary or email Katie Gielarowski @ sundayschool@zlcb.com

LifeWay | Girls

Vicar's Book of the Month

This month's book is perfect for the start of the new year! Robert Kolb's "The Christian Faith" is a classic that explores the basic beliefs of the Christian Faith in simple terms. One of the unique aspects of this book is that it functions both as a tool for theological learning and a devotional tool. Kolb discusses the faith in order to teach, but in this book you also hear the Gospel proclaimed to you. The most impactful part of this book for me was Kolb's discussion about baptism. He says that baptism is a rehearsal for judgment day. In baptism God says "you are righteous", "you are mine". On judgment day he will repeat those proclamations as he welcomes you into His eternal kingdom! Amazing gospel! Check it out in Zion's library starting in January!



Lector Program

Are you interested in reading Scripture in front of the congregation? Starting this month, that opportunity will be available to any confirmed member of the congregation. The reading of God's Word is an honor and a privilege. We rejoice that God has given some of us a desire and the ability to do so! There will be a brief lector training for those interested at a later date. For now, contact Darren Eiker at deliker@comcast.net or sign up in the Narthex for more information.

Are you looking to take a few pounds off this new year? Theologically speaking, are you looking to honor God in your care of the body he has given you? Then sign up for Zion's Biggest Loser! Cost is 20 dollars. Weigh-ins will be monthly, beginning Jan 8 and ending Good Friday. If you lose 5% of your bodyweight you will make that 20 dollars back. Prizes will be awarded for the top 3 losers by percentage. Contact Vicar or sign up in the Narthex!



Prayer & Preaching



During the time between Christmas and Lent, our Wednesday evening will take a slightly different shape. Beginning January 11 we will be having a Bible Study and a time of prayer together rather than a service with a sermon. This remains a wonderful opportunity to gather together and allows us to dig deep into God's Word, sharing our Spirit-given insights together. We hope to see you Wednesday evenings at 7PM.

Food Bank

Collection for this month's Bridgeville area food bank is Sunday, January 8th . The "item of the month" is **packaged meals**.

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.



It is a great joy to have such an outpouring of generosity from the members of Zion congregation for the area children of families in need. On behalf of the Bridgeville Area Food Bank (BAFB) thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas Angel Tree project. May those who gave and those who received be blessed with knowing that Jesus is the best gift of all.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in giving food throughout this past year. It has helped many families within our community. If you wish to help out we accept all non-perishable items each month. You may place these items in the church narthex. In addition an "item of the month" will be suggested to collect what the BAFB calls extras. These items normally are not purchased on a regular basis by the BAFB but are much needed supplies for individuals and families.

The following is a list of the upcoming, "item of the month":

January – Packaged meals

(Hamburger helper, Rice-a-Roni, etc.)

February – Cereal and Breakfast food

March – Fruit (canned and dried)

April – Rice, noodles, and beans

May – Picnic condiments

June – Paper products

July – Cookies

August – Crackers

September – Personal Hygiene products

October – Baking supplies

November – Canned meats and proteins

(tuna, salmon, nuts, etc.)

December – Hot drinks

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who brought gifts for our Angel Giving Tree! Gifts and food items were made available for local families in need thanks to your generous donations. For more information about the Bridgeville Area Food Bank and their associated services, contact Barb Oechslein at boechslein@hotmail.com



OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available in the back of the church. Please take your envelopes. Any questions please see Nancy Klemash. The envelopes are in alphabetical order. If you do not find a box of envelopes in your name, and are a member, and want envelopes to use for your offerings, please let Nancy know. And, if you have been contributing using the **online** system only, and do not desire physical envelopes, please let Nancy know.

Service Participants

Date	Time	Greeters	Acolytes	Nursery
January 1	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bill & Melanie Becker Rose Steranko	Matt Liberatore Augie Bishop	No Nursery
January 8	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bob & Diana Schmidt Marian & Janet Oelschlager	Joey Ackerman Leah Luedeman	Megan Glasser, Deb Sterba, Lara Luedeman
January 15	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Robert & Diana Schmidt Chuck & Debbie LaJeunesse	Ava Pasquini Lara Luedeman	Megan & Ava Pasquini, Marian Oelschlager
January 22	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Carl & Karen Bauer Hunsberger Family	Matt Liberatore Anna Gresh	Megan Meyer, Carly & Darla Rockovich
January 29	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	George, Jane & Mike Kozak Dill Family	Joey Ackerman Lara Luedeman	Brittney Dill, Sydney Januesy & Leah Luedeman
February 5	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Jack & Jacque Oelschlager Max & Jean Ma	Ava Pasquini Leah Luedeman	Jenny & Jodi Fitzgerald, Barb Oechslein
February 12	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Wayne & Barbara Oechslein John & Katie Gielarowski	Matt Liberatore Augie Bishop	Nell Wilson, Tess Carter & Susie Bishop



Month	Elders	Altar Guild	8:00 AM Ushers	10:30 AM Ushers
January	John Gielarowski Mike Sterba	Mary Hutula Elsie DallaPiazza	Kathleen Conn, Bill Schrag, Janet & Larry Zreliak	Sam Dragan, Loren Luedeman, Kari & John Gresh
February	Paul Klemash Shane Bryant	Sarah Ali, Janet & Marian Oelschalger	Ed Malachosky, Michael Kozak, Bill & Melanie Becker	Vince Kimberland, Bill Koester, Mike Wallace, Chuck LaJeunesse

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 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

January Birthdays

1 Lois Klemash	7 Luke Lemonovich	20 Carol Schrag
3 Frank Ivancza	10 Lexi Meyer	21 Shane Bryant
4 Christine Chilcott	12 Ron Valentino	22 Jessica Boyle
4 John Eckels	13 Debbie LaJeunesse	23 Tim Sheldon
5 Steve Dibert	14 Brooke Glasser	24 John Derosa
5 Gloria Godfrey	14 Barb Oechslein	24 Will Schrag
6 Douglas Krantz	16 Jacob Hartman	27 Callista Chilcott
6 Decklan Pasquini	16 Mary Lou Neill	27 Molly Oelschlager
6 Sue Radovich	17 Rochelle Thompson	28 Linda Kroeger
6 Joe Walsh	18 Riley Becker	29 Sara Gielarowski
6 Julie Walsh	18 Vickie Buzzelli	31 Lillian DallaPiazza
7 Tom Bicusky	19 Diane Shuman	31 Ted Siek

 **Happy Birthday!** 

January Anniversaries

7 Mark & Laurie Colman
26 John & Susan Stone
28 Jim & Mary Lou Neill
31 Darren & Jennifer Elikor

 **Happy Anniversary!** 



January 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 am Worship w/ Communion 9:30 am Bible Class 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 11:45 am Children's Choir Practice	2 7:30 pm Call Com- mittee Meeting	3 7:00 pm Choir Practice	4 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting	5 7:30 pm Elders Meeting	6	7 8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast 9:30 am Men's Choir Practice
8 8:00 am Worship w/ Communion 9:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School resumes 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 11:45 am Children's Choir Practice 11:45 am Seamless Bible Study 11:45 am Board of Education Meeting FOOD BANK COLLECTION	9 7:00 pm Confirma- tion	10 7:00 pm Choir Practice	11 7:00 pm Bible Study	12 10:00 am Bible Study 7:30 pm Council Meeting	13	14 8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast
15 8:00 am Worship 9:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Children's Choir Practice 11:45 am Seamless Bible Study 11:45 am Events Committee Meeting	16 7:00 pm Confirma- tion	17 7:00 pm Choir Practice	18 7:00 pm Bible Study	19 10:00 am Bible Study	20	21 8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast 9:30 am Men's Choir Practice
22 8:00 am Worship w/communion 9:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/communion 11:45 am Children's Choir Practice 11:45 am Seamless Bible Study 11:45 am Stephen's Ministry Meeting	23 7:00 pm Confirma- tion	24 7:00 pm Choir Practice	25 7:00 pm Bible Study	26 10:00 am Bible Study	27	28 8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast
29 8:00 am Worship 9:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Children's Choir Practice 11:45 am Seamless Bible Study	30 7:00 pm Confirma- tion	31 6:30 pm Sunday School Meeting 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson they shall become like wool.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Isaiah 1:18</p>			

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



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Bridgeville, PA 15017

www.zlcb.org

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