

Zion Lutheran Monthly

March 2017



INSide tHIS iSSUe:

Vicar's Corner	Pg 1
Note from Pastor	Pg 2
Preschool News	Pg 3
Sunday School News	Pg 4
Upcoming Events	Pg 5
Chairman's Report	Pg 6
Service Participants	Pg 7
Birthdays & Anniversaries	Pg 8
Calendar of Events	Pg 9

Vicar's Corner

Why Lent?

We are about to enter into the season of Lent, beginning with the observance of Ash Wednesday on March 1. The church has been celebrating Lent for at least 1700 years (probably more), using the 40 days before Easter as a time of prayer, fasting, and preparation. But as with all good church traditions, Lent exists not simply to occupy our time or give us something to do, but for our benefit. The bottom line is this: **we are about to reflect on the most important week in human history, so we prepare.**

We are about to ponder the death of our Lord for our sins. During Lent we follow the journey that Christ makes as he ends His public ministry and turns towards Jerusalem, towards the cross. In Lent we examine ourselves, recognizing that the reason Jesus must make this journey, the reason he must be mocked, the reason he must suffer, and the reason he must die is your sin and mine. We lament the fact that our sins caused such grief and pain for our Lord. We rejoice that out of His great love for us He bore the burden and punishment for our sins. In light of what Christ has done, we devote ourselves anew to the never-ending task of purging our lives of sin by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lent is a "penitential season", a time of preparation and fasting. While we have no Biblical command to fast during Lent (feel free to have a steak on Fridays), fasting can be a helpful tool for reflection and spiritual growth. Oftentimes Christians choose to "give something up" in an effort to deprive their bodies and reflect on their own sins, as well as the work of Christ to deal with those sins. If you were in Christian freedom to refrain from meat on Fridays, it *could* serve as a reminder to you of what Christ has done, a "marker" in your life to break you from your routine and cause you to reflect. Perhaps more effective is fasting that leaves you time for prayer and the reading of Scripture, such as refraining from television or another activity. We are free in the Gospel to fast or not to fast during Lent, but the practice is certainly worth considering.

The entire church does fast during Lent. We fast from the word "Alleluia" in our worship services. "Alleluia" means "praise Yahweh", or "praise the Lord". This is done with a purpose. In Lent we spend time reflecting on our sins and what Christ did on the cross. This is a somber thing to consider. God the Father allowed His Son to die for your sins. But in addition to the less joyful tone provided by the absence of Alleluia during lent brings, it also intensifies the joy of Easter Sunday. We can't go back and experience that joy of the first Easter the way the disciples did. We know going in that Jesus isn't going to stay dead! But our Lenten fast from this word allows us to appreciate that joy as we hear the chorus "Jesus Christ is risen today, **Alleluia!**" on Easter Sunday.

May God bless you as you prepare to reflect on the most important week in human history, when Jesus Christ won your salvation!

-Vicar Joshua

"You are More than Ashes"

Dear members of Zion,

Grace, mercy and peace to you in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, amen. My name is Pastor Grimenstein, recently called to serve as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church. I look forward to being installed as your pastor on this coming Palm Sunday and hope all of you will be able to attend the installation service. I am sure more details will be forthcoming as the weeks draw nearer.

Since I will be unable to join you for this Lenten Season, I wanted to take this opportunity to share a Word with you. If you had the chance to attend Ash Wednesday services, or have ever done so in the past, you will notice that as the pastor places ashes upon your forehead that he will say something to the effect of, "from dust you were taken and to dust you will return." It is a somber moment in a very somber service. It is also very sobering to consider that not only were we taken from dust (by God in Creation), but that we will also return to dust upon our death (by man's original sin in the Garden of Eden). It is one of those rare moments in a church service when a not-so-pleasant reality hits – *I am going to die. Everything I have done in my body will turn to dust. Everything I have worked so hard for in my life will turn to dust. My relationships, my friendships will end. Any riches I've gained will be gone. Not only will everything in my life turn to dust, but even my own body, the body I was born with, the body I rode a bike in, this body that has borne children, and played sports, the body that even causes me aches and pains, this body, is going to turn to dust.*

Ash Wednesday sets a very serious tone for Lent. Ash Wednesday sets up the very serious realities we face everyday – we are going to die. It can be so easy for Lent to become about things we take pride in: whether we didn't eat fish on Friday, whether stopped doing this-or-that-sin. And there is certainly room for Lent to be a time for denial and self reflection. But what Lent should really be about is a time for us to remember, or maybe even realize for the very first time, that by ourselves – we are dead. Without any aid – we are just dust. Lent is about realizing we are completely and utterly helpless and hopeless on our own. After all, we were just taken from the dust and we will return to the dust.

But Lent doesn't bring this realization to our mind so that we can sit around and sulk in depression. Because just as quickly as we can realize that we are utterly hopeless and helpless on our own, God can come and speak to you saying, *"Yes, you are without hope by yourself. And you are truly dead by yourself. But you are not by yourself. I am your Lord, I am your God, and I am very good at making things out of dust. I did it in the beginning, and I will do it again in the final resurrection and, through my Son Jesus, I have already made you new."* It is good for us to remember during Lent, and all through the church year, that we are just dust and ashes. But as quickly as we remember this, we should also remember that through the resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning, God the Father declared that we are so much more than just ashes. You are forgiven, you are alive, your death is dead and we have a new life in Christ that not even death can ever destroy.

On behalf of my wife, Tevia, and our children Lydia, Anna, Michael, Sarah, Joshua, Daniel and Nathan, I would like to say how much we are looking forward to joining you and celebrating with you every week the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ who has declared that all of us are so much more than just ashes, we are His reborn and re-made children, crafted together in the likeness of His own Son. May our Lord Jesus Christ bless you with repentant hearts as we plan to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Morning.

The Lord be with you,
Pastor Grimenstein



PRESCHOOL NEWS!

Greetings from the Preschool!

March is going to be a very busy and exciting month here at Zion. Aside from the usual activity in the classrooms, we will be celebrating Lutheran Schools Week this month. We will start the month out with our second Spirit Night at Chick-fil A. As you know, Chick-fil

-A is a Christian organization that donates 15% of total sales that night back to our school....and we love their chicken! Please join us on Monday March 6th from 4:30 – 7:00 at the South Hills location on Rt. 19. You can't miss us....we'll be the ones wearing the very fashionable Zion Lutheran Preschool T-shirts.

The rest of the week will be filled with visits from a Storyteller for the Small Steps and Preschool classes. She will come to school completely dressed in character (The Queen of Hearts) and remains in character the entire time. "Do you LOVE to read" is the name of the interactive program and includes singing, role playing, puppets and lots of storytelling with the children. The PreK and Stepping Stones classes will receive a visit from the Aviary. The Children will discover how penguins swim, slide, waddle and eat, with the help of an African penguin...yes, a penguin will be visiting our school....how cool is that?

We will also be hosting our annual Dads, Dudes and Donuts over Lutheran Schools Week. It's a wonderful time when Dads, Granddads, uncles, or any special male comes for a morning filled with donuts, coffee, sports activities and fellowship time with their child...it's an awesome day. The week's grand finale is our Ice Cream Social and Art Show. The children have been working very hard on their masterpieces and can't wait to reveal them at the big show. The night is topped off with ice cream sundaes, a bake sale and a themed raffle basket extravaganza!

Oh...did I mention that we will have a life-sized cardboard Martin Luther in the school lobby for this special week? Thank you, Vicar Joshua! Martin Luther just may be dressed in theme related apparel during the week, in addition to sharing some of his famous quotes. Please come and check it out.

Chapel donations this month will help support the Feed My Starving Children mission. Feed My Starving Children is a Christian, non-profit organization that partners with schools, orphanages, medical clinics, and non-government agencies in 70 countries around the world where children are at risk of dying from starvation. This fall, 500+ volunteers will gather for two hours of fun to pack life sustaining meals for 108,000 malnourished children across the globe. Each meal (which consists of rice, soy, dried vegetables, and a vitamin blend) costs .22 cents. During chapel we were talking about how Jesus' love can't be contained by using a simple experiment using baking soda and vinegar. When vinegar is added to baking soda a volcano-like bubble explosion occurs...much to the delight of the children. The bubbles (Jesus' love)

can't be contained in a bag, not in a jar, and not in a box...his love comes a bubblin' through. To help explain how we can show Jesus' love to others, we gave each child a tube of M&Ms to take home and enjoy. When the M&M's are all gone, they are to fill each M&M tube with quarters which amounts to \$14, which will cover 63 meals, and will go towards the goal of 108,000 meals! AMEN!

Tracey Harris
Director

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

March Unit



When Jesus began his ministry, he called people to follow him. He didn't call them on the telephone, of course! He called out to them as he was walking by, right where they were. The calls to discipleship did not occur in holy places. This illustrates that God works in all areas of human life. In the midst of our daily work, wherever we are, God calls to us. "Come, follow me." ~Matthew 4: 19

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

March Station Leaders

Storytelling Station: Brittany D.

Science Station: John L.

Cooking Station: Megan P.

Art/Games Station: Barb O.

February Mission Month

The Sunday school children sent 40 cards to Zion's homebound and sick members, assembled 510 bags of love for our U.S. Troops and visited residents at Broadmore!!

Thank you to everyone who helped this month!

Vacation Bible School June 19-24



CALLING VBS LEADERS!!!

STORYTELLING — involve children in Bible stories

BIBLE CHALLENGE — help children write Bible verses on their hearts

CRAFTS — emphasize Bible points in a fun, hands-on way

GAMES — incorporate Bible learning through energetic movement

MUSIC

SNACKS

NURSERY

Interested in leading one of the above stations?

Please contact Katie Gielarowski: sundayschool@zlcg.org or (724) 713-6523

Dear Zion Day school Families:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for helping to make this year's Operation Stars and Stripes drive for our troops THE BEST EVER!! The Sunday school children here at Zion assembled the Bags of Love on Sunday, February 19th.

With the help of your donations, we filled **510** Bags of Love!

Included in each bag was a tract full of the Gospel message and either a letter or coloring page to add some more encouragement and words of thankfulness. The left over items that did not make it into a bag are still shipped overseas, handed out to our troops and are greatly appreciated.

The bags of love are shipped to places like Afghanistan, Korea and Greenland. They also might be shipped directly to military people living on aircraft carriers!

Operation Stars and Stripes gives us the opportunity to show love to people who we don't know and who are so far away from us. We are grateful to Zion's school families for joining us in sharing the love of Jesus across the world!

Blessings in Christ,

Katie Gielarowski

Zion Sunday school Director

Zion Youth News and Events

Join us for
our upcoming
event!!

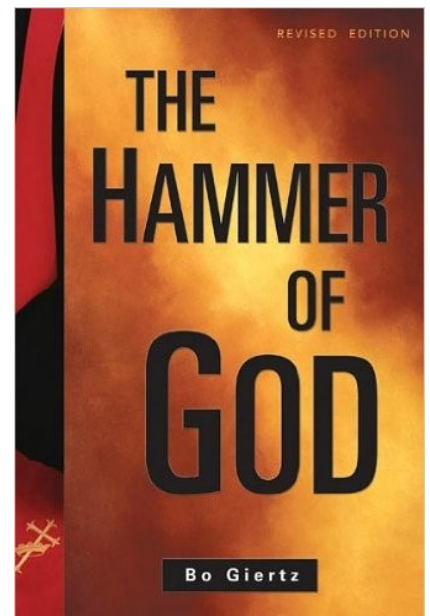


WITNESSING CHRIST

God has given the church a mission, to take the Good News of Jesus Christ into all the world! God puts you in places where he doesn't put your Vicar or your Pastor or your church. What are we to do with opportunities like this? Come to Zion's Workshop "Witnessing Christ" April 1st from 9AM-4PM. Learn about the mission of the church, discuss strategies for witness, and practice talking about Christ with your brothers and sisters in an unimposing environment! Presenters include Rev. Eric Carlson and Rev. Eric Andrae, speaking on Campus Ministry. Lunch, childcare, and a free book will be provided for each attendee! Sign up in the Narthex by March 22!

Vicar's Book of the Month

We're switching things up with Vicar's Book of the Month in March. this month we will be looking at a non-fiction title, Bo Giertz's "The Hammer of God". Giertz was a Swedish Lutheran pastor and theologian, and this book is one of his most well known and helpful works. Theology does not exist in the abstract, but in the lives of the people of God. This book follows several Lutheran pastors and shows how God's Word works in the lives, hearts, and minds of His people. If you're looking for a picture of what Lutheran theology (justification, grace alone, faith alone) looks like in practice, you'll find it in this engaging and captivating novel. Check out Zion's Library in the conference room to read the book for yourself!



Chairman's Report

On Sunday, February 12, there was a Special Voter's meeting to call a new Pastor. At that meeting the members of Zion accepted the Call Committee's recommendation to extend a divine call to Pastor Edward Grimenstein.

Pastor Grimenstein was able to visit Zion on Friday February 17 and Saturday, February 18 meeting with the Call Committee, Staff, Vicar and other members of the congregation. We believe he came away with a very positive view of Zion and a better understanding of Zion's mission and ministry.

We are please to announce that Pastor Grimenstein has accepted the divine call from Zion. We are anticipating the installation will be on Sunday, April 9. Additional details will be provided later.

Chairman

Bob Schmidt



NEED SOMEONE TO LISTEN OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?

A STEPHEN MINISTER IS HERE TO HELP!

For information, contact Kristin Neill at Kristen.neill@gmail.com or Pastor Carlson at pastor-carlsonlcms@gmail.com.



Food Bank



Collection for this month's Bridgeville area food bank is Sunday, March 12. The "item of the month" is fruit (canned and dried).

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.

Service Participants

Date	Time	Greeters	Acolytes	Nursery
March 5	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bill & Carol Schrag Kristen Neill	Matt Liberatore Leah Luedeman	Megan & Ava Pasquini Marian Oelschlager
March 12	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bernice DeBoe Bill & Susie Bishop & Family	Joey Ackerman Augie Bishop	Megan Glasser, Deb Sterba, Lara Luedeman
March 19	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bob & Diana Schmidt Carolyn Wible	Ava Pasquini Anna Gresh	Carly & Darla Rockovich
March 26	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Gene & Sharon Koop Lee & Megan Glasser	Matt Liberatore Lara Luedeman	Brittany Dill, Sydney Janesy & Leah Luedeman
April 2	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Wayne & Kathleen Conn Robb & Alaina Oelschlager	Joey Ackerman Leah Luedeman	Jenny & Jodi Fitzgerald, Barb Oechslein
April 9	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Brent & Marianne Miller & Millie Thielet Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Ava Pasquini Augie Bishop	Nell Wilson, Tess Carter & Susie Bishop



Month	Elders	Altar Guild	8:00 AM Ushers	10:30 AM Ushers
March	Bill Bishop Peter Fisher	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Brian Pasquini, Debbie Ford, Dale Miller, Barba- ra & Wayne Oechslein	Ross Chilcott, John & Kari Gresh, Dan Harris
April	Mike Sterba Mike Wallace	Debra LaJeunesse, Carrie Lemonovich, & Carolyn Wible	Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, Ron Meier & Jack Oelschlager	Sam Dragan, Vince Kim- berland, Bill Koester & 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

March Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Eveylyn Binder | 15 Mason Thompson |
| 4 Lori Gauger | 16 Carol Pracel |
| 5 Jared Fitzgerald | 16 Claire Schrag |
| 5 Sandy Hervert | 17 Greg Howcroft |
| 5 Deborah Sterba | 18 Joe Gielarowski |
| 7 Bob James | 22 Nathan Smidt |
| 8 Lee Glasser | 23 Mia Case |
| 8 John Reiner | 23 Peter Fisher |
| 11 Michael Sterba | 23 Mark Killinger |
| 12 Emma Gardner | 24 Bonnie Lewis |
| 12 Caitlyn Thompson | 25 Ruth Miller |
| 12 Jon Vogel | 26 Katie Gielarowski |
| 13 Tanner Wilson | 26 Nancy Spotti |
| 14 Susie Bishop | 27 Christian Vogel |
| 15 Braeden Boyle | |



March Anniversaries



- 4 Will & Carol Schrag
- 26 Tim & Rita Sheldon
- 29 Brian & Megan Pasquini



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	2 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm Elders Meeting	3	4 8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast 9:30 am Men's Choir Practice
5 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 Board of Education Meeting 11:45 am Stephen Ministry	6 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting 4:30 -7:00 Pre-School Chick-fil-A Fundraiser	7	8 7:00 pm Lenten Midweek Service	9 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm Council Meeting	10 5:30 pm Preschool Ice Cream Social (presale tickets needed)	11 8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast
12 8:00 am Worship 9:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Children's Choir Practice FOOD BANK COLLECTION	13 7:00 pm Confirmation	14	15 7:00 pm Lenten Midweek Service	16 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice	17 8:00 pm Middle School Youth Group Women's Retreat	18 8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast 9:30 am Men's Choir Practice Women's Retreat
19 8:00 am Worship w/ Communion 9:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Children's Choir Practice Women's Retreat	20 7:00 pm Confirmation	21	22 7:00 pm Lenten Midweek Service	23 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Practice	24	25 8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast
26 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 Events Meeting	27 7:00 pm Confirmation	28 6:30 pm Sunday School Meeting	29 7:00 pm Lenten Midweek Service	30	31	

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



Zion Lutheran Church

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