

# Zion Lutheran Monthly

## December 2017

### Pastor's Corner

*For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*Isaiah 9:6*

Jesus came in the flesh. Jesus became incarnate as a man. He did not come in the flesh of a duck. He did not come in the flesh of a dog. Jesus was not incarnate as a caterpillar. Jesus was not incarnate as a goldfish. Jesus came in your flesh. The flesh of a man, of a woman, of a child. He came in the flesh of a person made in the image of God – you.

Why did He come? To be given to you. He came to suffer in your place. He came to keep God's law perfectly in your place. He came to rise from the dead in your place. And you, you are being carried away alongside Christ.

And why did He do this? During the season of Christmas we have images of the baby Jesus lying in a manger. And there is nothing wrong with this at all. But even during the incarnation of Christ as God becoming man, we must remember why He came in your flesh and not the flesh of a duck, or a dog, not the flesh of a caterpillar or a goldfish. He came in your flesh for you. It is like Isaiah said, *"For to us a son is born, to us a son is given."* Jesus came in your flesh as a baby for one reason – to be your savior. He came in the flesh to offer His life for your life. He came to have his blood spilled so you could be washed. He came as a man to speak and so that you could hear. He came in the flesh to suffer for you on the cross in your place. He came to offer His life on the cross as a punishment for ALL sin; yes, all of them. And He came in the flesh to rise from the dead, and to enter eternal life so you also might rise from the dead and you also have eternal life.

This time of year, if there is enough snow on the ground, people go sled-riding. Sometimes you will see someone pulling a sled with maybe 2 or 3 going along for a ride. Someone will pull the sled and others will sit in the sled being carried along in the wake of someone else's hard work and someone else's labor in the snow. The scriptures say you have been pulled along by the hard work and the labors of Jesus Christ for you (Hebrews 4:8).

As we prepare for Christmas, let us remember the coming of Christ and the wonderful work He is providing for our salvation every single day. He came as a man, to suffer in our place, and He is still coming to you cradled not in a manger, but a chalice. He is still coming to you in the water of baptism. And the Word is still becoming flesh to you (John 1) as we hear Christ proclaimed in preaching, heard in the readings, and sung with all the angelic voices of heaven in our hymns and liturgy.

*Prayer: Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the coming of Jesus Christ in our flesh. May we cherish this season as we rejoice in His incarnation, and may we rejoice every day that you are still graciously coming to us. Amen.*



# PRESCHOOL NEWS!



## In the Spotlight

### Thanksgiving Feast



Trying to decide what to eat.....so many choices!



Mrs. Barb helping Grace make her feather headband.



Look at these two cuties showing off their beautiful Thanksgiving dresses.



Children enjoying their feast at the "Thanksgiving table" they created.



Our prayer leader, Kara, getting ready to lead her class in the blessing.



Mrs. Carolyn is having fun with Vivian at the craft table....cute headband!



# Christmas CAROLING



In keeping with our annual tradition at Zion, we will be spreading Christmas cheer to our shut-in members.

Join us on Sunday, December 3rd at 12:30 following the late service. Bring a bagged lunch to eat in the fellowship hall, then we will go in teams to visit our shut-ins and sing carols. Everyone is welcome to attend!



Join us on Wednesday evenings during the Advent Season for dinner and service. Each week a dinner will be served at 6:00pm. Then stay for Advent service at 7:00pm.

## Christmas Week Schedule

Wed., December 20th—7:00pm Advent Service

Sun., December 24th—10:00 am Service

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Mon., December 25th—10:00 am Christmas Day Service

Sun., December 31st—10:00 am Service

7:00 pm New Year's Eve Service



## Poinsettia Orders!



We will be decorating the altar for Christmas Eve service with Poinsettias. You can pick them up after the service. Orders are due by Sunday December 10th. The cost is \$6.75 per flower. Order forms can be found in the bulletin. Place order form with payment in the box marked "Poinsettia Orders" in the back of church.

Save the date for the...

# Zion Christmas Decorating Party!

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> 4:30PM**  
**DINNER FOLLOWED BY DECORATING**  
POTLUCK STYLE - SIGN UP SHEET IN NARTHEX  
BEEF & COLE SLAW PROVIDED  
BRING A SIDE DISH TO SHARE

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

**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES!**

**PLEASE RSVP IN  
THE NARTHEX BY  
NOVEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>**

**BYOB TO SHARE!**



# Advent / Christmas Concert



*Advent/Christmas Concert*

*12-17-2017 @ 2:00pm*

*Concert Features Ministry Ensembles:*

*Adult Choir, Men's Choir*

*Faith Ringers, Grace Ringers*

*Audience will sing Christmas Hymns*

*Free will offering to benefit Music Ministry*



**Come, All Ye Faithful**

1. O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O  
2. Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion, O  
3. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap-py morn-ing,  
come ye, O come ye to Beth-le-hem! Come and be-hold Him,  
sing, all ye cit-i-zens of heav'n a-bove! Glo-ry to God, all  
Je-sus, to Thee be all glo-ry giv'n; Word of the Fa-ther,  
come, let us a-dore Him, O come, let us a-dore Him, Christ, the Lord!

REFRAIN.  
hurn the King of an-gels!  
glo-ry in the high-east! O come, let us a-dore Him, O  
ngw in flesh ap-pear-ing!

*The words of this spirited, popular air  
were written in 1841 by Canon Frederick Cateley,  
an English clergyman.*

# Chairman's Report

## Voter's Meeting

On Sunday, November 1, the Voter's of Zion approved the slate of candidates listed below. We thank these men and women for volunteering to service our Lord and each of us.

<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Ed Malachosky
<b>Treasurer</b>	Robert Bonacci
<b>Sunday School Director</b>	Katie Gielarowski

<b>Elders</b>	<b>Trustees</b>
Rob Oelschlager	Lee Glasser
Bill Bishop	Paul Hayes
Mike Sterba	Jim Oelschlager

We reviewed a proposed change to the Constitution. This change will be presented and voted on at the next Voters meeting.

Current language: Voting members are all communicant members in good standing who have reached their eighteenth birthday.

Proposed new language: Voting members are all confirmed and communicant members in good standing.

We provided an update on establishing a relationship between Concordia Lutheran Ministries (CLM) and Zion to partner in developing a prototype for the Southwestern Regional ministry. This ministry would provide service to the southwestern CLM facilities, patients, employees, volunteers, LCMS churches in the area and Zion ministries.

We also provided an update on: Income and expenses, CMS giving, fundraiser to address a number of major facility projects (for example leaking roof), Early Childhood Development Program and Sunday school.

## Council Meeting

The Church Council continues to review a number of major facility projects that will be required in the future. We decided to establish a finance/fundraising committee to gather financial data to fund the various projects.

We also agreed to a safety and security assessment program to evaluate risk and threat vulnerability to the church and school. This assessment session will be done in January.

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

October Income	\$55,037.39
October Expenses	<u>\$58,352.54</u>
Unfavorable to Income	- \$3,315.15
Fiscal Year Income	\$202,475.20
Fiscal Year Expenses	<u>\$198,694.21</u>
Favorable to Income	\$ 3,780.99

Please continue to pray for Zion and support our ministries with your time and gifts that God has given each of us. May He continue to guide and bless our ministries.

**Zion's Church Council wishes everyone a Blessed Christmas and Peaceful New Year!**

Bob Schmidt  
Chairman

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



## O, Come LET US ADORE HIM!

All of Scripture proclaims the Christ,  
the Promised Messiah!

### “And It Came to Pass”

THE 2017 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, FEATURING A JESSE  
TREE WITH ORNAMENTS SYMBOLIZING OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES  
WHICH FORETELL THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH

SUNDAY DEC. 10TH AT 1:00PM

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED FOLLOWING SECOND SERVICE,  
PRIOR TO THE PROGRAM. PLEASE RSVP IN THE NARTHEX

## Sunday School News

- Christmas Program practice is every Sunday during the Sunday School hour.
- DRESS REHEARSAL is Saturday, December 9 from 10 - 11:30 am.
- Sunday School Christmas Party is Sunday, December 17 during the Sunday School hour.
- No Classes on Sunday, December 24 and 31.
- Classes resume Sunday, January 7.



## Remember our Shut-in's During the Christmas Season

DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON OUR SHUT-IN MEMBERS  
WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. PLEASE CONSIDER A  
QUICK NOTE OR CARD TO WISH THEM A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Tom Bicusky— Broadmore Senior Living, 3275 Washington Pike, Bridgeville PA 15017

Laverne Eckels—Manor Care, 113 W McMurray Rd., Rm 116 Bethany Unit,  
McMurray PA 15317

Joan Cisko—128 Phillips Drive, McMurray PA 15317

Irene Bourg—Country Meadows, 3580 Washington Pike, Rm 220,  
Bridgeville PA 15017

Don & Sara Jones—240 Arlington Drive, Canonsburg PA 15317

Dorothy Smelko—300 Old Lesnett Road, Pittsburgh PA 15241

Ruth Miller—Concordia Lutheran Home, 615 N Pike Rd, PC Rm 107B, Cabot PA 16023

Norm & Helen Erbrecht— Broadmore Senior Living, 3275 Washington Pike,  
Bridgeville Pa 15017

George & Florence Boehme—McMurray Hills Manor  
249 W McMurray Rd  
McMurray PA 15317

Henry & Lois Dittmer—555 Taylor Dr., McMurray PA 15317

Cletus Kroeger — Paramount Senior Living at Peters Twn.  
c/o Mike Kroeger  
201 Old Woods Drive  
McMurray PA 15317



Feel like you are missing out on news from Zion?

Members can sign up for our weekly eBlast at:

[www.zlcb.org/join-email-list](http://www.zlcb.org/join-email-list)

And for daily website, like our Facebook page at:

[www.facebook.com/ZionLutheranBridgeville](http://www.facebook.com/ZionLutheranBridgeville)





# Zion Youth News and Events

## JOIN US AT YOUTH GROUP!!

### December Event:

**~Saturday December 2nd**

**~3:00 PM**

**~Join us as we put together the Luminaria for Christmas Eve and Decorate the Church for Christmas!**



### January Event:

**~Date TBD**

**~Lock in at the Church**



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## Food Bank

Collection for this month's Bridgeville area food bank is Sunday, December 10th. 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.





## What About... The Gospel

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. This pamphlet has been prepared to show you how much we need the Gospel, why it is such good news, how we receive it and how we respond to it.

### Why do we need the Gospel?

We cannot really understand how good the message of the Gospel is until we understand how bad our situation is without it. We are poor miserable sinners. We sin daily and deserve nothing but God's wrath and punishment.

Without Jesus Christ, our situation would be totally hopeless. The scriptures describe human beings as dead in trespasses and sin. Without the mercy and cleansing of God through the blood of Jesus Christ, there awaits for us only everlasting punishment in hell. Thus, we need the Gospel desperately!

### What is the Gospel?

The word "gospel" is translation of a Greek word that means, "an announcement of good news." The Gospel is the good news that God the Holy Trinity decided not to abandon humanity when Adam and Eve first fell into sin. God decided then and there that sin and death would not have the last word. He promised to send a Savior.

When the time was right, God sent His Son into our world to be born of the Virgin Mary. Our Lord Jesus Christ lived a perfect life for us. On the cross, He received the penalty and punishment for the sins of the whole world, offering Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sin. Jesus rose from the dead, victorious over our ancient enemies: sin, death and the devil.

Therefore, each Christian is able with great joy and confidence to declare before the whole world; "My Lord Jesus Christ has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death."

What glorious good news! The one, true eternal and all powerful God came into our world to live, suffer, die and rise again for us. We, who are unholy and unrighteous, receive the forgiveness of all our sins and thus receive the perfect holiness and righteousness of Christ our Savior—as a free gift—purely because of His love for us. This is good news! That is the Gospel!

### How do we receive this great salvation in our lives today?

How do we personally receive the forgiveness Christ won for the entire world? How does what happened on the cross nearly 2,000 years ago flow into our lives today?

Here too there is very good news. God, through His Gospel, offers us forgiveness and help against sin in more than one way. God is surpassingly rich in His grace. He gives His Gospel to us through His Word, through Baptism, through the Sacrament of the Altar, and through confession and absolution. These are the ways God enters our lives today to apply to us personally the great salvation Christ won for the world.

The Holy Spirit works through the Word of the Gospel to create and sustain faith in our heart that Christ is the Savior of the world, and thus our Savior too. The Bible is the Word of God, written down for our learning and edification. The Scriptures are filled with the good news of Jesus Christ and all that He has done for us. Through the almighty, Spirit-filled Word, God gathers us into His church, which is truly the mother that begets and bears every Christian through the Word of God. The Holy Spirit is present, effective and active through the Word when it is proclaimed, heard and meditated upon.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is water included in God's command and combined with God's Word; or as St. Paul says in Holy Scripture, "The washing of water with the word." Through Baptism, we are made partakers of Christ's death and resurrection. Therefore, we know that Baptism works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal life to all who believe. Since Baptism is connected to the Word and promise of God, it is truly a life-giving water, rich in grace—a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit.

Christ has provided a special application of the Gospel through confession and absolution. Confession is admitting our sins to God and receiving His forgiveness from our pastor, as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven. Thus, by divine ordinance, Christ Himself has entrusted absolution to his Christian church and commanded us to absolve one another from sins.

The Lord's Supper is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself, for us Christians to eat and to drink. In the Lord's Supper, Christ's body and blood are given to us as our treasure and gift which sustains our faith and life in Him.



## What About...

### The Gospel

If you are heavy-laden and feel your weakness, go joyfully to the Sacrament and receive refreshment, comfort and strength.

Those who want to be forgiven by God and who want to enjoy His presence in their lives, hunger and thirst for the Word and Sacraments. With the Psalmist we say, "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" God has provided the means to receive Him. So, Christians hunger and thirst for God's Word, absolution, the Sacrament, etc. We have the certainty that God meets us and gives us what we need in His means of Grace. The forgiveness Christ won for the world on the cross is applied to us personally by God through His Word and Sacraments. What a joy for us to know that where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

Thus, we believe that we cannot, by our own reason or strength, believe in Jesus Christ our Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel, enlightens us with His gifts, sanctifies and keeps us in the true faith. In the same way, He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all of our sins, and the sins of all believers.

#### How does God cause us to respond to His Gospel?

We love God because He first loved us. Our Lord is at work in us both to will and to do what is pleasing to Him. Christians look to the Ten Commandments to know what is pleasing to God and wish to serve Him in gratitude for the great salvation that is theirs in Christ.

From the Word of God we learn that God wants us to put Him first, above any other person or thing, to respect His name and not misuse it, to hear and obey His Word. Children are to honor and obey their parents and others in authority. We are to look out for the welfare of others, doing nothing to hurt or harm our neighbor. We are to live sexually pure and decent lives, with husbands and wives loving and honoring each other. In looking out for our neighbor's welfare and helping him to improve and protect his property and business, we are also to take care not to lie about our neighbor, but to help, support and defend him in every need, and finally, we are to be content with what we have been given, and not want what is not ours.

What a joyful privilege we have to serve God and others! He gives us the opportunity to bear witness to our faith through both our words and our deeds.

#### How is the Gospel obscured?

The gospel is obscured by well-intentioned people who want to encourage a life of good works, and end up making Christians think that it is by their works that they are saved. This is a great danger. Through His Word and Sacraments, Jesus is constantly working in our lives to forgive our sins and strengthen our relationship with God. God always receives the credit for our salvation. He is the one working in us. This is not something we can do. Our good works are the result of God's love in our hearts and lives. Our good works in this life do not save us, only Christ saves us. Works serve our neighbor and show to the world that we are grateful for God's mercy in our lives.

Another way the Gospel can be obscured is when too much emphasis is put on an emotional response to the Gospel. Some Christians believe that unless they have some sort of ecstatic, charismatic experience, or feel some sort of "spiritual high," they are not really Christians. It is truly sad that some people look into their own hearts for the security that they are children of God, instead of putting their hope and trust in the objective work of Christ for them, and in the means God uses to come to them—His Word and Sacraments.

If we find ourselves beginning to ask "Am I doing enough?" or thinking, "It doesn't matter what I do, for God will forgive me anyway," then we are at risk of losing Christ and His forgiveness. We look always to Jesus and put our hope and trust in Him. He is our Savior. And, that's good news!

All blessings, honor, thanks and praise to Father, Son and Spirit, the God who saved us by His grace. All glory to His merit! O triune God in heaven above, you have revealed our saving love. Your blessed name we hallow.

-Dr.A.L.Barry

President

The Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod



# Service Participants



Date	Time	Greeters	Acolytes	Nursery
December 3	8:00 AM	Brian & Megan Pasquini	Alex Yellig	Sharon Bogden & Carrie Lemonovich
	10:30 AM	Ed & June Malachosky	John Garrubba	
December 10	8:00 AM	Shane & Sandy Bryant	Matt Liberatore	Megan Pasquini & Marian Oelschlager
	10:30 AM	Rose Steranko	Faith Wallace	
December 17	8:00 AM	Bill & Melanie Becker	Ava Pasquini	Adele Goodge & Megan Glasser
	10:30 AM	Marian & Janet Oelschlager	Bella Bonnaci	
December 24	10:00 AM	Ron & Judy Meier	Lauren Liberatore	No Nursery
	7:00 PM	Bill & Susie Bishop	Anna Gresh & Jack Bishop Cruifcer: Augie Bishop	
December 25	10:00 AM	Peter & Barbara Fisher	Sarah Grimenstein Cruifcer: Michael	No Nursery
December 31	10:00 AM	Jack & Jacque Oelschlager	Jack Bishop	No Nursery
	7:00 PM	Carolyn Wible	Ava Pasquini	



Month	Elders	Altar Guild	8:00 AM Ushers	10:30 AM Ushers
<b>December</b>	John Gielarowski	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, Ron Meier, Jack Oelschlager	Kari & John Gresh, Dwight & Andy Weldon
<b>January</b>	Mike Sterba John Gielarowski	Mary Hutula Elsie DallaPiazza	Kathleen Conn, Michael Grimenstein, Janet & Larry Zreliak	Ross Chilcott, Bob Bonacci, 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@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)

# December Birthdays

1st Tess Carter

1st Laurie Eckels

2nd John Coyle

2nd Sharon Oechslein

3rd Augie Bishop

3rd Linda Seibel

5th Jim Goodge

6th Lucas Dill

9th Michele Wallace

10th Megan Glasser

10th Michael Kozak

12th Michael Oechslein

13th Susan Stone

17th John Gresh

18th Bob Spotti

22nd Casper Carter

23rd Adam Elikor

23rd Megan Pasquini

24th Michael & Jeremy Dyczewski

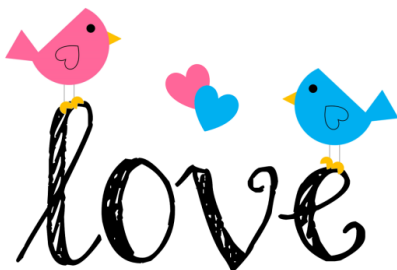
23rd Adam Elikor

25th Joshua Grimenstein



# December Anniversary

22nd—Jesse & Tess Carter





# DECEMBER 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast 9:00 am Trustee Work Day 3:00 pm Youth Group 4:30 pm Christmas Decorating Party
3 8:00 am Worship w/communion 9:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Worship w/communion 12:30 pm Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins	4 7:00 pm Preschool Christmas Program	5 7:00 pm Preschool Christmas Program	6 6:00 pm Advent Dinner 7:00 pm Advent Service	7 10:00 am Bible Study 7:30 pm Elders Meeting	8	9 8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast  10:00 Dress Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program
10 8:00 am Worship w/communion 9:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/communion 12:00 pm Christmas Luncheon 1:00 Children's Christmas Program <b>Food Bank Collection</b>	11 6:00 pm Confirmation class 7:00 pm Confirmation class 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting	12 6:15 pm Grace Bell Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir 8:00 pm Faith Bell Choir	13 6:00 pm Advent Dinner 7:00 pm Advent Service	14 10:00 am Bible Study 7:30 am Council Meeting	15	16 8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast
17 8:00 am Worship w/communion 9:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/communion 2:00 pm Christmas Concert with choir and bells	18 6:00 pm Confirmation class 7:00 pm Confirmation class	19 6:15 pm Grace Bell Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir 8:00 pm Faith Bell Choir	20 6:00 pm Advent Dinner 7:00 pm Advent Service	21	22	23 8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast 9:30 am Men's Choir Practice
24 10:00 am Worship w/communion 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Come let us <i>Adore</i> Him 10:10 De 	26 6:30 pm Sunday School Meeting	27	28	29	30
<p style="color: green; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>Glory</i> to God in the highest, and on earth</p> <p style="color: red; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>peace, good will</i> toward me. <b>Luke 2:14</b></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

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