



Zion Lutheran Monthly

September 2011



Already Clean

Inside this issue:

What to write about for the September newsletter? Let's see... there's the upcoming Oktoberfest, the start of a new year of Sunday School, the start of our study of the book of Revelation, the start of Confirmation classes, a new women's Bible study on Genesis, and another season of Men's Monday Night Football. Not to mention the success of the mortgage campaign, the highest ever preschool enrollment, or Darren's trip to the St. Louis seminary for a symposium on preaching. Instead, what comes to mind for this month's newsletter is a verse from one of the texts we had in worship last month, John 15:3. Jesus says to his disciples: "Already you are clean because of the word I have spoken to you."

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Jesus spoke these words to the eleven disciples who were with him on the night on which he was betrayed and arrested, and the day before he was crucified for the sins of the world; three days before the resurrection. And if it was true of eleven men who would flee in the garden of Gethsemane and cower in fear behind closed doors for fear of the Jews, then it is most certainly true for those of us who live on the other side of the cross and empty tomb. Already.

Before we ask. Before we feel sorry for what we've done. Before we come to church. Clean. Spotless. Blameless in the eyes and judgment of God. Pure. Holy.

"THOUGH
YOUR SINS
ARE LIKE SCARLET,
THEY SHALL BE
AS WHITE AS SNOW;
THOUGH THEY ARE
RED AS CRIMSON,
THEY SHALL BE
LIKE WOOL."

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV

Without this statement of who we are because of what Jesus has done, Oktoberfest, the Sunday School classes, Bible studies, Confirmation, men's and women's fellowship events, fundraisers, preschool, and ministry training... none of it matters. But because of what Jesus has done, everything has meaning. Everything has an opportunity to unite us externally where we have been united internally (and eternally) in Christ; everything has an opportunity for the good news of Jesus to be spoken, celebrated and believed.

You are already clean... because of Jesus.

Yours, in Christ,
Pastor Duncan McLellan

Church, Mission & Synod (CMS) & Plate Finances

As of August 19, 2011, all bills have been paid.

July Income	\$20,051.00
July Expenses	\$25,689.00
Unfavorable to Income	\$-5,638.00

BUDGET REPORT



The unfavorable monthly expenses were a result of July giving being less than budgeted (which seems to occur each year during the summer vacation months), an overlap of salaries for the out-going and in-coming Preschool Director for July and August, and some additional expenses: new computers, carpet and repair bills.

We expect August to improve as we receive preschool tuition payments and members return back from their vacations.

Continue to pray for Zion that we are able to grow our outreach ministry and that we can improve the financial picture for August.

- Bob Schmidt, Chairman

Mortgage Campaign Enters Last Month!!!

Members of Zion!!! Now is the time to "pile on" and throw everything you can into the Campaign to Retire the Mortgage! We have had some heavy hitters step up to the plate and we're looking for less than \$20,000 to entirely pay this mortgage obligation off---if we all pitch in, right now, we can do this with ease! Hopefully you have a Mortgage Campaign envelope left and can use it; if not, put your donation into a plain envelope and clearly mark it: "Mortgage Campaign". Please put your envelope number on it so you get the credit for your taxes. You can also mail your check to the church office if you're unable to attend a service this month. Thank you for your help and keep the "success" of the campaign in your prayers. Let's pull together!!!



- 5 Tim & Jodi Fitzgerald 1987
- 6 Jason & Pamela Trentini 2008
- 13 Jon & Andrea Vogel 2003
- 16 Craig & Deborah Scott 1989
- 18 Robert Liberatore & Jennifer Lewis 1999
- 19 Steve & Hope Mance 1987
- 22 Nathan & Hailey Smidt 2001
- 26 Tom & Kim Erbrecht 1981
- 29 Richard & Gloria Godfrey 1956
- 30 Robert & Shelley James 2000
- 30 Raymond & Rose Steranko 1967

- 1 Mileah Rose
- 3 Leah Quinlan
- 3 Rita Trudel
- 4 Jean Blanco
- 7 Judy Dames
- 7 Elaine Ivancza
- 8 Andrew Klemash
- 8 Dean Stewart
- 10 Wayne Conn
- 10 Matthew Oelschlager
- 10 Ken Schrag
- 11 James Eckels
- 11 Grant Geregach
- 13 Carl Bauer
- 13 Karyssa Larson
- 14 Nancy Klemash
- 17 Cathy Watters
- 18 Jim Neill
- 18 Larry Zreliak
- 19 James R. Neill
- 22 Gene Koop
- 25 Bernice DeBoe
- 25 Nathan Morgan
- 27 Marianne Miller
- 28 Andrew Dames
- 28 June Rilius
- 30 Deborah Scott





Early Childhood Center

Well...where should I start? This has been a very busy and exciting time for me. I have settled nicely into my new role as the Early Childhood Director. It didn't take long to realize that this was not just a job for me, but an opportunity to do God's work in a place that I love. I don't think it gets any better than that!

Our school continues to grow. This year we added two afternoon classes. Stepping Stones will meet Monday through Friday afternoon and is for children who are not quite ready for Kindergarten. Stepping Stones will help make the transition easier. Peggy Glasser was hired to be the teacher. Some of you

Notes From the Preschool

may know Peggy as she was an integral part in starting our Preschool program many years ago. We are very excited to have Peggy on our staff. We also added an afternoon class of Small Steps. We had so many children on the waiting list that it made sense to open another class. "If you open the class....they will come" and they did! To date, we have six children laughing and learning with Mrs. Paula on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. What a blessing! Our staff has also grown. In addition to Peggy, we've also hired our own Megan Pasquini to be an aide with Mrs. Barb in the Pre-Kindergarten class.

We opened our year with a staff meeting on August 29th. We spent time together talking about the upcoming year, and as scary as it sounds, even started to think about the

Christmas Program. Did I just say that?! The meeting was time well spent as we caught up with each other and planned another great year. The staff and the Board of Education will also have some fellowship time together at my house at the end of September. We are so blessed to have a staff and a Board so committed to the success of our school. I think we are all looking forward to getting to know each other better and working towards our main goal: success in school and learning and teaching about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Blessings,
Tracey Harris
Director

Zion's Bible Studies

Revelation Bible Study - Sunday Mornings

Starting 9/11 in the Church Undercroft (basement), we'll be starting our study of the book of Revelation. Bring your Bibles and your questions... it's going to be a wild ride with an amazing ending!

Men's Bible Breakfast - Monday Mornings

Start the week off right (@ 6:00 am) studying the Word of God with the men from Zion Lutheran Church. Enjoy a filling breakfast and an open and honest conversation about what the Word of God says and what it means to us.

Women's Genesis Bible Study - Tuesday Evenings

Starting back up on Tuesday, September 7th at 8:00-9:15 PM. The title of the study is: IN THE BEGINNING.....A Study of Genesis Chapters 1-11. This will be a 10 week Bible Study - ending the week before Thanksgiving. All are welcome - invite friends!

Sermon Text Bible Studies—Wednesday Evenings @ 7:00 & Thursday Mornings @ 10:00

Everyone is welcome to attend a Bible study in the Conference Room led by Pastor Duncan on the sermon text for the coming Sunday.



Regular Worship
RETURNS

September 11 - RALLY DAY!

8:00 am Worship Service

9:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

4:30 pm Oktoberfest!

Are you ready for some football? And wings? And fellowship with the guys from church? Starting September 12th, 8:30pm at Hickory Heights Country Club (new location!), we'll be meeting weekly to watch Monday Night Football! Bring your friends and enjoy the game!



Monday Night
Football



Confirmation
Instruction

Confirmation Instruction for 7th and 8th graders will be from 6:30-7:30 on Monday nights. Classes begin on 9/12. Parents are encouraged to attend the first class. If you have any questions about the Confirmation Program, please contact Pastor Duncan or the Church Office.

Choir practice resumes on Thursday, September 15th at 7:00 p.m. This is a great time to join the choir. No experience is necessary - including not being able to read music!

Join the Choir!



Back to College

Please contact the church office @ 412-221-4776 or secretary@zlc.org with any change of mailing address, phone number, or email address. And don't forget to give us the address of returning college students.

Service Participants

September

Greeters & Acolytes

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTES
September 4	9:00 am	Rob Oelschlager	Anthony Vallelunga
September 11	8:00 am 10:30 am	Carl & Karen Bauer Gauger Family	Joshua Gielarowski Mitchell Fitzgerald
September 18	8:00 am 10:30 am	Gene & Sharon Koop George & Jane Kozak	Missy Radovich Ryan Harris
September 25	8:00 am 10:30 am	David & Mary Hutula Evelyn Binder	Sara Vallelunga Sydney Harris
October 2	8:00 am 10:30 am	Wayne & Kathleen Conn Elsie DallaPiazza	Joshua Gielarowski Jennifer Fitzgerald
October 9	8:00 am 10:30 am	Wayne & Barb Oechslein Chuck & Debra LaJeunesse	Anthony Vallelunga Mitchell Fitzgerald

ELDERS	Ken Wuerthele & Mike Sterba
ALTAR GUILD	Rose Steranko, Paula Jones, & Pam Larson
USHERS @ 9:00 am Sept 4	Joe Gielarowski, Rachel Klemash, Steve Kovach, & Andy Weldon
USHERS @ 8:00 am Sept 11, 18 & 25	Kathleen Conn, Ben Ivancza, Jack Oelschlager, & Larry Zreliak
USHERS @ 10:30 am Sept 11, 18 & 25	Ross Chilcott, Sam Dragan, Robert Oelschlager, & 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@zlc.org of the change.

October



Christians throughout Pittsburgh are invited to take part in the international 40 Days for Life effort from September 28th – November 6th. In addition to 40 days of peaceful prayer and fasting for an end to abortion, please consider volunteering to pray outside of the Planned Parenthood abortion clinic, located at 933 Liberty Avenue in Pittsburgh during the 40 days, and spread the word to others about this important life-saving effort. To get more information, or to volunteer to help, please contact Nikki Bruni at nbruni@40daysforlifepgh.com, or 412-926-9413. To receive daily devotional prayers, register at www.40daysforlife.com/pittsburgh.

This ecumenical 40 day campaign will kick-off on Saturday, September 24th at 3:00 pm in Phil's Parking Lot, located at 917 Liberty Avenue, downtown Pittsburgh. Come! Join with other Christians for a meaningful time of praise and worship...music by the Christian band Intent and many motivating speakers!

ELDERS	Tom Erbrecht & Jim Neill
ALTAR GUILD	Marianne Miller, Millie Thielet, & Judy Meier
USHERS @ 8:00 am	Bill Becker, Brent Miller, Barb Oechslein, & Wayne Oechslein
USHERS @ 10:30 am	Neil Ackerman, Charles LaJeunesse, Brian Pasquini, & Robert Schmidt

The event will close with a short procession to the Planned Parenthood abortion clinic for prayer and hymns. *Bring your spouse, your family and your friends! Bring a chair if you wish to sit during this outdoor event!*

*****Note:** *If you are suffering from the choice of abortion, please contact Abi Koller at 412-977-9521 or rachel@vineyard.westernpa@yahoo.com for confidential information about attending the next Rachel's Vineyard retreat on October 7-9.*

Zion Lutheran Church

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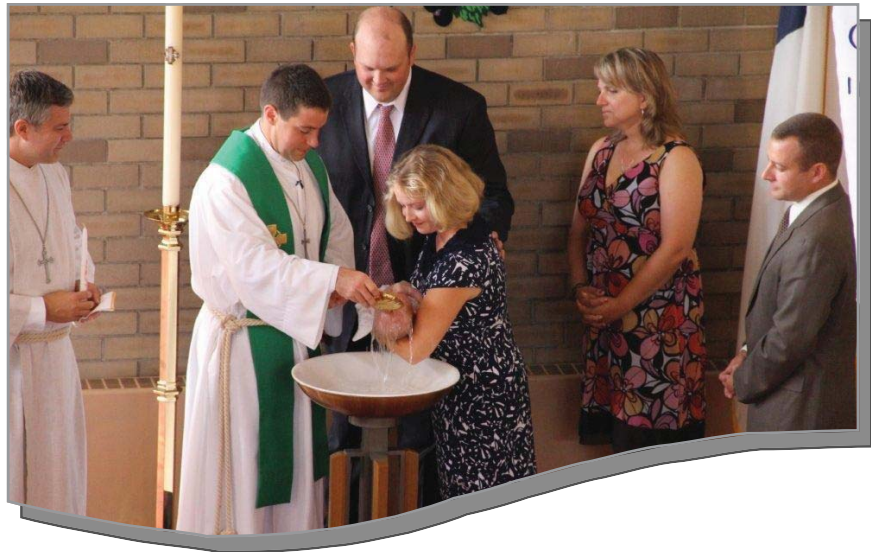
Visit ZLCB.ORG

For updated information
throughout the month.

The Rev. Duncan McLellan



Baptized in the Triune God



Emily Savannah Trentini, born on July 18, 2011, was welcomed into our congregation through infant baptism on Sunday, August 21st.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



FOOD BANK

Collection for this month's Bridgeville Area Food Bank drive is **Sunday, September 11**. The "item of the month" is personal hygiene products. You are also welcome to help at the Food Bank every third Saturday of the month between 7:45 and 12:00 at Bethany Presbyterian Church.

Did you know that Zion has both a phone and an email prayer chain standing at the ready to pray for your needs? Martin Luther said that "Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness." Lay hold of God's willingness and send an email to secretary@zlc.org or call the office with your prayer requests.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like to be added to either list, please inform the church office.

OKTOBERFEST

The 3rd annual Zion Lutheran Church **Oktoberfest** is scheduled for Sunday, September 11, 2011 at 4:30 pm. The event will be an outdoor festival setting with German food, drinks, children's games, a DJ and more.

Festival tickets will be sold the day of the event which can be used as cash to purchase concessions at the event. Money raised through this event will go toward the Trustee's Discretionary Fund at Zion Lutheran Church to fund facility upgrades for both the church and school.

