



# Zion Lutheran Monthly

October 2011



## The Spiritual Lesson of Almost Losing to the Colts

OK, so it's an awkward title for the lead article for our newsletter, but bear with me. Yesterday, our Steelers came dangerously close to losing to the (now) 0-3 Indianapolis Colts. How could something like that happen? Our receivers were making spectacular catches, Big Ben had a solid performance (364 yards, 1 TD), and the defense had a fumble run back for a touchdown (a good thing for those of us who have the Pittsburgh defense/ special teams on our Fantasy team). Why was it so close?

Answer: the Steelers had 7 eligible Offensive Linemen at the start of the game. By the end, they were down to 5. While it looked like everything was going well on the line (after all, they still have a center, two guards and two tackles), the men who battled in the trenches lacked cohesion (one of the downsides of the lock-out). IMHO, the Offensive Line is the most important and most frequently overlooked aspect of having a successful football team. A solid "O" line protects the Quarterback, giving him more time to find open receivers; it can open holes for the running back; it can wear down a defense so that, by the fourth quarter, the offense can operate at-will. The problem with the "O" line is that it's not flashy. The Left Guard is seldom (if ever) a game's MVP. Can anyone name more than 5 Offensive Linemen who are in the Hall of Fame? (Maybe not a good question to ask to make a point to a well-informed football crowd, but you get my point.)

So what does this have to do with Zion Lutheran Church?

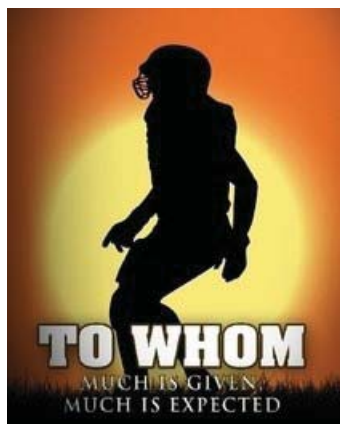
Last week, our Mortgage Elimination Campaign received some very generous support. As a result, we will have our mortgage completely paid-off by November 1, two months earlier than what we had (ambitiously) originally

hoped. This may not sound exciting. But like having an all-star Offensive Line, being debt-free will allow us to succeed in other more-visible areas of ministry. We will be able to increase our outreach budget, make improvements to the sanctuary and other areas of our facility, and engage in other ministry ventures we have been unable to experience for financial reasons.

I have been told by a long-time member of Zion that the success of our Mortgage Elimination Campaign is "historic." And, from one member who didn't think it would succeed from the start: "incredible." I sincerely (and repeatedly!) want to thank those of you who supported the Campaign with your generous donations and, especially, your prayers! As I was celebrating the success of the Campaign with Alissa, she reminded me: "of whom much is given, much is expected." We have been blessed; now we have the opportunity and joyful responsibility to be a blessing as we reach out with the gospel of Jesus Christ, which will, in itself, change and save lives for eternity.

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Yours,  
In Christ,  
Pastor Duncan McLellan

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

As of September 24, 2011, we are estimating \$14,044 cash on hand. All bills through September 30th will have been paid.



August <b>Income</b>	\$29,012.00
August <b>Expenses</b>	\$29,965.00
Unfavorable to Income	\$-953.00



Continue to pray for Zion that we are able to grow our outreach ministry.

- Bob Schmidt, Chairman

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## Audit Report Results and Corrective Actions

Earlier this year, in accordance with the constitution and bylaws, the Financial Review Committee completed an audit of Zion's financial records of the church. There were four recommendations made by the Financial Review Committee (Robert Haunschild, Gene Koop, Richard Quinlan, and Frank Vallelunga).



1. The Church Constitution excludes the records of the Financial Secretary from the scope of the review by the Financial Review Committee. **Recommendation** – The committee strongly recommend that consideration be given to removing that limitation or instituting an independent third party review of the cash receipts and member record keeping functions. **Action** - This item will be presented at the October 30, voters meeting.
2. The Church Constitution requires quarterly and annual reports to each family unit in the congregation of its contribution. Currently, only annual reports are being provided. **Recommendations** – The committee recommend that quarterly reporting be instituted or that the members formally waive or amend this requirement. We also recommend that confirmation statements be sent to random members. **Actions** – Quarterly reports are available from the Financial Secretary (Nancy Klemash) upon request. We also completed a random audit for the first 6 months of 2011. No errors were discovered in any of the audited statements.
3. Presently, not all computer files are backed up and stored on a consistent basis according to the current informal process. **Recommendation** - The committee recommend that a more complete formal process for backing up and storing computer files be considered. **Action** – Currently under review.
4. Consideration should be given to conducting and maintaining a fixed asset inventory that would be a record of significant assets owned and would provide a reference in the event of a dispute or a disaster, such as a fire, as a first step in the process. **Recommendation** - The committee recommend that all current and future purchases of fixed assets be recorded in the general ledger included with the current accounting system. **Action** – The trustees have taken pictures of all church and school assets. The pictures meet the insurance provider requirements.

- Bob Schmidt, Chairman

## Notes From the Preschool

Ready...Set...Go!! Off they went. We ended September with our 14<sup>th</sup> annual Road Rally. The weather cooperated beautifully this year with no rain. The children brought their bikes, trikes, big wheels, scooters and monster trucks (battery-operated, of course) and had a wonderful time making their way around the track. Some of the children actually completed over 30 laps, and loved every minute of it. They ended the Road Rally with an ooey, gooey chocolate frownie from Kings.



September is now over, and it was a very good month. The children and teachers are now all settled into their routines. Two of our teachers, Mrs. Barb and Mrs. Kim, went to a continuing education class called Handwriting Without Tears. It teaches teachers how to present

prewriting skills in a developmentally appropriate way. They were both very excited after attending the seminar and felt that the information was extremely useful. Both teachers are now applying what they learned at the seminar in their classrooms.

October is also going to be a very busy and fun month. We are starting something new this month called "Kids Praise". "Kids Praise" is the time when the classes will come together in Mrs. Paula's room for music and movement. The teachers and I will lead the children in songs of both fun and praise, as Mrs. Paula plays the piano. The classes are also scheduled to go on various pumpkin farm field trips, and have a visit from Firefighter Phil.



We also shared some fellowship time at my home. The staff and the Board of Education all attended and had a chance to meet each other and get to know each other a little better. Fun was had by all! We are so blessed here at Zion...blessed with a great staff and Board of Education, all wanting to accomplish the same goals, providing a great education and teaching the good news of Jesus Christ! Amen!!

Blessings,  
Tracey Harris  
Director

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## MORTGAGE CAMPAIGN ENDS IN VICTORY!!!

The Council would like to Thank all those who kept the success for the Mortgage Campaign in their prayers and also Thank all those who were able to donate to the Campaign over the last three months. Your efforts raised \$85,260, which effectively pays off the mortgage with the few remaining payments leading up to December's payment!!! This Campaign has, by any measure, been the most successful fund-raising drive in the history of Zion!!! Nothing even comes close, and, what is more, the participation rate was over 30%, so, again the Council would like to thank everyone that was able to participate. Some might be asking why we moved to pay this mortgage off, given the economy in the country at this time. There are several reasons. First, the money dedicated to the mortgage each Fiscal Year was over \$36,000 and this money is now available for other more evangelical and practical expenditures as Zion moves forward. Also, the national economy is either going to experience deflation, inflation or a combination of both in the coming years. This positions your church so that we don't feel the burden of debt in a deflationary environment and if inflation happens, our fixed-debt cost won't be there as the costs of heating and lighting the buildings goes up, etc.

The Council will have an announcement with regard to a celebratory "Burn the Mortgage Celebration", so stay tuned to the Bulletin and WebPage!

Let's rejoice in the power of prayer and the collective power of committed Christians that pull together to accomplish tasks together and look to the future with confidence. Let us reflect on the knowledge and satisfaction that while we can do great things while we're here on Earth, the greatest act of love and kindness for all mankind has already been done by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who has confounded and defeated our adversaries and set forth Salvation for His people!!! Thanks be to God for "His" definition of what "success" would become for this Campaign. Feel good about your efforts, Zion---you did it, with the help of our Lord...!!!

# 40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

Christians throughout Pittsburgh are invited to take part in the international 40 Days for Life effort from September 28<sup>th</sup> – November 6<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:nbruni@40daysforlifepgh.com), or 412-926-9413. To receive daily devotional prayers, register at [www.40daysforlife.com/pittsburgh](http://www.40daysforlife.com/pittsburgh).

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

Dear Members of Zion Lutheran Church,

"Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."  
Proverbs 11:25

Once again, thank you for your great financial generosity. I am LOVING student teaching so far at Christ the King Lutheran School in Southgate, MI. My 1st and 2nd graders are wonderful! I am, however, missing having any income since I can't work while student teaching, so your graciousness will really help me out. I have a long commute from Ann Arbor each day, so the check will primarily go toward gas.

You are such a blessing to me!! Thank you!!

In Christ, the Conqueror of Death,  
Rachael Quinlan



- |    |                            |      |
|----|----------------------------|------|
| 1  | George & Florence Boehme   | 1955 |
| 3  | Donald & Sara Jones        | 1992 |
| 9  | Frank & Dione Vallelunga   | 1993 |
| 11 | Wayne & Kathleen Conn      | 1997 |
| 16 | Walt & Joann Brookfield    | 1951 |
| 17 | Lou & Judy Schrecker       | 1970 |
| 18 | Wayne & Barb Oechslein     | 1975 |
| 19 | Jim & Stephanie Eckels     | 1996 |
| 19 | Greg & Salina Howcroft     | 2002 |
| 20 | James & Norma Lynch        | 1956 |
| 22 | Eric & Michelle Hunsberger | 2005 |
| 23 | John & Carrie Lemonovich   | 2004 |
| 30 | John & Kathleen Derosa     | 1999 |

- |    |                  |    |                   |    |                    |
|----|------------------|----|-------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1  | Dale Miller      | 16 | Samuel Jenkins    | 22 | Patricia Neill     |
| 2  | Aidan Dibert     | 16 | Sara Jones        | 24 | Debra Trichtinger  |
| 3  | Bill Bishop      | 16 | John Lemonovich   | 26 | John Gielarowski   |
| 3  | Jodi Fitzgerald  | 17 | Donald Jones      | 26 | Lindsey Liberatore |
| 3  | Dwight Weldon    | 18 | Wayne Oechslein   | 29 | George Boehme      |
| 7  | Dorothea Heslop  | 19 | Carolyn Wuerthele | 30 | Laurie Coleman     |
| 7  | Carolyn Wible    | 21 | Lois Sauro        | 30 | Sharon Koop        |
| 9  | Aaron Hunsberger | 22 | Jennifer Elikor   |    |                    |
| 10 | Daniel Jenkins   |    |                   |    |                    |
| 10 | Diana Schmidt    |    |                   |    |                    |
| 11 | Dylan Walsh      |    |                   |    |                    |
| 12 | Sheryl Piper     |    |                   |    |                    |
| 13 | Renee Trudel     |    |                   |    |                    |
| 14 | LaVerne Eckels   |    |                   |    |                    |
| 14 | Steve Gauger     |    |                   |    |                    |
| 14 | Craig Scott      |    |                   |    |                    |





# Service Participants

## October

Greeters & Acolytes			
DATE	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTES
October 2	8:00 am	Wayne & Kathleen Conn	Anthony Vallelunga
	10:30 am	Elsie DallaPiazza	Jennifer Fitzgerald
October 9	8:00 am	Wayne & Barb Oechslein	Joshua Gielarowski
	10:30 am	Jay & Kim Anderson	Jennifer Fitzgerald
October 16	8:00 am	Jack & Jacque Oelschlager	Missy Radovich
	10:30 am	Jodie Fitzgerald & Family	Ryan Harris
October 23	8:00 am	Gene & Sharon Koop	Anthony Vallelunga
	10:30 am	Harris Family	Jennifer Fitzgerald
October 30	8:00 am	Joan Kovach	Joshua Gielarowski
	10:30 am	Brian & Megan Pasquini	Sydney Harris
November 6	8:00 am	Larry & Janet Zreliak	Sara Vallelunga
	10:30 am	Bob & Nancy Spotti	Jennifer Fitzgerald
November 13	8:00 am	Bob & Shelly James	Missy Radovich
	10:30 am	Bob & Diane Schmidt	Mia Case

<b>ELDERS</b>	Tom Erbrecht & Jim Neill
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Marianne Miller, Mary Hutula, & Judy Meier
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Bill Becker, Brent Miller, Barb Oechslein, & Wayne Oechslein
<b>USHERS @ 10:30 am</b>	Neil Ackerman, Charles LaJeu-nesse, Brian Pasquini, & Lois Sauro

## November

<b>ELDERS</b>	John Gielarowski & Jay Anderson
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Kathleen Conn & Shelly James
<b>USHERS @ 8:00 am</b>	Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, Ron Meier, & Larry Zreliak
<b>USHERS @ 10:30 am</b>	Joe Gielarowski, Rachel Klemash, Steve Kovach, & Andy Weldon

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.

### Andrew Dames



**A Loss  
in the  
Church  
Family**

Age 77, of Bridgeville, on August 26, 2011. A veteran of the Korean War, serving in the US Navy and a retired steamfitter for Local #449. A member of the Bridgeville American Legion Post #54 and Cuddy VFW Post #586. Beloved husband of Judith (Oelschlager) Dames; father of Patrick (Jolene) Dames, Peggy (Richard) Kirich, Sharon (Bob) Ohl, Sheryl Dames, Andrew M. (Bev) Dames, Charles (Tracy) Puklus, Raymond Puklus, Nancy (Randy) George, and the late Gregory Puklus; brother of Tina (the late Jess) Wagner, Tom (Lil) Dames, the late Agnes (the late Tom) Lea, the late Bill Dames and his wife Doris, and the late Barbara (the late Bob) Maioli; grandfather of Madeline, Grace, NeCole, Jacqueline, Hayley, Derek, Amanda, Kayla, Alison, Charlie, Amie, Zach, Timna, Melissa, Stacy, Taylor, and Chase; also three great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be given to Zion Lutheran Church.

Blessings to Our Church Family,

Many thanks for all of your many expressions of sympathy shown to me on the passing of Andy Dames.

A special thanks to Pastor Duncan for his many hospital and home visits over the past fifteen months. His many prayers, communions, and kindnesses strengthened our Christian faith.

Blessings,

Judy Dames & Family

## Zion Lutheran Church

3197 Washington Pike  
Bridgeville, PA 15017  
Phone: 412-221-4776



Visit **ZLCB.ORG**

For updated information  
throughout the month.

**The Rev. Duncan McLellan**



# Baptized in the Triune God



Ella Nichole Hunsberger, born on July 26, 2011,  
was welcomed into our congregation through infant baptism on Sunday, September 18th.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### FOOD BANK

Collection for this month's Bridgeville Area Food Bank drive is **Sunday, October 9th**. The "item of the month" is baking supplies. 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.



Come one, come all! Zion will be participating in a **FREE** hayride on Saturday, October 22nd at 6:00 p.m. located at Simmons Farm. After the hayride, we will be enjoying hotdogs and marshmallows around a roaring bonfire.

### HAYRIDE

### COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

If you have a child away at college please get their updated address to the church office by October 16th. We would like to send them a special care package from Zion to aid in their transition away from home.

THE YOUTH AT ZION are once again invited to attend Tool Time, a youth ministry event hosted by the students of Concordia University in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Scheduled for the weekend of November 4-6, Tool Time is an inspiration for high school students to grow in and live out their faith through games, music, skits, speakers, a servant event, and more. The theme this year will be "Unshaken", based on Hebrews 12:18-29. Transportation, dorm housing, meals, and a t-shirt are all provided for a cost of \$50. Students are welcome to bring a friend! Contact Sandra Quinlan at [squinlan7@hotmail.com](mailto:squinlan7@hotmail.com) or (724)873-8728, or the church office for more information and registration forms.

### TOOL TIME