



Zion Lutheran Monthly



November 2013

Knowledge and Understanding

What was the first day of school like for you? Did you enjoy heading back to school, ready to see your friends and learning new things? Were you sad that Summer Vacation was over and you'd have to start waking up before you wanted to (and while it was still dark out)?

I had my first first day of school in nine years this September, as I started going to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary part-time to earn a Master of Arts in Theology. Sitting in an Old Testament History class with a bunch of first-year seminarians, I was reminded quickly that there is a big difference between KNOWLEDGE and UNDERSTANDING. (And from talking with a number of you about your situation at work, the same truism applies there as well.)

Ezra, the prophet and priest in Israel following their return to Jerusalem after spending 70 years of "time out" in Babylon for worshiping false Gods, brought the people together for a 6 hour worship service. (Please remember that the next time God's Word, the Gospel and the Lord's Supper make you 5 minutes late for the all-important post-church lunch.) He has the men, women, and kids old enough to know what's going on assemble at a large, outdoor venue where the book of the Law of Moses was read. But then, at the end of this passage in Nehemiah 8, we find this odd little detail: "They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading." (The "they" in the text are a bunch of guys with hard to pronounce names, representing the leaders of the people.) The point? Ezra was not content merely to read the Old Testament, he made sure the people understood what was being read.

Good thing all of us understand everything we read in Scripture today! Otherwise we'd be left with the awkward scenario of having read Scripture (or hearing it read in places like church), not understanding what we've heard or read and then (...squirrel!) running off to do something else, having no idea what we just heard or read.

This may (or probably may not) come as a surprise to you, but not even your pastor understands everything he reads about in Scripture. But I would savor the opportunity to sit down with you and help you go through some of the passages of Scripture (or teachings of the Christian faith) that you do not understand. There's no shame in calling the church office and saying: "I'd like to talk to pastor." (Or e-mailing me and saying; "we need to meet!")

There's a difference between KNOWING what the Bible says and UNDERSTANDING what it means. It would be a privilege to meet with you and help you move from knowledge to understanding. And selfishly, I know I will do the same in our time together. Good things happen when Christians come together to pray together and study God's Word!

All the best,
In Christ,
Pastor Duncan

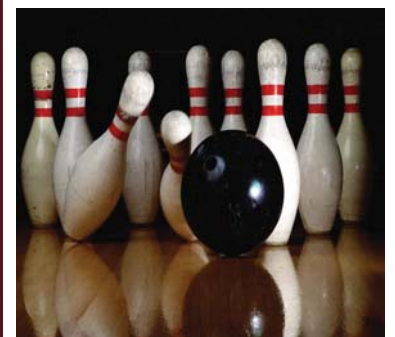
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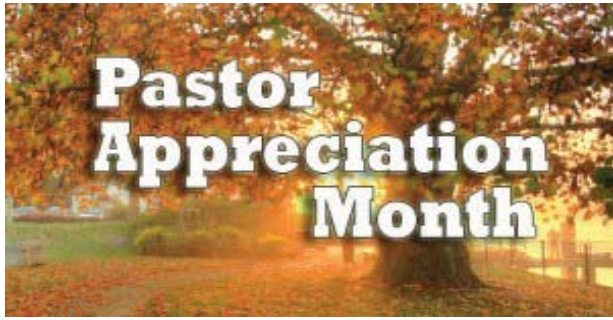
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Bowling Schedule!

Week 5: Friday Nov. 1
Week 6: Friday Nov. 15
Week 7: Friday Nov. 29

All games are played at 6:30pm
at
AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes





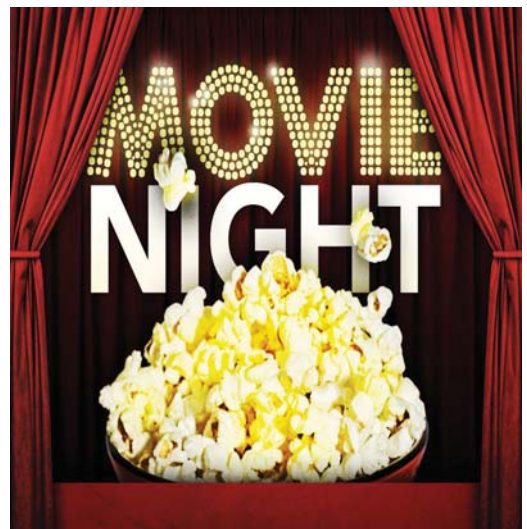
Did you know that October was Pastor appreciation month? I was just reminded about it myself and didn't want to let it go unrecognized. So on behalf of the congregation, I would like to publicly thank Pastor Duncan for his spiritual leadership and especially for his outstanding preaching and teaching ministry.

I would also like to encourage each of you to take the time to thank Pastor Duncan and Vicar David for their spiritual leadership this month and throughout the rest of the year.

Bob Schmidt
Chairman

YOUTH GROUP

Please join us on November 10th, from 6-9pm for our monthly gathering! If you are in confirmation through high school you are invited to participate in Youth Group. This month the Youth and the Vicar are planning on watching a movie here at Zion! There will be pizza and ice cream! Please bring friends and enjoy one another's company. The best movie idea will be watched...with Vicar's approval! Hope to see you there!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!

November Unit: Good News! Christmas

Christmas is really about God's great gift to us in Jesus. We can share this wonderful story with others by our words and actions. The first people to hear the good news of Jesus each had a special role to play in introducing the news to the world. These stories can be found here: Luke 1: 8 - 24, 26 - 56; Matthew 1: 18 - 24. Each of us is called to share the Good News of God's Son, Jesus. How will you share this news with others?



Mark your calendars!

- Sunday, November 3rd - Christmas program parts are handed out
- Sunday, December 15th - Sunday school Christmas program and Dinner
- June 23 - 27, 2014 - Vacation Bible School Week

1. Samuel Bishop
1. Duncan McLellan
2. Nikolas Derosa
2. Salina Howcroft
4. Roland Chilcott
5. Simon Martin
6. Loren Luedeman
8. Julie Huse
9. Vince Kimberland
10. Rose Steranko
12. Jared Gardner
12. Jane Kozak
13. Sydney Harris
14. Dustin Geregach
14. Ruth Trudel
15. Joan Kovach
18. Shelly James
19. Bob DeBoe
20. Megan Monaghan
21. Shannon Mance



22. Marian Oelschlager
23. William Becker
24. Jacque Oelschlager
26. Jennifer Lewis
27. Marian Siek
28. Laura Berkebile
28. Brent Miller
29. Brian Pasquini
29. Melissa Radovich

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|------|
| 1 | Bob and Nancy Spotti | 1986 |
| 11 | Bernie and Jean Blanco | 1961 |
| 20 | Dan and Tracey Harris | 1993 |
| 23 | Gene and Sharon Koop | 1963 |
| 30 | Loren and Kim Luedeman | 1996 |



CONFIRMATION RETREAT

“That’s never been done that way before!” Words that usually prophesy raised eyebrows and expectations of failure in the church have been applied this year to how we are going about doing Confirmation Instruction. Instead of weekly hour-long class sessions, we are doing a number of “modules” ranging from a weekend (retreat) to a lock-in at church to a Sunday afternoon at church. But... “it’s never been done that way before!” And so we didn’t know if it was going to work. But we believed it was worth a try.

And so it came to pass that our eight Confirmation students showed up to church on a Friday evening not knowing what to expect. Vicar and I (and a couple of intrepid volunteers...you know who you are... and THANK YOU!) also had no idea what to expect. Would this “module” approach to Confirmation succeed beyond our wildest dreams, or would it be one of those things we’d agree never to talk about again?

The defining moment came less than two hours in to the lock-in, when one of the students asked: “when are we going to do this again?” Not only did the students pick-up the material we were teaching (in six hour-long sessions), but they were having a ton of fun in the free-time in between (a mid-night game of capture the flag will do this).

Our next “module” is coming up in November (15-17) at Camp Jumonville. We will be teaching and learning the New Testament, having fun (hopefully outdoors) and coming to know and love the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We can always use more chaperone help for events like these! Contact Pastor Duncan if you would like to help out, and please remember to keep our Confirmation students in your prayers as they learn the basics of the Christian faith, the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!



CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Church, Mission & Synod (CMS) & Plate Finances

September Income	\$53,486.00
September Expenses	<u>42,065.00</u>
Favorable to Income	\$11,321.00

As of November 2013, we are estimating \$1,963.00 cash on hand. All bills through October have been paid.

Continue to pray for Zion that we are able to grow our community outreach ministry, support local charities and Christian education for youth and adults. May God guide us in using these gifts and our talents to spread the Good News!

Bob Schmidt

Chairman

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

NOVEMBER

DATE	TIME	GREETERS	ACOLYTES
November 3	8:00 AM 10:30AM	Bob & Bernice DeBoe Sam Dragan	Augie Bishop Jennifer Fitzgerald
November 10	8:00 AM 10:30AM	Bill & Melanie Becker Elsie DallaPiazza	Josiah Ackerman Lara Luedeman
November 17	8:00 AM 10:30Am	Bill & Carole Schrag Jay & Kim Anderson	Christopher Yellig Sydney Harris
November 24	8:00 AM 10:30AM	Joyce Wood Dick & Carolyn Wible	Grant Geregach Jennifer Fitzgerald
November 27 Thanksgiving Eve	7:00 PM	Joe & Carol Pracel	TBA
December 1	8:00 AM 10:30AM	David & Mary Hutula Michael & Deborah Sterba	Augie Bishop Josiah Ackerman
December 8	8:00 AM 10:30AM	Gene & Sharon Koop Rob Oelschlager	Grant Geregach Lara Luedeman

ELDERS	John Gielarowski, Jay Anderson
ALTAR GUILD	Kathleen Conn, Shelly James
USHERS @ 8:00 am	Bill Becker, Shane Bryant, Barb Oechslein, Wayne Oechslein
Ushers @ 10:30 am	Sam Dragan, Josh Gielarowski, Loren Ludeman, Jim Oelschlager

DECEMBER

ELDERS	Frank Vallelunga, Ken Wuerthele
ALTAR GUILD	Janet Oelschlager, Marian Oelschlager, Molly Oelschlager
USHERS @ 8:00 am	Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, Ron Meier, Jack Oelschlager
USHERS @ 10:30 am	Neil Ackerman, Ross Chilcott, Kari Gresh, John Gresh

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 of the change.

SORRY I SKIPPED CHURCH

I love talking to people after they've been away from church for a couple of weeks because I know what I'm going to get: a frenzied list of why-we-couldn't-be-in-church-no-way-no-how. The only excuse I think I haven't heard is: "to be honest,

Pastor, we just didn't want to wake up and go." (Which means I have, in fact, heard the excuse: "out too late; hung over. Sorry." True story.)

The point is, whether for good reasons or bad, you can't or don't always make it to church on Sunday. You work. You travel. You play sports. You simply sleep in. So what's a pastor to do? Well, I could follow the lead of many who have my job in other congregations and lecture you about priorities, principles, and try to make you feel guilty for not coming back early from your honeymoon to attend worship. But since I skipped church on my honeymoon (again, true story), I'll have to do better than a hypocritical lecture.

Starting in 2014, we are going to offer a midweek service of prayer and preaching on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. We want to give people who couldn't make it to church on Sunday an opportunity to worship. We also want to give everyone a chance to come together in between the Divine Service on Sunday morning to hear God's word and pray together. This will be a simple, come-as-you-are service lasting 30-35 minutes. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to have fellowship with each other, grow in your faith, and spend time in communion with your heavenly Father!



Stephen Ministry Corner

A lot has been going on with our Stephen Ministry!

For starters, we hosted a "Stephen Ministry Workshop" last month that was attended by eight other congregations (two were "sister" LC-MS congregations!) in the Pittsburgh area. Just over a year ago, we were the ones going to one of these workshops, learning about what Stephen Ministry is and how we could possibly get one started at our church; now we are hosting these same workshops! God has been good to us in allowing us to start a Stephen Ministry and be able to provide quality Christ-centered care for people who are going through hard times.

Not only are our Stephen Ministers serving members of our congregation as Christ-centered care-givers, but we are also making a difference in the lives of some very special people at Concordia of the South Hills. Doors are opening up for our Stephen Ministry!

In addition to all of that, God has tapped seven more members of Zion to begin going through Stephen Ministry training (including Vicar David!!)

While we still are in need of a couple of Stephen Leaders to move the program forward, God has been good to us in leading so many of our people to become Christ-centered care-givers through the Stephen Ministry program!



If you think you might want a Stephen Minister to walk with you through a difficult time in your life, please contact Pastor Duncan. Your conversation and involvement with a Stephen Minister will be kept confidential.

Voter's Meeting

On Sunday, October 27, the Voter's of Zion approved the following slate of candidates.

Elders

Paul Klemash

Peter Fisher

Trustee

Paul Hayes Jr.

Jim Oelschlager

Mike Sterba

Ben Meyer

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of the above individuals for agreeing to serve Zion in one of the two offices. As it is written - If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. - Romans 12:7

Please provide your support to these new and existing officers. I'm sure throughout the year they will be requesting your support on various initiatives and projects.

Bob Schmidt

Chairman

Spaghetti Dinner

Friday, November 8

4:30-7:30 pm

The date for this year's Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Preschool Art Show & Bake Sale is Friday, November 8th. This year, we will do a "buffet" style dinner including spaghetti with marinara & meatballs and Fettuccini Alfredo. This fundraiser is a great opportunity for us to work, and enjoy an evening together, for the benefit of the Early Childhood Program.

We are also having a **bake sale** as part of the Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser. If you would like to donate a dessert or "goodies" of your choice to the cause, they would be greatly appreciated! Please bring any donations to the school on Thursday, November 7 or Friday, November 8.

Dinner on November 8 will be served from 4:30-7:30 pm.

There are three available seating times: 4:30-5:30, 5:30-6:30, and 6:30-7:30. In order to eliminate over-crowding and a long waiting time, only a certain number of tickets will be printed for each seating time.

Tickets will be sold in the school lobby and office from October 21-November 7.

The monies raised this year will go towards upcoming school lobby enhancements and classroom updates.

Ticket prices are as follows:

Adult Eat-in Ticket:\$9.00

Child Eat-in (ages 3-10) Ticket: \$5.00

Children 2 and under: Free

Carry-out Dinner Ticket: \$9.00

Don't miss this great evening of delicious food and beautiful artwork!



Bridgeville Area Food Bank

Starting November 24, you will have the opportunity to participate in purchasing a gift of clothing or toy for a child registered with the Bridgeville Area Food Bank. If you wish to participate, choose an angel gift tag from the tree set up in the back of the church. Each red gift tag marked with a size is to be for clothing. If the tag has child's age and gender only, it is to be for a toy. Your wrapped or unwrapped gift costing around twenty dollars will need to be returned with the gift tag attached no later than Sunday, **DECEMBER 15**.

Zion Lutheran Church is a part of the area ministerial. The ministerial is formed by many local churches in the surrounding Bridgeville area. Volunteers representing the area churches come together to serve the people in need who live in the South Fayette and Chartiers Valley School districts. Our ministry is ongoing throughout the year and serves around ninety families each month.

There are many ways in which you are able to support the food bank throughout the year. You may bring non-perishable food and place it in the Narthex. Financially, you may give a cash donation or write a check to the Bridgeville Area Food Bank. The third Saturday of the month between 8:00 AM and 12:00 PM is when we distribute food at the Bethany Presbyterian Church on Washington Pike. We would welcome your help.

If you have any questions about the food bank please don't hesitate to ask.

In Christ's Service,
Barb Oechslein
Bridgeville Area Food Bank Representative



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday Night Football



Join us at Bubba's Monday nights at 8:00pm to watch the game, check our Fantasy Football Scores, and enjoy an evening of fellowship.

Collection for this month's Bridgeville area food bank is Sunday, November 10. The "item of the month" is canned meats and proteins (tuna, salmon, nuts, etc.). 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

FOOD BANK



No Shave November



Hey guys, want to raise money for a good cause? Then put the razor down and join us for no shave November. As the name sounds, we are not going to shave for the month of November. \$20 to play, the man with the most hair at the end of the month picks the Christian charity that the money goes to.