



Zion Lutheran Monthly

December 2019

Pastor's Corner

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel* - Lutheran Service Book #357 st. 1

There is something unique about the Season of Advent. For example, imagine being a faithful Jew 2,000 years ago. For thousands of years your people prayed to God for deliverance. God told you that a Messiah, the Christ, would come to save you. You believe God's promise and you wait, and you wait, and you wait for that day to come. You pray, and you pray, and you pray for that day to come. There were probably many times you would have thought God forgot about you, or that maybe God changed His mind. But then all of a sudden, an angel appears to a young virgin, a star leads wiseman, shepherds see more angels than they can count, and there in a stable lies a little baby. In that manger rests everyone's prayers they prayed for thousands of years. In that manger rests all the promises God made to His people for thousands of years.

The season of Advent is unique. It is a season of longing. Advent is a time when our prayers focus upon that First coming of Jesus as well as the Second coming of Jesus. Like the Jews of thousands of years ago, we can also pray for the Christ to come, but this time to come again. Sometimes we may feel like saying to God, and maybe even do say to God, "How long do I have to wait? Where is my deliverance?" Maybe we really aren't too different from the faithful who waited for the First coming of Jesus. There is one difference though, a very large difference.

In many ways, we are more blessed than the Jews of thousands of years ago. We are more blessed because we have much more than a promise; we have the promise's fulfillment in Jesus. Do we still wait? Of course we do! Do we still wrestle with our daily lives and in tears sometimes cry to God? Of course, and that will not change in this life. But what has changed is this - you actually get to hold your Deliverer in your hands every time you have the Lord's Supper and be reassured your deliverance has come. You get to hear Him sing hymns to you and speak Words to comfort you, your comforter has come. You have Jesus. Advent is a time to long for Jesus to return again and to redeem all of heaven and earth. This is God's promise to you. He fulfilled this promise in Christ and one day, you will see it with your own two eyes when He returns again. Until that day comes, may our hearts always pray, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel."

- Pastor Grimenstein



In the Spotlight

Zion Lutheran Preschool Program

Merry Christmas from the Preschool! We have been learning all about the birth of Jesus during Chapel and Jesus Time. What a pleasure it is to watch their eyes light up as they learn the true meaning of Christmas...Jesus!

Please enjoy these photos of our Preschool children as they re-enact the very first Christmas story.

We wish you all a very blessed Christmas.

JESUS
is the reason for the season!
Merry Christmas!
dazzlejunction.com



Chairman's Report

Darkness to Light

The depth of winter is during the solstice on December 21st when our hemisphere experiences the longest period of night or darkness. Of course, a few days later we all celebrate the Birth of Christ, who is the Light of the world. So "let there be light" and let's all hurry springtime along!

2019 will fade into history shortly and I hope you have fond memories of this past year and have hope for a wonderful 2020. Personally, it was quite a busy year for my family and the dust is beginning to settle just in time for the snow to fall.

I hope you all have a wonderful, fulfilling and meaningful Holiday Season. Try to attend the Advent services in addition to the Sunday services. I know it's not always possible, but surely you can find your way to some of them to hear some Good News on a Wednesday. Christmas and Easter are really what set us apart from billions of people on this earth. This is one of those months that define our doctrine and provides a foundation for our Church Militant here on this orb. So, let's enjoy each other's company and fellowship this month. The nights and darkness might be long, but, we have the Light shining for us, within us and from us.

Thank you all for a wonderful 2019 here at Zion. I appreciate all the membership has done to make this a wonderful year and I thank you all from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of the members of your Council. You are all a blessing and God is at work in this place.

Again, have a Merry Christmas and Happy 2020!!! God's Peace.

~ Paul Klemash



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

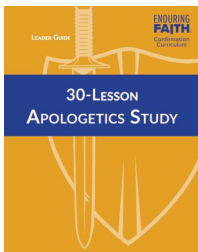
December Christmas Program Practices & Performance

In December we practice our Sunday School Christmas program starting at 9:15 Sunday mornings. Our program provides a wonderful opportunity for the children to share the joy of Christ's birth. We will perform our program for the congregation the evening of Sunday, December 15th (see details on the next page of this newsletter).

Sunday, Dec 01	FULL PROGRAM PRACTICE in sanctuary
Sunday, Dec 08	FULL PROGRAM PRACTICE in sanctuary
Saturday, Dec 14	DRESS REHEARSAL in sanctuary from 10am – 11:30am
Sunday, Dec 15	FULL PROGRAM PRACTICE in sanctuary (dinner and program performance start at 5:00)
Sunday, Dec 22	Christmas PARTY for students
Sunday, Dec 29	No Sunday School classes

Upcoming Events

January 5 – Regular Sunday School classes resume



The apologetics class will resume on January 5, 2020 for post-confirmation aged students. Until that time students are encouraged to assist with the Sunday School Christmas program OR attend the Adult Bible Study.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Sing We Now of Christmas: the Second Stanza

written by Tess Carter, will be presented by the Sunday School children along with various Zion-member musicians and musical talents on December 15th at 6:30pm.

The program begins after a catered congregational Christmas Dinner at 5:00 pm. Dinner tickets are available using the order form in the church bulletin — deadline to purchase tickets is Dec. 8th!

Please join us to hear the story of Jesus' birth and to learn the history behind some of our favorite Christmas hymns.

There are several opportunities available for ALL ages to participate in this year's Christmas program. Check them out below!

Calling All Artists!

We are looking for children's artwork to help fill the slideshow presentation during this year's Christmas Program. We welcome ALL SKILL levels (even colored coloring sheets!), and we invite everyone to submit something. Please feel free to submit as many as you'd like! **Email or hand in drawings to Tess Carter (tesskarter@gmail.com). Please have kids sign their work! DEADLINE: SUNDAY DEC 8**

Artwork needs (for ALL ages)

- **Nativity scenes** - Angels (both alone and appearing to the shepherds)
- **Magi w/gifts** - "Night Wind to the Little Lamb"
- **Star with "a tail as big as a kite"** - Mary & Joseph headed to Bethlehem
- **Sunday School teacher teaching children** - King Wenceslas visiting & bringing gifts to poor/widows/orphans
- **Church Bells**

Artwork needs (grades 7+)

- **Wenceslas Stabbed by Boleslaus on the Church Steps** (*feel free to Wikipedia this for more background*) - Civil War battle scene (*this will be shown while talking about Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's son Charley being shot in the shoulder during battle*)
- **Longfellow at son's bedside with a church steeple outside window** - The Jubilee Singers (African American Spiritual Singing Group from Fisk University- check Google for source images)
- **Reginald Fessenden with first broadcast radio- playing violin** (*Google can be used for some source images- really him playing violin would be enough*)

Youth Group Support

We welcome help from Zion's youth group! Contact Katie Gielarowski (sundayschool@zlc.org) to sign up!

- **Dinner to dessert transition** - clean up after dinner and set up the dessert tables.
- **Ushers** - hand out bulletins before the program
- **Pew Assistance** - sit with 1-2 children during the program



Life Newsbytes

In Washington D.C., on October 15, the March for Life announced its 2020 theme, emphasizing the pro-life movement's support for women through the slogan **"Life Empowers: Pro-Life is Pro-Woman."** March for Life President Jeanne Mancini told those gathered, "We've come a long way from 'safe legal and rare' to 'shout your abortion' ... We know this message about women and abortion is both deceptive and hurtful." Her remarks were followed by comments from Gloria Purvis, radio host and Chairperson for Black Catholics United for Life, Serrin Foster, president of Feminists for Life, and Victoria Cobb, president of The Family Foundation of Virginia. The March for Life president said that this year's 47th March for Life will focus on recognizing the dignity of life empowers women. (The March for Life is set for Friday, January 24, 2020. Lutherans For Life will be there! Check the link at www.lutheransforlife.org/event/1280253-2020-01-24-march-for-life-2020 for more details as they become available.)

Speaking up For Life

"How can we remain silent when life itself is in question? Standing firm and trusting in Jesus Christ, the Lord and Savior of life, and being willing to use our voices to speak up and share the truth about the value of human life are so very important as the world crumbles around us." *Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life Regional Director of Minnesota*

"When we see those suffering from disease or disability ... vulnerable, helpless, destined by many to assisted suicide or euthanasia—we are compelled to speak and defend and help because it is the Christ thing to do. For Christ reveals a God who knows about suffering not just because He's God, but because He suffered. We have a message of a God present in suffering, at work in suffering, and accomplishing His purpose in suffering." *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life*

"God is the ultimate Designer. He designed the greatest good the world has ever seen to come from the most heinous evil mankind has ever produced. You are never too stained for God to love. When you are feeling weak and foolish, give thanks to God for that, because that's exactly the kind of person that God likes to use." *Rev. Dan Larsen is pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church, Wabasso, Minnesota, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Sanborn, Minnesota*

Adoption – God's "WANTED!" Sign—by Pastor Michael Salemink

I am adopted; I'm a special kid, you see.

I'm proud to be a member of the royal family.

I'm adopted. I'm chosen. I bear my Father's name.

I grew up with both my biological parents. I only ever called one lady "Mom" and one man "Dad." But I still loved these lyrics from my favorite kindergarten song. (In case you're curious, it comes from a corny school musical named *Down by the Creek Bank*. It came out in 1978, but you can still purchase the score today from www.brentwoodbenson.com. If you like, listen to the ditty at YouTube.) I bet I made my music teacher Mrs. Fredricksen sing it more times than she cared to.

Adoption makes up the Christian's identity. We belong because God has adopted us. He has not begotten us from His own substance like the Eternal Son. And we do not always behave as His children and reflect His character. Still, He has chosen us who did not first choose Him. He calls us His beloved and declares Himself well-pleased with us. Our Almighty Maker comes to us childlike in Jesus Christ. He abandons His Only Begotten Son to secure us a space in His kingdom and household and family. No matter what age, appearance, ability, or history, human beings may have Lord God for our Heavenly Father. His adoptive washing of Holy Baptism births us anew and from above and forever. Sin renders us unworthy, but the Lamb once slain and raised again ensures we never end up unwanted.

Adoption on earth embodies this grace. Christians engage in adopting not only because we desire to raise children but also—and above all—because the Most High desires their survival and salvation. We adopt because we have been so adopted. We adopt because little ones need homes. We adopt because we have homes and families to share. Life issues mean more than just political debates. Life issues involve more than just personal choices or someone else's problems. Life issues are always people and Gospel.





For over 100 years, Bethesda Lutheran Communities has been committed to supporting people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. Housing options for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have changed dramatically over the past century. This change has been marked by a move away from institutional settings to more individualized and integrated housing situations that offer choice and community inclusion. There are many types of living arrangements for people with IDD, and the differing names and categories can seem a little confusing, especially if you are navigating the housing market for the first time. That's why we put together this quick list of the most forward-thinking housing options for people with disabilities.

The Old Model: Institutions

Institutional housing developments for people with disabilities are being phased out of the market in favor of more community-based approaches to housing. For much of the 20th century, people with disabilities were often segregated from society in institutionalized settings, regardless of their level of support needs. It was a one-size-fits-all approach that did not take the individual's own desires into account and has since been deemed an archaic model for housing. In the 1970's, a movement against institutionalized housing gained steam and new innovative approaches to housing began to emerge. Today, the institutional model is largely a thing of the past and has largely been replaced by the group-home model where people with disabilities live together in small groups in their own homes. While the group home model has been a welcome replacement for institutions, more forward-thinking solutions to housing have emerged which offer greater levels of choice and independence for people with IDD.

Forward-thinking Model #1: Supportive Housing

The supportive housing model allows people with disabilities to live as independently as possible by subsidizing rentals and providing access to intermittent support services. In a supportive housing arrangement, a person with disabilities is able to live on their own and receive subsidized rental rates through the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#). Supportive housing helps independently-minded adults with disabilities live on their own while also receiving the support they need for every day tasks. It is up to the person to determine what ongoing supports they need, making it a truly person-centered approach.

Forward-thinking Model #2: Shared Living Arrangements

Shared-living arrangements are a relatively new concept when it comes to housing for people with IDD. In these living arrangements, a person with IDD actually lives with another family in their own home, making shared living one of the most integrated and community-based housing options out there. Not only does the arrangement provide needed supports for the individual, it often integrates a person into a family where they can feel that they truly belong. The host family is given extensive training by an accredited agency so they can meet the needs of the specific person they bring into their home. Shared Living arrangements provide far more than a place to live for people with IDD – they provide them with family.

Forward-thinking Model #3: Integrated Community Living

One of the newest concepts in the housing space are communities where people with or without disabilities live together in a truly integrated environment. The goal of this type of arrangement is to break barriers and tear down walls between people with disabilities and the rest of the community. While this model is still in its infancy, Bethesda is spearheading the movement toward integrated community living for people with disabilities through its [Cornerstone Village](#) project in Victoria, Minnesota. This community, one of the first of its kind in the United States, will provide an energetic, inclusive environment for active seniors age 55 years and older and independent adults with disabilities.

Zion Youth News and Events

Our December youth activity will be putting together & setting up the luminaria for our Christmas Eve service. Stay after church on Sunday Dec. 22nd to put the luminaria together and then we will set them up on Christmas Eve before service .



Lenten Paraments

We are ready to purchase our next set of paraments. Please consider donating towards our Lenten paraments. Mark “paraments” in the memo line of any checks.

Food Bank— December

Collection for this month’s Bridgeville area food bank is Sunday, December 8th . 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.





Giving Tree



Starting November 10, 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. Your 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.

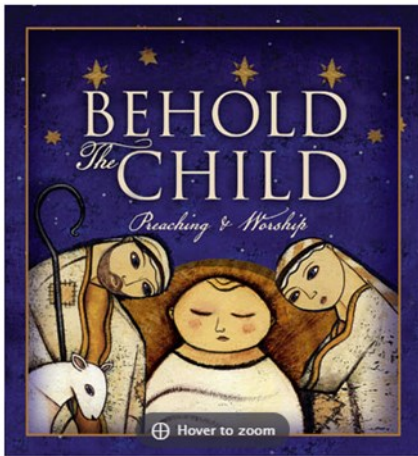
There are many ways in which you are able to support the food bank throughout the year. You may bring non-perishable food and place it in the Narthex. Financially, you may give a cash donation or write a check to the Bridgeville Area Food Bank. The third Saturday of the month between 8:00 AM and 12:00 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





Weekly Advent services will begin Wednesday Dec. 5th. The theme for these mid-week services is "Behold the Child".

Pre-service Dinners 6:00 pm

Church Services: 7:00 pm

Join us for dinner before worship! This is a great time of food and fellowship during the busy season of Advent.



Do you shop online through Amazon?
It's easy to support future pastors and church workers while you shop!!



Concordia
Seminary

Just log in to "smile.amazon.com" and select "Concordia Seminary, St. Louis" from the list of charitable organizations! Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Support Concordia in its mission of training the pastors and church leaders of tomorrow!



JOIN US
FOR CONCORDIA'S
SIXTH ANNUAL
LIVE NATIVITY

Sunday, December 15
148 Marwood Rd., Cabot, PA 16023
(Entrance #5, Haven II)

Performances at 4:30, 5:15 and 6 p.m.

- Featuring Concordia staff and residents
- Live animals
- Hot beverages and refreshments (indoors)
- Gift for children 12 and under
- Live Christmas music (indoors)
- Free admission

This will be a "walk-through" nativity, so guests are encouraged to dress warmly. Parking at entrances 5 and 6. For more information, call 724-352-1571, ext. 8343 or visit www.concordialm.org.





Share the Joy of Christmas
with our homebound members ~
Send them a card this Season!

Mr. Tom Bicusky
Elmcroft Senior Living
3275 Washington Pike
Bridgeville PA 15017

Mrs. Laverne Eckels
Manor Care
113 W McMurray Road
Rm 116 Bethany Unit
McMurray PA 15317

Mrs. Gladys Cimarolli
103 Greenwood Drive
Bridgeville PA 15017

Mrs. Joan Cisko
128 Phillips Drive
McMurray PA 15317

Mrs. Irene Bourg
Country Meadows
3580 Washington Pike
Apt. 220
Bridgeville PA 15017

Mrs. Helen Erbrecht
McMurray Hills Manor
249 W McMurray Road
McMurray PA 15317

Mrs. Florence Boehme
McMurray Hills Manor
249 W McMurray Road
McMurray PA 15317

Mrs. Lois Dittmer
Strabane Woods
319 Wellness Way
Rm 117
Washington PA 15301

Mrs. Nancy Gielarowski
73 Highland Drive
McDonald PA 15057

Mrs. Dolores Preaux
Manor Care Peters Twp
113 W McMurray Road
Rm: 204B
McMurray PA 15317

Mrs. Gerry Hilldenbrand
505 Hunters Path #14
Bridgeville PA 15017

Dottie Heslop
3580 Washington Pike
Apt. # 110
Bridgeville PA 1501



Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins!

Join us on Sunday December 8th after service as we Christmas Carol to our shut ins. Bring a packed lunch to eat after late service then we will head out to Christmas Carol.

WOMENS MINISTRY



Calling all ladies...

Please join us at Burgh's Restaurant
in Bridgeville for an evening of fun
and fellowship.

Tuesday December 17th

Time: 6:30

Cost: \$20.00

Bring a wrapped ornament for the
exchangeand let the stealing
begin!!

RSVP: tharris@zlcgb.org or call
the church office at (412) 221-4776



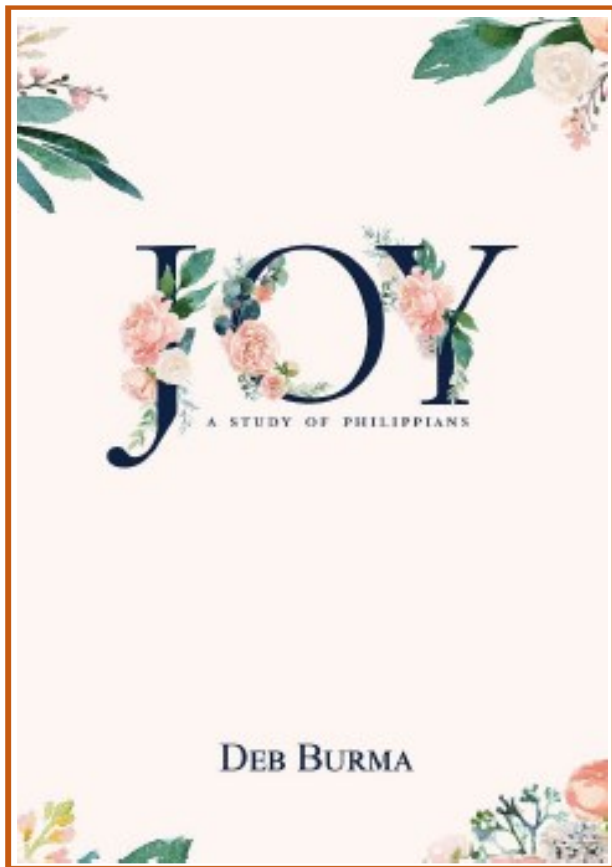
Video of Services Now Available!

You can now watch a video of the service if you missed church, or would like to see one of the services again.

It's easy! ... go to zlcgb.org/video to view the video, or download a QR code reader then scan the QR code provided!



Scan Me!



Women's Bible Study

Join us!

Thursdays 7-8:30 PM

Resumes January 9, 2020

Contact: linda.w.kroeger@gmail.com

Express the joy that cannot be contained:

Jesus is risen, and you *believe*.

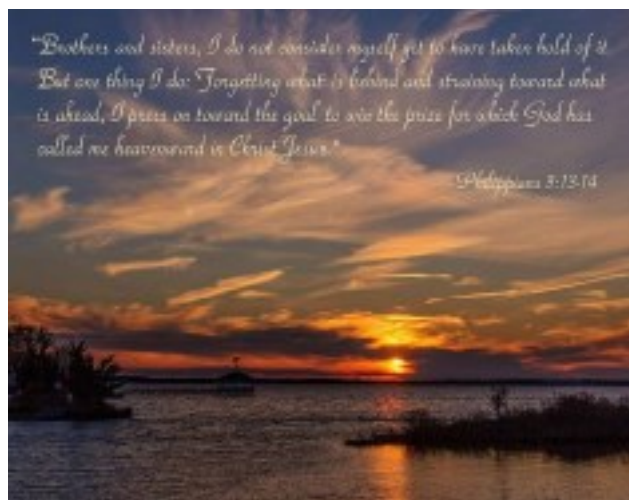
By faith, you have *received*.

You *partner* in the Gospel and *partake* of God's grace.

And you *overflow* in love for one another,
just as God's love overflows for YOU!

Discover JOY in *all* circumstances!

In all my prayers
FOR ALL OF YOU,
I always pray with joy
Philippians 1:4





What About...

Homosexuality

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This pamphlet is intended to help Christians answer some questions about homosexuality. The church recognizes this as both a significant challenge and, more importantly, as an opportunity to speak the truth in love, reaching out with the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

What does God say about homosexuality in His Word, the Bible?

The Lord teaches us through His Word that homosexuality is a sinful distortion of His desire that one man and one woman live together in marriage as husband and wife. God categorically prohibits homosexuality. Our church, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, has declared that homosexual behavior is “intrinsically sinful.” Why does our church take this position? We read in God’s Word the following statements about homosexuality: “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. ... Do not defile yourselves by any of these things”(Lev.18:22,24). “If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination...”(Lev.20:13). “For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. Their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural, and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in their own persons the due penalty for their error”(Rom.1:26–27). “Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor sexual perverts ...shall inherit the kingdom of God”(1 Cor.6:9–10). “...The law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, ... immoral persons, sodomites... and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine”(1 Tim.1:9–10). Through His Word, God teaches us very clearly that homosexuality is a sin. A person who persists in homosexual behavior stands under the condemnation of God’s Word. This is true for anyone who persists in sin without repentance. While this may be an unpopular message, it is the truth taught to us by God in His Word.

What is the church’s message to persons who are homosexual?

The church’s message to homosexual persons is the same message it proclaims to all people: Repent and believe the Gospel! All human beings are born with a sinful nature that results in sinful thoughts, words and actions. Homosexuality is but one of many sinful situations human beings encounter in this life. From the moment we are born, all human beings stand under God’s perfect judgment. All of us, by nature, are lost and condemned sinners. We all need God’s mercy in Christ for our salvation. The church’s most important message to homosexuals is the promise of forgiveness and eternal life through the person and the work of Jesus Christ. God sent His Son into this world to live a perfect life on our behalf, and to die a perfect death as the payment for all of our sins. A statement regarding homosexuality from the Lutheran Church in Australia summarizes the church’s response to homosexuality in a very helpful way: “The Church, while rejecting on the one hand the movement which claims tolerance of homosexual behavior in the name of freedom of the individual and of moral progress, must also resist the popular reaction of persecution and ostracism. “The Church must exhibit understanding and sympathy for the homosexual, show love and pastoral concern, being ready to give help and encouragement in whatever way possible. It must proclaim to homosexuals, as it does to all men, the judgment of God against sin, above all the forgiveness of sin for Christ’s sake, and the possibility of new life through the power of the Holy Spirit....”

Another Lutheran pastor has written about homosexuality: “God is presenting to the Church a great challenge and opportunity. We can proclaim the Word of God in a clear and fresh manner. We can offer new hope to sinners whom God loves. We can apply the Means of Grace to another area of human need, so that sins can be forgiven and the Spirit’s power employed to create new life in Christ.”

What can Christians do for the families of homosexuals?

It is tempting to ignore the problems and challenges associated with homosexuality. As God’s people, we are able to take actions that demonstrate love and concern for homosexuals



What About...

Homosexuality

and for their families. While clearly affirming the sinfulness of homosexuality, we will also want clearly to affirm God's promise of forgiveness in Christ Jesus. Often families of homosexuals are embarrassed and ashamed. If Christian friends and relatives treat them in ways that increase this shame, it is little wonder that they will attempt to rationalize or otherwise explain away a son's or daughter's sinful lifestyle. Christians should reach out in compassion to these families, expressing their love and concern, offering the encouragement that is ours in our Lord Jesus Christ. To the person caught up in the homosexual life, Christian friends and family members should continue lovingly to share their convictions with this person, reaching out with the forgiving love of Christ and the hope that is found only in Him. Various organizations work with homosexuals who desire to turn away from the homosexual lifestyle. A Lutheran group working in this area is "Keys Ministry." Their address and telephone number are at the end of this pamphlet.

How should Christians respond to the "gay rights" movement?

There has been a growing increase in the influence of the "gay rights" movement, even within some Protestant churches. The "gay rights" movement wants our culture to accept homosexuality as an alternative natural lifestyle in which human beings may express their sexuality. We have reached the point where even the idea of "gay marriages" is considered an acceptable possibility.

The church must resist these attitudes with the truth of God's Word. Our church encourages our members to exercise their duty as Christian citizens to be aware and informed about these issues. The Christian citizen must be knowledgeable about the positions taken by politicians in regard to homosexuality, and other issues, so that responsible participation in the political process can take place. The church is committed not to the political process, but to the preaching of the Gospel. This is the church's mission. The church does encourage its members to be responsible and active citizens in our country. Thus Christian citizens will work to enact laws that reflect Biblical truth in regard to homosexuality.

Why have some churches changed their position on homosexuality?

We have noticed changes particularly in many Protestant churches in our country when it comes to the issue of homosexuality. Even the national media has noticed these changes,

printing long stories on national church studies on the topics of homosexuality. Because the news media does not always distinguish carefully between Lutheran churches in the country, even our own members have sometimes wondered about the position of our Synod on these matters. What accounts for these changes in some churches? First, homosexual groups within these churches often engage in lobbying efforts and gain considerable influence. Second and more important, attitudes toward homosexuality have changed as a result of changing attitudes toward the authority and reliability of the Holy Scriptures. An academic philosophy about the Bible, called "higher criticism," puts man in the position of determining what is true and what is not in the Bible. With this attitude, we can understand why some churches have attempted to explain away the Bible's teaching about homosexuality.

How can Christians respond to attempts to make homosexuality appear as merely an alternative lifestyle?

All one has to do is turn on the television set and watch a few popular situation comedies to realize that there is an enormous effort underway to create an image of homosexuality as merely an alternative lifestyle. Homosexuality is portrayed as a perfectly normal and natural expression of human sexuality. Persons who view homosexuality as abnormal are portrayed in popular culture today as being "homophobic" or otherwise on the fringe of our society. It is therefore all the more important that Christians not hesitate to speak lovingly, yet clearly, about this issue. Parents need to take the time to discuss this issue with their children when they reach an age where they can understand these things.

What Lutheran resources are available to help minister to homosexuals and their families?

Keys Ministry is a Lutheran group dedicated to helping individuals and their families who are struggling with homosexuality. You may call Keys Ministry at (507) 352-4110. You may write to Keys at Box 97, Wykoff, MN 55990. A study called "A Christian Perspective on Homosexuality" may be purchased by calling Concordia Publishing House at 800-325-3040 and requesting stock number 20-2586.

— Dr. A.L. Barry
Past President—LCMS



Service Participants



Date	Time	Greeters	Acolytes	Nursery
December 1	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Brian & Megan Pasquini Ed & June Malachosky	Will Schrag Olivia Bonacci	Sharon Bogdan Christine Chilcott
December 4	7:00 PM	N/A	Sam Bishop	No Nursery
December 8	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Gene & Sharon Koop Jim & Mary Lou Neill	Noah Wallace Carly Garrubba	Megan Meyer Marian Oelschlager
December 11	7:00 PM	N/A	Luke Lemonovich	No Nursery
December 15	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Max & Jean Ma Rose Steranko	Joshua Grimenstein Sam Bishop	Megan Glasser Jessica Boyle
December 18	7:00 PM	N/A	Noah Wallace	No Nursery
December 22	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Kathleen Conn Mike & Deborah Sterba	Will Schrag Olivia Bonacci	Carrie Lemonovich Stephanie Eckels
December 24	7:00 PM	Peter & Barbara Fisher	Will Schrag Sam Bishop	No Nursery
December 25	10:00 AM	Wayne & Barb Oechslein	Joshua Grimenstein	No Nursery
December 29	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Carl & Karen Bauer Elsie Dalla Piazza	Noah Wallace Sam Bishop	Sharon Bogdan Christine Chilcott
December 31	7:00 PM	John & Carrie Lemonovich	Luke Lemonovich	No Nursery

Month	Elders	Altar Guild	8:00 AM Ushers	10:30 AM Ushers
December	John Gielarowski Mike Wallace	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Shane Bryant, Bill Schrag, Ken Schrag & Tim Sheldon	Susie Bishop, Anna Gresh, Vince Kimberland, John Lemonovich
January	TBD	Elsie DallaPiazza	TBD	TBD

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

December Birthdays



1st Tess Carter

1st Laurie Eckels

2nd John Coyle

2nd Romilly Carter

2nd Sharon Oechslein

3rd Augie Bishop

3rd Linda Seibel

4th Tom Garrubba

5th Jim Goodge

6th Lucas Dill

9th Michele Wallace

10th Megan Glasser

10th Michael Kozak

12th Michael Oechslein

13th Susan Stone

15th Tristan Chilcott

17th John Gresh

22nd Casper Carter

23rd Megan Pasquini

24th Michael & Jeremy Dyczewski

25th Joshua Grimenstein

27th Alex Yellig

December Anniversaries

Jesse & Tess Carter—December 22nd





December 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>8:00 am Worship w/ Communion</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School & Bible Class</p> <p>10:30 am Worship w/ Communion</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:00 pm 1st Year Confirmation</p> <p>6:15 pm Grace Bell Choir</p> <p>7:00pm 2nd Year Confirmation</p> <p>7:00 pm Trustees Meeting</p> <p>7:15 pm Adult Choir</p> <p>8:15 pm Faith Bell Choir</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 pm Board of Education meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:00 pm Advent Dinner</p> <p>7:00 pm Advent Service</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00 pm Elders Meeting</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:30 pm Christmas Decorating party</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:00 am Worship w/ Communion</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School & Bible Class</p> <p>10:30 am Worship w/ Communion</p> <p>12:00 Christmas Caroling to Shut In's</p> <p>FOOD BANK COLLECTION</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 pm Preschool Christmas Program</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00 pm Preschool Christmas Program</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:00 pm Advent Dinner</p> <p>7:00 pm Advent Service</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00 pm Preschool Christmas Program</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00 am Sunday School Dress Rehearsal</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:00 am Worship w/ Communion</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School & Bible Class</p> <p>10:30 am Worship w/ Communion</p> <p>11:45 am Church Council Mtg.</p> <p>5:00 pm Christmas Dinner</p> <p>6:30 pm Sunday School Christmas Program</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:00 pm 1st Year Confirmation</p> <p>6:15 pm Grace Bell Choir</p> <p>7:00pm 2nd Year Confirmation</p> <p>7:15 pm Adult Choir</p> <p>8:15 pm Faith Bell Choir</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 pm Ladies Christmas Dinner & Ornament Exchange @ Burgh's</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:00 pm Advent Dinner</p> <p>7:00 pm Advent Service</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:00 am Worship w/ Communion</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School & Bible Class</p> <p>10:30 am Worship w/ Communion</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:15 pm Grace Bell Choir</p> <p>7:15 pm Adult Choir</p> <p>8:15 pm Faith Bell</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00 am Christmas Day Service</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:00 am Worship w/ Communion</p> <p>9:15 am Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 am Worship w/ Communion</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:00 pm New Years Eve Service</p>				

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



Zion Lutheran Church

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Bridgeville, PA 15017

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