# Zion Lutheran Monthly November 2021

### Pastor's Corner



### **He Recalls His Promises**

"Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell everyone what He has done Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia."

We sing the above portion of liturgy right after receiving the Lord's Supper. There is nothing more fitting for us to do than to give thanks to God. During this time of year, we usually give thanks for what we have. Some, who are facing loss, might reflect and give thanks for what they enjoyed for a time. This time of year, we are almost hardwired to move into "thankful" thinking.

When it comes to God, we should especially be thankful for all He does for us. We usually give thanks to God during worship, mealtime, and before going to bed. During those prayers we may give thanks for a whole host of worldly blessings, which is good to do. We should always remember from where all good things come to us - God. God certainly gives us a great deal. Not only does God give us clothing, shoes, house and home, God also gives us spiritual gifts of the church such as: the sacraments, the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit. And if that is not enough, God also does more. There is one particular attribute of God Himself I grow especially thankful for: that He recalls His promises (*see above*).

God is not forgetful. God is not slow to remember a promise He makes. What God has promised to do, He remembers to do. This should be an enormous comfort for us in all times. So, when we are burdened down by any particular sins, we can always remember that God has promised to forgive us of our sins (*Colossians 3:13*). God will never forget to forgive you. Or, when we feel lonely, as if no one else in this world understands, we can remember God has promised never to leave us for forsake us (*Matthew 28:20*). God will always remember



you. Even after we are long dead, and as the years pass by, and fewer and fewer people can even recall our names, God will never forget you. And God will never forget His promise to raise you and all believers on the last day (*2 Corinthians 4:14*).

Let's be thankful for many things this month. But let's also not forget to give thanks to our God who remembers His promises to us in Christ.

— Pastor Grimenstein

# **Chairman's Report**

### Rejoice and Be Glad !!!

We've all been thrown a curve ball once in a while. Well, as you know if you're attending our services, Zion has been involved in our own version of Boston's "Big Dig" for the last several weeks. The short story is that we had sewage problems in the church building that led to discovery of some serious blockages and problems with the lines that carry our sewage system waste water to the sanitary trunk lines at the road. There were also some issues discovered at the school building that were comparatively minor in nature, but needed to be resolved, so we decided to handle them while the equipment was on site. Re-setting the sanitary lines involved replacing the storm sewer lines because of the way in which those lines were originally engineered in 1967. It was a major project and the cost was more than \$150,000. Fortunately, we managed the treasury such that as of this writing, once all the bills associated with this are paid, we should still be in a sound financial position. Thanks be to God for providing for his servants in our time of need!!! That "curve ball" didn't strike us out; rather, we hit that one out of the park in a sense. Thank you for supporting your ministry and making our job easier as we work to maintain the "brick and mortar" church.

The easy thing to do when you're blindsided by such an event is to moan about it in the "woe is me" mode. However, as Christians, we have a different calling. Even in the face of massive adversity, we need to basically pull ourselves up off the ground and "rejoice" in our sufferings, trials and tribulations. God is in control and His will shall be done. It's not an easy road to travel at times, but in reality it's the road we're meant to be riding upon. God is with us regardless.

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No matter the stumbling block that may arise, as long as we as a Christian community trust in the Lord, we shall escape the foe and manage our way through tempest seas. The Psalmist in Chapter 5 rejoices that the Lord will bless the righteous and "cover him with favor as with a shield." God hears us.

Our church was blindsided but we prevailed because you, the church on earth in which the Holy Spirit has made a temple, have provided for the needs according to the will of our Lord and Savior. I am personally humbled and so very thankful for each and every one of the members of this parish. May the Lord Bless each of you as we approach the Advent and Christmas seasons! Rejoice! Be GLAD you are a Christian and "chosen" by the Lord our God!!!

"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." *Romans 12:15* We're in this together no matter what the future holds. Let's fight the good fight. Please pray for all Christians on earth, the LCMS and our missions, our District and our wonderful church and preschool here at Zion. Amen.

### Welcome to our Newest Members

On Sunday, October 10th, Sam and Joanne Garloff became members of our church family. If you haven't had an opportunity to meet them yet, be sure to welcome them to our fellowship!

Sam and Joanne live nearby in Bethel Park with their rescued pit bull mix, Achilles. Married nearly 25 years, they came from a conservative AFLC Lutheran background with strong beliefs rooted in faith and service. Originally a Pittsburgh native, Joanne met Sam in the DC suburbs in the early 90s and after a couple of moves they settled here.



Sam was a "military brat" but keeps Eastern PA/Philadelphia as his roots. Joanne works at the local AAA, while Sam works in banking fraud operations.

Both enjoy following the Steelers and Penguins, plus Sam is PSU '91 and a big supporter! They are looking forward to uniting with Zion and growing in faith and fellowship here in the LCMS, and would like to thank both Pastor and Susie for the warm welcome and open doors!

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### Tenth Annual "Adopt a Grandparent"

During the Holiday season, I enjoy brightening the lives of residents in local assisted living and nursing home facilities in Allegheny County. Many of these people have few, if any, visitors and receive little, if anything, during the Holidays. Last year, through the generosity of local businesses and friends, I helped deliver almost 1000 gifts to residents of John J Kane Regional Hospital, Scott Twp, Gracious Living, Marian Manor, Victorian Place, Washington Hospice, and shut-ins at Zion Lutheran Church and Good Shepherd Church. This year I hope to help deliver 1000 gifts again.



By partnering with me, your \$15 will provide each of two residents a fragrance-free hand cream and help them have a very Merry Christmas. These items are specifically requested by caregivers for the benefits the residents receive. The lotions will soothe their hands and bring joy, as well, by the simple "touch therapy" of applying them. They will be delivered in early December.

Please consider what a blessing this is for the men and women in these facilities who once lived and worked in our local communities. Let them know they are remembered! THANK YOU!

Make your check payable to Ginny Granke-Kimberland, or if you have questions about how you, your school, or your business can become a sponsor, please contact me at:

Ginny Granke-Kimberland, 1610 Glenn St, McDonald, PA 15057 412-427-9013

### **Mission Moment:**

### Promoting Zion's Internal, local, and international missionary efforts

### The Jasephs are on the Way to Uruguay ... by way of Indiana, Missouri, Maryland, Tennessee, Nebraska, Colorado, & New Mexico!



In our October issue of Zion Monthly we introduced The Rev. Philip and Deaconess Rachel Jaseph who will soon begin their service as missionaries of the LCMS in Uruguay. Zion has begun sponsoring the Jaseph's work with financial support. We will continue our support on a recurring basis as the Jaseph's reach out to the Uruguayan people in Jesus' name, and we look forward to regular updates on their progress!

What a whirlwind the past months have been! This summer and fall it has been a joy to speak to folks from dozens of LCMS congregations, to share about God's work in Uruguay with hundreds of brothers and sisters in Christ. We thank God for His travel mercies during our thousands of miles travelled by car and plane and are excited to share with you in the coming months more about our journey as new missionaries on the way to Uruguay.

Pastor Phil received his first call in April, graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary in May, we moved to Maryland in June and he was then ordained into the Office of the Holy Ministry on June 20 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Annapolis, Maryland, where we are currently living with his parents and brother.



In July we began visiting LCMS churches and schools to present about the church planting and outreach efforts we will be a part of in Montevideo, Uruguay as a pastor and deaconess. Missionary orientation in St. Louis this time around was split into two sections, so we had the opportunity to visit several congregations on the way to and back east from Missouri during these trips. We are so thankful to the



Lord for the support staff of the Office of International Mission who is an incredible support already in this pre-deployment phase of ministry.

We also praise God for the saints at churches and schools in seven states across the nation who have invited, welcomed, prayed for, financially supported, housed, fed, and encouraged us during this initial phase of network building for mission support.

Other congregations have expressed interest in learning about God's work in Uruguay, and some of you reading this have already committed to praying for our work and financially making it possible. Thank you! We praise God for all of

you, as well for the family and friends in between each of these locations who have generously helped us with so many travel logistics, including two families who even lent us vehicles and all who have picked us up and dropped us off at various airports. Thank you all!

### Veterans Day – November 11th



On Veterans Day we remember the courage and selfless service of so many throughout the generations who have answered the call to serve in the Armed Forces. We are thankful to God for their honorable sacrifice for the freedom of others. We also pray that God would keep chaplains in the faith and sanctify their ministry in the Word. Finally, we are grateful for the devotion and sacrifice of military families.

Below is a list of Zion members who are military veterans. A special thank you to all our brothers and sisters of Zion who have answered the call to serve!

### **Shane Bryant**

U.S. Marine Corps Corporal Camp Lejeune, Persian Gulf, Bosnia, Somalia, Haiti

### Jared Fitzgerald

U.S. Army 1st Lieutentant U.S. and Europe

### **Pastor Grimenstein**

U.S. Army Chaplain (Captain—retired) Ft. Bragg; Afghanistan; Chievres, Belgium

### Ed Hajduk

U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer (E-7) Duty stations including Kuwait & Great Lakes Naval Base

### Vince Kimberland

U.S. Army Paratrooper Sargent 1st Class (E-7) Duty stations include Korea and Granada

### Paul Klemash

U.S. Navy Naval Aviator, Lieutenant (O-3) Pacific, Arctic & Indian Oceans, Persian Gulf & Gulf of Aden

Dale Miller U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Sargent (E-5) Pittsburgh

James Neill U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force (Air National Guard) 1st Sergeant (E-8 SMSGT) Duty stations in the U.S., England, and Panama

### Bill Schrag

U.S. Marine Corps Corporal Vietnam

### Larry Zreliak

U.S. Navy Yeoman 2nd Class (E-5) Pennsylvania and San Francisco

Please note: We have attempted to list names of all Zion members who have served. If any names were inadvertently omitted, please accept our sincere apologies and contact the church office so that you can be duly recognized.

### Bridgeville Area Food Bank

The November collection for the Bridgeville Area Food Bank is <u>Sunday, Nov 14<sup>th</sup></u>. The "items of the month" are CANNED MEATS & PROTEINS. Items may be placed in the wicker receptacle in the narthex near the coat rack.



You are also welcome to help at the food bank every third Saturday of the month between 7:45 am and noon at Bethany Presbyterian Church (contact Barb Oechslein for more information). Please continue to support the Food Bank with your donations and volunteer service!

# **Zion Youth News & Events**

Breakfast Burrito Fundraiser will be held Sunday, Nov 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am between services in the Fellowship Hall. Come hungry to support a great cause!

A Trivia Game Night will be held Friday, Nov 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited and encouraged to join us! Here's how it works: A variety of popular trivia games will be played at tables of six players. So, round up six family members or friends, and reserve your table for \$50 by Sunday 11/14! Dinner included in the reservation price.

### Spare Change Sundays

Every bit - large and small - helps our fundraising efforts!

**On Sunday, Nov. 7**<sup>th</sup> each Zion family will receive a change container. Folks can take the

containers home to deposit spare change (or paper bills, if you prefer!) throughout the week. When you're ready to turn-in your container of coins/bills, bring it to church **any Sunday from Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> through Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>.** Simply empty your container into the large collection jar in the back of the sanctuary labeled "Spare Change Sunday" ... you can take it

home again to re-fill, if you like. It's that easy! A little spare change from each us can go a long way in supporting our youth in their goal of attending the LCMS Youth Gathering in Houston! Questions? ... please feel free to see Carrie Lemonovich or reach out to her at <u>clemonovich@yahoo.com</u> or (412)260-9344.

Christmas Gifts in a Jar may be ordered beginning in November. Each jar contains a delicious treat mix that makes preparation at home quick and easy. They make perfect Christmas gifts! See order form on the opposite page, and start you're Christmas shopping early!





# CHRISTMAS GIFT MIX SALE

### SELECT FROM FOUR MIXES - EACH \$10

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT OUR YOUTH ATTENDING THE NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING



Name:

	# Ordered
. Triple Chocolate Brownie Mix	
. M&M Cookie Mix	
. Banana Chocolate Chip Bread Mix	
. Homemade Hot Cocoa Mix	
Total Ordered:	
<b>Total Owed (\$10 Each</b> Make Checks Payable to Zion L	
PLACE FORM AND CHECK IN OFFERI	NG BASKET

ORDER BY 11/28; PICKUP 12/12 AFTER BOTH SERVICES





Highlighting the academic awards, scholarships, and extra-curricular achievements of Zion's students in Kindergarten through College.

**Augie Bishop** accepted a paid internship next summer at the Pittsburgh office of PwC (PriceWaterhouseCoopers). A Junior at Miami University in Oxford, OH, Augie is working toward a combined bachelor's/master's degree in accountancy through Miami's Farmer School of Business. He expects to graduate in the spring of 2023.





**Zion's Sunday School Students** created a mural with puzzle pieces containing faith-based scenes along the ramp at the side entrance to the church. Each student created his or her own version of what it means to be part of the Church. The mural is part of our month-long campaign called **Where Do You** 

*Fit?*, which encourages members to consider and pray about how they can use skills and talents in service to Christ and His people at Zion.



What About...



### Abortion

Abortion is one of the most significant moral issues of our day. Emotions run very deep when it comes to this issue. It is tempting to consider this issue from the perspective of our culture's standards. Christians want to be informed about abortion based on the Word of God.

### What does God's Word say about abortion?

God's Fifth Commandment is clear, "You shall not murder." This means, in the words of the Small Catechism, that "we should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need." God forbids us to take the life of another person, and this most certainly includes abortion.

God's Word also says, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart" (Jer. 1:5). Psalm 139:16 says, "Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be." Our church's explanation of the Small Catechism puts the matter well when it says," The living but unborn are persons in the sight of God from the time of conception. Since abortion takes a human life, it is not a moral option except to prevent the death of another person, the mother." The sin of willfully aborting a child, except in very rare situations where it may be necessary to save the mother's life, is totally contrary to the will of God.

### If abortion is legal, how can the church oppose it?

Just because something happens to be legal does not make it moral, ethical or right. Abortion is perhaps one of the most dramatic examples of a situation where something is legal, but is very much a sin against God. Since 1973, abortions have been legal in the United States. Abortion remains a sin against God, whether or not it is legal in our society; therefore, we must "obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).The church needs to inform its members that abortion is sinful and then encourage them, as Christian citizens, to use available legal means to change the law. Christians do not resort to illegal activities to change our nation's laws.

### Why is the church involved in a personal decision?

A personal decision is not necessarily a private decision. I

The church, and the church's ministers, have Godgiven responsibilities to warn, exhort and rebuke from the Word of God with all authority (2 Tim. 4:2).The church is very concerned when Christians make decisions that are contrary to the Word of God and thus place themselves outside the will of God. Living in a state of unrepentant sin is a very serious situation. Thus, the church must warn its members against the temptation of abortion. The church also must minister to those who have had abortions. Furthermore, the church needs to speak out against the sin of abortion, since it is widely presented in our culture as perfectly acceptable.

### Has the church always opposed abortion?

Abortion was a common practice in the ancient Roman empire. The very fact that the Son of God was conceived in the womb of Mary was a powerful reason for Christians to hold a high view of all human life. The unborn Christ was not merely a blob of cells, but was in fact the very Son of God, who had assumed a human nature in order to save and redeem human beings from their sin. Early Christian writers make it clear that abortion was abhorrent to the first Christians. The early Christians understood their views on marriage, women and family to be unique. One church father said it quite plainly, "The hair-splitting difference between formed and unformed makes no difference to us. Whoever deliberately commits abortion is subject to the penalty for homicide." From its earliest days, the Christian church has been opposed to abortion, regarding it as infanticide and homicide.

## Why do some churches take a weak position on abortion?

Abortion is an emotional issue and one that is very upsetting to many. It is easier for a church to take a weak position and not speak out clearly against abortion. However, a church body that wishes to be faithful to the Scriptures cannot remain silent but must clearly indicate that willful abortions are sinful. Many mainline, liberal denominations, which tolerate doubt and indifference in their churches about many teachings of the Bible, also tolerate and even defend What About...

### Abortion

# Cont'd

abortion. It is often confusing to Missouri Synod Lutherans when they hear that some other Lutheran churches have not taken a strong stand again abortion. It is important for us to make clear that our church does not share the position of those church bodies that do not speak clearly against the sin or abortion.

### Isn't abortion acceptable in the case of rape or incest?

While the emotional arguments for abortion in these situations might seem compelling, the fact of the matter is that it is wrong to take the life of one innocent victim (the unborn child), and further burden the life of the other victim of these horrible situations, the mother. It is indeed a strange logic that would have us kill an innocent unborn baby for the crime of his father.

### What can we do for people considering abortion?

It is a sin for parents to counsel their children to have abortions. An unplanned pregnancy comes as a shock to all involved and abortion may be seen as a "quick and quiet" way to move past the problem, but it is not. It merely compounds an already sinful situation with another sinful choice. A woman who is considering an abortion has the option to keep her child or to give it up for adoption. Adoption is a noble choice, for it allows a child who otherwise may not be well cared for to receive the love and attention he needs in a family that is able to care for him. Our pastors are aware of the various agencies that deal with adoptions.

### How can the church minister to those who have had an abortion?

A woman who has had an abortion may feel at first that she is free of her "problem." Her partner, either a boyfriend or a husband, may also feel that he is "off the hook." It may be soon after, or perhaps not until years later, that they realize what they have actually done: destroyed the life of their unborn child. Perhaps this realization comes as they hear God's Word correctly explained on this point. The Law of God reveals their sin to them and they feel guilt and great sorrow, and they begin to wonder what can be done about it or if there is any hope at all. The woman who has had an abortion needs to hear that for this sin too the blood of Jesus Christ was shed, and that there is in Him now full and free forgiveness. This assurance needs to be given

over and over; namely, that in Christ Jesus, there is forgiveness—complete and total forgiveness. This is how the church best ministers to those who continue to feel the burden of the sin of abortion, by again and again pointing them to the cross of their Lord Jesus Christ and assuring them of the full and free forgiveness He won for them there, for all sins, for each and every one. It is important then that people who have repented of their sin continue to remain close to their Lord through regular and faithful church attendance where they will receive the Lord's Supper regularly. Private confession and absolution with their pastor is another powerful means by which God gives His grace, pardon and peace to a person feeling guilty over the sin of abortion. The grace and love of God is stronger than any human weakness and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7).

### What resources are available?

There are many worthwhile resources available. Our church has a commission on the sanctity of life that has produced a number of helpful materials.

That They May Have Life is a useful summary of how Christians reflect and think about life issues. Real and Abundant Life is a broad theological overview of God's gift of life and the eternal life He offers to us in Christ. Both of these documents are available from Concordia Publishing House.

Lutherans for Life is an organization that also provides numerous resources to help Christians understand better a wide range of life issues. Visit them at their website lutheransforlife.org.

> -Dr. A. L. Barry **Past President** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



# **November Service Participants**

	Acolytes	Time	
Nov 7	Decklan Pasquini Christian Bonacci	8:00 10:30	
Nov 14	Will Schrag Lizzie Lemonovich	8:00 10:30	
Nov 21	Elder Claire Lemonvich	8:00 10:30	
Nov 28	Sam Bishop Christian Bonacci	8:00 10:30	

	Elders	Altar Guild	8:00 am Ushers	10:30 am Ushers
Nov	Bob Schmidt, Jim Neill	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Brian & Megan Pasquini, Wayne & Barb Oechslein	John & Kari Gresh, Dwight & Andy Weldon
Dec	Roger Diederich, Mike Wallace	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Shane Bryant, Bill & Ken Schrag, Tim Sheldon	Susie Bishop, Mike Kozak, John & Luke Lemonovich



Altar Guild Members Needed

*Can you join us?* Our altar guild prepares the elements of the Lord's Supper prior to each Worship service in the sacristy (behind our altar), and takes care of communion linens and vessels. This is wonderful way to demonstrate love and respect for the Sacrament while serving the members of Zion. Guild members serve on a monthly basis in teams of 3 or 4 members, and the schedule is very flexible! Please contact Janet Oelschlager at 412-221-3093 to learn more.



- 1 Sam Bishop
- 2 Salina Howcroft
- 3 Roland Chilcott
- 8 Tom Carthy
- 9 Vince Kimberland
- 10 Rose Steranko
- 12 Jane Kozak
- 13 Sydney Harris
- 14 Kathy Kacvinsky
- 14 Ruth Trudel
- 22 Marian Oelschlager

- 24 Jacque Oelschlager
- 26 Jennifer Lewis
- 27 Marian Siek
- 28 Brent Miller
- 29 Brian Pasquini
- 30 Adele Goodge





"There is no more lovely, friendly, and charming relationship, communion, or company than a good marriage" - Martin Luther

- 4 John & Megan Migyanko
- 11 Bernie & Jean Blanco
- 20 Dan & Tracey Harris
- 23 Gene & Sharon Koop

# November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AIN 75, DAY	1 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm Trustees' Mtg 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	2 7:00 pm Board of Education Mtg	<b>3</b> 7:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching, Bible study	<b>4</b> 6:00 pm Adult Confirmation 7:00 pm Elders' Meeting	5	6 Daylight Savings time ends
7 8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Breakfast Burrito Youth Fundraiser 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	8 6:00 pm 1st yr Confirmation 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm 2nd yr Confirmation 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	9	10 2:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching, Bible study 7:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching, Bible study	11 6:00 pm Adult Confirmation 7:00 pm Council Meeting	12 I CRUS Say, You ARE <sup>III</sup> My TIM Your HA	13 Tim (JOU ORD, AV GOD E Sare in ANDS Psalms 31: 14.15
14 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship FOOD BANK COLLECTION SPARE CHANGE SUNDAY	<b>15</b> 6:00 pm 1st yr Confirmation 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm 2nd yr Confirmation 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	16	17 2:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching, Bible study 7:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching, Bible study	18	<b>19</b> 5:30 pm Trivia Game Night & dinner to benefit Youth Group	20
21 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship SPARE CHANGE SUNDAY	22 6:00 pm 1st yr Confirmation 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm 2nd yr Confirmation 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	23	24 2:00 pm Service of Prayer & Preaching, Bible study 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	25 Thanksgiving Give Shanks	26	27
28 1st Sunday of Advent 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship SPARE CHANGE SUNDAY	29 6:00 pm 1st yr Confirmation 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm 2nd yr Confirmation 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	30				