



Zion Lutheran Monthly

December 2021

Pastor's Corner

God is With Us

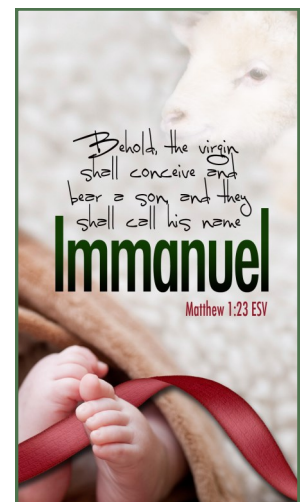
*“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).* Matthew 1:23

Forget the presents. Ignore all the food. Enjoy friends and family, but don't let your joy stop there. During this time of year, there is only one reason to have true, lasting joy – God has taken on human flesh, forever. God has taken on “flesh” in many ways throughout time. God walked in Eden (*Gen. 3:8*). He came to Moses in a burning bush (*Exodus 3:6*). He led the people of Israel out of Egypt as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (*Exodus 13:21*). He literally sat on top of the ark of the covenant between the two cherubim (*1 Sam. 4:4*). God has been taking on various forms of “flesh” ever since Eden, but they all pale in comparison to what Christ has done for you at Christmas. He took on YOUR flesh.

He took on our flesh with all its weaknesses, our flesh with all its temptations, our flesh with its many limitations, our flesh that is subject to pain, and hunger, and tiredness. God took on all these limitations willingly. God could have stayed the way He was. He didn't have to take on our flesh, but He did have to take on our flesh if He wanted to pay the price for our sin, to suffer the punishment we deserve, and to make peace between us and God. Jesus, the Son of God, had to take on flesh to save us; and He did. This is why Jesus is named “Immanuel” which means God with us.

You truly have so much to be thankful for at Christmas, but make sure you look past the lights, the trees, the gifts, and the food. Take joy in what Christ has done for you by coming in your flesh to save you from all sins and even save you from death itself.

- Pastor Grimenstein



Chairman's Report

Thanking the Lord for Blessing after Blessing

This month marks the end of my first term as your Congregation President. It's been quite a three-year experience. Let me thank all the members of this Body of Christ for everything you have done for your church and the ministries in this place. Thank you to Pastor and the Elders for standing as a rock in the face of covid by keeping the sacraments alive and our worship services intact. Thank you to all the members of Council that endured and worked to keep the ship steady in tempest seas. ALL of our employees, especially our custodian, preschool staff and trustees were busy, tested and by the Grace of God prevailed against stacked odds at times. I am grateful for everyone's help and all-hands efforts to keep Zion alive and in fine shape as we close out this year. Rejoice always in the work of the Lord! What a blessing you all have been!

Not since we built the school building in the mid '90s have we spent the kind of resources to improve and repair the physical plant here at Zion. On behalf of the Council and the ministries in general, I thank you for supporting your church in making this possible. You are all a blessing to the church and I pray our Lord truly makes His face to shine upon us as we enter the new year. We will no doubt continue to be tested.

Since no one decided to volunteer to be your President for the coming three years, I agreed to sign up for one more term. We're still looking for a Sunday School Director and a VBS coordinator, a few more elders would be nice and as the next three years unfold there will be other opportunities to serve your church and the ministries at Zion. Please volunteer! We need younger people to step up and do the work of the Lord at this place. My volunteering began over 30 years ago here ... and I'm not alone. So search your heart and soul to understand how important it is for the Christian Church to be robust in the ability to find willing servants to stand against evil and keep the ministries well managed and supported with time and talent.

The Christmas story is a blessing to us. Please attend the Advent, Christmas and New Year's services to celebrate your life as a True Believer! Stand firm in your resolve to make 2022 a year in which you put Christ first and stand against the foe armed with the Word. Pray for Christians on earth, our Synod, our District Churches and Zion! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



"Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, who stand by night in the house of the Lord! Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the Lord! May the Lord bless you from Zion, he who made heaven and earth!" (Psalm 134)

- *Paul Klemash*

Welcome to our Newest Members

On Sunday, November 21st, Dallas Blayney and Staci Taylor 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!

My name is Steven Blayney, but I go by my middle name, Dallas. My wife, Christa, and her family are members at Zion and I have been attending services with them for a few years now. We were married in the church earlier this year on May 1st. I currently work in financial technology as an analyst and in my free time I enjoy golfing and playing hockey. I enjoy the friendliness of all the members of the church and I am looking forward to being a member.



Christa and Dallas Blayney



Staci and Shawn Taylor with their children Mia and Benjamin

My name is Staci Taylor and I am so excited to have become a part of your congregation! I was baptized, confirmed, and grew up in St. Peter & Paul Lutheran Church in Sharon, PA. I moved to Atlanta during my college years and for several more thereafter. I moved back to the area with my husband Shawn, of 8 years now, and we live in Washington County with our daughter Mia who is 3 and loves being a big sister to her brother Benjamin who will be a year old in a few

weeks! Our family loves doing creative art and we try to focus on learning and family as much as we can! We thank you so much for the warm welcome!

Mission Moment:

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



It was wonderful to have Pastor Phillip and Deaconess Rachel Jaseph with us at Zion in November! They will begin their service in Uruguay as LCMS missionaries most likely in February or March. Prior to their departure, they will continue to raise support from fellow Lutherans. You may keep in touch with them at:

*Rev. Phil & Rachel Jaseph
2049 Haverford Drive
Crownsville, MD 21032*



Celebrate the coming of our Lord at these seasonal worship and fellowship opportunities!

Wednesday 12/1

Midweek Advent Worship Services — 2:00 & 7:00 pm

Saturday 12/4

Church Decorating Party and Luncheon — 11:30 am (RSVP to events@zxcb.org)

Wednesday 12/8

Midweek Advent Worship Services — 2:00 & 7:00 pm

Friday 12/10

Women's Ornament Exchange & Dinner -- 6:30 pm (contact Megan Pasquini)

Sunday 12/12

Special Sunday School Christmas Video featuring music, recitations and artwork from Zion's kids (following 8 & 10:30 am worship)

Wednesday 12/15

Midweek Advent Worship Services — 2:00 & 7:00 pm

Sunday 12/19

Christmas Dinner & A Movie -- 3:00 pm (see flier on opposite page for details)

Wednesday 12/22

Midweek Advent Worship Services — 2:00 & 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship Fri. 12/24

2:00 pm (prelude begins 1:30)

7:00 pm (prelude begins 6:00)

Christmas Day Worship Sat. 12/25

10:00 am

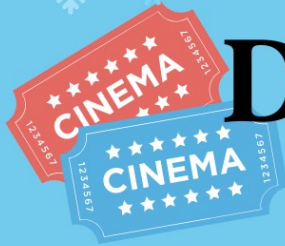
Sunday 12/26

10:00 am



The Zion Youth Group and Events Committee present ...

Christmas



Dinner & a Movie

Sunday, December 19th

Movie matinee in Sanctuary at 3:00 pm
Dinner in Fellowship Hall at 4:30 pm
Christmas cookie table & punch/coffee



*A sweeping holiday musical depicting our
most beloved Christmas traditions*

***Tickets -- \$8 adults, \$5 kids 5-11
kids under 5 free***

**Dinner of Chicken Milanese or Roast Beef ... bring an appetizer
or side dish to share!**

**Tickets sold Sunday Dec 5th & 12th in the church narthex
following both services**



In the Spotlight

Zion Lutheran Preschool Program

Merry Christmas!



Merry Christmas from the Preschool! As you can see from the above photos, we are getting ready for our Annual Christmas Programs. We are so excited to be doing them again this year for all of the families.

We have been practicing all of our favorite Christmas songs, and learning all about Mary and Joseph, their journey to Bethlehem, and the birth of baby Jesus.

Our programs are on December 6th, 7th, and 9th at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. We would love to see you there. We will perform our songs, and then enjoy a short video presentation of the children re-enacting the Christmas story.

Blessings,

Tracey Harris
Director

Zion Youth News & Events

Spare Change Sundays

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

When you're ready to turn-in your "Spare Change" container of coins/bills, bring it to church **any Sunday from Nov. 14th through Jan. 31st**. 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 of 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 clemonovich@yahoo.com or (412)260-9344.



Spare Change
Sundays!

Christmas Gifts in a Jar orders may be picked up Sunday 12/12 following both services! Thank you for your purchase in support of the youth group! The youth will gather on Saturday 12/11 to assemble the jars and enjoy fellowship, food and drinks together.



French Toast Casserole Fundraiser will be held **Sunday, Dec 5th** between services at 9:00. Come hungry! Monies raised support the LCMS Youth Gathering trip.

Christmas Dinner & A Movie is coming up on Sunday, Dec. 19th from 3:00-6:00. This church-wide event is being hosted by the Youth Group and the Events Committee. Get your tickets on Sunday 12/15 and 12/12! See details on Page 5.



Bridgeville Area Food Bank

It is a great joy to have such an outpouring of generosity from the members of Zion congregation. On behalf of the Bridgeville Area Food Bank (BAFB) I thank everyone who is participating in the Christmas Angel Tree project. Please return your unwrapped gift costing around twenty dollars with the gift tag attached by **Sunday, DECEMBER 12**. May those who give and those who receive be blessed with knowing that Jesus is the best gift of all. -- Barb Oechslein



The December collection for the Bridgeville Area Food Bank is Sunday, December 12th. The "item of the month" is HOT DRINKS. 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). Many families in our area are in need due to the financial downturn. Please continue to support the Food Bank with your donations and volunteer service!



ALTAR FLOWER & ETERNAL LIGHT SPONSORSHIPS for dates in 2022 will be available soon in the back of the sanctuary! Members may sponsor in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special occasion.



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

Mr. Tom Bicusky

Elmcroft of Bridgeville
3275 Washington Pike
Bridgeville PA 15017

Mrs. Florence Boehme

McMurray Hills Manor
249 W McMurray Rd
McMurray PA 15317

Mrs. Gladys Cimarolli

103 Greenwood Drive
Bridgeville, PA 15017
(extra-large print, please)

Mrs. Joan Cisko

128 Phillips Drive
McMurray PA 15317

Mrs. Lois Dittmer

Strabane Woods
319 Wellness Way
Rm 117
Washington PA 15301

Mrs. Dottie Heslop

Country Meadows
3580 Washington Pike
Apt. 110
Bridgeville PA 15017

Mr. & Mrs. Vince Kimberland

1610 Glenn Street
McDonald, PA 15057

Mr. & Mrs. Ted Siek

1290 Boyce Rd. Apt C321
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

Mrs. Rose Steranko

1139 Peachtree Road
Carnegie, PA 15106

Mr. & Mrs. Ron Valentino

12 Stratford Court
Carnegie, PA 15106

A special **Thank You** to all those who generously supported the Adopt- a-Grandparent Program. The hand lotions are always appreciated by those in senior care facilities!

Merry Christmas!
Ginny Granke-Kimberland





JOIN US FOR CONCORDIA'S NINTH ANNUAL LIVE NATIVITY

Sunday, December 12

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*
- *Gift for children 12 and under*
- *Live Christmas music*
- *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. 8268 or visit www.concordialm.org.





The Lutheran Student Fellowship-International Student Ministry serves the Pittsburgh university community (Pitt, CMU, Chatham, Carlow, Duquesne, CCAC, Point Park, RMU, La Roche, et al). Campus Pastor Eric Andrae (First Trinity Lutheran, Oakland) engages students who want to learn more about the Lutheran faith and experience how the Divine Service connects us to Christ, to each other, and to the Church of the ages. The active student leadership and central location of LCF-ISM provide excellent opportunity to gather together regularly as a true community of believers, serving each other and our neighbors through the Sunday Divine Service, daily morning prayer, mid-week evening prayer, the study of God's Word and the Confessions, local and international mission and service projects, congregational leadership, dinners, social activities, regional retreats, volunteerism, and much more! This is a place for creating, nurturing, and proclaiming faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.



If you'd like to join the group, or learn more about becoming a supporter, visit www.lsfpggh.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday, December 12th will be a special day for our Sunday school families!

A video will be shown featuring our children sharing the story of Christ's birth through the reading of scripture, artwork and the Nativity. The short, 5-minute video will be shown directly after both worship services that Sunday. The children will also be singing during the 10:30 service.



A Director is Needed for our Vacation Bible School program this summer. For more than 50 years, Zion's VBS program has shared the love of God in Christ with children that are part of Zion, and many in the surrounding community. The Director works together with a team of volunteers who handle registration, theme decorating, Bible storytelling, and student engagement. The director's role could be assumed by one person -- or by two people interested in sharing the tasks of administering the program. Our ability to offer VBS this year is dependent upon filling this key role by the first week of January ... if a Director is not found by January, we will have no choice but to cancel Zion's VBS program for the coming summer. If you would like to be considered for the role of VBS Director, please reach out to our Head Elder, Bob Schmidt in person or via email bobschmidt47@gmail.com.



**"THE VIRGIN WILL
conceive
and
GIVE BIRTH
to a
son,**



**AND THEY WILL
call him
IMMANUEL"
(which means "God with us").
MATTHEW 1:23, NIV**

A central illustration of a nativity scene. A star is at the top. Mary is kneeling on the right, and Joseph is kneeling on the left. An angel is kneeling on the left, looking up at the manger. The baby Jesus is lying in a manger. The text "AND THEY WILL call him IMMANUEL" (which means "God with us"). MATTHEW 1:23, NIV" is written across the scene.



Lutherans
For Life

www.lutheransforlife.org

888.364.LIFE

Lutherans for Life witnesses to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God. It serves through individuals who volunteer at pregnancy care centers, with hospice, through prayer, and in a wide variety of caring activities. It educates and encourages through conferences and workshops, printed resources and newsletters, Life Sunday materials and Bible studies, curricula, video, and through the website www.lutheransforlife.org

Life Quote

“As we look forward to Christmas dinner and the celebration of our Savior’s birth, let us remember that Christ’s coming into the world began with an unexpected pregnancy. Mary of Nazareth was unmarried and certainly had reason to be confused and afraid when she was asked to carry the Son of God. But she courageously let God’s plan unfold for her and her Child and brought our Savior into this world, despite her uncertain circumstances.”



Right to Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org

Chats 4 Life



Are you interested in discussing contemporary life issues with other high school and college-aged youth? Would you like to learn how to address those issues from a Gospel-motivated perspective? If so, Chats 4 Life is for you! Chats 4 Life offers young adults opportunities to connect via Zoom with other 4Life youth from across the nation. During these sessions, youth are invited to network, ask questions, and engage in discussion about contemporary life issues. **Next meeting is Thursday, Dec 2nd at 8pm ET.** Contact

mbaumann@lutheransforlife.org for the latest meeting code and password!



December Service Participants

| | Acolytes | Time |
|------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Sun Dec 5 | Will Schrag Claire Lemonovich | 8:00 10:30 |
| Wed Dec 8 | Sam Bishop | 7:00 |
| Sun Dec 12 | Michele Wallace Kate Lemonovich | 8:00 10:30 |
| Wed Dec 15 | Christian Bonacci | 7:00 |
| Sun Dec 19 | Decklan Pasquini Sam Bishop | 8:00 10:30 |
| Wed Dec 22 | Decklan Pasquini | 7:00 |
| Fri Dec 24 | Elder John Lemonovich | 2:00 7:00 |
| Sat Dec 25 | Sam Bishop | 10:00 |
| Sun Dec 26 | Elder | 10:00 |
| Fri Dec 31 | Elder | 7:00 |



| | Elders | Altar Guild | 8:00 am Ushers | 10:30 am Ushers |
|------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| Dec | Roger Diederich, Mike Wallace | Janet & Marian Oelschlager | Shane Bryant, Bill & Ken Schrag, Tim Sheldon | Susie Bishop, Mike Kozak, John & Luke Lemonovich |
| Jan | Roger Diederich, Bob Schmidt | Janet & Marian Oelschlager | Joshua Grimenstein, Tim Sheldon, Larry & Janet Zreliak | Bob Bonacci, Aaron & Mike Kozak, Chuck LaJeunesse |



8 AM Service

January/May/September

Joshua Grimenstein
Tim Sheldon
Janet Zreliak
Larry Zreliak

February/June/October

Gene Koop
Ron Meier
Noah Wallace *
Larry Zreliak*

March/July/November

Ava Pasquini
Megan Pasquini
Barbara Oechslein
Wayne Oechslein

April/August/December

Shane Bryant
Bill Schrag
Ken Schrag
Will Schrag

10:30 AM Service

January/May/September

Bob Bonacci
Aaron Kozak
Mike Kozak
Chuck LaJeunesse

February/June/October

Sam Bishop
Dan Harris
Tracey Harris
Luke Lemonovich

March/July/November

Kari Gresh
John Gresh
Andy Weldon
Dwight Weldon

April/August/December

Susie Bishop
Mike Kozak
John Lemonovich
Luke Lemonovich

*If needed

DECEMBER

Birthdays

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 st | Tess Carter | 17 th | John Gresh |
| 2 nd | John Coyle | 22 nd | Casper Carter |
| 2 nd | Romy Carter | 23 rd | Megan Pasquini |
| 3 rd | Augie Bishop | 24 th | Michael Dyczewski |
| 3 rd | Linda Seibel | 24 th | Jeremy Dyczewski |
| 4 th | Tom Garrubba | 25 th | Joshua Grimenstein |
| 5 th | Jim Goodge | 27 th | Alex Yellig |
| 9 th | Michele Wallace | | |
| 10 th | Megan Glasser | | |
| 10 th | Michael Kozak | | |
| 13 th | Susan Stone | | |
| 15 th | Tristan Chilcott | | |







DECEMBER

Anniversaries

22nd Jesse & Tess Carter



December 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|---|
|  | | | 1 2:00 pm Advent Week 1 7:00 pm Advent Week 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 9:00 am -- Trustees Fall Clean-Up 11:30 am -- Church Decorating Party (lunch served) |
| 5 8:00 am Worship 9:00 am French Toast Casserole Youth Fundraiser 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship | 6 7:00 pm -- Preschool Christmas Program | 7 7:00 pm -- Preschool Christmas Program | 8 2:00 pm Advent Week 2 7:00 pm Advent Week 2 | 9 7:00 pm -- Preschool Christmas Program | 10 | 11 12:00-3:00 pm -- Christmas gift jar assembly and Youth Group Christmas party |
| 12 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship SS Christmas Video after both services FOOD BANK COLLECTION | 13 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 | 14 | 15 2:00 pm Advent Week 3 7:00 pm Advent Week 3 | 16 7:00 pm -- Council Mtg. | 17 18  | |
| 19 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship 3:00 -- Christmas Dinner & A Movie | 20 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 | 21 | 22 2:00 pm Advent Week 4 7:00 pm Advent Week 4 | 23 | 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 2:00 pm Worship (prelude begins at 1:30) 7:00 pm Worship (prelude begins at 6:00) | 25  Merry Christmas 10:00 am Worship |
| 26 10:00 am Worship | 27 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 | 28 | 29 30  | | 31 <i>New Years Eve</i> 7:00 pm Worship | |