

## Zion Lutheran Monthly

January 2022

#### Pastor's Corner

#### **Happy New Year!**

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb . . . which means "He will save His people." -- Luke 2:21

January is here. Time for New Year's resolutions, right? Time for people to plan to stop eating this or that item. Time to follow the TV's pledge to "make a new you" out of you, or you may have some other type of lifestyle change you are hoping to make.

New Year's resolutions are interesting. I'm sure there are things we would like to see changed in ourselves. There is nothing necessarily wrong with that. What is interesting, though, is how our church year approaches the New Year. The readings for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day do not concentrate on you making resolutions. They don't describe you making yourself a "better you."

Our readings don't focus on some negative trait you might have and give you words of advice like a self-help guru. New Year's Day is entitled, of all things, "The Circumcision and Naming of Jesus."

It may sound a bit odd to think of the New Year as starting off with the circumcision of Jesus. We may not see how the circumcision of Jesus has anything to do with the start of a new year, but it does. The circumcision of Jesus has a lot to do with our New Year's celebration and it has a tremendous amount to do with you.



When the baby Jesus was 8 days old, He was circumcised. His flesh was pierced and blood was spilled. At 8 days old the baby Jesus, who took on our flesh in His incarnation, was already resolved to have His flesh pierced and His blood spilled. At just 8 days old, Jesus was making a resolution to stay the course on a single path for you – a path that would ultimately lead Him to a cross where His skin would be pierced once more, only this time with nails. His blood would be spilled again, this time through a flogging, a crown pressed into His skull, nails in His hands and feet, and a spear in His side. Already at 8 days old, Jesus was making His New Year's resolution – to save you from sin, death and the power of the devil. Unlike us, who often start with great intentions in January and then fail around February, Jesus stayed the course for you! He never stopped His New Year's resolution of being your savior, and He never will.

The Lord be with you, Pastor Grimenstein

### **Chairman's Report**

#### Your Church Marches Onward

Happy 2022! On behalf of the Council let me thank the membership for standing strong throughout the last three years as I finish my first term as President. Let's look forward in

faith to these next three years and remember that what we're living through is the will of our Lord. We must keep "faith, hope and love" front and center at all times. Your church is entering 2022 in good shape financially and our ministries are robust. We have many blessings at Zion and I thank you all for your support and confidence. There are congregations in our District that are not as fortunate. Let us count our blessings and give thanks to our Lord.



Your church needs help. Your church needs someone to step up to the plate and volunteer to direct the Sunday School program. This is an important part of any Christian Church Ministry. Please search your hearts and consider helping. Additionally we really need a Vacation Bible School Director for this coming summer. Again, this is something your church needs to help maintain the link between God and our children at Zion, so that a foundation can be laid under the feet of the next generation that keeps them Christ centered. Please take a leap of faith and volunteer with your time and talent if you are moved to do so. Contact me, Bob Schmidt or Susie Bishop at the office if the Lord stirs your heart into action. Please attend the Voter's Meeting at the end of January. Be an informed and involved member.

The coming days, months and years will not be smooth. The foe will surely work to divide and confuse the church. We need to remain faithful and devoted to our ministries. But do not worry. Hardship and troubles are made for professed faith and soldiering onward. In Matthew chapter 6, beginning at verse 25, we hear our Savior explain there's no reason to be anxious. Take the time to read it to the end of the chapter. Our "Father knows" all that we "need" and if we continue to "seek first the kingdom of God" surely He will give us that which we need. Let us not be "anxious about tomorrow for tomorrow will be anxious for itself"; God's will be done! We have the Word of God, enjoy the Sacraments, and our faith, hope and love is alive at Zion because we're grounded in Christ-centered doctrine. We're more than fortunate --we're blessed. We're chosen.

Pray for all Christians, the LCMS and our missions, our District churches and Zion. Let's march into any tests or tribulations this year confident the Lord is with us---so who can be against us?!!!



### Zion Lutheran Preschool Program



# Happy New Year from the Preschool!

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas.

The Preschool finished out the year with a bang ... Christmas parties, gift exchanges, three Christmas programs and of course Chapel lessons on the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The Christmas programs are always a highlight of the school year, and this year was extra special since we were not able to hold our normal programs last year. The nights were filled with lots of music, excitement and the sharing of the Christmas message through our slide show telling the story of Christs' birth. Pastor opened our programs welcoming our families and then closed in prayer... such wonderful evenings.

As we look to the new year, we will continue to focus of the life of Jesus as a boy, and then as a man, the man who was crucified, died and rose to save us from our sins.

We will also start our registration process for the 2022/2023 school year. We currently have 12 classes this year serving ages 2-5, and will offer the same 12 classes for the next school year, but with some exciting new "twists". More details to follow ... stay tuned!

If you ever have any questions, would like to know more about our Preschool or have an interest in volunteering at the school, please feel free to contact me. We are always looking for ways to better connect the school and the church.

Blessings,

Tracey Harris, Director



#### Mission of Concordia Lutheran Ministries

To serve our aging community with a continuum of high quality caregiving options, provided in a Christian environment, and to serve those with limited funds to the best of our ability.

### Concordia Lutheran Ministries Announces The Stephen W. Johnson Mission Award

An award was established in memory of Stephen W. Johnson, who was a dedicated CLM officer and a Zion member. Established by an employee-led committee, the award recognizes employees who exemplify the values of Concordia's mission in their everyday lives.

Johnson was Chairman of the Board of Directors, and had served at Concordia for 19 years prior to his passing in June 2020.

Nominees should embody the characteristics of compassion, patience, kindness and respect, while serving others with a Christ-like heart. If you know of a Concordia team member who goes above and beyond to provide compassionate care, consider nominating them for this award.



Nomination period opens January 1, 2022 and closes March 12, 2022.

Visit SWJMissionAward.org to review the nomination criteria or email SWJMissionAward@concordiaLM.org to request more information!

Did you know that Concordia was first opened as the Evangelical Lutheran Concordia Orphans and Old Peoples Home in the early 1880s by a group of Lutheran pastors?

Located southwest of Pittsburgh in Cabot, PA, Concordia was a farm as well as an orphanage and home for seniors, and in its early days, occupied only a small part of the current Concordia at Cabot campus. In the last several decades, Concordia has grown in leaps and bounds, now boasting a number of senior living facilities, retirement communities and home health care services in Western PA, Eastern OH, and Tampa, FL.







Thanks be to God! We are HIS! We are:

- Held by God's Word
- Inspired to share HIS Gospel
- Surrounded by HIS Grace

### Bridgeville Area Food Bank

The January collection for the Bridgeville Area Food Bank is <u>Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup></u>. The "item of the month" is PACKAGED MEALS. Items may be placed in the wicker receptacle in the narthex near the coat rack.





During the December distribution, 139 families were assisted which included 56 children, 110 adults and 103 elderly community members. You are 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).



Our quarterly All-Church Voters' Meeting will be held Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> following the 10:30 worship service in the Fellowship Hall.

Lunch will be served. Your attendance supports the planning for our church, and the work of our servant leaders on Council.



#### 2022 Member Contribution Envelopes

are available on the long table in the back of the sanctuary in alphabetical order.

#### 2022 Altar Flower & Eternal Light Sponsorships

are now available in the back of the sanctuary! Members may sponsor in memory of a loved one, in honor of a special person in their lives, or in celebration of a joyous occasion.

### Teaching Children about God's Design for Marriage

From the CPH **Blog** 





By: Christa Petzold, excerpted from Dec. 2, 2021 blog

One of the primary reasons my husband and I wrote *Male and Female: Embracing* Your Role in God's Design was because we wanted to teach and articulate the truth of God's Word regarding human sexuality in a way that was beautiful, positive, and helpful. We wanted to do more than say, "Since you're a Christian, there are some rules ..."

The Bible is not a book of old rules that those of us who believe must follow to get into heaven. The Bible is the true story of our God who created a beautiful world, declared all of His creation good, and, when sin entered that world through the disobedience of the first man and first woman, chose to rescue everything—all of creation—from the heartbreak and brokenness

that would follow. God's Word tells us that our creation as male and female and the gift of marriage are both a part of the perfect design as it existed before the fall, and a picture of Christ and the Church (Eph. 5:22-33).



There is something significant about our sexuality that points to and is redeemed in Christ. God's design for each of us is part of the story of creation, who we are made to be, redemption, and how we share God's love with others. God's design isn't about following rules to show that we can "be good." It's about pointing us to Christ.

To give the next generation of Christians true, biblical, and grace-filled answers to their questions about sexuality, we need to know what the Bible says and how God's Word on sexuality connects to the Gospel. We need to know that the Law of God is good both because it is how God designed us all to function and because it points us to our need for Jesus. All of Scripture points to Jesus and to His work on the cross.

#### Sharing God's Design with Our Children

We humbly hope that our book may serve as a useful tool in this process. We wrote it as a Bible study exploring the way our maleness and femaleness fit into God's story of redemption. When we speak to our kids about God's will for men and women, we want to do so in a way that is Christ-focused and biblical. When we present these truths to young adults, we want to be able to answer their questions by pointing them to Scripture and to Christ and what He has done for them. And when Christians of all ages struggle with the realities of our sinful, fallen world, we hope that our lives and attitudes reflect the character and love of our Savior and point others to Him.

Read about God's design for marriage by ordering *Male and Female: Embracing Your Role* in God's Design at cph.org.



Dear Members of Zion,

Throughout Advent and Christmas, you showered our family with gifts, deliveries, cards, and warm wishes. Thank you!! Your generosity and love for us and for one another is truly amazing! May God continue to bless you all with his mercy and grace this new year and forevermore.

Sincerely,

Pastor, Tevia, and the Grimenstein Children

Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered. Our human story; God in Him is centered. He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, With grace unbounded.

(LSB #825 Verse 1)



THANK YOU all for the generous staff Christmas gifts. We appreciate all of your support for the work that we do here at Zion. Happy New Year! The Zion Staff – Susie, Tom, Jim, Mark, Sandra, & Doug

#### **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

# **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. 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 <a href="mailto:clemonovich@yahoo.com">clemonovich@yahoo.com</a> or (412)260-9344.



**KFUO Radio** -- a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations -- shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music.

You can find programs on demand at <a href="kfuo.org">kfuo.org</a> and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: <a href="https://example.org/leaf-to-state-new-to-stae-new-to-state-new-to-state-new-to-state-new-to-state-new-to-sta

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO.org: We celebrate the season of Christmas by taking a hiatus from our regular programming to bring you special Twelve Days of Christmas programming, including Scripture readings, sacred music for the season, and special greetings from our missionaries and military chaplains serving around the globe. Enjoy this programming through Epiphany, January 6! Regular programming returns January 7.

#### What About...



### What is the Difference Between the ELCA and the LCMS

August 1997 will be long remembered as an important time in the history of the Lutheran church here in America. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America [ELCA] made a number of very significant decisions during that month. It declared full communion with three Reformed churches: the United Church of Christ, the Reformed Church of America, and the Presbyterian Church—USA. It based this decision on its opinion that there is no longer essential disagreement between the ELCA and these Reformed churches. Furthermore, the ELCA decided that the long-standing differences between Lutheranism and Roman Catholicism over the question of how we are saved have been resolved.

These decisions have caused considerable confusion within the ELCA as well as within our own church, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod [LCMS]. It has caused many people to wonder what the differences are between the ELCA and the LCMS, even though our two churches both use the name "Lutheran."

The LCMS has a tremendous opportunity to make it very clear, both to our own members, as well as to the world at large, what it means to remain committed to the full truth of the Holy Scriptures and the historic confessions of the Lutheran church. This article is intended to offer a brief overview of the key differences between the ELCA and the LCMS, enabling you to understand them so that you will be able to discuss them with others.

#### **Our Difference Over the Bible**

The LCMS and the ELCA disagree about the nature and authority of the Bible. While both churches profess allegiance to the Reformation principle that Scripture alone is the supreme authority for the church's doctrine and life, there are significant differences when it comes to putting this principle into practice.

The LCMS believes that the Bible is actually the Word of God, and therefore, is totally truthful, reliable and free from any error. The Scriptures are the final standard by which we must judge everything that we believe, teach and confess.

The ELCA, on the other hand, avoids making statements that confess the full truthfulness of the Bible. It holds that Scripture is not always accurate or trustworthy in all its parts

and details. It tolerates and encourages methods of interpreting Scripture that presuppose it contains error and is unclear about various doctrinal matters.

Our difference over the Bible explains other more visible differences. For example, the LCMS does not ordain women to the pastoral office, while the ELCA does, in spite of the fact that Scripture clearly teaches otherwise.

In addition, the LCMS unequivocally teaches that homosexual behavior is intrinsically sinful because it is contrary to God's Word. In love, we want to help the person caught up in the homosexual life to repent of his sin and receive God's forgiveness. The ELCA has been unable to take a clear Biblical stand against homosexual behavior. It also tolerates groups within its midst that openly advocate the homosexual lifestyle both for clergy and laity.

Similarly, the LCMS has repeatedly condemned willful abortion as contrary to God's clear commandment not to murder. The ELCA has not been able to speak out clearly against abortion, and, sadly, even pays for willful abortion procedures for members in its health insurance plan.

While there are other examples, these three illustrate that our differences over the authority and reliability of God's Word lie at the heart of other differences between the ELCA and LCMS.

#### The Authority of the Lutheran Confessions

Our two churches also disagree about the authority of the historic Lutheran confessional statements in the Book of Concord. The LCMS binds itself to the entire doctrinal content of the 16th-century Lutheran confessional writings. We agree with the confessions of our church not merely insofar as they agree with the Bible (a position which would allow individual members to reject certain doctrines), but because these confessional statements are in complete harmony with God's inspired and inerrant Word. We therefore accept without reservation all the confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and



#### Differences Between the ELCA and the LCMS Cont'd

unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God, normative also for the church today.

The ELCA, on the other hand, does not require that its church workers and congregations pledge unqualified acceptance of the full doctrinal content of the Book of Concord. The ELCA views the Lutheran Confessions as historical expressions of the faith held to be true at the time they were written, but not necessarily as standards for teaching and practice today.

#### What is Necessary for Church Fellowship

Given its approach to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, it is no surprise that the ELCA would consider it possible to enter into fellowship with churches that teach things that are clearly contrary to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions. These sorts of fellowship arrangements are a reflection of the attitude that absolute truth is unable to be known and confessed. This attitude is contrary to the confessional principle of the Lutheran church that is characterized in the Book of Concord with two very important phrases: "We believe, teach, and confess" and "We reject and condemn." These phrases reflect that Lutheran church's firm belief that God's Word does assert truth that is binding for all times and all peoples, and that we are able with joy to confess this truth.

The LCMS believes that the Bible requires full agreement in doctrine before it is possible to join in altar and pulpit fellowship with other churches (Rom. 16:17). On the other hand, the ELCA believes that disagreement in important doctrinal truths does not prohibit altar and pulpit fellowship with other churches.

A good example of this attitude is found in the documents the ELCA used to establish church fellowship with the three Reformed churches. In these documents, it is admitted that "important theological differences ... remain between our two churches in such questions as the understanding of the Lord's Supper and Christology." These differences are viewed "not as disagreements that need to be overcome, but as diverse witnesses to the one Gospel that we confess in common." What this means is that the ELCA is willing to tolerate the Reformed church's denial that Jesus

Christ is really present in the consecrated bread and wine of the Lord's Supper. The Reformed believe Jesus is present only "spiritually" but not really present in a miraculous manner in the bread and wine. Lutheranism has never accepted the Reformed Church's denial of our Lord's real presence in Holy Communion. The ELCA now claims that the errors of the Reformed Church regarding the Lord's Supper and the doctrine of the person and work of Christ are acceptable options. This has never before been the position of the Lutheran church, and reveals a decided movement away from historic Lutheranism on the part of the ELCA.

The ELCA's attitude toward doctrine obscures the vital relationship that exists between the saving Gospel of our Lord and all other teachings of Scripture that are rooted in that Gospel.

#### **Synod's Opportunity for Faithful Clarity**

All Lutherans have a wonderful opportunity to wrestle with the question of what it means to be a confessional Lutheran church in this day and age. What does it mean to say that we embrace the Holy Scripture as the inerrant and inspired Word of God? What teachings will therefore be rejected? What truths will be raised high as positions that can never be compromised or bargained away for the sake of external church unity? What does it mean to say we agree unconditionally with the Lutheran Confessions as pure expositions of the Word of God? Is "agreeing to disagree" an appropriate attitude for Lutherans when it comes to establishing church fellowship?

The differences between our two churches are a source of great sadness for the LCMS. We wish that our two churches could share a common confession of what it means to be Lutheran. It is important that the members of LCMS congregations have a clear picture of why our two church bodies are not in fellowship. Knowing the basic differences between our two churches will help us talk with our ELCA friends and family members in a loving manner.

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

### **January Service Participants**

	Acolytes	Time	
Jan 2	Elder Claire Lemonovich	8:00 10:30	
Jan 9	Sam Bishop Christian Bonacci	8:00 10:30	
Jan 16	Elder Decklan Pasquini	8:00 10:30	
Jan 23	Decklan Pasquini Christian Bonacci	8:00 10:30	
Jan 30 Sam Bishop Johnny Lemono		8:00 10:30	





	Elders	Altar Guild	8:00 am Ushers	10:30 am Ushers
Jan	Roger Diederich, Bob Schmidt	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Joshua Grimenstein, Tim Sheldon, Larry & Janet Zreliak	Bob Bonacci, Aaron & Mike Kozak, Chuck LaJeunesse
Feb	Bill Bishop, Mike Wallace	TBD	Gene Koop, Ron Meier, Noah Wallace, Larry Zreliak	Sam Bishop, Dan Harris & Tracey Harris, Luke Lemonovich



#### 2022

#### **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

\*If needed

#### 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



1 <sup>st</sup>	Daniel Grimenstein	14 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Oechslein
1 <sup>st</sup>	Lois Klemash	16 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Lou Neill
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Brooklyn Boyle	20 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Schrag
4 <sup>th</sup>	Christine Chilcott	21 <sup>st</sup>	Pastor Grimenstein
4 <sup>th</sup>	John Eckels	21 <sup>st</sup>	Shane Bryant
5 <sup>th</sup>	Steve Dibert	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Jessica Boyle
5 <sup>th</sup>	Gloria Godfrey	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Tim Sheldon
6 <sup>th</sup>	Decklan Pasquini	24 <sup>th</sup>	Will Schrag
6 <sup>th</sup>	Douglas Krantz	27 <sup>th</sup>	Callista Chilcott
7 <sup>th</sup>	Luke Lemonovich	27 <sup>th</sup>	Molly Oelschlager
7 <sup>th</sup>	Thomas Bicusky	27 <sup>th</sup>	Shea Wilson
12 <sup>th</sup>	Ronald Valentino	28 <sup>th</sup>	Linda Kroeger
13 <sup>th</sup>	Lexi Meyer	31 <sup>st</sup>	Ted Siek
13 <sup>th</sup>	Debra LaJeunesse	31 <sup>st</sup>	Sara Hajduk
14 <sup>th</sup>	Brooke Glasser		



May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.



21st Mike & Michele Wallace

26<sup>th</sup> John & Susan Stone

28<sup>th</sup> James & Mary Lou Neill

# January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						1	
						New Year's Day	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
8:00 am Worship	6:15 pm Grace Bells	7:00 pm Board of Ed Mtg.		7:00 pm Elder's Mtg.	* *	*	
10:30 am Worship	7:15 pm Choir	*		TWIEG.			
	8:15 pm Faith Bells	*****			Нарру	New Year	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
8:00 am Worship	6:00 pm Confirm.		2:00 pm Worship	7:00 pm Council			
9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS	6:15 pm Grace Bells		7:00 pm Worship	Mtg.			
10:30 am Worship	7:00 pm Confirm. 7:15 pm Choir					北洲大水	
FOOD BANK COLLECTION	8:15 pm Faith Bells						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
8:00 am Worship	6:00 pm Confirm.		2:00 pm Worship				
9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS	6:15 pm Grace Bells	4	7:00 pm Worship				
10:30 am Worship	7:00 pm Confirm.	NAME OF THE PERSON OF THE PERS					
	7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith	A TANK					
	Bells	*					
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
8:00 am Worship	6:00 pm Confirm.		0.00		6:30 pm Ladies Bunco Night		
9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS	6:15 pm Grace Bells		2:00 pm Worship		Burico Nigrit		
10:30 am Worship	7:00 pm Confirm.		7:00 pm Worship	火光火			
20.00 0 110.0	7:15 pm Choir			<b>****</b> ********************************			
	8:15 pm Faith Bells			****			
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10:30 am Worship	-	4		HIM	22		
Voters' Mtg after 2nd service lunch served	7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells		M	HOMAC	GE."		