



# Zion Lutheran Monthly

November 2023

## Pastor's Corner

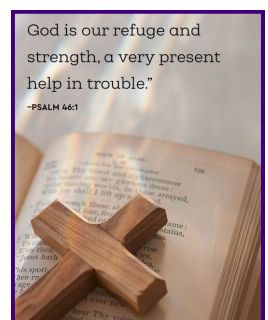
### Our Refuge & Strength

*“. . . Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.”*

Confession and Absolution, Divine Service IV

The recent war between Hamas and Israel was a shocking surprise for many. As the invasion passed and the stories of Israelites were told, horrible details came to light of how Hamas treated them. One thing I found particularly shocking is that the Israelis would hide in shelters which are designed to be a refuge for them from rocket and mortar attacks which, sadly, are frequent. Many Israelites ran to these shelters seeking refuge from the invasion. But Hamas knew this. In some cases, Hamas would set these bomb shelters on fire, other times fighters would toss grenades inside, in other cases they would indiscriminately shoot the people seeking refuge inside these bomb shelters. These concrete refuges supposed to be “safe spaces,” ended up being a concrete tomb for the people inside.

When life or death comes at us, we seek shelter, a place of refuge where we will be safe. But it doesn't matter sometimes, does it? Sometimes it seems like no matter what we do, there is no safe refuge that we can build with our human hands. Bomb shelters in Israel failed to keep the people safe. Even less dramatic refuges we seek can also fail. If you are caught in a sudden downpour of rain outside only to seek refuge under an awning, the awning might have holes that still let the water drip on you. If a blizzard suddenly hits, people could take refuge in a house seeking comfort, only to find the house has no electricity. No electricity means no heat. We can seek all kinds of refuges in this world from all kinds of threats. But for us Christians only one refuge is eternal, and always standing; the refuge we find in the forgiveness of our sins.



When the weight of our sin weighs us down, when the devil himself attacks us with guilt, or when our sinful nature is pestering us yet again, where do we go for refuge? Concrete bunkers? Awnings? Warm houses? Of course not! We go to our Lord Jesus Christ and in Him alone we, “take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ.” And there in Christ, we are safe, we truly are safe, and no one and no thing can touch us! During this month when our attention often turns to those things to be thankful for, I pray we are thankful every single day for the safe refuge we each have in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



## President's Perspective

### Let's Sum Some Things Up -- Like "Thanksgiving"

First, a Thank You to everyone that attended the October 22nd Voters' Meeting. For over five years during my tenure as President, you all have been encouraged to attend those meetings, since as a "member" of this Body of Christ, it is your responsibility to attend if you're able. If you missed it, there are a few things coming to the floor in the January meeting that you may be interested in hearing. First, we're going to consider forming a Committee to call a Deaconess at Zion. Secondly, we're going to move to adopt an Endowment for the church. The meeting is January 28th ... please save the date and attend.

We also voted for new officers at the meeting and I'd like to thank everyone who volunteered to give of their valuable time and talent to help our ministries at Zion. Please consider helping out at your church in the future. God has called and chose you from before you were born. Hear Him call you, let the Spirit move you.

You may have noticed the new windows being installed to replace the single paned 1967 glass that sorely needed an upgrade. The window replacement is being done in phases. We need to replace some old windows in our offices, also. Our parking lot will soon be lit from dusk to dawn as you probably can tell from the construction there. We'll throttle back in the winter, but there are several other projects the trustees will be saving for better weather. Your trustees have been especially busy the last several years. Thank you for financially supporting Zion, which has allowed them to accomplish so many important projects. God Bless us -- every one!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving. Enjoy your fellowship with loved ones. We certainly have cups that are overflowing, so thanks be to God!!! While the world devolves into turmoil, there is an island of tranquility and peace for you at Zion. There is a table set for you at the altar to refresh your heart, mind and soul. It's free. Enjoy being a Christian and chosen by our Lord.

A thought from Psalm 95: *"Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!" Amen!*

-- *Paul Klemash*



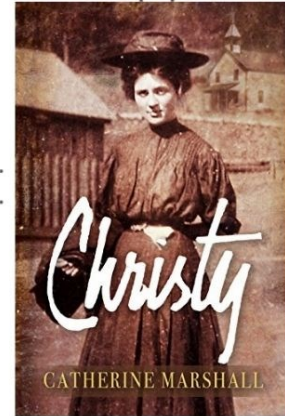
# Upcoming Events

**Women's Fall Potluck & Book Club**  
**Sunday, November 12th**  
**12:00 - 2:00**  
**Fellowship Hall**

Let's enjoy a meal together as we discuss the book that Christianity Today listed as the 27th most influential book in the lives of modern Christians.

**P.S. All women are invited - no reading necessary!**

**Watch your emails this week for a potluck sign-up!**



Christy by  
Catherine Marshall



**Christmas Ornament Exchange**  
**Sunday, December 10, 6-9 p.m.**  
**Napoli's Restaurant, Bridgeville**

**Let the stealing begin!!**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**  
**Eastern District LWML 40th Biennial Convention**  
**June 14-16, 2024**  
**Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, Cranberry**

**Mission Moment:**  
Promoting Zion's Internal, local, and international missionary efforts  
Pastor Philip & Deaconess Rachel Jaseph

### *A New Path for the Jasephs*



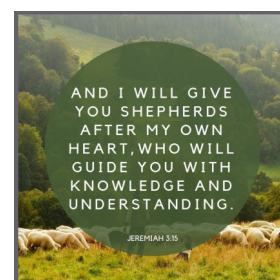
Greetings in the name of our risen Lord and Savior! Rachel and I hope and pray that you are well, even as we appreciate your prayers and support of our family. You may have also seen that we are expecting our first child in February.

We recently completed a year of life and service in Uruguay at the end of August, and yet we have even more news to share than the anxious expectation of our daughter. I recently received a call to serve back in the US, at Martini Lutheran in Baltimore, MD. I have accepted this call. Please pray for the members of Martini and for the work of the Gospel in the congregations and outreach to Baltimore as Rachel and I are called to that new mission field.

One year of international deployment may not seem like much, but Rachel and I have been working within these calls, my first assignment out of seminary, since June of 2021. This year in June, I also remembered 10 years of a career in ministry that began when I served as the LCMS's first regional communication specialist in Africa. Through that lay position, I met Rachel, who had done her diaconal internship in Peru and served her first call in the Dominican Republic. The Office of International Mission (OIM) has played a large role in the beginning of our careers and was responsible in no small way for our having met. Since then, I have worked in parishes, schools, and studied at seminary. Rachel and I have learned and grown so much from our time as single, and now married, missionaries.

Immediately after studies at seminary and ordination in 2021, I had the opportunity to assist some of the many congregations in vacancy in the immediate area around my parents' home in Maryland. I was struck as a young and new pastor at the great needs, hunger, and desire for the Word of God that I found at these vacant congregations, and the needs of those many others across the United States. This was still in the midst of the Covid pandemic, during and after which many pastors died or retired. I was struck by the Good Shepherd's promise to send under-shepherds to His hurting and scattered flock since 2020, when my own vicarage work was impacted by the shutdowns. For this reason, I began writing pastoral letters and sharing devotions. This desire to care for God's people has been present in my heart and actions for the last 10 years, and I have been afforded a new opportunity and perspective to share Christ's love and mercy as an ordained pastor.

I have been able to practice and share the same during our last two years of preparation and deployment in the US, the Dominican Republic, and in Uruguay. I learned Spanish quickly and



began writing, teaching, preaching, and providing spiritual care in short order, thanks be to God. It is a skill I hope to keep sharp for the rest of my life. The Lord has shown a new path to Rachel and I that we did not expect, and has seen fit to usher in a new season of life for our family. During this time we have been able to lead the first cohort of deaconess students from Uruguay in the distance diaconal program through the seminary in the Dominican Republic. I have been able to lead bible studies, provide spiritual care, plan and conduct services, and encourage the flock of Christ in the life of His Church, all in Spanish. Rachel has



been able to spearhead the continuing education program for deaconesses trained through the seminary in the DR. These things are never in vain, no matter how short or long a worker is called to serve. Please keep Christians throughout Central & South America in your prayers, especially in Uruguay.

We encourage you and your congregation to prayerfully consider how you may be involved locally or overseas with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the mission of God, that the Good News of Jesus Christ would go out to all peoples and all corners of the world. There are many opportunities and many deployed missionaries around the world, and you can explore this

by speaking with the Mission Advancement team in OIM. However, there may even be opportunities in your own backyard to give a reason for the hope that is in you. Not everyone is sent overseas as a missionary, but every Christian who dies at the baptismal font and leaves it alive and forgiven never really leaves those lifegiving waters. You are sent out newly each day, as a beloved child of God, carrying the same hope and forgiveness you received from your Lord.

Rachel and I are so grateful for your support and prayers, whether you have journeyed with us for a few months, a few years, or many more. There is no way for us to adequately thank you, but we are grateful as you have followed our paths to ministry, marriage, and being parents. We are blessed beyond measure from our time living in Kenya, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and Uruguay, and from visiting the saints in so many states in the US.

One of my favorite Bible passages has long been Proverbs 16. “The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord...the heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.” (Prov. 16:1, 9) My life is proof of this passage. A hymn that comes to mind encapsulates the uncertainty we experience in our lives, and also the courage and fearlessness that is ours in Christ. We have been set free, truly free, by Jesus’ death and resurrection which He has freely given to us. What then can we not do? Where then can we not be sent, now knowing of this great family of Christ of which we are now a part? Knowing that nothing can harm us, for our life is hidden away with Christ, we are the hands, feet, mouth, and love of Christ, whom He uses to work His love and mercy in the world.

*"Come, follow Me," the Savior spake, "All in My way abiding; Deny yourselves, the world forsake, Obey My call and guiding. O bear the cross, whate'er betide, Take my example for your guide..."*

*Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, And take the cross appointed And, firmly clinging to His Word, In suff'ring be undaunted. For those who bear the battle's strain The crown of heav'nly life obtain. (sts. 1, 5; LSB 688)*

With our deepest gratitude and love,

Rev. Phil and Deac. Rachel Jaseph

**In the Classroom:** In November, we'll start CPH's Enduring Faith Series, Unit 7 - "Jesus Comes For Us". November lessons include: Lesson 1, "An Angel Announces-

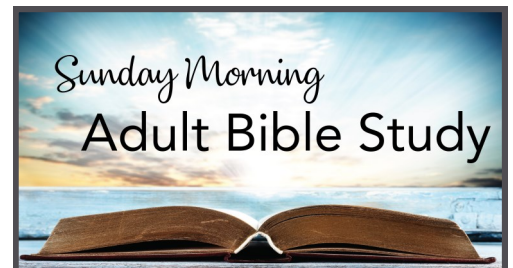


Jesus' Birth Foretold"; Lesson 2, "Silence before a Son-John Is Born"; Lesson 3, "The Temple Testimonies-Jesus' Birth and Presentation"; and Lesson 4, "His Father's House-Boy Jesus in the Temple".

**Thank you ...** to all Sunday School Teachers for making yourselves available to teach the Word to these young souls! And THANK YOU parents for bringing your children to class!

**Our Christmas Video:** Tess Carter has begun production of our SS Christmas video, which means children are "borrowed" from their classes to do the recording. Shortly, Mark Killinger will be working with the children for their Christmas performance. December 10 has been selected as the date for the children's performance and the showing of the Christmas video. December 17 will be the Sunday School Party. We are all looking forward to the video and the performance. There will be NO Sunday School on December 24 or December 31 due to the revised service schedule for those dates.

**Bible Study for Teens & Adults:** Adults and youth 7th grade and older are invited to the Fellowship Hall at 9:15 for Pastor's fascinating study on Exodus. You're never too old, or young, to study God's word! All are welcome....bagels, donuts and coffee provided.



Sunday School and Teen/Adult Bible Study  
begin at 9:15 and end at 10:15 am

## Twelfth 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 over 600 gifts to residents of John J Kane Regional Hospital, Scott Twp, several other nursing and assisted-living facilities, and shut-ins at Zion Lutheran Church and Good Shepherd Church. This year I hope to help deliver 600 + 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 , 7082 Clubview Dr., Bridgeville, PA 15017 412-427-9013**



## 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 a 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!



**Attend a brief training session Sat., 11/18 at 2:00!**

# Zion Youth News & Events

## Spare Change Sundays

*Every bit – large and small – helps our fundraising efforts for the LCMS Nat'l Youth Gathering!*

Each Zion family may take a change container from the back of the sanctuary. 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 now through November 26th**. 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. 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 2025! Questions? ... please see Carrie Lemonovich or reach out to her at [clemonovich@yahoo.com](mailto:clemonovich@yahoo.com) or (412)260-9344.



Spare Change  
Sundays!

## Soup Fundraiser coming in November

Get your quarts of homemade soup for eating or freezing! There are five delicious varieties to choose from. **See order form on the opposite page!**

## Youth Group Meeting Schedule

Our November meeting is Sunday, 11/19 from 6-8 pm. We'll decorate (and sample) some Holiday themed goodies, and enjoy a devotional. Join us!

## Youth in grades 8-12 sign-up for our GroupMe texts today!

We will be using this as our primary way to communicate with youth and parents. Mark your calendars for our next monthly youth meeting/activity -- Sunday, November 19th 6-8 pm.



Scan QR code to  
sign up for  
GroupMe





## Youth Group Soup Sale!

Support the fundraising efforts of the youth group for the next youth gathering by purchasing soup. Each quart-sized container is \$10. Stock-up on a few varieties ... plastic containers make it easy to freeze what you don't use right away!

Fill out the order form below and place it in the collection box in the back of the sanctuary, or email your completed form to Megan Pasquini at [meganpasquini@hotmail.com](mailto:meganpasquini@hotmail.com).  
The soups will be delivered on Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> at church.



### Soup options:

Creamy Potato Leek w/ ham

Sausage Corn Chowder

Wedding Soup

Sausage & Tortellini Soup

Chicken Noodle Soup

### Quantity:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

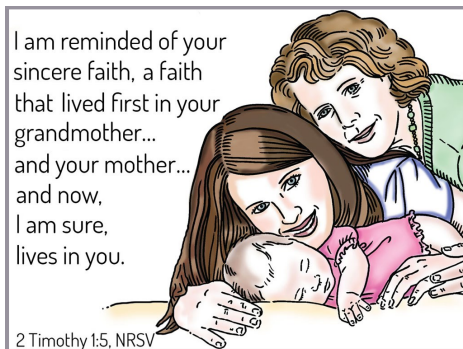


## Life Thoughts in the Church Year ...

*... are designed to help Christians see the church year through the lens of the sanctity of human life. Life Thoughts are based on the appointed readings from Lutheran Service Book using the Three-Year Lectionary.*

**November 5 – Pentecost XXIII (Proper 26A)** – The Lord our God has given us sexuality for relationship, family, and community. These matters cannot become merely private choices or personal preferences. What we do with our bodies also affects our neighbors (1 Thessalonians 4:3-6). Abortion reveals that lust always leads to destruction. Marriage and parenting prove we do not need abortion – indeed, these gifts leave us no room for it!

**November 12 – Pentecost XXIV (Proper 27A)** – Like the parable’s bridegroom, Jesus often meets us in unexpected moments (Matthew 25:10). He even sometimes hides in surprise pregnancies or terminal diagnoses in order to rescue and bless. So, we dare not ignore the poor and needy neighbors who cry out for deliverance (Psalm 70:1, 5) from abortion and assisted suicide. If we do indeed love the Lord’s salvation, then let us say so (Psalm 70:4)!



**November 19 – Pentecost XXV (Proper 28A)** – Many around us despair because the world pressures them into the violence and fraud (Zephaniah 1:9) of viewing death as a solution to difficulty. In the sanctity of every human life, we have riches to spare (Matthew 25:15). Gospel hope and joy are not just for us to possess. Jesus brings us faith and life to proclaim and put into practice.

**November 26 – Pentecost XXIV (Proper 29A)** – Guilt and grief can devastate those who abort their own children (Matthew 25:37-38). The Lord God longs to relieve their wounds with His forgiveness (Ezekiel 34:16). If Jesus overcomes death for us, He can also subdue it for them (1 Corinthians 15:25-26). May our mouths make the joyful noise (Psalm 95:2) of explicitly applying His atoning grace to every sin!

# Bridgeville Area Food Bank

Pantry supplies are running low ... your support is greatly appreciated!



The November collection for the Bridgeville Area Food Bank is Sunday, Nov. 12th. The "items of the month" are Canned Meats & Proteins. Items may be placed in the wicker receptacle in the narthex near the coat rack.



During the September distribution, more than 100 families were assisted. Thank you for supporting this vital community service!

As the Christmas season approaches, the Food Bank would like to bless the registered children with gifts at the December distribution. Starting November 19, you will have the opportunity to participate in purchasing a gift for a child in need. If you wish to participate, choose an angel gift tag marked with the child's age from the tree set up in the back of the church. Please use the sign-up sheet to sign next to the number and age recorded on the angel. Then purchase a gift costing around twenty dollars. Return your unwrapped gift with the gift tag attached no later than SUNDAY, DEC 10.



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

*Join us & lend a hand!*

## Zion Decorating Party

Saturday 12/2 @ 10 am  
Lunch Served ... Sign Up in the Narthex!



# Welcome!

## New Members

Recently Zion has been blessed to receive several new members into our church family. If you haven't had an opportunity to meet them yet, be sure to welcome them to our fellowship!

**Mike and Alice Kettner** joined our church family on Sunday, Oct 29. Mike was an electrical engineer for Texas Instruments before becoming an LCMS pastor. He served 8 ½ years at Zion in New Holland, IL, and St. John's in Topeka, IL, near Springfield. From there the family moved to Jacob, IL, near Carbondale, where Mike was pastor of Christ Lutheran Church for 22 years. Alice attended Concordia Austin and Concordia River Forest before becoming a Lutheran teacher. She taught in Lutheran schools (mostly Kindergarten) for 30+ years. The Kettners have 3 grown children, and moved to Pittsburgh in May to be near grandchildren. Daughter, Karen Kress, and her family are members at Zion. Their other daughter, Connie, is a Lutheran teacher in Cleveland, and son, Keith, is an LCMS pastor in Beardstown, IL, near Springfield.



They enjoy and appreciate the traditional worship and liturgy at Zion. According to Alice, "We are thankful for the friends we have made at Zion so far and look forward to making many more."



**Ray & Sharon Barley** became Zion members on Sunday, Oct. 29.

Sharon is a Customer Service supervisor at Pittsburgh Airport, and a mom of one, grandmother of two. As one of six children herself, Sharon loves spending time and making memories with her closely-knit family. She also enjoys gardening, bird watching, and spreading God's love and promises to all whom she meets. Ray is a retired military veteran (U.S. Coast Guard & U.S. Army); data scientist; and professional musician (classical, acoustic, and electric guitar; flute; Native American flute; bagpipes; recorder; drums, tympani, percussion—loves 'em all!). Hobbies include amateur (ham) radio, traveling, exploring, and outdoor adventures. Why Zion? ... Ray and Sharon appreciate the friendly environment. According to Ray, "Here, I've found a congregation of the most welcoming people guided by the most faithful & learned pastor, all of whom seem to fully embrace the solid theology of Confessional Lutheranism, the true nature of the Sacraments, and the inerrancy of the Scriptures."

**Benjamin Ward** was received as a Zion member on July 9th. Born in Minneapolis, MN in 1997, Ben has lived in Pittsburgh for 14 years and has enjoyed every moment. He graduated from Washington and Jefferson College in 2020, and currently works for a logistics company based in Moon Township. He enjoys spending time outdoors hiking and fishing, especially during the summer. Ben has three brothers, two of which live in Dallas with his parents. His oldest brother lives in Wheeling, WV with his two nieces and fiancé. "I really enjoyed the last few months visiting Zion and I'm happy to become a new member".



Ben is joined by his parents after he is received into membership at Zion in July.



**Kami Fitzgerald** joined our fellowship at Zion on Sunday, Oct. 29. She was baptized on the same day. Her husband, Tim, is a Zion member and was confirmed here as a boy. Kami explains, "Tim grew up in church, and volunteered with his grandfather Vic Herschaft." Kami and Tim were married at Old St. Luke's church and welcomed their son, Timothy Emmett, on June 24th, 2023. Baby Timmy was baptized on July 30th. The Fitzgeralds enjoy vacationing in the Outer Banks and can't wait to include Timmy in the fun.

## *In Memoriam*



*It pleased the Lord to call unto Himself on October 20th our Sister in Christ Roxanne Burgh. Roxanne had been a Zion member for many years and sang in our church choir. May the Lord comfort her daughter Salina and the rest of her family and friends with the assurance of eternal life in Him.*

*On October 24th the Lord called home our sister in Christ Millie Thielet. Millie was a life-long member of Zion who served on the altar guild and enjoyed fellowship events. God's peace and comfort to Millie's daughter Marianne, her son-in-law Brent, and all of their family.*





*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



What About...

## 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

# November Service Participants

	Acolytes	Time
Nov 5	Emily Trentini TBD	8:00 10:30
Nov 12	Claire Schrag Callista Chilcott	8:00 10:30
Nov 19	Emily Trentini TBD	8:00 10:30
Nov 26	TBD Callista Chilcott	8:00 10:30



	Elders	Altar Guild	8:00 am Ushers	10:30 am Ushers
Nov	Bob Schmidt, Roger Diederich, Bill Bishop, Mike Kroeger	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Megan & Ava Pasquini, Barb & Wayne Oechslein	John & Kari Gresh, Dwight & Andy Weldon
Dec	TBD	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Bill, Ken & Will Schrag, Jason Trentini	John, Liz, Johnny & Luke Lemonovich



# NOVEMBER

## Birthdays

- 1 Sam Bishop
- 1 Bella Bonacci
- 3 Roland Chilcott
- 6 Maryann McClure
- 12 Jane Kozak
- 13 Sydney Harris
- 14 Kathy Kacvinsky
- 14 Ruth Trudel
- 19 Theresa Hayes
- 22 Marian Oelschlager

- 24 Jacque Oelschlager
- 26 Jennifer Liberatore
- 28 Brent Miller
- 29 Brian Pasquini



# NOVEMBER

## Anniversaries

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





# November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study 	2 7:00 pm Elders Mtg	3	4 <i>Daylight            Savings Time            ends</i> 
5 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	6 6:00 pm 1st yr Conf 6:30 pm Faith Bells 7:00 pm 2nd yr Conf 7:00 pm Trustees Mtg	7 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:15 pm Choir	8 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	9 7:00 pm Council Mtg. 7:00 pm Events Mtg	10	11
12 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Ladies BookClub Potluck FOOD BANK COLLECTION	13 6:00 pm 1st yr Conf 6:30 pm Faith Bells 7:00 pm 2nd yr Conf	14 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:15 pm Choir	15 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	16 7:00 pm BOE meeting	17	18 2:00 pm Altar Guild Training Session
19 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Youth Group Mtg. Last Spare Change Sunday	20 6:00 pm 1st yr Conf 6:30 pm Faith Bells 7:00 pm 2nd yr Conf	21 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:15 pm Choir	22 2:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	23 Thanksgiving 	24 	25
26 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	27 6:00 pm 1st yr Conf 6:30 pm Faith Bells 7:00 pm 2nd yr Conf	28 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:15 pm Choir	29 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	30		