



# The Herald

1300 Edgewood Drive, Lima, Ohio 45805  
419-224-9951 [www.zionlima.org](http://www.zionlima.org)



JANUARY 2012

## *Message From Our Pastor*

Dear Friends in Christ,

I'd like to begin with a surprising form of encouragement: Yes, I'd like to encourage you, if you have not already done so, to prayerfully consider and plan your giving to God through the church for the year 2012.

That's what Colleen and I do every year about this time. We want to make sure it's in the family budget, set up to happen automatically, and is a genuine reflection of our thanksgiving to God and dependence on God. We find it to be a wonderful experience and we want you to have that experience too!

It doesn't matter how you actually contribute—electronic, checks, and cash all work fine and it doesn't matter if the contributions are weekly, semi-monthly, monthly, or even annually (though monthly, semi-monthly and weekly are a little more helpful for the church's cash flow). But I do think you will find it to be a valuable experience to sit down and plan out the bulk of your giving. As many of you already know, it feels good to give. It also feels good to figure out how to make sure it really happens.

To be honest, this past year at church the offerings did not keep up with expenses and we had to borrow from savings to make ends meet. It was for that reason that those of us on the Finance Committee and Council decided not to recommend any raises for the 2012 year for any staff, freeze positions that are currently unstaffed, and pull the VBS Coordinator position out of the 2012 proposed expenditures that were approved at the most recent congregational meeting. We also tried to cut back on other line items wherever possible.

So although the most important reason to give is always simply in thanksgiving to God, I also want to assure you that your regular support of Zion's ministry really matters.

F R O M   T H E



**PASTOR**

I'm looking forward to a blessed new year for Zion. And I sincerely appreciate your partnership as this new year begins.

In Christ,  
Pastor Kent

PS Thanks so much for all of your generous gifts over the Christmas Season. It is all very much appreciated. You are a very wonderful congregation to serve!

*From the*

*Intern*



**Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!**

***II Corinthians 9:15 (NIV)***

Happy New Year! This time of year is often a time for remembering the past and looking forward to the future. Each season of our lives is a blessing and most of all I am grateful for the promise of the gospel. As scripture says, “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift...Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.”

When I think about past January’s in my life a couple of them are extra special. Ten years ago on January 3rd 2002 I met my husband Tom at the oral surgeons office while our daughters were having their wisdom teeth pulled. Who would think you could meet your future husband in such a place? When we consider the numerous events that placed us there at the exact same moment we are thankful for the Providence of God.

In January of 2005 I finally answered God’s call to ministry and went back to Lourdes College to finish my Bachelor’s degree. My first college course in over 26 years was “Introduction to Critical Thinking.” I often prayed to God to help me understand the difficult logic problems the professor presented to us. As you can see, my prayers were helpful; I survived that class and many more because I am here at Zion as your intern to write this story!

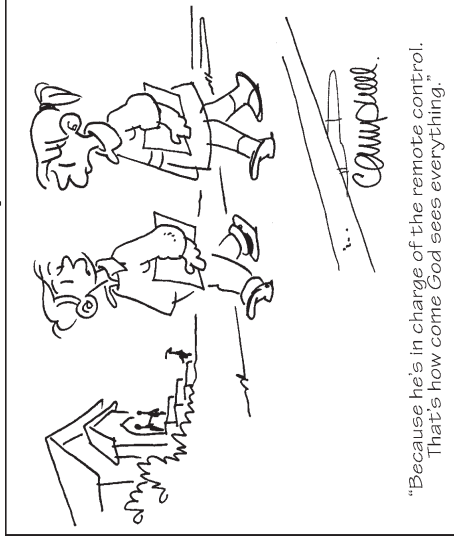
A time of silence was God’s plan for me in January of 2009 at Gethsemane Monastery in Kentucky with other Trinity Seminary classmates and a community of monks. My own faith was greatly nurtured through this time of silence, worship, prayer and devotions. I often encourage others to consider how a similar experience may bless their own lives. Being alone with God in this fashion helps one to grow spiritually and is a PRICELESS experience. If anyone is interested in finding out more information about the Gethsemane Monastery retreats just let me know.

My hopes for next January are to travel to the Holy Land on a tour led by several Trinity Seminary professors. This will be my last seminary class and I can’t think of a better way to complete seminary than to walk where Jesus walked...to be where Jesus was born, baptized and resurrected, to stand in the same places where his disciples heard his voice and his teachings about how much God loves each and everyone of us.

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1300 Edgewood Drive  
Lima, Ohio 45805

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# Deadline for FEBRUARY Newsletter is JANUARY 18, 2012

As for now, in the present...while I was typing these words I received a phone call from my aunt Stella thanking me for the Christmas card I sent her. We talked about many things but mostly how we felt blessed to have a God who cares for us and watches over us every day. She said, "I just don't understand why some people don't believe in Jesus. How can they not?" My heart felt a little sad as she shared these words because only a few minutes before her call I had spoken with a family member who does not have faith. Regrettably, God's indescribable gift is not embraced by all people...not even by some of those we love dearly. My own sadness lies in the fact that they do not understand the change that occurs in the hearts and minds of those individuals who have experienced the joy of knowing Jesus...his love, his comfort, his forgiveness and the hope he brings intended for all of us.

God's inspired words written in Hebrew's 13:6 are comforting for us in all circumstances, in January and beyond. They are "The Lord is my helper. I will not be afraid." With the Lord's help I have hope for all people to be aware of God's loving presence. As your intern, I continually look forward to praising our Lord Jesus Christ, together in worship: with word, sacrament, prayer, song and service. Let's also share fellowship, fun and food together on several Friday evenings in January 2012 at Zion Game Nights. I'm grateful to serve at Zion and spend this holy time with you.

Hopeful in Christ,  
Cindy Ritter

## *Middle School News* **Middle School Youth News**

**Catechism Schedule** – Here is the Catechism schedule for January. This schedule is also posted on the bulletin board by the coatroom. Be sure to check the acolyte schedule at the back of this newsletter or the schedule that was mailed to you in order to find out your January times to serve. Call the church office with any changes, please.

January 1 – Off – Happy New Year's!

January 8 – SNL – The Voice of the Prophets

January 15 – Servant Event – Planning for Youth Service

January 22 – SNL – Gospel Overview

January 29 – Fellowship Event – Family Movie Night and Beach Party –  
6 PM – 8 PM

Feeling the winter blues? We've got the cure for you! All Catechism families are invited to bring beach chairs, beach towels, flip flops and a snack to share. We will have a beach party and watch "Soul Surfer."

## *Information for Calendar*

<b>Scheduled Activity</b>	<b>Contact Person</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Men's Breakfast	Sam Stokely	419-303-1968
Out to Lunch Bunch	Marie Lawrence	419-225-7071

### **Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**

1300 Edgewood Drive, Lima, Ohio 45805

419-224-9951 Fax: 419-224-1279

**e-mail:** churchoffice@zionlima.org

**web site:** www.zionlima.org

**facebook:** zionlima

**preschool phone number:** 419-224-7719

### **Worship:**

Saturday—5:00 PM

Sunday—8:30 and 10:45 AM

Sunday School—9:35 AM

**Pastor:** Rev. Kent Wilson: pastorkent@zionlima.org

**Intern:** Cindy Ritter: interncindy@zionlima.org

**Youth Ministry Coordinator:** Colleen Wilson: colleenwilson@zionlima.org

**Church Secretary:** Tammy Lehman-McDonnell: churchoffice@zionlima.org

**Church Treasurer:** Cindy Christoff: cindychristoff@zionlima.org

**Sunday School Coordinator:** Allen Merricle: allenmerricle@zionlima.org

**Organist:** Mary Jane Eichelberger

**Adult Choir Director:** Marilyn Basinger

**Youth Choir Director:** Laura Ball

**Bell Choir Director:** Jonathan Lischak

**Saturday Night Worship Leader:** Rick Bracy

**Child Care Director:** Sandy Kivimaki: zionchildcare@zionlima.org

### **Church Council:**

President– Curtis Young,

President Elect– Diana Schneider

Secretary– Jeannette Douglas,

Mary Knott, Carrie Schepman, Cindy Linton, George Carrington, Stan Vandemark

Intern Cindy Ritter & Pastor Kent Wilson.

## *High School News*

**High School Youth Group** – Join us for fun Sunday evenings at Zion with other high schoolers! Here is January's schedule.

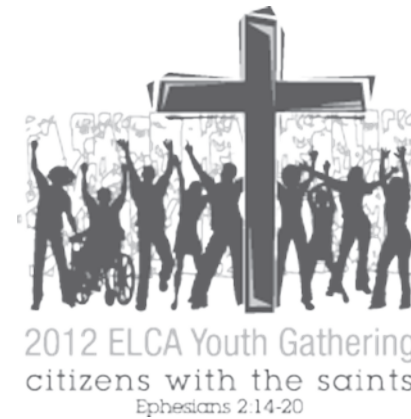
January 1 – Off – Happy New Year's!

January 8 – Bible Study, games, food!

January 15 – Servant – Planning for Youth Service

January 22 – Bible Study, games, food!

January 29 – Fellowship - TBA



## **ELCA Youth Gathering Holiday Bake Sale**

Thank you, Zion, for your support! We sold many, many dozen holiday goodies, thanks to all of your orders. We hope you enjoyed the holiday treats. Your generosity helped us raise money towards our summer mission trip! We generated \$689 for the youth trip!

**Coming Soon: Baked Potato and Soup Lunch** – Join us Sunday, January 22, 2012, as we hold our first winter soup and baked potato lunch. We will serve loaded baked potatoes, soup, and dessert. The freewill offering we collect will go towards the Youth Gathering Trip in July 2012.

**Attention Knitwits!** Thank you all for your continued support of our Prayer Shawl Ministry, all your talent is greatly appreciated. We just wanted to encourage all of you, come on you know who you are, to continue to knit or crochet prayer shawls as we continue to distribute them to those in need. We also wanted to let you know that we have a supply of yarn and would be happy to share with anyone who would like to make a shawl for our ministry. Would you like to join us but do not know how to knit or crochet? We would be happy to share what we know about either in order for you to become a Knitwit too. We are always looking for new people to share in this ministry as the need for Prayer Shawls continues. We try to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm, any questions please just give us a call and we will try to answer them. Need a Prayer Shawl for someone you care about that is going through a rough patch, please ask and we will see what we can do to help you. Please feel free to contact Marie Lawrence (419-225-7071) or Sharon Bateman (419-649-3111) for assistance.



**Come One, Come All!**  
**Fun for People of all ages!**  
**To Zion Game Nights in January**

3 nights of GAMES!!! On Friday January 13th, 20, and 27th Zion Lutheran Church invites YOU and your friends to join us for some fun and fellowship after the holidays.

There will be many activities from 6:30-9:00 pm. Meet in the Genesis room and bring snacks and non-alcoholic beverages to share. What can you expect to play? YOU choose your favorites! Corn-hole, Hillbilly Golf, Basketball, Apples to Apples, Euchre, Left- Right-Center, and numerous Board Games. Bring your own favorite game to share if you desire! There will be games for grade schoolers to play in the "Hope Room."



\*\*\*For childcare needs during game time please call the church office at 419-224-9951 and ask for Allen Merricle or Cindy Ritter. We may be able to arrange for a babysitter here at the church.

**Surplus/Deficit:**

At the end of November 2010, the congregation had a net budget **deficit** YTD of \$4,864. At the end of November 2011, the congregation has a net budget **deficit** YTD of \$12,612.

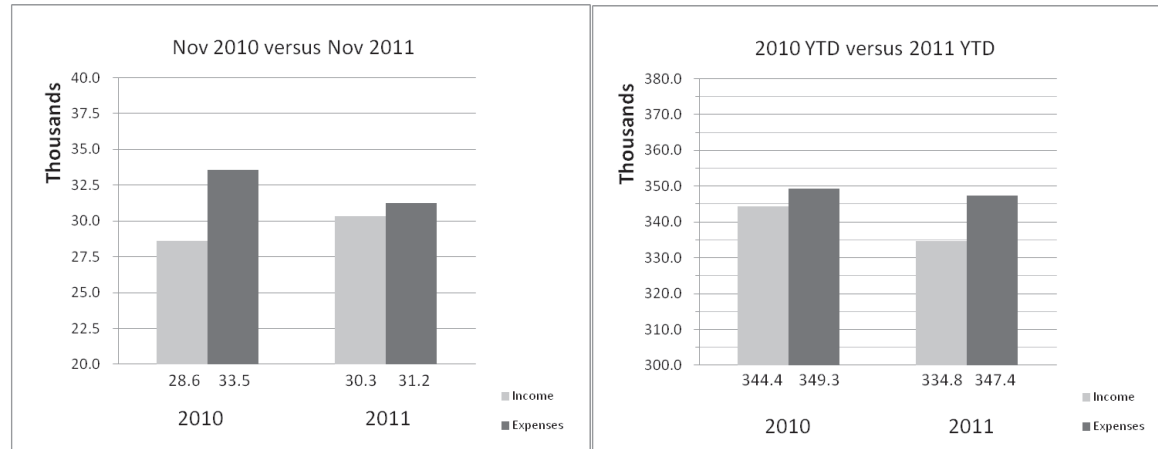
**Investments:**

as of November 30, 2011, Permanently Restricted Funds include:

	previous year	current year	
	Nov. 30, 2010	Nov. 30, 2011	
Zion Endowment	\$452,130	\$442,962	Market Value
Youth Endowment	\$20,000	\$20,000	CMO face value (5.5% APY thru 2022)
Total	\$472,130	\$462,962	

If you have any specific questions please contact Jeff or Cindy Christoff by phone at (419) 339-5111 (home) or by Cindy's e-mail at [cindychristoff@zionlima.org](mailto:cindychristoff@zionlima.org).

# Zion's Financial Report



## Income:

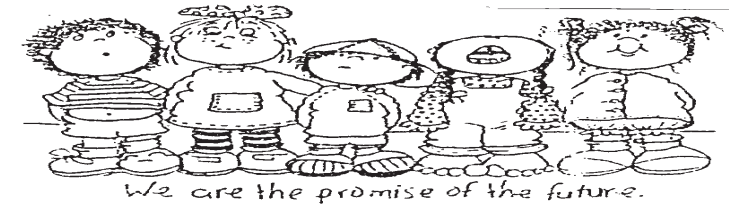
In November 2010, income was \$28,598. For November 2011, income totals \$30,338 which is \$1,739 more than the same period the previous year.

For 2010, income thru November totaled \$344,448. For 2011, income thru November totals \$334,766. Year-to-date income thru November 2011 is \$9,682 less than income from the previous year.

## Expenses:

In November of 2010, expenses totaled \$33,542. For November 2011, expenses total \$31,247 which is \$2,296 less than the previous year.

For 2010, expenses thru November totaled \$349,312. For 2011, expenses thru November total \$347,378. Year-to-date expenses thru November 2011 are \$1,934 less than expenses from the previous year.



## News from Childcare

Sandy Kivimaki, Childcare Director

December has been a busy but wonderful month at Zion Childcare. We helped with the churches "Meals at the Manger" and in 5 days our families brought in 2400 food items. This will feed so many families in Lima during the holidays. Our latchkey program made lots of cards for the shut-ins of Zion. These people love to get a card from us every month. Many of these people send us cards in return.

Our "most rewarding memories" for December came on the nights of December 13 and 14. These are the dates of our annual Christmas programs. Around 650 people attended our program both nights. The children did a wonderful job with their plays and singing. We always feel it is a magical time for everyone.

We want to thank all the members from Zion who brought in cookies or helped greet people. The church members were so kind and helpful both nights. Thank you again.

We hope everyone had a very Blessed Holiday season. Now we can enjoy snow, snow, snow!!

## *Worship Helpers*

Position	Dec. 31– Jan 1	Jan. 7-8	Jan. 14-15	Jan. 21-22	Jan. 28-29
Acolyte 8:30		Kara Manning	Aaron Dickrede	Brooke Stolzenburg	Chad Frey
Acolyte 10:45	(10:00 am) Brooke Stolzenburg	Callee Young	Matt Cellar	Kara Manning	Dalton Reichert
SAT Helpers 5:00 pm	Luke Best		Hannah Reichert	Libbie Milks	Kobe Christoff
SAT. Assistant 5:00 pm		Bud Linton	Intern Cindy Ritter	Sam Stokely	George Carrington
Asst. Minister 8:30		Tom Ritter	Intern Cindy Ritter	Dave McCormick	Bob Torbet
Asst. Minister 10:45	(10:00 am) Darrell Ball	Carol Gibson	Intern Cindy Ritter	Darrell Ball	Cathy Lehman
Greeters Saturday		Cinda Rismiller	Tom & Carrie Schepman	Garry & Rose Theis	Cindy Linton
Nursery 10:45	(10:00 am) A. Dickrede	Frey	Milks	R. Dickrede	Manning
Junior Church	Merricle	Kinnaird	Leonard		Merricle
Outdoor Sign Inside	Dorothy Neu	Roger Fessler	Jan Leonard	Cinda Rismiller	Daisy Shrider
Outside Sign Outside	Daisy Shrider	Roger Fessler	Bud Linton	Russ & Linda Wensole	Daisy Shrider
Head Usher 8:30		Dave Hieneman	Roger Fessler	Dan Schulz	Dan Schulz
Ushers 10:45	(10:00 am) Jim Allen Gary Howell Ed Baden Bill Glancy Gene Morris	Gary Howell Jim Allen Bill Glancy Harold Simon Dave Morman	Bill Glancy Jim Allen Gary Howell Gene Morris Curtis Young	Gary Howell Jim Allen Bill Glancy Stan Vandemark Sam Bassitt	Bill Glancy Jim Allen Gary Howell Mark Cellar Harold Simon
Bread Bakers					

Monthly (



**Memorials** were given in memory of Margaret Elsass by Malbea Rohrer, Dale & Juanita Bockbrader, Shirley Rock, Stan & Marie Lawrence, Ed & Joan Baden, Dick & Julie Hagen.

**Just a word of thanks** to the people at Zion who have served on the Homebound Communion ministry team this year. The folks they visited and served communion to greatly appreciate the time they spent with them. These people were: Ski Douglas, Connie Glancy, Linda Wensole, Jim Raabe, Marcia O'Keefe, Brian Stolzenburg, Sam & Wanda Stokely, Linda and Suzy Young and just recently Carrie Schepman and Cinda Rismiller have volunteered to begin serving in this special ministry. Please remember if you are aware of any people who desire homebound communion that you can contact one of these people or call the church office # 419-224-9951.

**Out to Lunch Bunch** - We will be meeting Jan. 18th at *Lima Elks Lodge*, 302 W. North Street. Come join us for fun and fellowship. Sign up at Sign-Up Central located in the north exit hallway or call Stan or Marie Lawrence, 419-225-7071.

**Did you Know? On Friday December 17th** at the Lima Mall numerous Zion folks volunteered to help out with the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign. They were stationed at five locations throughout the mall and rang bells to encourage shoppers to donate money to families in need in the Lima area. Great job bell ringers! Many thanks go to...Judy & Tom Weise, Allen Merricle, LeAnn Kinnaird, Jim Maley, Cindy Ritter, Jan Leonard, Rick Bracy, Judy Hagaman, Diana Schneider and Elle Wollenhaupt.

**The Churches United Pantry (CUP) ministry** is so vital in providing food for people in the Lima community who struggle with economic strife. God has blessed people from Zion Lutheran Church and Childcare with the ability and desire to donate food and money to help others in need. **Thank-You to EVERYONE** who has donated food, money and their own personal time and energy for this much needed ministry. CUP always has people who come to them with struggles and challenges. Let's continue to keep this ministry in our prayers and continually support it year round as we are able.

# Calendar

## January Anniversaries

- 6. Bob & Beda Sielschott
- 12. Greg & Deb Markley, Harold & Phyllis Simon
- 27. Bill & Karen Runyan

### *Nursery Schedule:*

- Saturday 5:00 pm service   Nursery open but unstaffed
- Sunday 8:30 service       Nursery open but unstaffed
- Sunday school 9:35        Infant nursery (2 & under) in *Hope*
- Sunday 10:45 service     Nursery care in *Hope*

Children of all ages are welcome in our worship services and are encouraged to participate, as they are able. The ability and desire to participate in worship comes in different stages and at different ages for each child. To assist parents as their children learn about worship, we have the following options. The nursery is available for children 3 years old and younger. We have “Blessing Backpacks”, available outside the Sunday school office, to occupy children age 3 through early elementary. Also, at the 10:45 service, children age 4 through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade can go to Children’s Church during the sermon.



Childcare Available

## January Birthdays

- 1. Jeremy Fifer, Lars Neu, Jessie Stambaugh, James Sulzmann, Callee Young
- 3. Sarah Ball
- 4. Carol Crates, Hope Reynolds
- 6. John Bateman
- 8. Marsha Huffer, Dave Morman
- 9. Kobe Christoff
- 10. Chase Dotson, Shannon LaRue
- 11. Sherry Baden
- 14. Dave Crates
- 15. Kaylin Duffy
- 17. Jay Heffner
- 18. Justin LaRue
- 19. Stacy Nelson
- 20. Nikki Cellar, Blake Kleman, Adam Knott, Connor Neidemire
- 22. Helen Morris
- 23. Alexis Patterson
- 24. Joe Barga, Greg Boyles, Diane Logan, Jeremie Vore,
- 25. Cheryl Frey, Gene Fries, Joe Shellenbarger, Riley Smith
- 26. Joan Baden, Jim Maley
- 30. Chase Wilson
- 31. Libbie Milks

### Members

**Did we miss your birthday or wedding anniversary? Then we don't have it in the church records! Please let the church office know what it is so our records will be complete. Thank you!**