

GOD IS GOOD...ALL THE TIME!

**CONTACT US!
OFFICE HOURS**

T-F (Karen)
NOON-3:00 PM

Office Phone
(508) 987-1248

Office email: Karen Borden
admin@oxfordzionchurch.org

Website
www.oxfordzion.org

Emergency Pastoral Contact
The Rev. John Nieman
508-829-6707

Zion Lutheran Church

APRIL 2011

PASTOR'S CORNER

THE CHRIST-EVENT

During the year we have various observances which look at Christ's life. We begin with Advent and then move onto Christmas and Epiphany, then onto Lent and Easter, and finally to Pentecost, when we recognize that God's Holy Spirit makes Christ present with us here and now. Rather than a bunch of little separate events, it is good to see that we are recognizing that there is one, main event with many parts: the Christ-Event. The Christ-Event includes all the seasons and special days. And of these, there is a time, at the end of Lent, when the Christ-Event seems to come most into focus in what we call, "The Three Days." This will be happening in the coming days of April.

"The Three Days" (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter) are a time for us to gather in a special way. In the Three Days we first gather with him at the table; next we gather to meditate on the life-giving cross and ponder the meaning of his death, and then we gather to celebrate that the grave cannot hold him, that death has no more dominion.

Pastor John



SUNDAY MORNING:

9:00 AM Early
Service

9:30 AM Christian Ed

9:45 AM Adult Forum

10:30 AM 2nd Service

TUESDAY

6:00 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 3: 7:00 PM-8:30 PM
LIPY-CM meeting at Zion

April 5: 6:15 Soup Supper
and 7:00 Worship at Oxford
Methodist church

April 9: 10:30-Noon First
Communion Class

April 10: First Communion
Sunday

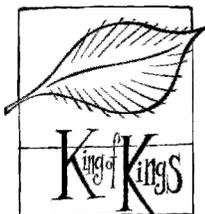
April 12: 6:15 Soup Supper
and 7:00 Worship at First
Congregational

April 21: 7:00 PM Maundy
Thursday Worship

April 22: 7:00 PM Good
Friday Worship

April 24: 9:00 AM and 10:30
AM Easter Worship

HOLY WEEK



PALM SUNDAY

April 17

9:00 AM and 10:30 AM



MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 21

7:00 PM

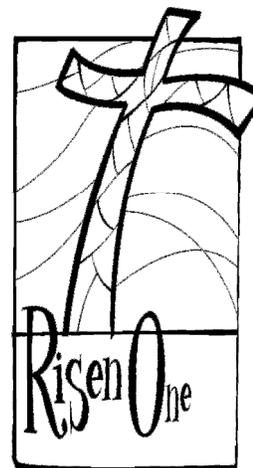


GOOD FRIDAY

April 22

Noon

7:00 PM Tenebrae



**RESURRECTION OF
OUR LORD**

EASTER SUNDAY

9:00 AND 10:30 AM

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends in Christ,

As some of you may know our vice president Jason Craley has accepted a new position in his company which will require him to move away. Therefore, he has resigned as our vice president. We will still continue to see Jason and his family from time to time while they make the transition to their new home. We want to thank both Jason and Sarah for all they have done to make Zion a friendlier place to worship. I will especially miss Sarah accompanying Chris with her guitar during the service. Our best wishes and prayers go with them as they go forward.

The Council voted to appoint Peter Petrovski to fill the vacancy. The congregation will be asked to ratify this appointment at our next semi-annual meeting. As the new vice president Peter will assume the roll of chair person of the Nominating Committee. He and his committee will be seeking to fill positions on the Council that will become vacant at the end of this term which ends in June. Please stay tuned for more information on this matter. Thank you Peter for your willingness to serve the Lord in this way.

In other news the Council has started the process of reviewing the revisions to the constitution and bylaws. It will take a good effort by all members, but we hope to have this document ready for congregation approval at our next semiannual meeting. The exact date of that meeting has not been set yet, as we want to see how we progress. There is still time and you will be notified two weeks in advance of it. There is quite a bit of activity going on at the Council level and the planning of all meetings is not always easy. The Call process is ongoing and the Synod rep. Pr Alice Carr Laird is working with the Call Committee and Council on this important matter. In the interim we are grateful to Pastor John for providing pastoral services. If anyone is in need of such service please call the church office or Pastor John. The phone numbers are listed in the bulletin each week. And on our website.

Yours In Christ, Bob Laurens

You Can Help Zion Reach Its Goal for the Lutheran Healthcare Center Campaign!

Zion's Goal: \$20,000

Given to date: \$17,100

Easter 2011 was the date we originally set for completion of Zion's LHC goal. Thanks to the generosity of many, we are only **\$2,900 short of our goal.**

While the original scope of the project has been down-sized, the work of renewing and renovating the Home has continued! There is a new heating and AC system; some of the three-bed rooms have become two-bed rooms; each resident room and common area is being repainted and re-decorated. Windows are also being replaced. The exterior of the building has been redone due to some water and mold damage. The changes and "new look" are more comfortable for the residents and inviting for families. It's looking terrific!

A great thank you is extended to the families of Zion who have made donations toward Zion's LHC campaign goal: **Bacon, Bean, Bellisario, Bergeson, Clark, Johnson, Jonasch, Keegan, Laurens, Peterson, Rambarran, C. Redlitz, Schade, W. Schur, Steege, Sundman, Weinhardt, and White.**

Please let me know if you have made a gift to the Lutheran Healthcare Center, but do not find your name listed above. We want to be sure the gifts from Zion's members are fully credited to our congregation's commitment.

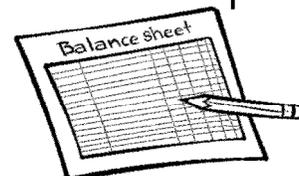
In these last weeks of our campaign, you can still help. Please make checks payable to Zion, but be sure to note **Lutheran Healthcare Center** on your check.

Ken Bean (508-943-2762)

Zion's LHC Contact person and Chaplain at

**FINANCIAL RESULTS
FEBRUARY 28, 2011**

Treasurer's Report



We took in \$8.5 thousand in February and we spent \$8.7 thousand in February. We spent \$187 dollars more than we took in-- resulting in a net loss for February.

For the year, we took in \$18.9 thousand and spent \$17.9 thousand through the month of February. For the year, we have a net operating profit of \$1.1 thousand.

The following is a comparison of 2011 actual to 2011 budget:

	Feb 2011	Jan -Feb 2011 YTD	Budget YTD 2/12	Over/(Under) Budget
Operating Revenue	\$ 8,468.08	\$ 18,945.71	\$ 26,857.17	\$ (7,911.46)
Operating Expenses	\$ 8,654.89	\$ 17,864.49	\$ 26,857.17	\$ (8,992.68)
Income Net of Expenses	\$ (186.81)	\$ 1,081.22	\$ -	\$ 1,081.22

Expenses	Feb 2011	Jan - Feb 2011 YTD	Budget YTD 2/12	Over/(Under) Budget
Salaries	\$ 5,165.04	\$ 11,773.49	\$ 19,619.00	\$ (7,845.51)
General Administration	\$ 766.00	\$ 1,042.82	\$ 2,238.17	\$ (1,195.35)
Property	\$ 2,200.06	\$ 4,344.78	\$ 3,637.50	\$ 707.28
Education	\$ -	\$ 136.53	\$ 475.00	\$ (338.47)
Worship	\$ 491.79	\$ 526.71	\$ 441.67	\$ 85.04
Stewardship	\$ 7.00	\$ 15.20	\$ 112.50	\$ (97.30)
Evangelism			\$ 50.00	\$ (50.00)
Social Ministry			\$ 33.33	\$ (33.33)
Ecumenical Council	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 16.67	\$ 8.33
Stephen Ministry			\$ 233.33	\$ (233.33)
Reimbursed expenses				\$ -
	\$ 8,654.89	\$ 17,864.53	\$ 26,857.17	\$ (8,992.64)

2011 Operating Budget \$ 161,143.00

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley I. Rossmeisl, Treasurer

STEWARDSHIP

Dear Fellow Stewards,

I recently received a book called "The Miracle of Tithing" by Mark Victor Hansen. You may remember Mark as a co-author of the "Chicken Soup for the Soul" books. I know that many people raise a wall when someone starts talking tithing. After reading this book, I felt I needed to share some of the writings with you. So, starting with this newsletter I will begin to share sections of this book with you. This month, I will start including parts of the beginning section of "The Miracle of Tithing". The book is set up as a series of questions and answers. In future newsletters, I will share some these questions and answers with you.

As we prepare for Easter this month and the resurrection of our Lord, please remember the promise he made to us – "Give and it shall be given unto you; ..." Luke 6:38. God's peace be with you always,

Susan Pierce, your Stewardship Chairperson

From "The Miracle of Tithing" by Mark Victor Hansen with permission

Tithing is the best kept prosperity secret in existence. It's an old secret that works yet has been virtually forgotten.

Tithing is a sensitive subject. Ministers, for the most part, are afraid to speak about tithing for fear of alienating their congregation. If a minister does talk about tithing some members feel that it is all that the minister talks about.

I [Mark] will help you to comprehend this great principle which will open life's cornucopia of unlimited good, so you can experience it. To hear the principle of tithing (giving) is to comprehend it; to regularly and systematically tithe (give and subsequently receive) in ever increasing amounts, is to comprehend this phenomenal principle.

Prior to 1974 (the year I [Mark] went bankrupt), I had heard this life-giving principle lamely discussed. The reason is that, unfortunately, most ministers feel ashamed to ask for tithes because they do not believe in or practice this principle, so they cannot speak about it with feeling, conviction and testimonials from their own experience.

After going bankrupt, and finding myself mentally, spiritually and emotionally depressed, ... I discovered tithing. I started by giving a little and kept increasing it as my returns increased in virtually automatic, invisible and often unexpected ways. Miracles never cease to amaze me. I expect them, but their consistent arrival is always delightful to experience.

God said that on earth there will always be a "seedtime and harvest" (*Genesis 8:22*). The seedtime is tithing time. Saint Paul said of the eternal law of sowing and reaping in *Galatians 6:7*, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Therefore, give with the belief that you shall receive a Biblically promised, multiplied return and you shall have it.

As a tither you automatically become solution-oriented rather than problem-oriented. It's a mystical and unexplainable phenomena that just happens. I remember my dear friend Chip Collins, who helped me to begin my speaking career when I was 26 years of age. He was down to his last thirty-five cents and had a wife and a baby to feed and no hope of earning any money. With tears in his eyes, he started beating on his steering wheel saying, "God, what should I do?" Intuition flared and told him to tithe. He figured thirty-five cents would not even buy milk for his baby, so he immediately went into a Catholic Church and prayerfully put thirty-five cents in the offering plate. As he walked out a feeling told him to solicit a speaking engagement in a nearby real estate office. He did, and was hired and prepaid his \$200 fee which saved his family from starvation, lack and limitation. It also re-established his self-esteem as a good provider. He has since become a disciplined and committed tither.

Your needs and mine exist to be met, not to intimidate, embarrass and harass us.

The guarantee that God is your source is in *Philippians 4:19*, "My God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." You see, Jesus demonstrated what we should do by the giving nature of the lifestyle that he led.

Note that what you receive is not multiplied but only that which you give is multiplied. "Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that you measure, with it shall be measure to you again."

– Luke 6:38

continued on p.5

Stewardship continued from p.4

Giving makes you more productive. Even the little lad who gave his lunch of five loaves and two fishes had Jesus multiply his gift to feed 5,000 hungry people and gave back to the lad "twelve baskets full." Please note that giving serves the giver, many others, and is returned multiplied.

In summation, tithing works for those who work with tithing. If you have never tried it, give it a 3-month trial. Remember, when you give, like attracts like. If need be, start with one-percent of your income, time, energy or effort and build up to ten-percent. A great philosopher once said, "Whatever you want more of, give some of it away."

EVANGELISM



Years ago I read a poem that really spoke to me. I do not have the words for it, but it was titled "Are All The Children In?" The author was remembering when she was young and after a day of play her mother would ask each night "Are all the children in? The final stanza finds her wondering if on the final day of earth God, like her mother would ask "Are all the children in? This winter with so many storms and bad road conditions this poem was brought to my mind. Wasn't it a relief when that last family member arrived home safely and all the "children" were in?

Jesus made it clear that God is our father, and that the life he died to give us is to be lived out as the children of God. The Lord's prayer that Jesus taught his disciples begins "Our Father", and in John 1:12 we read "But to those who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God." It's not hard to think of God as caring for his children and wanting them to come home to him. Jesus lived among his disciples. He reached out to those who did not yet believe in him like Zachaeus and the woman at the well. He also told parables like the lost sheep and the prodigal son that show how important each of us is to him. Jesus also made it clear that he wants his disciples to care for all, just as he does. We are to love and care for those who are already disciples, for those who do not yet believe in Jesus, for those who have wandered away and for those who have deliberately left home. Evangelism is an ongoing ministry to all that God brings along our path as we journey home and our work is not done until we can rejoice with our Lord that "All the children are in".

Cecelia Jalbert, Chair



STEPHEN MINISTRY

IT'S OKAY TO BE HUMAN. . .

An important theme of the Lenten season is the humanity of Christ. In Jesus, God became human and fully experienced the wide range of emotions we all encounter in life. Jesus experienced times of loneliness, sadness, hurt, anger, disappointment, grief, and abandonment. That is part of being human. Another part of being human is needing help from each other. God never intended us to be completely self-sufficient. Part of God's plan is for each of us to turn to others for help when we need it.

So when you are experiencing difficult times, don't struggle alone. Our Stephen Ministers will walk with you, listen to you, encourage you, pray with you, and provide confidential one-to-one care to help you through tough times. Stephen Ministers can bring the love of Jesus back into your life. To learn more about Stephen Ministry, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders: Pat Bean, Susan Pierce, Jackie Bonneau and Pam Olson. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

SURVEY TOOL

In an effort to cut the cost of postage and the production costs of our newsletter the Council would like to suggest one of the following methods to make this happen. ***In order for this to be successful it will take the participation by a majority of our members.*** Please fill out the following form and return it to the church office either by mail or leave it in the box provided in the back of the church. You may also e mail it to the church office. Please check or circle the method you wish to use ***Thank You, The Church Council***

I WISH TO RECEIVE MY NEWS LETTER IN THE FOLLOWING WAY.

I will read it on the Zion Website (WWW.OXFORDZION.ORG)

Please email it to me. My email address is -----

Please continue to mail it to me through the regular mail.

I no longer wish to get the newsletter.

Please give us your name and current address so that we can make the necessary adjustments to our mailing list. Thank you!

NAME-----

STREET-----

CITY-----STATE-----ZIP CODE-----



FIRST COMMUNION

Pastor John will be having First Communion class for those in 2nd grade and up on **Saturday, April 9th from 10:30 AM-noon.** First Holy Communion will be celebrated on **Sunday, April 10th** at both services.

LIPY-CM MEETING

The Lutheran Inter Parish Youth of Central Ma. ***along with parents, chaperones and leaders will be here at Zion*** for a mandatory Mission Trip meeting on ***Sunday, April 3rd 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM.*** The meeting is to work out trip details, have the youth develop a conduct covenant, receive final payments, return medical info. etc. The trip to Washington, D.C. during April vacation involves the youth of Zion/Oxford, Zion/Worcester, Trinity/Worcester, Bethlehem/Sturbridge, Immanuel/Holden and Christ/West Boylston.



Another occasion to celebrate with the youth of Zion is on **Sunday, May 22nd** when three of our young people will be make affirmation of their baptism. Kyle Bergeson, Haylee Olson and Ryan Baronowski will be confirmed following two years of Confirmation instruction.

On Confirmation Sunday we will have 1 service which will be at 10:00 AM so that people from both the 9:00 and 10:30 worship services will be able to support these confirmands and celebrate with them on this special day in their life of faith.



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Brian Cole, **Robert Cozzens**, Debbie Forsman, **Pamela Foy**,
Margarethe Johnson, Jonathan MacDonald, Jennifer Moore, and
Marilyn Siegmund.



MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Carol Radzyk

Robert and Theresa Miller
Shirley Kilian
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Siegmund
Thomas G. Strenk
William and Helen Connor Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fedyk
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Swierzbis
Ms. J. Santagate
Arnold and Robin Goldberg
Oxford Education Association
Isabel Cannalonga
Alice Walker
Jeanne Benoit
Friends of the Webster Senior Center
Sunshine Fund, Dept. Family Medicine,
Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island

In Memory of Louise Cyr

Isabel Cannalonga

HISTORICAL FUND

In memory of Donna Cannalonga Harris

Dick and Gerry Siegmund

In Memory of Louise Cyr

Isabel Cannalonga



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- Donald Piehl 03
- Peg Briere 04
- Janet Abissi 05
- Allison Schur 05
- Justin Howland 07
- Erin Legier 07
- Pat Siimes 07
- Kim Reed 07
- Lois Bernier 08
- Emma Schremser 10
- Kristen Betrovski 11
- Lucille Blood 11
- Ben Schur 12
- Chris Bonneau 12
- Walter Lukasek 12
- Conrad Redlitz 13
- Nathaniel Schur 17
- Darren Aniello 18
- George Murray 20
- [Josh Woods 22](#)
- Margarethe Johnson 23
- Shirley Rossmesl 27
- Paula Clark 28



PRAYER LIST

This is a reminder of the new procedure for putting a loved one on the prayer list.

In an effort to keep our Prayer List current, the Worship Committee has created a form to aid in this endeavor. This form (which is self-explanatory) must be completed and either mailed to the office or placed in the Prayer Request Box located on the credenza in the Narthex. A form has been included in this newsletter for your convenience. Additional forms can be found next to the Prayer Box.

Names of the members of our congregation will appear in bold print, and all names will be listed alphabetically. All new additions will be prayed for from the altar for three (3) consecutive Sundays, and then placed on the long-term prayer list if so requested.

A file is maintained on all requests. It is also very important for you to inform the Prayer List Committee if you want to remove a name from the listing. This would apply to the "long-term" names only.

The Prayer List Committee (Jean Peterson, Sue Schade, Sue Butchman) thanks you for your help and understanding.

In an effort to keep our Prayer Request List current, please complete this form and submit it to the office.

PRAYER REQUEST FORM

(Please Print)

DATE SUBMITTED: _____

NAME OF PERSON FOR WHOM WE ARE PRAYING:

PARISH MEMBER: **YES** _____ **NO** _____

IF NO, GIVE RELATIONSHIP (i.e. - FRIEND, RELATIVE)

SUBMITTED BY:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NO.

SHORT-TERM CONCERN:

Short-term concerns will be prayed for on three (3) consecutive Sundays.

LONG-TERM CONCERN:

Long-term concerns will be prayed for on three (3) consecutive Sundays and then transferred to the long-term list. Circle one or both whichever applies. The entire Prayer List will continue to appear in our monthly newsletter. Only current names will be listed in the Sunday Bulletin.



EASTER PLANTS

It's time to think about ordering plants to adorn our sanctuary on Easter Sunday! Your flower donation given to **"the glory of God"** can be given either in **honor of** or in **thanksgiving for** a special event or in **memory of a loved one**. A listing of names will appear in our Easter Bulletin.

Please complete the informational form below and either mail it together with your check to the church office or place it in the offering plate. Please make checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church with **"Easter Plants"** in the memo corner. Deadline is **SUNDAY, APRIL 10**. Please plan to leave your plants on the altar for the Tuesday, April 26, service.

You may pick them up following that service. Thank you.

Lilly - Single Stem:	@\$ 7.50 ea.	No. Ordered _____	Total \$
Triple Stem:	@\$21.00 ea.	No. Ordered _____	Total \$
Azalea:	@\$12.00 ea.	No. Ordered _____	Total \$
Hyacinth – 8" Pot:	@\$11.50 ea.	No. Ordered _____	Total \$
Daffodil – 8" Pot:	@\$11.50 ea.	No. Ordered _____	Total \$ _____
			Total \$

(Please Print):

Donated By: _____

Envelope No. (if applicable): _____

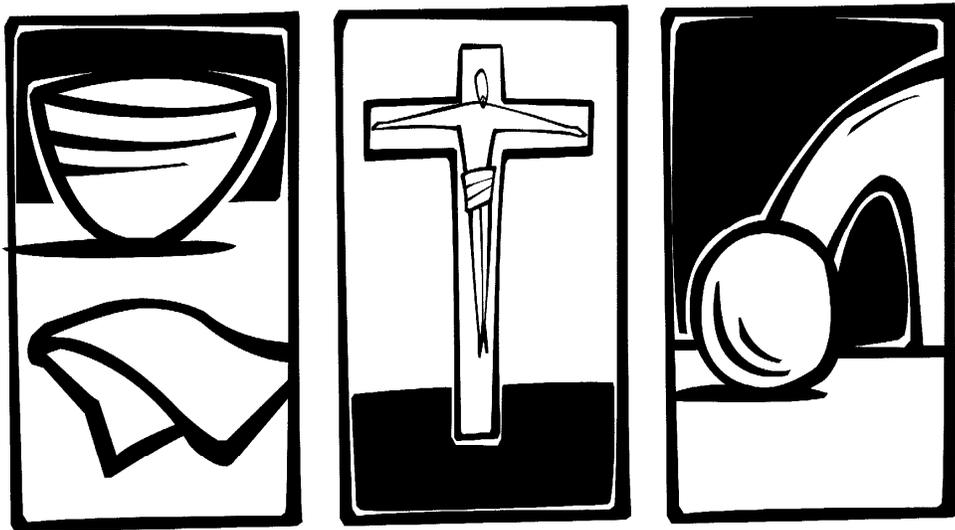
Phone No.: _____

In Honor / Thanksgiving For:

In Memory Of:

*Zion Lutheran Church
70 Main Street
Oxford, MA 01540
(508) 987-1248*

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HOLY WEEK