

GOD IS GOOD...ALL THE TIME!

OFFICE HOURS

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

Office Phone

(508) 987-1248

Office email: Karen Borden

admin@oxfordzionchurch.org

Pastor Nancy Beckwith

Pastor's Phone

1-508-499-8787

Email:

pastornancyb@gmail.com

Call or email Pastor Nancy to arrange an appointment or visit.

Pastor's day off: Friday

Website

www.oxfordzion.org

Zion Lutheran Church

APRIL 2012



SUNDAY MORNING:

9:00 AM Worship

9:30 AM Sunday School

9:45 Adult Bible Study

10:30 AM Worship

TUESDAY

6:00 PM Worship

**APRIL UPCOMING
EVENTS**

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE ON
BACK OF COVER**

**No Sunday School on Easter
Sunday**

April 4: 7:00 PM

Stewardship Mtg.

April 9: Office Closed

6:00 PM Stephen Ministry

April 10: 7:00 PM

Church Council

April 16-20 LIPY Mission Trip

April 23: 6:00 PM Stephen Ministry

April 28: 8:30 AM-4:15 PM Faith
Alive @ Trinity Lutheran Worcester

April 30: 7:00 PM Book Club

In this month's newsletter, you will find a schedule of all of the Holy Week services on it. It is there so you can do one of two things with it.... (1) Hang it on your refrigerator or bulletin board, as a handy reference for yourself of the worship times or (2) Give it to someone you know who does not have a church that they regularly attend. My preference would be that you do the second... But don't just hand them the list of services and walk away.... Invite your friend, your neighbor, your co-worker to join us in worship. Use Easter as an opportunity to share your faith... None of us would know the faith if someone had not brought us to the church – whether as a child, or an adult. None of us would be here without the encouragement of the rest of the church.

In the gospel story of Easter – Mary tells the other disciples that she has seen – the Risen Christ! This news – this Good News – that Christ did not stay in the tomb – that Death is conquered – is news that we too need to share. Our Easter Joy is too exciting, too important to keep to ourselves. Church is not just a place we go once a week or so; it is a diverse community of believers, who join together to rejoice in the Good News that Christ is Risen, and who are sent out like Mary to share that news to all the world. He is not dead. He is Risen! Come and see!

Pastor Nancy



WOMEN'S RETREAT

Region 7 Offers Women's Retreat April 27-29 in Upstate New York

Region 7 of Women of the ELCA will host a Women's Spiritual Retreat,

"Angels among Us," April 27-29 at The Purdy Center at Camp-of-the-Woods, Speculator, N.Y. Click here for details, flyer, registration form and scholarship info. Questions? Contact O'B Rock at obrock@comcast.net or [508.431.2598](tel:508.431.2598)

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

LSS Ingathering at Synod Assembly to Aid Refugees Agency Seeks Bed and Bath Items

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) has welcomed nearly 1,000 refugees to Massachusetts and New Hampshire over the past year. For each refugee family that arrives, LSS must provide a completely furnished apartment. LSS is in urgent need of: Queen and single bed sheet sets, comforters and quilts of all sizes, mattress covers (queen and single) that zip and completely protect the mattress, towels, towels, and towels. LSS especially would welcome new items. However, gently used -- but not old and worn - items also are useful. Bring your gifts to Zion by **June 1st** and our voting members will transport them to Springfield. Refugee staff and clients will be on hand to deliver your gifts directly to the families who need them the most. Questions? Contact Marty Mann at mmann@lssne.org or [774.243.3920](tel:774.243.3920).



Camp Calumet has lots to offer year round. In the spring, there are plenty of mid-week and week-end retreats with lodging in the Conference Center or heated cabins. In the Summer, there are camping opportunities for kids at the resident overnight camp, including special drama, music and adventure camp weeks. The campground accommodates tents, trailers and campers – and you can make new friends while you enjoy the lakeside beach, local hiking trails, campfires, bible study, conversation, and more. For more info go to www.calumet.org or call 603-539-3223.



BECOMING A MEMBER OF ZION

If you are interested in joining our congregation, speak with Pastor Nancy.



FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

A group is being formed to prepare children for First Communion. We will meet for a few sessions at a time that is mutually agreeable to all. The curriculum we will use is called **Fed and Forgiven**. Using age-appropriate engaging content, we will explore the ritual and basic theology of Holy Communion. If your child would like to join in receiving Holy Communion, then please speak to Pastor Nancy.



ELCA DISASTER RESPONSE

U.S. SEVERE SPRING STORMS

Deadly storms and tornadoes have killed and injured many people throughout the Midwest and the South. Hundreds of homes, farms and businesses have been damaged or destroyed. To help you can give through Zion (cash) or by writing a check made out to **Zion Lutheran with Tornado Relief in the memo line**. We have provided a basket on the table in the narthex to accept these donations. You can also send a check directly to **ELCA Disaster Response, 39330 Treasury Center, Chicago, IL 60694-9300** and write "U.S. Severe Spring Storms" or "Where Needed Most" on the check's memo line. Your generous offerings of financial support help the ELCA to walk with the survivors on the road to recovery.

THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS

Are you a Thrivent Financial for Lutherans benefit member? Have you designated Choice Dollars to a qualifying Lutheran organization yet? If not, please consider designating your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Zion Lutheran Church **by March 31, 2012**. At no cost to you, Thrivent will send money to the Lutheran agency you choose to support. Dollars designated to Zion Lutheran Church will be used to help fund our ministry and outreach programs. To learn more about designating Choice Dollars, please visit the Thrivent website at: www.thrivent.com and click on the "Direct Choice Dollars" button on the right, or call 1-800-THRIVENT.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

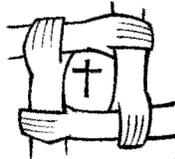
Our new tasks for this month include collection of canned meats for the Oxford Food Pantry, men's white socks for St. Matthew's Trinity and gently used musical instruments for the Worcester Public Schools.

Our committee will discuss a possible fundraiser to support the LCA tornado relief efforts... perhaps a food sale event or luncheon to kick off the opening day of the Red Sox. Also, after Easter we will be reviewing the on-line educational material provided by the LCA in hopes of developing a sustained program for global concerns. After a review of materials such as informational pamphlets, brief videos etc. we will be ordered for in quantities sufficient for the congregation. There are identified areas such as education, women's and children's initiatives, safe water, crop growth, animal purchase and animal husbandry for consideration.

Also, we have learned about how to make knotted fleece blankets, a service ministry that several people learned about during the fall women's retreat at Calumet. The plan is that each committee or group within Zion will be asked to create a blanket which could be used for various purposes (a reminder of our care for our elderly or ill members transitioning into a rehabilitation center or nursing home, a baptismal gift, a present for the babies and young women at Florence House, etc). It might be fun to schedule a couple of work nights in the fall as we try some hands-on social ministry projects. Margaret Heidi, Shirley Rossmel, and Jean Peterson are skilled with the know-how, rulers, and scissors to implement this project...no sewing required!

As always, if you have any ideas or concerns, please share them with any one of us on the committee: Dave and Pam Olsen, Cindy Joslyn, Sue Butchman, Richard and Paula Clark. We are looking for a couple of new members to replace Barbara Steege and Sarah Craley. Please let any one of us know if you have ideas or time to share.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Clark



Doing mission together

EVANGELISM

Teaching was an important part of Jesus ministry. He taught with authority. He taught the crowds that followed him and he took his disciples aside and taught them at a deeper level. Jesus used scripture and parables to teach about the kingdom of God and he taught his disciples who he is and about his death and resurrection. After instructing his disciples he sent them out to minister. When they returned he used their experience to give them practical advice. He also taught his disciples what their mission was to be, "Go and make disciples of all nations.....Matthew 28:19-20.

Teaching has been an important ministry in the church since its beginning. Converts were baptised after a long period of instruction. Today our children spend years in church school and receive special preparation for Confirmation. Adult education continues to be an important ministry of the church. On May 4th and May 5th Pat Bean will be leading a course entitled "What Makes God's House a Home" This offering is being sponsored by the Evangelism Committee and will guide us into practical ways of caring for one another. I invite each of you to think and pray about attending this special opportunity. There is also further information including a registration form in this newsletter. If you have any questions please speak to Pat Bean (508) 943-2762 or Cecelia Jalbert (508) 248-7006.

Cecelia Jalbert, Evangelism Chair



DOES THE JOY OF EASTER SEEM FAR AWAY?

For those who have suffered a loss or who are going through the difficult time, Easter can be a time of painful loneliness and emptiness. If you are smiling on the outside, but full of pain on the inside and the joy of Easter seems far away, help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one, Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, and pray with and for you. Stephen Ministers have been specially trained to meet your emotional and spiritual needs. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders: Pat Bean, Susan Pierce, Jackie Bonneau or Pam Olson. Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

Pam Olson

Faith Alive 2012 | Flowing From The Font: Stewards For Life - April 28, 2012



You are invited to Faith Alive, a day of workshops, worship, and fellowship designed to help growing Christians deepen their connection between stewardship and faith throughout the journey of life.

When: **April 28, 2012**

Time: **8:30AM - 4:15PM**

Where: **Trinity Lutheran Church
73 Lancaster Street**

Worcester, MA 01609 (508) 753-2989

Registration Fee: **\$25.00 includes workshops and lunch.**

Complete the online registration at <http://faithalivene.wordpress.com/registration/> OR Contact Pastor Nancy or Susan Pierce for a registration form that can be mailed to:

Debra Brown; Registrar,
4 Elm Street,
South Hadley, MA 01075



NOTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 13, 2012

Submitted by Marleen R. Bacon

The monthly meeting of the Zion Church Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Laurens and opened with devotions given by Pastor Nancy.

Carol and Donald Weinhardt attended this meeting to ask the Council if Zion would like to participate in the Oxford 300th Anniversary Parade Celebration. The Parade will be held on July 8, 2012. The Council members thought that it would be possible to get a group of people together to represent Zion by marching in the parade. Don also reminded the Council that Zion will celebrate its 125th Anniversary in 2015. Council members voted to form an anniversary committee to start planning for this special event.

The minutes of the February Council meeting were accepted. The financial reports showing income and expenses were presented.

The Council members voted to appoint Susan Pierce, Maydee Morales and Freddie Rivera as Zion's voting representatives for the Synod Assembly.

The solar presentation will be put on hold until after the Task Force has met. The Task Force is still in need of members.

The Youth Group was congratulated on the great success of the Pancake Breakfast. The Heifer Project continues with the Sunday School choosing what animals they want to donate on Palm Sunday.

Further plans have been made by the Stephen Ministry and the Evangelism Committee for the upcoming course entitled "*What Makes God's House a Home*". There will be a participant charge of \$10.

All Committee reports can be found on the bulletin board in the coffee room.

This meeting concluded at 8:45 pm with the Council members joining in the Lord's Prayer.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

IF WE GIVE

- If we give what is left over,
the church neither feeds us spiritually nor feeds anyone else.
- If we give dues,
the church will be no more than a club.
- If we give for sentimental reasons,
the church will be like a museum.
- If we give the same as we always have,
the church will only receive declining returns.
- If we give out of obligation,
the church will become a place of resentment for us.
- If we give only because we feel responsible,
the church will be a heavy burden.
- If we give out of compassion for those whose needs are great,
then our needs will seem so much smaller.
- If we give because we are thankful,
the church will reflect the measure of our gratitude.
- If love leads us to selfless giving,
the church will become the place where we discover joy!
- Author Unknown

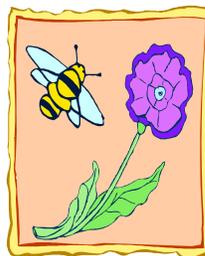
APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- Donald Piehl 03
- Chase Levasseur 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 Rossmeisl 27
- Paula Clark 28

SPRING FLEAMARKET & BAKE SALE

SATURDAY MAY 19, 2012 8 A M TO 3 P M

- TABLE RENTALS :** Leah Filipkowski 774-253-6243
Paula Clark 508-943-9134
- BAKE TABLE::** Brenda Lukasek 508-943-4766
Pat Cheever 860-935-5189
- ZION TABLE :** Jayne Boutilier 508-987-582
Zion Youth
- FOOD BOOTH:** Jim Champoux 508-434-0226
Freddie Rivera 203-520-5986
- SET UP CLEAN UP:** Paul Peterson 508-476-7011
Bob Laurens 860-928-9541



If you would like to rent a table, bake or donate articles for sale (no electronics, computers, Televisions etc.) or just help out in any way you can. Please feel free to call the appropriate person listed above.



BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on April 30th at the home of Jean & Paul Peterson, 30 Main St, Douglas at 7:00PM. The novel for discussion, *Weird Sisters* by Eleanor Brown, is about three sisters returning to their childhood home and their struggle to reunite with their parents, childhood friends and each other. Join us for an enjoyable evening and delicious refreshments. Contact Lee Duprey at church or 508-826-1496 with questions.



**WHAT MAKES GOD'S
HOUSE A HOME?**

LOVE DOES

COURSE TO BE OFFERED AT ZION

How to Make God's House a Home

Friday Eve May 4th and Saturday May 5th, 2012

+++A time for fellowship, learning and growing+++

What do we do together as a church? ---"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way...fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

As a congregation we do carry each other's burdens, but we can learn to do it even better. It is in this spirit that Zion is offering this course.

We will learn how to better relate to both active and inactive members. The course content includes:

Hopes and expectations; How to handle chance encounters with inactive members; How to converse comfortably; How to listen effectively; *and* How to invite gently.

ALL members of the congregation can benefit. From this course **Course Schedule:**

Friday, May 4th, 6:00 PM to 9:30 (We begin with dinner)

Saturday, May 5th, 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM (Lunch will be provided)

The course is being sponsored by the Evangelism Committee and will be taught by Pat Bean, Stephen Ministry Team Coordinator.

A registration fee of \$10.00 will help to cover some of the cost of materials.

The **registration deadline is Sunday, April 15th** so that materials may be ordered.

For more information please contact Cecelia Jalbert, Evangelism chair, at 508-248-7006 or Pat Bean at 508-943-2762.

Registration Form (deadline April 15th)

YES, I am interested in taking part in the course *How to Make God's House a Home*. Enclosed is my **registration fee of \$10.00**. (deadline April 15th)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

I am interested in taking this course but cannot do so now. Please let me know the next time that the course is offered. **Return registration and fee to:** Pat Bean, the church office or place in the offering plate.

**FINANCIAL RESULTS
FEBRUARY 29, 2012**

We took in \$11,303 thousand in February and we spent \$12,643 thousand in February Expenses exceeded income by \$1,340 dollars-- resulting in a deficit for February

For the year, we took in \$21,910 thousand and spent \$23,489 thousand through the month of February. For the year, Expenses exceeded income by \$1,580 dollars.

For the 2 months of 2012, Revenue is \$3,228 under budget and Expenses are \$1,648. under budget.

The following is a comparison of 2012 actual to 2012 budget:

	February 2012	Jan-Feb 2012 YTD	Budget YTD 2/12	Over/(Under) Budget	
Operating Revenue	\$ 11,303.27	\$ 21,909.77	\$ 25,137.50	\$ (3,227.73)	
Operating Expenses	\$ 12,643.12	\$ 23,489.40	\$ 25,137.50	\$ (1,648.10)	**
Income Net of Expenses	\$ (1,339.85)	\$ (1,579.63)	\$ -	\$ (1,579.63)	

Expenses	February 2012	Jan-Feb 2012 YTD	Budget YTD 2/12	Over/(Under) Budget	
Benevolence	\$ 969.70	\$ 994.70	\$ 1,716.67	\$ (721.97)	
Pastors Ministry	\$ 5,750.15	\$ 11,564.36	\$ 12,074.83	\$ (510.47)	
Stephen & Youth Ministry	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 325.00	\$ (25.00)	
Worship & Music	\$ 1,845.41	\$ 4,306.24	\$ 4,521.50	\$ (215.26)	
Administration	\$ 835.89	\$ 1,942.74	\$ 2,396.17	\$ (453.43)	
Property Management	\$ 810.33	\$ 1,471.46	\$ 1,184.17	\$ 287.29	
Insurance & Utilities	\$ 2,209.80	\$ 2,497.72	\$ 2,244.17	\$ 253.55	
Education & Outreach	\$ 191.01	\$ 243.51	\$ 408.33	\$ (164.82)	
Evangelism & Hospitality	\$ -	\$ 131.04	\$ 158.33	\$ (27.29)	
Stewardship	\$ 30.83	\$ 37.63	\$ 108.33	\$ (70.70)	
Non-budgeted Expenses	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
	\$ 12,643.12	\$ 23,489.40	\$ 25,137.50	\$ (1,648.10)	**

2011 Operating Budget **\$ 150,825.00**

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE AT 02/29/12 **\$13,981.39**

*Respectfully submitted,
Shirley I. Rossmeisl, Treasurer*

Zion Lutheran Church in Oxford Welcomes a New Pastor



Installation of the Rev. Nancy Beckwith (center)

The Rev. Anne Deneen, Preacher (left)
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Gloucester, MA
Synod, ELCA

The Rev. Daniel Wilfrid (right)
Dean of Central MA Conference, New England
Synod, ELCA

Prayer Concerns

Frank Abissi, Dedrick Baublitz,
Fran and Rebecca Chlapowski,
Brian Cole, **Esther Elliott,** Liesl
Voosen Fields, **Pamela Foy,**
David Jalbert, **Margarethe John-**
son, Ron Johnson, Jonathan MacDonald, **Doris**
Manzi, Jennifer Moore, Lillian Pavovich, **Peter**
Pierce, Len Pauplis, **Barbara Steege,** Mark Sweet

The family and friends mourning the death of Isabel Cannalonga.

To let the pastor know about a prayer concern or to add a name to the printed prayer list, you can tell Pastor Nancy in person or by email, call or email Karen in the office or use the forms in the narthex.



MEMORIAL GARDEN

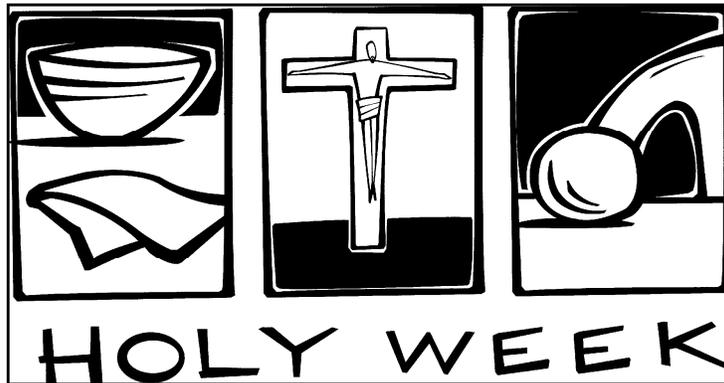
IN MEMORY OF PAULINE KINDLER

Given by Conrad Redlitz

OUTDOOR CHAPEL

IN MEMORY OF SOPHIE T. LAPIERRE

Given by Priscilla Siemienkiewicz



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 1st – Blessing of the Palms and Passion Sunday –
Worship at **9:00** and **10:30 AM**

Tuesday, April 3rd - **6:00 PM** Healing Service
(Note: No Soup Supper this week)

Thursday, April 5th – **7:00 PM** - Maundy Thursday –
Foot washing
Holy Communion and stripping of the Altar

Friday, April 6th **7:00 PM** - Good Friday –

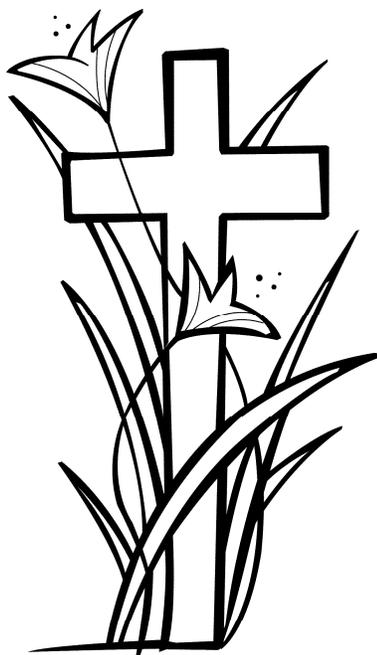
Saturday, April 7th - **7:00 PM**

We are invited to join in the joyous Easter Vigil at
Trinity Lutheran, Worcester - with party to follow.

Sunday, April 8th—The Resurrection of Our Lord -
Easter Sunday Worship at **9:00** and **10:30 AM**
Coffee and Refreshments to follow both services!

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

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OXFORD, MA
PERMIT NO. 23



**I am the resurrection
and the life**