

GOD IS GOOD...ALL THE TIME!

Zion Lutheran Church

APRIL 2009

CONTACT US!

OFFICE HOURS

M-F 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

or by appointment.

Office Phone

(508)987-1248

email Pastor Simon

rev.simon@charterinternet.com

Office email: Karen Borden

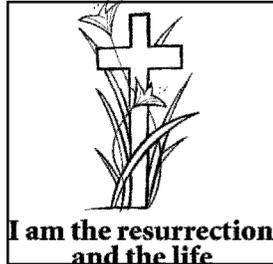
oxfordzion@charterinternet.com

Website

www.oxfordzion.org

Emergency Pastoral Contact:

(508) 987-3958



Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson

2009 EASTER MESSAGE

"Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified ... has been raised." ~ Mark 16:6

When Mary Magdalene, Mary and Salome came to the tomb, their hopes and fears intersected. They wondered aloud about the impossibly large and heavy stone that presented an obstacle to their immediate plans. Worse, what they thought lay behind the stone was unspeakably devastating. Jesus, who embodied the hope of God's promise in a fully human life, was not simply dead, but crucified -- executed in the most extreme humiliation, a savage mockery of the hope that had lived with him.

But the stone was gone, the grave empty. Where they had expected to hear the silence of death's mockery, they were met by an astonishing message that the crucified one was raised from the dead, that their hope was victorious over humiliation, and that Jesus lives and is leading the way into an unexpected, surprising future with God.

Jesus lives and resurrection hope beckons. Jesus' resurrection on the third day signals that God is not finished until the life of Jesus renews the whole creation. Sinners once haunted by the threats of judgment will live forgiven, restored, renewed and freed. All lives broken by sin's injustices and haunted by death's terrors will be transformed by joy and transfigured into the new creation in Christ.

You and I are witnesses of this new creation. You have been baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection and have heard his promise. Your lives are hidden in his and he feeds you with a foretaste of the eternal feast of joy. He will meet you in your hope. He claims your daily work and makes it into a holy calling. He lives in you and sends you into the world as an ambassador of reconciliation, a testimony of God's incomparable love. Jesus lives! Your life in him is resurrection witness.

"This is our God; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation!"

Isaiah 25:9



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MORNING:

9:00 am Early service

10:30 am 2nd service

TUESDAY EVE. WORSHIP

6:00 pm

SUNDAY EDUCATION HOUR

Sunday School 9:30-10:15 am

Adult Forum 9:45 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 4: N. E. Regional Stephen Ministry Mtg. in Bedford, N.H.

Holy Week-see schedule pg. 2

April 5: Palm Sunday

April 6: 6:00 PM St. Ministry supervision Mtg.

April 9: Maundy Thursday

April 10: Good Friday

April 12: Easter

April 14: 7:00 PM Council

April 27: 6:00 PM St. Ministry

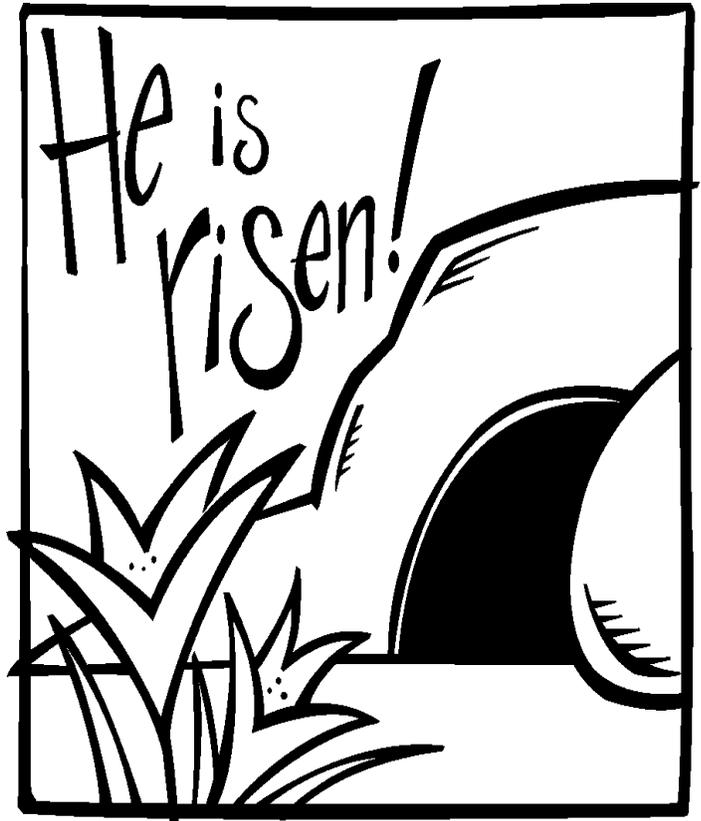
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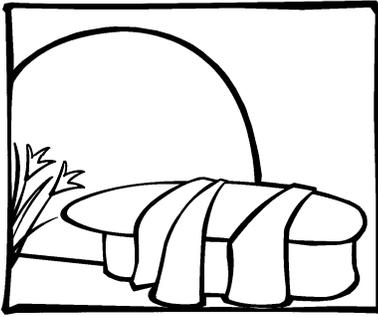
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“GO...

TELL!”





A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR
GO AND TELL?"

"...they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." -Mark 16:8

In Mark's Gospel, this is how the story ends. No joyful shouts of resurrection life. No running and telling. No "ah-ha" moment of realization. Instead, we read about fleeing, silence, and fear. As we gather on Easter Sunday, among the lilies and the tulips, in the sunshine, singing alleluia's, it may be hard to hear that the way Mark tells it, the first Easter was not filled with these things.

Maybe their fear came from the enormous stone that had been rolled away from the opening of the grave. Or, their fleeing was because of the white-robed man sitting inside the tomb, telling them that Jesus is not there anymore. Are they silent because they're told they will see him soon? Maybe they're silent because they're human.

The messenger in the white robe tells the women at the tomb to "go" and "tell" and yet they seem to flee in silence. Maybe we would, too. The first Easter for these followers of Jesus happened in a place that couldn't have been much different from the places where we gather to remember their story. There were no fresh flowers set out for the day. Even if the sun was shining in the sky, it was gloomy in their hearts. That morning, the last thing they may have felt like doing was singing, and "alleluia" was a word that couldn't have been further from their minds.

When we hear Mark's Easter story, we're given the chance to be honest with ourselves about our own fears. When we hear about the women fleeing in silence, we can feel o.k. about the times when we're silent, even though the divine is nudging us to go and tell. When we remember that the resurrection is also fearfully foreign to our human reality, we can allow ourselves to be filled with the awe that it surely inspires.

Jesus lives! And because he lives, we live too. As human followers of a God made flesh. As human people, freed by a God who was willing to be human, too. At Easter, we can do what God made us to do, stand in awe of Him and worship with faith, even when we're fearful.

God's Peace! Pastor Andrew



HOLY WEEK AT
ZION

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 5th

9:00 AM

10:30 AM

MAUNDY

THURSDAY

April 9th

1:00 PM

(The 1:00 is a simple
prayer service)

7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

April 10th

*Cantata presented by
Zion Sr. Choir*

1:00 PM

7:00 PM

EASTER

April 12th

9:00 AM

10:30 AM

GREAT NEWS FOR ZION'S STEPHEN MINISTRY

Starting on March 30, we began our second Stephen Minister Training class! The Stephen Ministry has received tremendous support within our congregation over the past two years. Because of that support, the majority of Zion's Stephen Ministers are busy helping others within our congregation. We need to increase the number of Stephen Ministers, in order to continue to provide support to those in need. We have plans to expand our ministry beyond our congregation to those in need within our community. This is a great testament to your faith and support in the Stephen Ministry.

We have not confirmed the participants as this newsletter article is being typed. We will put the class list in the weekly bulletin when it is finalized. The new Stephen Ministers will be available for assignments in the fall.

*Thank you for all your support,
Susan, Pat and Jackie*



INVITE! INVITE! INVITE!

In preparation for Easter, the Evangelism Committee (thanks to the labors of Frank & Janet Abissi) has ordered special **postcards for us to mail** to friends or family who might wish to join us for worship on Palm Sunday and Easter. The cards have a beautiful current picture of our church and contain all the information about Zion's worship and Sunday School schedule, as well as how to contact us.

If you know someone whom you would like to invite to Zion, **please pick up a postcard** near our Guest Book, add your brief note, and send it on its way.

Also, the Sunday School, Evangelism, and Worship Committees are joining hands to celebrate an **"Invite a Friend Sunday"** at Zion on **May 3rd**. Children and adults alike are urged to "invite a friend". It's much easier to come to church or Sunday school if you know you will have a friend there to meet you and sit with you. Whom might YOU invite?

YOU'RE INVITED – ALL OF YOU — to the **first half hour** of each month's Evangelism Committee meeting when we will focus on a unit of the book: **Me, an Evangelist?** The book discussion will equip us all to better understand the caring ways that we can reach out to others.

Who cares? We care!

Come Tuesday, April 28 at 6:00 pm.

Ken Bean, Evangelism Chr.



DOES THE JOY OF EASTER SEEM FAR AWAY?

For those who are going through difficult times, 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; male Stephen Ministers are always matched with men, and female Stephen Ministers are matched with women. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders: Pat Bean, Jackie Bonneau, or Susan Pierce. **Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!**

ZION JOINS THE LUTHERAN HEALTH- CARE CENTER CAMPAIGN

As part of our support for the "Vision for the Future" Capital Campaign at LHC, Zion has set a goal of **\$10,000 by Easter 2011**. LHC is facing a \$9 million expansion and renovation effort. And, we are joining all of the area Lutheran Churches by offering to share part of the financial burden.

After only two weeks into Zion's campaign for LHC we have received over **\$3,500** in gifts & pledges. You can help us continue to reach our goal by your gifts. Pledge cards are also available in the narthex.

Persons with Thrivent accounts should make their checks payable to "The Lutheran Healthcare Center" and be sure to note your "Thrivent #". All other gifts can be made payable directly to Zion with a note that it is for LHC.



Scott, Jamie, Jack, Jordan and Addison Ranilla have moved to Wisconsin to be closer to Jamie's family. They thank all of Zion for their support and prayers and want everyone to know that they are eternally grateful. We will miss them and send along our best wishes and prayers as they make this transition.



CLEANING IN APRIL

Week of:

- April 6 Mark and Patty Munsch
- April 13 Ossie and Joan Rambarran
- April 20 Dick and Jerry Siegmund
- April 27 Paul Peterson

Keys are available from Karen in the office or from Mike. Directions for coffee hour are on the inside of the cupboard door in the kitchen. Cleaning instructions are in the closet in the fellowship hall.



COFFEE HOUR

- April 5th _____
- April 12th _____
- April 19th _____
- April 26th _____

We need volunteers for coffee for the month of April. Volunteers are needed, if you can fill in any of the above dates please call Karen at the church or Mike at 860-803-1022.



STEWARDSHIP

Alleluia, praise the Lord, Christ has risen. Easter, what a special and wonderful time for Christians. Let us take some time to thank the Lord for sending his only son, Jesus the Christ, who shed the blood of the Lamb of God for the sin of the world.

Who died for us and then rose from the dead to give us eternal life with him in heaven. Let us take this time to celebrate, to bask in the wonder of it all, to soak it up and fill our lives with the joy and love of the Holy Spirit.

Spring has sprung and the trees and flowers come to life with all the beauty that God has given them. Let us to come to life and refresh our commitment as Christians to our risen Lord. Let us burst forth in love and fellowship and spread the "Good News" to all.

Thanks to all that made Lenten donations in honor of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Stewardship is alive and well at Zion, it continues to amaze me the number of people that are stepping up to serve our Lord by helping with cleaning and doing coffee hour. Members continue to sign onto E-giving. It is wonderful to part of such a spirit filled church.

Welcome back to Pastor Andrew and blessings to Kathleen and Jacob!

Interested in Stewardship???? We are looking for at least one new member, please let me know if you are interested.

Yours in Christ, Mike Bellisario, Stewardship Chair



ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH HISTORIC COMMITTEE

The organizational meeting of Zion's Historical Committee was held on March 8. Present at this meeting was Don and Carol Weinhardt (508-461-7424), Paul and Jean Peterson (508-476-7011), Sue Butchman (508-987-3058), and Barbara Steege (508-892-1545). Don Weinhardt was elected chairperson and Jean Peterson volunteered to act as secretary. Subsequent to this meeting, Don attended the Church Council meeting on March 11 and received unanimous approval from members for this committee.

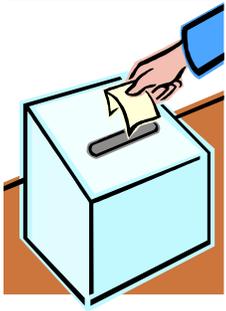
The mission of the committee was outlined: to preserve and protect the history of Zion Lutheran Church of Oxford, and to provide education as to the need to preserve church history. This applies to not only Zion parishioners but also the community at large. Included in this mission will be the former Emanuel Lutheran Church in Webster.

Presently, the committee is collecting all data, documents, artifacts, and photographs pertaining to the history of the churches dating from 1890 to the present. If you can help us in this endeavor, please contact any member of the committee listed above.

In addition, interviews of older members of the church will be held in order to preserve an oral history.

The committee's present goal is to collect, identify, catalog, and acknowledge the collection and to provide a safe storage area for it. It is hoped that eventually a permanent. Rotating exhibit can be achieved.

Thank you for your help. In Christ, Jean Peterson



COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Our May Congregational Meeting is fast approaching, and with it comes the election of new leaders to our church council. The following positions are up for election this May:

- Clerk**
- Financial Secretary**
- Evangelism Chair**
- Property Chair**

Additionally, one-year terms for the positions of **Treasurer** and **Youth Representative** will expire this May. (The one year term for treasurer was approved for Shirley Rossmesl at the close of her second consecutive term in this position last May.) The youth position will be elected for a one year term. The treasurer position will be elected to complete the final two years of a three year term.

Here are some brief "snapshots" of the responsibilities for each position:

Clerk: records and keeps the minutes of all council and congregational meetings.

Financial Secretary: responsible for overseeing counting teams to count and deposit all congregational income. Prepares and distributes quarterly giving statements.

Evangelism Chair: Leads the Evangelism committee in helping Zion to reach out to new people and increase awareness of our ministry in the community.

Property Chair: responsible for the maintenance, protection, and improvement of all property of the congregation

Treasurer: disburses the moneys of the congregation in accordance with the budget. Provides monthly reports to the congregation of receipts, expenditures, and the status of the budget.

Youth Representative: serves as a contact between the congregational council and the youth group at Zion. Communicates and coordinates youth activities.

***More detailed job descriptions are available in the narthex.*

A nomination form is included on this page, as well as in the narthex. If you would like to nominate someone, or yourself, for any of these positions, please fill one out and place it in the nominations box in the back of the church.

Questions? See Doug Holst, Council Vice President and chair of the Nominations Committee

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS 2009

I WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE:

FOR THE POSITION OF: (CIRCLE ONE)

CLERK

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

EVANGELISM CHAIR

PROPERTY CHAIR

TREASURER

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

MEMORIALS

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of

Florence Jacobson

Given by

David and Mary Williams

Ann Constantine

Annette Blazeski

In memory of Gertrude Dojan

Given by

George and Norma Peterson

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY!

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

Margarethe Johnson 23

Shirley Rossmeisl 27

Paula Clark 28



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Barbara Steege, Ron Johnson, Sandy Howland, Brian Quinlan, Marguerite Clark, Mrs. Wurth, Maryanne Grzelecki, Debbie Monaco, Matthew Lucas, Lois Austin, Arthur Siegmund, John Dunphy, Esther Elliott, Frank Abissi, Ronny Waters, Katie Schmidt, Patricia Mokaba, Rev. Don and Rev. Peg Olson, Joyce Gatzke Tavares, Theresa Bromme, Patz and Robert Clark, Al Kilian, Gilbert Thibeault,, Ron Johnson, Alexia Clinton, Wilma Miller, Frank Maher, Margarethe Johnson, Mark Blamire, Barbara Hasenberg, David Marcoux, Robert Nowak, Kathy Witt, Rocky Miller, Jim McGovern, Norman Clark Jr., Albert Risner, Anne Bayer, Phyllis Watkins, Stephen Karp, Isabel Cannalonga, Mary McIntyre, Helen McGovern, Susan Rohr, Bob Blood Jr.,Geraldine Maher, Joyce Cozzens, Bernice Gladue, Dolores Masi, John Laverne, Michael Gustafson, Diana Powers, Peter Pierce, David Healy, Esther Wood; military personnel serving our country at home and in the Middle East especially William Jakola, Brandon Morin, Amanda Theodore, Joel Daoust, Rob Snow, Dedrick Baublitz, Michelle Ramsey, Richard Ramsey, Barbie Miller; and Jesse Meagher; Christians in the Middle East; our partner Synods the ELCJH and the Southeastern Minnesota Synod and the Lutheran Church in Hondouras.

