

GOD IS GOOD...ALL THE TIME!

**CONTACT US!
OFFICE HOURS**

T-F (Karen) 12:00-3:00 PM

or by appointment

Office Phone

(508) 987-1248

Office email: Karen Borden

oxfordzion@charterinternet.org

Website

www.oxfordzion.org

Emergency Pastoral Contact

Rev. John Nieman

508-829-6707

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MORNING:

9:00 am Early Service

9:30 am Christian Education

10:30 am 2nd Service

TUESDAYS 6 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 1: Maundy Thursday

1:00 PM & 7:00 PM Worship

APRIL 2: Good Friday

1:00 PM & 7:00 PM: Cantata

APRIL 4: Easter Services

9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

APRIL 6: 7:00-8:30 PM

Open Forum

APRIL 11: 10:00-11:30 AM

and 12:00-1:30 PM

Open Forum

APRIL 13: 7:00-8:30 PM

Open Forum

Zion Lutheran Church

APRIL 2010

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR NIEMAN

In this past week I began my service as your new Transitional Pastor. "Transitional" is a term I am only recently beginning to comprehend, since my previous full-time pastorate was nine years, and before that it was thirty-one years, and before that it was five years. Most recently I have been serving in the "transitional" mode for about six months.

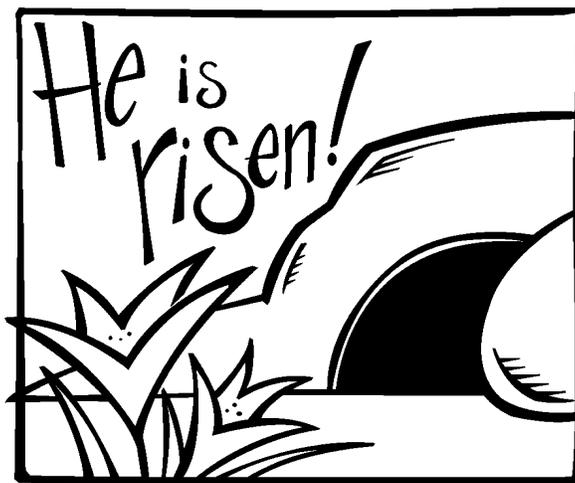
For nearly seven years this congregation has been blessed with the ministry of a gifted, young pastor whom God has recently called to another field of service; and this is now a transitional time, a time of transition until God places another such person to serve among you as he did in these recent years. While your Profile and Call committees work with the New England Synod staff to make necessary preparations for you to call a new pastor for the long term, I will be among you on a part-time basis and wish to be of service to you

I live in Holden, MA (just north of Worcester), and am single. I have two grown children and two grandchildren. As I mentioned in previous announcements, my roots go back to a little town in northern Ohio (one traffic light). My favorite past times are many, but mountain hiking and cycling rank high.

I wish to be of service as your pastor, and all that the title assumes. Please contact me if any pastoral need arises and I shall try to assist. At present it looks like I will be most accessible on Sundays and Tuesdays.

I look forward to getting to know you by name and to share this ministry with you, the ministry to which God has called us, the ministry known as Zion Lutheran Church, a people who are called to "open doors... worship...invite...nurture...and gather."

In His name, Pastor John Nieman



RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

APRIL 4TH, 2010

WORSHIP SERVICES

9:00 AM

10:30 AM

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thankfully the selection and call of a new Pastor does not occur often. Right now we have developed and named members to our "Profile" Committee and Call Committee and, to date, the Profile Committee has started meeting to develop a Profile of Zion.

Only last week I was chatting with a close family member about this Call and he cautioned me that we should not go looking for someone who does not have the 'weaknesses' of our last Pastor. He had? Not to look for that 'improved model' ; that charismatic and loving person who preaches well .He advised me (us) to 'keep an open mind.' HmMMMM.

Suppose you're on the call committee of our church and have only one of two choices. One of the two men is just 30 years old and doesn't have a seminary degree but speaks well, shows good biblical knowledge, and seems to have great potential. The other choice is a 60-year-old seminary graduate who has a doctorate, years of experience in the ministry, speaks with knowledge and authority but obviously is moving toward retirement age. Which would you choose? In this case, it's either-or; so please choose between the two. Let us suppose the criteria for the committee requires you to search for someone older or someone younger than the two options given you. If so, you just excluded Jesus and the Apostle Paul from consideration as pastor of your church. Not to mention other criteria considerations you have that might have disqualified those two. Perhaps. HmMMMM.

Prayer is one of the strongest guides in searching for a match between our Church and a Pastor. It is also one of the best preventives of a Church-Pastor marriage that should not take place. Let us stay focused prayerfully and God will bless us with his Shepherd. This is a time for us to support each other in this important decision and not allow our differences to get in the way of making a choice that is best for our Church, ourselves, our community and our Lord.

To those who volunteered to sit on either the Profile or Call Committees I thank you most sincerely. The response was overwhelming but ,sadly, we only needed just so many members. We hope that those who did not get the call to sit on these Committees realize that we will, in some format, still need your involvement as well as the rest of the Congregation as we move forward in this process to select our next Pastor

Peace
Ossie Rambarran

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Barbara Steege and friends delivered the bedding, linens and kitchen items to Concordia Lutheran in Worcester on the last Saturday in February. As you know, we are helping Liberian refugee families who are resettling in the area. How rewarding it was to hear that by the very next Sunday over fifty percent of the items were distributed and in use! Our congregation was complimented for the high quality and large number of the goods that were donated. Barbara tells us that one of these young families with several children is in need of a washer and dryer. Both parents are working two shifts at different jobs to make ends meet. Visiting the laundromat is time consuming and very expensive. If anyone has appliances that you would be willing to donate, please let Barbara or Paula Clark know. As always thank you to everyone for your compassion and generosity.



SPRING FLEA MARKET CHAIRPERSON NEEDED

Due to personal commitments Patti and Mark Munsch will no longer be able to chair the Spring Flea Market. This is always an enjoyable day of fellowship and fundraising for Zion. If anyone is interested in taking over this responsibility see Patti or Mark who will give you all the information you need to carry on with this job.



CLEANING

WEEK OF:

April 5: OPEN

April 12: OPEN

April 18: OPEN

April 25: OPEN



COFFEE HOUR

SUNDAY:

April 4: Easter Sunday (no Coffee Hour)

April 11: OPEN

April 18: OPEN

April 25: OPEN

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. ***We need volunteers for cleaning and for coffee for the month of April.*** If you can fill in any of the above dates please call Karen at the church or sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.

STEWARDSHIP

Fellow Christians in this period of transition let us remember what the Lord has told us. Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Let us remember to thank the Lord for all that we have each and every day. The Lord calls each and every one of us to use the gifts and talents that he has given us. Let us continue to use those gifts to make Zion a place where "all are welcome". A place where people will know we are Christians by our love, by our faith and by our stewardship.

It gives me great pleasure to announce two new members to our Stewardship Committee: Dedrick Baublitz and Jeff Murray have joined our committee. I am sure that you all know Dedrick and Jeff and are aware of the considerable gifts and talents that they will share with us.

The committee asks that during this Lenten season that you prayerfully reflect on Christ's journey in your personal and daily lives. Christ sacrificed all he had for us. Are we living our lives in honor of our risen Christ? What is it that he would have you do? Some of you made covenants at our Stewardship supper and placed them on the covenant tree. Have you remembered those covenants?

Signup sheets for coffee hour and cleaning the church are on the back wall. We are all part of our church family and we all should participate in whatever way we can to make Zion a better place. Many thanks to all that do participate in any way. There are many opportunities at Zion to serve our Lord: committees, spring flea, memorial garden, outdoor chapel, coffee hour, cleaning, Sunday school, Stephen Ministry, worship assistant etc. Which one(s) will you do this year? Ask the Lord and he will answer.

Yours in Christ, Mike Bellisario, Stewardship Chair

PROFILE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dear Fellow Christians,

The **Lord's** plan is a perfect plan so as we enter into the process of calling a new Pastor to Zion, there is an air of excitement and uncertainty so let us **pray** to the Lord our God for guidance. Trust in and ask for God's will as you fill in the attached Ministry Site Profile survey.

It is the responsibility of the **Ministry Site Profile Committee** to collect information about our congregation in order to put together a profile that will be posted on the ELCA website. Candidates will read our profile and decide if they are interested in coming to Zion.

It is important that you give thoughtful consideration to the attached survey and fill it out and return by **April 6th**. The committee needs to collect the data and put it into the Ministry Site Profile report in a timely manner. This work needs to be completed and posted on the ELCA website before the Call Committee can do their work.

You may return this confidential survey in the enclosed envelope or just drop it off at one of the Church services. Thank you in advance for your timely response.

There will be four **Open Forums** where members will have an opportunity to provide additional input. **April 6th and 13th from 7 – 8:30pm, April 11th from 10 – 11:30am and 12 – 1:30pm.**

Members of the profile committee are: Dot Sundman, Mike Bellisario, Susan Schade, Bob Laurens, Pat Bean, Tara Hebert, Maureen Stake and Cindy Joslin.

We would ask for your **prayers** and **support** for our committee as they go forward with this very important process for the future of Zion. Yours in Christ,

Dot Sundman, Michael Bellisario
Co-Chairs MSP committee

Adult Education



**INVITATION TO ADULT
FORUM**

Pastor Ken Bean will be leading the Adult Forum each Sunday at **9:45 AM** in the **Koinonia Room**. Plan to pick up a coffee and join us for discussion and fellowship .

ALL ARE WELCOME!



STEPHEN MINISTRY FUNDRAISER

The Stephen Ministry has placed samples of our cut shell project in the glass display case in the Narthex. This project is used as a fund raiser to defray our expenses. We have still more items that can be displayed also available. Any Stephen Minister will be happy to help if you have any questions or call Carol Weinhardt at 508-461-7424 if you wish to place an order or purchase an item in stock.



GREENING REPORT

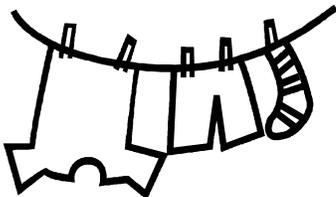
In 2008 Zion decided to make environmental stewardship a priority as a church and our Greening committee was born. During 2009 the Greening committee merged with the Property Committed but we continued to make great progress toward our original goals of improving energy efficiency, recycling more waste and making our church a healthier, less toxic environment. It's been a challenging yet fun process for all of us involved and in the meantime energy savings have translated into cost savings for the congregation

Our first push of the year was to start promoting regular recycling for Sunday bulletins and all paper around the church. Our recycling bins are now regular fixtures at Zion and thanks to everyone who's been using them. In March we had a free Energy Audit conducted through NStar which gave us several great recommendations for being more energy efficient- new appliances, better weather stripping for doors, better lighting methods and strategies for programming our thermostats. We've set off to put several of these items into practice. New weather stripping has been added to the church doors and this alone has been a marked improvement for overall energy efficiency. Over the summer we took our recycling campaign a step further and significantly cut back on bulletins and paper use during the summer slow down. The church office estimated we saved almost 4,000 pieces of paper and 8,000 copies without any noticeable disruptions. A little sacrifice on our part saved resources and money.

Finally over the last few months we've moved forward with replacing our old refrigerator for a newer energy efficient one and we've also had some green non-toxic cleaning products donated to promote a healthier church

in the year ahead, we hope to continue these efforts to improve our resource management and promote environmental stewardship across Zion. As always we are open to new ideas and invite anyone who would like to be involved to join us.

Jason Craley



GREENING TIP

Now that spring is almost here it's time to take advantage of the warmer, sunnier weather. If you don't have a clothesline this may be a good time to consider getting one. Drying your clothes on an outside line instead of using a dryer can add up to significant energy and cost savings.



STEPHEN MINISTRY NEWS

Stephen Ministry hosted an information night on Thursday February 25th at the church. We now have one male and one female candidate in our application process. We are still looking for more interested participants. We really need to have at least six interested individuals before we can proceed with the training classes. These classes are also available to people who are in leadership positions in our church. There are a variety of important topics that are covered that could be helpful in this transition process. You can take the classes without becoming a Stephen Minister. If you are interested please see a Stephen leader.

Charlene Howland who is presently one of our Stephen Ministers is participating in the Stephen Leader Training Conference in St. Louis Missouri, which is the home to the corporate offices of Stephen Ministry. Although this is a rigorous training schedule for Charlene it is also a fantastic spiritual opportunity for her. She will be gone from 4/11-4/17 and we pray for her safe travel and blessings on her family during her absence.

If you have any Stephen Ministry questions, please feel free to reach out to your Stephen Ministry Leadership Team.

Pat Bean

Jackie Bonneau

Susan Pierce

Pam Olson

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK

<http://www.facebook.com/ZionLutheranChurch>

I think a lot of people enjoy the Facebook experience more than just a static web site. All members (fans of the page) can read and write comments. I've had this going now for a little while and it is used some but it's a good place to talk about things and to post notices and of course I like to put pic and videos up there. Anyone can also post their pics and photos up there.

Currently I am the only admin on that site so if someone puts something up there and it needs to come down I can do that. So far I haven't seen that problem and/or a problem with spammers.

So it might be a useful tool for some to feel involved and keep current and of course to share things So once again, that Facebook address is:

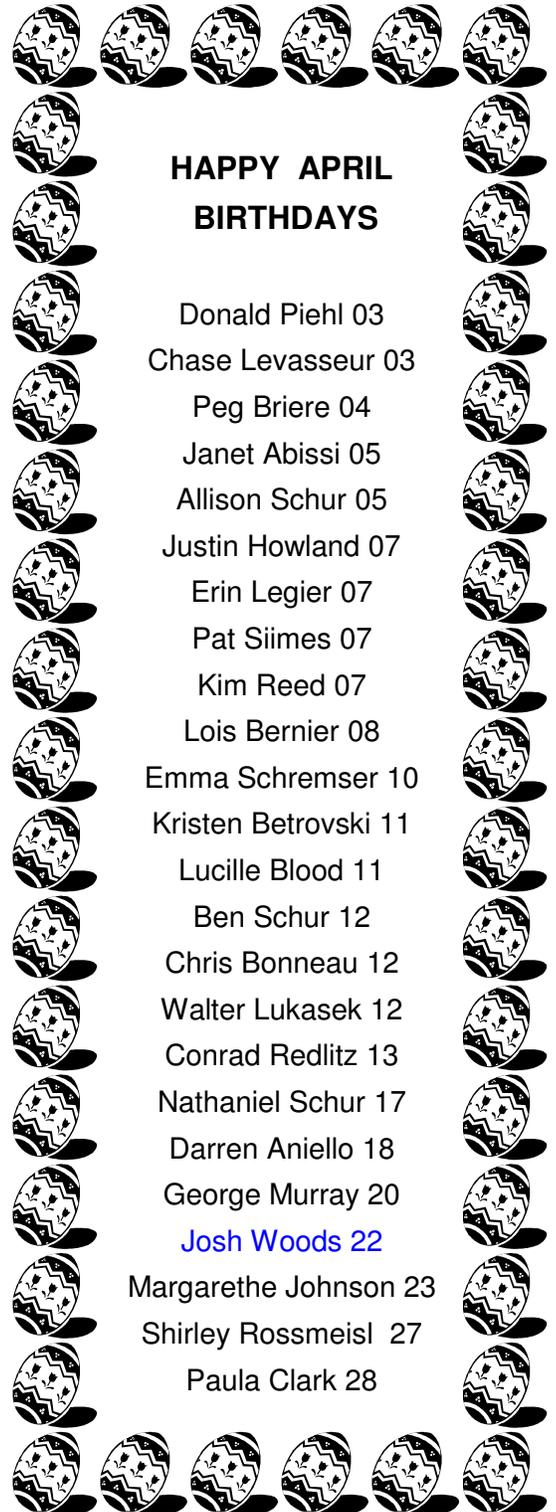
<http://www.facebook.com/ZionLutheranChurch>

Mark Bachand

OPEN LETTER PASTOR'S FAREWELL!

I want to thank all those who contributed to the wonderful farewell service/reception for Pastor Andrew, Kathleen and Jacob. It was indeed a day of celebration and the sharing of wonderful stories of Pastor's time with us, here at Zion. There was joy, laughter and tears as people shared their personal stories about Pastor Andrew. They told how Pastor had touched their lives in so many ways. It was a day that people got to say their goodbyes. Thank you to all that contributed to the gifts for Pastor and his family. It was a wonderful day for a wonderful Pastor. It is a day that I will not forget.

Yours in Christ, Michael Bellisario



HAPPY 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

MEMORIALS

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

In memory of
Donna Cannalonga Harris
From Barbara Steege

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of
Gertrude Dojan
From George and Norma Peterson



NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE

The deadline for the news-
letter is always on the **15th**
of each month. The newsletter is always
mailed on the last Tuesday of each
month. All are invited to contribute news



OUTDOOR CHAPEL AND

MEMORIAL GARDEN CLEAN-UP

Spring is here and soon our
thoughts will turn to our worship in
the Outdoor Chapel. Keep an eye
out for notices in the weekly bulletin for word
about our spring clean-up in preparation for
outdoor worship which begins sometime in
June.



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Karen Johnson, Isabel Mazzarella, Elizabeth Mueller, Andy Bowman, Margaret Briere, Carol Radzik, Dennis Mercer, Matthew Karp, Sten-Eric Westin, Walter Schur, Michael Johnston, Al Killian, Louise Cyr, Jackie Bean, Fran Chlapowski, Rebecca Chlapowski, Esther Elliott, Tom Mallett, Fred Grindle, Eleanor Gadoery, Mala Abdella, Ruth Jenks, Josie Hendrix, Raymon Angel Nunez, Pamela Foy, Jeri-Lynn Berlin, Ron Johnson, Sandy Howland, Bruce Arnott, Arthur Siegmund, Brian Quinlan, Mrs. Wurth, Maryanne Grzelecki, Debbie Monaco, Matthew Lucas, Lois Austin, Frank Abissi, Patricia Mokaba, Rev. Don and Rev. Peg Olson, Theresa Bromme, Patz and Robert Clark, Gilbert Thibeault,, Alexia Clinton, Wilma Miller, Frank Maher, Margarethe Johnson, Mark Blamire, David Marcoux, Robert Nowak, Kathy Witt, Rocky Miller, Jim McGovern, Norman Clark Jr., Albert Risner, Anne Bayer, Phyllis Watkins, Isabel Cannalonga, Mary McIntyre, Susan Rohr, Geraldine Maher, Dolores Masi, John Laverne, Michael Gustafson, Diana Powers, Peter Pierce, David Healy, military personnel serving our country at home and in the Middle East especially Airman D. J. Kelley, Eric Streich, Matthew Cremonni, William Jakola, Brandon Morin, 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.

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