

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

FEBRUARY 2011



The Bible is filled with accounts of what we often refer to as, "miracles." We tend to include among these such events as the parting of the Red Sea, or Jesus' healing the lepers and the lame, his opening blind eyes and unstopping deaf ears and giving speech to those who are mute. And, we can't forget the catch of fish and the stilling of the sea.



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

But, one Bible scholar shared a helpful insight when in a humorous remark he said, "Events like the parting of the Red Sea are just 'special effects' when compared to the miracle of God changing peoples hearts." When the stingy becomes generous, and the self-centered becomes other-centered, and the mean-spirited becomes kind, and the cowardly becomes bold, and the merciless becomes merciful, and the hopeless becomes hopeful—when things like that happen, something as miraculous as the stilling of a sea has taken place. And it is the power of God at work as much as any of the more dramatic special effects that we often call miracles.

We may overlook these kinds of miracles because we tend to put the emphasis on the person, so that the biblical story becomes a story about the power of human beings to change their lives. But whole biblical story is a story about the power of God.

An example of such a miracle is seen when Jesus called four fishermen to follow him. "Follow me," said Jesus; and immediately they began to follow him. This is not a story about human beings changing their lives. This is a story about the power of God at work within people.

Well, that power of God is still at work in our midst. It may not be as dramatic as a parting sea, but it is God's power at work. It may be as ordinary as one person reaching out to console another person, or a child volunteering to be of help in the church, or a teacher patiently going about her task, or a grieving person finding it possible to feel joy again, or two persons formerly at odds with each other beginning to see each other in a new light.

There are miracles all around us. God's power is at work among us.

Yours In Christ, Pastor John



FEB. 5: 5:30 PM
Movie/Dinner Night

FEB. 6: "Souper Bowl of Caring" Sponsored by the Confirmation Class

FEB. 8: 7:00 PM Church Council Mtg.

FEB. 14 : 5:00-9:00 PM
Stephen Ministry

FEB. 28: 5:00-9:00 PM
Stephen Ministry



"MOVIE & DINNER NIGHT"

FEBRUARY 5th
5:30 pm

Bring the family. Bring your friends.

ITALIAN FEAST
FAITH BASED ACTIVITY
MOVIE ON THE BIG SCREEN
FILLED WITH **HOPE**
ACCEPTING FOOD DONATIONS FOR
OXFORD FOOD PANTRY
CHARITY OUTREACH
CHILDRENS' ACTIVITIES AND MOVIES
TOO!
BE PART OF MAKING WONDERFUL
MEMORIES AT ZION.

QUESTIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO
LISA BETROVSKI
508-248-4547



SNOW DATE 2/6/11
FOLLOWING WORSHIP



SNOW SHOVELING

We are looking for some volunteers to help with snow shoveling. The majority of the lot is cleared by a snow plow (courtesy of Bob Laurens) and as this is done between other jobs, often times the shoveling of the walkways cannot be done. So, we are looking for a list of people who would like to lend a hand in this area and be on a call list of people who can take care of the shoveling on an "as needed basis". If you are interested, please see Jim Champoux or Bob Laurens so they can take your name and contact information. Thanks

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



On Sunday, February 6 our confirmation students will be participating in the annual "Souper Bowl of Caring". They will be collecting in their soup

pots after each service on Sunday. Even though our Patriots are not in it this year, we can still take this opportunity to make cash donations to this worthy cause. All of the money collected goes directly to our local food shelf right here in Oxford. Please give generously! Pam Olson

BOOK CLUB



The next meeting of the Zion Book club will be held **February 21 at 7:00** at the church. The book for discussion will be "The Thorn" by Beverly Lewis, a look at the Amish lifestyle in Pennsylvania. Delicious refreshments, as always, will be served after.

New members are always welcome.



SNOW CANCELLATION

In the event of a snowstorm, notifications at Zion will be recorded on the church voicemail. If you have a question about whether or not worship services are still on, call the church office at **508-987-1248**. If they are cancelled, the message will reflect that.



EVANGELISM

Invitation can be an important way to welcome a family member, a friend or a neighbor to our church. Invitation is one of the most often reasons given for someone not brought up in the church becoming a member. Someone cared enough to invite them.

Since becoming a member of the Evangelism Committee I am amazed at how often I see examples of evangelism in the scriptures that I just wasn't aware of before joining the committee. I knew the stories, but often missed the evangelism taking place in them and how often invitation was a part of it. Speaking to the crowd in Matthew 11:28-29 Jesus says "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me..." This invitation was given to all who would come to Him. "Follow me" was an invitation given to His disciples. Jesus also invited the rich young man to sell what he had and give it to the poor and come and follow him. Jesus knew how hard it would be for this man to give up his riches, and that he would go away sad, but he gave the invitation anyway. Jesus invited himself to dinner at Zaccheus house. Zaccheus responded positively to Jesus and his life was changed. Jesus said to him "Today salvation has come to this house." It was John the Baptist who told his disciples that Jesus was "the Lamb of God" and they followed Jesus. It was Andrew who told his brother Simon (Peter) that Jesus was the messiah and brought him to Jesus. Sometimes the invitation came to a believer from someone who was seeking God. Such was the case with Philip and the Ethiopian. An angel told Philip to go south to a road that went from Jerusalem to Gaza. Philip obeyed and met an Ethiopian eunuch who was reading a passage of scripture and invited Philip to come sit with him and explain what he was reading.

Invitation is just as important to us as it was to Jesus and His disciples. We have a very special event scheduled for February 5th that could be an opportunity for you to invite someone you know to come with you. The Hospitality Committee is hosting a Movie and Dinner Night at Zion beginning at 5:30 p.m. Lisa Betrovski, Hospitality Chairman has even made up some invitations that we can insert the person's name. These invitations are in a pocket that is part of the poster describing this event. Look for the poster in the back of the church, take one or more invitations, ask God for discernment about who He would like you to invite, **GIVE THE INVITATION, and come and have a great time.**

Cecelia Jalbert, Chairman



STEPHEN MINISTRY

JOURNEYING THROUGH GRIEF

"Journeying Through Grief" is a set of four short books to send to grieving people throughout the first year after their loss.

It provides a powerful, distinctly Christian resource for reaching out to those who are grieving during that difficult first year.

This booklet set is available for your review in the library along with instructions for personally ordering copies from Stephen Ministries, St. Louis, which you may send to a relative or friend experiencing such loss.

To Note: Stephen Ministry at Zion provides these booklets for our Pastor's use in ministering to those who are grieving.

CHRISTIAN CARE LIBRARY

Location: Koinonia Room

Purpose: To provide Christian educational books and resources that address spiritual and emotional needs in the support of our wellness, wholeness and growth in God's grace.

Members and friends are invited to become familiar with and use these resources. The sign-out and return procedure is outlined in the sign-out book on the library shelf.



**FINANCIAL RESULTS
DECEMBER 31, 2010**

	Month of December	Year to Date	Budget YTD 12/12	Over/(Under) Budget
Operating				
Revenue	\$ 13,636.47	\$ 123,436.09	\$ 160,288.00	\$ (36,851.91)
Operating				
Expenses	\$ 10,286.89	\$ 116,354.02	\$ 160,288.00	\$ (43,933.98)
Income Net				
of Expenses	\$ 3,349.58	\$ 7,082.07	\$ -	\$ 7,082.07

Expenses	Year to Date	Budget YTD 11/12	Over/(Under) Budget
	Salaries	79,218.92	116,204.00
General Administration	14,725.21	13,979.00	746.21
Property	17,184.75	22,450.00	(5,265.25)
Education	1,113.57	2,950.00	(1,836.43)
Worship	2,757.96	2,530.00	227.96
Stewardship	477.60	675.00	(197.40)
Evangelism	58.48	300.00	(241.52)
Social Ministry		200.00	(200.00)
Ecumenical Council	50.00	100.00	(50.00)
Stephen Ministry	367.53	900.00	(532.47)
Reimbursed expenses	400.00	-	400.00
	\$ 116,354.02	\$ 160,288.00	\$ (43,933.98)

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley I. Rossmeisl, Treasurer



SUNDAY FLOWERS

The 2011 Flower Chart (with forms and envelopes) has been posted on the Bulletin Board as you enter the Church! Please consider remembering a loved one by signing up for an altar arrangement to adorn our Chancel. Arrangements are still only **\$19.00** per Sunday. Perhaps you could **“Share A Sunday”** with another parishioner. If you have any questions or would like to order a special type of arrangement, please contact **Jean Peterson, flower coordinator**, at **508-476-7011**. Thank you!



Remember in Prayer

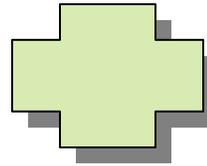
our prayers are requested for: Brian Cole, Debbie Forsman, **Pamela Foy**, **Margarethe Johnson**, Jonathan MacDonald, Joanne McCue, Jennifer Moore, **Marilyn Siegmund**, and Harry Tucker.

Parishioners of Zion Lutheran Church are in **bold**, and additional Prayer List forms can be found on the credenza in the Narthex.



**FEBRUARY
BIRTHDAYS**

- Jennifer Baublitz 01
- Jeff Lundquist 03
- Kayla Champoux 7*
- Norma Peterson 08
- Kathryn Champoux 9*
- Simone Arent 11
- Rebecca LeBoeuf 12
- Betty Keegan 14
- Thelma Shell 15
- David Basins 15
- Victor Lempicki 17
- Lisa Betrovski 18
- Sarah Craley 18
- Robert Blood Jr. 19
- Pauline Kindler 19
- Nathan Craley 21
- Ethan Piehl 23
- Katelyn Betrovski 25
- David Bernier III 28



**LENTEN SCHOOL
OF THEOLOGY**

**- Central Massachusetts Conference,
ELCA -**

MARCH 13

MARCH 20

MARCH 27

3:30 TO 5:00 PM

**Trinity Lutheran Church,
73 Lancaster Street, Worcester**

Theme: "Lutheran Economy"

- Three mini-courses:**
- Theology of Money**
- Theology of Vocation**
- Theology of Bread**

In order that parents might participate in the courses, Child-care is provided at the church.

MEMORIAL GIFTS TO ZION

MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Louise Cyr

Walter and Brenda Lukasek
Betty Keegan

In memory of Al Rizner

Donald, Virginia, Kevin Cote
Commerce Insurance
Mapfire USA

MUSIC FUND

**In memory of Anna & Ben
Smith**

The Keegan family-Betty Keegan

HISTORICAL FUND

In memory of Ed, Harry, and Tom
The Keegan family-Betty Keegan

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

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

