

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 3, 17: 7:00 PM

Confirmation Class

January 10: 7:00 PM

Church Council Mtg.

January 15: 3:00 PM

Pr. Nancy at LHC

January 16: 7:00 PM

Book Club meeting @ Zion

January 22: 3:00 PM

Installation of Pastor Nancy

January 24: 7:00 PM

Worship Committee

January 29: 9:00 & 10:30 PM

Knute Ogren preaching and talking about Calumet

Zion Lutheran Church

JANUARY 2012



For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace. (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

This passage is so very familiar to all of us. As we begin a new calendar year, rather than urge you to make a resolution to diet or exercise, I encourage you to ponder this Biblical passage. How does it speak to your life? Which of these things do you imagine might happen to you this year. Do you expect a time of healing in your life, a planting, seeking, loving? Perhaps you will move; will you keep or throw away your possessions? Will there be war or peace in your home, in your heart?

Write down these hopes and dreams, fears and joys down. Then observe which of them come to pass in this coming season of your life. Ponder, too, what might come to pass for Zion in this coming season. Pray for us, the people of God, living, loving, struggling, mourning, and dancing our way together through the year that is to come....

Pastor Nancy



A BIG THANK YOU! from Pastor Nancy for the congregational Christmas gift and the many cards received at Christmastime. I enjoyed our first Advent and Christmas together and am looking forward to many more together.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR NANCY

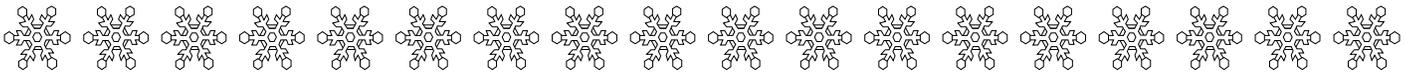
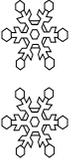
Sundays are busy times to get to know each other one on one. I would love to have personal conversation with each one of you at your home, over coffee, or for lunch. Please let me know when a good time will be to get together.



WEATHER CANCELLATIONS



in case of inclement weather, please call the church office to check for delayed openings of the office and worship or Sunday School cancellation. Please use judgment in deciding whether you can safely travel to Zion.



PASTOR NANCY LEADING LHC WORSHIP

At 3:00 pm, on Sunday, January 15th, Pastor Nancy will be leading worship at the Lutheran Healthcare Center in Worcester. If you would like to come and join in visiting and worshipping with the residents of LHC, please let Pastor Nancy know.

PASTOR NANCY'S INSTALLATION

Pastor Nancy will be officially Installed as Pastor of Zion on **Sunday, January 22nd at 3:00 PM** by the Dean of our Conference, Pastor Dan Wilfrid pastor Immanuel, Holden). After a festive Communion Service, we will enjoy coffee and snacks.

THANKSGIVING ECUMENICAL WORSHIP

Thank you to all who participated in this year's Community Ecumenical Service which took place on November 21st at St. Roch's Roman Catholic Church. It was a great opportunity to gather together with our brothers and sisters in Christ to sing songs of Thanksgiving, to pray, and to give thanks for the many blessings we have. The offering collected that evening benefited the Oxford Food Shelf.



UPCOMING SYNOD AREA MEETINGS

Electing a New Bishop

Two different, but equally important, gatherings will be held in the next few months that will affect the process for the election of our new bishop. Rostered leaders and all interested lay people will gather in conference meetings to consider the mission of the synod and the gifts needed in the new bishop.

Our conference meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 12, at 2:30 PM at Trinity, Worcester.** Information from those conference meetings will be shared and reviewed at the Doing What Matters Mission Area Assemblies to be held throughout the synod during the month of March. Lay people and rostered leaders attending these assemblies will formulate questions which will be asked of the seven top candidates on Friday evening, June 8, at the Synod Assembly.

The Central Mass Mission Area Assembly will be held on Saturday, March 10, at Bethel, Auburn, MA.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY WORSHIP



On Monday, January 16th we have another opportunity to gather together with our ecumenical sisters and brothers in Christ. On the occasion of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we will gather at **9:30 AM on Monday, January 16th at the United Methodist Church in Oxford.** Father Bill Knicki will preach on the topic: "Out of the Mountain of Despair, Comes Hope". Father Bill has a long history of working with the poor in the Worcester Diocese and in Haiti. We will enjoy coffee and conversation afterwards.

THANK YOU!!!

A special thanks to everyone who volunteered during December to help with the Oxford Food Shelf. Your efforts were greatly appreciated!



EVANGELISM NEWS

Happy New Year. The new year traditionally is a time to reflect on the past year and to look forward, making improvements for the future. I too have spent some time in reflection and would like to share with you some of my reflections concerning Christmas and its message. Even in His names there is a message of hope and salvation. He would be called Emmanuel, which means God with Us. He would be called the son of the most high. He would be named Jesus because he will save his people from their sins. In the angels announcement to the shepherds he is called Savior, the Christ (Messiah) and the Lord. When Jesus was brought to the temple Simeon recog-nized him as the Lord's Christ and proclaimed: "My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." Luke 2:30-32. In the story of the visit of the Magi he is called King of the Jews and the Magi come to worship him.

His birth, lineage (House of David) and his place of birth had all been prophesied in the Hebrew Scriptures. During Advent and Christmas many homes and churches have a stable set up complete with Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus lying in a manger with animals and the shepherds who have come to see what the Lord had told them about. It seems a strange thing for the son of God, the Messiah to be born in a stable. Or does it? Is it so strange that Jesus who would one day be called the Lamb of God would be born in a stable? Or that the one who would one day call himself the Bread of Life would be born in Bethlehem a town that in Hebrew means House of Bread? And finally is it so strange that our Lord who offers himself, his body and blood to be taken in the banquet of Holy Communion would be laid in a manger or feeding trough?

The shepherds were the first people to tell what they had seen and heard about Jesus. They're not the last. You and I and all who believe have been given the privilege and responsibility to share this Good News (The Evangel) with others.

Cecelia Jalbert, Evangelism Chair

THRIVENT REPRESENTATIVE BRINGS THE COFFEE!!!

On Sunday, January 8th, Mr. Jonathon Hendrickson, our local representative for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be hosting the coffee hours (after both services). He will be available to share information and answer questions about Thrivent products and services, and ways we can work together with Thrivent to further our ministry here at Zion.

For example: Did you know that if you who have an insurance policy with Thrivent Financial, there is a charitable grant program that you can participate in – directing a donation on your behalf to registered Lutheran institutions. Zion is a participating organization and is eligible to receive your choice dollars. There is no cost to you for this donation. Ask Jon Hendrickson about it when he is here ! or check out their website at www.Thrivent.com.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

As 2011 is coming to a close, we look forward to a fresh start in 2012. 2012 will bring blessings and challenges to each of us. It is important to remember that you don't have to walk through the challenges alone. Zion is truly blessed to have a very dedicated group of Stephen Ministers available to you. Whether you need someone for a short time or an indefinite time frame, they are here to walk beside you. If interested please reach out to Susan Pierce the referrals coordinator, Pastor Nancy or any Stephen Leader. **Pam Olson**



BOOK CLUB

Join us on Zion on **Monday, January 16th at 7:00 PM** for a discussion of **Cutting For stone** a novel by Abraham Varghese. Coffee, snack and conversation. **Please join us! All are welcome!**



CHURCH COUNCIL **MINUTES**

Submitted by **Marleen Bacon,**
Council Secretary

DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

The Zion Church Council met on December 13, 2011 and opened the meeting with devotions given by Pastor Nancy.

Items discussed by various committee chairs were – November financial report and report to date both for expenses and receipts. Discussion was held on having a representative from the solar company come to Zion for a congregational presentation, however, no date was set. Pastor Nancy's transfer from Immanuel in Meriden, CT to Zion was accepted. Replacement will be made for four emergency lights. Upcoming Christmas services were discussed including the Blue Christmas service.

All Committee Chairs presented their reports either prior to or at this meeting.

Complete approved minutes can be found on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

This meeting ended with the Council members joining in the Lord's Prayer.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Susan LeBoeuf

Many thanks to Chris and Jonathan Costello and everyone who helped with, and participated in the children's Christmas program. I also want to thank all of the parents who supported the effort by bringing the kids to rehearsal on a Saturday morning!!

Confirmation is well under way. The confirmation class is working on learning the 10 Commandments. We will welcome the confirmation class to our "Sundae" School Party in the Spring as the entire Sunday School celebrates their success in achieving our class room challenges.

Please continue to help your children learn the Lord's Prayer (pre K and K), the 10 Commandments (grades 1 & 2 and Confirmation), the books of the New Testament (grades 3&4) and the Apostles Creed (grade 5 & 6)



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

It is a new year, and it is a great time to make a new commitment to God's mission here at Zion:

There are many opportunities for your help within the congregation (Worship, property, cleaning, coffee hour, etc.). Please try to help wherever you can. We have posted the new Church Cleaning and Coffee Hour sign-up sheets in the narthex. There are many empty spaces.

Finally, we have still not received pledge/commitment cards from some of you. Please complete one if you have not yet done so and give it to Susan Pierce, Pastor, or place it in the offering plate. Thank you, **Susan Pierce**



LIPY-CM (Lutheran Inter-Parish Youth)

Saturday, February 4th—Pizza/Sundae Party/Extreme Bowling 6:30-10:00 PM

SYNOD-WIDE YOUTH EVENT – WINTER HAMMO

Winter Hammonasset is coming up quick! **February 11th, 2012**--3 hours, 3 bands, 3 types of pizza!

Zion Lutheran Church 41 Whitmarsh Ave. Worcester, MA 01606
3:00PM—6:00 PM



Per person fee is \$15 for early birds (through Feb. 1st) and then \$20 after that date (to see 3 bands and to eat pizza, which is included in the price!), and both youth groups and families are welcome. There will be three bands at Winter Hammo this year: Red Letter Reign, Faith, Hope, & Love (from Messiah Lutheran in Amherst, NH) and The Salvation Band (from Emmanuel Lutheran in West Warwick, RI). Register at www.hammoconnect.com/

Treasurer's Report



**FINANCIAL RESULTS
NOVEMBER 30, 2011**

Income exceeded expenses by \$1,921 dollars-- resulting in a profit for November

For the year, we took in \$114,005 thousand and spent \$101,959 thousand through the month of November. For the year, income exceeded expenses by \$12,046 thousand.

For the 11 months of 2011, income is \$33,709 under budget and expenses are \$45,755 under budget.

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

	November 2011	Jan-Nov 2011 YTD	Budget YTD 11/12	Over/(Under) Budget
Operating Revenue	\$ 11,085.64	\$ 114,005.30	\$ 147,714.42	\$ (33,709.12)
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,164.91	\$ 101,959.25	\$ 147,714.42	\$ (45,755.17)
Income Net of Expenses	\$ 1,920.73	\$ 12,046.05	\$ -	\$ 12,046.05

Expenses	November 2011	Jan-Nov 2011 YTD	Budget YTD 11/12	Over/(Under) Budget
Salaries	\$ 6,581.10	\$ 67,620.60	\$ 107,904.50	\$ (40,283.90)
General Administration	\$ 1,095.98	\$ 12,504.24	\$ 12,309.92	\$ 194.32
Property	\$ 1,228.93	\$ 15,153.98	\$ 20,006.25	\$ (4,852.27)
Education		\$ 1,107.07	\$ 2,612.50	\$ (1,505.43)
Worship	\$ 253.10	\$ 2,077.22	\$ 2,429.17	\$ (351.95)
Stewardship	\$ 5.80	\$ 75.25	\$ 618.75	\$ (543.50)
Evangelism		\$ 313.55	\$ 275.00	\$ 38.55
Social Ministry		\$ 200.00	\$ 183.33	\$ 16.67
Ecumenical Council		\$ 25.00	\$ 91.67	\$ (66.67)
Stephen Ministry		\$ 466.75	\$ 1,283.33	\$ (816.58)
Reimbursed expenses		\$ 2,415.59		\$ 2,415.59
	\$ -			
	\$ 9,164.91	\$ 101,959.25	\$ 147,714.42	\$ (45,755.17)

2011 Operating Budget \$ 161,143.00

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE AT 11/30/11 \$19,514.17

*Respectfully submitted,
Shirley I. Rossmeisl, Treasurer*



**JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS**

- Emma Jonasch 05
- Debbie Plaza 06
- Carol Weinhardt 06
- Richard Piehl 08
- James Williams 12
- Linda Devlin 13
- Krysten Woods 14
- Carol Piehl 17
- Siiri Jonasch 17
- Justin Desmarias 18
- Kelsey Bergeson 19
- Kristina Canty 21
- Hailey Filipkowski 22
- Kurt Redlitz 23
- Jeff Makowski 24
- Alice Grzlecki 27
- Jayne Boutilier 28
- Isabel Canolonga 29
- Braden Levasseur 30

MEMBER EVENTS DURING 2011

In case you missed any of these milestones we are listing them here.

BAPTISMS

- Sabrina Adamiak
- Gracie Baublitz
- Patrick Grenier
- Xavier Higgins
- Florissa Lundquist

CONFIRMATION

- Ryan Baronowski
- Kyle Bergeson
- Haylee Olson

WEDDINGS

- Erika Larson and Adam Blais

DEATHS AND FUNERALS

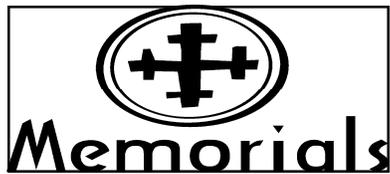
The Rev. Richard Koenig (interim pastor at Zion 1993/ 1994)

- Gary Mattila
- Wilma Miller
- Carol Radzik
- Ruth Schur
- Dr. Walter Schur
- Dorothy Sundman



BLUE CHRISTMAS A SERVICE OF HOPE

The Sanctuary was filled with white candles like I have never seen. A few of the music choices were "Light a Candle in the Night", "Is your Heart Prepared for a King", and "Advent Meditation". The voices, the guitar and piano were filling the room with peace, reflection and healing. Each reading spoke to the heart. Pastor Nancy's reflection brought words of comfort. We all were invited to light a candle and place it in the sand in front of the alter in memory of one who has died, in prayer for one who is ill, with hope for healing broken relationships, in thankfulness for family and friends, or to acknowledge the hope that the coming of Jesus brings to us all. We had times of silence and prayer. We were all invited to a time of healing with prayer and the anointment of oil. As the song "Come and fill our Hearts" was sung. "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy. Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!" The candlelit service concluded with blessings and the sharing of peace. At that time we were invited to the Fellowship Hall for wonderful refreshments and quiet conversation. Some of the conversations that I heard were how wonderful they thought the Blue Christmas service was and how personally they would love to make this a yearly service with the hope that nothing would change because it was perfect! A truly amazing experience.! Lisa.enjoythejourney4@aol.com



In memory of Walter Schur

Outdoor Chapel Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Schur

In memory of Dorothy Sundman

Memorial Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Abissi
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Casperson
Carolyn Shannon

Building Fund
Bob and Tere Laurens

Hospitality Fund
Peter and Lisa Betrovsky

Outdoor Chapel Fund
Betty A. Bernard
Robert Blais and family
Lynn M. Budzynkiewicz
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dahlin
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dahlin
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fadgen
Mr. and Mrs. Travis Grant
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Johnson
Ron and Cindy Joslin
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lambrecht
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Larson
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Larson
Mr. Richard Lundgren
Linda and Isabelle Nelson
Dave and Pam Olson
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Olson
Judy Sampson
Susan Schade

Submitted by Susan Schade

Prayer Concerns

Fran and Rebecca Chlapowski, Brian Cole, **Esther Elliott**, Liesl Voosen Fields, **Pamela Foy**, David Jalbert, **Margarethe Johnson**, **Ron Johnson**, Jonathan MacDonald, **Doris Manzi**, Jennifer Moore, Lillian Pavovich, **Peter Pierce**, Len Pauplis, Mark Sweet.

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.



On Sunday, January 29th, we welcome Mr. Knute Ogren as our guest preacher at both worship services. Knute will share the good news and be available to tell folks all about the many opportunities for recreation, learning and fun available to us at Calumet - the Lutheran Summer Camp, Retreat and Conference Center located in W. Ossipee, NH.

If you have questions about camp for kids, confirmation camp, retreats, or the summer campground, Knute will be glad to answer them. You can find out more at www.calumet.org.



CALENDAR FOR USING THE CHURCH

The 2012 calendar has been posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Please list any committee meetings or other activities along with **their location** on the calendar. This helps others who are planning events or use of church spaces to know if a certain date is available. This also helps the Pastor and Karen when outside groups call to use our space.

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

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Jesus came to be baptized.

Mt 3:13

