

GOD IS GOOD...ALL THE TIME!

**CONTACT US!
SUMMER OFFICE
HOURS**

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**Emergency Pastoral Contact
Rev. John Nieman**

Zion Lutheran Church

June 2010



A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Recently I overheard some people saying that at some time in the not too distant future Zion will be having an anniversary of over a century. What a wonderful thing that can be! It's a time to look back and thankfully notice that God has been at work in this community of believers through all kinds of challenging times. But anniversaries must not consist of only a backward look. A sociologist who has made a life study of churches has noted that when a congregation puts more effort into reminiscing about the past than it does in planning for the future it is not being what God intended it to be.

Many new opportunities are in store for Zion; and when it does come time to plan an anniversary, I would encourage you all to think of some kind of mission project, a kind of thank-offering for all the past decades, perhaps an ongoing partnership with another congregation in the inner-city, or a new congregation that is just beginning somewhere, or a link to a global mission of some kind (Our Synod could provide helpful advice on such things). One thing for certain: the healthiest congregations are those who are too busy with outreach to worry about their own internal tensions. And, as I said before, God has some wonderful opportunities waiting for Zion.

With the calling of a new pastor, Zion will have countless opportunities to live into the future, exploring new ways of serving, while celebrating some rich, long-held traditions and memories.

At some point in the distant past God chose to plant a congregation of Lutheran Christians in this area—and now, it can be kind of exciting to see what surprises he has in store for his people in this place. God's been here all along, and he'll be here in the days to come.

Yours In Christ,
Pastor Nieman

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MORNING:

**9:00 am Early Service
beginning June 20th in the
Outdoor Chapel
10:30 am 2nd Service
Worship in sanctuary**

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 7: 6:00 PM

Stephen Ministry

JUNE 8: 7:00 PM

Church Council

JUNE 13

ONE worship service-10:00 AM

Congregational Meeting

Immediately following

10:00 AM worship

JUNE 20

Outdoor Chapel Worship

9:00 AM , indoor at 10:30 AM

JUNE 21: 6:00 PM

Stephen Ministry

MINISTRY SITE PROFILE COMMITTEE

We would like to thank the members of the Ministry Site Profile Committee: Tara Hebert, Cindy Joslyn, Susan Schade, Pat Bean, Maureen Stake and Bob Laurens for all the hours of work that they put into completing the MSP report. Their input and dedication to completing this task was amazing and appreciated. We are confident that with this profile Zion will get the Pastor that is wanted and needed. Thank you God for your guidance and patience with our committee as we completed the Ministry Site Profile report.

Yours in Christ,

Dot Sundman, Michael Bellisario
Co Chairs MSP Committee



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On **Sunday, June 13th** we will have **one** worship service at **10:00 AM**. Immediately following the service we will have our bi-annual meeting of the congregation at which time we will fill open council seats. The Annual Report for 2009 will be available at the meeting. Please plan to attend.



Our Outdoor Chapel worship services will begin on **Sunday June 20th, at 9:00 AM, weather permitting**. As we have done in previous years, the **9:00 AM** service will be **outdoors** and the **10:30 AM** worship service will be in the **sanctuary**. On Sundays with inclement weather the 9:00 AM will also be in the sanctuary.



STEPHEN MINISTRY NEWS

As we head into the summer months it is important to remember that God does not take vacations. His promises are sure.

Over the summer as you may have time to pause, a good time to reflect on the special gifts that God has given you. Do you find it enjoyable or easy to listen to people? Do others find you easy to confide in? Maybe it is time to seriously look at Stephen Ministry and what you can add to our program. As you notice below we are losing three Stephen Ministers and are always looking for willing participants.

On another note we are always looking for care receivers, people looking for someone to listen, to understand, to just be there. Some burdens in our life don't take a vacation. If you are feeling overwhelmed, hopeless, burdened, please consider a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers don't take a vacation from caring and are available to walk with you as long as you need them in any season.

The Stephen Ministry team would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our three Stephen Ministers who will not be continuing on with us after this June. **Mike and Eileen Bellisario and Jayne Boutilier**. These three individuals were part of the first training class here at Zion and have been an integral part of the growth of this program. They will be missed greatly.

The following individuals will continue to be part of the Stephen Ministry program:

Lisa Betrovski
Martina Eaton
Margaret Heide
Charlene Howland
Siiri Jonasch
Carol Weinhardt
Pat Bean, Leader
Jackie Bonneau, Leader
Pam Olson, Leader
Susan Pierce, Leader



STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship committee will be getting a new chairperson at the June congregational meeting.

Opportunity for Giving

It has been an honor and a privilege to have served as the chair of this committee for the past three years. Zion has become my spiritual family. The committee and members of Zion have supported the various projects and new ideas that were brought forward over the past three years. There was never a “no” Mike that won’t work or you shouldn’t try that. I feel that stewardship has grown at Zion and I pray that the new chairperson will continue this growth. You have a strong committee in place with the following members: Susan Pierce, Paul Peterson, Bob Laurens, Jeff Murray, Dedrick Baublitz and Council President Ossie Rambarran. I have every confidence that not only will they continue the present stewardship programs but will expand on them as well. I want to take this opportunity to thank my committee for all the help and support over the past three years, you made my job easy.

The committee will be conducting a time and talent survey in the near future, probably in the fall. Pray to the Lord over the summer and ask how you might best serve him here at Zion. This is our church family where all are welcome and all should feel that they are part of Zion. What new and exciting ways can you come up with to serve our Lord here at Zion??? Make next year the best year at Zion. There are so many exciting events coming up at Zion, be part of it!!

On a personal note I want to thank all of you for your kind words and prayers as my wife and I continue our journey of faith in Myrtle Beach, SC. You all have made our stay at Zion one that we will never forget. We were always treated with respect and love from day one. We were never treated as outsiders, you made us part of your church family from the outset. We will miss you! Thank you and God Bless!!!

**Yours in Christ, Mike Bellisario,
Stewardship Chair**



GREENING TEAM REPORT

The property/greening committee has made steady progress on completing some much needed upkeep around Zion. We've completed an initial pest control treatment for the ants, mice and bugs that took up residence in the church. This will be followed up with a monthly service until the pest issue is under control and council can reevaluate our needs. We've also replaced two non-functioning emergency light boxes with new, smaller ones in the main hallway and fellowship hall. The Exit sign in the sanctuary was also repaired. As part of Greening we are also considering changing more light bulbs over to CFL and will look at this more closely as we head into the summer months. Several times over the last month, we have been notified that exterior doors have not been shut tight and lights have been left on inside the church when no one was there. Please check when you are the last one out of the building or your committee is meeting to make sure everything is turned off and the church building is secured.

Now that the warm weather and sunshine are here to stay for awhile we need to keep up with the grass. We welcome any volunteers who would be interested in mowing the grass now through the fall. Please see Jim Champoux or Jason Craley if you are interested. We are also still planning a church cleanup sometime in the near future, keep checking the church bulletin for more details as they're available.

Greening Tip-



Insulating your house isn't just for the winter months. It also helps keep your home cooler in the summer thereby saving energy on fans and air conditioning. There are several good insulative products out there. Some claim to deliver significant savings in annual energy bills (up to 40%!) but as with anything do your research first and choose what's best for you. Regardless of what you go with keep in mind that new tax guidelines from the Obama Administration allow you to write off up to 30% of the cost of insulative materials or a maximum of \$1500 on your 2010 federal income tax return. This is a great incentive to go green and save a few greenbacks along the way.

**“A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the
Mission Site Profile (MSP).....”**

The process of developing the MSP was to survey the congregation for its input as to “who we are” and “where we are going” so that a potential Pastoral candidate could review the information to see if he/she was a match to our situation. Thus surveys were mailed out, open forums were conducted and verbal input was heard.

As a committee our job was to collect the information and compile it into the requested areas of the Synodical Mission Site Profile document.

I would like to share with you two interesting observations that were made in this process of purposeful and intense collaboration of the material.

Our congregation, as a whole, is thinking very much alike on what is seen as our purpose and the mission we wish to carry forth into the world!

It was beautifully heartwarming to see such cohesiveness of faith and spirit!

We have committed goals! What is needed now is to work on a strategic plan to unify these goals into a forward defined purpose.

Zion has an exciting future in being God’s light in the world!

The second thing that occurred as we seriously absorbed ourselves in the purposes and goals of Zion’s members was that ...

An excited energy permeated our spirits as we absorbed and thought about these goals!

Wouldn’t it be wonderful to regularly gather around these goals as we look forward to celebrating Zion’s 125th anniversary in 2015? Could this same exciting energy, which permeated our group working this task, be also felt by each and every member as we work and grow together into the future?

May God’s spirit so continue to work among us as we continue our journey in faith!

**By the time this newsletter is printed the Profile submitted to the Synod will have been posted in the narthex and fellowship hall for members of the congregation to read.*

The above is a Profile Commentary by Pat Bean

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE NEWS BY DONALD WEINHARDT

UPDATE ON THE SAFE

Since the inception of this committee, we have been gathering from all sources, within the church and out, all material significant to the 120 year history of Zion. This archival material has been organized, catalogued, inventoried and securely stored. Early this year it became apparent that we had searched all areas, but one, and we were still missing a significant amount of records that should exist. The one thing that we had not been able to check was the old safe, brought here from the Webster Church, and stored down the utility room in the basement. We spent some time trying to locate people who might have knowledge of the contents, or even know if there were any contents. Everyone felt that there had to be a reason this very heavy safe was brought here when the church moved, but no one could ever remember seeing the safe open. We then tried to locate the combination for the lock, even though the dial mechanism had been damaged at some time. This could have happened at any time by someone legally or illegally trying to gain entry. No one that we were able to contact had the combination. We then got an estimate from a local locksmith to open the safe, which came in at between \$400.00 and \$600.00. This seemed a bit of a gamble, considering we were not sure if anything was inside. Subsequent to that, Paul Peterson had a conversation with Bob Stonebreaker. Bob felt with some special tools her could gain entry to the safe.

On April 20th I went before the Church Council to explain the situation and get approval to give this a try. Council was very supportive and gave unanimous approval to the attempt. (I think the only reservation was "no blasting".)

On Tuesday evening, May 4, Bob Stonebreaker assisted by Paul Peterson spent 2 1/2 hours of hard labor and gained access by cutting through a side panel of the safe. The side panel was hardened steel on the outside backed by 6" of dense concrete then an inside wall of steel. An opening of about 12" by 10" was created and we could see that there **were contents**. Everything that was in ;the safe was removed through this opening. This included ledgers, loose leaf book, file folders, loose papers in envelopes, etc. Also a quadruplicate collection plate from 1906 (this was the only item damaged, it was cut by the saw blade) and a pot metal, three footed round base, this looks like it should have had a glass dish insert.

The next day as I cleaned all the material, as one might expect it was covered in cement dust, I made a list of what was found. This is a partial list of what was recovered: a completer set of detailed minutes for all Congregational, Special and Council meetings from 1890-1972, these minutes included the Constitution and By-Laws, election results etc., all the deeds, mortgage and purchase and sale documents for the Webster Church, parsonage, and Morris Street Christian School, and the Oxford Church. Also, our application to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for our Incorporation, and the certifications granting same dated 1906, our Employer Identification Number certificate, our name change request and certificate dated 1984, correspondence to and from Pastor Zimmerman, and many insurance policies. Conclusions: all our missing significant documents are now accounted for and the last time this safe was opened was about 1985. Thanks to the Church Council for their support and to Bob Stonebreaker and Paul Peterson for the hard work. If anyone has the inclination and ambition to write a detailed history of Zion, all the necessary reference material is now available.

GIFTS TO THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE ARCHIVES

Since my last report in the March Newsletter, 2 additional gifts to the archives have been received. The first is from Christine Cozzens-Costello, 2 black and white photos, the first is 5"x7" and the subject is "Breaking Ground for Emmanuel Lutheran Church, April 11, 1926, the second is 7"x8.5" and the subject is the "Dedication of Emmanuel Lutheran Church", August 8, 1926. (Note-The "good old days," from a hole in the ground to dedication of the building took 4 months.)

The second gift was from Barbara Steege, consisting of: "Report of the Facility Needs and Improvements Committee, Zion Lutheran Church, Oxford, MA, January 2005", Commemorative booklet, " 100 Years, 1890-1990, On Our Way—Rejoicing, Zion Lutheran Church, Oxford, Massachusetts", and programs and photos of events held by the Homebound Ministry for 2006 and 2007

MEMORIALS

MEMORIAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF JOYCE COZZENS

Given by:
P. O. O'Brien
Jolynn Kilier
Betty and Robert Yanczewski
John and Nancy Cozzens
Frank and Janet Abissi

IN MEMORY OF BARABARA HASSENBERG

Given by:
Jeanne Hartman
Scanlon Funeral Home

MUSIC FUND

IN MEMORY OF JOYCE COZZENS

Given by:
Paul and Jean Peterson
Dick and Paula Clark
Helene Bejune
Sharon Streich

IN MEMORY OF AL KILIAN

Given by:
Cynthia Jacobson
William and Janice Holland
Edward and Ann Keefe
Amy Canty
Kris Canty
Dot Sundman
Conrad Redlitz
Marlene Bacon
Emma Schremser
Barbara Steege
Sharon Streich
Helene Bjune
Paul and Gerri Siegmund
Ed and Shirley Rossmeisl
Brenda and Walter Lukasek

ENDOWMENT FUND

IN MEMORY OF AL KILIAN

Given by:
Dr. Walter R. Schur

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

IN MEMORY OF BARBARA HASSENBERG

Given by:
Paul and Jean Peterson

IN MEMORY OF JOYCE COZZENS

Given by:
Norma Durand

IN MEMORY OF ESTHER ROTHENBURG

Given by:
Isabel Cannalonga

IN MEMORY OF JOEY CANNALONGA

Given by:
Barbara Steege
Dick and Gerri Siegmund

THE OUTDOOR CHAPEL

**IN HONOR OF MARGARETHE JOHNSON'S
100TH BIRTHDAY**

Given by:
Frances and Patricia Baul
Lois Taylor



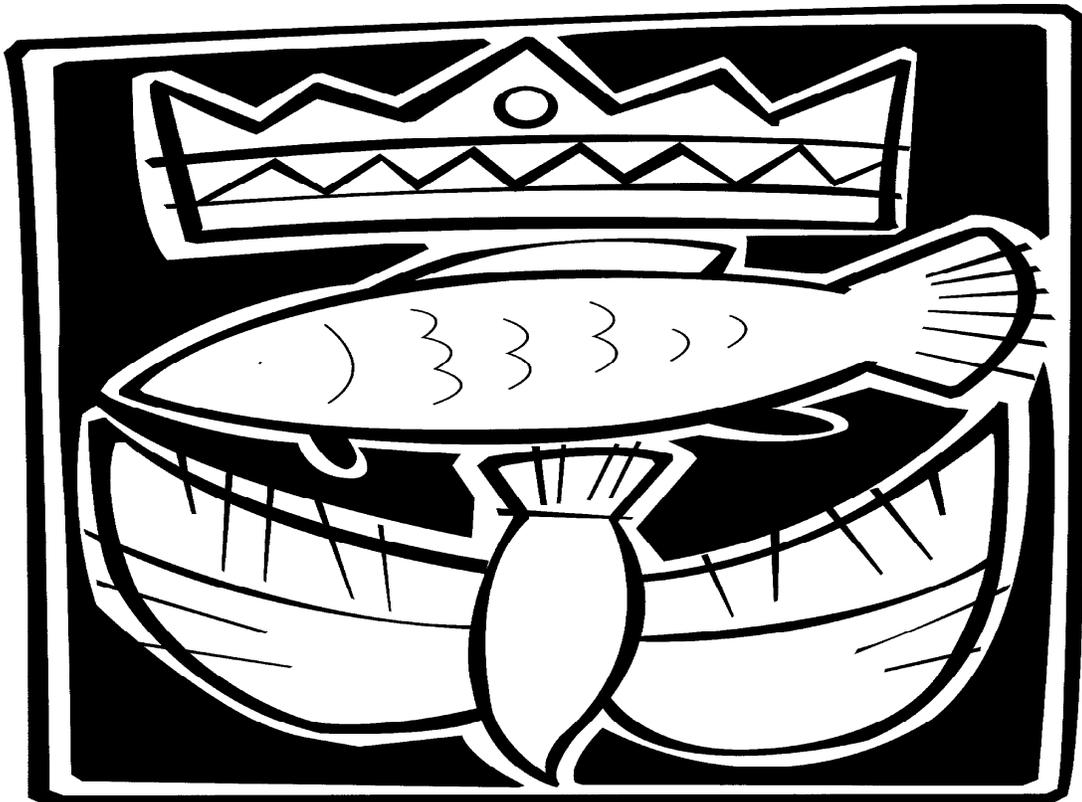
ZION'S CARD MINISTRY

Approximately 20 note cards with prayerful messages are sent to our church family members each monthly. They are our Shut-ins, Homebound, and Nursing Home friends. This ministry is requesting someone to volunteer to send 10 cards each month assisting in this Christian service. Scripture cards and first class stamps are always in need and appreciated.

Contact Margaret Heide—508-943-5443.

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ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM