

Zion Lutheran Church

MARCH 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



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

March 8: Daylight Savings

March 8: Lutheran Healthcare Sunday at Zion

LENTEN SCHEDULE

March 3, 17, 31: 6:00 PM soup and 7:00 PM worship at United Methodist Ch., Oxford

March 10, 24: 6:00 PM-soup and 7:00 PM-worship at Zion

March 31: 7:00 PM Book Club

"Walk With Me"

Each year as I enter the season of Lent, I find myself using the word "journey" over and over. It's not hard to see why. When it takes forty days to get somewhere, I think "journey" is the perfect word to describe the trip. It really is a journey that we take, too. We pass by and through all kinds of interesting places as we follow Jesus to Jerusalem and the cross.

Each week when we gather this Lent, as we listen to scripture, we will travel:

Through the Wilderness

With the Cross

Into God's House

In the Light

To Eternal Life

If we listen closely, we will find that we don't get to visit any of these places without Jesus. It is Jesus who leads us through the wilderness times when temptation looms large. It is Jesus who leads us to shoulder the cross and keep going. Jesus invites us into God's house to worship faithfully. With Jesus at our side, we walk in the light when darkness threatens to overcome us. At the end, it is only Jesus who walks ahead of us into eternal life and makes a place for us there.

The journey we take in Lent can feel like a slow, deliberate walk. I think that's the idea. Forty days of following Jesus, watching the scenery, taking note of the important stops, and looking to the future will inevitably lead us...to the cross...out of the tomb...and into the journey of a lifetime! **Pastor Andrew**

LAY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Four Sunday evenings in Lent

Dates: March 1, 8, 15, 22

Time: 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Place: Zion Lutheran Church, 41 Whitmarsh Avenue, Worcester

Theme: "The Bible" We are offering three four-session courses

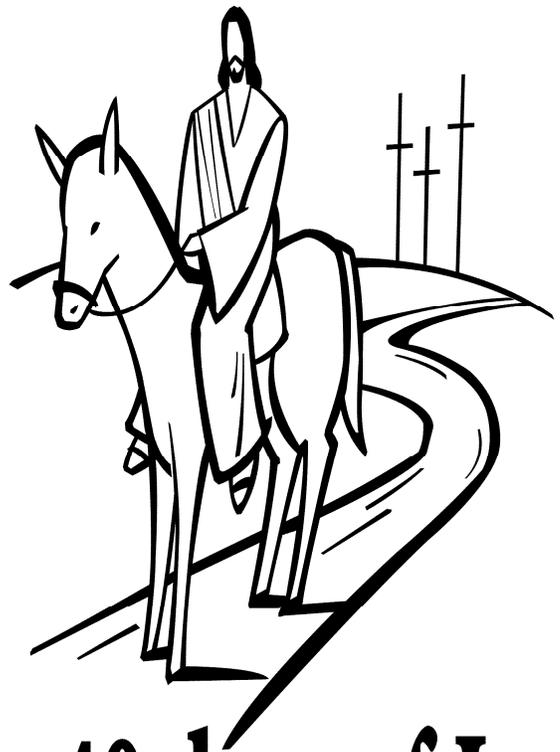
- * How Lutherans Interpret the Bible - The Rev. Dan Wilfrid, Immanuel, Holden
- * Using the Bible as a Family - The Rev. Susan Nachtigal, Trinity, Worcester
- * Reading the Passion Stories - Dr. Ralph Klein, professor emeritus at The Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, currently teaching at Yale University, New Haven, CT.

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

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*“...40 days
and 40
nights...”*



The 40 days of Lent

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

To E-Give or not to E-Give? That is the question.

Many members have asked me about our E-Giving Programs and many have been signing on. To date almost 33% of our annualized budget is met thru our E-Giving Program at Zion. So what is this E-Giving thing that so many have embraced but many more ought to embrace?

Think of it as a modern day stewardship program. It is a convenient, safe and simple way for you to make your church offerings through electronic funds transfer (EFT) directly from your checking or savings account or even from your credit card! Thrivent Financial is ultimately responsible for the oversight of the entire program, but has contracted with VANCO Services to provide the actual administrative services. VANCO is a financial-technology services company specializing in electronic funds transfers.

Each family at Zion currently involved in giving electronically sing the praises of this program. Joan and I have been involved from the start. We have NEVER had any errors or mishaps in our giving/accounting systems and we are always assured that our offerings to God are given each week whether we attend Church or not. That is a good feeling knowing that if we are travelling that at least some part of us is with the Church that week. Not to mention ,we never have to play offering catch-up if we miss a week or two of Church

Some members rightfully claim that they miss giving their offerings at Services and that they E-Giving detracts form seeing their offering actually go up to the altar and be received by the Pastor. True! Our Financial Secretary knows each E-Giver and all you have to do is place your empty envelope in the offering and have it blessed each Sunday at the altar. If you so desire you can mark "E" on it to signify that you are and E-Giver.

Our State, our Country and our Churches are all feeling the negative impact of the current economic downturn. I shudder to think what the fiscal picture of Zion would be like without our steady income stream from E-Givers.

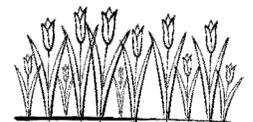
Wouldn't you try it? Here is an idea: *sign on for this terrific program and try it for FOUR weeks.* If at the end of four weeks you are dissatisfied with it, let me or Mike Bellisario know that you no longer wish to be involved in E-Giving. One phone call to VANCO will instantly dis-enroll you. The Enrollment Form takes four minutes to complete.

Ossie Rambarran

LENTEN DEVOTIONS FOR BOOKLET

At the February Board of Worship meeting, a Lenten project was discussed. The committee has long wanted to produce a Lenten Devotional Booklet with devotions supplied by you, the parishioners, of Zion. You will find on the credenza in the Narthex a tri-fold exhibit board and a supply of tacks. Please share a favorite devotion, prayer, scripture, thought, experience, a story, etc., that would be appropriate to read during Lent. Your contribution will then be compiled into a booklet for future Lenten seasons. You are free to submit as many as you would like to and to sign your contribution (s) or remain anonymous. The board will remain on the credenza throughout Lent. Please help us help you keep a Holy Lent. Thank you for your support.

The Worship Committee



Flowers

An Easter flower sign-up sheet is included in this newsletter. Deadline to order is March 22nd.



It's Okay to Be Human . . .

An important theme of the Lenten season is the humanity of Christ. In Jesus, God became human and fully experienced the wide range of emotions we all encounter in life. Jesus experienced times of loneliness, sadness, hurt, anger, disappointment, grief, and abandonment. That is part of being human. Another part of being human is needing help from each other. God never intended us to be completely self-sufficient. Part of God's plan is for each of us to turn to others for help when we need it.

So when you are experiencing difficult times, don't struggle alone. Our Stephen Ministers will walk with you, listen to you, encourage you, pray with you, and provide confidential one-to-one care to help you through tough times. Stephen Ministers can bring the love of Jesus back into your life. To learn more about Stephen Ministry, talk with Pat Bean, Jackie Bonneau, or Susan Pierce. **Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!**

Men of Zion

We Need Your Help

The Stephen Ministry currently has only **one male Minister**. We need **additional male Ministers** to serve our congregation. Our next training class will begin in mid-March. If you are interested in being part of Zion's Stephen Ministry, please see a Stephen Leader for an application.

Thank you, Susan, Pat and Jackie



**SOUP SUPPER VOLUNTEERS
ARE NEEDED**

Lenten Meal On Tuesday, March 10 and Tuesday, March 24 Zion will host the Lenten Soup and bread suppers with the Methodist Church as our guests. Please check the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex to see if you can help us by providing a soup or the bread for one of those evenings.



THE OXFORD ECUMENICAL

needs your help! Your donations of nonperishable food items are always being accepted and are greatly needed in this time of economic struggle. Help contribute to the local individuals and families in the town of Oxford by donating any non-perishable food items. Food can be dropped off at Zion and placed in the plastic bin in the hallway, which is right outside the Narthex. The majority of food donations for the Food Shelf rely on the churches of Oxford, just like ours. In **2008 1,510 families and 3,410 individuals received food assistance from the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf**. Thank you in advance for helping to make a difference in lives of the people in our community.

Items Especially In Need: Kidney Beans, Jelly, Bottled Water, Peas, Juice, Pork and Beans, Salad Dressing.

LUTHERAN HEALTHCARE SUNDAY AT ZION

The Lutheran Healthcare Center in Worcester is continuing to move forward with plans for a 9 million dollar expansion and renovation effort. Rooms will be added and the facility will be enabled to turn the many 3 bed rooms into comfortable 2 bed rooms.

Zion's Church Council has approved a 3 year goal of \$10,000. This will provide the resources to renovate and furnish one of the resident rooms. "Zion's Room" at Lutheran Healthcare Center will be given in memory of staff and residents from our congregation.

Please begin to consider a 3 year gift for Lutheran Healthcare Center. More materials and information will be shared on March 8th.

Pastor Ken Bean Chaplain LHC



CLEANING IN MARCH

- 3/1 -3/7 Jim and Maureen Champoux
- 3/8 – 3/14 need volunteer
- 3/15- 3/21 Lisa and Peter Petrovski
- 3/22 – 3/28 Carol and Don Weinhardt
- 3/29 -4/4 Brenda and Walter Lukasek



COFFEE HOUR

- 3/1 Penny Bergeson and Dot Sundman
- 3/8 Siri Jonasch
- 3/15 Need volunteer
- 3/22 Need volunteer
- 3/29 Need volunteer

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.



A MONEY \$AVING MESSAGE FROM HOSPITALITY

We are all thinking of ways to save money in our lives without loosing the quality in our lives. After I left church last Sunday welcoming our new members I thought about the time we spend with each other at coffee hour each week. A time spent strengthening friendships and creating new ones. (Coffee free) Then I thought about driving through McDonald's and ordering an "Organic" coffee out my window with the rush of cold air passing through the car. \$1.47. Then I added up \$1.47 once a week for a year. Totaling \$76.44 If you are a Starbuck's person that would be \$89.96 for a year of small coffee's. I guess my point is I can save 80-90 dollars a year by spending time after church with friends sipping from a Zion Lutheran coffee cup. WOW! That is an awesome value! I can't get that anywhere else. I don't know if you have noticed but we have ceramic "Zion" mugs that contain a package of Zion's House Blend which makes 12 cups of coffee for a purchase of \$6.00. That is also an awesome value! They will be available to you in the Fellowship Hall. Looking forward to sharing a cup of coffee with you all. **Lisa Petrovski**

LOCKS CHANGED

The locks on the church doors have been changed. Contact Bob Laurens, the Property Committee chair, with any questions concerning keys. Volunteer cleaners can make arrangements with Karen Borden to pick up the cleaning key during the week, or with Mike Bellisario to get it on Sunday.

STEWARDSHIP

The Lenten season is upon us, it is a time when we celebrate with sorrow and joy the death and resurrection of our lord and savior Jesus Christ. Let us take this time to thank the Lord for sending his only son to save us from our sins. It is a time to renew our commitment to Christ. Are we living a Christian lifestyle, are we serving the Lord and sharing with those in need? Let us take this time to reflect and meditate and ask for the Lord's guidance in our lives.

The two weeks prior to Ash Wednesday we will be handing out Lenten envelopes and the quarter cards that many of you like. If you need one mailed home please contact the church office.

I want to thank all that have been helping with the cleaning of the church and with coffee hour. It is a blessing that so many have stepped up to help. The coffee hours have been amazing, thanks to those that have spent so much extra time baking etc. I am sure that it is appreciated by the congregation.

We are still working out some of the glitches in contacted and making sure people know when it is their turn. As with any new program there is a learning curve. I appreciate everyone's patience as I and my committee continues to work out the bugs.

Thank you to all that pledged this year. The total amount pledged is \$110,676.00 which is up about 5% from last year which is outstanding in this economic climate. Of this total \$49,222.00 is from e-giving which is up about 8% from last year. If you haven't turned in your pledge yet or want to pledge for this year there are pledge cards in the back of the church, just fill it out and drop it in the offering basket. Also envelopes have been given out if you need some and haven't received them yet please contact Mike Bellisario or the church office.

We are continuing to encourage e-giving as this provides a constant source of revenue for the church to meet its financial obligations even when the weather is bad, people are on vacations, sick or just cannot make it to church.

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**



MEMORIALS

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of

Harry Smith

Given by

Catherine Brodeur

Maura Aniello

Lynn & Tom Wachtel

Judy & Ed Keegan

Betty Keegan

In Memory of Joe Cowan

Given by

Dot Sundman

In memory of

Oscar Jacobson

Given by

Dr. Walter R. Schur

Dot Sundman

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of

Florence & Oscar

Jacobson

Given by

Kris and Amy Canty

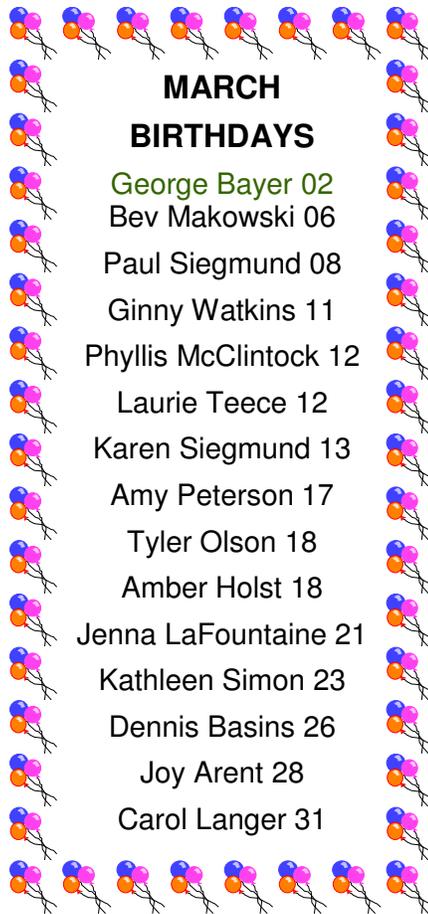
Michael and Susan Wrabel

In memory of

Oscar Jacobson

Given by

Thomas McGuire



MARCH

BIRTHDAYS

George Bayer 02

Bev Makowski 06

Paul Siegmund 08

Ginny Watkins 11

Phyllis McClintock 12

Laurie Teece 12

Karen Siegmund 13

Amy Peterson 17

Tyler Olson 18

Amber Holst 18

Jenna LaFontaine 21

Kathleen Simon 23

Dennis Basins 26

Joy Arent 28

Carol Langer 31



Prayers

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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.



Tuesday, March 31, 2009

7:00 PM

HOME OF:

Betty Keegan

15 Point Pleasant Ave.,

Webster, MA

BOOK FOR DISCUSSION:

"Indian Bride" by Karin Fossun



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

March 8th is the start of daylight savings time. Remember to set your clock *ahead* on Saturday evening so you will be on time for worship on Sunday morning.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ **CONGRATULATIONS!** ★
★ Our best to Pastor Andrew ★
★ and Kathleen on the birth of ★
★ Jacob Andrew Simon on Feb- ★
★ ruary 3rd. Jacob weighed in ★
★ at 5 lbs. 15 oz. and 19.2 ★
★ inches long. ★
★ **WELCOME JACOB!** ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



**Please email submissions
to the newsletter on or
before the 15th of each
month**

