

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

Zion Lutheran Church

MAY 2010



In the Netherlands they have a quaint expression that says, "Our Dear Lord keeps strange boarders at his table." That expression comes out of the old custom of the boarding house, a living arrangement from past generations where people lived in their different, small apartments, but then all gathered for their meals at the same table; all lived in separate places but all shared the same meal.

And that may be an apt symbol for the Christian Church, where people come from differing situations, but all share the same special meal.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MORNING:

9:00 am Early Service

9:30 am Christian Education

10:30 am 2nd Service

TUESDAYS 6 pm

And that may be a good symbol for the people of Zion congregation, who also come from differing situations, who come from different towns, who come from differing ethnic and social backgrounds, who have strong and differing opinions about things, who hold different expectations about many things, who prize different traditions, who are different in age and gender—but, who also share a common meal. They all come together with an appetite to be fed and nurtured with what God has to offer, and to come to his table for a special meal. Would it then be fair to use that old Dutch expression about the folks of Zion?

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 3: 6:00 PM Stephen Ministry Supervision

May 11: 7:00 PM Church Council meeting

May 15: Deadline for June newsletter information

May 16: Deadlines for Church Council nominations for elections and for ordering Geraniums for Pentecost

May 23rd: Pentecost with Confirmation

May 17: 6:00 PM Stephen Ministry Supervision

What is important to note about the Lord's boarding house is that there are differences—many differences, but all come with hunger and all come with a desire to have a place at the table. It is also important to note that all the differences in those who come to the table must never, ever be of greater importance than the word and sacrament that are offered; never must the differences interfere with anyone feeling welcome at the table.

A boarding house is all about hospitality—that's what makes it work. And for the church it's a special kind of hospitality, the New Testament kind of hospitality—the New Testament Greek word for hospitality literally means, "love of ones who are different" or "love of the stranger." And, that is what makes us all welcome, what gives us all a place at the table..

It is that to which we are called. It is that to which Zion is called. Well then, it would be a nice thing to have it said about the people of Zion: "Our Dear Lord keeps strange boarders at his table."

Yours In Christ, Pastor John

PROFILE COMMITTEE

The Profile Committee would like to thank all of you who filled out your surveys and attended our open forum meetings. With your valuable input we will now start to prepare our Profile Mission Statement. Our aim at this point is to have our profile finished by the end of April so it can be posted on the Ministry Site Profile, at this point the Call Committee will take over. Yours In Christ,

Dot Sundman, Michael Bellisario
Co Chairs MSP Committte



STEPHEN MINISTRY NEWS

Stephen Ministry is looking for a few good men, and women! We need a few more interested individuals before we can proceed with our next training class. Remember that you don't need any special qualifications just a caring heart and willing spirit. If you are interested please see a Stephen Leader, **Pat Bean, Susan Pierce, Jackie Bonneau or Pam Olson**



Please join us on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd as we confirm our 2010 Confirmation Class during the 10:30 AM worship service. Our young people are a blessing to us and we pray that you will help share in their celebration of this special day in their lives of faith.



NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Church Council is moving forward with this year's nomination process to fill 6 positions up for election this year. We will have a box and nomination forms available at the back of the sanctuary. The positions up for election this year are: President, Vice President, Clerk Secretary, Stewardship Chair, Evangelism Chair and Youth Rep. We are asking that congregation members provide their nominations by **May 16th**. The Nomination Committee and Council will then review these nominations to prepare the slate which will be presented for elections at the **June 13th Congregational Meeting**. If anyone has any questions on this process speak with either Jason Craley or Ossie Rambarran.

HOSPITALITY

1. the friendly reception and treatment of guests or strangers.
2. the quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way.

Use hospitality in a Sentence - When I go to Oxford Zion Lutheran Church I see how important hospitality is and would love to be part of that team.

—Synonyms

2. warmth, cordiality, friendliness.

The Hospitality Team has been part of Zion for almost 7 years. They have been a part of many of the programs, events and support of many other teams within the church. Many feel that this team is an important part of the life and well being of our church. We are very interested in building our team with fresh ideas and faces. We are looking for individuals that like to be part of welcoming people into our church as well as nurturing new ways to bring fun ideas to gather as a church family. Please contact Lisa Betrovski @ 508-248-4547 We would love you to be part of our team!

Come and enjoy the journey with us! Lisa Betrovski and The Hospitality Team



CLEANING

WEEK OF:

- May 3: Dick and Gerri Siegmund**
May 10: OPEN
May 17: OPEN
May 24: OPEN
May 31: OPEN



COFFEE HOUR

SUNDAY:

- May 2: OPEN**
May 16: OPEN
May 23: Confirmation Sunday
May 30: 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 May.*** If you can fill in any of the above dates please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.



Opportunity for Giving

STEWARDSHIP

During the open forums that were held over the past week, people have asked me what Stewardship means to me. I found that I did not have an easy answer, so I thought about it over the past few days and this is what I think Stewardship is.

The Lord calls all of us to be good stewards in everything that we do. Stewardship is the very heartbeat of the Church's ministry and that its strength is determined directly by the openness and habits of our own hearts. People must understand that Christians are called to be good stewards all the time, not just on Sunday morning. Stewardship is not merely an annual emphasis, but a daily and continual part of our life together in the church. That is the real meaning of "Stewardship." It is vitally important that each of us view stewardship as the Christian way of life and not just a plea for more money. This is why it is so important to honor God with time, relationships, and money. The good steward is someone who is doing the best they can with the things that God has given them. **EVERYTHING IS ON LOAN FROM GOD!** As we think about things that we label as our own, it is always helpful to recognize that whatever we have is really on loan to us from God.

The Stewardship committee will be conducting a Time and Talent survey in the near future. The committee feels that there are a lot of members that have various gifts and talents and are just waiting for an opportunity to share them. With the survey we will try to identify those gifts and talents and give all the opportunity to serve the Lord here at Zion. All are welcome to share their gifts and talents.

Remember to check the signup sheets in the back of the church for your opportunity to serve the Lord by either doing coffee hour or cleaning the church. Volunteers are needed and welcomed. Thanks to all that have volunteered in the past and to those that will in the future.

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

LHC RENOVATIONS TO PROCEED ON MODIFIED SCALE

If you've been following renovations at Lutheran Healthcare Center in Worcester, you may have heard about recent changes to the plans. It is true that the size of the capital project has been reduced. However, LHC remains open and is ministering to residents with the same professional expertise and personal attention as always! This will not change!

What has changed is the size of the project: the poor economy in which property values have decreased and unforeseen environmental issues that were discovered during construction have impacted the ability of Lutheran Social Services to finance the expansion/renovation project as originally planned.

LSS has therefore made the fiscally responsible decision to proceed with only those projects that we can pay for or that are already funded through the gifts of generous donors, including many of you.

This is a fiscally responsible decision that will assure LHC's presence and ministry among us for years to come.

What will not happen is the new wing.

What will happen before the end of 2010 is the following:

- The environmental issues (mold and leakage) will be remediated throughout the facility.
- The windows and the façade of the building will be replaced.
- Resident rooms will be renovated (most of this work is already done).
- Resident day rooms will be renovated.
- The rehabilitation suite will be renovated.
- The chapel will be refurbished in honor of Pastor Bean.
- A new nurse call system will be installed.
- The general décor will be refreshed.



GREENING TEAM REPORT

The Property/.Greening Committee will be having a Spring Clean Up sometime in May-watch for announcements in the church bulletin or after services. Our clean up won't involve quite as many leaves to rake up as we did in the Fall but we'll have a few new side projects going on at the same time. First, there are some outside lights we'll be replacing at the church sign. Inside, we want to move the back left pew to open up the area and make it more handicapped accessible. It should be a productive day for Zion and we'll be inviting everyone able to come out and help.

On a positive note for greening, we are expecting to receive rebates both Energy Star and Sears totaling \$125 for the energy efficient refrigerator we recently purchased for the church kitchen. We are continuing to explore ways to cut back our energy use as we head into the warmer months. Several light bulbs around the church can still be replaced for significant energy savings. We're working with council to determine what can be done within our budget constraints.

Greening Tip for this Month-



Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFL's) have become very common as more and more people realize how much energy they can save. While CFL's may have an immediate positive impact by reducing energy consumption it is important to dispose of them properly once they've reached the end of their useful life. Since CFL's contain a small amount of mercury they cannot be simply discarded. Instead, take them to the local recycling center or transfer station. If a CFL bulb is broken by accident it's also important to avoid handling the pieces with bare hands and ventilate the area to clear out any mercury vapors. A little toxicity in our light bulbs is the price we pay right now for better energy efficiency. Let's hope that new technologies soon give us a true "green" light bulb that's not just energy efficient and affordable but also non-toxic.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Jes Woods 5

Evan Desmarias 14

Janette Gion 14

Robert Laurens 16

Dylan Filipkowski 18

Grace Mueller 21

Geraldine Siegmund 22

Adrienne Schur 24

Donald Weinhardt 24

Jason Craley 26

David Clifford 26

Jacob Jonasch 26

Patricia Bean 27

Robert Langer 31



NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE

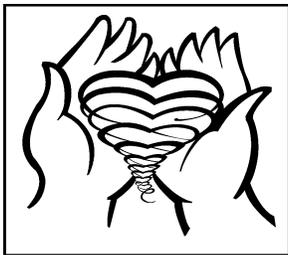
The deadline for the newsletter is always on the **15th** of each month. The newsletter is always mailed on the last Tuesday of each month. All are invited to contribute news and information by electronic submission.



MEMORIAL DAY IN THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

I will be placing an order for memorial cobblestones in the garden. If you have a name or something you would like to see engraved on a stone please contact me at 508-248-4547.

Lisa Betrovski



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Ron Johnson, Karen Johnson, Isabel Mazarella, Elizabeth Mueller, Andy Bowman, Margaret Briere, Carol Radzik, Dennis Mercer, Matthew Karp, Sten-Eric Westin, Walter Schur, Michael Johnston, Al Kilian, 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, Sandy Howland, Bruce Arnott, Brian Quinlan, Mrs. Wurth, Maryanne Grzelecki, 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 Honduras.

MEMORIALS

MEMORIAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF JOYCE COZZENS

Given by:

Brenda and Walter Lukasek
 Conrad Redlitz
 Eunice Bastek
 Mary Ann Dalton
 Paul and Judith Hoenig
 Teresa A. Gwozdz
 Tantasqua Music Association
 Lynne and F. Bernard Lally
 John and Lynn Conceison
 Marlene Bacon
 Jim and Patti Sumner
 Margaret Heide
 Brenda Gabel
 Dot Sundman
 Mark and Kathleen Swierzbis
 Dorothy and Eric Cozzens
 Annese Family
 Ruby Cozzens
 Elmira Surozenski
 Edward and Sharon Dahn
 Nancy Dahn
 Muriel Schmidt
 Bernadette Hebert
 Jan Walker
 Carol Redzik
 Roger and Carolyn Smith
 Lori and Danny Minchoff

IN MEMORY OF MYRTLE FARADAY

Given by:

Scanlon Funeral Home

IN MEMORY OF HELEN MCGOVERN

Given by:

Scanlon Funeral Home
 Gary and Ida Mattila

MEMORIAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF BARBARA HASSENBERG

Given by:

Amy Canty
 Kris Canty
 Emma Schremser
 Walter and Brenda Lukasek
 Terry and Virginia Hassenberg
 Beverly Blair
 Jerry and Bonnie Hassenberg
 Eunice Bastek
 Timothy and Barbara West

MUSIC FUND

IN MEMORY OF JOYCE COZZENS

Given by:

Sue Schade
 Ed and Shirley Rossmeisl
 Amy Canty
 Kris Canty
 Dick and Gerri Siegmund
 Barabara Steege

STEPHEN MINISTRY

IN MEMORY OF JOYCE COZZENS

Given by;

Ken and Pat Bean

IN MEMORY OF BARBARA HASSENBERG

Given by;

Ken and Pat Bean

ENDOWMENT FUND

IN MEMORY OF JOYCE COZZENS

Given by:

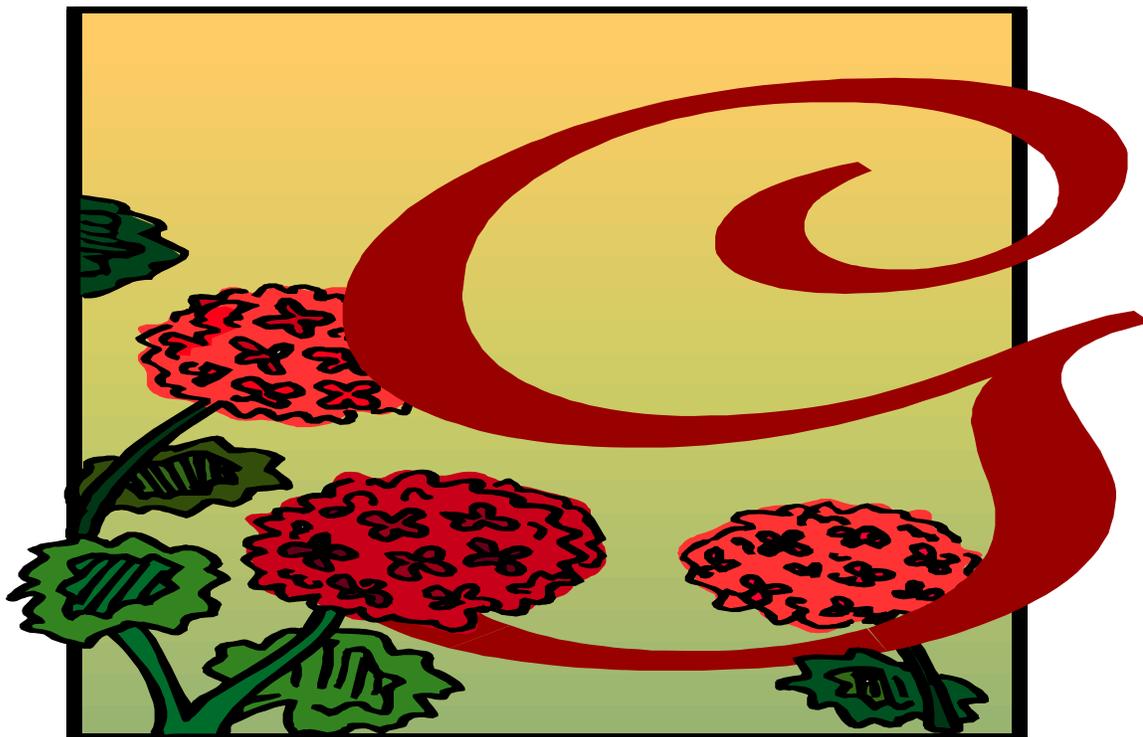
Dr. Walter R. Schur

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

IN MEMORY OF BARBARA HASSENBERG

Given by:

Dick and Gerri Siegmund



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

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

