

**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](mailto:admin@oxfordzionchurch.org)

Pastor Nancy Beckwith

Pastor's Phone  
1-508-499-8787

Email:

[pastornancyb@gmail.com](mailto:pastornancyb@gmail.com)

Call or email Pastor Nancy to  
arrange an appointment or visit.

Pastor's day off: Friday

Website

[www.oxfordzion.org](http://www.oxfordzion.org)

# Zion Lutheran Church

## MAY 2012

*Christ is Risen! Alleluia!*

### 2012 Easter Message

from Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,  
Christ is risen! Imagine the power in those words of promise.

When the disciples first heard Jesus speak of his death and resurrection, "they kept the matter to themselves" (Mark 9:10). But the news is too good to keep to ourselves. The life of Jesus Christ has been unleashed into the world.

Because Christ is risen, you can embrace life's complexities and uncertainties with a living, daring confidence in God's grace. The risen Christ goes ahead of you, meeting you in the most surprising faces and unexpected places. Christ's resurrection puts us right where God wants us to be -- in the thick of life.

Because Christ is risen, you have a word of hope. To those weary from mourning loss and fearing death, the assurance is given that nothing in all creation will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

The life of Jesus, God's own life, has burst into the world, restoring community. At the barriers we erect to divide us, the risen Christ meets us, turning those walls into tables of reconciliation. To those who live in fear and feel unworthy, the promise is given. "You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God" (Ephesians 2:19).

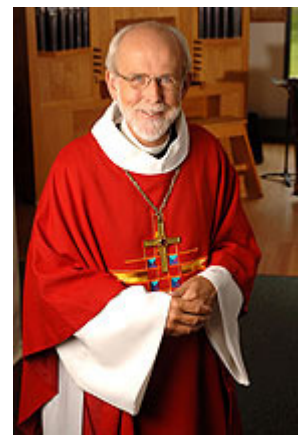
Every morning you awaken with the mark of Jesus' death on your forehead and the promise of Christ's resurrection on your lips.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

In God's grace,



The Rev. Mark S. Hanson  
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



### 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**

### MAY UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 1: 7:00 PM**

Confirmation Class

**May 4: 6:00 – 9:30 PM**

What Makes God's House A Home

**May 5: 8:30 AM- 3:30 PM**

What Makes God's House A Home

**May 7 and 21: 6:00 PM**

Stephen Ministry

**May 8: 7:00 PM**

Church Council

**May 9: 7:00 PM**

Worship Committee

**May 15: 7:00 PM**

Walk through for Confirmation

**May 19: 8:00 AM-3:00 PM**

Flea Market

**May 22: 7:00 PM**

Bylaws/Council Mtg.

**A NOTE FROM OUR MINISTER OF MUSIC**



Music touches our lives in so many ways. Whether we sing in the church choir, enhance our music ministry by learning to play the hand chimes, or look forward to singing our favorite hymns during weekly worship services, music plays a special role for each of us as we continue on our Christian journeys. The newest musical addition to our weekly worship services is a lovely and contemplative liturgy titled, **Unfailing**

**Light:** an evening setting of Holy Communion. In the forward of the accompaniment edition of this musical work, composer Marty Haugen shares his inspiration behind this special liturgy and the special meaning that evening worship can mean in our lives:

*At the close of day, the Spirit calls us out of time marked by daylight and darkness.....and gathers us into time welling up from the past, widening toward the future, and welcoming eternity..... (At the end of the service)...we go, trusting God to abide with us as darkness deepens and to raise us in the morning as Christ's body, - blest, broken, and given for the life of the world.*

Please consider making Tuesday evening worship part of your week in the coming months.

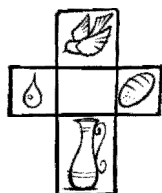


Many thanks to all who helped during Holy Week and Easter - choir, altar guild, readers, greeters, flower-givers banner makers, worship assistants, communion, cleaners and Easter Sunday Coffee Hour hosts and contributors..



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

On **June 3rd** the semi annual meeting of the congregation will be held following worship. **There will be one service that day, at 10:00 A M.** The main item of business will be elections for church council All reports for the 2011 Annual Report are due by email submission **on or before May 15th.**



**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

**Confirmation**

On **May 20th** three of our young people will make affirmation of their baptism during the **10:30 AM** worship service. Jennifer Peterson, Scott LeBouef and Kyle Champoux will be confirmed following two years of Confirmation instruction.

**CALUMET WALKATHON**

Calumet Walkathon - **Saturday, May 12th, 9:30 am.** Starts and Ends at Good Harbor Beach. The 5-mile walk takes walkers of all ages and abilities through beautiful Gloucester, Massachusetts. Everyone enjoys the sound of roaring waves crashing on the beach, conversation with friends new and old, and a delicious hot dog and hamburger lunch with chips, cookies, and refreshing drinks. For more info and sign up - [www.calumet.org](http://www.calumet.org) - or ask Pastor Nancy



**FIRST COMMUNION SUNDAY**

First Communion will be celebrated on **Sunday, May 6th at the 9:00 AM worship service.**



**BECOMING A MEMBER OF ZION**

If you are interested in joining our congregation, speak with Pastor Nancy.



**SOCIAL MINISTRY**  
**Paula Kilian Clark**  
**Social Ministry chair**

We continue to strive towards our objective to show our Christian love in action in our church, our community, and our world.

During the month of March, men’s white socks were collected for those served through a homeless shelter that offers a daily lunch program. Maydee will deliver to socks to her mother, the Pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in New Jersey, the congregation that offers this ministry. As we learned on Maundy Thursday, Jesus literally washed the disciples’ feet, saying, “If I, your Lord and Master have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you.” The importance of Christ’s words for us today is that we can and should symbolically wash others’ feet by acts of kindness and service.

Thanks to your unflagging generosity, more than one hundred items of various types of canned meat were donated to the Oxford Ecumenical Food Pantry as our contribution for the month of March. Thank you to Cindy Joslyn and Sue Butchman for delivering our gifts. Donations rose considerably this month.

During April we will be asking for contributions of peanut butter. This item has become quite expensive for the Pantry to purchase. We hope to reach of goal of 120 jars as our challenge continues this month.

**GLAD TIDINGS!!!** The Allan Feinstein Foundation will be matching any cash, check or food donations (over the cost of one dollar) made to the Food Pantry throughout the month of April. A board member of the Food Pantry presented information about this fundraising effort to our congregation at both services on Palm Sunday. Informational reminder posters are placed at the rear of the church and on the bulletin boards in the coffee hour meeting place. We hope that the generosity shown in the past months will be continue to be reflected in our response. **Please respond by April 29<sup>th</sup>.**

**“And they will know we are Christians by our love.”**



**LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES**

**LSS** seeks bed and bath items for the **SYNOD ASSEMBLY INGATHERING**, which will aid refugees. LSS has welcomed nearly 1,000 refugees to Massachusetts and New Hampshire over the past year. For each refugee family that arrives, LSS must provide a completely furnished apartment. LSS is in urgent need of:

**Queen and single bed sheet sets**


**Comforters and quilts of all sizes**

**Mattress covers, queen and single, that zip and completely protect the mattress**

**Towels, towels, towels**



LSS especially would welcome new items. However, gently used -- but not old and worn - items also are useful.



**LSS GOLF OPEN**

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual LSS Golf Open Thursday, May 17, at the beautiful Wachusett Country Club in West Boylston, Mass.

Support Lutheran Social Services (LSS) and have fun playing golf.

Proceeds will benefit the Worcester programs of Lutheran Social Services in celebration of LSS’s 140th year of serving and caring for people in New England. These programs include adoption, services for new Americans, refugee youth foster care, services for people with developmental disabilities, older adults and homeless teen mothers and their children. For more information, [www.lssne.org/golf.aspx](http://www.lssne.org/golf.aspx) or contact Deb Cistoldi at [dcistoldi@lssne.org](mailto:dcistoldi@lssne.org) or [774.243.3905](tel:774.243.3905).



### **Stephen Ministry**

#### **Update on the course "What Makes God's House A Home?"**

By the time this newsletter is read, this course, sponsored by the Evangelism committee, will have occurred. Watch for next month's newsletter for a report. To date **14 persons are registered**. The course was written by Kenneth Haugk, the author of the Stephen Series. The excitement of this course is that it centers on many of the concepts of our Stephen Ministry program in relating to persons in a caring and loving way. Two key concepts are the development of **good listening skills** and relating to people in a loving and caring **process** - oriented way. Relating in this way helps to build meaningful and lasting relationships.

Effective listening focuses on the other individual and seeks clarity of understanding. In process relating we function as God's instruments of simply caring and exemplifying God's love. In developing both of these skills God works through us and we leave the results to God.

#### **An Invitation to join Stephen Ministers in the topic of "Providing Spiritual Care"**

Each regular bi-weekly Supervision session of Stephen Ministry also has a 50 minute segment of Continuing Education. The topic for the next three sessions, April 23, May 7 and 14, will be looking at "Providing Spiritual Care" during stressful times in life. The sessions go from 7:15PM to 8:15PM with closing devotions following. This three session module offers an excellent opportunity for strengthening and growing in one's own personal faith.

Members and friends are cordially invited to join us in this learning and discussion. You may attend one or all of the sessions.

**Pat Bean, Stephen Leader**



### ***EVANGELISM***

Cecelia Jalbert

Evangelism Chair

As we continue to celebrate the joyous season of Easter, I wonder what it must have been like to be one of Jesus disciples. To have been a witness to the crucifixion, to watch helplessly as their Lord died on the cross. Then on the third day hearing that the tomb was empty and then seeing Jesus alive, somehow different, they didn't recognize him immediately and he could go through walls, yet he had a body that still bore his wounds and he ate. The stories of Jesus post resurrection appearances speak honestly about their fear, doubt, disbelief and wondering. Yet it was these very disciples that Jesus took time to teach that the scriptures about Moses, the prophets and the psalms were about him and must be fulfilled. Not only that, Jesus commissioned these same disciples to proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins to all nations. They were witnesses and were to testify to all that they had seen and heard. Jesus promised they would receive the Holy Spirit to help them and through their witness, proclamation and ministry the church came to be and grew mightily.

We were not there for the crucifixion and we did not see the risen Christ but we too are his disciples and we are witnesses to his love and presence. And sometimes we are privileged to recognize God's action in our own life or in the lives of others. We sometimes struggle with fear, doubt, disbelief and wondering, but we too have been commissioned to testify to what we have seen and heard and we also have been given the Holy Spirit to help us. We do not need to be perfect to serve our Lord. We need to be faithful and through our witness, proclamation and ministry the risen Christ will continue to build his church. Alleluia!



### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**



Thank you to all who contributed to the Sunday School Lenten project collecting money for the Heiffer Project. \$90 was collected and the children who attended Sunday School on Palm Sunday all had input as to what we should donate. The results are one flock of chickens, one flock of ducks and one basket of hope (which includes chickens and rabbits).



The 2011-2012 Sunday School year is coming to a close. All of the children are invited to our closing "Sundae" School Celebration on May 20th at 9:30 am. We will be enjoying ice cream sundaes for breakfast!! (YUM!!) Affirmation of Baptism will be held during the 10:30 service on May 20th - plan on coming for ice cream and staying for church!



### **NOTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING ON APRIL 10, 2012** **Submitted by Marleen R. Bacon**

The monthly meeting of the Zion Church Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Laurens and opened with devotions given by Pastor Nancy.

The Council members voted unanimously to have the Zion Time Line and History written by Donald Weinhardt sent to the Oxford Historical Commission to become part of the Town of Oxford's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

The Financial reports for income and expenses to date were given.

Pastor Nancy reported on her activities since the March meeting which included Tuesday Soup Suppers, Holy Week and Easter Services. First Communion will be held on Sunday, May 6, 2012 and Confirmation class members will affirm their baptism on May 20, 2012.

The Easter banner was hung for Easter morning and all the Council members commented on what a beautiful sight it was to see it at the Easter services.

Members are still needed for the Solar Panel Study committee. Please see Jim Champoux or Peter Petrovski if you wish to join them in this study.

Patricia Bean and Cecelia Jalbert stated that there are currently 11 participants for the "What Makes God's House Home" course which will be held May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Openings are still available by contacting Pat or Cecelia.

Social Ministry projects are still ongoing with the collection of white socks for St. Matthew Lutheran Church in New Jersey and peanut butter is being collected for the Oxford Food Bank.

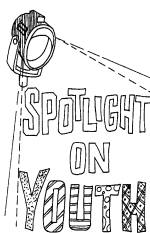
Sue Lebouef stated that \$90 was collected for the Sunday School Heifer Project and the students have already decided what they wanted to purchase with the money.

The Council voted to hold the Congregational Meeting on June 3, 2012. Further information will be forthcoming.

This meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM with the Council members joining in the Lord's Prayer.



Camp Calumet has lots to offer year round. In the spring, there are plenty of mid-week and weekend retreats with lodging in the Conference Center or heated cabins. In the Summer, there are camping opportunities for kids at the resident overnight camp, including special drama, music and adventure camp weeks. The campground accommodates tents, trailers and campers – and you can make new friends while you enjoy the lakeside beach, local hiking trails, campfires, bible study, conversation, and more. For more info go to [www.calumet.org](http://www.calumet.org) or call 603-539-3223.



### **UPCOMING LUTHERAN INTER PARISH YOUTH (LIPY) EVENTS**

**Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Forsberg Dinner Dance**

6:00-9:00PM

Zion Lutheran Church, Worcester, MA

**Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Roller Skating/Laser Tag**

1:30 PM-3:00 PM Roll On America

Lancaster, MA



### **ZION'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY**

Zion will celebrate its' 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2015. That is 3 very short years away! It is not too early to start planning for this big event. The Council members are looking for people interested in serving on a 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. This committee will not only look at how God has provided for Zion's past but will look towards Zion's future spiritually and structurally. Please consider giving of your time and talents to help put together this joyous celebration. If you would like to join this committee, or if you have any suggestions, please see Bob Laurens or Don Weinhardt.

### **HISTORY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

**Donald H. Weinhardt, Chairman**

This is a follow up account for an item I had in the November 2009 Newsletter. It was an attempt at that time to locate the whereabouts of a "Book of Remembrance"; it had been referred to in a Church Bulletin dated May 7, 1979. This was the one-year anniversary of the new church and this book was to be created to hold as a permanent record, in chronological order, all memorial gifts that had been received and all subsequent gifts will be added. At that time, November 2009, no one had any knowledge of this book. Fast forward to March 27<sup>th</sup> this year, when Margaret Heide and Carol Weinhardt inadvertently found the book in the bottom of the usher's cabinet in the Narthex. This beautiful special purpose ledger was still in its original box and was as clean as the day it was printed. Not one single entry had been made in it. Why was this? I reviewed the Council minutes for 1979 but found only one entry. At the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Council, "A motion was passed that a first anniversary pamphlet be compiled listing all memorial gifts given to our new church and also that we invest in a permanent memorial gift record book." Not another mention can be found for the rest of the year. We know the pamphlet was created; it was the item dated May 7, 1979. Why there was no follow up with this project will probably never be known. However, if there is someone with excellent penmanship or is skilled in calligraphy, and is willing, we may be able to complete this project even if it is 33 years late. Let me know your thoughts.

Two additional gifts have been received for the archives. The first is from Pastor Nancy Beckwith, it is a booklet titled "In Observance of the 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Martin Luther's Small Catechism 1529 – 1979", published in 1979 by the Aid Association for Lutherans, Appleton, Wisconsin. (A very good reference document). The second item is a large photograph from Conrad Redlitz, it measures 10" x 19", the subject is the 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Banquet, Walther League – N. E. District, Sheraton – Biltmore Hotel, Providence, Rhode Island, September 1, 1947. Conrad was just out of the military and was Zion's representative.

**FINANCIAL RESULTS  
MARCH 31, 2012**

We took in \$10,960 thousand in March and we spent \$12,425 thousand in March Expenses exceeded income by \$1,465 dollars-- resulting in a deficit for March

For the year, we took in \$32,870 thousand and spent \$35,915 thousand through the month of March. For the year, Expenses exceeded income by \$3,045 dollars.

For the 3 months of 2012, Revenue is \$4,837 under budget and Expenses are \$1,791 under budget.

The following is a comparison of 2012 actual to 2012 budget:

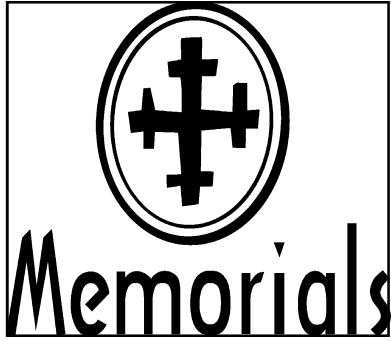
	<b>March 2012</b>	<b>Jan-Mar 2012 YTD</b>	<b>Budget YTD 3/12</b>	<b>Over/(Under) Budget</b>	
<b>Operating Revenue</b>	\$ 10,959.86	\$ 32,869.63	\$ 37,706.25	\$ (4,836.62)	
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	\$ 12,425.41	\$ 35,914.81	\$ 37,706.25	\$ (1,791.44)	**
<b>Income Net of Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (1,465.55)</b>	<b>\$ (3,045.18)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (3,045.18)</b>	

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>March 2012</b>	<b>Jan-Mar 2012 YTD</b>	<b>Budget YTD 3/12</b>	<b>Over/(Under) Budget</b>	
Benevolence	\$ 909.00	\$ 1,903.70	\$ 2,575.00	\$ (671.30)	
Pastors Ministry	\$ 5,630.60	\$ 17,194.96	\$ 18,112.25	\$ (917.29)	
Stephen Ministry	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 237.50	\$ (237.50)	
Youth Ministry	\$ 275.00	\$ 575.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 325.00	
Worship & Music	\$ 2,104.26	\$ 6,410.50	\$ 6,782.25	\$ (371.75)	
Administration	\$ 1,513.70	\$ 3,456.44	\$ 3,594.25	\$ (137.81)	
Property Management	\$ 388.33	\$ 1,859.79	\$ 1,776.25	\$ 83.54	
Insurance & Utilities	\$ 1,353.28	\$ 3,851.00	\$ 3,366.25	\$ 484.75	
Education & Outreach	\$ 137.16	\$ 380.67	\$ 612.50	\$ (231.83)	
Evangelism & Hospitality	\$ 104.08	\$ 235.12	\$ 237.50	\$ (2.38)	
Stewardship	\$ 10.00	\$ 47.63	\$ 162.50	\$ (114.87)	
Non-budgeted Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	<b>\$ 12,425.41</b>	<b>\$ 35,914.81</b>	<b>\$ 37,706.25</b>	<b>\$ (1,791.44)</b>	**

**2012 Operating Budget** \$ 150,825.00

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE AT 03/31/12 \$12,515.84

*Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley I. Rossmeisl, Treasurer*



**MEMORIAL FUND**

**In memory of Pauline Piehl Kindler**

from: Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Joy

**In memory of Isabel Cannalonga**

Kris Ganty

Kate Ceccarelli

Ann Constantino

Lee Duprey

Beverly Dumas

Norma Durand

Robert and Kathleen Gatzke

Brenda Geron

Esther Marcari

Robert and Theresa Miller

Jeffery and Elizabeth Mischler

Barbara Munsch

Ruth Witthoef

American Legion-Webster

Fallon Community Health Plan

**HISTORICAL FUND**

**In memory of Isabel Cannalonga**

Betty Keegan

Janice Masi

Dick and Gerri Siegmund

Barbara Steege

**MEMORIAL GARDEN**

**In memory of Isabel Cannalonga**

Brenda Geron

Glenn and Esther Elliott

**OUTDOOR CHAPEL**

In Memory of Gary Matilla

Richard, Sharon, Illa Matilla

Submitted by Susan Schade



**MAY BIRTHDAYS**



Jes Woods 5



Evan Desmarias 14



Janette Gion 14



Robert Laurens 16



Dylan Filipkowski 18



Geraldine Siegmund 22



Adrienne Schur 24



Donald Weinhardt 24



David Clifford 26



Jacob Jonasch 26



Patricia Bean 27



Robert Langer 31



We will be refreshing the prayer list with the June newsletter. If you would like to add someone or wish to have a name retained on the prayer list please submit the name on or before the June newsletter deadline of May 15th.

*Prayer Concerns*

Kezzie Allen, **Dedrick Baublitz**, Claudia Berti, **Lucille Blood**, Fran and Rebecca Chlapowski, Brian Cole, **Esther Elliott**, Liesl Voosen Fields, **Pamela Foy**, Rev. Maureen Hawksley, David Jalbert, **Margarethe Johnson**, **Ron Johnson**, Jonathan MacDonald, Jennifer Moore, Lillian Pavovich, **Peter Pierce**, Len Pauplis, **Conrad Redlitz**, Corrinne Rousseau, **Barbara Steege**, Mark Sweet,



Remember the family and friends mourning the death of Frank Abissi.

*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.*





**GERANIUM PLANT ORDER FORM  
FOR DAY OF PENTECOST – MAY 27, 2012**

To add to the celebration of the “Day of Pentecost, *the birthday of the church*”, red geraniums are purchased to decorate the sanctuary and then planted outside to beautify the church grounds. Your geranium donation given to “*the glory of God*” can be given either in **thanksgiving for a special event**, or in **memory of a loved one**. The cost for each plant is still only \$7.00. A listing of names will appear in our bulletin.

Please complete the informational form below and mail it together with your check to the church office or place it in the offering plate. Make checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church with “*Pentecost Geraniums*” in the memo corner. **Deadline for ordering is May 20.** Thank you.

To add to the celebration of Pentecost Sunday you are encouraged to wear red on May 27th.

Geranium: 6 1/2-inch pot @\$7.00 ea: No. Ordered \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print):

**Donated By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Envelope No. (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone No.:** \_\_\_\_\_

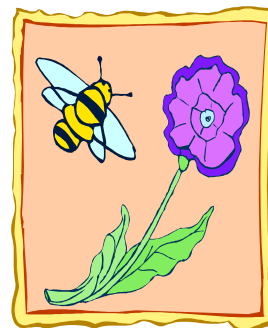
**In Thanksgiving For:**

**In Memory Of:**

**SPRING FLEAMARKET & BAKE SALE**

**SATURDAY MAY 19, 2012 8 A M TO 3 P M**

- TABLE RENTALS :** Leah Filipkowski 774-253-6243  
Paula Clark 508-943-9134
- BAKE TABLE::** Brenda Lukasek 508-943-4766  
Pat Cheever 860-935-5189
- ZION TABLE :** Jayne Boutilier 508-987-582  
Zion Youth
- FOOD BOOTH:** Jim Champoux 508-434-0226  
Freddie Rivera 203-520-5986
- SET UP CLEAN UP:** Paul Peterson 508-476-7011  
Bob Laurens 860-928-9541



If you would like to rent a table, bake or donate articles for sale (no electronics, computers, Televisions etc.) or just help out in any way you can. Please call the appropriate person listed above.

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

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