

GOD IS GOOD...ALL THE TIME!

**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

# Zion Lutheran Church

## MAY 2009

Zion's semi-annual Congregational meeting will be held after the 10:30 service on Sunday May 24.

For the last several years, our slogan-printed on mugs and polo shirts, emblazoned on letterhead and website-has been:

**"Zion Lutheran Church-A GROWING Community of Faith."**

Once again this year, the people of Zion have shown that this is most certainly true!

We are *GROWING* in...

**GIVING:** Our stewardship pledges increasing...

**RECEIVING:** Welcoming new children of God through baptism...

**OPENING DOORS:** Caring for creation through our new "Greening the Church" Team...

**WORSHIPPING:** With three opportunities for worship, more people worshipped at Zion Lutheran Church each week in the year 2008 than in any other year in the last twenty years...

**INVITING:** Welcoming visitors who become new members...

**NURTURING:** The ministry of care that is happening between caregivers and receivers through Stephen Ministry...

**GATHERING:** Our building is full on Sunday mornings-nearly every corner has something happening in it-worship, Sunday School for all ages, coffee hour community time...

These are just some of the ways we are truly a *GROWING* community of faith!

You are a vital part of this growth, and you can help it to continue. How will Zion grow in the coming year?

We will GROW when we:

Give back to God in thanksgiving for what He has first given us!

Receive the grace to forgive one another each day.

Open doors to new ministries without fear as the Spirit moves us!

Worship faithfully together.

Invite our friends to church!

Nurture a discipline of daily Bible reading.

Gather God's abundant love and joyfully scatter it back into the world around us!

May God continue to instill in us the will, the heart, and the strength to continue to grow together as He blesses our life in Christ and for the world!

**God's Peace,**

**Pastor Andrew**



### 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**

May 2: Property Clean-up

May 3: Invite A Friend Sunday

May 4 & 11: Stephen Ministry Training

May 18: Stephen Ministry Supervision

May 12: 7:00 PM Church Council

May 23: Zion Flea Market

May 24th: 11:30 AM Congregational Meeting

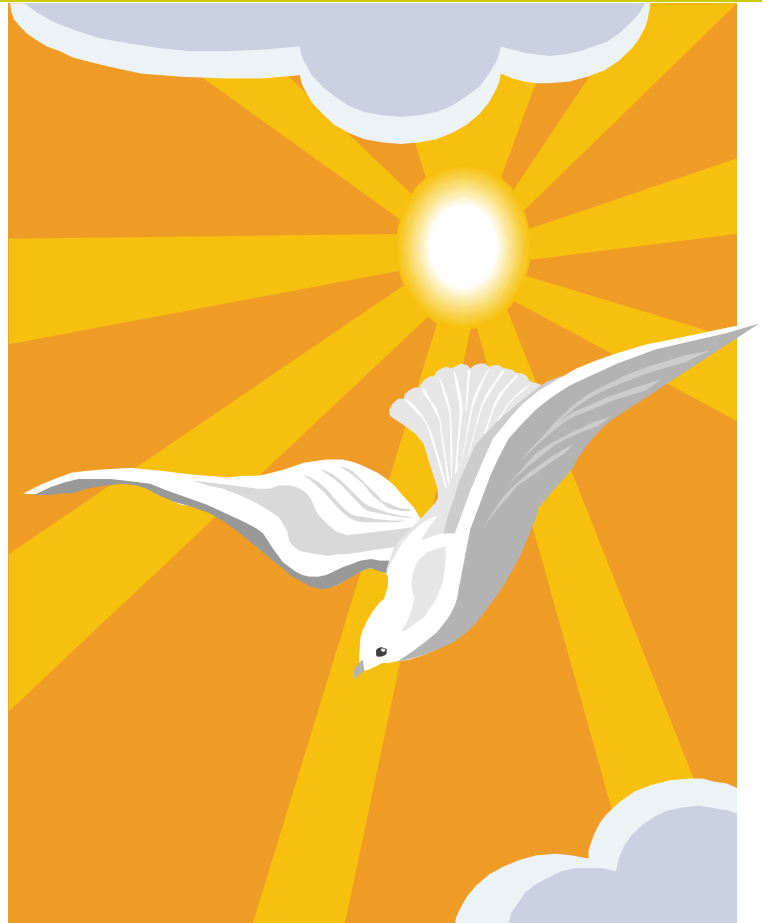
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*“Like the  
murmur of the  
dove’s  
song...come, Holy  
Spirit, come.”*





## FROM THE PRESIDENT

About three or four weeks ago an elderly member of the church approached me and rather sternly said she wanted to speak to me. Weak in the knees and dry in the mouth I called her aside and her opening line was:

"I want to thank you for taking care of *my* church."

I moved aside and looked over my shoulder wondering who she was speaking to behind me. You see, it is not often I hear things like this. Mostly I am approached about something I did not do or did poorly. The chat went on for about two minutes and I walked away with a lot more bounce than when she approached me.

"I want to thank you for taking care of *my* church."

Not the church; not our church, but *my* church. What a powerful pronoun that was. There are very few people/institutions in our lives (other than family) that we refer to in this 'ownership' fashion. Mostly we claim ownership of people who are critical to our lives: my doctor, my pastor, my church. Oddly, three things aligned with life and death.

I suspect that this member has had a long relationship with Zion and that her church is center to phases in her life. I suspect that this is not a unique relationship by this one member but that most members of Zion have a fundamental respect between themselves, their church and their pastor.

At no time is our relationship with our church more challenged= than today's social and economic climates. So many people contribute so much to Zion in big and small ways, too numerous to list and now I want to take a minute to "thank you for taking care of my church." I want to take this moment to thank our pastor for his spiritual guidance and to thank the Council for it's tireless efforts to make Zion a church of which we are all so proud. Ask yourself if you have done something for Zion over this long (and hopefully now past) winter and if you did I thank you. No matter how small. I thank you. With so many churches tottering on the brink of collapse, it is these small things that you continue to do that will preserve our church.

Soon we will all be heading with our families into the summer activities so precious to New Englanders. Enjoy yourselves, be safe and remember Zion will welcome you back when you return.

Sincerely, Ossie Rambarran

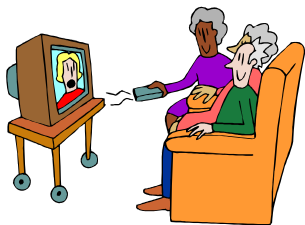
### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Bi-annual meeting of the congregation will take place on **Sunday, May 24th** immediately following the 10:30 worship service. The main item of business on the agenda is the election of people to fill openings on the Church Council. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.



### GERANIUMS

Pentecost Sunday is the last Sunday in May. As we look forward to that Sunday we are reminded that at Zion we place red geraniums in the chancel to help us mark that Sunday. A form has been included in this newsletter for you to order red geraniums to decorate the chancel for that Sunday. After the service is over the geraniums are planted on the church grounds to help beautify our property for the summer months. The deadline to order is May 17th.



**ELCA Ads on TV  
May 11 – 31**

In an effort to spread the good news in prime time

television on what it means to be Lutheran, the ELCA has created a special "brand campaign". The purpose of the campaign is to grow awareness of the ELCA and **inspire members to invite others to a worship service.**

From May 11 – 31, during sweeps, an array of ELCA ads will be broadcast nationally on CNN, CNN Headline News, Fox News, HGTV, and DIY Network.



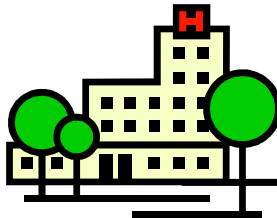
**INVITE A FRIEND  
Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>!!**

Children and adults alike are urged to "invite a friend" (and/or family member) to be with us on this special Sunday. Whom do you know that might be glad to receive an invitation? Bring them with you, or agree to meet them at church or Sunday School on May 3rd.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

The Sunday school will have special activities for the children and our worship will happily celebrate the presence of families and friends alike. Following worship, the Evangelism and Hospitality Committees will have special refreshments and opportunities to greet visitors in the Fellowship Hall.

Please use the Zion postcards available in the narthex to send your invitation. Don't miss this day, so that all of us can be present to say, **"Welcome, friends!"**



**The Lutheran Healthcare Center's  
"Vision for the Future"  
Campaign  
Needs Your Support!**

Zion's goal to reach **\$10,000** for LHC by Easter 2011 has gotten off to a good start! We have attained pledges and/or gifts totaling **over \$4,000.**

Please respond to the mailing you will have received recently, by submitting a pledge or gift toward this mission effort.

Persons with Thrivent Insurance or Investment accounts should make checks payable to "The Lutheran Healthcare Center" and be sure to note your "Thrivent #". These gifts can receive some matching funds. (They will also be credited to Zion's total.)

Thrivent will also help sponsor our May 23<sup>rd</sup> Yard Sale and grant matching funds that can be directed toward our LHC Goal.

Those who have work-related deductions for **the United Way** can also designate their gifts to LHC. They will determine the portion which they can forward to LHC.

All other gifts can simply be submitted to and through Zion's offerings! Be sure to list LHC in the "Memo" portion of your check or add a note accordingly.

**Your gifts and pledges are greatly appreciated!**

**ZION HISTORICAL COMMITTEE**

Since organizing on March 1, the first formal meeting of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Historical Committee was held April 1. Highlights from this meeting include:

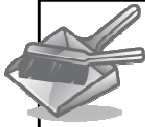
... Approval of \$200.00 from the Memorial Committee to help with the purchase of initial archival supplies.

... Discussion on the accession and de-accession process along with formal acknowledgement to donors.

... Began the process of gathering artifacts from different locations into one designated area.

The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Esther Elliot, Barbara Munch, Conrad Redlitz, and Barbara Steege for their donations of Zion archival data. Your interest and help to preserve our church's history is greatly appreciated.

**In Christ, Jean Peterson, secretary**



**CLEANING IN MAY**

Week of:

- May 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- May 11 \_\_\_\_\_
- May 18 \_\_\_\_\_



**COFFEE HOUR**

May 3: **Martina Eaton**

- May 10 \_\_\_\_\_
- May 17: **Carol and Don Weinhardt**
- May 24 \_\_\_\_\_
- May 31 \_\_\_\_\_

**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 call Karen at the church or Mike at 860-803-1022.

**THANKS!**

Many thanks to Carolyn Henry and Nicholas LeBouef for baking our communion bread. If anyone is interested in baking and getting the recipe, Carolyn is more than willing to share and help.



**PROPERTY CLEAN-UP DAY**

**SATURDAY, MAY 2ND**  
**8:00 AM-12:00 NOON**

Come and help us ready our church grounds for the spring and summer by raking, mulching, weeding gardens, cleaning gutters, washing windows, picking up litter etc.

**PLEASE JOIN US !!!!**

**GLORIOUS LAMPS**

**THE GLORIOUS LAMPS INTERNATIONAL OF PHILADELPHIA, PA**

Is hosting a new CD release concert on:

**SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2009**

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**73 LANCASTER STREET**

**WORCESTER, MA 01609**

**TIME 5:00 PM**

**ADMISSIONS: \$10.00**

**PARTICIPATING GROUPS:**

**CHRIST JUBILEE INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY CHOIR**

**INTERNATIONALS MINISTRY CHOIR**

**TRUMPET OF FAITH CHURCH CHOIR OF WORCESTER**

**INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY OF LOWELL**

**COME AND BE BLESSED FROM THE NEW SONGS OF ZION!**



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Jeff and Jennifer Lundquist welcomed Bryce Jeffrey Lundquist into the world at 5:25 PM on April 13. He weighed in at 20 inches long and 8 lbs. 4 oz. Everyone is doing well

**MEMORIALS**  
**ENDOWMENT FUND**

In memory of  
**Doris Basins**

From

Dr. Walter R. Schur

**MEMORIAL FUND**

In memory of  
**Esther Rothenburg**

From

Isabel Cannalonga



**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Jennifer Graham, Janet Abissi, Cherie Dittmer, Ron Johnson, Sandy Howland, 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, 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, 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 South-eastern Minnesota Synod and the Lutheran Church in Hondouras.

**HAPPY MAY  
BIRTHDAY!**

Jamie Rannila 06  
 Scott Rannila 13  
 Evan Desmarias 14  
 Janette Gion 14  
 Robert Laurens 16  
 Grace Mueller 21  
 Geraldine Siegmund 22  
 Adrienne Schur 24  
 Donald Weinhardt 24  
 Jason Craley 26  
 David Clifford 26  
 Patricia Bean 27  
 Robert Langer 31



