

CONTACT US!

OFFICE HOURS

M-F 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

or by appointment.

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Zion Lutheran Church

NOVEMBER 2009

A CHEERFUL GIVER"

At the beginning of our annual stewardship emphasis this year, Mike Bellisario spoke to us about a topic that doesn't get much publicity-tithing (giving 10% of our resources away). I was glad that he did this. Not only did he do a great job, but he opened up a conversation about something we need to speak more openly about.

Our giving is central to who we are as children of God. In everything, God wants only the best for us. Our giving is no exception.

St. Paul writes: "the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:6-7)

Would you say that you are a cheerful giver? Do you know the percentage of your money that you give away? If you don't, I would urge you to sit down and figure it out. What is the portion of what. God has given to you that you choose to give back to God? What do you give back for the work of God in the world? Where does it go?

When you sit down to figure it out spend a few more minutes and look at where the rest of your money goes. What do those percentages look like? What do they say about you? Do they reflect who you want to be? Do they need to be adjusted?

When you look at where your money is going do you feel more or less secure? Do you feel more or less anxious? Do you feel more or less cheerful? If the answers to these questions are: less secure, more anxious, and less cheerful, then chances are you are not using what God has given you the way God meant for you to.

I tithed. I made up my mind to do it several years ago when I realized that my money made me feel less secure, more anxious, and hardly ever cheerful. Since I began giving away ten percent at least three things have happened for me:

1. I think more about how I use money and what I choose to spend it on.
2. I don't worry about having "enough" anymore.
3. I think I have become a "cheerful giver"

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MORNING:

9:00 am Early service

9:30 am Christian Education

10:30 am 2nd service

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 1: 4:30-8:00 PM
LIPY-CM at Zion/Worcester

November 10: 7:00 PM
Church Council meeting

November 15: 4:30-8:00 PM
LIPY-CM at Bethlehem in Sturbridge

November 17: 7:00 PM
Evangelism meeting

November 21: 9:30 AM
Autism Resource Center Sibling Workshop using our facility until 2:30 PM

November 23: 7:00 PM
Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship at First Baptist in No. Oxford

*Zion Lutheran Church
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Jesus gave everything he could for us. God gave everything we have to us. Our Lord didn't give so that we would worry, fear, or be controlled by these gifts, but that we would be cheerful about them and offer them to God and the world God loves.

If you would like to talk more about giving, please feel free to give me a call or email me. I would be glad to schedule a time when we can sit down and chat!

God's Peace, Pastor Andrew

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Joan and I had one of those rare treats last week-end when all three of our (grown) children were in town and back home with us. We had a marvelous time eating, laughing, muttering, grumbling, eating, laughing and arguing. Yes, arguing, a common thing in our household. Here is what I learned:

- One child is homophobic. This brought our 'discussion' fully around to the ELCA's position on gay/lesbian clergy. Most of us know by now that the ELCA voted at the General Assembly this year to approve the ordination of gay and lesbian pastors. It was a clear decision but not one without resistance. This has been under study by Lutherans for more than three years now. Of course, this did not sit well with my son and I guess it will not with many in our own congregation here at Zion maybe much like the decision more than a generation ago to include women as Pastors. Here at Zion, we ought to look at this issue with the greatest of sensitivity and care as this trend will well continue into the future, given the youths of today (who are the future Zion of tomorrow) are usually more accepting of their gay/lesbian peers than many of us 'gray hairs.' I know Pastor Andrew set up meetings for us to share our thoughts and I was particularly sorry I was otherwise committed.
- One child does not care a hoot for the traditional, crotchety church and would rather something more modern, more hip, looser, more applicable. She reminded me that my Hindu friends (smart child this one!) do not have this problem. Pastor Andrew and I have had many a chats over this and tongue-in-cheek we have said we are better off taking Zion to the Malls of America if we want the youths to be involved. Not a bad idea really. Kiosk anyone?

Seriously, we must start thinking of how we can alter or modify or the youths will leave us in droves. Michael J Fox, in the movie *The American president*, makes a statement to Michael Douglas playing the President, "*people want leadership, and in the absence of genuine leadership, they will listen to anyone who steps up to the microphone.*" Pastor Andrew has been extremely receptive to listening to members who have forward thinking ideas for our Church. Wouldn't you stop by and talk with him.

- The third child was more interested in the line between the New England Patriots and the Baltimore Ravens. Some things just do not change...even with time!

So dear friends, 2010 promises to challenge us economically and spiritually. As we move into our Stewardship Phase at Zion think not only of time, talent and treasures (oh dear! Mike Bellisario will surely give me an earful for saying this) but think socially as well. Get involved and help lay the foundation for a Zion that would be less stodgy in the future.

Ossie Rambarran

CLEANING



Week of:

November 2: The Siegmunds

November 9: OPEN

November 16: OPEN

November 23: OPEN

November 30: OPEN

COFFEE HOUR



Sunday:

November 1: Hebert/Baronowski

November 8: OPEN

November 15: The Bacons

November 22: The Weinhardts

November 29: 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 November. If you can fill in any of the above dates please call Karen at the church or sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee wants to thank all those that made this Stewardship drive a tremendous success. A special thank you goes out to Susan Pierce, Don Weinhardt, Pastor Simon and the children for their willingness to do Temple Talks this year. The theme "Attitude of Gratitude" was a huge success. The kick-off Turkey dinner was enjoyed by all and should be continued again next year. Each year it amazes me how this congregation responds to the Stewardship drive. It is evident that all prayerfully considered their commitment to our Lord and to Zion. Each year the number of people that helps out with cleaning and coffee hour continues to increase. Those using their gifts and talents in Sunday school, Stephen Ministry, Committees and all areas of worship continue to grow each year. Pledging and E-giving even in these tough economic times continue to surpass the previous year's totals. Many churches are not growing in numbers, spirituality or giving but Zion is one of a very small percentage of Lutheran Churches in New England that continues to grow in all areas. The Lord has blessed us here at Zion with continued growth in numbers, spirituality and giving.

If you have not received a pledge/commitment card, there are some available in the narthex or you can ask a member of the Stewardship committee. Coffee hour and church cleaning signup sheets are posted in the back of the narthex for all that want to serve our Lord in this capacity. Thanks to all that helped, cooked and baked for the Turkey Dinner. It was a great night of fellowship that was enjoyed by all. Covenants were made and written on leaves and then displayed on the fantastic tree that Pastor Simon made. God blessed the program and we are all thankful for his presence. **Yours in Christ, Michael Bellisario**



GREENING NEWS

This month we would like to offer an open invitation to anyone who may be interested in joining the Property and Greening Committee. If you have ideas for improvements around the church or a special interest in helping Zion become more "green" we would love to have you. Meetings are held on a monthly basis with a minimal time commitment. Please see Jim Champoux or Pastor Andrew if you're interested.

LUTHERAN HEALTHCARE CENTER PLANS GROUNDBREAKING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH 10:00 AM

- Renovation has already begun at LHC with the installation of a new heating and ventilation system which will both increase energy efficiency and enhance resident comfort during the months ahead.
- The full project has evolved in the past months to include changes that will still fulfill the original goals, but at a lower cost and with a smaller expansion repositioned on the site.
- To date the LHC Campaign has raised \$1 Million toward the \$1.5 million goal
- **Zion is aiming toward a \$20,000 commitment to LHC by Easter 2011.**
- We have received \$10,000 as a match for gifts. In addition we have received \$4,500 **bringing our present contributions to \$14,500 to date.**

You can help Zion fulfill its full potential of \$20,000 for LHC by your gifts. Donations may be made through Zion or directly to the Lutheran Healthcare Center.

Zion has also continued to be a helpful support to LHC in other ways. Countless videos have been given to the home from members and many gifts provided for use in their activities.

Please continue to remember LHC in your prayers and in your giving. Join us for Groundbreaking on Nov. 12.

Pastor Ken Bean

LHC Chaplain & Zion's Contact Person



LIPY-CM ACTIVITIES

November 1: 4:30-8:00 pm

Movie Night at Zion Worcester. Meet at Zion Oxford

November 15: 4:30-8:00 pm

Drug Intervention Workshop at Bethlehem Sturbridge. Meet at Zion.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Thank you, Zion Members, for the generous outpouring of back to school supplies. They were donated to TEEG, The Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group. This group hosts an after school drop in center and provides tutoring to students of all ages. They provide wonderful resource for children who may be economically and academically stressed.

All of the videos and CD's were delivered to the Lutheran Home in Worcester. These additions will help to freshen their film library and will be most appreciated with winter days upon us.

Paula Clark



COMMUNITY ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD AT 7:00 PM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, NORTH OXFORD

Bring a bag of non-perishable food items for the Oxford Food Shelf. We will try to fill a pickup truck until it overflows-come help!

HISTORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

In the September newsletter, I made reference to a future need for the History Committee, that being a fireproof file cabinet to store the church's archival material. Much to my surprise, within two weeks, I was told that there had been sufficient donations made to the Committee, through the Memorial Fund, that we could make the purchase. On September 14, we took delivery of a "like new", used Fire King four drawer file cabinet. All the significant records are now stored with this cabinet. Our "thanks" to all those who made this acquisition possible.

Next, I am asking all our more senior members to think back to May 7, 1979. This is the one year anniversary of the dedication of the new church. A special insert to the bulletin was dedicated to Memorial gifts. I quote from this insert, "As a permanent record the following received memorials will be placed chronologically in the "Book of Remembrance", to which all subsequent memorial gifts will also be added, " Does anyone have any recollection of ever seeing this book or know where it might be. It would seem that it was a special and fancy type ledger. Is it possible that it is in the possession of the original custodian or some member of their family?

In a related matter, we have not been able to open the safe that was brought from the Zion Church in Webster, and is now in the boiler room of the present church. We have not been able to locate anyone who can remember seeing this safe open at this location. The dial on the safe shows evidence that an attempt has been made to break into it, to no avail. We do not know if there is anything in it, or is it empty. It is fairly large and heavy, but there must have been some reason to transport it from Webster. We are trying to get an estimate from a professional as to the cost of getting it opened. Stay tuned in, I hope we can resolve this.

Also during the month of September, Anne Bayer gave to me, on loan to the Committee, a three inch thick loose leaf binder. This binder contains a very complete account of the history of The Emanuel Lutheran Church from 1925 until it's closing. It contains a considerable number of significant photos as well as commemorative programs etc. Once we have the funds to do so, we will have all material copied and added to our archives. **Respectfully submitted, Donald H. Weinhardt, Chairman**



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It is hard to believe that Christmas is right around the corner! Every year we decorate the Chancel with red poinsettias for our Christmas worship services. You have the opportunity to donate a poinsettia for those services. An order form has been included in this newsletter. Please note that the deadline for all orders is **December 13th**



EDUCATION

Our Sunday School needs one or two people to teach the **1st and 2nd grade class**. If we have 2 people to team teach then the job could be shared so that it didn't involve every week for either person. If you can help **contact Patti Murray at 508-987-1129**



WELCOME GIRL SCOUTS

We are very pleased to have the Girl Scouts back at Zion. The 6th-8th grade Girl Scout Cadets are meeting at Zion on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30 in the Fellowship Hall under the direction of Kelly MacGregor.

ZION'S NEW TREASURER

Mrs. Kim Bachand has become the new treasurer for Zion. Kim and her husband Mark joined Zion 6½ years ago. Their daughter Heather was Pastor Andrew's first baptism! Kim is happy she can help out. She joins our church council and officially began the job on Sunday, October 11th. Many thanks to Ossie Rambarran for handling the duties of the treasurer until our new treasurer was found. Thank you, Ossie! Welcome, Kim!



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Katharina Flynn, Joyce Cozzens, Al Killian, Louise Cyr, Jackie Bean, Fran Chlapowski, Rebecca Chlapowski, Esther Elliott, Tom Mallett, Fred Grindle, Eleanor Gadoery, Mala Abdella, Ruth Jenkns, Josie Hendrix, Raymon Angel Nunez, Pamela Foy, Jeri-Lynn Berlin, Janet Abissi, Cherie Dittmer, Ron Johnson, Sandy Howland, Bruce Arnott, Arthur Siegmund, Ruth Witthoef., Brian Quinlan, Mrs. Wurth, Maryanne Grzelecki, Debbie Monaco, Matthew Lucas, Lois Austin, John Dunphy, Frank Abissi, Ronny Waters, Katie Schmidt, Patricia Mokaba, Rev. Don and Rev. Peg Olson, Joyce Gatzke Tavares, Theresa Bromme, Patz and Robert Clark, 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, Isabel Cannalunga, Mary McIntyre, Helen McGovern, Susan Rohr, Bob Blood Jr., Geraldine Maher, 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 Southeastern Minnesota Synod and the Lutheran Church in Honduras.



MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Sam Ruggiano

From PBM Nutritional LLC
Gary and Judy Miller

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

In memory of Laretta Larson

From
Gerri and Dick Siegmund
Barbara Steege

In memory of Elsie Whalen

From
Isabel Cannalunga
Barbara Steege

In memory of Ed Martin

From
Isabel Cannalunga
Barbara Steege
Gerri and Dick Siegmund



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bernard Cyr 01
Brian Keegan 01
Albert Rizner 03
Sandy Maisano 04
Jennifer Levasseur 08
Robert Cozzens 08
Jean Peterson 11
Barbara Munsch 11
Doris Manzi 11
Susan Pierce 11
Barbara Merolli 13
Barbara Haggerty 15
Richard Plaza Jr.16
Charlie Karp 17
Edward Rossmeisl 17
Valerie Daoust 19
Debbie Schur 21
Caitlin Clark 21
Julie Williams 22
Edward Keegan III 25
Amy Canty 25
Joey Watkins 26

