

GOD IS GOOD...ALL THE TIME!



Zion Lutheran Church NOVEMBER 2010

**CONTACT US!
OFFICE HOURS**

T-F (Karen)
NOON-3:00 PM

Office Phone
(508) 987-1248

Office email: Karen Borden
oxfordzion@charterinternet.org

Website
www.oxfordzion.org

Emergency Pastoral Contact
The Rev. John Nieman
508-829-6707



**SUNDAY
MORNING:**

**9:00 AM
Early Service**

9:30 AM Christian Ed

9:45 AM Adult Forum

10:30 AM 2nd Service

TUESDAY

6:00 PM

**NOVEMBER UPCOMING
EVENTS**

Nov. 1: 5:00 PM St. Ministry
Leaders, and **6:00 PM** St.
Ministry Mtg.

NOV. 9: 7:00 PM Church
Council Meeting

Nov. 13: 8:00-5:00 PM St.
Ministry Leader Planning Re-
treat

Nov. 15: 6:00 PM St. Ministry

**NOV. 22: Ecumenical
Thanksgiving Service at
Methodist church-Time to
be announced**

Nov. 29: 6:00 PM St. Ministry

A THANKSGIVING MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOHN NIEMAN

To God's People at Zion:

As you continue in the call-process, once again I have the opportunity to serve for a while as your transitional pastor. I look forward to being with you again.

With a national Day of Thanksgiving soon approaching, I share a few thoughts about thankfulness, and about how one goes about saying, "thank you" to God. In looking up the Hebrew words for thankfulness I was surprised to find that there are none, none which refer to the feeling of being thankful. Instead, all of the words that have to do with thankfulness are action words, words that say such things as, singing a prayer of thanks, presenting an offering of gratitude—but as far as just feeling thankful, there are none.

And how fitting that is! For, even amid the worst of times, even amid the times when the feeling of thankfulness may seem a far reach, God's people have puzzled their neighbors by displaying a true joy, by singing praises, or making joyful noises, or presenting an offering. They heard Paul singing in his jail cell in the dark of night, and amid times of war and famine the prophet Habbakuk was heard singing: "though the fig tree does not blossom, nor fruit be on the vine, though the produce of the olive fail, and fields yield no food, though the flock be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation."

And so, in good times and in difficult times, we can do the thankful actions of singing praises, of speaking prayers of thanks, of giving our time and abilities in service, and, of bringing our thank-offerings. Praise be to God!

Pastor John

WELCOME BACK, PASTOR JOHN!

We welcome Pastor John Nieman back as our Transition Pastor. Pastor John will be leading worship beginning November 2nd. Once again he will be providing part time pastoral care during the months he is with us. **To contact him in case of emergency the phone number is 508-829-6707. His email is jhnatl@verizon.net.** This information will be listed on the weekly bulletin announcement page and at the top of the newsletter.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Fall season is here, to me it's the best time of the year, the bright foliage, the warm sunny days, picking apples, colorful flowers and all the other Autumn festivities. It truly is a time of thanksgiving and reflection.

It is also a time of apprehension for me. I can't help but wonder what the upcoming winter months will bring...how cold and snowy will it be? What will the cost of heating my home be? Will there be any large storms that knock out power for days at a time? And, on and on.

During this season of thankfulness we here at Zion conduct our annual Stewardship Program. It's that time of year when we are asked to make our financial commitment to support the work of the church for the next year.

It is this same time that the Church Council must put together a budget for the next year based on the support we receive from the parishioners. We too have apprehensions. What will the future bring? Many of our costs are fixed and increase regularly. Other costs are determined by how strong we want to make our ministry. Do we want a strong education program? Do we want to reach out to the community with the good news? And, so on. How ambitious do we want our ministry to be?

My hope is that we will be calling a new pastor soon and that we will have a budget in place that will support him and all the new ideas he brings with him to help strengthen our ministry here. Are we willing to give him support?

Every year at this time I can't help but wonder how I might better serve my Lord. I don't know if I can really increase my pledge 5%, after all I am retired and who knows what the future holds. Then I have this little quiz I give myself. First I ask myself, do you believe in GOD Yes, ok. Do you have faith in GOD Yes, ok. Do you trust GOD? Yes, ok. Now, has GOD ever let me down or forsaken me? No. Well, I don't think so because every time in the past when I made a commitment to increase my giving it seems like at the end of the year I can't really see where it made much of a difference in my life. I mean. I didn't really go without anything. Except there is one thing I do know. It seems my faith has gotten much stronger and my trust in my Lord has gotten much stronger and my belief in my GOD has gotten much stronger. Now that I think of it, I guess my commitment has made a big difference in my life and it can in yours too.

GO IN PEACE. PUT YOUR TRUST IN THE LORD!

Bob Laurens



The council wishes to welcome aboard Sue Butchman as our new Financial Secretary. Sue will be working with the newly appointed counters, Kim Bachand, Pat Bean, Sarah Craley, Sandy Maisano, Janice Masi, Susan Pierce, Carol Weinhardt, and Lee White. Together they will work to develop a new and more efficient system for accounting of our income. We also would like to thank Amy Canty for her dedicated service to Zion in this capacity over the past years.

Thank you, Bob Laurens



OXFORD ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING

WORSHIP SERVICE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2010

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,

MAIN STREET, OXFORD

TIME: To be announced



ALL ARE WELCOME.

This message greets all who drive by our church or come into our parking lot. When you attend our worship the sign over our entrance reassures you that you are WELCOME. And when the ushers greet you they give you a bulletin and an information sheet listing the readings, hymns, those serving at worship, the psalm, the calendar and a number of announcements. The first word on this sheet is WELCOME. It is so important for all to feel welcomed, newcomers as well as long time members. The signs set the tone, but it is up to each one of us to make sure that being a welcoming community is a reality.

The first Sunday Joe and I attended Zion we were greeted on our way in. We were invited to come to coffee hour following the worship and we were invited to join a group already sitting at a table. During the week we received a note of welcome. There were many things we liked about Zion, but the attention we received as newcomers, the friendliness of the congregation and the follow up made us want to come back

Under WELCOME on the information sheet it says: ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Growing Community of Faith.

An important step in continuing to be a Growing Community of Faith is to continue to welcome all who come through our doors.

Cecelia Jalbert, Evangelism Chairman

HOSPITALITY TEAM MEETING.

I had my first meeting for Hospitality since returning from a fun filled summer. The meeting was on Tuesday October 12th.

I had *one* member of hospitality present, along with a member of our church that can help, but cannot be on another committee at this time.

I mentioned a fun filled summer. When was the last time you had a fun filled time at church? When was the last time you said, "I love My Church Because"... Church means so many different things to so many different people. I would love to have an activity at our church that is filled with FAITH * HOPE * CHARITY & FUN! It is time we open God's gifts. I will need help gathering the sheep. I will need help to make this a success. Please reach out to me if you can be a part of Hospitality during the planning stage. Let us put our energy into something positive for a positive future. Let us gather for Christian Fellowship.

Lisa Betrovski

Enjoythejourney4@aol.com

508-248-4547



RESPECTING GOD'S CREATION



October 18th-20th the annual Bishop's Convocation for clergy of the New England Synod was held in Leominster, MA. One of the central themes at this year's convocation was the "Greening" of the church and respecting the world God created. This is a subject that Zion has been taking seriously the past couple of years. Our multi use cardstock bulletins which save paper, recycle bins, new energy efficient refrigerator, programmable thermostats and the use of washable mugs for Coffee Hour are examples of this. We can all help by turning off the lights in the bathrooms and in the building when we are the last to leave and putting recyclable materials into the recycle bins (no styrofoam, please). Together we can all help to preserve God's Creation.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



GOD'S WORK...OUR HANDS!

The **Stephen Ministry** group is starting a quilting ministry and we would like to partner with members of the congregation. All are welcome!

Don't know how to sew? No worries. We need help of all kinds.

1st We need donations of fabric and sewing notions such as thread and such.

2nd We need people who are willing to cut fabric block kits.

3rd We need people willing to have some laughs while helping others.

Of course if you can sew, and want to be involved that is great too!

Please contact **Charlene Howland** at home **860-928-1307** or email her at chowlan@commerceinsurance.com

LOOK FOR A KICK-OFF MEETING DATE SOON!

SHELL FUNDRAISER

The Stephen Ministry shell fundraiser will offer a selection of cut shells for sale for delivery by Christmas. All orders must be in by November 21. We have Crosses in 3 designs, Snowflakes with 3 different centers and Angels. All are \$8.00 each order and must be prepaid. To order please call Carol Weinhardt at 508-461-7424. On November 21, I will be outside the Fellowship Hall after each service. I will also have some stock available for sale that day.

Thank you! Carol Weinhardt



WORLD HUNGER ADVOCATE TO REPRESENT ZION— STILL NEEDED

World Hunger The New England Synod Hunger Task Force is searching for a person from Zion to serve as a World Hunger Advocate. The role of this person would be to assist Zion by keeping world hunger issues in front of our congregation. Help us to find out what our role can be in a global sense. There are so many people devastated by lack of food and water in places such as Haiti and Pakistan. **To be Zion's representative, contact Paula Clark at 508-943-9134.**

URGENT! PLEASE HELP!

Zion's Card Ministry needs money in it's account. Are you willing to donate to this Spiritual outreach? Zion's homebound and those in nursing homes depend on hearing from their Church Family. Financial support, first class stamps or scripted cards will be greatly appreciated. Checks may be made out to Zion Lutheran Church with a note on the memo line for Card Ministry.

Thank you, Margaret Heide

What is it like to be a Christian ???

It's like being a pumpkin. God picks you from a patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off you. He cuts off the top and scrapes out the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside you to shine for all the world to see. Happy Fall !!!

Sue Schade



PRAYER LIST COMMITTEE

On the other side of the cover you will find an article and a form created by Jean Peterson and the Prayer List Committee (a sub-committee of the Worship Committee) relating to changes made to the way our Prayer List is handled. Please read carefully to understand the process created by the committee to help keep the Prayer List current.



ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of
France Jacobson
Dr. Walter Schur

MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of
France Jacobson
Brian and Nancy Sgariglia

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of
Gertrude Dojan
George and Norma Peterson



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
[Mic Woods 25](#)
Edward Keegan III 25
Amy Canty 25
Joey Watkins 26
[Maureen Champoux 27](#)

Louise Cyr, Ethel Elliott, Tristan Theerman, Ron Johnson, Joseph Vespa, William Joett, Isabel Mazzarella, Andy Bowman, Carol Radzik, Dennis Mercer, Matthew Karp, Sten-Eric Westin, Walter Schur, Michael Johnston, 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, Brian Quinlan, Mrs. Wurth, Maryanne Grzelecki, Matthew Lucas, Lois Austin, Frank Abissi, Patricia Mokaba, Rev. Don Olson, Theresa Bromme, Patz and Robert Clark, Gilbert Thibeault, Alexia Clinton, Wilma Miller, Frank Maher, Margarethe Johnson, David Marcoux, Robert Nowak, Kathy Witt, Rocky Miller, Jim McGovern, Norman Clark Jr., Albert Risner, Anne Bayer, Phyllis Watkins, Isabel Canalonga, Mary McIntyre, Susan Rohr, Geraldine Maher, Dolores Masi, John Laverne, Michael Gustafson, Diana Powers, Peter Pierce, David Healy, military personnel serving our country especially Brian Cole, John Kochinkas, Eric DeAvilla, Airman D. J. Kelley, Matthew Cremonni, William Jakola, Brandon Morin, Joel Daoust, Dedrick Baublitz, Michelle Ramsey, Richard Ramsey, Barbie Miller and Jessie Meagher.



AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

Beginning Balance 01/01/10- Operating Account		\$ 1,924.06
2009 Void checks		62.00
	September	
Income/interest	\$	\$ 60,297.30
E-Giving	\$	\$ 28,121.97
Other income received	\$	\$ 723.00
Expenses	\$	\$ (86,092.86)
	\$	
	(1,130.45)	
Transfer from Designated Funds		3,400.00
Check book balance as of 09/30/10		<u>\$ 8,435.47</u>

Beginning Balance 01/01/10- Memorial/Designated Funds		\$ 20,297.38
	September	
Income/interest	\$	\$ 6,552.14
	259.04	\$ -
Expenses	\$	\$ (4,604.92)
	(439.32)	
	\$	
	(2,441.18)	
Transfer to/from Operating Acct		\$ (2,582.56)
Check book balance as of 09/30/10		<u>\$ 19,662.04</u>

Beginning Balance 01/01/10- Endowment Fund Account		\$ 14,664.00
	September	
Income/interest	\$	\$ 1,044.05
	3.33	
Check book balance as of 09/30/10		<u>\$ 15,708.05</u>

Respectfully submitted
Shirley Rossmeisl, Treasurer

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