

Zion Lutheran Church

OCTOBER 2009

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



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MORNING:

9:00 am Early service

9:30 am Christian Education

10:30 am 2nd service

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 4: 4:30 PM LIPY KICKOFF at Immanuel Holden

October 5: 7:00 PM Book Club Barbara Steege's home

October 13: 7:00 PM Church Council

October 17th: 9:30 AM Youth-Lutheran Healthcare Cleanup

October 17: 5:00 PM Stewardship Turkey Dinner

October 24: 9:30 AM "CWA Conversations" Closest location to Zion is Immanuel in Holden. (see article p. 2)

"ALL ARE WELCOME"

It was while we were on vacation on the Cape in August, that I learned about our church's recent decision to open the roster to people in committed same-gender relationships. My aunt, while surfing the web came across a headline from the Los Angeles Times: "Lutherans Lift Barrier on Gay Clergy" she read, "Is that true?" The honest answer was "I don't know." After reading the article, together we learned of the vote that took place at our ELCA Churchwide Assembly to open the roster for ministry to openly gay men and women. Then I told my aunt: "It is true" and we all went back to whatever we had been doing: reading, applying sunscreen, or heading off to the beach.

In the time since then, we've had nearly a month to think, read, and talk about the decision made at our Churchwide Assembly. On September 15, a small group of us gathered at Zion to have an open conversation about the changes in our church. We read reflections from voting members of the Churchwide Assembly, from our presiding Bishop Mark Hanson, and from our bishop for the New England Synod, Margaret Payne. I appreciated the openness of all who came. We spoke about questions, including what this would mean at our local church, and what the changes mean for the national church. Some of us expressed concerns over what the future would bring, citing the major divisions that this issue has created in other denominations. Questions about our ecumenical relationships in the United States and throughout the world were voiced. Even though we were a small group, I noticed that there was a wide spectrum of thought and feeling related to these changes. In all of it, though, we agreed on holding the love of God central to all that we do, and keeping God's redeeming love at the center of our mission to the world around us. I want to thank everyone who came for the thoughtful conversation.

At Zion, we are no different than our brothers and sisters throughout the rest of the ELCA. Some of us celebrate the change and welcome it as a necessary decision for the ministry of the church in our world. Others of us are upset by it and wonder what it will mean for the future of our denomination. As is always the case, there are many of us whose feelings lie somewhere in between. Each voice has something to say. Each of us has something valuable to contribute to the conversation. Each of us has a responsibility to listen to our brothers and sisters in the pew next to us.

I pray that whether we celebrate the change or have concerns about it we will continue to remember the words that we bear to all who pass by our building each day, the words that we read every time we come and go- "All Are Welcome." This community of faith has been a place where people have found an open door, a welcoming spirit, and the life of a congregation bound together by the love of God.

Continued on page 2

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*Cultivating
an
Attitude of
Gratitude*

Continued from page 1 As we continue to listen to one another, to the church, and to the world around us, I pray that we would each remember the welcoming love of Jesus that gathers us together-with our diverse opinions, lives, and voices. This is the same love that binds us to one another as a diverse community of faith where no voice other than God's is permitted to speak above the group.

With this, as with all things in our church and in our life, I pray that we would let God lead us-into conversation, into the future, and into continued ministry with the people around us as we remind the world that within these walls "All Are Welcome."
God's Peace! Pastor Andrew

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP MARGARET PAYNE

Dear Partners in Ministry,

The 11th Biennial Churchwide Assembly (CWA) of the ELCA that gathered in Minneapolis this past summer was a remarkable event filled with inspirational worship, debate, decision-making and the sharing of community in Christ. Alongside the joy of a new full communion relationship with the United Methodist Church and a new commitment to the eradication of malaria, the work of the assembly included the vote to accept a social statement on human sexuality and the decision to begin work on the revision of policy changes that will allow for the rostering of persons who are in committed same-gender relationships. None of the above is new information for you, but conversation continues on these issues across the country, and it will continue for a long time.

In order to provide an opportunity for our own conversation about the work of the 2009 CWA and what it means for our congregations and for the New England Synod, we have planned three days of "CWA Conversations" that are open not only to rostered leaders, but to any members of ELCA congregations who want to attend to learn about the work of the assembly, ask questions about the decisions and look ahead to what these matters mean for the work of the gospel.

These conversations will be held:

+ Oct. 18 (Sunday), 3-5 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Meriden, Conn. (203.238.1248)

+ Oct. 24 (Saturday), 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Holden, Mass. (508.829.4416)

+ Oct. 25 (Sunday), 3-5 p.m. at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Manchester, N.H. (603.623.3451)

It would be helpful if you could call the congregation where the meeting is being held to let them know you are coming. This courtesy will help as plans are made for refreshments and the appropriate room is set aside for the meeting, but please feel free to attend even if you have not called ahead.

I look forward to these conversations as a way to answer questions, hear opinions and share reactions to the work of the assembly. As possible according to personal schedules, the other voting members that attended from our synod will be present to take part in these discussions. Regardless of our conscience-bound positions that might vary, we are one as the presence of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in this place. There is room for differing perspectives on this issue as we continue together in mission; we continue our emphasis on the need to listen to one another in love.

***Blessings to you in this fall season, Bishop Margaret G. Payne
New England Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America***

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Summer has come and is fast fading as we enter into what are probably the most crucial months of Zion. These are the months in which we celebrate so many things that are meaningful to us: Thanksgiving, Christmas and Stewardship just to name a few. At Zion we are changing the ways we live and do business to become better stewards of God's creation. We recycle, change light bulbs, green our Church, homes and even work places. We preach and teach at Zion that all creation is very good and that "the Earth is the Lord's," and that all life is sacred

Our witness to the justice that Jesus proclaims is inextricably expressed as we care for endangered species, degraded ecosystems and the poverty of humanity.

Christian Stewardship is a fundamental teaching of Jesus while he walked this earth for 33 years. Let me tell you that Zion itself is a witness to great Christian stewardship. Volunteers too numerous to mention keep our Church alive and well. Pastor shared some information at Council that basically states that our Church(Zion) is one of 18% of Churches in New England that has shown positive growth over the past few years. Know what this means? It means that 82% of Churches in New England showed negative growth or none at all. Let me also say to you that Zion will continue to grow stronger in the years to come because of stewards like you! Stewards who have stepped forward to fill vacancies on the Council because they want to make a difference, they want to lead and because they want Zion to succeed. When I think I cannot be any more amazed at membership's dedication, some folks step forward and leave me in total awe.

A good friend of mine often says to me when I bemoan the vagaries of my job," Os, shut up and row the boat." I say to you "row the boat " but do not shut up. As you row during this Fall campaign for our Church, please reflect on Knute Ogren's message to us last fall: if each of us look within our Christian hearts and do our bit then our Church will always survive major crises. Knute exhorted us to not think about the 5 or 6 families who give lots of time, talent and treasures but to think about how each of us as individuals or families can increase our time, talents and treasures to Zion. If you do just that then your personal Christian Stewardship will be an important concept for others to follow suit.

Think about it I want to welcome all our vacationing members back from their summer hiatuses. Glad you had a good and restful time with families and friends. I want to thank all those who took responsibility for their personal stewardship over this year. I want to welcome all new members and visitors and those musing becoming members. God is good to you and usall the time!

Ossie Rambarran



GREENING NEWS

This month we are asking the congregation to consider donating items to help Zion become a "greener" church. There are two opportunities we want to offer:

1. A more energy efficient refrigerator

Our current refrigerator is roughly 10 years old and while functional it is not as efficient as more recent models. We are especially interested in refrigerators less than 5 years old. If you have one you would like to get rid of and want to consider donating it to the church, please let either Pastor Andrew or a Property/Greening committee member know.

2. Green Cleaning Supplies

If you don't have a refrigerator to ditch, this one may be for you. One of the easiest ways to make Zion a greener church is to use environmentally safer cleaning products. The problem is that these earth friendly products tend to be more expensive. If you have extra green cleaning products on hand consider passing them on to the church. Once again, let Pastor Andrew or a Property/Greening committee member know if you are interested. Thanks! **Jason Craley**

CLEANING IN**Week of:****October 5:** Dick & Gerri Siegmund**October 11:** OPEN**October 18:** OPEN**October 25:** OPEN**COFFEE HOUR**
IN**Sunday:****October 4:** Hebert/ Baronowski**October 11:** OPEN**October 18:** OPEN**October 25:** The Lukaseks

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 October. 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.

**TURKEY DINNER**

The Stewardship Committee will be hosting a **turkey dinner**, with the help of other committees, at Zion at **5pm on Saturday, October 17th. All are invited** to this evening of singing, eating and fellowship. The program for the evening will start with a short service that will include singing for young and old. Next we will enjoy a turkey dinner and then there will be time to discuss scripture pertaining to stewardship and an opportunity to make a covenant with our Lord or to Zion.

This is a new program and the Stewardship committee is expecting a big turn out to kick off our **Attitude of Gratitude** stewardship theme for our upcoming stewardship drive. Over the past two years the committee has been amazed at the response of our members in their giving to the church in so many ways. Many responded to my challenge and have opened their Alabaster jars and shared their gifts with Zion. You have shared your time, talents and gifts to make Zion a growing, energetic and spiritual church of worship.

If you want to help out at the dinner there are **sign-up sheets** at church to do any of the following: set up, clean up, and help prepare the dinner or to bring a side dish or a dessert.

The stewardship drive will be a 3 week program this year. October 18th will be the first temple talk, Susan Pierce will speak on the 25th and the program will conclude with Consecration Sunday on November 1st.

Yours in Christ, Michael Bellisario, Stewardship Chair

ZION'S CARD**MINISTRY**

Zion's Card Ministry is currently sending no less than 17 cards to our homebound and friends, monthly. If you know of someone who needs a message of prayer from Zion, please contact Barbara Steege or Margaret Heide. Donations of Scriptured cards and postage would be much appreciated. **Margaret Heide**



HAMMONASSET TRIP 2009

Four of our high school students went to Hammonasset on September 10-12. The adventure started with a ride in the pouring rain down 395 south. While driving I thought putting up a tent in the wind and rain sounds really scary to me. I prayed "please God give me strength to do this." I have a lot of kids that are counting on me to keep them safe and dry. I also prayed for the rain to stop long enough to get the tent up. We arrived at 5:15 and the wind was whipping across the fields. As we approached the campsite the rain stopped and the wind became a gentle breeze. All I kept saying was "Thank you God, Thank you God." That night as we stood under a big circus tent and the Pastor was speaking to the kids (which was outstanding!) the heavens let loose once gain. Every thing was good. We were all tucked safely under the big white tent that acted like a wind of an angel keeping us day and safe. The weekend was really wonderful! There were 660 kids with their adults. **Seven Glory** was a great Christian band to rock out to. The kids as well as the adults loved to hear the stories that Pastor Jay spoke of and the messages that they sent. Pastor Andrew Borden was our Sunday morning Pastor. Thank you Pastor, for making an outdoor service even more special. It was great seeing our kids helping with communion. We also won an award this year. "**Oxford Zion**" won the **Best Over-All Theme** for the sidewalk chalk display. First time! Nice job! We all have pictures displayed on the bulletin board from the weekend at Hammonasset. At this time I would like to thank everyone at Zion for making donations so we could attend a God filled weekend with our youth. **Thank you very much! Lisa Betrovski, Kristen Betrovski, Elise Jallinoja, Kathy Champoux, and Michala Woods**

OCTOBER YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

LIPY KICK-OFF SUNDAY OCT. 4 Join us on Sunday October 4 as we begin another year of youth group events with the **Lutheran Inter-Parish Youth Group of Central MA**. We will gather for pizza and fun at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Holden. **Meet at Zion at 4:30, we will return by 7 pm.**

LUTHERAN HEALTHCARE CLEANUP- On **Saturday October 17**, we will help to refresh the landscaping at the Lutheran Healthcare Center of Worcester and Florence House. Pizza and fun to follow at Trinity Lutheran Church, Worcester. **Meet at Zion 9:30, return by 2 pm.**

****We need drivers, if you can help, see Pastor Andrew.**



COLLEGE STUDENTS LOVE MAIL!

At this point we have received the following addresses of college bound youth. A note or card would be welcome!!!!

Katelyn Betrovski
UMASS Dartmouth
 285 Old Westport Rd. 02747-2300
Elmwood box 30-1653

Kevin Joslyn
Western New England College
 Box 3242
 1215 Wilbraham Rd.
 Springfield, MA 01119

Courtney Olson
Worcester State College
 486 Chandler Street
 Box 180
 Worcester, MA 01602



STEPHEN MINISTRY UPDATES

This is an update on the special cut shell project from the Stephen Ministry Team. We will begin to accept orders for these lovely cut shells for delivery by Christmas. We have Crosses, Stars, Snowflakes and several different kind of Angels. The cost is \$8.00 for each and \$6.00 for a small Angel. They make perfect hostess gifts and all will enhance any Christmas tree. I will be placing an order to our artist on November 2nd. This will be the last date to have them delivered by December 20th for Christmas. There will be a display put out of these lovely ornaments and Crosses for everyone to examine in October.

We will continue to take and place orders thru the year as we receive them,. All orders must be accompanied by payment. To place an order or even to look at our lovely samples, call **Carol Weinhardt—508-461-7424**.

AUTISM RESOURCE CENTER

Sibling Workshop

At Zion on November 21st

9:30 AM-2:30 PM

A few years ago Zion began a relationship with this wonderful organization. Located in West Boylston, one of the many services they provide is the Sibling Workshop. The workshops are held throughout the year and they use Zion to provide a central location for the many families involved Sibling workshops. On **November 21st** they will be here to use our building from **9:30 AM-2:30PM**. Please note this on your calendars to aid in planning use of church this fall.



HOMEBOUND VISITATIONS

Scheduled Homebound Visitations are made monthly to Zion's members. We are in NEED of willing drivers. **Please contact Margaret Heide at 508-943-5443.**



MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Samuel Ruggiano

From

Camille Mongada

William Neer

Laurence Gene Bousquet

Laurie Pape Bousquet

Thomas Schmidt

Patricia Shmidt

Carrie M. Knox

In memory of Gertrude Dojan

From

Norma and George Peterson



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Tita Sandoval 01

Maura Aniello 03

James Brundage 04

Krissy Watkins 04

Courtney Olson 06

Nicholas LeBoeuf 24

Kelly Cyr 08

Megan Clark 08

Caroline Lorkiewicz 11

Matthew Lempicki 12

Leah McGaughey 14

Barbara Hasenberg 19

Lisa Cheever 20

Jouko Siimes 20

Pamela Foy 22

Jonathan Costello 22

Lois Austin 24

Nancy Fournier 25

Karen Johnson 28

Adam Schur 29

BOOK CLUB MEETING

Zion Book Club will meet on **Monday, October 5, at 7:00 PM** at the home of **Barbara Steege**. The book for discussion is The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society by Mary Ann Shafer

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Nana Swanstrom, Dirk Fuller, Larry Thorpe, 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 Witthoeft, 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 Cannalonga, 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.



Sit back and relax this holiday season!

Stephen Ministry is having a...

Homemade Pie Sale

What a bargain...ONLY \$8.00 Per Pie!

It is quick and easy...all you have to do is fill out the order form below and return it to the Church Office, Pam Olson or Charlene Howland.

Just in time for the Thanksgiving holiday...we will have the pies ready to be picked up at church on November 22, 2009.



Name:

Phone Number:

p Apple – Frozen Quantity _____

p Apple – Baked Quantity _____

p Pumpkin – Frozen Quantity _____

p Pumpkin - Baked Quantity _____

RETURN THIS ORDER FORM TO THE FOLLOWING:

CHURCH OFFICE
PAM OLSON
CHARLENE HOWLAND
Email chowlan@commerceinsurance.com

DEADLINES FOR ORDERS IS OCTOBER 24, 2009!