

GOD IS GOOD...ALL THE TIME!

OFFICE HOURS

T-F (Karen) 12:00 noon-3:00 PM

Office Phone

(508) 987-1248

Office email: Karen Borden

admin@oxfordzionchurch.org

Pastor Nancy Beckwith

Pastor's Phone

1-508-499-8787

Email:

pastornancyb@gmail.com

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

Pastor's day off: Friday

Website

www.oxfordzion.org

SUNDAY MORNING:

9:00 AM Worship

9:30 AM Sunday School

9:45 AM Adult Bible Study

10:30 AM Worship

TUESDAY

6:00 PM Worship

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7: 7:00 PM

Endowment mtg.

February 9: 6:00-8:00 PM

LIPY Bowling and Pizza night

February 11: 5:00 PM

Confirmation

February 11 & 25:

6:00 PM St. Ministry Supervision

7:00 PM St. Ministry Training

February 12: 6:00 PM

Mardi Gras Worship

with pancakes, sausages and burning of the palms immediately following worship

February 13: 7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday worship

February 18: 7:00 PM

Making Sense of the Cross

February 19: 7:00 PM

Church Council Mtg.

February 19 & 26 5:00 PM

Soup and Bread

6:00 PM Worship

Zion Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY 2013

THE SEASON OF LENT 2013

*Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn...*

(Isaiah 58:6-7)



On **Ash Wednesday, February 13th**, you are invited to join in a time of worship and contemplation with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes, beginning at 7:00 PM. During Lent, in addition to Sunday Morning worship, our mid-week Tuesday worship will offer an opportunity to turn our attention to the Cross. Details of the Tuesday worship are found inside this newsletter.

At each worship service during Lent, you are invited to bring with you an item for the **Oxford Food Shelf** collection or for a **Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kit**. Information about what is needed is found inside this newsletter. Let us join together to respond to the call of the prophet Isaiah to share our bread with the hungry and to loose the bonds of injustice, and let our light break forth.

In Christ, **Pastor Nancy**

A NOTE FROM PASTOR NANCY ABOUT MY ANKLE... AND WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

I am making progress recovering from my reconstructive ankle surgery. I am receiving physical therapy to strengthen my ankle and expect to return to worship before this newsletter is mailed out. **However, I still cannot drive and will need transportation to and from church for a while.** If you can volunteer to pick me up on a Sunday before the 9:00 am worship, or bring her back after the 10:30 worship, please give me a call.

As always, I am available by phone ([508-499-8787](tel:508-499-8787)) and email at (pastornancyb@gmail.com) Please do not hesitate to contact me as needed. If you cannot reach me, Pastor Bean is also available for pastoral emergencies at [508-943-2762](tel:508-943-2762).



Thank you for the worship leadership and preaching of Ms. Angela Nelson and Pastor Ken Bean who have served Zion during my recovery from the broken ankle. Pastor Bean will continue to lead Tuesday worship for a few more weeks. We wish Ms. Nelson well as she awaits a permanent call to a congregation.



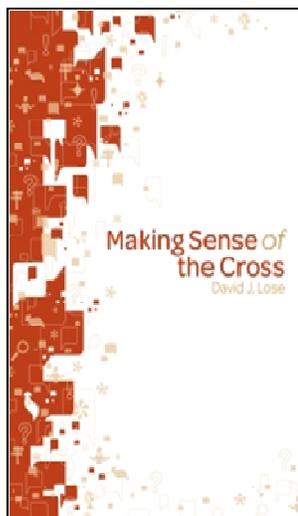
**SECOND ANNUAL
MARDI GRAS
WORSHIP AND
PANCAKE FEAST!**



Before we fast, we feast! Join us for our 2nd annual **Mardi Gras worship and party** on **Tuesday, February 12th at 6:00 PM**. Last year we had a great crowd of 50 folks who turned out for the last worship before Lent. New Orleans jazz style music will accompany our worship. Then we will burn the palms saved from last year's Palm Sunday service to make the Ashes for Wednesday evening. Following the old tradition of the church, of using up the fat before we begin the Lenten fast – we will have a Pancake dinner with lots of butter, chocolate, syrup and good fellowship together.



**MAKING SENSE OF THE CROSS –
ADULT STUDY RESUMES –**



We will resume the adult study – Making Sense of the Cross on **Monday, February 18th at 7:00 PM**. Come, even if you were not able to attend previous sessions. What better time to examine what the Cross means to us as Christians than during Lent.



**TUESDAYS IN LENT:
BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS.**

*Beneath the cross of Jesus, I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.* ELW, hymn #388)

As Christians, we live our lives beneath the cross of Jesus, beneath God's manifold love and grace that reach to us even from Calvary. On Lenten Tuesdays this year, we will explore what it means for us to stand at the foot of the cross, to cling to the rock of our salvation, to dwell in the house of the Lord, and to confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness.

Baptisms and New Members

We are excited to be welcoming new members by baptism and transfer on **February 3rd and February 10th**. If you would like to become a member of Zion, please speak with Pastor Nancy.

2012 Financial statements and 2013 Offering envelopes are available for pickup at the church. Please collect yours so we can save on the postage costs of mailing them to your home.

TUESDAY EVENING LENTEN WORSHIP

This year we will begin on **Tuesday, February 19th**, with a simple **Soup and Bread Supper**, served in the Fellowship Hall at **5:00 PM**. At **6:00**, we will gather for **worship**.

Some help is needed for the soup and bread suppers.



You can help by **bringing a pot of your favorite soup and/or some fresh bread to share on a Tuesday night** please **sign up** on the sign-up sheet in the church.



Don't forget to bring a donation for the Oxford Food Shelf or an LWR Health Kit. This will be our Lenten outreach project this year.



**Church Wide News ELCA
presiding bishop says,
'We have work to do'**

The 4 million-member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has made the commitment "to being peacemakers in a culture of violence," said the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, ELCA presiding bishop, in a pastoral video message at www.elca.org. "As long as a culture of violence is holding us captive -- our spirits, our imagination, our debates, our actions -- we have work to do," said Hanson. The ELCA has social messages on community violence at www.ELCA.org/socialmessage/violence and mental illness at <http://www.ELCA.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements-in-Process/Mental-Illness.aspx>. Social messages are designed to encourage learning and moral discourse.



Lutheran World Relief

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

"On behalf of the congregations and community, we thank the Lord Almighty and our Christian brothers and sisters who donated these items for which we have been in need of. We pray that God will continue to bless them in all their undertakings." **Amed Kaimapoh of Calvary Lutheran Church in Freetown, Sierra Leone**

When LWR distributes Personal Care Kits, it's often to people who have lost everything. In the wake of an earthquake, or having fled from violence as their homes were overtaken, they clasp a towel from a faraway place, with a bar of soap, a toothbrush...and washing up, they know that they have not been forsaken by the world.

The very simple gesture of giving a Personal Care Kit can give someone the encouragement to start anew, starting with a bath. **You can share God's grace and love by providing that simple comfort.**

BASKETS OF PROMISE



Each week during Lent we will collect one item for a **Basket of Promise: Personal Care Kit**

February 24 & 26 One light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" & 52" x 27"), dark color recommended

March 3 & 5 One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging

March 10 & 12 One sturdy comb, remove packaging

March 17 & 19 One metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

March 24 & 26 Two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping

Also needed: \$2.65 for shipping costs – to get the items where they are needed. (If you would like give a check to support this ministry, please note LWR Personal Care kits on the memo line.)

Oxford Ecumenical Council

FOOD SHELF

HOURS: Thursdays 5:30pm - 7:15pm

CLOSED HOLIDAYS

Tel. 508-987-1062

Depend on the Spirit & Graciously - Oxford, MA

The Oxford Food Shelf:

Feeding the hungry in our community for over 35 Years

Donations of canned goods and staples such as cereal, pasta are always needed, in addition to the featured 'food of the month'. Financial support is also needed to buy items that are not donated. February request is for 11 oz. cans of coffee.

**THE OXFORD FOOD SHELF IS LOCATED AT 4 MAPLE ROAD OXFORD,
IN THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTER.**

The **OXFORD FOOD SHELF** is operated by members of the **OXFORD ECUMENICAL COUNCIL**. The Council is made up of representatives from the Oxford First Baptist Church, First Congregational Church, Grace Episcopal Church, Oak Hill Bible Church, St. Ann's Catholic Church, St. Roch's Catholic Church, United Methodist Church, and Zion Lutheran Church.

EVERY THURSDAY - Families receive a variety of breads and a selection of grocery items. Approved families will also receive USDA food every Thursday. Fresh vegetables, fresh fruits, pies, cakes and deserts will also be provided when they are available.

ONE THURSDAY EACH MONTH Families receive a week's supply of groceries. These include quantities of canned vegetables, canned fruits, baking goods, dry cereals, soups, macaroni & cheese, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, baked beans, rice, condiments, jello, and snacks. Also frozen juice, cheese and ground beef or ground turkey and fresh vegetables, fresh fruits, breads, pies, cakes and deserts. Approved families will also receive USDA food.



PLEASE HELP

I hope you and your family members are enjoying happy and healthy beginnings to 2013. Zion's Adult Choir is excited to start a new season of music making.

We were thrilled to have new members join our group over the fall months, but now we need YOUR help. The robes currently worn by our choir are over ten years old and in disrepair. We also do not have enough robes for our members when everyone is in attendance for services. Enclosed in this Newsletter is an envelope inviting you to make a donation toward the purchase of new robes. With YOUR help, we will be able to wear our new robes on Easter Sunday. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you! **Christine Costello**



THRIVENT MONEY AVAILABLE FOR ZION

Do you own a Thrivent Financial for Lutherans insurance policy or financial product ??

Every year, Thrivent members have the opportunity to direct (i.e. designate) some of the money Thrivent gives to charitable organizations through a program called Thrivent Choice.

At no cost to you, you can ask Thrivent to support Zion Lutheran Church!!

The deadline to direct your 2012 dollars is March 31. You can direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars by visiting the [Thrivent Choice website](http://www.thrivent.com). Simply log in using your Thrivent member ID, and then search for Zion Lutheran Church of Oxford MA. You can also direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars by phone at [800-847-4836](tel:800-847-4836).

FOOD SHELF NOTES

The February Food shelf item is coffee, 11 ounce cans. Your help with January's food item was greatly appreciated. March is Zion's month to help staff the Food Pantry. A sign up sheet will be placed in the narthex. Please consider taking a turn to help with this important ministry.



IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER

Check the Facebook Page <http://www.facebook.com/ZionLutheranChurch> or call the church office to check for delayed openings of the office and worship or Sunday School cancellation. Please use judgment in deciding whether you can safely travel to Zion.



Saturday, February 9th, 6-8 pm. LIPY Bowling and Pizza. Auburn AMF Bowling Center (101 Southbridge Street) Cost is \$17 for bowling, shoes, pizza and soft drinks. RSVP to Pastor Nancy, or on the LIPY Facebook page.



Wednesday, February 20th – Annual School Vacation Week Service project. 11:30AM - 2:30PM Volunteer at the Carty Food Cupboard, Wesley United Methodist in Worcester. RSVP to Pastor Nancy or Pastor Andrew Borden.

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE ANNUAL LIPY MISSION TRIP?

This year we travel to historic **Gettysburg, PA.**

We leave **Sunday, April 14th** and return **Friday, April 19th**. We will stay at Camp Nawaka, a Lutheran camp in Biglerville, PA. Each day we will do service projects, laugh, sing, pray, and see some sights during an incredible week you will never forget!

If you plan to go, please talk to Pastor Nancy ASAP. A \$75 deposit is needed to reserve your space. We will begin fundraising for the remaining expenses soon. Some adult chaperones are needed too – speak to Pastor Nancy if you might be able to join us.

LIPY-CM Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to all LIPY events. You MUST turn in completed 2012 Covenant and Medical forms before you can attend LIPY events. (Forms are available on the Youth bulletin board in the hallway.) You can also join the LIPY Facebook group to be updated on activity plans. Talk to Pastor Nancy if you have any questions.



JANUARY 8, 2013 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Submitted by, **Marleen R. Bacon,**
Council Secretary

The first meeting of the new year in 2013 of the Zion Church Council was called to order and opened with devotions given by President Robert Laurens.

Pastor Nancy was not in attendance and is still recuperating. She thanks everyone for their cards, emails and well wishes. We all look forward to her speedy recovery and her return. She continues to work from her home on plans for the upcoming Lenten season.

Financial reports for expenses and giving were presented for 2012. Shirley Rossmeisl reported income for December 2012 at 18,032.08 and expenses at \$13,818.27. Council members will continue to keep watch on the budget during the coming year. Ms. Rossmeisl reported to the council that the Pastor's payroll tax has increased to an amount that will be over \$1,000 due to a governmental increase in the payroll tax percents. In accordance with the Zion Constitution C. 12.05(d) the Council must have Congregational approval to expend in the budget an amount over \$1,000. The Council agreed to present this to the Congregation at the June Congregational meeting for formal approval as an added amount to the budget.

The Sunday School participation in the Christmas Eve service and the Epiphany Service were greatly appreciated. Classes have resumed and the students will be making valentines to go into the "bags of love".

The hats, scarves and mittens from the warming tree will be distributed in the next few weeks.

Maydee Morales will be attending the Stephen Ministry Leadership Training in Orlando, FL from January 13 to the 19th. After which time she will be joining the Stephen Ministry Training Class here at Zion with Freddie Rivera and any other members willing to make a commitment to Stephen Ministry.

The Council voted unanimously to commit to a minimum of \$1,000 over a three year period to Calumet for their camp renovations, additions and transportation needs. This money will be raised by donations and other congregational activities. If you love Calumet, and who doesn't, please consider joining the Calumet Committee to meet our commitment.

Look for Social Ministry's plans for the Malaria Campaign. This is a commitment of \$1 per congregational member for the next three years.

The Council will meet with the members of the Bylaw Committee on Tuesday, January 29, 2013 to continue work on the Zion Bylaws and Constitution.

The next regularly schedule Council meeting will be on February 19, 2013 at 7 PM. These meetings are open to the Congregation and you are cordially invited to attend.

This meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM with the Council members joining in the Lord's Prayer.



God's Work Expands through Zion's Ministries

A New Stephen Ministry Training Class Begins

On January 28th, an exciting adventure in learning and doing ministry began for the following persons: **Cecelia Jalbert, Melissa Longenbaker, Freddie Rivera and Maydee Morales.** These Stephen Minister trainees have begun the task of studying, discussing, experiencing and trying out the skills involved in sharing God's love and compassion with those who especially need these gifts. Let us thank God for these ministers and ask God's continued help and blessing in their adventure.

The initial topics for consideration and exploration are:

January 28—The Person of the Caregiver—five fundamental characteristics of the caregiver.

February 11—Feelings: Yours, Mine and Ours—the importance of recognizing and accepting all the feelings that people have.

February 25---The Art of Listening—honing listening skills and finding out that listening well is extremely helpful and caring, but is also hard work.

Leadership Training

Special thanks to **Maydee Morales** who attended the National Stephen Series Leadership Training Course along with 377 other attendees from various Christian denominations. Training was held from January 13th through the 17th. Acquiring these additional skills and concepts of implementing the program at Zion will add much to our ongoing ministry.



ZION'S CHRISTIAN CARE LIBRARY

The featured book from Zion's Christian Care Library is "Holding on to your Faith Even When God Doesn't Make Sense" by Dr. James Dobson. This is an immensely practical book for those who are struggling with trials and heartaches they can't understand. Why does disease, natural disaster, divorce, rejection, death, or some other sorrow seep into our lives when we are trying to serve the Lord?

This book deals unflinchingly with life's most troubling question — the awesome "Why?" When God Doesn't Make Sense also helps believers avoid the "Betrayal Barrier" — The sense that God is abandoning them amidst the storms of life. This is another thought provoking book that makes us stop and think about what we really do expect when we are trying to be a "Good Christian". **Carol Weinhardt, Christian Care Library Coordinator**

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL RESULTS
DECEMBER 31, 2012**

We took in \$18,032.08 thousand in Dec and we disbursed \$13,818.27 thousand in Dec. Revenue exceeded expenses by \$4,213.81 dollars-- resulting in a net increase for December

For the year, we took in \$134,456 thousand and spent \$146,435 thousand through the month of December. For the year, disbursements exceeded income by \$11,979 dollars.

For the 12 months of 2012, Revenue is \$16,369 under budget and Expenses are \$4,390 under budget.

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

	Dec 2012	Jan-Dec 2012 YTD	Budget YTD 12/12	Over/(Under) Budget	
Operating Revenue	\$ 18,032.08	\$ 134,455.93	\$ 150,825.00	\$ (16,369.07)	
Less Operating Expenses	\$ 13,818.27	\$ 146,435.22	\$ 150,825.00	\$ (4,389.78)	**
Income Net of Expenses	\$ 4,213.81	\$ (11,979.29)	\$ -		

Expenses	Dec 2012	Jan-Dec 2012 YTD	Budget YTD 12/12	Over/(Under) Budget	
Benevolence	\$ 963.10	\$ 10,252.26	\$ 10,300.00	\$ (47.74)	
Pastors Ministry	\$ 6,281.67	\$ 71,436.38	\$ 72,449.00	\$ (1,012.62)	
Stephen Ministry	\$ -	\$ 999.90	\$ 950.00	\$ 49.90	
Youth Ministry	\$ -	\$ 1,070.30	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 70.30	
Worship & Music	\$ 2,239.51	\$ 26,895.80	\$ 27,129.00	\$ (233.20)	
Administration	\$ 1,394.46	\$ 14,743.33	\$ 14,377.00	\$ 366.33	
Property Management	\$ 348.33	\$ 6,030.46	\$ 7,105.00	\$ (1,074.54)	
Insurance & Utilities	\$ 1,745.65	\$ 9,816.60	\$ 13,465.00	\$ (3,648.40)	
Education & Outreach	\$ 154.50	\$ 1,801.06	\$ 2,800.00	\$ (998.94)	
Evangelism	\$ -	\$ 152.70	\$ 300.00	\$ (147.30)	
Hospitality	\$ -	\$ 222.85	\$ 300.00	\$ (77.15)	
Stewardship	\$ 7.80	\$ 723.10	\$ 650.00	\$ 73.10	
Non-budgeted Expenses	\$ 683.25	\$ 2,290.48	\$ -	\$ 2,290.48	
	\$ 13,818.27	\$ 146,435.22	\$ 150,825.00	\$ (4,389.78)	**

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

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE AT 12/31/12

\$ 5,331.10

*Respectfully submitted,
Shirley I. Rossmeis, Treasurer*



Summer is coming!! It is time to register for camp!
CALUMET LUTHERAN MINISTRIES: SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Resident Camp for Kids: 1-week, 2-week, and 3-week sessions June 30– August 17, 2013. For more than 50 summers, kids from age 8 to 18 have been coming to Calumet to have the time of their lives.

Adventure Camps. Campers 13 and over can kayak, hike, canoe, bike, rock climb, or learn basic camping skills. Options vary from staying at Calumet and going on day trips to overnight trips, and some contain both. All are guided by experienced leaders. Can be in addition to or an alternative to Resident Camp.

Special Needs campers are invited to join the resident camp program during **June 30-July 6 and/or July 7-13.** This is a fully integrated, mainstream experience limited to 15 special needs children, ages 8-21 or still in high school. Campers must care for themselves with limited assistance.

Drama Camp is one of the options for campers **June 30-July 6.** Led by **Children’s Stage Adventures.** This year’s play is its own musical adaptation of ***The Sword Called Excalibur.*** Friday night performance.

Music Camp is a fun singing experience option **August 11-17.** This is a wonderful experience for both children’s choir veterans and someone trying it for the first time. The repertoire is lots of fun, upbeat, and varied.

Reservation Office: 603-539-3223
Resident Camp: ext 221 or bonnie@calumet.org
Campground & Conf. Center: ext 220 or alice@calumet.org
Day Camp, Groups, Retreats: ext 219 or betsy@calumet.org
Want more info? Check out the camp online at www.calumet.org or ask Pastor Nancy

Prayer Concerns

Bishop H. George Anderson, Pastor Nancy Beckwith, Claudia Berti, Ray and Margaret Briere, Karen Cole, Fran and Rebecca Chlapowski, Esther Elliott, Alice Grzlecki, Pam Siegmund Foy, Shirley Kilian, William LeBoeuf, Caroline Lorkiewicz, Dorothy McLellan, John Munsch, Peter Pierce, Conrad Redlitz, Freddie Rivera, Adrianna Rolfe, James Rothenburg, Corrinne Rousseau, Doris Skogland, Mark Sweet. **To let us know about a prayer concern or to add a name to the printed prayer list, call or email Karen in the office or use the card in the pew racks and place in offering plate.**



ZION IS ON FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/ZionLutheranChurch>
 “Like” the page to keep updated about what is going on.



MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please email newsletter submissions on or before March 15th.



If you have moved or will be moving in the future, please let us know so that we can change you’re address, telephone numbers and emails if necessary. We want to stay current with our mailing information.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Jennifer Baublitz 01
- Jeff Lundquist 03
- Kayla Champoux 7**
- Norma Peterson 08
- Kathryn Champoux 9**
- Simone Arent 11
- Rebecca LeBoeuf 12
- Thelma Shell 15
- Victor Lempicki 17
- Lisa Betrovski 18
- Sarah Craley 18
- Robert Blood Jr. 19
- Ethan Piehl 23
- Pastor Nancy Beckwith 24
- Katelyn Betrovski 25
- David Bernier III 28

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

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OXFORD, MA
PERMIT NO. 23

