

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

January 1: Happy New Year!

No 6:00 PM worship

January 5: 10:00 AM:

Choir practice

January 6: 10:00 AM:

Epiphany Festival Choral Worship

January 8:

6:00 PM Worship

7:00 PM Church Council

January 13:

Regular Worship Schedule
resumes

Worship @ 9:00 and 10:30 AM

Sunday School at 9:30 AM

Adult Bible Study @ 9:45 AM

January 18: 7:00 PM

Natural Wholebody Nutrition
Workshop in Fellowship Hall

January 25: Snowdate for

nutrition workshop

January 28: Stephen Ministry

Training Class

January 29: Council/bylaws mtg.

Zion Lutheran Church

JANUARY 2013

Thus says the Lord...

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43: 18-19 (ESV)

Greetings as we enter a new year!

At this time of year, we often make resolutions. We resolve to lose weight, to make more time for family, to give up the bad habits and replace them with better ones. This year my resolution will probably be focused on faithfully doing exercises to heal my ankle! Sometimes we succeed, but always we try. We hope for something new.

The New Year is also a time when we look to our past, and at times, get nostalgic. "Remember when...oh, the good old days." Memories are a good thing to have and share with family and friends. But when we get stuck in memory, when we journey into our past to find long-ago regrets, those missed opportunities... well, that's when the glorious past can hold us back.

Our faith lives are grounded in the past, but we are living in the present, and we move in hope toward the future. God is always doing a new thing! And we're it! We have a whole faith community that gathers in the midst of God's constant motion to help open our eyes to God who is all around. We are stewards to God and each other...every moment!

God is doing something new in each of our lives. In this new year, I want to keep my heart open – that I might venture onto the new path God is making in the wilderness, and drink deeply from the life-quenching water God sends to fill us up when we think our lives are bone dry. Perceive it! It's a new year...and a new you! Where will God lead us in 2013?

Blessings, Pastor Nancy



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.

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

As you probably have heard by now, I fell and suffered a fractured ankle in late November. I had reconstructive surgery on December 10th and am recovering quite well, but still need to keep weight off my foot while it heals. Thanks to all who have called and sent cards, emails and facebook messages of support. The soup, breads, muffins, and cookies, and errand running have been comforting too. Special thanks for the warm, hand-tied fleece blanket.

As we put this newsletter together in late December, I anticipate that the splint will soon be replaced by a cast. That will be followed by a boot and the ability to put weight back on my foot. As always, I am available by phone (508-499-8787) and email: pastornancyb@gmail.com. Please do not hesitate to contact me as needed.

In my absence, **Ms. Angela Nelson** had been preaching and leading worship on Sundays and for the Christmas services. Angela Joy Nelson is a May graduate of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. She is temporarily living in the Worcester area while she awaits a full-time call to a congregation and ordination. Bishop Hazelwood has granted her permission to preside over communion at Zion.

Pastor Ken Bean led the Blue Christmas service and has been leading the Tuesday evening Advent worship. Pastor Bean is a retired pastor, and member of Zion. He is currently serving as chaplain at the Lutheran Health Care Center in Worcester, and as transitional pastor at Christ Lutheran in West Boylston.

Although it was a great sadness to me to miss sharing Advent and Christmas worship with you all, I am most grateful to Ms. Nelson and Pastor Bean for being willing and able to serve you during this time. I hope to be back at Zion again very soon. In the meantime, I am available by phone at [508-499-8787](tel:508-499-8787). If you cannot reach me, Pastor Bean is also available for pastoral emergencies at [508-943-2762](tel:508-943-2762).
Pastor Nancy



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Tuesday, January 1, 2013

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Office Closed - No Tuesday evening worship service

Sunday, January 6, 2013

Epiphany Festival Choral Worship

Featuring youth and adult choir **One Service at 10:00 AM**
No Sunday School or Adult Ed.

Tuesday, January 8, 2013

Tuesday evening worship resumes at 6:00 PM

Sunday January 13, 2013

Regular Worship Schedule Resumes

9:00 AM and 10:30 AM Worship Services

Sunday School 9:30 AM Adult Education at 9:45 AM



Thanks to all who worked hard to make the Christmas and Epiphany programs a success. Everyone's contribution is needed and appreciated.



WARMING TREE

The worship committee wishes to extend a **BIG THANK YOU** for your generosity decorating our Warming Tree with adult winter clothing. The donated items were packaged and delivered to the P.I.P. emergency shelter in Worcester.



DECEMBER 11, 2012 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Submitted by, Marleen R. Bacon, Council Secretary

Council Meeting News from December 11, 2012

The December meetings of the Zion Church Council was called to order by President Laurens and opened with prayer.

Pastor Nancy was not in attendance due to her recent injury. She was very much missed by all the Council members. We understand that she is doing well and has had many visitors and well wishes. We pray for her speedy recovery.

Council members again grappled with budget issues. We know that God is on our side and will continue to guide us.

Plans continue from the Sunday School students for the Christmas Eve Service and the Epiphany Service in January.

The Worship Committee has been working extremely hard in preparation for Christmas. The Warming Tree continues to receive scarves, hats and mittens.

Though Pat Bean was not in attendance she emailed her report from Stephen Ministry. Blue Christmas was an uplifting experience for all who attended. The Stephen Ministry Training Class will begin January 28, 2013. New trainees are welcome.

Social Ministry continues to collect for the Oxford Food Bank. They have made fleece blankets and have collected for the Giving Trees.

The Council will meet again on January 29, 2013 for further discussion on the Church Bylaws. The next regular Council meeting will be on January 8, 2013.

Please call the church at 508-987-1248 during inclement weather to make sure that services have not been cancelled.

This meeting closed with the Council members joining in the Lord's Prayer.



CHOIR NEWS AND SCHEDULE

The choir is always looking for new members. Anyone is welcome to join the choir. Rehearsals are **6:30-8:00 PM** on most Thursday evenings in the church basement. Talk to Chris Costello. Questions? Please feel free to speak with me before or after services, or call my home (508) 943-1424.

In Peace and Harmony, Chris Costello



ZION'S CHRISTIAN CARE LIBRARY

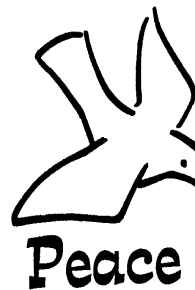
Zion's Christian Care Library book featured this month is Rick Warren's "The Purpose Driven Life". This book will help the reader understand why you are alive and reveal God's amazing plan for you – both here and now, and for eternity. Rick Warren will guide you through a personal 40-day spiritual journey that will transform your answer to life's most important question: What on earth am I here for: Knowing God's purpose for us will reduce stress, focus your energy, simplify decisions, and give meaning to your life. It will prepare for eternity. This is a very thought provoking book and one that every Christian will benefit from reading.

**Carol Weinhardt,
Christian Care Library Coordinator**

COMMUNION FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND



Would you like to be part of a caring ministry to members who cannot be physically present at church services? Bread and wine from our regular worship can be sent home with prepared lay members to share as an extension of our weekly Holy Communion meal. A brief training session will be held for interested persons. Please speak to Pastor Nancy, or sign up on the bulletin board if you are interested.



PEACE NOT WALLS

Peace Not Walls is an ongoing ELCA campaign calling for efforts toward a viable, contiguous Palestinian state; a secure Israeli state at peace with its Arab neighbors; and a shared Jerusalem with equal access and rights for Jews, Christians, and Muslims. You can find ways to support our Palestinian brothers and sisters at: <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Peace-Not-Walls.aspx>.

EDUCATION NEWS

December was a busy month in Sunday School! The children have been busy learning new songs to sing during the Epiphany service. As you can imagine, the energy level among the kids is very high at this time of year!

12/30 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL – One service at 10:00

1/6 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL – One service at 10:00 (children singing in Church)

1/13 – Jesus' Baptism, Luke 3:15-17,21-22

1/20 – Wedding at Cana, John 2:1-11

1/27- Jesus Goes to Nazareth, Luke 4:14-30

Time to get to know your Sunday School children a little better!

TIME TO GET TO KNOW YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN A LITTLE BETTER!

INTERVIEW WITH MIRA FILIPKOWSKI

What is your name? Mira Filipkowski

How old are you? 8

How old were you when you joined Zion Sunday School? 6

What do you like best about Zion Lutheran Church? Sunday School

What is your favorite thing about Sunday School? Crafts to hang up on the walls

What is something you like to do to help at Church? Greeter

What is something you like to do to help others? raise money for good causes like Cancer

What is one interesting thing about yourself that you would like to tell others? I was born deaf and now have cochlear implants which help with my access to sound.



FED AND FORGIVEN Introduction to First Communion course to be offered again

.... Not sure if your child is ready for Holy Communion? They can participate in the Intro course and then we can assess their readiness.

Open to all...Kids can also come for a refresher or to continue to deepen their understanding of how Jesus comes to us all in the Sacrament. Talk to Pastor Nancy and we will figure out a good time for all who are interested.

RESCHEDULED LIPY CAROLING AND HOLIDAY PARTY AT THE LUTHERAN HEALTHCARE CENTER

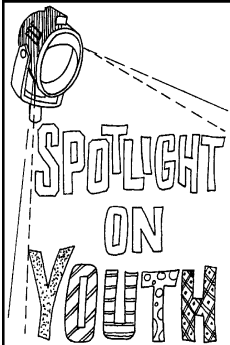
Sunday, January 6th, meeting at 2:45PM

We will begin with worship and caroling, then we will go over to Trinity in Worcester for food and Yankee gift swap: ending at 5:30PM.

Join us for an Epiphany Party that day!!!

Share your smiles, songs and caring with the residents of the Lutheran Healthcare Center.

Please RSVP on the LIPY Facebook page or by phone call or email to Pastor Nancy.



HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE ANNUAL LIPY MISSION TRIP?



This year we will travel to Gettysburg, PA. We leave Sunday, April 14th and return Friday, April 19th. We will do work projects, laugh, sing, pray, and see some sights during an incredible week you will never forget!

If you plan to go, or are just starting to think about it, please talk to Pastor Nancy. We will begin fundraising for our expenses in January.

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.

DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT THIS YEAR TO REACH SUCCESS!

Would you like to gather more information regarding eating healthy to feel better?
On January 18th at 7:00 PM we will host a Healthy eating class in our Fellowship Hall.
Sign up today!

See me after church or call me and that will be your first step to reach one of your 2013 goals.

Join me. Lets do this together!

Lisa Betrovski 508-248-4547 or enjoythejourney4@aol.com



Friday, January 18, 2013

7:00 PM

Fellowship Hall

(Snowdate: Friday, January 25, 2013)

Natural Wholebody Nutrition

Feed your mind, feed your body

Intro to healthy eating: In this class you will learn about Protein, Carbs, and Fats. Which ones are healthy and which ones are not, What carbs to eat and when? Learn the importance of breakfast and what happens to your body when you don't eat breakfast, Processed foods and the issues they cause, The effect carbonated drinks have on the body, Eating a source of protein with every meal, Foods to have in your diet to give your body what it needs to heal itself from any health challenges.

Class includes:

1 ½ Lesson on Healthy eating lifestyle

Tips on meal planning and preparation

Recipe handout

Informational handout to increase your nutrition knowledge

Reserve Your Seat Now!

Only \$25 per person

**Regina Doucimo, ISSA Certified Nutritionist,
Ace Certified lifestyle and Management Coach**

www.naturalwholebodynutrition.com

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL RESULTS
NOVEMBER 30, 2012**

We took in \$10,341.23 thousand in Nov and we spent \$13,155.75 thousand in Nov Expenses exceeded income by \$2,814.52 dollars-- resulting in a deficit for November

For the year, we took in \$116,427 thousand and spent \$132,617 thousand through the month of November. For the year, Expenses exceeded income by \$16,193 dollars.

For the 11 months of 2012, Revenue is \$21,832 under budget and Expenses are \$5,639 under budget.

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

	Nov 2012	Jan-Nov 2012 YTD	Budget YTD 11/12	Over/(Under) Budget	
Operating Revenue	\$ 10,341.23	\$ 116,423.85	\$ 138,256.25	\$ (21,832.40)	
Operating Expenses	\$ 13,155.75	\$ 132,616.95	\$ 138,256.25	\$ (5,639.30)	**
Income Net of Expenses	\$ (2,814.52)	\$ (16,193.10)	\$ -	\$ (16,193.10)	

Expenses	Nov 2012	Jan-Nov 2012 YTD	Budget YTD 11/12	Over/(Under) Budget	
Benevolence	\$ 1,022.46	\$ 9,289.16	\$ 9,441.67	\$ (152.51)	
Pastors Ministry	\$ 6,685.36	\$ 65,154.71	\$ 66,411.58	\$ (1,256.87)	
Stephen Ministry	\$ 535.02	\$ 999.90	\$ 870.83	\$ 129.07	
Youth Ministry	\$ -	\$ 1,070.30	\$ 916.67	\$ 153.63	
Worship & Music	\$ 1,882.67	\$ 24,656.29	\$ 24,868.25	\$ (211.96)	
Administration	\$ 1,396.83	\$ 13,348.87	\$ 13,178.92	\$ 169.95	
Property Management	\$ 517.54	\$ 5,682.13	\$ 6,512.92	\$ (830.79)	
Insurance & Utilities	\$ 345.72	\$ 8,070.95	\$ 12,342.92	\$ (4,271.97)	
Education & Outreach	\$ 376.11	\$ 1,646.56	\$ 2,566.67	\$ (920.11)	
Evangelism		\$ 152.70	\$ 275.00	\$ (122.30)	
Hospitality	\$ 21.19	\$ 222.85	\$ 275.00	\$ (52.15)	
Stewardship	\$ 7.40	\$ 715.30	\$ 595.83	\$ 119.47	
Non-budgeted Expenses	\$ 365.45	\$ 1,607.23	\$ -	\$ 1,607.23	
	\$ 13,155.75	\$ 132,616.95	\$ 138,256.25	\$ (5,639.30)	**

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

TRANSFER FROM RESERVED FUND 11/27/12	1,839.36
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE AT 11/27/12	(722.07)
ADJUSTED BALANCE AT 11/30/12	\$ 1,117.29

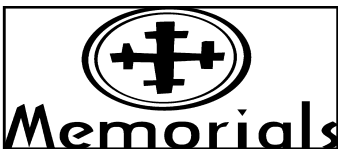
*Respectfully submitted,
Shirley I. Rossmeis, Treasurer*



**HAPPY JANUARY
BIRTHDAY**

- Emma Grace Jonasch 05
- Debbie Plaza 06
- Carol Weinhardt 06
- Richard Piehl 08
- James Williams 12
- Linda Devlin 13
- Krysten Woods 14
- Carol Piehl 17
- Siiri Jonasch 17
- Justin Desmaris 18
- Kelsey Bergeson 19
- Kristina Canty 21
- Hailey Filipkowski 22
- Kurt Redlitz 23
- Jeff Makowski 24
- Alice Grzlecki 27
- Jayne Boutilier 28
- Braden Levasseur 30

If your birthday is not on our monthly birthday list and you would like to be listed, email Karen Borden: admin@oxfordzionchurch.org



Memorials

In memory of Walter Schur to the Outdoor Chapel Fund from Mr. and Mrs. Peter Schur.

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, Caroline Lorkiewicz, Dorothy McLellan, John Munsch, Peter Pierce, Conrad Redlitz, Adrianna Rolfe, James Rothenburg, Corrinne Rousseau, Doris Skogland, Mark Sweet.

To let the pastor know about a prayer concern or to add a name to the printed prayer list, you can tell Pastor Nancy in person or by email, call or email Karen in the office or use the cards in the pews.

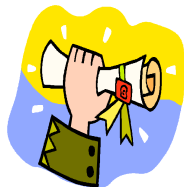


ZION IS ON FACEBOOK

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



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



**HIGH SCHOOL AND
COLLEGE GRADUATES**

Help us to keep in touch with you. Email Karen your updated address and phone number at: admin@oxfordzionchurch.org.



**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE**

Please email newsletter submissions on or before January 15th.



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