

**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](mailto:admin@oxfordzionchurch.org)

**Pastor Nancy Beckwith**

**Pastor's Phone**

1-508-499-8787

**Email:**

[pastornancyb@gmail.com](mailto:pastornancyb@gmail.com)

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

Pastor's day off: Friday

**Website**

[www.oxfordzion.org](http://www.oxfordzion.org)

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**9:00 AM Worship**

**9:30 AM: Sunday School**

**9:45 AM Bible Study**

**10:30 AM Worship**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Pastor @ Panera: 2:00-4:00 PM  
Thursdays**

**January 1: Happy New Year!**

**January 2 : Office open: hours  
12:00-3:00 PM**

**January 3: Office open: hours  
12:00-3:00 PM**

**January 6, 7:00 PM: Down and  
Out Where Grace Takes you**

**January 13, 5:00 PM:  
Confirmation class**

**January 13, 7:00 PM: Church  
Council meeting**

**January 20: Ecumenical MLK  
Service and Breakfast, time to be  
determined**

**January 27, 6:30 PM:  
Stephen Ministry**

# Zion Lutheran Church

## January 2014

**TALKING ABOUT GOD'S WORD and YOUR LIFE: Daily Faith Practice #4**

**PRAY: Daily Faith Practice #4**

This month we continue looking at the five faith practices described by Dr. Rich Melheim in his book: "**Holding Your Family Together: 5 Simple Steps to Help Bring Your Family Closer to God and Each Other**". (As a reminder, the first step, is to SHARE the highs and lows of your day; the second step is to READ the Scripture because it reveals God's love for us; the third step is to TALK about God's word and your life.)

**Faith Practice #4: PRAY**

*Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the end of the earth I call to you, when my heat is faint. (Psalm 61:1-2)*

The fourth step is to PRAY. Praying for each other involves a deeper level of communication than most families practice. It has to do with actively listening to the highs and lows of your family members, or other prayer partners) rephrasing what you just heard, and then bringing it all to God aloud together in prayer each night. (page 135)

**What Does Prayer Do? or...Why should we Pray?** Prayer brings comfort and hope. It allows us to share our deepest selves with God and with others. It brings intentionality to love. It teaches children that they can talk directly to God, no matter what is going on in their lives. (p. 138)

**Talking and Listening:** Prayer needs to include both talking to God and listening to God. It needs to include petitions (where we make our requests known to God) and times to be still – to meditate on the Word and simply soak in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Meditating on God's Word is simple: Just take a deep breath, and think over a key Scripture of the day. Whisper it to yourself. Sing it softly. Write it down. Draw a picture. Then...be still and listen to the Spirit of God. (p. 144)

**Tips for the family/group prayer time.**

\*\*Rotate prayer leadership. Everyone, even the youngest or least talkative, can learn to share the highs and lows and to thank God and ask God for help.

\*If you are mad at someone, don't hold a grudge. Take that person's needs to God in prayer – your grudge will melt away.

\*In your daily Home Huddle time – SHARE your highs and lows; READ a key verse from God's Word; ASK - What is God saying to us tonight with these words? And then PRAY for each other's highs and lows by name, thanking God for the highs and asking God for help with the lows.

So far we have covered:

#1 SHARE your joys and burdens, and grow together in love towards God.

#2 READ the Word of God,

#3 TALK about the Bible, and how it relates to the highs and lows of your day.

#4 PRAY for the highs and lows

Next month...is #5 BLESS....

Faithfully yours, in Christ,  
*Pastor Nancy*

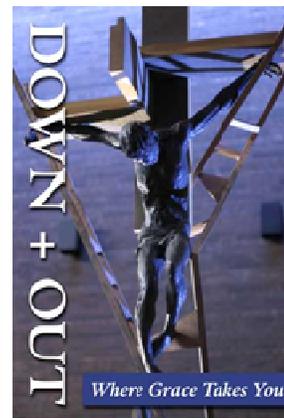


**ECUMENICAL SERVICE AND BREAKFAST**

Please join us on **Monday, January 20th** for a service and breakfast celebrating the life and work of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King at **St. Roch's Church at 334 Main Street in Oxford**. Please sign up to bring a pastry or other breakfast snacks. Time is yet to be determined.

Herman W. Hemingway Jr., the last living fraternity brother of Dr. Martin Luther King is the featured speaker. Retired Professor of criminal justice and law at UMASS Boston, he also served as public defender for the District Court in Boston and founded the Boston Human Rights Commission and the "Street Lawyers Project."

We look forward to hearing this dynamic speaker.



**DOWN AND OUT WHERE GRACE TAKES YOU:**

Join us on **Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**. Discussion focuses on the life-changing reality of God's promises, and points the way to a completely different view of life in the light of where grace takes you.

**2014 Giving Envelopes**

The 2014 Giving Envelopes are available for picking up at Zion. Please collect your set, so we can avoid postage costs.



**IMPORTANT REMINDER!**

**In case of emergency hospitalization or death – the best, and quickest, way to reach Pastor Nancy is by calling 508-499-8787.**

**WELCOME**

We are excited to be welcoming new members to Zion again in January. If you would like to become a member of Zion, please speak to Pastor Nancy.

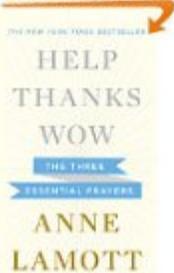


Constitution changes approved at the November 24th Congregational Meeting. A second ratifying vote will need to be taken after the holidays. Bylaws vote upcoming too.



**We observed His star.**  
Matthew 2:2

**LOOK INSIDE!**



**UPCOMING ADULT STUDY -**

**Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers by Anne Lamott**

Beginning in February, or early March, we will read this book together

**Bestselling author Anne Lamott writes about the three simple prayers essential to coming through tough times, difficult days and the hardships of daily life.** It is these three prayers – asking for assistance from God, appreciating what we have that is good, and feeling awe at the world around us – that can get us through the day. In **Help, Thanks, Wow**, Lamott recounts how she came to these insights, explains what they mean to her and how they have helped, and

explores how others have embraced these same ideas. " (synopsis from review on Amazon.com)

We will gather 3 times to discuss the book and our own prayer practices. You can order through the church (\$11 to the office) or you can buy online, or borrow from the local library.



### **SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT....WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?**

Each ELCA congregation pledges its financial support to the work of synod and the ELCA. In 2014, at Zion, we have pledged \$6,500, based on our pledged offerings, with the hope that we might be able to do even more, if circumstances allow.

So, what does our contribution do? Here is just a sampling of our synod mission, supported by our contribution, together with the other congregations of the synod. In New England, our Mission Support helps send students to seminary through our **candidacy** process as they move toward becoming pastors in our congregations. This year we have approximately 40 individuals in our candidacy process.

Our Mission Support is helping to **plant new congregations** and ministries such as Good Neighbor Lutheran Church in Quincy, MA, a mission to the Chinese speaking community, where Pastor Ryan Lun is serving. Congregations in transition benefit from a new updated **call process** that involves this Bishop and Associates assisting a placement process that encourages the best leadership available.

The **World Hunger Appeal (WHA)** of the ELCA is supported through mission support so that all the administrative costs are covered, thus enabling every direct donation to the WHA to go directly to support hunger prevention initiatives here in New England, across this country and around the world.

**Young Adults in Global Mission** are serving in countries around the world, many of whom go on to seminary to train to become church leaders.

The New England Synod supports **Camp Calumet, Philadelphia Seminary** and **Lutheran Social Services**, as well as **Campus Ministry** in Boston, New Haven and New Hampshire.

These are just a few of the ways that our contributions from Zion, joined together with those of our brothers and sisters in Christ, are able to extend the reach of God's Mission beyond our doors.



### **THRIVENT CHOICE DOUBLE DIRECTION CHURCH CAMPAIGN!**

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has a long history of congregational involvement, and our members love to support their churches—so it is no surprise that they responded enthusiastically to the recent Thrivent Choice Double Direction Church campaign! As a result of the campaign, we received an additional year-end donation to Zion from Thrivent. We thank Thrivent for their support of the congregation.

**Thanks to all our Thrivent members who participated!**



### **TRIP TO HOLY LAND**

May, 2014

Trip to the Holy Land with Pastors Michael and Susan Thomas. See info on bulletin board in the fellowship hall if you are interested.



### **THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Christmas worship services, helping out with readings, music, setting up the church for services, cleaning, and donating Poinsettias. Your help was greatly appreciated.





**Valparaiso**  
University

### **SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY - VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY**

The Lutheran Leader Scholarship and Intern Program at Valparaiso University is offering a scholarship for high school seniors who will graduate in the spring of 2014.

Valparaiso selects two Lutheran students from among the best high school leaders in the country to enter a program that is unique in Lutheran higher education. The two recipients receive a full-tuition scholarship for at least \$129,600 over four years of undergraduate education at Valparaiso. Benefits also include leadership training and education, opportunities for service and learning internships, and participation in the Lutheran leader community. Contact Pastor Nancy if interested.



**Plunge**

### **YOUNG ADULT 2014 GLOBAL MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY - THE PLUNGE!**

The 2014 trip is sponsored by the Southwestern MN Synod of the ELCA. **Trip dates are May 28 - June 8, 2014.** The Plunge is an experience for young adults (ages 18-35) to deepen spirituality through engagement in the global church.

The first part of the trip is spent in Geneva, Switzerland, visiting the Lutheran World Federation offices and World Council of Churches offices, and learning about the ways in which our local congregations are part of the global church. Then spend a week at the ecumenical Taize monastery in southern France, worshiping and living in community with the global church.

#### **What is The Plunge?**

For four days, young adults from Canada and the United States will visit the [Lutheran World Federation](#) and [World Council of Churches](#) in Geneva to learn how we are connected across the globe through the church. Then they will travel to the [Taize community](#) in southern France for a retreat week. There they will experience firsthand the unique style of worship and music that arises from that community as it welcomes youth from across the globe. For more information, contact: **Rev. Amber Ingalsbe** at: [amber.ingalsbe@ststephenmarshall.org](mailto:amber.ingalsbe@ststephenmarshall.org)



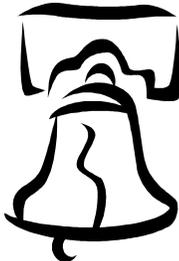
### **LIPY (Lutheran Inter Parish Youth)**

#### **FIRST NIGHT LOCK-IN AT TRINITY**



LIPY youth are invited to a First Night youth lock-in at Trinity, Worcester on **Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 5:30 PM to Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>.** Signup is directly with Pastor Matt James. ( [mljames@trinityworc.org](mailto:mljames@trinityworc.org) )

#### **LIPY MISSION TRIP 2014 TO PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA**



The trip dates are **Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM to Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM.** We will depart from and return to Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Sturbridge.

The week will be spent volunteering at various church and social service organizations in Philadelphia: food warehouse, ministry with senior adults, community gardens, soup kitchen, and community service to kids. Our lodging is at the ELCA Camp Innabah in Spring, Pennsylvania. One night we will go bowling and we will have access to the camp's recreation facilities during the other evenings. A \$50.00 deposit to Zion, Oxford is due soon.

**LIPY-CM Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to all LIPY events.** You MUST turn in completed 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.



### **PROFILE OF STEPHEN MINISTER MARGARET HEIDE**

**Name:** Margaret A. Heide

Widow

**Share something you would like us to know about you that we may not know?**

I graduated in 1955 from Luther College in Wahoo NE

**To me Faith is.....**

Sharing the love Christ died for. (Assurance of salvation)

**What I like most about being a Stephen Minister is .....**

Christians ministering to Christians

**How did you hear God's call to care for people?**

The Holy Spirit showed me through my parents, studying God's word & the Stephen Ministry experience.

**I connect best with God when.....**

I am studying and listening to God's word. Prayer

*If you are in need of a Stephen minister or know someone who could benefit from this valuable service please see Maydee Morales, Jackie Bonneau, Pam Olson, Susan Pierce or Pastor Nancy.*



### **ZION'S CHRISTIAN CARE LIBRARY**

Submitted by: Carol Weinhardt Christian Care Library coordinator.

For January the featured book from the Christian Care Library is **LOVE BEYOND REASON** by John Ortberg. In LOVE BEYOND REASON John Ortberg reveals the God we wish we could come to know. The God that loves us no matter how scruffy and down we have become. He compares us to the rag doll so loved by a little girl that she will never let it go no matter how ugly it has become. Pastor Ortberg explores life-changing ways this love has expressed itself through Jesus. And he shows how you, like Jesus can love your mate, your family, your friends, and the world around you with the same practical love.

If anyone has an interest in reading the featured book before it is returned to the shelf in the library, please feel free to take it from the book stand. Just fill out the card in the back of the book and leave it under the stand. The empty stand will then be filled with another book. Thank you.  
Carol Weinhardt Zions's Christian Care Library coordinator.

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL RESULTS  
NOVEMBER 30, 2013**

*Submitted by Shirley I. Rossmeisl, Treasurer*

During the month of November, we received \$13,123.77 thousand and we disbursed \$12,102.43 thousand. Income exceeded Expenses \$1,021.43 dollars.

For the year, we received in \$123,968.65 thousand and disbursed \$127,712.17 thousand through the month of November.

For the eleven months of 2013, Revenue is \$16,134.66 under budget and Expenses are \$12,391.16 under budget.

**The following is a comparison of 2013 actual to 2013 budget:**

	<b>Nov 2013</b>	<b>Jan-Nov 2013 YTD</b>	<b>Budget YTD 11/12</b>	<b>Over/(Under) Budget</b>	
<b>Operating Revenue</b>	\$ 13,123.77	\$ 123,968.65	\$ 140,103.33	\$ (16,134.68)	
<b>Less Operating Expenses</b>	\$ 12,102.43	\$ 127,712.17	\$ 140,103.33	\$ (12,391.16)	**
<b>Income Net of Expenses</b>	<u>\$ 1,021.34</u>	<u>\$ (3,743.52)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>		

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Nov 2013</b>	<b>Jan-Nov 2013 YTD</b>	<b>Budget YTD 11/12</b>	<b>Over/(Under) Budget</b>	
Benevolence	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,778.09	\$ 9,533.33	\$ (3,755.24)	
Pastors Ministry	\$ 6,461.97	\$ 67,795.74	\$ 68,941.58	\$ (1,145.84)	
Stephen Ministry	\$ -	\$ 116.89	\$ 1,191.67	\$ (1,074.78)	
Youth Ministry	\$ -	\$ 111.76	\$ 916.67	\$ (804.91)	
Worship & Music	\$ 1,711.34	\$ 22,778.95	\$ 24,241.25	\$ (1,462.30)	
Administration	\$ 1,427.98	\$ 13,621.42	\$ 13,833.42	\$ (212.00)	
Property Management	\$ 322.48	\$ 4,662.13	\$ 6,375.42	\$ (1,713.28)	
Insurance & Utilities	\$ 607.33	\$ 9,921.88	\$ 12,320.00	\$ (2,398.12)	
Education & Outreach	\$ 39.15	\$ 1,378.40	\$ 1,512.50	\$ (134.10)	
Evangelism	\$ -	\$ 182.42	\$ 275.00	\$ (92.58)	
Hospitality	\$ -	\$ 62.71	\$ 275.00	\$ (212.29)	
Stewardship	\$ 532.18	\$ 600.18	\$ 687.50	\$ (87.32)	
Non-budgeted Expenses	\$ -	\$ 701.60	\$ -	\$ 701.60	
	<u>\$ 12,102.43</u>	<u>\$ 127,712.17</u>	<u>\$ 140,103.33</u>	<u>\$ (12,391.16)</u>	**

**2013 Operating Budget** **\$ 152,839.69**

**CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE AT 11/30/13** **\$ 914.12**

**MEMORIAL/DESIGNATED FUNDS BALANCE AT 11/30/13** **\$ 35,265.00**



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