

CONTACT US!

OFFICE HOURS

M-F 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

or by appointment.

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Zion Lutheran Church

DECEMBER 2009



ad·vent *n.*

1. The coming or arrival, especially of something extremely important
2. **Advent**
 - a. The period of four Sundays before Christmas, and observed by many Christians as a season of prayer and fasting.

Isaiah was telling everyone about this "Wonderful Counselor", this "Prince of Peace." Mary was singing: "My soul magnifies the Lord!" John was running around telling people everywhere to "Prepare!" and "Straighten out!" And God was behind it all. Busy, at work aligning stars in the heavens and sending angel messengers to that young girl on earth. Whispering into Isaiah's ear and filling John's heart with passion and powerful words.

What are you doing this Advent? Better yet, what is God doing with you? Where is God at work, aligning all the confusing constellations of your life so that they make sense? How is God inspiring you to go and tell people about the true love that is coming? What is God whispering into your ear, and yours alone? When will you speak, sing, or move because of this thing that God is doing for you and for the world? How will you tell of the arrival-that our prayers have been answered?

"For a child has been born for us..." He's coming. A living breathing, extremely important bundle of joy...for us!

God's Peace! Pastor Andrew



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MORNING:

9:00 am Early service

9:30 am Christian Education

10:30 am 2nd service

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 6: New members

December 6: LIPY Toy Drive:**3:00-7:00 pm**

December 10: 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting

December 13: Meeting of the Congregation- **immediately following 10:30 service**

December 20: Zion Choir Cantata at **10:30 AM** worship service

December 20: LIPY Caroling: **2:00-6:30 pm**

December 24: Christmas Eve worship **4:00 and 6:00**

December 25: Christmas day worship **10:00 AM**

December 27: One service only at **10:00 AM**

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“He will be called
Wonderful
Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting
Father, Prince of
Peace...”



FROM THE PRESIDENT

I always had a jaundiced view about my giving to the Church. You see, as family we would do fuzzy math figuring out that the (measly) offering we gave multiplied by 'x' numbers of families must have been more than adequate for paying the small bills the Church had each month. Then I became a member of the Zion Church Council some years back and more lately I became a member of The New England Synod Council and ,by George, was I wrong and was I in for some eye-popping surprises too numerous too mention. I learned that my (remember ...measly!) offering was part of a system that paid three salaries at Zion, oil bills, electric bills, insurances ,mortgage, loans, Synod remittance and a variety of other bills too numerous to mention and that we juggled paying bills like most families; I learned that my (measly) offering went to support social programs in our community that themselves were struggling for survival but on which many poor families depended on for sustenance; I learned that the New England Synod and ELCA helped to feed starving children the world over through connected and compassionate programs that help to break the cycle of hunger, poverty and death.

Our giving helped to do all this? My goodness. Were we giving enough to do all of this? The plain answer was a resounding 'no' and we made changes in our personal giving to better reflect what sort of World we wanted and not just what sort of Church (Zion) we wanted.

I learned that 1.02 billion people in this world of ours are hungry; I learned **that every day more than 16,000 (that is sixteen thousand!!) children die from hunger related causes and that malnutrition is by far the biggest contributor to children dying.** The Rambarrans will surely argue this at Thanksgiving as we sate ourselves with Falstaffian relish. I urge you to think about this for just one minute with your family on Thanksgiving. Close your eyes and imagine that by the time YOUR Thanksgiving dinner is over **more than 2000 (that is two thousand!) children will** die world wide from Hunger.

Next time you give your gift to God think of Zion, the Synod, the ELCA and think of dying children. Peace and wishing you all a Thanksgiving that truly allows you to see how gracious God has been to us.

Ossie Rambarran



NEW

MEMBER SUNDAY

We will be receiving new members on **December 5** at the **10:30 service.**

People interested in joining should see Pastor Andrew



Don't forget

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our bi-annual meeting of the congregation will take place on **Sunday, December 13th immediately following the 10:30 AM worship service.** Please mark your calendars so that you can plan to attend.

CLEANING**Week of:**

December 07: OPEN

December 14: The Siegmunds

December 21: OPEN

December 28: OPEN

COFFEE HOUR**Sunday:**

December 06 : Hospitality

December 13: OPEN

December 20: The Champoux

December 27: OPEN

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 December. 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.

STEWARDSHIP

At the Turkey dinner members read Philippians 4:11b-13 and they were asked to respond to four questions. Here are some of the responses to those questions.

What does contentment feel like? Contentment feels like – wholeness, safety, warmth inside and out, peacefulness, a full stomach, family, promise keeping. When I know in my heart that the Lord is with me, the Holy Spirit is in me and that my Father in heaven loves me.

How much is enough? Enough is – whatever one has, roof overhead and food, what God gives us, is when you can share with others, is a lot less than what we think we need. Some feel that we never have enough, people always want more.

In this passage how do we understand our relationship with God? God is our loving father and he gives us all that we have and all that we need. We understand our relationship with God by knowing that we can make it with a little or a lot. God is in control of my life – in God's hands is contentment. God's strength is all we need.

What are the areas in your life that are most resistant to change? Changes in relationships, understanding my faith, giving God enough time, loving those that persecute you, daily submission to God's will and the everyday issues like bills and family problems.

Have you returned your pledge card??? If you haven't, please prayerfully consider returning your pledge card. **E-Givers** if you have changed your pledge for 2010 you will need to update your e-giving form. Pledge cards and e-giving forms will be available in the back of the church or you may ask Pastor Andrew, Karen, Ossie or Mike.

Thank you to all that have returned their pledges. It is evident that people reflected and prayed to God over their giving. Even in these tough economic times members have taken up the challenge to increase by 1% or even more. Many others managed to maintain their level of giving from last year even as times get tougher. Remember God loves a cheerful giver!

Have you signed up to clean or do coffee hour lately? We are looking for volunteers to fill in the signup sheets in the back of the church. A big thank you to all that have helped. If you haven't tried it yet I think that you find it very fulfilling to serve our Lord and Zion in one of these areas.

Yours in Christ, Mike Bellisario



GREENING NEWS

The Property and Greening Committee had our latest meeting on Veteran's Day in the Koinonia Room. Hot topics included temperature settings for our programmable thermostats and snow removal for the upcoming winter months. We also discussed the issue of key accountability. There are an excess number of keys to the church which have been issued to people who needs them- committee chairs, Stephen Ministers, etc. The problem is that even when people have stepped down from these roles their keys haven't always been returned. This makes it difficult to keep track of all of the keys and limit the number out there. If you do have a key to the church and no longer need it please turn it in to the church office. It's a simple step that will help us better control access to the church property.

GREENING TIP: Recently we had an incident in the Koinonia Room in which the coffeemaker was left on for several hours if not days. As you may have guessed this is an older model coffeemaker and it doesn't have an automatic standoff. From a greening standpoint alone this is an obvious waste of electricity and no favor to God's creation. But to drive the point home just take a look on Google and see what a safety risk a wayward coffeemaker can be. In March 2004 an unattended plugged-in coffeemaker was strongly suspected to be the cause of a church fire that nearly destroyed the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Pittsburgh, PA. Twenty-eight people were injured and two firefighters lost their lives. The Green Lifestyle website the-greenists.com considers coffeemakers so dangerous that they unequivocally recommend unplugging them whenever they aren't being used, "We know unplugging appliances saves energy, but taking an extra 10 seconds to unplug your coffee pot could save your home (or church) too." Next time you're done with the coffee-maker in the Koinonia Room just pull the plug it's simple to do, smart for the environment and SAFE!!



DECEMBER YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAY DEC. 6- LIPY TOY DRIVE: We will gather at *Zion (Oxford)* at **3:00 pm** for our annual Christmas Toy Drive to benefit needy children in Worcester. We will meet at Zion, then head to KMart in Webster to shop for toys, hats, and mittens for each child. Then we will return to Zion to wrap the gifts, eat, and watch a movie. We will wrap up around 7 pm. ****Bring a cash donation (if you are able) to help purchase the gifts.**



SUNDAY DEC. 20- LIPY-CM CAROLING AT THE LUTHERAN HEALTHCARE CENTER: We will gather at *Zion (Oxford)* at **2pm** to head to the Lutheran Nursing Home in Worcester for our annual Carol singing. Following the caroling, we will head to Zion (Worcester) for a Christmas party and Yankee swap. Bring a gift for the Yankee swap. We will return to Zion (Oxford) around 6:30 pm.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you have not already sent in your form to donate a poinsettia for Christmas service, remember that the **deadline for orders is December 13th.**



A CHRISTMAS CANTATA

On *Sunday December 20th*, our choir will sing, *A Ceremony of Carols* (op. 28) by Benjamin Britten. This musical work is scored for chorus, solo voices, and harp. Composed in 1942, the texts of this multi-movement work are in Middle English and are drawn from "The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems" by Gerald Bullett. The piece was written while Britten was at sea, traveling from the United States to England. Britten's decision to utilize the harp for the accompaniment of this work may have simply resulted from the few manuals on harp composition he brought with him on his long voyage to help him get started on a newly commissioned harp concerto.

Though he composed relatively little music for use in church services, Britten composed a number of pieces intended for performance in church buildings. Britten felt that churches were the best venue for his music because they feature architecture filled with acoustic promise. The musical composition of the work, combined with the rich poetic imagery of the text, create vivid pictures of the birth of the precious Babe in Bethlehem. The imagery created by *A Ceremony of Carols* features a juxtaposition of images of the birth of Jesus. Utilizing many different modes, tempos and dynamic shapes, this work welcomes the Yuletide season as both the arrival of the lamb as well as the lion. In one movement, Jesus is referred to as a weeping child. In another, it tells the tale of a "silly tender babe" lying in a stable during a "freezing winter night." Additionally, the movement creates a veritable Holy War between the new-born Babe and the powers of Satan.

The members of the choir and I are thrilled that we will be able to incorporate Britten's work into the advent season at Zion. We hope that the congregation will enjoy this piece and that the service on December 20th will be a meaningful part of everyone's Advent preparation for the birth of our Savior.

Yours in peace, Chris Costello



MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Ed Martin

From

Norma Durand

HISTORICAL

COMMITTEE

In memory of Brian Siegmund

From

Dick and Gerri Siegmund

Isabel Cannalunga

Barbara Steege



STEPHEN MINISTRY UPDATE

The Stephen Ministry would like to thank everyone for their support of our cut shell fundraiser. Everyone with an order for Christmas should expect that it will be in by the 2nd week of December. I would like to remind everyone that we will have some inventory on hand for those who find themselves in need of a small but special gift for the holidays and beyond. Most of the crosses, stars, angels and snowflakes are \$8;00 and come in a nice gift box with tissue paper. To purchase any please call Carol Weinhardt—1-508-461-7424 and I will let you know what the inventory is and arrange to meet you either between or after church services and since I live near the church, during the week. Thank you again for all your support.

Carol Weinhardt



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Dr. Walter Schur, Phyllis Holst, 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, 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 Canalonga, Mary McIntyre, Helen McGovern, Susan Rohr, Bob Blood Jr., Geraldine Maher, Dolores Masi, John Laverne, Michael Gustafson, Diana Powers, Peter Pierce, David Healy, 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 Hondouras.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Karen Borden 01
- Charlene Howland 01
- Dayna Larson 04
- Lauryn Larson 04
- George Peterson 08
- Susan LeBoeuf 09
- Pam Olson 09
- Eileen Bellisario 12
- Kyle Racine 18
- Barbara Katori 18
- Kevin Plaza 22
- Pastor Andrew Simon 23
- Ronald Teece 24
- Pauline Rizner 27
- Sue Schade 27
- Helena Karp 28
- Erik Larson 30



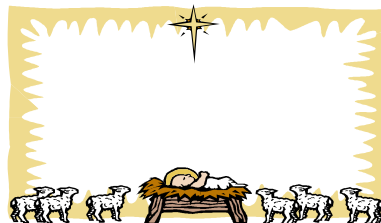
CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE



4:00 FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
6:00 EVENING CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP 10:00 AM



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27
10:00 AM (Only one worship service)