

GOD IS GOOD...ALL THE TIME!

OFFICE HOURS

T-F (Karen)

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

Zion Lutheran Church DECEMBER 2011



From the Pastor

Every year, I look forward to buying a new Advent Calendar. I try to find one that has Bible verses behind each door, instead of just pictures. I like the Bible verses, because each day, as I open a window, I get to read a little bit of the story that leads up to the birth of our Savior.

They are familiar phrases. Usually we hear them all at once, in a big rush at the Christmas Eve service. But there is something sweet about savoring the story, piece by piece, being fed by little morsels of the dearest and most familiar of our faith stories:

** The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and said, "Greetings, favored one, the Lord is with you."*

** Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord*

** An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.*

** In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.*

** In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

** I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people...*

Soon I will set up my Advent wreath too, and will light first one, then two, then three, and finally all four of the candles. The wreath is yet another way to mark the time we celebrate in the church year – waiting for the coming of our Lord. Each week, the light grows a little stronger, as the flickering flames remind us of the hope, joy, love and peace we find only in Jesus, the lover of our souls.

May your own Advent devotions draw you nearer into the heart of the mystery of our faith – as you prepare your heart and home for coming of the Christ child. God made flesh. Come to dwell with us. Love supreme.
Pastor Nancy

SUNDAY MORNING:

9:00 AM Worship

9:30 AM Sunday School

9:45 Adult Bible Study

10:30 AM Worship

TUESDAY

6:00 PM Worship

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 6 & 20 7:00 PM

Confirmation Class

December 7: 7:00 PM

Stewardship Mtg.

December 13: 7:00 PM

Church council Mtg.

December 12: 6:00 PM

Stephen Ministry

December 18: 10:00 AM

One service-Cantata

Greening of the church

4:00 PM "Blue Christmas"

December 25 and Jan. 1

10:00 AM worship and no

Sunday School

||| **JOIN US ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY** |||

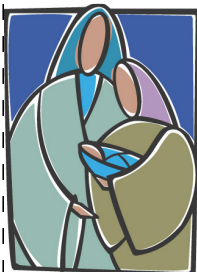
||| **CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR** |||

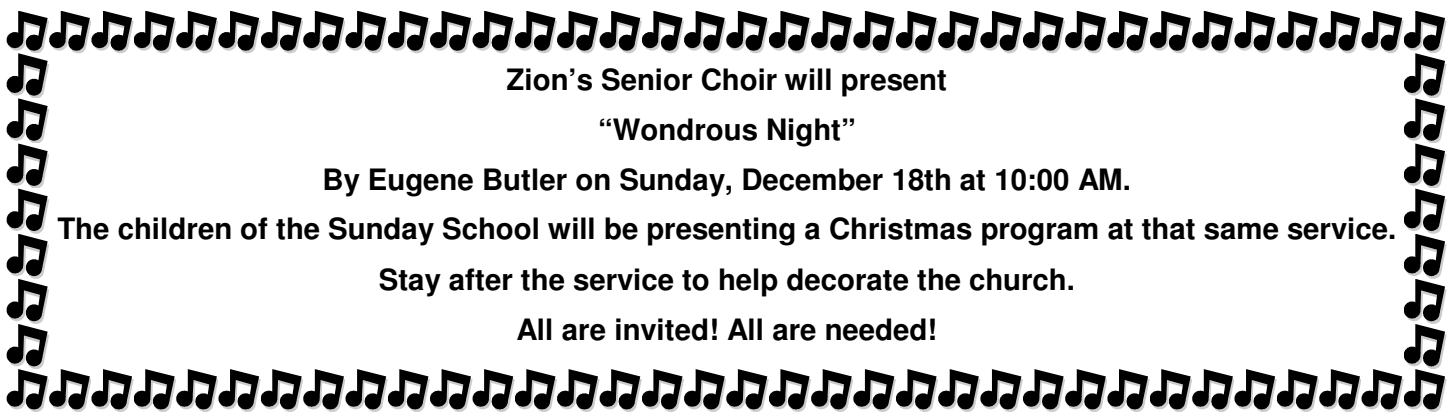
||| **CHRISTMAS EVE** |||

||| **4:00 PM** Child focused family friendly service. |||

||| **6:00 PM** Candlelight Service |||

||| **CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 AM** |||





Zion's Senior Choir will present
"Wondrous Night"

By Eugene Butler on Sunday, December 18th at 10:00 AM.

The children of the Sunday School will be presenting a Christmas program at that same service.

Stay after the service to help decorate the church.

All are invited! All are needed!



STEPHEN MINISTRY

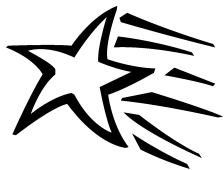
Not everyone welcomes the holiday season with joy. If you are dealing with loss, sadness, grief, stress or loneliness, the holidays can be a time of dread.

Stephen Ministry provides our congregation with a powerful way to reach out to those who are struggling with pain and loss-during the Christmas season and throughout the year. A Stephen Minister comes alongside a hurting person to listen and care so that he or she doesn't have to face the darkness alone.

If you or someone you know could use the help of a Stephen Minister please reach out to the referrals coordinator Susan Pierce, Pastor Nancy or any Stephen Leader.

(from Stephen Ministry Care Mail)

Thanks, Pam Olson



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Just a reminder that there will be no Sunday School on December 25th or January 1st. The Sunday School will be singing at the 4:00 service Christmas Eve - please join us! The Sunday School teachers and children wish Everyone a very Merry Christmas.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

This year Stephen Ministry is also reaching out to members and persons in the community with a special

" Blue Christmas Service"

A service of Hope For the Holidays

Sunday, December 18th

4:00 P.M.

"Blue Christmas" is an informal service acknowledging the reality of sadness that may surround persons during this season and the hope that is there for them.

If you, or someone you know, is struggling during this season, do inform and invite them to this supportive service. This is a gift you can give to yourself or offer to another!

Refreshments and a time to share with one another will be available following the service.

SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS

As the year 2011 draws to a close, the Social Ministry team would like to thank the members of Zion for your continual expressions of love and faith in support of our outreach. Sometimes, with monthly solicitations for hunger, tornado relief, Crop Walks, and Christmas gifts and so forth, our appeals may seem never-ending or overwhelming. But, it is not necessary to be a wealthy philanthropist or a full-time volunteer to make a meaningful contribution to help out in our church, community, and the world. Rather, we should give generously of whatever wealth and abilities we have, no matter how small the amount. Consider the story of the widow's mite in Luke 21: 1-4: "And Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. And He saw a certain poor widow putting in two small copper coins. And He said, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them, for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on." The expression "God's work; our hands" is very relevant as we make our decisions about how to put our Christian love into action.

Zion's 120 challenge for the Oxford Food Pantry for November continues on with the collection of canned pasta. For the month of December, the item is peanut butter. We will be including boxes of mints such as Thin Mints or Andes mints with the Christmas boxes. Each package of candy will have a sticker wishing the recipient a Merry Christmas and listing the hours of Zion's services. We seek to let people know that all are, indeed, welcome.

Our annual Christmas giving trees will be placed in the narthex of the church. Gifts will be given to Worcester Project AIDS so that clients can shop in a "store-like" setting for their family members, for Oakwood Convalescent Home's elderly and disabled patients, and for LSS's Florence House for pregnant and parenting teens and their children. After you select a gift tag and shop for that person, please put that same tag on the gift when you return it. Fill out the appropriate sheet with your name and telephone number. The deadline for the Worcester Project AIDS tree is **December 11th**. Florence House and Oakwood Convalescent Center gifts should be brought in by **December 18th**.

May God continue bless us and keep us. Paula Kilian Clark



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!

In line with our Stewardship theme this year, we at Zion Lutheran Church are celebrating your birthday with events that are involved in giving generously to your saints.

Through our Angel Trees, we are participating with area organizations to help area children, young mothers, and elderly celebrate Christmas by receiving presents.

December is our church's turn to help out at the Oxford Food Pantry. Along with helping the regular staff at the food pantry, we will be giving candy with each order to help the families have a special holiday season.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to spread the love that you have given us so freely to those among us who need to be shown your love. Help us to find more opportunities to give generously.

Your Stewardship Committee



December is Zion's month to serve at the Oxford Food Shelf. Volunteers are needed to help us provide this service to those in need. A signup sheet is in the narthex. In this season of festivity there are many in need. Please help!



CHURCH COUNCIL
MINUTES

Submitted by Marleen Bacon,
Council Secretary

NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

Council members met on November 8, 2011 and the meeting was opened with a devotional reading given by Pastor Nancy.

The Financial reports for expenses and receipts were given. It was noted that pledge cards are still being submitted.

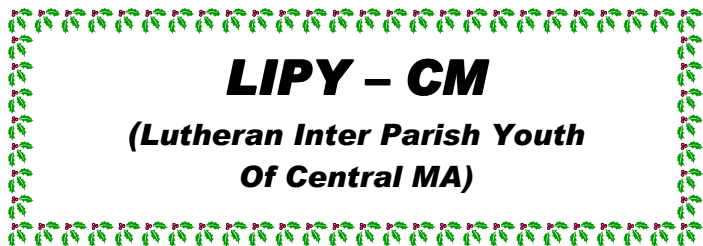
The Council watched a short video on the electing of a new bishop. Delegates are needed for the Synod conference to be held in February of 2012. This video will be shown with a presentation at the Congregational meeting.

The Council and Pastor Nancy will be working on a better way to communicate to the congregation when church is cancelled due to bad weather.

The 2012 budget was approved by the Council members and will be presented for approval at the November 20, 2012 semi-annual Congregational meeting.

The various Committee chairs gave their monthly reports.

This meeting was closed with the joining of the Lord's Prayer.



LIPY - CM
(Lutheran Inter Parish Youth
Of Central MA)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER
4TH
3:00—7:00 PM
Zion Lutheran in
Oxford



Shopping and Wrapping
Christmas GIFTS for
Inner-City Kids with pizza and
game night to follow.

We ask each youth and advisor to bring no less than \$20/person to the event plus wrapping supplies. Bring a board game you would like to play later.

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 18TH
2:30 - 6:00 PM



Worship
And Caroling At
Lutheran
Healthcare Center

Followed by a Christmas Party- Yankee Gift Swap at Trinity, Worcester

Bring a \$5-\$8 generic gift

RSVPs needed for both of these events
to Jim Champoux and/or on the LIPY
Facebook page

Treasurer's Report



**FINANCIAL RESULTS
OCTOBER 31, 2011**

We took in \$10,414 thousand in October and we spent \$11,514 thousand in October. Expenses exceeded income by \$1,100 dollars-- resulting in a deficit for October

For the year, we took in \$102,920 thousand and spent \$92,794 thousand through the month of October. For the year, income exceeded expenses by \$10,125 thousand.

For the 10 months of 2011, income is \$31,366 under budget and expenses are \$41,491 under budget.

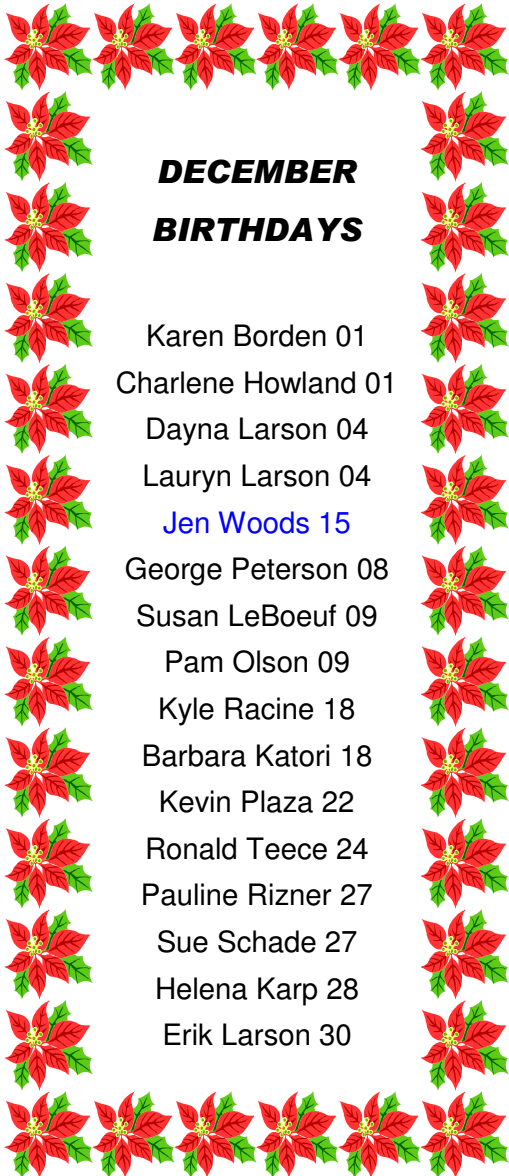
The following is a comparison of 2011 actual to 2011 budget:

	October 2011	Jan-Oct 2011 YTD	Budget YTD 10/12	Over/(Under) Budget	
Operating Revenue	\$ 10,414.12	\$ 102,919.66	\$ 134,285.83	\$ (31,366.17)	
Operating Expenses	\$ 11,514.44	\$ 92,794.34	\$ 134,285.83	\$ (41,491.49)	**
Income Net of Expenses	\$ (1,100.32)	\$ 10,125.32	\$ -	\$ 10,125.32	

Expenses	October 2011	Jan-Oct 2011 YTD	Budget YTD 10/12	Over/(Under) Budget	
Salaries	\$ 8,942.74	\$ 61,039.50	\$ 98,095.00	\$ (37,055.50)	
General Admini-	\$ 868.90	\$ 11,408.26	\$ 11,190.83	\$ 217.43	
Property	\$ 1,117.53	\$ 13,925.05	\$ 18,187.50	\$ (4,262.45)	
Education	\$ 170.37	\$ 1,107.07	\$ 2,375.00	\$ (1,267.93)	
Worship	\$ 114.95	\$ 1,824.12	\$ 2,208.33	\$ (384.21)	
Stewardship	\$ 6.80	\$ 69.45	\$ 562.50	\$ (493.05)	
Evangelism	\$ 64.50	\$ 313.55	\$ 250.00	\$ 63.55	
Social Ministry	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 166.67	\$ 33.33	
Ecumenical	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 83.33	\$ (58.33)	
Stephen Ministry	\$ 228.65	\$ 466.75	\$ 1,166.67	\$ (699.92)	
Reimbursed ex-	\$ -	\$ 2,415.59		\$ 2,415.59	
	\$ -				
	\$ 11,514.44	\$ 92,794.34	\$ 134,285.83	\$ (41,491.49)	**

2011 Operating Budget \$ 161,143.00

*Respectfully submitted,
Shirley I. Rossmeisl, Treasurer*



**DECEMBER
BIRTHDAYS**

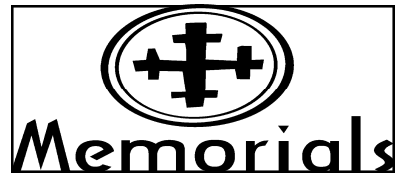
- Karen Borden 01
- Charlene Howland 01
- Dayna Larson 04
- Lauryn Larson 04
- Jen Woods 15
- George Peterson 08
- Susan LeBoeuf 09
- Pam Olson 09
- Kyle Racine 18
- Barbara Katori 18
- Kevin Plaza 22
- Ronald Teece 24
- Pauline Rizner 27
- Sue Schade 27
- Helena Karp 28
- Erik Larson 30



EASTER BANNER

Are you interested in helping to create a new Easter banner? There will be a committee forming in January to do just that. If you would like to help contact Sue Butchman at 508-987-3058 for further information.

The ability to sew is not necessary.



In memory of Brian Siegmund
To the Memorial Fund from Barbara Steege

In memory of Donna Cannalonga Harris
To the Memorial Fund from Barbara Steege
To the Music Fund from Dick and Gerry Siegmund

In memory of Dorothy Sundman

To the Memorial Fund
Ken and Pat Bean
Walter and Brenda Lukasek

To the Music Fund
Lee Duprey
Paul and Jean Peters
Ed and Shirley Rossmeisl

To the Outdoor Chapel Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bellisario
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Aronson
Kris and Amy Canty
Richard and Paula Clark
Bernie and Carol Cyr
Mr. and Mrs. William Eklund
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gustafson
Janet Hammarstrom
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hammarstrom
Carl and Anne Livopoli
Mr. and Mrs. Jon Murray
Katelyn Passey
Mr. and Mrs. Sahdev Passey
Carol D. Quint
Conrad Redlitz
Sue Schade
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Sea, Jr.
Dick and Gerry Siegmund
Barbara Steege
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Stuart
Jim and Patty Sumner
Elmira Surozenski
Jeffrey and Karin Underkoffler
Ms. Regina Wironen
Mr. and Mrs. Tomas Yaylaian
Sutton Lions Club
Dr. Babu Pediatrics



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It's time to think about ordering poinsettias to adorn our sanctuary for Christmas! Your flower donation given to "*the glory of God*" can be given either in **thanksgiving for a special event** or in **memory of a loved one**. A listing of names will appear in our Christmas Bulletin. The cost remains the same as 2010 (\$13.00 per

plant). Only the date has changed. However, this year a **white poinsettia** is being offered as well.

Please complete the informational form below and either mail it together with your check to the church office or place it in the offering plate. Please make checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church with "*Christmas Poinsettias*" in the memo corner. Deadline is: **DECEMBER 11**. Thank you.

Red Poinsettia	- 7 1/2" Pot	@\$13.00 each	No. Ordered _____	Total: \$ _____
White Poinsettia	- 7 1/2" Pot	@\$13.00 each	No. Ordered _____	Total: \$ _____
Grand Total: \$ _____				

(Please Print):

Donated By: _____


Envelope No. (if applicable): _____

Phone No.: _____

In Thanksgiving For:

Prayer Concerns Fran and Rebecca Chlapowski,
 Brian Cole, **Esther Elliott**, Liesl
 Voosen Fields, **Pamela Foy**,
 David Jalbert, **Margarethe
 Johnson, Ron Johnson**, Jonathan MacDonald,
Doris Manzi, Dennis Mercer, Jennifer Mooore,
 Lillian Pavovich, **Peter Pierce**, Len Pauplis,
 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 forms in the narthex.



**JANUARY NEWSLETTER
SUBMISSION DATE**

The deadline for submissions for the January newsletter is **Thursday, December 15th**.

Have a Blessed Christmas Season

From the Staff

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

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