

Zion Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY 2009

CONTACT US!

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

M-F 9:00 AM-NOON

or by appointment.

Office Phone

(508)987-1248

email Pastor Simon

rev.simon@charterinternet.com

Office email: Karen Borden

oxfordz@charterinternet.com

Website

www.oxfordz.org

Emergency Pastoral Contact:

(508) 987-3958



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MORNING:

9:00 am Early service

10:30 am 2nd service

TUESDAY EVE. WORSHIP

6:00 pm

SUNDAY EDUCATION HOUR

Sunday School 9:30-10:15 am

Adult Forum 9:45 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb.01:New Members Sunday

Feb. 17: Zion Book Club

Feb. 25: Ash Wednesday

Services at the United Methodist Church in Oxford at 1:00 and 7:00 pm

“COMING AND GOING”

“Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves...” –Mark 9:2

Buddhist author Pema Chodron, in her book: *When Things Fall apart*, speaks about “Eight Worldly Dharmas.” She writes:

“These are four pairs of opposites-four things that we like and become attached to and four things that we don’t like and try to avoid. The basic message is that when we are caught up in the eight worldly dharmas, we suffer.” (Chodron p. 46)

These four pairs are: pleasure and pain, loss and gain, praise and blame, fame and disgrace. If you think about, they are always part of our reality.

Yet, oftentimes, we struggle against them. We strive to fix ourselves somewhere in between them, hoping that we can stay in the pleasure forever, and avoid all the pain. We strive to avoid loss and seek constant gain. We plant our feet, we dig our heels in, with all our might, we try to remain immovable. Pema Chodron says, this is when we suffer.

We’re really no different than Jesus’ friend, Peter. On the mountaintop, when he sees the transfigured glory of his Lord, he can’t help but shout:

“Rabbi, it is good for us to be here!”

He means what he says. It’s good for us to be *here*. Here, on the mountaintop. Here, in the warm glow of God’s glory. Up here, with you, not down there, with them. For Peter, staying exactly where he is seems to be the best option. If it weren’t for the voice of God from heaven, and his faith in Jesus, Peter may still be trying to stay up there on the mountaintop today.

Who can blame him? Going up the mountain meant light, warmth, and awe. Coming back down meant dark clouds, a chill, and terror as Jesus moved closer and closer to the cross. It also meant a new movement, driven by God through the death, the darkness, and the pain, and into a new life where the cycle begins again.

Sometimes, the temptation to think that we can stay in one good place leads us to miss the wholeness of life that God invites us to be a part of. It is a wholeness that always includes gain and loss, praise and blame, fame and disgrace, pleasure and pain, but thanks to Jesus, it always includes the presence of God, too!

God’s Peace!

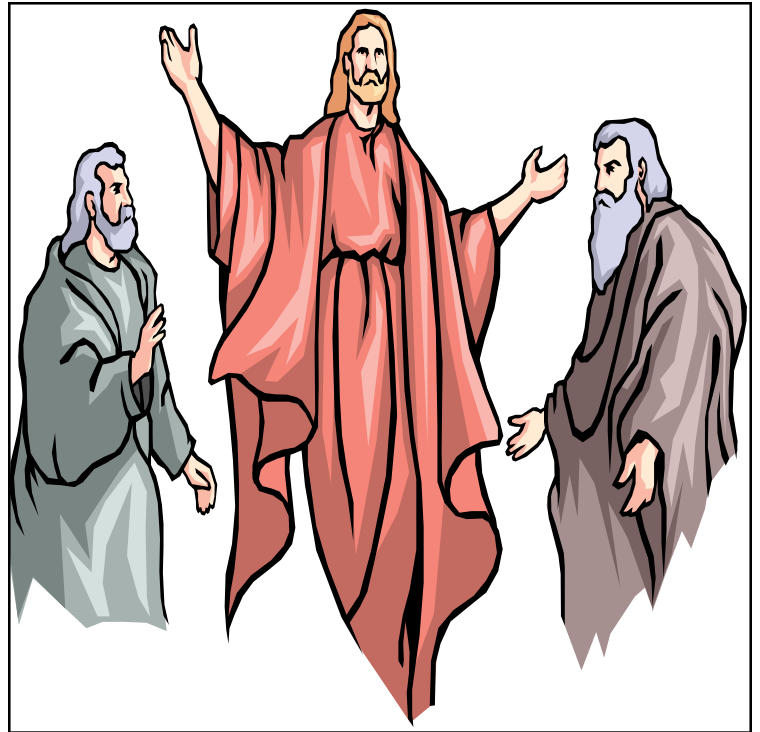
Pastor Andrew

Zion Lutheran Church
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*“...his clothes
became dazzling
white...”*



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Christmas has come and gone. That is what we all have experienced. I regret it leaving so quickly just for the celebration of a calendar change but leave it we must. My family will tell you that I love giving gifts and love (even more) receiving gifts. I am not much concerned with costs. Gifts are so interesting to me and many gifts have many stories behind them. Even bad gifts have long stories..and more lively ones to boot! Stories that can be re-told many times and invoke tears or laughter, often both.

Which brings me to gifts to our Church, Zion. God gives us the gifts of ourselves and our tools and he asks that we use those to ,in turn, give our own special gifts to our Church. Tools to be used to thaw, heal, protect, defend, free.

We are a gifted community at Zion Lutheran. Not merely at Christmas time, but through the year and even through our lives. We at Zion take God's gifts and put them to use: haw, heal, protect, defend, free...there is no end to the good they can be used for.

Yes, these require time ,talent and finances(money). Now is as good a time to remind you that God has gifted you with treasures (money) and Zion uses this gift of His and yours to thaw, heal, protect, free, defend. So far we have had two major snow storms in January resulting in cancellation of one Sunday Services and for all practical purposes the cancellation of a second Sunday Services. We need you to give your monetary gifts (dare I say, get caught up) so we, as a Church, can be better equipped to meet our financial demands. Our January budget is already estimated to be about \$5,000.00 'in the hole.' Please prayerfully consider God's gifts to you and your gifts to him and would you take a brief moment to consider getting 'caught up' with your giving having missed two Sundays,well, ironically, because of his 'interventions.'

Sincerely, Ossie Rambarran



WELCOME TO ZION'S NEWEST MEMBERS

On Sunday, February 1, we are pleased to extend our special greetings and welcome to **Sarah, Jason and Nathan Craley, Marleen and Ann Bacon and Helena, Matthew, Nicole and Charlie Karp** who have made Zion their church home! Evangelism and Hospitality Committees are pleased to host a special reception of welcome. Please take time to meet and greet those who are being welcomed in that day and at every opportunity!



SOMETIMES VALENTINES DAY ISN'T HAPPY

For some people, Valentine's Day is a painful reminder of a broken relationship, the death of a loved one, a recent relocation, a chronic illness, or another life challenge. If you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring Jesus' love (God's "ultimate Valentine") back into your life. Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, support and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of your struggle.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with Pat Bean, Jackie Bonneau, or Susan Pierce. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

YOU ARE PART OF A CARING CONGREGATION!

One of the best ways to tell that our congregation cares is by our commitment to Stephen Ministry. We are ready to launch a new training class for Stephen Ministers. This is an important way that we express God's love to those around us.

Susan Pierce, the Stephen Leader in charge of training, says: "It's work, it's fun, it's a great time for spiritual growth. I'm excited about finding out who God will bring together in our next training class."

Is God calling you to take a more active role in Christian caregiving? Then Stephen Ministry may be just what you're looking for. To find out more, contact *Susan Pierce at (508)987-1390* today.



ZION'S COMMITMENT TO THE LUTHERAN HEALTHCARE CENTER'S EXPANSION BEGINS WITH \$500

Zion has a \$10,000 commitment over the next 2 years to refurbish one room for two residents. Our first gift of \$500 toward Zion's goal was received in Dec. As the months move forward, we will be sharing the information needed to enable members of Zion share in this effort. **Ken Bean, Chaplain at LHC**

LAY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Four Sunday evenings in Lent

Dates: March 1, 8, 15, 22

Time: 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Place: Zion Lutheran Church,

41 Whitmarsh Avenue, Worcester

Theme: "The Bible" We are offering three four-session courses

(similar format to what we were doing several years ago)

* How Lutherans Interpret the Bible (taught by Dan Wilfrid)

* Using the Bible as a Family (taught by Susan Nachtigal)

* Four witnesses: Reading the Passion Stories (yet to be filled)

Observe a Holy Lent

with the people of

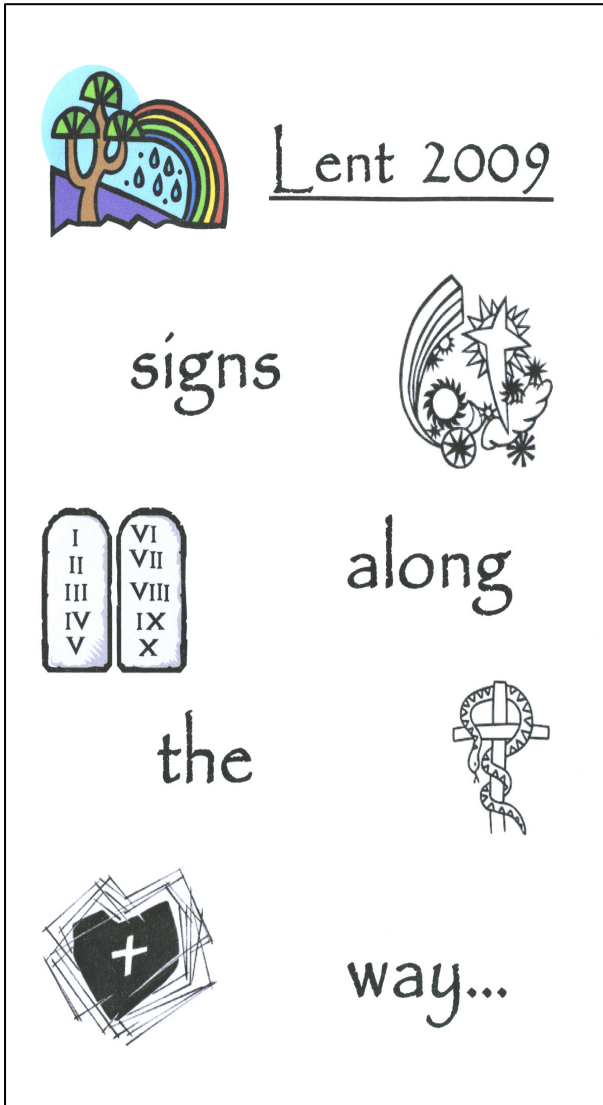
Oxford United Methodist Church

465 Main Street
Oxford, MA 01540
(508) 987 - 2821
<http://www.OxfordUMC.net>

Zion Lutheran Church

70 Main Street
Oxford, MA 01540
(508) 987 - 1248
<http://oxfordzion.org>

**Share our supper at 6:00 pm & and worship at 7:00 pm
No reservations needed.**



Ash Wednesday February 25

1:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Oxford United Methodist Church

Tues Mar 3 - Oxford United Methodist

6:00pm Supper & 7:00pm Worship

Tues Mar 10 - Zion Lutheran Church

6:00pm Supper & 7:00pm Worship

Tues Mar 17 - Oxford United Methodist

6:00pm Supper & 7:00pm Worship

Tues Mar 24 - Zion Lutheran Church

6:00pm Supper & 7:00pm Worship

Tues Mar 31 - Oxford United Methodist h

6:00pm Supper & 7:00pm Worship

Good Friday April 10-Zion Lutheran Church

7:00pm Worship & Cantata



MEMORIALS

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of

Harry Smith

Given by

Isabel Cannalunga

**MISSION ENDOWMENT
FUND**

In memory of

Oscar Jacobson

Given by

Ellen Gevry

Diane Beaulieu

In memory of

Harry Smith

Given By

Barbara Steege

In Memory of Joe Cowan

Given by

Barbara Steege

BUILDING FUND

***In memory of Anna and
Bennett Smith***

Given by

Betty Keegan

In memory of Ed Keegan

Given By

Betty Keegan

YOUTH FUND

In memory of Harry Smith

Given By

Dick and Gerri Siegmund



ZION'S



FEBRUARY 17, 2009

7:00 PM

HOME OF ED AND SHIRLEY ROSSMEISL

170 PARTRIDGE HILL

CHARLTON, MA

BOOK FOR DISCUSSION:

INFINITE PLAN



**HAPPY
FEBRUARY
BIRTHDAY!**

- Jennifer Baublitz 01
- Jeff Lundquist 03
- Frances Jacobson 06
- Norma Peterson 08
- Simone Arent 11
- Rebecca LeBoeuf 12
- Betty Keegan 14
- Thelma Shell 15
- David Basins 15
- Victor Lempicki 17
- Lisa Betrovski 18
- Robert Blood Jr. 19
- Pauline Kindler 19
- Louise Cyr. 21
- Ethan Piehl 23
- Katelyn Betrovski 25
- David Bernier III 28



Prayers

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Brian Quinlan, Marguerite Clark, Mrs. Wurth, Maryanne Grzelecki, Debbie Monaco, Matthew Lucas, Lois Austin, Arthur Siegmund, John Dunphy, Esther Elliott, Frank Abissi, Ronny Waters, Katie Schmidt, Patricia Mokaba, Rev. Don and Rev. Peg Olson, Joyce Gatzke Tavares, Theresa Bromme, Patz and Robert Clark, Al Kilian, Gilbert Thibeault,, Ron Johnson, 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, Stephen Karp, Isabel Cannalonga, Mary McIntyre, Helen McGovern, Susan Rohr, Bob Blood Jr., Geraldine Maher, Joyce Cozzens, Bernice Gladue, Dolores Masi, John Laverne, Michael Gustafson, Diana Powers, Peter Pierce, David Healy, Esther Wood; military personnel serving our country at home and in the Middle East especially William Jakola, Brandon Morin, Amanda Theodore, 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.



Please email submissions to the newsletter on or before the 15th of each month

THANK YOU

I want to thank the people of Zion for the many cards, notes, prayers and emails that were sent to me and my family following the death of my father. Your expressions of care and concern were greatly appreciated.

Karen Borden