

GOD IS GOOD...ALL THE TIME!

CONTACT US!
OFFICE HOURS

T-F (Karen)
NOON-3:00 PM

Office Phone
(508) 987-1248

Office email: Karen Borden
admin@oxfordzionchurch.org

Website

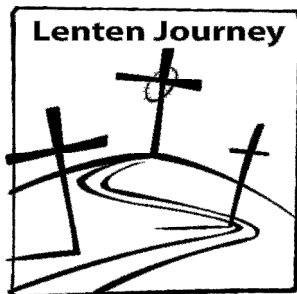
www.oxfordzion.org

Emergency Pastoral Contact

The Rev. John Nieman
508-829-6707

Zion Lutheran Church

MARCH 2011



PASTOR'S CORNER

It is likely that we have all heard someone asking, "What are you giving up for Lent?" I guess that idea of giving up something arises out of one of the traditional Lenten disciplines of fasting. If fasting has a way of bringing one closer to Christ, it is a most worthwhile thing to do. If giving something up has a way of bringing us closer to Christ, that is certainly worthwhile. I've known some who did a superficial kind of thing like giving up eating broccoli during Lent (they couldn't stand broccoli anyway). But whatever one does, the discipline that really means something is whatever draws us closer to Christ—and often that may not involve giving up something; instead it may involve adding something. Some have found meaning in adding a new habit of Bible Study, or reading some new devotional material, or setting a time aside for prayer during the day. Some have taken on a special charitable cause. The key is drawing closer to Christ where we see meaning in what God has given us through Christ's self-giving love. You may want to give up something—but, you may want to think of adding something during this Lenten season.

In Christ, Pastor John



SUNDAY MORNING:

9:00 AM Early
Service

9:30 AM Christian Ed

9:45 AM Adult Forum

10:30 AM 2nd Service

TUESDAY

6:00 PM



March 5: Autism Resource
Center 10:00 AM-2:00PM

March 8: 7:00 PM Church
Council Meeting

March 9: 7:00 PM Ash
Wednesday Worship/Zion

Lenten Worship and Soup
Supper on Tuesdays.
Schedule of time and loca-
tions on Pg. 2

March 14: 6:00 PM Stephen
Ministry Meeting

March 15: 7:00 PM

Evangelism Committee

March 28: 6:00 PM Stephen
Ministry Meeting



MEMBERSHIP IN ZION LU- THERAN

Would you like to learn more about becoming a member of Zion Lutheran Church? Pastor John would like to get in contact with all who may have such an interest. Would you please indicate so to him on a Sunday morning? Or, please call Karen at the church office, so that we can follow up on this.

Your place in this fellowship of believers is something to be celebrated.!



FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Pastor John would like the contact information for children who would be wanting to prepare for First Communion. Contact the office to let him know that you are interested so that he can set up a class session and you can be included. The minimum age for First Communion is 2nd grade.



**WORSHIP
COMMITTEE
NEWS**

The Worship Committee is now preparing for our Lenten services. We will once again join together with the Methodist and Congregational churches. Services will be held on Tuesday evenings beginning with a soup supper at 6:15 PM, followed by a service at 7:00 PM. A complete list of dates and churches will be listed in this newsletter. We will once again be needing volunteers for the meal when it is at our church. If you cannot make the suppers please join us for the service.

This has been an exceptionally hard winter between storms and sickness. However, it would be appreciated if you are scheduled for a service commitment and cannot make it to please make the necessary arrangement for a substitute.

We are still looking for any adult who might be interested in serving as an acolyte at our second service. Please call me (508-865-4696) if you have any questions.

Thank you to all of you who so generously serve at any of our services.

Yours in Christ, Dot Sundman

EASTER FLOWERS



With the snow drifts, storms, and winter weather woes it is nice to think ahead to warm, sunny days and to Easter. This year Easter is April 24th which is the latest Easter can ever be. Look for the Easter Flower order form in your April newsletter. You will have the opportunity to order flowers to decorate our chancel in celebration of the resurrection of our Lord.



MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Midweek Lenten services will be held jointly with the members of both First Congregational and the Oxford United Methodist congregations. The Lenten season will begin and end with services at Zion Lutheran.

March 9 (Ash Wednesday) 7:00 PM

Zion Lutheran Church

Tuesday, March 15

Oxford United Methodist

Supper 6:15 Worship 7:00 PM

Tuesday, March 22

First Congregational

Supper 6:15 Worship 7:00 PM

Tuesday, March 29

Zion Lutheran

Supper 6:15 Worship 7:00 PM

Tuesday, April 5

Oxford United Methodist

Supper 6:15 Worship 7:00 PM

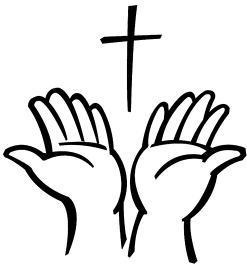
Tuesday, April 12

First Congregational

Supper 6:15 Worship 7:00 PM

April 22 (Good Friday) 7:00 PM

Zion Lutheran Church



Opportunity for Giving

**SOCIAL
MINISTRY**

Our Christmas Giving Trees were a great success this year. Gifts were delivered to the Florence House for both homeless mothers and babies residing there. A lovely thank you letter from the staff, mothers and children expressed great appreciation. Twelve families were assisted and experienced Christ's love through Zion's outreach. Thirty gifts of lap blankets, sweaters and sweatshirts were delivered to the Sun Bridge Nursing Home. Twenty four gifts for teenagers were delivered to Worcester Project AIDS so that their families could "shop" for appropriate gifts for their loved ones. As always, the members of Zion are generous and glad to share their Christian love in our church, community, and the world. The assistance of Pam and David Olson in organizing this project and helping with deliveries is invaluable!

The items for the 120 Challenge were coffee and tea last month. Fifty four packages were contributed. The shortage can most likely be attributed to the unusually snowy weather. Thank you to Cindy Joslyn and Sue Butchman who deliver our contributions the first of each month.

February has already been a busy month for our committee. This month, The Confirmation Class conducted the annual Souper Bowl of Giving. Monetary contributions to the Oxford Food Pantry were asked for at the February 6, 2011, services. We appreciate the help of the young people. The second project was to make eighteen "baskets of love" for our elderly and shut-ins. Edible treats, packets of tissues, lip balm and word search books were included in the baskets, along with cards from the congregation and Sunday School students. Some of the baskets were taken on February 6 and the remainder will be delivered over the next week. The item of the month for The Zion 120 challenge is canned soup. For those who like to plan ahead, the item for March will be canned vegetables, excluding mixed vegetables.

Paula Clark, Social Ministry Chair



EVANGELISM

At our February meeting we welcomed Lee White as a member of the Evangelism Committee. Lee served on this committee a while ago and we are grateful that she has returned. For the past several months we have had the chairmen from Worship, Education, Stewardship, Social Ministry and Hospitality come to our meetings and share the work of their particular ministry with us. In February Pat Bean shared with us concerning Stephen Ministry. These meetings have been very helpful as we seek to support one another and we plan to continue this process.

Evangelism is an important consideration in every ministry of our parish. Think about what you would want if you were looking for a church. You would probably want meaningful worship which included challenging and/or inspiring biblical sermons and music that praised God and touched your spirit; opportunities to study the Christian faith for you and your children; a place to serve and to give for the support of the church's ministry; an opportunity to contribute to the needs of others; times of fellowship to enjoy one another and to get to know each other better; someone who is there when you are going through a difficult time; a church building that is well cared for and welcoming and good and caring leaders. We are very fortunate at Zion to have people who work diligently to see that we offer all of these and more.

As important as these things are, it is essential that we remain Christ centered and motivated by love. As we grow in our awareness of God's love for us and respond by loving Him, we experience new life and purpose in all that we do. Jesus said **"As I have loved you, so you must love one another."** (John 13:34b) When we love one another and share that love with others we are involved in Evangelism. Being faithful to our Lord's command to love one another is our responsibility, the results are in God's hand.

Cecelia Jalbert, Evangelism Chair

SOUPER BOWL OF SHARING RESULTS



The Confirmation Youth raised \$128.4. This was sent to the Oxford Food Pantry.

STEWARDSHIP

Dear Fellow Stewards,

I try each month to come up with some words on stewardship to share with you. Sometimes I meet the newsletter deadline and sometimes I don't. This month I was determined to meet the deadline. This morning, I received this email from my aunt and knew God was making sure I had something to share with you by the deadline.

As we prepare for the Lenten season and the resurrection of our Lord, please remember the sacrifice he made for us. No matter whom you are or how much you have to give, if you give gladly from your heart God will make miracles happen.

God's peace be with you always,

**Susan Pierce,
Stewardship Chair**



WHAT GOD CAN DO WITH 57 CENTS

A little girl stood near a small church from which she had been turned away because it was 'too crowded'. 'I can't go to Sunday School,' she sobbed to the pastor as he walked by. Seeing her shabby, unkempt appearance, the pastor guessed the reason and, taking her by the hand, took her inside and found a place for her in the Sunday school class. The child was so happy that they found room for her, and she went to bed that night thinking of the children who have no place to worship Jesus.

Some two years later, this child lay dead in one of the poor tenement buildings. Her parents called for the kindhearted pastor who had befriended their daughter to handle the final arrangements. As her poor little body was being moved, a worn and crumpled red purse was found which seemed to have been rummaged from some trash dump. Inside was found 57 cents and a note, scribbled in childish handwriting, which read: 'This is to help build the little church bigger so more children can go to Sunday School.' For two years she had saved for this offering of love.

When the pastor tearfully read that note, he knew instantly what he would do. Carrying this note and the cracked, red pocket-book to the pulpit, he told the story of her unselfish love and devotion. He challenged his deacons to get busy and raise enough money for the larger building.

But the story does not end there...

A newspaper learned of the story and published it. It was read by a wealthy realtor who offered them a parcel of land worth many thousands. When told that the church could not pay so much, he offered to sell it to the little church for 57 cents.

Church members made large donations. Checks came from far and wide. Within five years the little girl's gift had increased to \$250,000.00--a huge sum for that time (near the turn of the century). Her unselfish love had paid large dividends.

When you are in the city of Philadelphia, look up Temple Baptist Church, with a seating capacity of 3,300. And be sure to visit Temple University, where thousands of students are educated. Have a look, too, at the Good Samaritan Hospital and at a Sunday School building which houses hundreds of beautiful children, built so that no child in the area will ever need to be left outside during Sunday school time

In one of the rooms of this building may be seen the picture of the sweet face of the little girl whose 57 cents, so sacrificially saved, made such remarkable history. Alongside of it is a portrait of her kind pastor, Dr. Russell H. Conwell, author of the book, 'Acres of Diamonds'.

This is a true story, which goes to show **WHAT GOD CAN DO WITH 57 CENTS.**



Please help out!

We all enjoy the refreshments and fellowship of

Coffee Hour. Volunteers are needed as hosts. Please check the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex to see if there is a time you can help us. You can sign up with a partner or you see Pat Cheever to pair you up with someone.

A clean church is something else we all enjoy. It speaks volumes to visitors if the church is clean and neat. Please consider helping with our volunteer cleaning program by picking a date to clean the church. Cleaning with a partner makes the task more fun and it goes faster.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stories about Stephen Ministry in Action

Walking in Someone Else's Shoes

One cold December evening, the pastor was leading the Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers in the closing prayer of their supervision session. All heads were bowed when suddenly they heard the door open. Everyone looked up to see who was there. The pastor asked, "May I help you?"

A street woman hobbled in wearing tattered and torn clothes and shoes with so many holes that they were falling apart. The woman first apologized for interrupting and then said, "I was trying to see if I could find a church that could give me a pair of shoes. I went to another church in town and they couldn't help me, so I walked over here." A Stephen Minister near the door immediately asked, "What size do you wear?" "Eight and a half," the woman answered.

The Stephen Minister bent down to take off one of her new walking shoes. "That's my size," she said. "Why don't you sit down over here and try this on to see if it fits you." As the woman slipped it on, she said, "Oh, that feels wonderful. Nice and warm."

The Stephen Minister took off her other shoe and gave it to the woman. "Here's the other one, too." The woman looked up, surprised. "I can't take these. I don't want to take your shoes." But the Stephen Minister insisted, saying, "Please. Go ahead and take these. I've got another pair at home."

The ragged woman accepted the gift, put on the other shoe and moved toward the door. Her hand on the doorknob, she turned back to them and said, "Thank you so much. God bless you. God bless you all."

The entire incident took only a minute or so, but it left everyone in the room standing in stunned silence. A Stephen Leader broke the silence by turning to the Stephen Minister and saying, "That was so beautiful. But how are you going to get home? It's cold and wet outside, and you don't have any shoes now." The Stephen Minister replied, "I've got a thick pair of socks--and I do have a pair of shoes." And she proceeded to put the homeless woman's tattered shoes onto her own feet.

What happened was both a prayer and an answer to prayer that brought to a close that particular supervision session with a powerful sense of God's presence. One by one the Stephen Ministers left, quietly and reflectively. Finally only the Stephen Leader and the Stephen Minister with the tattered shoes remained. As the Stephen Minister moved toward the door, the Stephen Leader noticed her hobbling a bit because the old shoes were worn, uneven, and uncomfortable. "Please be careful," the Stephen Leader said. "I don't want you to fall and get hurt." "I'll walk slowly," the Stephen Minister replied with a smile. "Now I really know what it's like to walk in someone else's shoes!"



THANK YOU!

I am sending the members of Zion a huge thank you for helping make the Dinner and Movie Day a success! As members join together we become stronger, happier and healthier. We got the chance to gather for a wonderful meal and movie. Members from all corners of the church helped the Hospitality Team and we really appreciated everything that you did. It was great to watch the gentlemen of the church make their own sundaes. I witnessed some pure joy! It was great listening to the kids downstairs laughing at the movie that they wanted to watch. The day was based on Faith, Hope and Charity. We came together with strong faith. The movie showed us an example of hope. The Sunday School children decorated boxes to hold the food donations for the Oxford Food Pantry. Seeing the boxes filled was a great example of charity.

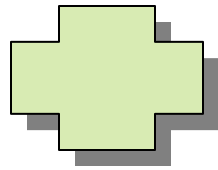
Thank you from the bottom of my heart! **Lisa XOXO**



Remember in Prayer

Our prayers are requested for: Brian Cole, Debbie Forsman, **Pamela Foy, Margarethe Johnson**, Jonathan MacDonald, Jennifer Moore, and **Marilyn Siegmund**.

Parishioners of Zion Lutheran Church are in **bold**. Prayer List forms can be found on the credenza in the Narthex.



**LENTEN SCHOOL
OF THEOLOGY**

**-- Central Massachusetts
Conference, ELCA -**

MARCH 13

MARCH 20

MARCH 27

3:30 TO 5:00 PM

**Trinity Lutheran Church,
73 Lancaster Street,
Worcester**

Theme:

“Lutheran Economy”

Three mini-courses:

Theology of Money

Theology of Vocation

Theology of Bread

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY!

George Bayer 02

Nicole Karp 06

Bev Makowski 06

Paul Siegmund 08

Ginny Watkins 11

Jim Champoux 12

Phyllis McClintock 12

Laurie Teece 12

Karen Siegmund 13

Amy Peterson 17

Tyler Olson 18

Jenna LaFontaine 21

William Peterson 26

Joy Arent 28

Carol Langer 31

MEMORIAL GIFTS TO ZION

MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Louise Cyr

Walter and Brenda Lukasek

Betty Keegan

In memory of Al Rizner

Donald, Virginia, Kevin Cote

Commerce Insurance

Mapfire USA

Edward Sitkowski

Roland Malboeuf

John Hickey

MUSIC FUND

In memory of

Anna & Ben Smith

The Keegan family-Betty Keegan

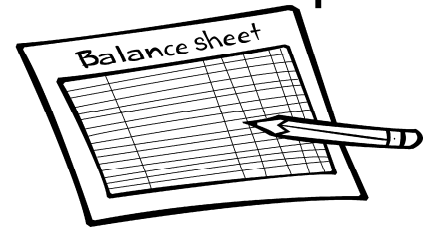
HISTORICAL FUND

In memory of Ed, Harry, and Tom

The Keegan family-Betty Keegan

Submitted by Susan Schade

Treasurer's Report



FINANCIAL RESULTS JANUARY 31, 2011

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

	Jan 2011	Jan - 2011 YTD	Budget YTD 1/12	Over/(Under) Budget
Operating				
Revenue	\$ 10,477.63	\$ 10,477.63	\$ 13,428.58	\$ (2,950.95)
Operating				
Expenses	\$ 9,209.64	\$ 9,209.64	\$ 13,428.58	\$ (4,218.94) **
Income Net				
of Expenses	\$ 1,267.99	\$ 1,267.99	\$ -	\$ 1,267.99

	Jan 2011	Jan - 2011 YTD	Budget YTD 1/12	Over/(Under) Budget
Expenses				
Salaries	6,608.45	6,608.45	9,809.50	(3,201.05)
General Administration	276.82	276.82	1,119.08	(842.26)
Property	2,144.72	2,144.72	1,818.75	325.97
Education	136.53	136.53	237.50	(100.97)
Worship	34.92	34.92	220.83	(185.91)
Stewardship	8.20	8.20	56.25	(48.05)
Evangelism			25.00	(25.00)
Social Ministry			16.67	(16.67)
Ecumenical Council			8.33	(8.33)
Stephen Ministry			116.67	(116.67)
Reimbursed expenses				-

\$ 9,209.64 \$ 9,209.64 \$ 13,428.58 \$ (4,218.94) **

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