

ZION LIFE NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 1

February 2014

Special Points of Interest:

- **Stephen Ministry Training**, Monday evenings, 6:30 pm
- **Morning Prayer**, Wednesday mornings, 8:00 am
- **Zion Bible Study**, Thursday mornings, 10:30 am
- **Cross-Gen. Worship**, Sunday, February 2, 4:30 followed by dinner
- **W.E.L.C.A.**, Saturday, February 8, 10:30 am
- **Parson's Closet**, Tuesday, February 11 & 25th, 10—1
- **Bold Café @ McDonald's**, Saturday, February 22, 9:00 am
- **Food Pantry & Parson's Closet**, Saturday, February 22, 9—12
- **Pancake Supper**, Friday, February 28, 5—7 pm

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W.E.L.C.A. Circle at Zion Zion's Food Pantry

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, and support one another and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

The women of Zion and St. Matthew's Chapel have had a busy year in 2013 serving God and their community in worship services, dinners, food pantry, prayer groups and Bible studies, summer lunch programs, winter break lunches for families, and hosting events when needed. In the year to come, we will continue to support each other as the Holy Spirit leads. Events to look forward to include the Foothills Spring Assembly on May 3, 2014 at St. Paul's in Richmondville and the Ninth Triennial Gathering of Women of the E.L.C.A. on July 24 –27, 2014 in Charlotte, NC. Those who gather on the second Saturday of each month will continue quilting. The Synod Women's ingathering for 2014 is Baby Care Kits to which anyone may contribute – watch for our collection boxes with a list of needed items.

Every woman is welcome to share the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and to know the joy that Jesus brings. Join us!

Sandra Deems
W.E.L.C.A. Leader

God is good and does provide! Each month our well-stocked shelves are emptied on Pantry Day and then are replenished by the Grace of God, your prayers, donations, and willingness to volunteer (shop, stock, and serve). Thanks be to God!

We have seen an increased need in the community, especially this fall with fifty-plus households coming for assistance. In November and December, the number of households being served was close to sixty because of food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas. With cutbacks in government assistance programs, people are finding it necessary to turn to food pantries.

God has blessed us with large donations of food from local food drives and collection points: Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, U.S. Postal Carriers, SUNY groups, the Christmas Train, FAM, Cobleskill Regional Hospital, Zion/St. John's, and St. Matthew's Chapel. Thank you to each person who donated food and/or money for food baskets at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas as well as throughout the year. Thank you to those who shop for the Pantry each month and for everyone for their prayers for the Pantry, its clients, and the volunteers that serve.

This ministry is so vital to our community! Please continue to support it with your prayers, donations, and helping hands. As God has blessed us, let us continue to be a blessing to others in Jesus' name.

Sandra Deems
Food Pantry Leader



Highlights from our 220th Annual Congregational Meeting of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Annual meeting started with fantastic soups provided by Eilene Fisher, Deb Nadeau, and Pastor Sara, Eilene made amazing rolls. Desserts were provided by Teddy Beaver and Rose Swanhall. A big thank you to all who made food, helped set up, and clean up.

Our meeting started with devotions from Mark 6: 32-44 by Pastor Sara, she accompanied us on the guitar for our singing of "Veni Sancte Spiritus - Holy Spirit, Come to Us". Minutes from our 2013 Annual meeting were approved, we continued with a review of the various reports, see our website for our annual report. [www.zion-cobleskill.org]. Below are a few highlights I wanted to point out:

Pastor's Report:

Statement from people not members..."Zion is growing, maybe not in large numbers, but I can see it is growing."...Many of the participants are people that have had a connection to the church through the Food Pantry...new worship...multi-generational worship/education...children really like the service, they have an active role in the worship...Eilene Fisher plans and prepares the meals...Look at the future...Zion will host 4 Chaplains service February 16th, a great time to show hospitality to the community during our Sunday worship... Zion will be hosting the Crop Walk this year... Pastor Sara and Pastor Sherri Meyer-Veen, Pastor at Schaharie Reformed Church, are both working on their Doctor of Ministry...new year will have the same excitement and enthusiasm.

Council President's Report:

This past year we have added more outreach activities... Friday night dinners by Events committee...St. Matthew's Chapel participating in Sharon Springs Memorial Day Parade...we are showing God's love to all.

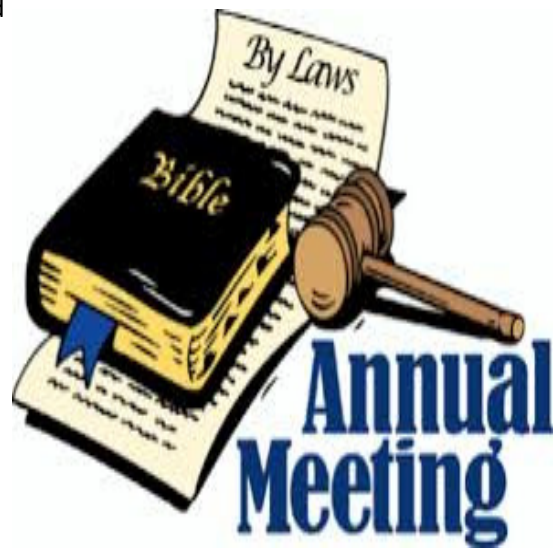
Worship Committee:

Thank you to Camille Grace for her violin accompaniment at both St. Matthew's Chapel and Zion...Brian Swanhall and Pastor Sara for occasional percussion... Committee looking how we can be a church to those in our community who might not attend worship...

Events Committee:

Friday night dinners a success by the community... Movie night with hot dogs and beans; baked potato night; Taco bar night; Reformation Sunday catered event...Stuffed/Garbage bread...Christmas time we hosted Mr. and Mrs. Santa with all children in their PJ's

and



reading of Polar Express, with an replica of a Polar Express for all to watch go around on its track...a float in the Cobleskill Holiday Parade, handing out stuffed animals...upcoming event, Breakfast for Supper on February 28th, very good pancakes...

Food Pantry:

God is Good and does provide!...increased need in the community...Regional Food Bank provided HPNAP Food Grant with USDA foods each month...vegetables discounted from Shaul's, Barber's and Carrot Barn...God blessed us with large donations from local food drives and our members...This ministry is so vital to our community...blessing others in Jesus' name...

Parson's Closet:

Many volunteers helped out Janice when she became ill...Pat and Doug McLeod volunteer to straighten up just before our Food Pantry day.

W.E.L.C.A.:

A community of women created in the image of God...busy year serving God and community...twelve quilts delivered to Lutheran World Relief... one quilt won second place at the Sunshine Fair, raffled off at the Reformation Dinner...coming events...Foothills Spring Assembly on May 3rd at St. Paul's Richmondville...Ninth Triennial Gathering of Women of E.L.C.A. July 24th-27th, Charlotte, NC... 2014 Baby Care Kits will collected...

Property Report:

Many projects completed at Zion, St. Matthew's Chapel and Parsonage...2014 projects ...new and roof repairs at Zion...many volunteers help with projects...

Annual Meeting...

St. Matthew's Chapel:

listing of monthly events...'It was a very Good Year'.. just like what Frank Sinatra would sing...

St. Matthew's Sunday School:

Thanks to Sunday School teachers...Suzanne Graulich, Jean Bakkom, and John Jarvis...Christmas Program directed by Suzanne Graulich, with help from Pastor Sara...with solos by Emma Litzner and Lara Graulich... Thanks be to God for Lara, our two confirmands, the Litzner children and adult Bible study...God is Good...

Stewardship and Food Pantry Stewardship Nuggets:

There are too many to recount here, check out our Annual Report on our website...www.zion-cobleskill.org.

Elections:

This year we were blessed with more people willing to be on council than we had positions. New members for our Council are: Eilene Fisher, Rose Swanhall, and Sandy Deems. Carol McGuire was voted back on for another 3 year term. When there are more candidates than positions available, unfortunately some candidates do not get voted on Council. This does not mean they are not valued by the Congregation, they can just service God in different ways. We are so blessed at Zion and St. Matthew's Chapel .

Treasurer's Report:

The Congregation agreed to investigate consolidating our Fennimore Asset Management Funds [FAM] within our by-laws. Presently we have Extended Ministries, Property Endowment, and General Funds. Times have changed...within our congregation, the country, and our personal finances. Bylaw committee: Jean Bakkom, Tom Collins, Bob Holt, Carol McGuire, and Pastor Sara will review our bylaws/constitution to meet our current

needs. There will need to be a special Congregational meeting to approve these changes. Two auditors, Rich Churchill and Jean Bakkom, were appointed.

2014 Budget:

We are still struggling to have our Revenue come close to our expenses... without our money at FAM, our deficit is close to \$88,000... even with planned \$45,000 from FAM we will have a \$43,000 deficit. This would be truly unheard of in the business world and probably in most churches. This certainly shows our Faith in God. He will provide what we need. Our Food Pantry mission is very well supported all by donations and Regional Food Bank Grants...up to \$1,000 per month expenses...God is Great!!! Our Budget was approved unanimously, again this shows the faith by the 25 people at the meeting. Closing devotions ended with "We shall Overcome".

My closing thought was, we need to always think positive for all we do. I like Mother Teresa, she believed,.. *do not invite me to an anti-war rally, but I will attend a Peace Rally*...Focus on the positive not negative...We shouldn't dwell on the past and negative things, look at all the positive things, missions, we have been doing and what we will be doing in 2014. AMEN...God is Great!!!

The council members met following the Congregational meeting, voting in officers. I'm proud to say they voted me as your President for one more year. Carol McGuire is Vice-President and Rose Swanhall is the Secretary. Our next Council meeting will be Sunday afternoon, February 16th at 2:00pm.

Judith L. Warner
Council President



Christmas came early for the residents of Lutheran Care this year and we have to thank you and your congregation for making it happen. Imagine the pleasant surprise when congregants of Zion Lion Church bestowed upon us a variety of afghans, lab robes, toiletries, slippers, and so much more; we were overwhelmed. These gifts will ensure that every resident on our campus has a very Merry Christmas. Your entire congregation truly deserves our gratitude and you may be assured that your generosity will long be remembered by all whom you've touched.

Karen Anne Ostinett, Director of Funds and Volunteer Development

St. Matthew's Matters



The Ministry Board at St. Matthew's Chapel, hereafter referred to as the "MB", held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 7, at 7:08 pm. Six members plus Dave Hayner attended.

Pastor Sara began the meeting with a reading of the following Sunday's Gospel lesson from John 2, in which we see that the "good wine" comes from Jesus. Business began at 7:13.

Pam Kostbar-Jarvis began the round-table discussion with a suggestion to have a Nativity set outside the Chapel in December 2014. Pastor Sara picked up the idea by proposing a living Nativity set at the Chapel. Discussion continued.

Dave Hayner, who is not a member of the MB, shared some thoughts and observations about life and worship at St. Matt's. One idea that he proposed was a free Wednesday night meal open to the public.

Tom Collins presented good news about FAM investments and bad news about the number of pledges made for 2014.

John Jarvis added to Tom's bad news by explaining that his "days as the Pastoral Care manager at the hospital

are numbered." He explained how he has tithed his hospital salary for the past six years; so when his salary ceases, so will his \$600 annual donation to the Chapel's Outreach fund. John expects to be retired before the end of Winter 2014.

Jean Bakkom wants to buy a new artificial Christmas tree for the Chapel because the one we have now is somewhat difficult to put up. Dave Hayner and John Jarvis disagreed, so they volunteered to put that tree up next December. If a new tree needs to be purchased, the MB agree to buy it on December 26 from Wal-Mart or a similar local business with huge after-Christmas sales.

Pastor Sara again brought up the topic of a crock-pot ministry, which may fit in with Dave Hayner's suggestion of free Wednesday night meals for the community at the Chapel. Discussion followed.

Pastor Sara also led a discussion of effective outreach and why growing churches are thriving. Discussion followed.

Pam and Janet shared their "homework" about the importance of the Chapel in the community with the MB members and Dave.

There is much to be thankful for at St. Matthew's Chapel besides profits at FAM, possible crock-pot dinners, future Nativity sets, and maybe a new Christmas tree for 2014. Thanks be to God!

In service to Christ and His Church,

John Jarvis,
MB Secretary



Thank you for your generous donation of \$164 to the Regional Food Bank's Holiday Hunger Appeal. Your contribution will help us increase the amount of food we provide to our member agencies at a time when they are serving a growing number of people in need. In 2013 we distributed over 30 million pounds of food (enough for 25 million meals). We will continue to do everything we can to meet the need in the coming year.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone at the Giving Thanks service at St. Matthew's Chapel for their generous donation to the Community Food Pantry at the Methodist Church. It will be used to help needy families in the community. God Bless everyone.

Pauline Brown

One Good Turn Deserves Another...A Tale of Two Eagle Scouts

Only the most single-minded Boy Scout attain the rank of Eagle, which is the highest of the Scout levels. It's an undertaking that requires determination and devotion, and not all Scouts are destined to make it. But Rick Weaver is among the few. The 39 year-old developmentally disabled man has lived most of his life as a Scout. He started out as a Cub Scout 31 years ago, and now is the 100th Boy Scout in Downingtown's Troop 2 to earn the top distinction.

To reach Eagle, there are 21 specific merit badges the Scout must earn or have obtained. If the candidate is a special-needs Scout, alternate badges may be substituted. But Rick's parents said despite their son's differences, he needed only minor adjustments to meet the requirements. "A total of three (required badges) had to be changed," said his father, Dick Weaver, of West Bradford. "Basically the ones where he had to write or speak," added his mother, Louise.

Not surprisingly, during the more than 17 years he has been in Troop 2, Rick has amassed an impressive number of merit badges—more than 100 at last count. Badges that require physical effort were no problem for Rick. A student in the Chester County Intermediate Unit until he was 21, where participation in the Special Olympics is encouraged, Rick trained for athletic events, including swimming, skiing, and track. He also likes to hike and ride his bike, and works in the bicycle shop operated by Devereux Adult Services in Berwyn, where he is a resident.

A significant portion of the Eagle rank requirements is for the Scout to perform a service projects, benefitting the community, a school, or religious institution. Rick gathered winter hats and pairs of gloves from January through April, with the 352 items he collected in various bins spread throughout the community being donated to Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter, the Domestic Violence

Center of Chester County, and the Salvation Army.

Boy Scouting is a tradition in the Weaver family. In addition to Dick Weaver's being an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 2, Rick's younger brother Jonathan has also earned Eagle rank. "I'm very proud my sons passed me," said Dick Weaver, who as a Boy Scout made it as far as First Class, three ranks below Eagle. "Only one-half of one percent (of Boy Scouts) reach Eagle rank." Another Weaver family tradition is camping, which Rick does often with Troop 2 as well. "Rick enjoys the camaraderie and the camping," his father said, "and the other scouts are exceptionally good with him."



One fellow scout in particular has done a kind deed for Rick. Aidan Wilson (grandson of Karen and Jim Wilson of Cobleskill) of Thorndale also recently earned the rank of Eagle. Active in scouting since first grade, the Bishop Shanahan senior's community service project involved building enclosures for four trash bins behind St. Joseph Church in Downingtown. As a project planner, Aidan had 30 boys working under him. He said his biggest challenge was management. "It was hard to keep people on task," he said. But the enclosures

were completed in about four weekends.

Aidan actually qualified for Eagle before Rick, making Aidan eligible for the 100th Troop 2 Scout to reach that rank. But the 17 year-old passed that designation to Rick, and took on the mantle of No. 101. "I've known Rick since I joined," Aidan said. "He goes on all the camping trips. I thought it would be cool."

And what does the future hold for Rick, now that he's made Eagle Scout? Louise Weaver said he'll stick with Troop 2. "And keep earning badges," she said.

Natalie Smith may be contacted at DoubleSMedia@rocketmail.com

Serving Schedule for February and March

St. Matthew's Chapel

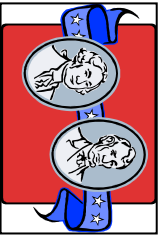

Date	02/02	02/09	02/16	02/23	03/02	03/09	03/16	03/23	03/30
Acolyte	Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich	Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich	Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich	John Jarvis	Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich
Reader	Jean Bakkom	Janet Lynk	Tom Collins	John Jarvis	Suzanne Graulich	Tom Collins	Joan Jozifek	Omer Cousineau	Pam Kostbar-jarvis
Greeter	John Jarvis	Jean Bakkom	Omer Cousineau	Barb Cousineau	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	John Jarvis	Jean Bakkom	Barb Cousineau	Omer Cousineau
Ushers	Omer & Barb Cousineau	Tom & Suzanne Collins	Jean Bakkom & Janet Lynk	Suzanne & Allen Graulich	Omer & Barb Cousineau	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis & John Jarvis	Tom & Suzanne Collins	Jean Bakkom & Janet Lynk	Suzanne & Allen Graulich
Communion Assistant	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Barb Cousineau	John Jarvis	Lara Graulich	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Allen Graulich	Barb Cousineau	John Jarvis	Lara Graulich
Bell Ringer	Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich	Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich	Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich	John Jarvis	Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich

Zion Lutheran Church

Acolyte	Judith Warner	Emma Litzner	Rich Churchill	Eilene Fisher	Rose Keller	Judith Warner	Emma Litzner	Rich Churchill	Rose Keller
Reader	Frieda Thorington	Eilene Fisher	Rose Swanhall	Sandy Deems	Rich Churchill	Frieda Thorington	Rose Swanhall	Eilene Fisher	Sandy Deems
Greeter	Lisa Borggreen	Rose Swanhall	Judith Warner	Leon Beaver	Eilene Fisher	Teddy Beaver	Brian Swanhall	Lisa Borggreen	Judith Warner
Usher	André Nadeau	Judith Warner	Brian Swanhall	Lisa Borggreen	Rose Swanhall	Deb Nadeau	André Nadeau	Judith Warner	Brian Swanhall
Communion Assistant	Eilene Fisher	Henry Mau	Bob Holt	Judith Warner	André Nadeau	Lisa Borggreen	Eilene Fisher	Henry Mau	Bob Holt
Elevator	Henry Mau	Ed Eldredge	Eilene Fisher	Henry Mau	Ed Eldredge	Eilene Fisher	Henry Mau	Ed Eldredge	Eilene Fisher
Altar Guild	Karen Willson & Frieda Thorington								

Zion Lutheran Church 615 E. Main Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043 518-234-3381
www.zion-coby.org

February 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						1 Girl Scouts 11:30	
2 WORSHIP St. Mat's Svc. 9:00 a Zion Svc. 11:00 am	3 Stephen Min. 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Diversity Trng. 7:30 p	4 Ministry Board 7:00	5 Morning Prayer 8:00	6 Bible Study 10:30 am	7 Pastor's Sabbath	8 W.E.L.C.A. 10:30 am	
Cross-Gen. Worship 4:30 pm	9 WORSHIP St. Mat's Svc. 9:00 a Zion Svc. 11:00 am	10 Stephen Min. 6:30 Finance Cmte. 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Diversity Trng. 7:30 p	11 Parson's Closet 10—1	12 Morning Prayer 8:00	13 Bible Study 10:30 am	14 Pastor's Sabbath 	15 Bold Café @ McDonald's 9:00 am Girl Scouts 11:30 am
16 WORSHIP St. Mat's Svc. 9:00 a Zion Svc. 11:00 am	17 President's Day Office Closed	18 Events Cmte. 7:00	19 Morning Prayer 8:00	20 Bible Study 10:30 am	21 Pastor's Sabbath	22 Food Pantry & Parson's Closet 9—12	
Council Mtg. 2:00	23 WORSHIP St. Mat's Svc. 9:00 a Zion Svc. 11:00 am	24 Stephen Min. 6:30 Diversity Trng. 7:30 p	25 Historical Society 7:00	26 Morning Prayer 8:00	27 Bible Study 10:30 am	28 Pastor's Sabbath Pancake Supper 5—7	
23 WORSHIP St. Mat's Svc. 9:00 a Zion Svc. 11:00 am	24 Stephen Min. 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Diversity Trng. 7:30 p	25 Parson's Closet 10—1	26 Morning Prayer 8:00	27 Bible Study 10:30 am	28 Pastor's Sabbath Pancake Supper 5—7	March 1 Girl Scouts 11:30 am	

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
with St. Matthew's Chapel
615 E. Main St.
Cobleskill, NY 12043



Parson's Closet†

*"I needed clothes and
you clothed me."*

Matthew 25:38

The Parson's Closet

Janice has been ill so the Parson's Closet has been functioning with volunteers throughout the year. We have had at least two Community Service workers working in the Parson's Closet. They do a good job of straightening up the clothes and getting the closet ready for Food Pantry Day, however, they are not always reliable when it comes to showing up. Eilene Fisher and Rose Swanhall have given some of their time to help monitor and maintain the closet.

Patricia and Doug McLeod have volunteered to help straighten the Parson's Closet on the Friday before Food Pantry weekends. The Saturday of the Food Pantry is when the Parson's Closet is the hardest hit. We are still in need of volunteers to help monitor and sort through clothing for the closet.