

ZION LIFE NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 7
July 2013

Special Points of Interest:

- **Bible Study,**
Thursday mornings,
10:30 am
- **Ministry Board,**
July 2, 7:00 pm
- **Parson's Closet,**
July 9 & 23, 10—11
- **Council Meeting,** July
11, 7:00 pm
- **W.E.L.C.A.,**
July 13, 10:30 am
- **Bold Café,**
July 20, 9:00 am @
McDonald's
- **Lifeline Screening,**
July 25
- **Food Pantry &
Parson's Closet,**

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From the Pastor's Desk

Finally, summer has arrived!! It is so nice to finally see the sun, despite the occasional shower. I think our family was ready for summer vacation about two weeks before it came. Even my children were refusing to go to school the last week because they were finished with it. Yes, they did have to go, despite their feelings, but they were ready for a break. Now they have entered full swing into a summer routine of day camp, swimming, and various activities. It is fun to see that each day has something new in store for them. I am sure this routine will grow weary by the end of summer also, but then the new school year will hold so many new surprises. That is how life works, isn't it? We fall into routines and grow comfortable or bored and then a change brings about new surprises. Jesus was wonderful about this. He in-

troduced a great deal of change and transition to the communities he encountered. For the disciples, this was sometimes a great surprise that allowed freedom. At other times it they were taken aback by how radical Jesus was in changing things up. Still he constantly introduced new dynamics – change – to the community. The early church was not permitted to grow overly comfortable because there were, constantly, new people becoming a part of the church. The early church found themselves hosting in the same manner that they learned from Jesus. Early in June, a group of us attended the Annual Synod Assembly for the Upstate New York Synod. Throughout the Assembly gathering, speakers kept joking that “because we are Lutherans and we don't like change.” Some would chuckle, getting the joke, but many did not. I

have to wonder, what would happen if we said, instead, “because we are Lutherans and we love and embrace change.” After all, this is the history of the Lutheran Church and the history of the early church. What if we could be like the children around us, who look to the future to see what many new surprises are in store? Maybe this is what Jesus means when he says we should have faith like a child? (Mark 10:13-16). The future is filled with opportunity. What opportunities does the Holy Spirit have in store for us? Be on the lookout, because the Spirit is moving. No, it might not be huge and flashy. It maybe some quiet and subtle, but the Spirit is working and Jesus is calling.



Donated Goods NOT Needed in Moore, OK

Below is an email I received via Lutheran Disaster Relief. During my time as Director of Emergency Management, our philosophy was when asked: Prayers first, donate money to a worthy relief group for the disaster. It is so much easier to send a check than to arrange sending items that may or may not be needed. Too many times, good intentions by well-meaning people result in a logistical nightmare for the agency dealing with the disaster.

*Email from Merrilee White:
'Please share with your network that OK has been overwhelmed with needed donated goods and has requested our help stemming the tide. If you hear of local drives for food, clothing, or other donated goods, please advise the organizers NOT to send additional donated goods into Oklahoma. Instead of sending goods, several*

more helpful options are suggested:

- *Selling collected items and donating the cash to Oklahoma's OK STRONG Disaster Relief Fund*
- *Donating non-food items to local thrift stores and other nonprofits*
- *Donating food to local food banks, which might ultimately benefit OK via the Feeding America network, IF food is needed*

Please help the Moore, OK relief effort by sharing this message widely!

*Merilee White
Director of Emergency Management & Volunteer Services'*

Judith Warner
Council President



SALT (Schoharie Area Long-Term Recovery) would like to thank the Zion Lutheran Church for your donation. Families are anxious to return home. For many, this wouldn't be possible without the assistance of caring donors like you. Over 600 properties have already moved closer to being safe, sanitary and secure once again. Donor support has enabled SALT and partners to clean and gut homes, install heating systems, windows and doors, provide safe water and septic systems, rebuild interiors and more.

Thank you for caring deeply about our recovering families. It is especially meaningful to know that neighbors are supporting each other in this effort!

Sarah Goodrich
Executive Director of SALT

Lifeline Screenings at Zion

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings on 7/25/2013. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$159 (\$149 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.**

Thoughts from the Council President

This past month has been a busy one. Will Anderson and I attended as delegates for Zion the NYS Synod Assembly in Rochester. We both thank you for the opportunity to attend. There is a Post-Assembly Report included in this Zion Life. The theme was “Transformed: Always being made new” - *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you may discern what is the will of God what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2.* You can also go to the Synod website www.upstatenysynod.org to read more about the Assembly.

I have also been devoting more attention to my prayer life, I’m not perfect in it yet, but I do believe I am growing in my faith. How are you doing with your prayer life? How has God worked in your life?

While I’m babysitting for my grandchildren, I get to see the faith of a child. I can, but won’t here, brag at how both Madison (3 1/2) and Noah (2) have a wonderful relationship with their faith. It is so second nature for them, so accepting to believe in something they cannot see, explain, or understand. This really touches my heart and makes me question, when did I move away from this faith? Does growing up do this to us? I recall a saying I heard or saw somewhere...“If God seems far away, Who Moved?”

My closing thoughts for this month are: Prayer is more than about receiving from God, it is learning to sit silently and listen to God.

Judith Warner
Council President



Zion’s Food Pantry

On May 25, 2013, our pantry served 36 households (87 individuals). Three households were first-time visits to our pantry. Our shelves were well-stocked, thanks to the postal food drive and St. Matthew’s donation of chickens. Our produce from the Regional Food Bank included four cases of bananas—unfortunately they ripened days before Pantry Day—we froze the leftover bananas.

God blessed us with eleven volunteers on the 25th. We handed out a list of Pantry Days for the rest of the year. Volunteers are needed for June 29, 2013. Before then, we need people to bake banana bread from the frozen bananas.



Pantry Days 9am—Noon

July 27, 2013

October 26, 2013

August 24, 2013

November 23, 2013

September 21, 2013

December 21, 2013

Regional Food Bank pick-up date is June 26, 2013



Sandy Deems,
Food Pantry Coordinator

W.E.L.C.A. Circle News

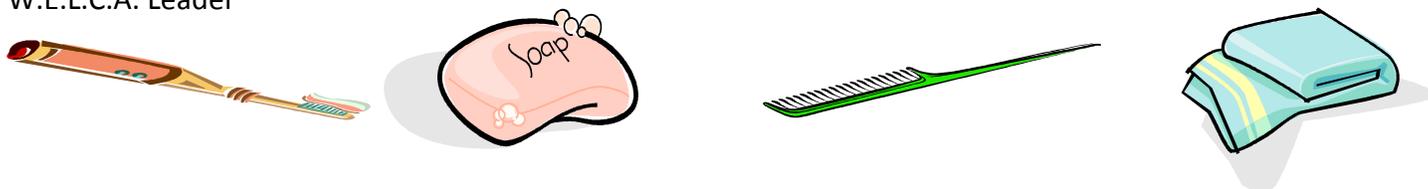
At our June meeting we assembled and tied off a quilt for the Fair. Many thanks to Adrienne for sewing the top and borders and to Pastor Jonathan for making the iron-on transfers of Zion for our blocks. If you haven't seen it yet, look for it on display at Zion or at the Fair. We plan to sell raffle tickets and a winner will be chosen at the Oktoberfest on Reformation Sunday.

A reminder that the W.E.L.C.A. Convention "Let Justice Flow" is September 13-15 at Camp of the Woods in Speculator, NY. If you plan to go, make sure registration forms are in before August 15 to avoid late fees. For information on workshops, forms, and what to bring, see the packet posted on our W.E.L.C.A. bulletin board or ask Debbie in the office or Sandy Deems.

Our next meeting will be July 13 in Zion's assembly hall from 10 am—Noon.



Sandy Deems,
W.E.L.C.A. Leader



Personal Care Kits

When LWR distributes Personal Care Kits, it's often to people who have lost everything. In the wake of an earthquake, or having fled from violence as their homes were overtaken, they clasp a towel from a faraway place, with a bar of soap, a toothbrush...and washing up, they know that they have not been forsaken by the world.

The very simple gesture of giving a Personal Care Kit can give someone the encouragement to start anew, starting with a bath. **YOU CAN SHARE GOD'S GRACE AND LOVE BY PROVIDING THAT SIMPLE COMFORT.**

What to Include: Please do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition. Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

- ◆ One light-weight bath size towel between 20"X40" and 52"X27", dark color recommended
- ◆ One sturdy comb, remove packaging
- ◆ One metal nail clippers—attached file optional, remove packaging
- ◆ Two bath-size bars of soap—4 to 5 oz.—in original wrapping
- ◆ One adult-size toothbrush in original packaging—multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap

WRAP ALL THE ITEMS IN THE TOWEL AND TIE SECURELY WITH RIBBONS OR YARN



Events Committee

The fundraiser nights have been suspended until September due to Summer. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 22nd at 7:00. Please join us then to help coordinate our Autumn events!

Eilene Fisher

St. Matthew's Matters

The members of the Ministry Board at St. Matthew's Chapel, hereafter referred to as the "MB", met at 7:05 pm on Tuesday, June 4. Six members, including our new sexton, Lindsay Monser, attended. The MB used its usual round-table format to present topics. The meeting began with a reading from and discussion of Hosea 11:1-11.

Lindsay had much to report, including the repaired mower, her recent contact with the security company, a needed tool kit, a possible clean-up day, painting the fellowship hall, and the needed painting of our shed. John Jarvis had several topics: the Sharon Springs Central baccalaureate, chicken grillers, two dates of absenteeism from Chapel worship, maintenance of the church organ, the never-used

room dividers, and emergency signatures on payment request forms.

John agreed to be in charge of getting our young people to paint the shed and then eat pizza afterwards. Pastor Sara explained that our two Council members from the Chapel can sign those payment request forms, especially when they remember to tell Deb Nadeau from which account that money should be taken. A discussion of the organ led to a discussion of the piano, which needs to be tuned.

Barb Cousineau, our events planner began a discussion of the August ice cream social music at the event, and the September 8 combined service, which will be followed by a BBQ with food provided and prepared by mem-

bers of the Chapel. Burgers and dogs will be the entrée of the day.

Closing topics included the possibility of going to Oklahoma to help with disaster clean-up, hiring a painter for the assembly hall work, and finding suitable robes for our younger acolytes. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer at 8:23.

At St. Matthew's Chapel there is much to be thankful for besides lawnmowers that run, sheds that need paint, ice cream socials with live music, and combined services followed by barbecues. Thanks be to God!!!

In service to Christ and His Church,

John Jarvis
Ministry Board Secretary



Finance Committee

June's Finance Committee meeting was held on Monday June 10th. The Committee reviewed revenues and expenditures to date and how each category was tracking compared to the 2013 budget projections. At this point, revenues are below projected levels especially with respect to pledged donations that are about 15% where they

should be at this point of the year. Expenditures to date are within the projected limits for this point of the year. The Committee will produce a complete financial report for the 1st half of the year when the 2nd quarter closes the end of June. That report will be made available to the congregation in August.

In other business the Committee will be looking at some stewardship programs that we received information on from the Synod and ELCA. The Committee also reviewed how the new requirements for contractor payment are working.

Tom Collins
Financial Chairman

July & August Serving Schedule

St. Matthew's Chapel

Date	07/07	07/14	07/21	07/28	08/04	08/11	08/18	08/25
Acolyte	Emma Litzner	Karl Graulich	Seth Keller	Allen Graulich	Lara Graulich	Allen Graulich	Emma Litzner	Karl Graulich
Reader	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Suzanne Graulich	Joan Jozifek	Jean Bakkom	Tom Collins	Joan Jozifek	Barb Cousineau	Omer Cousineau
Greeter	Dawn Thompson	Janet Lynk	Jean Bakkom	Barb Cousineau	Janet Lynk	Dawn Thompson	Jean Bakkom	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis
Ushers	Tom & Suzanne Collins	Omer & Barb Cousineau	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis & John Jarvis	Janet Lynk	Courtney & Robert Keller	Jean Bakkom & Janet Lynk	Suzanne & Lara Graulich	Tom & Suzanne Collins
Communion Assistant	Barb Cousineau	Lara Graulich	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	John Jarvis	Barb Cousineau	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	John Jarvis	Matt Jozifek
Bell Ringer	Emma Litzner	Karl Graulich	Seth Keller	Allen Graulich	Lara Graulich	Allen Graulich	Emma Litzner	Karl Graulich
Zion Lutheran Church								
Acolyte	Judith Warner	Rich Churchill	Eilene Fisher	Rich Churchill	Christina Keller	Judith Warner	Eilene Fisher	Eilene Fisher
Reader	Rich Churchill	Sandy Deems	Camille Grace	Eilene Fisher	Bob Holt	Adrienne Madison	Carol McGuire	Karen Scott
Greeter	Eilene Fisher	Janice Ashford	Helen Mackey	Rose Swanhall	Judith Warner	Eilene Fisher	Janice Ashford	Helen Mackey
Usher	Brian Swanhall	Deb Nadeau	André Nadeau	Lisa Borggreen	Judith Warner	Janice Ashford	Rose Swanhall	Deb Nadeau
Communion Assistant	Henry Mau	Janice Ashford	Bob Holt	Judith Warner	Eilene Fisher	Henry Mau	Janice Ashford	André Nadeau
Elevator	Everett Merrill	Eilene Fisher	Henry Mau	Ed Eldredge	Everett Merrill	Eilene Fisher	Henry Mau	Ed Eldredge
Altar Guild								

July 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5 Office Closed	6
7 St. Mart's Service 9:00 am Zion Service 11:00 am	8 Pastor's Sabbath Day	9 Parson's Closet 10—1	10	11 Bible Study 10:30 am Council Mtg. 7:00 p Photo Club 7:00 pm	12	13 W.E.L.C.A. 10:30 am
14 St. Mart's Service 9:00 am Zion Service 11:00 am	15 Pastor's Sabbath Day	16	17	18 Bible Study 10:30 am	19	20 Bold Café 9:00 am @ McDonald's
21 St. Mart's Service 9:00 am Zion Service 11:00 am	22 Pastor's Sabbath Day	23 Parson's Closet 10—1	24	25 Bible Study 10:30 am Lifeline Screening Photo Club 7:00 pm	26	27 Food Pantry & Parson's Closet 9—12
28 St. Mart's Svc. 9:00am Zion Svc. 11:00 am	29 Pastor's Sabbath Day	30	31	August 1 Bible Study 10:30 am	August 2	August 3

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

Summer Food Program Returns to Zion

Zion will once again be heading up it's Summer Food Program beginning on July 8th and will run Monday through Friday from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. This program is for all children in Schoharie County under the age of 18 and is not income-based. Volunteers are needed to help serve the food and keep a tally of attendance. Donations of 100% fruit juice are also needed. If you can donate your time or juice, please contact Judith Warner, Eilene Fisher, or call the church office. Please help spread the word about this program so anyone who needs this will get the necessary information.

