

ZION LIFE NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 5
June 2014

Special Points of Interest:

- **Morning Prayer,**
Wednesdays, 8:00 am
- **Bible Study,**
Thursdays, 10:30 am
- **Parson's Closet**
Tuesday, June 10 & 24,
10—1
- **Community Dinner**
Friday, June 20, 5—6:30
- **Bold Café @
McDonalds,** Saturday,
June 21, 9:00 am
- **Food Pantry &
Parson's Closet**
Saturday, June 28, 9—12

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Desk	1
Via de Cristo	2-3
Christianity 101	4
Council President	5
Food Pantry	5
Crop Walk	6
St. Matthew's Matters	6
W.E.L.C.A.	6
Serving Schedule	8
Calendar	9

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

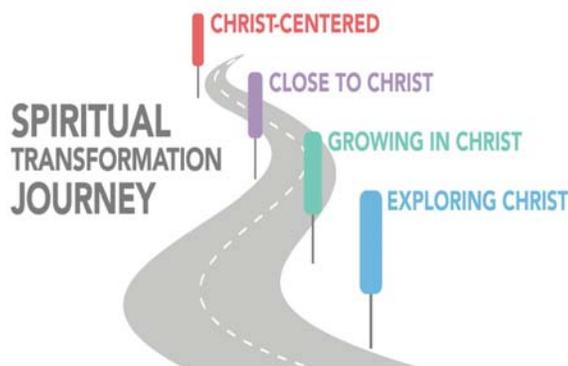
I do not have a lot to say this month. Like many of you, I am ready for school to end and to begin the summer routine. I look forward to the summer months and the beginning of Summer Lunch (SFSP). There will be a lot of people in and out. There is, however, one thing I want to share with you. To me it is a signal of a huge milestone.

It has been no secret that I interviewed our surrounding neighborhood before coming here to Zion and St Matthew's Chapel. I asked a simple question, "I have been thinking about going back to Church, what do you think of that one?" I asked at restaurants and a couple people I could catch discretely. The response was a bit heart breaking. Over and over again I heard, "You don't want to go that church, they . . ." They fight all the time, they think they are better than everyone else, they are some

mean spirited people, it varied but that was the heart of the responses I heard.

Well, the good news is this!! A few weeks ago is when I learned that something new is being said and it is wonderful. My husband Jonathan was visiting with some folks over in Howes Cave. That is where we go to the vet. He was telling them about moving to Cobleskill

and that his wife was the Pastor of Zion and St Matthew's Chapel. What they said in response makes my heart leap. Their words were, "I heard that Church is coming alive again." I am not sure if there could be a better comment made. All the work and the struggle really is worth it. We are having an impact, even if we do not always see it directly. The Spirit is moving amongst us. Keep up the wonderful work in sharing God's grace is Jesus Christ.



Via de Cristo October 9—12, 2014 Come and Join US!

Via de Cristo is a Spanish phrase meaning "Way of Christ." Via de Cristo is a highly structured three day weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and bring them to a new awareness of living in God's grace. It is a combined effort of lay people and clergy toward renewal of the church.

Via de Cristo is meant to develop in Christians a consciousness of their Power and Mission to become leaders in Christian renewal, and the desire to continue to live the life of Grace, personally and together with their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Purpose of Via de Cristo

Via de Cristo is based on the fundamentals of Christianity, concentrating on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. The focus is not on Via de Cristo itself, but on the local church. The objective of the movement is to inspire, challenge and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches and communities.

History of Via de Cristo

The movement originated as "Cursillo®" in the late 1940's in the Spanish Catholic church and moved to the United States in the late 1950's. It began in the Lutheran church when lay people and clergy attended a Catholic Cursillo in 1971, both in Iowa and Florida. The first Lutheran sponsored weekends were held in 1972 in Iowa and Florida and have now been held in over 25 states and some foreign countries. Via de Cristo is the Lutheran expression of this method which is currently being used in many denominations including: Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian and Reformed churches.

In November 1997, Bishop Floyd Schoenhals met with representatives in the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod regarding interest in Via de Cristo. As a result, the interest was "sparked" - initial mailings invited future participants to attend North Texas Via de Cristo Weekends, and persons from both Arkansas and Oklahoma responded. The North Texas community opened their arms, their hearts,

their homes and their Via de Cristo Weekends to us. They also opened their Staff School and Weekend Training Meetings to include some of the Arkansas-Oklahoma people, inviting them to serve on the NTLS Weekends.

During this time, an Organization Team was formed to lay the groundwork and preparations for our own Via de Cristo Weekends, and people from the NTLS continued to mentor us through our first Weekends until enough people were experienced and equipped to entirely staff our A-OK Weekends. Also, the A-OK Lutheran Secretariat (A-OKLS) was established to oversee the Via de Cristo Weekends and ministry within the synod.

After two years of preparation, the first A-OK Weekend was held April 5-8, 2000, at the St. Scholastica Center in Fort Smith, Arkansas. We have two weekends each year (spring and fall). Currently, we alternate locations between Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Those attending Via de Cristo from the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod have experienced a new awareness of God's presence and grace in their daily lives, their churches and their communities.



What happens on a Via de Cristo weekend?

A Via de Cristo weekend is three days in length, beginning on Thursday evening and ending the following Sunday evening. The participants live, study, worship and commune together daily.

Fourteen talks are given, nine by lay people and five by clergy. Following each talk, small round table discussions focus on the main points of the talk and art work is done. The talks, in an overlapping fashion, present the Christian life, based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. The titles of these talks indicate their content:

- Ideal
- Grace
- Laity
- Grace in Action
- Piety
- Study
- Means of Grace

- Action
- Obstacles to Grace
- Leaders
- Environment
- Life in Grace
- Christian Community in Action
- Total Security and Fourth Day

There is music and singing, food and fellowship, a time for laughter and for prayer.

Who should attend a Via de Cristo weekend?

Via de Cristo is intended for lay people from every walk of life, for pastors, for people who live strong and active lives in Christ, and also for those who seek to be renewed and strengthened in their relationship with Christ and the people around them.

What should I bring? How should I pack?

You will be staying in rooms with other people. The retreat centers have heating and air-conditioning, restrooms with showers, a meeting room, and are all handicapped accessible. All sleeping arrangements are assigned. All meals and snacks are provided.

Items to bring:

- Bible
- Pillow
- Towels are provided but if you feel comfortable with your own bring them along
- Bathrobe or cover-up
- Slippers, flip-flops, etc. to wear in showers/restrooms
- Personal care items
- Hair dryer if needed
- COMFORTABLE clothes, layers are recommended because most of the time you will be in a conference room. Comfy shoes as you will walk from your room to the chapel and classroom each day; you will not leave the building unless you wish to go outside.

Items NOT to bring:

- Cell phones -- not allowed, you are getting away, it is time to let the world be for 72 hours. Your sponsor will have an emergency contact to give to family members.
- Laptop or personal computers--no hook-ups available
- Camera or video/tape recording devices--to protect privacy of others in attendance
- Expensive items
- Golf clubs--believe me, there's no course nearby and there won't be time!
- Food--all is provided, in abundance, if you have special food requirements please let us know on the registration form

If you have any questions, please contact your sponsor. They've been to the weekend and will be able to answer any questions you might have. You may also contact any member of the A-OK Via de Cristo Secretariat.

How much does it cost?

The fee for the weekend is \$175.00, which covers all of your expenses. This amount covers the entire weekend: your transportation to and from the retreat site, all meals and snacks, supplies, and your accommodations. All expenses for the weekend are covered. You won't need to bring any extra money for the weekend. The pre-weekend registration deposit is \$75.00, which includes a \$50.00 non-refundable fee. The balance of \$100.00 is due on or before the Thursday beginning your weekend. Scholarships are available if you aren't able to pay. You should never allow lack of funds to prevent you from attending a weekend, so please notify your sponsor so they can apply for a scholarship for you.

How do I let my church know about VDC?

Good question! Simply contact any member of the A-OK Via de Cristo Secretariat of this website. There is a core of volunteers trained to present the Via De Cristo movement to churches of any denomination. We also have brochures and a PowerPoint presentation available. Go to the link at the bottom of the page to view our latest brochure.

Summary

Keep an open mind and heart in making your decision to attend Via de Cristo. Many of those who have attended also wondered whether they should go. Now that they have attended, they want to share this wonderful gift from God. Please understand that their experience attending Via de Cristo was unique, and all the conversations in the world will not become a substitute for your weekend. You need to experience a weekend yourself to obtain its full and life enriching value

<http://www.aokviadecristo.org/VdCBrochure.pdf>



Christianity 101

I am The Lord your God who will deliver them and take them to a land that is flowing with mild and honey. (Exodus 3)

We often think of commandments or rules as a burden to restrict us. However, for a reflection today I would like to suggest to you that the God of the Ten Commandments is one who gives gifts. As you consider the Ten Commandments, remember that they come from a God who gives gifts. These commandments are a gift.

Israel came to understand that the whole of life was gift. To believe in this God was to see life as gift, instead of a source of punishment. The world, daily bread, my property, my self and my whole life is gift. All of creation takes on a different meaning when acknowledged as gift. My mother and father, my spouse, my children, brothers, sisters, neighbors and possessions take on a different character when seen as gift. Even my enemies take on a new character when I dare to pronounce them as gift.

Think of all of your own past life as gift. Consider the people and the things that surround your present life as gift. Consider: will the God who gives gifts be present in the future to give grace, so that you really have nothing to fear? Are we who are members of God's covenant also on a pilgrimage to a land that is flowing with mild and honey? Will we be embraced by these gifts throughout our life?

Take a moment now to give thanks for people, possessions, and the world of nature that God has given to us as gift. Give thanks to God for the lives which you are permitted to share. Invite God to help you to see yourself as gift and to your purpose for being placed on the earth.

Thanks be to God for the Ten Commandments.

This reflection was adapted from "Praying The Catechism," by Donald W. Johnson revised edition, Winnipeg: Augsburg Fortress, 2008.

In everything
give thanks...
1 Thessalonians 5:18

Dear Zion Congregation,

I would like to thank the Events Committee, especially Eilene Fisher, Deb Nadeau and Pastor Sara, so much, for encouraging people to get all of the wonderful gifts for me. The spatulas, potato masher, measuring cups and spoons, knives, flatware, bowls, kitchen shears, electric knife sharpener and all of those wonderfully absorbent towels are certainly welcome and appreciated. Many of my things were hand-me-downs to begin with or I have had them for so long that they were showing a lot of wear and no longer did what they were supposed to do very well. The new items will be a joy to use and will make the kitchen work so much easier!

I also had a great time listening to you with the games at the shower. Didn't Pam look funny? I remember lots of the songs you tried to sing also. It seemed like everyone was having a great time!

Thank you for thinking of me. Most of all, thank you for your generosity. You made me feel special and useful. You can be sure that all of the gifts will be put to good use, at the community dinners and at other Zion events. Thank you!

*Sincerely,
Your Zion Kitchen*

Notes from the Council President



As the saying goes.. 'time flies when we are having fun' so I guess I'm having fun. Fun planting my garden, mowing my lawn, weeding, weeding, weeding. It seems like we were stilling dealing with snow and freezing temperatures. We haven't even had the longest day yet so I'm hoping to enjoy each day.

Summer will be here before we know it and that brings our Summer Lunch Program. I love this, providing a balanced meal to all those who come to our church. This is a wonderful gratifying event that our church is involved with.

The lunch program will start on July 7th, ending on August 15th. SUNY is providing sandwiches for four days and Wolfe's Pizza and Wholesale will provide pizza on each Friday. Workforce Solutions will provide two young people to assist with delivering the meals.

Here are some opportunities where you can assist with the Summer Lunch Program.

- Someone to administer and supervise activities, such as crafts, reading, music, etc. for the children and adults.
- Fulton, Montgomery and Schoharie County Literacy program has shown an interest in helping.
- Also SUNY Brian Kaiser, Director of Center for Community Engagement is willing to provide summer students that are eager to help in the community.
- We have many craft items that can be used.

Donations of:

- 100% juice - grape, apple, berry, etc. in a large container
- vegetables for snacks: little carrots, snap peas, broccoli, cauliflower, etc... SUNY provides us apples, bananas, oranges. These other snacks provide a choice.
- other snacks - pretzels, goldfish, etc
- desserts - cookies, cakes, ice cream or whatever you would like.

- Cash is always welcome too.

I always welcome people who just want to stop by, help with preparing food, serving, picking up the food at SUNY, or just spending time talking with the children and adults.

This is the third year Zion has provided this Summer Lunch Program, funded by NYS Education Department, Child Nutrition Program. The funding is for the basic products. NYS Education only funds for children up to the age of 18, but we feel parents should not have to pay for lunch. Our Congregation and the community has been very generous in the past to ensure we have enough funding to cover everything.

So **PLEASE**, plan to stop in and help. **Check out the list above and see where you would feel most comfortable helping out.** Everyone is invited. This will be the most satisfying volunteering you have ever done.

Judith Warner
Council President

Friends, Fun & Food!



Summer Food Service Program



FOOD PANTRY

The Pantry was open on April 2, 2014; 50 households came for assistance and 10 Easter Food Baskets were given out—making 60 households (151 individuals) served. God blessed us with enough food to go around and 17 volunteers to serve, shop, and deliver baskets. On May 12, we will met at the Baptist Church to sort food from the Postal Food Drive. On May 14, we picked up our order from the Regional Food Bank. Our Pantry was open on May 24. In June, it will be open on June 28 and pick-up from the Regional Food Bank will be on June 25.

Sandy Deems,
Food Pantry Coordinator

May 4 CROP Walk raises almost \$8,200

The third annual Schoharie County Aggie Scott Memorial CROP Walk—hosted by the people of Zion on Sunday, May 4—was a big success. With fourteen fewer Walkers than we had last year, Walkers raised about \$1,400 more than they did in 2013. The Walk started and ended at Zion on a cool, damp Sunday afternoon.

The event was a big success for Lutherans. Zion with St. Matt's earned the Silver Sneaker for being the church raising the second-largest amount of money. Pastor Sara and deacon John Jarvis were the Walkers from Zion. John also received a certificate for being the Walker raising the second-largest amount of money. Helderberg Evangelical Lutheran Church in Berne ended up in a three-way tie for being the church with the third-largest number of Walkers. Pastor Wendy Cook of Helderberg Lutheran was pictured in the local paper. She was the Walker on the extreme left side of the Times Journal photo as the participants started walking the 2.5 mile route. Pastor Sara also had her picture in the Times Journal as she blessed the Walkers before they left our fellowship hall.

John Jarvis is the coordinator of the local CROP Walk planning team. He told Pr. Sara that this CROP Walk was the easiest for him to arrange because Zion was hosting. "As far as I am concerned," said John, "as long as I am the CROP Walk coordinator, I want Zion to host all future CROP Walks!!"

John wants to thank the people of Zion for hosting the fundraiser. He also wants to thank all the volunteers from Zion who helped out in so many ways, especially with clean-up after the event. Most of all, John wants to thank the people of Zion and St. Matt's who gave him most of the \$1,298 that he turned in on CROP Walk Sunday.

John Jarvis,
Arrangements Committee
Schoharie County Aggie Scott Memorial CROP Walk
Planning Committee



St. Matthew's Ministry



The Ministry Board at St. Matthew's Chapel, aka "the MB," started its monthly meeting at 7:07 pm on Tuesday, May 6. Six members of seven attended. We began with a prayer led by Pastor Sara.

Using our usual round-table format, Pam Kostbar-Jarvis brought up several topics:

1. forming a special-occasion choir
2. discussion and evaluation of Holy Week services
3. a preference by some MB members for bringing back the Tenebrae service
4. planting red flowers in the Willard Lynk Garden under the church sign on Pentecost Sunday

John Jarvis pointed out that Allen Graulich's confirmation will be done on June 22.

Barb Cousineau brought up the topic of the Chapel's congregation marching in the Sharon Springs Memorial Day parade.

The rest of the meeting dealt with more planning of the May 17 barbecue, with chicken halves being grilled by members of the Sharon Springs Fire Department. The meeting ended at 8:12.

At St. Matthew's Chapel there is so much to be thankful for besides BBQs, confirmands, and Memorial Day parades. Thanks be to God!

In service to Christ,
John Jarvis, MB recording secretary

W.E.L.C.A. Circle

We continue to make and tie off quilts. On May 4, we sorted through our stash of material for backs for the next quilt to be tied off on Saturday, May 10. On May 3, 2014, three of our ladies attended the Foothills W.E.L.C.A. Spring Assembly at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Richmondville. Information and Registration forms for W.E.L.C.A. Convention 2014 in Syracuse were given out.

Sandy Deems,
WELCA leader

**CONVENTION 2014—SYRACUSE
CALLED TO MISSION
OCTOBER 3—5
BEST WESTERN PLUS, CARRIER CIRLE
NYS Thruway Exit 35, East Syracuse**

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Judith VanOsdol, Director,
Evangelical Mission Upstate New York Synod, ELCA

Chaplain: Pastor Gail Wolling, Pastor, Luther Memorial Church,
North Syracuse

Linda Post Bushkofsky—Executive Director, Women of the ELCA,
Chicago

Charlene Walker-Horton—Churchwide Board Representative,
Women of the ELCA, York, PA

- **Workshops**
 - **Mission Outreach opportunities**
- **Opportunities to explore the Syracuse area**
 - **Worship and prayer time**
 - **Fellowship!**
 - **Kids Convo for children of attendees**
 - **Registration: \$60**
 - **Room Rate: \$89/Night (per room)**

**Registration forms available beginning in May on
www.upstatenysynod.org/women-of-the-elca and will be sent out via
angel-Lines**

Ev-

Ingathering Baby Care Kits

Monthly Serving Schedule for June 2014

Date	06/01	06/08	06/15	06/22	06/29
St. Matthew's Chapel					
Acolyte	Karl Graulich	John Jarvis	Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich	Karl Graulich
Reader	Barb Cousineau	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Omer Cousineau	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Barb Cousineau
Greeter	Janet Lynk	Jean Bakkom	Barb Cousineau	Omer Cousineau	Janet Lynk
Ushers	Suzanne & Allen Graulich	Omer & Barb Cousineau	Tom & Suzanne Collins	Janet Lynk & Jean Bakkom	Suzanne & Karl Graulich
Communion Assistant	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Lara Graulich	John Jarvis	Barb Cousineau	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis
Bell Ringer	Karl Graulich	John Jarvis	Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich	Karl Graulich
Zion Lutheran Church					
Acolyte	Rich Churchill	Emma Litzner	Rose Keller	Isabella Philipp	Judith Warner
Reader	Rose Swanhall	Carol McGuire	Vern Hall	Rich Churchill	Sandy Deems
Greeter	Leon Beaver	Judith Warner	T'eddy Beaver	Brian Swanhall	Leon Beaver
Usher	Judith Warner	Eilene Fisher	Deb Nadeau	André Nadeau	Brian Swanhall
Communion Assistant	Gabriel Litzner	André Nadeau	Henry Mau	Vern Hall	André Nadeau
Bell Ringer	Ally Prezorski	Charlotte Litzner	Ava Philipp	Gabriel Litzner	Ally Prezorski
Elevator	Eilene Fisher	Henry Mau	Ed Eldredge	Henry Mau	Henry Mau
Altar Guild	Sandy Deems & Jo Ellington				

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

June 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9:00 a Zion Svc. 11:00 am	2 Stephen Ministry 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	3 Ministry Board 7:00	4 Morning Prayer 8:00	5 Bible Study 10:30 am	6 Pastor's Sabbath	7 Daisy Girl Scouts 11:30
8 WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9:00 a Zion Svc. 11:00 am	9 Stephen Ministry 6:30 Finance/Endow. 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	10 Parson's Closet 10—1 Worship/Music/Ed 7:00 pm Events/Evang./ Mission 7:30 pm	11 Morning Prayer 8:00	12 Bible Study 10:30 am Church Council, 6:30 Photo Club, 7:00 pm	13 Pastor's Sabbath	14 W.E.L.C.A. 10:30 am
15 Father's Day WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9:00 a Zion Svc. 11:00 am	16 Stephen Ministry 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	17	18 Morning Prayer 8:00	19 Bible Study 10:30 am	20 Pastor's Sabbath Community Dinner 5—6:30	21 Bold Café @ McDonald's 9:00 am Daisy Girl Scouts 11:30
22 WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9:00 a Zion Svc. 11:00 am	23 Stephen Ministry 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	24 Parson's Closet 10—1	25 Morning Prayer 8:00 Historical Society 7:00	26 Bible Study 10:30 am	27 Pastor's Sabbath	28 Food Pantry & Parson's Closet 9—12
29 WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9:00 a Zion Svc. 11:00 am	30 Stephen Ministry 6:30	July 1 Ministry Board 7:00	July 2 Morning Prayer 8:00	July 3 Bible Study 10:30 am	July 4 Independence Day Office Closed	July 5

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

Community Dinner

Sit down with a stranger and leave with a friend

Join us for our free Community Dinner on Friday, June 20 from 5–6:30 pm. Come and get to know the neighbors in your community!