

# ZION LIFE NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 3  
March 2013

## Special Points of Interest:

- **Baptized We Live**, Every Wednesday during Lent, dinner and study from 6:00—7:00
- **Lenten Services**, Every Wednesday during Lent, dinner at 6:00 pm and service at 7:00
- **Bible Study & Velvet Elvis Discussion**, Each Thursday, 10:30 am
- **Recorder Choir**, Every Thursday, 7 pm
- **W.E.L.C.A.**, March 9, 10:30 am
- **Bold Café @ Coby's**, March 16, 9 am
- **Food Pantry & Parson's Closet**, March 30, 9—12
- **Maundy Thursday Services**, March 28, St. Matt's Service 6 pm, Zion Service, 8 pm
- **Good Friday Service at Zion**, March 29, 7:30 pm

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## From the Pastor's Desk

Over the past couple of weeks I have heard reference to giving something up for Lent. A couple people even asked me what they should give up for Lenten. Lenten is the 40 days before Easter, that we spend reflecting on what it means to be people of God. Some have attached the practice of giving up something like chocolate, or soda pop, or some other material item, often in an attempt to lose weight. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare baptismal candidates for their entrance into the church. They focused on what how it is that being the forgiven people of God changed their lives. What does it mean that we are no longer held captive by our own feelings of inadequacy and shame -- to be forgiven and no longer locked down by guilt? What does it mean for me, and how

I respond to the people around me?

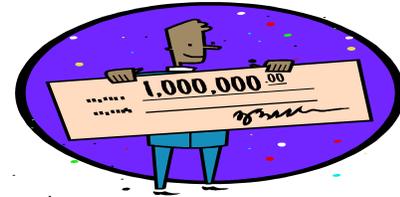
It does not mean that this journey of faith is without pain. Christ's death on the cross was a painful process, but it leads to resurrection life. The same is true when unmasking and naming those things that we hide within ourselves, that hold us back from being who God wants us to be. However, we must have death first, before we can truly experience resurrection. This is exciting news for me, because this is what it means for me to live a "new life." This is the gospel. Because Christ makes us adequate and it is not dependent on what others think, say or do -- my feelings of inadequacy or guilt, or shame no longer dictate how I live my life. Christ's love does.

Our salvation is not something to lord

over others. It is something that is shared with us out of love and therefore we can share with others, out of love. Lording our salvation over others as something "we've got and you don't" has been done far too long, is contrary to the gospel as good news for all, and has given Christians a very bad name. However, living out our faith as people of a God of mercy and grace (God's undeserved love for all of us) will go a long way to changing perceptions, and bringing good news to all those around us.

I hope you will join me on the Lenten journey this year. Wednesday nights Holden Evening Prayer, at 7:00 pm, provides a great opportunity for quiet reflection. There is also study of Baptized We Live along with a light dinner starting at 6:00.

The **American Red Cross** would like to thank Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church for their support of the Blood Drive on January 2, 2013. 25 donors scheduled appointments, of which 1 was a first-time donor, and 21 units of blood were collected. Thanks to your efforts, 63 patients were helped in all.



**ELCA World Hunger** would also like to thank Zion for its recent gift of \$270. Your faithful generosity makes a life-changing difference for people in need around the corner and around the world. Your gift is greatly appreciated!



## Let's Start a Bold Café



**What is it? Café is a magazine for young adult women, and women in general, who want to build their faith.**

*Café* is an on-line magazine for young adult women. It incorporates a Lutheran perspective for women of Christian faith or simply for any woman who is interested in how faith relates to the issues that women face today.

Readers and writers of *Café* include pastors, seminary and college students, and other young adult women who use *Café* as a Bible study resource individually or with their congregation.

First, checkout the Café at <http://www.boldcafe.org>. Look at the articles, there are some really good ones there.

Second, join us at Coby's on the third Saturday of the month at 9:00 am and reflect on what you read together.

It is laid back, Spirit driven, and enjoyable. Join us!

## Christianity 101



In the service of baptism the congregational representative says, "Through Baptism God has made you a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world."

Later the congregation affirms this with words of welcome, **"We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same Heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God."**

Martin Luther would be pleased to know that, at least, the baptismal service emphasizes a concept important to him. You are a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus. In spite of this strong reformation emphasis, it has not been easy for people to think of themselves as the priesthood. As soon as these words are used they conjure up the image of the clergy and put all others in a class of laity.

Even though the concept of the priesthood of all believers has often been neglected in parts of the life of the church over these 500 years, the idea is still vital. All of the baptized are the people of God and a part of the priesthood of all believers. Through Baptism you share in the work of Christ just as much as any pastor or other professional in the church.

Part of Christ's work is creative. You may be a person who deals mostly with the creative ministry of Christ. You may be an engineer, a farmer, a builder, a garbage collector; you may work with computers or other new technologies. You may be a fisher, a logger, or a shoemaker, or work in the auto industry. Your part in the ministry of Christ is that part of creativity or building.

On the other hand, you may be a doctor, a lawyer, a nurse or a counselor, and your work is dealing with redemption. You are seeking to heal the world. Perhaps you are a father or a mother and you know that both aspects need to be present in your family.

It is true that these two parts of the body of Christ, creative and redeeming, need to work together. They are both a part of the same thing. They are both part of the work of Christ.

The Church has spent much time and given much thought to the area of redemp-

tion or healing. This is an important aspect of Lent, and begins with each of us facing those aspects of life that most inhibit us -- the shame and the guilt we harbor inside. We have often neglected this important step and therefore, we have often neglected the work of creativity. Perhaps you can help lead the rest of the church in discovering this as a part of the work of Christ.

You as creator or as leader are part of the priesthood of the body of Christ. Your work is to be offered up for the sake of the world. For this you have been baptized and called.

As you meditate and reflect this month, consider what part of the ministry of Christ is yours. Are you in the creation category or in the healing category? You may be involved in both, but perhaps thinking about this distinction will help you to hear the call of Christ.

Pray for all those who are healers; for pastors, doctors, physiotherapists, counselors, social workers, and others whom who are a part of the redemption of Christ. Pray for those who are a part of God's creative ministry, who feed, clothe, house, transport, and make the world beautiful.

This monthly reflection was taken, and adapted slightly, from Praying the Catechism by Donald W. Johnson.

## From The Council President

Trust.. how much do you trust? Can you close your eyes and lean back trusting the person behind you will catch you? It is very hard for me to do this, I haven't yet.

This week P... Phil saw his shadow and predicts an early spring, how much trust do you put in this humorous tradition? Some people get really worked up about this, but does it really make a difference in how we go about our daily living?

How about those twelve guys, disciples, that Jesus said leave everything you own and your family and follow me. I'm paraphrasing it, but you get the picture. How many of us would put our trust in a man that no one knew, who just filled your nets with fish? Was it really him that commanded it or was it some type of 'smoke and mirrors'. For me, I don't really need to understand all the details, I just believe God had his hand in that. Think about it... talk about change, I mean real change, to leave everything behind and follow a man that very few believed in. Now that is trust in God. Boy, did Jesus really change the 'footprint' back then. People standing up for their beliefs. In Manna and Mercy our last lesson spoke of how Caesar demanded everyone to call him 'Caesar the Lord'. If you didn't you would be subject to imprisonment, torture, and possible death. Many did just that, stood up for God, I'm not sure what I would do. I would like to think I would.

We don't see that today in our lives, or do we? How many of us trust in the Lord, how many of us trust what the Lord has said to us, sent us. How many of us trust in our Pastor? Now I'm not saying Pastor Sara is Jesus, but I am saying that God, after much prayer on our part and her part, sent the Litzner family to Cobleskill. She is different than any other Pastor that I can remember and I like that. We need to step away from our 'we have always done it that way', 'Lutheran's don't speak of God outside of the church', or my favorite, 'Why do we have so many changes in the worship service'.



Pastor Sara has been here for one year and yes we have seen many changes, and I believe they have been for the good. Yeah, I went kicking and screaming, (well that is a little extreme) to have only one service on Christmas Eve but you know what, it really was nice and we did have a lot of the 'C & E' [Christmas and Easter] families there. I'm not telling any tales outside of school, Pastor knew my feelings about an 11:00 service, I didn't talk about it behind her back or when she wasn't around.

So my message for this Zion Life

is: Learn to trust, think of those twelve guys that put their trust in Jesus, think of the people that didn't bow down to Caesar, those that were willing to change their way of thinking and living. Yeah, I can hear it now, the disciples didn't always trust in Jesus while he was here and after the resurrection; they even talked and complained, about him behind his back. But really, can't we look to the Lord, pray for his insight and learn to accept change and believe that Pastor Sara is here, because God wants us to be open to everyone, leave our comfort zone and let everyone know that Zion is the place to be, we can be accepting, welcoming, and actually have fun loving the Lord.

Jesus didn't need to have people tell him he was doing a good job, that they felt he was good for their community, but we humans do need that. So if you appreciate Pastor Sara, Emma, Lilly, and Gabriel, let them know. A kind word can go a long way in letting everyone know we appreciate them. Pastor's door is always open as is her heart, to hear your concerns or the 'atta boy', you are doing great & we are glad you are here to guide us.

Judith L. Warner  
Council President

PS: When I state Zion, I'm including St. Matthew Chapel in that. We are just one church, Pastor is here to minister to all of us, no matter where we worship or live.

## Worship Committee

Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as the Sundays **in** Lent. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling. Christians today use this period of time for introspection, self examination, and repentance. This season of the year is equal only to the Season of Advent in importance in the Christian year, and is part of the second major grouping of Christian festivals and sa-

cred time that includes Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost.

At the February Worship Committee meeting Lent was the foremost topic of discussion. Ash Wednesday has now past and we are in the midst of our Mid-Week Lenten services. Beginning at 6:00 pm at Zion each Wednesday we gather for a fellowship meal followed by a Worship Service at 7:00 pm using Marty Haugen's "Holden Evening Prayer."

Sunday worship consists of Setting 5 Liturgy from With One Voice and both church sites.

Maundy Thursday we will have two services with optional "Foot Washing" along with Holy Communion and the Stripping of the Altar. St. Matthew's service will be at 6:00 pm and Zion's will begin at 8:00 pm.

Good Friday there will

be one service with special music at Zion at 7:30 pm, marking the Christ's crucifixion.

The Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday services will be at the normal worship times with St. Matthew's at 9:00 am and Zion at 11:00 am. **(There Will Be No 6:30 am Service.)** The reason being, we do not have enough servers to take care of two services at Zion, however, we will have a brunch at 9:45 am and there will be no coffee hour following the 11:00 am service.

We hope you will follow your Lenten journey by participating in the services we have planned for this Liturgical Season.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Bob Holt  
Worship Chairman

## Zion's Food Pantry

On Saturday, January 26, 2013, there were 41 households (98 individuals) who came for assistance. Of these, twelve were here for the first time.

We were able to offer venison to those who wanted it. Produce available from the Regional Food Bank included cabbage, onions, apples, carrots, and squash.

The items ordered from the Regional Food Bank in January were paid for by the grants received in December. In January the Regional Food Bank notified us that they had received a grant from SCCAP of \$73.50 to assist us with our food pantry orders. God is good!

Sandy Deems, Food Pantry Coordinator



## Events Committee

Hello all from the world of Events!! We in the Event Committee as always are brainstorming to come up with new ideas to get our church into the community and to fundraise. In this challenging financial time, it is important to think outside the box to fundraise. The first event we are having is a Western-themed dinner and movie night; this will be on Friday, March 15. Dinner will start at 5:00 pm and the movie will begin at 6:00. We are serving hot dogs on a roll, beans, chips, and a dessert, all of which we are looking for donations of. We are also looking for any western-themed decorations we

could borrow for this night. Please let Debbie know in the office what and how much you can donate. Thank you in advance.

Some of our other ideas are selling t-shirts with different funny sayings on them such as "Ask me about lutefisk". And on the back, "Follow me to Zion and St. Matt's for the answer". Something to get Zion and St. Matt's noticed in the community. We are also looking into possibly working with Depot Lane Singers for a talent show night and other themed dinner and movie nights. Or, having the committee possibly set up a table at local community events which will

have information about our church and having small things to sell such as candy. Another possibility is designing a Christmas ornament with pictures of our two churches and/or local buildings as a fundraiser.

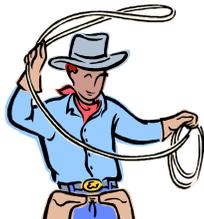
Please share any and all ideas with the committee. I have a box at Zion, so if you call Debbie with any ideas, she can put it in my box. Thank you for your continued support.

Serving beside you in Christ,  
Eilene Fisher  
Chairman of Events

***Recorder Choir meets on Thursday evenings at 7:00. No musical experience is necessary, just bring a recorder.***



**The Events Committee will be hosting a Western Theme dinner and movie night fundraiser on March 15, 2013. Dinner will be at 5:00 pm and a movie to begin around 6:00 pm. We will be showing a western movie and having a western-themed dinner menu. We are looking for donations of:**



**25 packages of hot dogs  
20 cans of Bush's baked beans  
25 packages of hot dog rolls  
15 bags of chips**



**We are also looking for any western-themed decorations that we might be able to borrow for that evening. Please give Debbie a call in the office to let her know what you can provide. Thank you so much and come and enjoy our evening. The cost will be \$5 for adults (12 and up). 11 and under is free, but must be accompanied by an adult.**

## St. Matthew's Matters

The Ministry Board at St. Matthew's Lutheran Chapel, hereafter referred to as the "MB", had its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 3.

Before the meeting, members of the MB had dinner with Reverend Joe Chu of Lutheran Disaster Relief; Patsy Glista, Assistant to the Bishop, and Pr. Elaine Berg, who is very active in SALT, the Schoharie-Area Long Term disaster relief organization. Eight people attended the meeting including Council President Judy Warner.

Before the meeting, Pastor Sara read John 3:16 to begin a discussion of evangelism and our need for faith in both our church and personal lives. Pastor also asked us to pray for the ministry of St. Matthew's Chapel.

The meeting began at 7:31 with an opening prayer led by our pastor. The following topics came up for discussion in our customary round-table format:

1. Whether we should merge Zion's Events Committee with the MB for the planning of social events.
2. Possible replacement of Dave Costello, the Chapel's sexton, who will be

moving out of state later this year.

3. Installation of our two Council members on February 10
4. A possible silent auction at the 2014 Cabin Fever Party.
5. A possible movie night at the Chapel, like the one being planned for Zion.
6. A shortage of money to operate with an thus a second look at a stewardship campaign.
7. A possible free lunch program for local kids at the village pool or rec center next summer, with Jean Bakkom agreeing to contact Jean Irwin about the possible program.
8. Ordering Easter lilies from SUNY Cobleskill.
9. Someone to create a serving schedule for 2014.
10. The need for beans and kraut at the April barbecue (in Jackie's absence).
11. Written invitations for the February 23 Cabin Fever Party.
12. Ordering 10 pizzas from Pizza Shack in Cobleskill.
13. When to interview possible candidates for the sexton's position.

14. Address labels for Zion Life.

15. Repairing the crack in the back wall of the sanctuary.

16. The Chapel's participation in the Sharon Springs Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony.

17. The possible identity of Donor # 77.

18. The need for drinks and desserts at the Cabin Fever Party.

19. Getting an announcement about Cabin Fever into the Sunday bulletins.

20. Using the phone tree to promote our Ash Wednesday service at 6:00 pm.

21. Making a banner to carry in the Sharon Springs Memorial Day parade.

22. St. Matthew's Chapel hosting the Sharon Springs Central School baccalaureate service.

At St. Matthew's Chapel, there is so much to be thankful for besides barbecues, Memorial Day parades, pizza for the Cabin Fever Party, and who will replace Dave Costello as our next sexton. Thanks be to God!

John Jarvis,  
MB Secretary

## Serving Schedule for March and April

Date	03/03	03/10	03/17	03/24	03/31	04/07	04/14	04/21	04/28
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### St. Matthew's Chapel

<b>Acolyte</b>	Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich	Lara Graulich	Allen Graulich	Seth Keller	Lara Graulich	Emma Litzner	Karl Graulich	Allen Graulich
<b>Reader</b>	Suzanne Graulich	Tom Collins	Joan Jozifek	Omer Cousineau	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Joan Jozifek	Barb Cousineau	Janet Lynk	Jean Bakkom
<b>Greeter</b>	Dawn Thompson	Janet Lynk	Jean Bakkom	Barb Cousineau	Jean Bakkom	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Dawn Thompson	Jackie Costello	Jean Bakkom
<b>Ushers</b>	Courtney & Robert Keller	Omer & Barb Cousineau	Tom & Suzanne Collins	Dawn Thompson & Janet Lynk	Suzanne & Allen Graulich	Suzanne & Allen Graulich	Tom & Suzanne Collins	John & Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Omer & Barb Cousineau
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Barb Cousineau	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	John Jarvis	Jackie Costello	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	John Jarvis	Lara Graulich	Barb Cousineau	John Jarvis
<b>Bell Ringer</b>	Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich	Lara Graulich	Allen Graulich	Seth Keller	Lara Graulich	Emma Litzner	Karl Graulich	Allen Graulich

### Zion Lutheran Church

<b>Acolyte</b>	Eilene Fisher	Christina Keller	Rich Churchill	Judith Warner	Lisa Borggreen	Rich Churchill	Eilene Fisher	Christina Keller	Judith Warner
<b>Reader</b>	Adrienne Madison	Carol McGuire	Karen Scott	Rose Swanhall	Frieda Thornington	Margaret Angle	Janice Ashford	Rich Churchill	Sandy Deems
<b>Greeter</b>	Helen Mackey	Brian Swanhall	Judith Warner	Eilene Fisher	Judith Warner	Janice Ashford	Helen Mackey	Rose Swanhall	Brian Swanhall
<b>Usher</b>	Henry Mau	Deb Nadeau	Lisa Borggreen	André Nadeau	Janice Ashford	Judith Warner	Janice Ashford	Brian Swanhall	Eilene Fisher
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Lisa Borggreen	Eilene Fisher	Bob Holt	Adrienne Madison	Eilene Fisher	André Nadeau	Judith Warner	Janice Ashford	Lisa Borggreen
<b>Elevator</b>	Everett Merrill	Ed Eldredge	Eilene Fisher	Everett Merrill	Ed Eldredge	Eilene Fisher	Everett Merrill	Henry Mau	Ed Eldredge
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Karen Wilson & Frieda Thornington				Jane Rosasco				

Zion Lutheran Church 615 E. Main Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043 518-234-3381  
[www.zion-coby.org](http://www.zion-coby.org)

March 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 St. Matt's 9:00 am Zion 11:00 am	4	5	6 	7 Bible Study 10:30 am	8	9 W.E.L.C.A. 10:30 am
10 St. Matt's 9:00 am Zion 11:00 am	11 Boy Scouts 7-- 8:30 pm	12 Parson's Closet 10—1	13 Bible Study 6—7 pm Lenten Services 7:00	14 Bible Study 10:30 am	15  Western Night Dinner 5:00 pm Movie 6:00 pm	16 Bold Café @ Coby's, 9:00 am
17 St. Matt's 9:00 am Zion 11:00 am 	18 Boy Scouts 7-- 8:30 pm	19	20 Bible Study 6—7 pm Lenten Services, 7:00 Historical Soc. 7:00	21 Bible Study 10:30 am	22	23 Parson's Closet and Food Pantry, 9—12
24 Palm Sunday St. Matt's 9:00 am Zion 11:00 am	25 Boy Scouts 7-- 8:30 pm	26 Parson's Closet 10—1	27 Bible Study 6—7 pm Lenten Services 7:00	28 Maundy Thursday Bible Study 10:30 am St. Matt 6:00 pm Zion 8:00 Photo Club 7:00 pm	29 Good Friday Zion Service 7:30	30
31 Easter Sunday St. Matt's 9:00 am Zion 11:00 am	Boy Scouts 7-- 8:30 pm					

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



**Join us for our Lenten and Easter Services:**

**Lenten Service: Every Wednesday Evening at 7:00 pm, Dinner at 6:00**

**Maundy Thursday: St. Matthew's Chapel 6:00 pm, Zion 8:00 pm**

**Good Friday: Zion 7:30 pm**

**Easter Sunday: St. Matthew's Chapel 9:00 am, Zion 11:00 am**