

# ZION LIFE NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 10  
October 2013

## *Special Points of Interest:*

- **Morning Prayer,**  
Wednesday mornings,  
8:00 am
- **Bible Study,**  
Wednesday mornings  
@ Hammerstone, 10:00
- **Bible Study,**  
Thursday mornings,  
10:30 am
- **Stuff Your Spud,**  
October 11, 5—7:30
- **W.E.L.C.A.,**  
October 12, 10:30 am
- **Parson's Closet,**  
October 8 & 22, 10—1
- **Bold Café,**  
October 19, 9:00 am @  
McDonald's
- **Food Pantry &  
Parson's Closet,**  
October 26, 9:00—12
- **St. Matthew's  
Pumpkin Auction,**  
October 26, 6:00
- **Reformation Sunday,**  
October 27, 4:00 pm
- **Haunted House,**  
October 31, 5:30—8:00

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## Remembering Luther

Reformation Sunday is October 27 and it serves as an impetus for us to remember our heritage and the great reformer, Martin Luther. This quotation from Luther reminds us of a principal focus of his life: 'We should learn well how to please Christ. We do please him by dedicating our entire life with all possible diligence solely to the service of our neighbor.' "Down, down," says Christ "you will find me in the poor, you are rising too high if you do not look for me down there."

Perhaps this is yet another opportunity to consider how to live out our faith: "God's work. Our Hands." How can you best serve Christ this month, by serving your neighbor?

### PRAYER FOR REFORMATION

Gracious God, we pray for your people gathered together as the holy catholic church. Fill it, fill us with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it, where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## From The Pastor's Desk

Always reforming! A woman proudly hung on her mantelpiece a needle-work plaque that said "Prayer Changes Things." A few days later, the plaque was missing from its place. The woman asked her husband if he had seen it. "I took it down, I didn't like it," her husband replied. "But why?" the woman asked. "Don't you believe that prayer changes things?" "Yes, I honestly do," her husband answered. "But it just so happens that I don't like change, so I threw it away." We are a **REFORMATION CHURCH**. But what does it mean to be a Reformation Church? "To change into a new improved form or condition; to improve by change of form, removal of faults or abuses, etc.; to restore to a former good state or bring from bad to good; amend." -- Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary gives that as the definition for the word "reform." Let's be honest here. We do not like change. Even beneficial, good change is **DIFFICULT**. Yet here we are in the midst of Autumn, being reminded of the need to change. The word "reformation" is then defined as the "act of reforming, or state of being reformed." Reformation is about change. When Martin Luther nailed the "95 Theses" to the north door of the castle church in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517, he unknowingly began "The Reformation" which ultimately resulted in the formation of various

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## Pastor's Desk...

Protestant churches. As I think about the Reformation which took place within the church, I am thoughtful of the reformation which needs to take place within each of us. It is God's will for our lives that we each have our own reformation: that we strive for change, removing our faults and abuses and becoming new and improved. The Apostle Paul declares in Romans 6, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." Newness of life, reformation, can happen each day of our life. Let me suggest

once again, that we each use the month of October as a time to take seriously, reformation in our own lives. What we change might be different for each of us, what about: 1. If you've been attending worship services only twice per month, in October, make it three times. 2. If you have been reading your Bible only occasionally, in October, make it every week, or several times a week. Make a point of memorizing a weekly bible verse. 3. If you haven't been attending a weekly bible study, in October, attend. 4. If you haven't been keeping up your pledge, pay the full amount in October. 5. If you haven't returned that letter or phone call from a relative or friend, do it this October. 6. If you haven't volunteered your services to a worthy cause for several months, donate some time in Oc-

tober. 7. If you haven't done something special for your spouse, your parents or children, a loved one for a long time, do that something special in October. 8. If you haven't seen "the good" in a person or situation for some time, make a point of noting the positive. As Martin Luther would likely tell us, reformation in our lives can begin by doing something which seems to be rather small and insignificant, and yet brings about something new and exciting in our lives of faith. Change is both exciting and scary, but as God's servant people, we accept the call to celebrate the gospel and to open ourselves to change, secure in the unchanging love of Christ. Allow Christ to bring change, reformation into your hearts and lives this October. Blessings and joy!

## St. Matthew's Matters

The St. Matthew's Ministry Board, hereafter referred to as the "MB," held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 3, 2013.

When the business part of the meeting began, Pam Kostbar-Jarvis had many points to make:

- painting the railing at a cost of \$200
- details about the BBQ on September 8
- possible hayride in 2014 as a community-wide event
- the St. Matt's brochure
- the success of the recent community-wide ice cream social that brought 50 people to the Chapel for Stewart's ice cream
- not having new music when Pastor Sara is not worship leader

John Jarvis reported on the progress of the painting of our shed with our young people priming and then painting the back wall before the end of the month. The priming will occur after the traditional ice cream

social on Rally Day. Ice cream and toppings will be "left-overs" from our recent ice cream social.

Tom Collins gave a report on church finances.

Barb Cousineau had a bill to submit for supplies needed to upgrade our front door, with labor donated by Andy Olsen and Rob Keller.

Pastor Sara led a discussion of how the American people are getting more "disengaged" than ever. Then she shared information about the Stephen Ministry; adult Sunday School at the Chapel, with *Unbinding the Gospel* as possible text; and Theology on Tap at the Parsonage on the following Friday. The meeting ended at 8:36 with a closing prayer.

There is so much to be thankful for at St. Matthew's Chapel, in addition to barbecues and ice cream socials. Thanks be to God for all our blessings!!

In His service,  
John Jarvis, MB secretary

## Council President Thoughts

Fall is in the air, autumn will be here by the end of this week. As of this writing, I'm taking a mini vacation in the Adirondacks at a cabin in the woods. Getting away with my dogs is very relaxing. Some may say, why take your pets with you?

They provide companionship and they also like the walks in the woods, so much to smell and investigate. We all need to get away for rest and relaxation. This gives me time to reflect and speak to God in God's wonderful, beautiful world.

During my stay there was the shooting at Washington DC Naval yard, flooding in Colorado, and a murder in North Adams. What is this world coming to...have you heard this or even said it? With all the negative news, is there any wonder we feel this way sometimes? I am a fan of GMA, Good Morning America, mainly for the anchors, George, Josh, Lara, Robin, and Sam because they bring us the news, both the negative and most important the positive side. I love

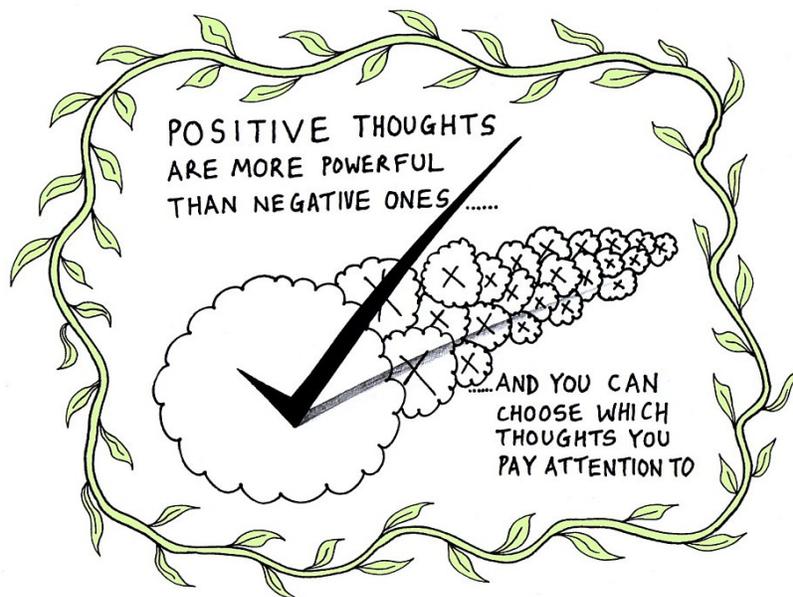
Lara's 'Pop News', Josh's 'Play of the Day' and Robin's 'What Dream Have You Fulfilled'. There are days when I sit, drink my coffee and just laugh out loud, LOL. What a way to start my morning. Looking at the world

*forward.*

So when I hear, 'what is this world coming to' I think, there are many great things happening, we just have to focus on them. When I look at Zion/St. Matthew's, I don't look at the few numbers in the pews, or the shortfall in our budget, but I look at the wonderful things God is doing. Our coffee hours, bible studies, worship services, and fund raising events where we share our stories and yes, laugh out loud. Pastor reminds us every week, 'Christ has risen'

and we respond, 'He is risen indeed'. So next time you watch the news, or hear a negative story, think about that man in a hotel that found in the morning an alligator under his bed, or a picture of the stubborn dog that didn't want to leave his friends and just LOL, and remember God is Good and he loves us just the way we are. We are so blessed.

Judith Warner,  
Council President



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with 'the glass half full' just gives me a positive outlook on things. On Facebook I like to read the posts from [Caz Girls Conquer 365 Random Acts of Kindness](#). Their description is '*we're just 5 Caz College graduates with one resolution - Be Kind. With all the negative in the world, the 5 of us will each perform 365 Radom Acts of Kindness through the year. Our goal is to spread the good in the world and hope others will pay it*

## Zion's Food Pantry

On Saturday, August 24, 2013 the Food Pantry served 47 households (121 individuals) of which 13 were there for the first time. Fourteen volunteers assisted those who came.

On Friday, August 3, 2013 Judy Warner and Sandy Deems shopped at the Valley farms (Shaul's, Barber's, Carrot Barn) for fresh produce. We felt this was necessary because the Regional Food Bank delivery was 10 days before Pantry day, and free produce would not have been very fresh by Pantry day. The same thing will happen in September—we expect to shop for produce on September 20, the day before Pantry day on September 21. Volunteers to assist us that day would be appreciated. October will again be the same thing where fresh produce will be needed on October 25 (day before Pantry day). Donations welcome!

Money from the HPNAP grant has been used up (with the September order) so more money will be billed to the line item budget. God is good and does provide!

### Pantry Days 9am—Noon

October 26, 2013

November 23, 2013

December 21, 2013



Sandy Deems,  
Food Pantry Coordinator

## Food Pantry Items and Help Needed

After we received our Regional Food Bank quantity for last month, there were a few items that we were not able to obtain. If you have the means and would like to support the Food Pantry here are a few items we can use: **Regular Coffee, Peanut Butter, Applesauce, Fruit Cocktail, Cake mix, Jell-O, pudding, flour, and tea.** Any donation you are able to make would be appreciated.

Also, we need help when the Regional Food Bank food is delivered. It is usually 4th Wednesday, unless our Food Pantry date is before that. Usually it comes in around 8:00 am at the Tractor Supply parking lot and then we take the food back to Zion to unpack and put away. This is where we really need the help. If you can help, contact Sandy Deems, 895-2905 or at church.

We usually have around 40+ families each month. God has blessed us so much and I know he will continue.

Judith Warner,  
Council President



**Save your box tops from food and  
Campbell's Soup Labels. There is a box  
at each church to deposit them in!**





Yes, it's that time of year again when the Finance Committee begins looking at next year's budget. Inevitably that word that seems so dreaded by all of us stewardship rears its head. That "oh, no! campaign" that means hold tight to your wallet.

If it was only possible to understand stewardship as God intended it.

- a call to participate in something much larger than ourselves
- a joyful leap of faith
- a delightful, life-changing faith adventure
- a partnership with God

Stewardship is evangelism. It is all about how we share God's love with our neighbors and the world,

and it's something as a church that we need to have an open and honest dialogue about without burying our head in the sand and hoping it goes away.

We know an enormous percentage of our folks struggle with money matters on a daily basis, and while financial faithfulness is an integral part of stewardship, stewardship is much more than money. There are many ways to support vital evangelism and mission in our congregation, and the choices we make with our money and talents can change the world.

So we are asking each and every one of you to begin thinking about how you can make a difference for the Lord in the coming

year, and pray about what he is calling you to do.

There are many wonderful resources available both online and from Pastor Sara that you can access to learn more about stewardship. Check out:

[www.elca.org/stewardship](http://www.elca.org/stewardship) as well as Luther Seminary's Center for Stewardship Leaders at [www.luthersem.edu/stewardship](http://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship).

We will also be sharing information from "Stewards of God's love" with you in the coming months.

God Bless  
Tom Collins,  
Financial Chairperson

## **Cherish Our Children Event**

Zion will be hosting a Cherish Our Children event on Saturday, October 19th from 1-4pm with Dianne Klafehn and the ministry's director, Amy Hartman. Amy will be in New York visiting the women of the Upstate New York Synod October 18-20 2013. Zion Cobleskill was chosen to host due to its central location for the Foothills, Hudson-Mohawk and Central Crossroads conferences. Ladies could bring their own drinks and snacks or churches from each conference could offer to supply some coffee hour goodies.

"The Women of the ELCA in New York has one of the most active Cherish Our Children ministries in the country," reports Klafehn. "Amy very much wants to talk more in depth of the strategic planning that is progressing, work with leaders, hear questions and share successes. Taking our stories to other synods could help to spread this ministry across America."

Mark your calendars and lets make this event well attended!

### Monthly Serving Schedule for October & November

Date	10/06	10/13	10/20	10/27	11/03	11/10	11/17	11/24
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#### St. Matthew's Chapel

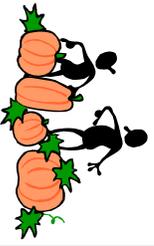
<b>Acolyte</b>	Lara Graulich	Emma Litzner	Karl Graulich	Allen Graulich	Emma Litzner	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Lara Graulich	Allan Graulich
<b>Reader</b>	Barb Cousineau	Tom Collins	John Jarvis	Joan Jozifek	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Jean Bakkom	Joan Jozifek	Suzanne Graulich
<b>Greeter</b>	Janet Lynk	Barb Cousineau	Allen Graulich	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Janet Lynk	Omer Cousineau	Barb Cousineau	Jean Bakkom
<b>Ushers</b>	Omer & Barb Cousineau	Suzanne & Tom Collins	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis & John Jarvis	Suzanne Graulich & Allen Graulich	Tom & Suzanne Collins	Suzanne & Allen Graulich	Omer & Barb Cousineau	Janet Lynk & Jean Bakkom
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	John Jarvis	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Barb Cousineau	Lara Graulich	Matthew Jozifek	John Jarvis	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	John Jarvis
<b>Bell Ringer</b>	Lara Graulich	Emma Litzner	Karl Graulich	Allen Graulich	Emma Litzner	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Lara Graulich	Allen Graulich

#### Zion Lutheran Church

<b>Acolyte</b>	Judith Warner	Eilene Fisher	Rich Churchill	Christina Keller	Judith Warner	Eilene Fisher	Rich Churchill	Christina Keller
<b>Reader</b>	Rich Churchill	Camille Grace	Eilene Fisher	Karen Scott	Frieda Thorington	Bob Holt	Adrienne Madison	Sandy Deems
<b>Greeter</b>	Lisa Borggreen	Rose Swanhall	Judith Warner	Helen Mackey	Eilene Fisher	Brian Swanhall	Helen Mackey	Judith Warner
<b>Usher</b>	Henry Mau	Brian Swanhall	Lisa Borggreen	André Nadeau	Deb Nadeau	Rose Swanhall	Lisa Borggreen	Deb Nadeau
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Eilene Fisher	Henry Mau	Bob Holt	Adrienne Madison	Adrienne Madison	Andre Nadeau	Judith Warner	Lisa Borggreen
<b>Elevator</b>	Ed Eldredge	Henry Mau	Eilene Fisher	Ed Eldredge	Henry Mau	Eilene Fisher	Ed Eldredge	Henry Mau
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Sandy Deems & Jo Ellington							

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

**October 2013**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Morning Prayer, 8:00 Hammerstone Bible Study, 10:00 am	3 Bible Study 10:30 am	4 Pastor's Sabbath	5
6 <b>WORSHIP</b> St. Matt's Svc., 9:00 a Zion Svc., 11:00 am Blessing of the Animals Zion S.S., 4:30 pm Dinner to follow	7 Stephen Leader Planning Mtg. 9:00 a  Finance 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	8 Parson's Closet 10—1  Ministry Board 7:00	9 Morning Prayer, 8:00 Hammerstone Bible Study, 10:00 am	10 Bible Study 10:30 am  Council Mtg. 7:00 p Worship Cmte., 7:00	11 Pastor's Sabbath  Stuff Your Spud 5—7:30 pm	12 W.E.L.C.A. 10:30 am
13 <b>WORSHIP</b> St. Matt's Svc., 9:00 a Zion Svc., 11:00 am	14 Columbus Day	15	16 Morning Prayer, 8:00 Hammerstone Bible Study, 10:00 am	17 Bible Study 10:30 am  Photo Club 7:00 pm	18 Pastor's Sabbath	19 Bold Café @ McDonald's 9:00 am
20 <b>WORSHIP</b> St. Matt's Svc., 9:00 a Zion Svc., 11:00 am	21 Office Closed	22 Parson's Closet 10—1	23 Historical Society 7:00	24	25 Pastor's Sabbath	26 W.E.L.C.A. Cherish the Children 1—4
27 <b>WORSHIP</b> St. Matt's Svc., 9:00 a Zion Svc., 11:00 am Reformation Sunday Service, 4:00 Dinner to follow	28 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	29	30 Morning Prayer, 8:00 Hammerstone Bible Study, 10:00 am	31 Bible Study 10:30 am  Haunted House @ Zion, 5:30—8:00 pm	November 1 Pastor's Sabbath	November 2

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

## **WE HAVE A LOT GOING ON, OR ABOUT TO GO ON!!**

Did you know it? Taco Night, Trash and Treasure Sale, Stuff Your Spud, the beginning of Cross/Multi Generational Education, Bible Studies (some at church and some off campus), Morning Prayer, Stephen Leader planning meetings, and The Reformation Day Service with Bishop Jerge - on October 27th - and the slew of normal meetings and activities that go on each month, like the Food Pantry, and Parson's Closet. There have been, and are a lot of things going on at church. The fall always brings so much activity as groups begin gathering again after the summer break.

I hope you will be a part of one of our biggest events this month, The Reformation Day Service on October 27th, at 4:00 pm. The service is a special service to celebrate the beginning of the Reformation by Martin Luther in 1517. This year also happens to be the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Bishop Marie Jerge will be here to preach and celebrate with us. A catered dinner will follow the service with baskets, raffles and prizes to follow. Come and celebrate the Grace of God!

