

ZION LIFE NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 4

April 2013

Special Points of

Interest:

- **Baptized We Live,**
Wednesday nights,
dinner at 6:30 pm and
study 7:00 pm
- **Bible Study &
Velvet Elvis
Discussion,**
Thursday mornings,
10:30 am
- **Recorder Choir,**
Every Thursday, 7 pm
- **Ministry Board,**
April 2, 7:00 pm
- **Worship Cmte.,**
April 4, 7:00 pm
- **Council Meeting,**
April 11, 7:00 pm
- **W.E.L.C.A.,**
April 13, 10:30 am
- **Bold Café,**
April 20, 9:00 am @
Coby's
- **Food Pantry &
Parson's Closet,**
April 27, 9:00—12:00

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Desk	1
St. Matthew's Matters	2
Christianity 101	3
Council President	4
W.E.L.C.A. Circle	5
Food Pantry	5
Serving Schedule	6
Calendar	7

From the Pastor's Desk

I am sitting down to write this three days before our Easter Celebration -- three days before I will proclaim that, "Christ is Risen!" And the congregation will respond, "He is Risen Indeed!" I can't help to feel the excitement of the coming of Easter.

The excitement is not, however, for the pomp and circumstance and the rituals that I have performed a thousand times now. I am excited for what the is behind the ritual, the meaning -- what all the hoopla stand for. It is no simple matter but a radical life changing event.

Each time we walk through the Three Days we are reminded of the type of Savior we have. Christ came to establish God's peaceful Kingdom in love. For Jesus, love equals serving others. To symbolize this, Jesus gets on his hands and knees and washes his disciples feet.

Jesus gets on his hands and knees and serves us, commanding us to do the same. "For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done." (John 13:15). On Easter, new members are baptized and initiated into the church, and the community renews its commitment, to continue Jesus' work of building God's Kingdom through love - serving others. Easter is not the culmination of Holy Week, but the BEGINNING OF A WHOLE NEW WAY OF LIFE! A way of serving.

Every time we gather to celebrate Holy Communion, we celebrate the events of Jesus life and the love he showed by serving. His way was a radical new way for God to encounter the world -- a way of serving and loving the creation. This was in contrast to the

Roman view of god's -- who may show favor if appeased through sacrifice enough.

Easter is about having a God who turns the world's way upside down. turning death to life by resurrection. that is what we celebrate this Easter season. Every Sunday is an Easter. Every Communion is a RESURRECTION. Jesus' love and service present with us always. It is a new way of looking at the world and the people in it with compassion. This is no easy task. Looking at the world through Jesus' eyes. Often it means - as we encounter different people throughout the day - constantly reminding ourselves, "Ah, but by the grace of God go I, and so it is with you." What Good News!

St. Matthew's Matters

The Ministry Board at St. Matthew's Chapel, hereafter referred to the "MB," began its monthly meeting at 7:05 pm, on Tuesday, March 5. Pastor Sara led devotions and Congregational Council member Tom Collins led us in prayer. Jackie Costello discussed when the new sexton should start and asked if both Dave and Lindsay will be paid as she trains. Dave will create a list of emergency contact numbers for the chapel. Jackie also mentioned the Easter lilies from SUNY will be picked up on Monday, March 25. Tom Collins proposed setting up a list of callers who will telephone people who don't come to church as often

as they used to. Pastor Sara talked about a summer free lunch program, in both Cobleskill and Sharon Springs, that requires a monitor to keep daily records. Training for the paid position will take place in April. Tom Collins reported that projected church revenues are just where they should be for this time of year. Pastor Sara then explained two aspects of the Maundy Thursday service: foot-washing and the laying on of hands. Pam Kostbar-Jarvis was concerned that foot washing can make the wooden floor slippery, so the MB agreed to have numerous towels thrown down to soak up any spilled water. Jean

Bakkom will provide the bowl and the pitcher for the foot-washing. Pam also proposed a "bucket brigade" to strip the altar at the appropriate times. The meeting ended with a lengthy discussion of barbecue details. Chicken halves will be sold for \$6 and meals for \$8. The money raised will support Zion's Food Pantry and SALT's "Unmet Needs". The Lord's Prayer concluded the meeting at 8:40 pm. At St. Matthew's Chapel we are blessed with far more than chicken barbecues, foot washing on Maundy Thursday and Easter lilies. Thanks be to God!

John Jarvis,
Ministry Board Secretary



Join us for 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

At the conclusion of the service of Baptism we are greeted with the words, "Peace be with you." And the congregation resounds, "And also with you." The baptismal service concludes with a wish of peace. Regardless of who you may have been, you are now a part of the reconciling body of Christ.

In the Hebrew Scriptures, the word for peace is "shalom." This means peace with God, peace with other people and . . . Peace with one's self. This "shalom" is the hope for all people and all the world. So, we say to brothers and sisters of faith, "shalom." This hope for type Hebrew people and the ministry of Jesus is now

your hope. In whatever place you find yourself, you are marked as a person of peace.

At this time, ask God to help you be the bearer of peace. Think of what this means for you. What does it mean for the way you look at others. Peace in your family, peace in your work, peace in your community, and peace in yourself. Let the prayer of St Francis be the basis of your meditation and prayer for today.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is discord, union;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek

To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and

It is in dying that we are born to eternal life

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

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



The mission and ministry of the ELCA through ELCA Good Gifts would like to thank Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church for its recent gift of \$30.

Your gifts help grow the congregation, inspire new leaders, engage young people in the life of the church, share the gospel with others, and care for those living with hunger and poverty.

Christina Jackson-Skelton



The Sharon Springs Food Pantry would like to thank St. Matthew's Chapel for the recent generous donation of money. The money will be put to good use to help needy families in the community.

Pauline Brown

Thoughts from The Council President

March has been a very busy month, we said goodbye to a very dear friend, Marjorie Hayner. Margie and I worked together, actually I think I worked for her. As a boss, you couldn't have asked for a better employee, she had exceptional work ethics. I was honored to be her friend. She provided so many laughs but when an emergency or disaster happened, she professionally handled it. Cancer has taken so many of our family and friends, but I was also touched by the death of a friend's father, David Hallock, who struggled with Alzheimer for 10 years. It is so easy to quickly say, 'where is God in this', but we all know God is right there with us. He cannot take away the diseases that take our loved ones, I am so grateful God provides me with Peace knowing by Grace we are forgiven and he has a place for us. Our Council retreat was a great experience, thank you Pastor Sara for arranging and 'making' us go. You do need to get away from the daily stuff sometimes to bond and get to know each other more. The main focus was how to be Leaders in a changing church. Some of the topics were: knowing the differ-

ence between you and me, how to get comfort in differences, provide a calming presence, promoting healthy change, focus on mission, change happens best through adventure and anxiety can be triggered by change, sense of change or loss. It is our job, the Leaders in the church, to acknowledge the roles of leaders and be sensitive to the need to change and helping others through this process. This is just a short quick description of our retreat, but I came away with 'change' isn't a bad word, it is transformation, revolutionizing, or adjustment. However you want to phrase it is, it means our church life is a living community that has been changing since 1793. We are not the church that was here in the 1800's or 1900's, and do we really want to be? God requires us to be his disciples, and let people know about him, about his Grace, his love and forgiveness. That includes everyone, not just the people that sit in our pews, it is our responsibility to reach out to others, change the way we worship. Think of the changes you have seen in the past 10 years, 20 years, etc. Change isn't a bad thing, it

brings us all closer together.

On a lighter side, we learned who likes to sleep past 6:00AM and those that just have to get up at that un-Godly hour. Only kidding, God really loves that time, that's why we have so many beautiful sunrises, at least I have been told they are beautiful. Our ride home was enjoyable, especially after the bean diet we had, beans for breakfast, lunch and dinner... LOL.

Stay tuned to our newsletter, church service, bible study, food pantry, Parson's Closet... all our ways to reach out and let people know what we are about. We have many things coming, as they say, down the pike whatever that means. Check out Stephen's Ministry; www.stephenministries.org and <http://skyranchcolorado.org>. These are two exciting things coming down the pike.

Remember Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, and of course Easter Sunday... this is what it is all about, Christ's Resurrection!

Judith Warner
Council President



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

At our March meeting, we tied off two quilts and layered a third. Our goal is to have ten quilts made by the end of April to be part of the fourth annual New England Ingathering for Lutheran World Relief. The nearest location for us is Church World Service Regional Office in North Syracuse. Debbie Nadeau has volunteered to take the quilts for us. We hope to have the quilts blessed at the 11:00 am service on the Sunday before they are delivered. Important dates to remember: April 13, 2013

is our next W.E.L.C.A. meeting; May 4, 2013 is the Foothills Spring Assembly for Women of W.E.L.C.A.; September 13-15, 2013 is the W.E.L.C.A. Convention at Camp of the Woods in Speculator; July 2014 is the Triennial Convention of the Women of ELCA in Charlotte, NC. Check our W.E.L.C.A. bulletin board for more information on these events. Also, ask Pastor Sara about Bold Café which meets on the third Saturday of the month.

FOOTHILLS WOMEN OF THE E.L.C.A. SPRING ASSEMBLY

May 4, 2013
9:00—2:00 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
42 Guy Park Avenue
Amsterdam

RSVP by April 28, 2013 to
Sandy Deems



Zion's Food Pantry

On Saturday, February 23, 2013 our Food Pantry served 43 households (107 individuals). Of these, 4 households were present for the first time. We were blessed with 12 volunteers and food enough to go around. Our Pantry was open on March 23, 2013 and we also packed Easter Food Baskets at that time in the Assembly Hall. The grants we received from the Regional Food Bank have paid for January and February orders and should still cover the March order. Keep the pantry, its volunteers, and its clients in your prayers.

Sandy Deems, Food Pantry Coordinator



Serving Schedule for April and May

St. Matthew's Chapel

Date	04/07	04/14	04/21	04/28	05/05	05/12	05/19	05/26
Acolyte	Lara Graulich	Emma Litzner	Karl Graulich	Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich	Seth Keller	Lara Graulich	Karl Graulich
Reader	Joan Jozifek	Barb Cousineau	Janet Lynk	Jean Bakkom	Joan Jozifek	Jean Bakkom	Omer Cousineau	John Jarvis
Greeter	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Dawn Thompson	Jackie Costello	Jean Bakkom	Dawn Thompson	Janet Lynk	Jean Bakkom	Barb Cousineau
Ushers	Suzanne & Allen Graulich	Tom & Suzanne Collins	John & Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Omer & Barb Cousineau	Courtney & Robert Keller	Tom & Suzanne Collins	Omer Cousineau & Allen Graulich	Jean Bakkom & Janet Lynk
Communion Assistant	John Jarvis	Lara Graulich	Barb Cousineau	John Jarvis	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Barb Cousineau	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	John Jarvis
Bell Ringer	Lara Graulich	Emma Litzner	Karl Graulich	Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich	Seth Keller	Lara Graulich	Karl Graulich

Zion Lutheran Church

Acolyte	Rich Churchill	Eilene Fisher	Christina Keller	Judith Warner	Lisa Borggreen	Rich Churchill	Eilene Fisher	Christina Keller
Reader	Margaret Angle	Janice Ashford	Rich Churchill	Sandy Deems	Camille Grace	Bob Holt	Janice Ashford	Carol McGuire
Greeter	Janice Ashford	Helen Mackey	Rose Swanhall	Brian Swanhall	Janice Ashford	Helen Mackey	Rose Swanhall	Judith Warner
Usher	Judith Warner	Janice Ashford	Brian Swanhall	Eilene Fisher	Debbie Nadeau	Lisa Borggreen	Judith Warner	Janice Ashford
Communion Assistant	André Nadeau	Judith Warner	Janice Ashford	Lisa Borggreen	André Nadeau	Judith Warner	Eilene Fisher	Henry Mau
Elevator	Eilene Fisher	Everett Merrill	Henry Mau	Ed Eldredge	Ed Eldredge	Everett Merrill	Eilene Fisher	Henry Mau
Altar Guild	Jane Rosscoe							

Zion Lutheran Church 615 E. Main Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043

518-234-3381

www.zion-coby.org

April 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 St. Matt's Service 9:00 am Zion Service 11:00 am	8 Boy Scouts 7-- 8:30 pm	9 Parson's Closet 10— 1	10 Baptized We Live Dinner at 6:30 pm Study at 7:00 pm	11 Bible Study 10:30 am Recorder Choir 6:00 Worship Cmte. 7:00	12	13 W.E.L.C.A. 10:30
14 St. Matt's Service 9:00 am Zion Service 11:00 am	15 Boy Scouts 7-- 8:30 pm	16	17 Baptized We Live Dinner at 6:30 pm Study at 7:00 pm Historical Soc. 7:00	18 Bible Study 10:30 am Council Mtg. 7:00 Photo Club 7:00	19	20 BOLD Café 9:00 @ Coby's
21 St. Matt's Service 9:00 am Zion Service 11:00 am	22 Boy Scouts 7-- 8:30 pm	23 Parson's Closet 10— 1	24 Baptized We Live Dinner at 6:30 pm Study at 7:00 pm	25 Bible Study 10:30 am Recorder Choir 7:00 Photo Club 7:00	26	27 Food Pantry & Par- son's Closet 9—12
28 St. Matt's Service 9:00 am Zion Service 11:00 am	29 Boy Scouts 7-- 8:30 pm	30	May 1 Baptized We Live Dinner at 6:30 pm Study at 7:00 pm	May 2 Bible Study 10:30 am Recorder Choir 6:00 Worship Cmte. 7:00	May 3	May 4

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