

ZION LIFE NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 3

April 2014

Special Points of Interest:

- **Family Worship**
Sunday, April 6, 4:30
followed by dinner
- **Lenten Services**
April 9 & 16,
Dinner & Study, 6:00 p,
Service, 7:00 pm
- **Community Free Lunch**, April 14 — 18,
11—1 pm
- **Maundy Thursday Service**
Thursday, April 17,
7:00 pm
- **Good Friday Services**
Friday, April 18,
St. Matt's, 3:00 pm
Zion, 7:00 pm
- **Easter Vigil**
Saturday, April 19,
7:00 pm
- **Food Pantry & Parson's Closet**
Saturday, April 19,
9—12
- **Community Dinner**
Friday, April 25, 5—7

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WHAT IS EASTER VIGIL?



Keeping Vigil on Saturday of Easter eve is a new practice for our congregation, even if it is an ancient pattern for the Christian church (ours will be Saturday April 19th at 7:00 p.m. [Zion Lutheran Church, Cobleskill, NY](http://www.zionlutheran.org)).

Christians have for centuries kept vigil in darkness as night falls, lighting the new fire outside the church building, lighting the Christ candle from that fire, then carrying it inside, calling out in processional, "The light of Christ. Thanks be to God."

But who is the Vigil for?

Like any service of Christian worship, it is for anyone. Everyone is welcome. It may be a new experience for many going to church on Saturday night, but I encourage you to try it. The service is so very different from what you have experienced Sunday mornings, or at prayer-services mid-week. It is the kind of service that is better seen than told about, experienced first-hand rather than heard about second-hand, so do consider yourself invited (and for the curious among us, the Wikipedia entry on Easter Vigil is quite good, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter_Vigil).

The Vigil is also especially for the candidates/catechumens. It is the service at which candidates for baptism are immersed in the baptismal waters and welcomed into the life of Christ. It is the service at which those returning to the Christian community, or moving from other places, affirm their baptism in Christ.

The Vigil is full of readings from Scripture. Prepare your hearts and minds to hear the slow unfolding of God's gracious activity in the world and among us. Twelve readings are appointed, not all of which are read each year, but as a whole they lift up the greatest moments of the history of God's salvific work—creation, flood, testing of Abraham, deliverance at the Red Sea, the gift of wisdom, the valley of dry bones, the deliverance of Jonah, the deliverance from the fiery furnace, and more.

But why add an Easter Vigil?

Some churches call Holy Week the "liturgy of the three days." In a way, there are not three or four services that make up holy week, but one long service divided up into multiple parts. On Maundy Thursday, the church remembers Christ's last supper in the upper room with his disciples, and his servant-act of washing their feet. On Good Friday, the church commemorates his death on the cross. On Saturday, the church keeps vigil, mourning with the disciples, buried in the death of Christ, but anticipating the Easter morn. So it keeps vigil, re-tells the story of God's mighty deeds among Israel and in creation. It sits with the new in faith, and watches in anticipation for the light of Christ. The Easter Vigil is in this way both very solemn, and profoundly joyous.



Following the reading of Scripture, those who have been preparing for baptism come to the waters and new life in Christ. In our congregation, we have baby Lillian who will be baptized. Even if you don't like fire or the bible, you have to like babies, right? In which case you don't want to miss the Easter Vigil, because there will be a cute baby being baptized. But this is more than cute, this is about new life, and new life in Christ, as we welcome new Christians in our community.

Where did you get this idea?

Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church in Seattle, Washington has been our primary mentor for implementing the catechumenate and the Easter Vigil. Their pastor, Paul Hoffman, has written a wonderful little book I recommend, [Faith Forming Faith: Bringing New Christians to Baptism and Beyond](#), which tells the story of developing The Way in their congregation. In addition, our denomination is increasingly encouraging this pattern for Christian faith formation in congregations around the country, and even hosts training and publishes resources to learn more.

I can hardly describe how excited I am to be hosting this service at Zion this year. It is an honor, a joy, and a privilege to gather with others as we anticipate and celebrate again the rising of the Sun, the one raised by his Father in victory over death. We will at that point no longer be able to contain our Alleluias!

You can learn more about the ELCA resources and approach here:

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/17352/Go-Make-Disciples-An-Invitation-to-Baptismal-Living>



COMMUNITY FREE LUNCH

Zion Lutheran Church

615 East Main Street

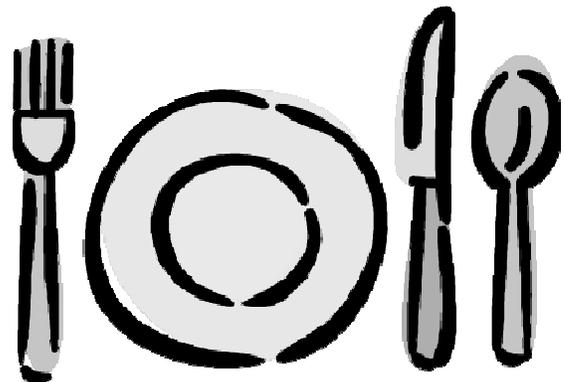
Cobleskill, NY

APRIL 14TH - APRIL 18TH

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Neighbors Sharing a Meal

EVERYONE IS INVITED



Notes from the Council President

We are gearing up for another Community Lunch Program for the April Easter break the 14th - 18th. Zion will provide lunch each day at no cost, everyone is invited. Zion saw a need and realized we could take care of that need. It started out with our Summer Lunch Program that the NYS Department of Education offers through USDA. Eilene Fisher and Pastor Sara started the program the first year. We saw a need, many children and their parents came, were fed and had a good time. The summer of 2013 we continued with the program and when it was over, many asked if we were going to help out during Christmas vacation as this year it was for a full two weeks. We did it and it was a success. Many from the community stepped in and helped out. Next came February break, only one week, but we took that on and again the community really stepped up. We began to see a pattern where it wasn't just children in need but many people from the community were coming to help and eat. You can see how this has 'snowballed', no pun intended because of the type of winter we have had. People are looking forward to it, people are beginning to realize that Zion isn't that unapproachable church with the large stone steps into a large traditional sanctuary that too is perceived unapproachable. They are seeing Zion is a friendly place to be. What a concept, people want to come to our church. Some do come to our worship service and that is great, but our purpose is for 'neighbors sharing a meal'.

Middleburgh started something similar after Hurricane Irene, calling it NET, 'Neighbors Eating Together'. There

are four churches that participate, all in walking distance. Each church takes a week and each Wednesday night there is a dinner. It is still going, I joined them at the Reformed church and it is a wonderful time that neighbors come together to spend about an hour sharing and eating with each other. This is two and a half years later, the churches are serving their neighbors with dinner once a week, no charge. I'm not saying this is what Zion should try to do, but we can take that concept and tweak to our needs and resources. We are working on a Friday night dinner, once a month. This too has been a success.

We have two churches that are willing to help with our Community Lunch Program; Barnerville Methodist Church and St. Christopher's Episcopal Church. I am praying for more churches to join us. We are growing slowly but the point is...we are growing...we are serving more and more people. Jesus didn't say just to feed the poor, he said love your neighbor as yourself. I believe we are doing that. We all love to eat and love to have someone else cook it and ask us to join them. That is what this is all about. If you find it in your heart to join us, please give me a call, email or call the church office. Maybe your family would like to 'take a day' set the menu and provide lunch and even come and help serve. You will find it very rewarding.

Thanks Be to God.

Judith Warner
jlwtw@nycap.rr.com
512-231-2753



News from your Church Council

1. We are looking for volunteers to be part of the Strategic Planning Committee (headed by Tom Collins) to look at our strengths/weaknesses, our purpose, and where we envision ourselves three years from now.
2. Coming soon, you will be invited to participate in the National Church Development survey. It will focus on our connectedness to each other, to God, and the community.
3. The Conference assembly is on April 26th. Our delegates are Sandy Deems and Eilene Fisher.

Children's Journey to Easter

St. Matthew's Chapel is hosting a Children's Journey to Easter on April 6 & 13 from 10:15 to 11 am, and on Easter Sunday during the Easter Service. This mini-series will help children three and up understand the meaning of Easter through stories, crafts, songs, and more. Parents are invited to stay with the children or join the adult Bible study. For more information, please call Pastor Sara at the church office at 234-3381 or Pam at 234-2933.



St. Matthew's Ministry

The Ministry Board at St. Matthew's Chapel, hereafter referred to as "the MB," held its monthly meeting at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, March 4, 2014. A prayer from Pr. Sara began the meeting.

Using the usual round-table format, Lindsay Monser, our sexton, discussed mice and light bulbs.

Barb Cousineau reminded us that one of our outside doors needs a small paint job. She added that the sanctuary thermostat needs some attention too since the temperature in the sanctuary is usually too cold or too warm.

Janet Lynk stated her belief that the MB needs to plan an event to honor Mary Jane Bianchine's 80th birthday on April 21. Suzanne Graulich had promised the previous Sunday that she would make a fruit bowl for the celebration.

The MB checked the date of our next barbecue, which will be held on May 17. John Jarvis raised a question about whether or not the Sharon Springs Fire Department grillers will provide the bags in which our customers can take home the chicken halves that they buy. The MB also discussed the possibility of having a fall Chapel reunion luncheon, to which members who have dropped away would be personally invited.

Tom Collins explained how he will soon be working on a three-year strategic plan for our congregation. He encouraged us to "think outside the box" when brainstorming ideas about his topic of "Where does the congregation want to be in three years?"

Pr. Sara told us about the February 25 meeting of Sharon



Springs residents who shared ideas about what the local community needs. At least one more meeting will follow.

Pam Kostbar-Jarvis described the three-part Lenten Sunday School program for young children. The MB discussed whether or not to have Easter lilies this year and decided to get them from the college again. They also decided to have a Good Friday service on April 18 at 3:00 pm.

John Jarvis asked if we are going to continue our special coffee hours on Mother's Day and Father's Day. The group said yes. John also mentioned that Allen Graulich will be confirmed in June.

Pastor Sara told us about the "Building an Inclusive Church" meeting in Scarsdale on April 11 & 12. The meeting ended at 8:16 with the Lord's Prayer.

There is much to be thankful for at St. Matthew's Chapel besides our faithful organist, chicken barbecues, Easter lilies, and Spring 2014 coffee hours that honor our parents. Thanks be to God!!

John Jarvis
MB Secretary



Just like at your house, with all of the snow we have had this winter, the time spent on snow removal and ice control, has been much more than last year. The church's expense for keeping the parking lot plowed and the sidewalks clear has exceeded what we had planned into the budget. Should you wish to make an additional contribution to help offset those extra costs, please note that the contribution be used for snow removal.

Join us for a

Chicken BBQ

at St. Matthew's Chapel
Saturday, May 17
3—6 pm

Dine In or Take Out
\$8 for dinner or \$6 for halves



FOOD PANTRY

On February 22, 2014, there were 41 households (113 individuals) who came to the Pantry for assistance; 4 households were there for the first time. Five of the pre-packed orders were not used and will be available on March 22, 2014 (if not used that day, the items will go back on the shelf). Perishables left over were used for the community breakfast and shared with Catholic Charities. We were blessed with 14 volunteers.

The Regional Food Bank has provided us with 25 gift cards from Stewart's to purchase 25 gallons of 1% milk. John Jarvis will use these to purchase 1% milk in March and April as part of the perishables order (each month we provide both 1% and 2% milk). The milk cards were funded by the HPNAP Food Grant (Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program). A HPNAP grant also reduced our February order from the Regional Food Bank from \$748.69 to \$134.14. We have received the paperwork to apply for the 2013-2014 HPNAP Grant which will be filed by April 1, 2014.

The pick-up dates from the Regional Food Bank will be March 12 at 8:00 am and April 9. The Food Pantry will be open on April 19.

Sandy Deems,
Food Pantry Coordinator

Community Dinner

Sit down with a stranger and leave with a friend

Join us for our free Community Dinner on Friday, April 25th from 5–7 pm. Come and get to know the neighbors in your community!



Time for spring cleaning!

Spring Cleaning at Zion

Spring cleaning...my house and yours...what about Zion? As I write this, it is cold outside and spring seems like it will never come... but it will! Yes, have faith. We need to give our church a real good spring cleaning starting with the outside lawn and flower beds. Then we need to go inside and wash windows, carpeting and everything else that we see that needs to be de-cluttered and straightened out.

I will be setting up dates and looking for all who can give a few hours to help. Let me know if you would like to help and when. My e-mail address is jlwtw@nycap.rr.com or phone 231-2753.

W.E.L.C.A. Circle

On March 8, 2014, three ladies met and tied off a quilt for Lutheran World Relief. We discussed the Baby Care kits and also laid out some squares for another quilt. We have a small patchwork piece that could make a child's quilt and some other material that would be good for little girls' dresses.

Lutheran World Relief has announced the fifth annual New England Ingathering. The closest site to us is Church World Service in North Syracuse (the same as last year) on May 6. Volunteers would be needed to deliver our kits and quilts.

The Spring Assembly for Foothills Women of the E.L.C.A. is on May 3, 2014 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Richmondville. Please let Sandy Deems know by April 27 if you plan to attend. Elections for Coordinator and Secretary will be held. The guest speakers will share their experiences in Haiti as they worked to help people recover after the earthquake.

Our next meeting will be on April 12, 2014 in Zion's Assembly Hall.

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

*Families are like Quilts...
Lives pieced together -
Stitched with smiles
and tears, colored
with memories
and bound by
Love.*



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

SPRING ASSEMBLY

MAY 3, 2014

9 AM — 2 PM

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

265 MAIN ST., RICHMONDVILLE, NY

Worship with communion

Program: Mission in Haiti

Business Meeting

RSVP by April 27, 2014 to Sandy Deems @ 518-895-2905

Suggested donation at registration: \$5.00

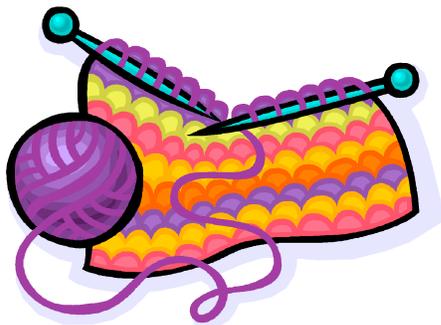
Prayer Shawls

Psalm 139:13, 14 "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Prayer shawls are more than just a knit or crocheted wrap. They are knit with love and prayers for those who will receive them. As you work, pray for the person who will receive the shawl, even if you don't know them. Pray for healing, comfort, guidance, blessing, thanksgiving, or celebration of life. Those who receive these shawls will not only feel their warmth, but the love and prayers with which they were made. God blesses the work of your hands and His love is made real to anyone who wraps up in one of these shawls.

Shawls vary in size and texture as well as pattern. They can be large enough to cover a person lying down (3 feet by 6 feet or 30" X 60") or lapghan size (3 feet by 4 feet) or even smaller for children. They can be solid or lacy, bulky or lightweight but are always soft and comforting. Shawls are often knitted or crocheted in a pattern of three, symbolizing the Holy Trinity.

Prayer shawls are gifts freely given in love. They should not be sold. Several shawls or even individual shawls can be blessed during a Sunday service or the laying on of hands. A prayer should be included with each shawl.



Garter Stitch Prayer Shawl

Materials: 4 skeins bulky yarn
Size 10 needles

Pattern: cast on 62 stitches
Knit every row until shawl is 60 inches long. Bind off. Add fringe to each end.

Simple Knit Prayer Shawl

Materials: 3 skeins of any soft bulky yarn such as Lion Brand Homespun®
Size 11 or 13 needles—larger ones make it more lacy

Pattern: cast on 57 stitches, knit 3, purl 3 across. Always start with knit 3 and in the rows that follow you should always knit the purls and purl the knits. Continue in the knit 3, purl 3 pattern until shawl is six feet long (five feet if you prefer a shorter shawl). Bind off. Finish with a generous fringe of 4—6 inches at each end.

Lacy Knit Prayer Shawl

Materials: 3 or 4 skeins of bulky yarn such as Lion Brand Homespun® or Light & Lofty® or any soft 4-ply yarn such as Caron Simply Soft®

Pattern: cast on 60 stitches for bulky yarn (75 for 4-ply yarn)
Rows 1—5: knit each row (garter stitch)
Row 6: knit 5, purl across, knit last 5 stitches
Row 7: knit 5, (yarn over, knit 2 together) across, knit last 5 stitches
Row 8: repeat row 6
Row 9: knit across
REPEAT ROWS 6—9 UNTIL SHAWL IS 71 INCHES LONG.
KNIT 5 ROWS (garter stitch). Bind off. Add fringe to each end.

Knit Ripple Prayer Shawl

Materials: 3—4 skeins bulky yarn or 16 ounces 4-ply soft yarn
Size 13 circular needle 29" long or size 10 needle for 4-ply

Pattern: cast on 94 stitches
Row 1: (right side) knit 2, *knit 2 together, knit 5, yarn over, knit 1, yarn over, knit 5, (slip 1, knit 1) pass slip stitch over) REPEAT from * across to last 2 stitches, knit 2
Row 2: knit 2, purl across to last 2 stitches, knit 2
Row 3: knit 2, *knit 2 together, knit 5, yarn over, knit 1, yarn over, knit 5, slip 1, knit 1, pass slip stitch over; REPEAT from * across to last 2 stitches, knit 2
REPEAT ROWS 2—3 until shawl is 60" long (or 72" for longer shawl), ending by working row 2. Bind off.

Monthly Serving Schedule for April 2014

Date	04/06	04/13	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	Easter Vigil	04/20	04/27		
St. Matthew's Chapel									
Acolyte	Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich		John Jarvis		Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich		
Reader	Joan Jozitek	Barb Cousineau		Multiple Readers		Jean Bakkom	Jean Jozitek		
Greeter	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	John Jarvis		Barb Cousineau		Omer Cousineau	Barb Cousineau		
Ushers	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis & John Jarvis	Tom & Suzanne Collins		Jean Bakkom & Janet Lynk		Barb & Omer Cousineau	Suzanne & Allen Graulich		
Communion Assistant	Lara Graulich	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis		Barb Cousineau		John Jarvis	John Jarvis		
Bell Ringer	Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich		John Jarvis		Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich		
Zion Lutheran Church									
Acolyte	Rose Keller	Isabela Philipp		Judith Warner		Rose Keller	Emma Litzner	Eilene Fisher	Rich Churchill
Reader	Sandy Deems	Rich Churchill		Eilene Fisher		Multiple Readers	Multiple Readers	Vern Hall	Rose Swanhall
Greeter	Rose Swanhall	Leon Beaver		Eilene Fisher		Judith Warner	Teddy Beaver	Judith Warner	Eilene Fisher
Usher	Henry Mau	Eilene Fisher	Deb Nadreau	Eilene Fisher	André Nadreau	Rose Swanhall	Deb Nadreau		
Communion Assistant	Judith Warner	André Nadreau	Henry Mau		Lilly Litzner	Henry Mau	Judith Warner		
Elevator	Ed Eldredge	Henry Mau	Ed Eldredge	Eilene Fisher	Henry Mau	Ed Eldredge	Henry Mau		
Altar Guild									

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

www.zion-coby.org

April 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Ministry Board 7:00 p	2 Morning Prayer 8:00 Lenten Dinner & Study, 6:00, Service 7:00 pm	3 Bible Study 10:30 am	4 Pastor's Sabbath Day	5
6 WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9:00 a Zion Svc. 11:00 am	7 Stephen Ministry 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	8 Parson's Closet 10—1 Worship/Music/Ed. 7:00 pm Events/Evang/ Mission 7:30 pm	9 Morning Prayer 8:00 Lenten Dinner & Study, 6:00, Service 7:00 pm	10 Bible Study 10:30 am Photo Club, 7:00 pm	11 Pastor's Sabbath Day Building an Inclusive Church – Scarsdale	12 W.E.L.C.A. 10:30 am Daisy Girl Scouts 11:30 Building an Inclusive Church – Scarsdale
13 <u>Palm Sunday</u> WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9:00 a Zion Svc. 11:00 am	14 Free Lunch 11—1 p Stephen Ministry 6:30 Finance/Endow. 6:30p	15 Free Lunch 11—1 p	16 Morning Prayer 8:00 Free Lunch 11—1 p Lenten Dinner & Study, 6:00, Service 7:00 pm	17 Bible Study 10:30 am Free Lunch 11—1 p <u>Maundy Thursday</u> Service, 7:00p	18 Pastor's Sabbath Day Free Lunch 11—1 p <u>Good Friday Service</u> @ St. Matt's, 3:00 pm Good Friday Service @ Zion, 7:00 pm	19 Bold Café 9:00 am @ McDonald's Food Pantry & Parson's Closet 9—12 <u>Easter Vigil 7:00 pm</u>
20 <u>Easter Sunday</u> WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9:00 a Zion Svc. 11:00 am	21 Stephen Ministry 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	22 Parson's Closet 10—1	23 Morning Prayer 8:00	24 Bible Study 10:30 am	25 Pastor's Sabbath Day Community Dinner 5—7 pm	26 Daisy Girl Scouts 11:30
27 WORSHIP St. Matt's 9:00 a Zion 11:00 am	28 Stephen Ministry 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	29	30	May 1 Bible Study 10:30 am	May 2 Pastor's Sabbath Day	May 3

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



Save the Dates....

Lenten Bible Dinner, Study & Service

April 9 & 16

Dinner & Study—6:00 pm at Zion

Economy of Love

Service—7:00 pm at Zion

Pray Around the Cross

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 17

7:00 pm at Zion

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 18

3:00 pm at St. Matthew's

7:00 pm at Zion

Easter Vigil

Saturday, April 19th

7:00 pm at Zion

Easter Morning Worship

9:00 am at St. Matthew's

11:00 am at Zion