

ZION LIFE NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 6
August 2014

Special Points of Interest:

- **Summer Lunch Program**, Monday—Friday, 11—1 until August 15
- **Stephen Ministry**, Mondays, 7:00 pm
- **Morning Prayer**, Wednesdays, 8:00 am
- **Bible Study**, Thursdays, 10:30 am
- **Parson's Closet** Tuesday, August 12 & 26, 10—1
- **Bold Café @ McDonalds**, Saturday, August 16, 9 am
- **String Quartet**, Friday, August 22, 6:30 p
- **Food Pantry & Parson's Closet** Saturday, August 23, 9—12
- **Ice Cream Social**, Saturday, August 30 @ St. Matt's, 6:30—8:30

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Desk	1-2
Christianity 101	3
Council President	3
Crossword Puzzle	3, 8
Food Pantry	4
St. Matthew's Matters	4
W.E.L.C.A.	5
Serving Schedule	6
Calendar	7

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

What it means to be a welcoming community



*Come,
and you will see...*

John 1:39

The Radical Hospitality of Jesus – “Come and See.” The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?” “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” (John 1:35-39)

Imagine this scenario—you have been very busy. The company you hosted has just left your home leaving you with lots of clearing and cleanup to do. There is not much left in the fridge or the cupboards, and you are tired. So, you decide that today you are going to rest. Tomorrow you will go shopping and do the housework! Not today. So you make yourself comfortable and settle down to watch the Vikings game! (Ok, so may be you watch a different team.) Well, anyway, an hour later the doorbell rings. You—to say the least, are disturbed. You open the door to find yourself met by huge smiles. Some dear friends have dropped in for a surprise visit and...oh,

goody!—they have brought their teenage children with them.

How do you respond? How do you feel? How are you going to offer them the hospitality they are seeking? Are you able to say come in, take me as I am? I guess it may depend on the type of person you are, but I suspect that none of us would turn them away. The challenge they are presenting us with is not one of inconvenience but rather one of hospitality and how we might offer it...

I was recently reminded of an encounter I had many years ago at my first church. One night I had a meeting and, when the meeting over, went into the parking lot where I noticed a man standing alone near a rusty car. I introduced myself. As we talked he learned I was the pastor there as well. He sighed and told me how long he had intended to “get back to church.” I invited him to worship. With that he began to tell me the story of his life. It was a familiar string of regrets and loss. We shared a bit more with each other and said, “Good night.” As I was walking to my car, he called out to me. “Did you mean what you said?” “About what?” I asked.

From the Pastor's Desk Cont.ed

"Did you mean that I could come to this church?"

You know, only in the last couple of years has it dawned on me that he had just told me his life's story as a response to my invitation. From the experience of many other encounters since then, I have come to believe that the telling of his story was a polite way of explaining why he couldn't take me up on my offer. He felt he wasn't "clean enough" to be included in our congregation.

I never saw him again—as is often the case in these encounters. I wish my response to his questions had been more direct. I wish I had simply repeated the words of Christ. I wish I had said, "Come and see."

"Come in, take me as I am." If we might struggle to extend such a welcome to our friends or family who drop by for a surprise visit, how might we welcome people into the church? Can we respond with Jesus' words to those who followed him... "Come and see?" Jesus' call to follow him, to "come and see" turned out to be a characteristic of his ministry as he welcomed prostitutes and tax collectors, touched lepers and even dead bodies—the kindness of Jesus was controversial. He showed displeasure towards the secular and religious limits of social respectability for his hospitality knew no limit. It was not just indiscriminate: it was wide open kindness, openness, and grace—He received Pharisees and sinners alike.

Jesus' welcome was gracious. He shared words and relationship. Really, he had nothing else to give, even the fancy meals were provided by others. Yet somehow Jesus was the host bringing the love of God to the conversation—surrounding his hearers in grace, giving and receiving at the same time.

Come and see....Jesus invitation is central to life

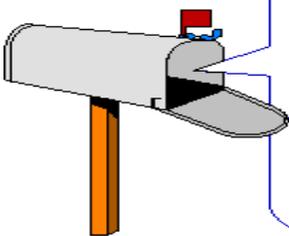
in Him. Through his generous, almost unrestrained hospitality, Jesus reenacts the gracious presence of the Triune God. We live not in a world of divisions ruled over by a supreme being, but in a universe tightly woven and called into being by the God who desires intimacy with us. "Divine hospitality" lies at the heart of creation. It is also the source of our redemption. For we are invited to join the everlasting dance of life and grace—a dance that knows no limits as more and more people are welcomed to join, to catch the heartbeat rhythm of life...Come and see....

We do not need to hide behind masks of social niceties, or cultural rules. Jesus' challenge to us is to open our hearts to him and to others, to respond to his invitation "Come and see," and then in turn to extend that invitation. We live in a world where suspicion everything is widespread, even in the quiet township of our Peyton Place.

The Church, through the power of the Holy Spirit by contrast, is trying to create an open door, inviting the young, the old, the broken, the poor, the lifelong member and the newest seeker and recognizing them as valuable. Our invitation is simple; Come and see....Come and see... you are welcome, come and see..... By issuing the invitation we create an open door, extend a welcome and provide the possibility of a new relationship, one where we may find ourselves changed by the God who meets us in unexpected people, and finds us in unexpected places. After all, if we ourselves are going to issue the invitation to someone—maybe we need to clarify for ourselves just who it is we are inviting them to "come and see." So I offer the invitation to you this day. "Come and see."

thank you!

Thank you for your recent gift of \$665 to ELCA World Hunger. Your generous gifts make it possible for ELCA World Hunger to: educate members about root causes; promote advocacy and social justice for those who cannot speak for themselves; provide food for families in times of greatest need; and implement sustainable development for secure futures. Thanks to you, ELCA World Hunger continues to build on the 40 year history of this ministry through partnerships and programs in nearly 60 countries including the United States. Thank you for your support.



Helen Mackey's new address:

**Helen Mackey
Holiday Hills Estates
2620 Holiday Lane
Apt. 109
Rapid City, SD 57702**

Christianity 101

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. – John 14:15

What holds families together? Is it rules and regulations? What holds couples together? Is it because they are obedient to a contract they signed when they married? What holds a nation together? Is it the strong arm of the law?

Jesus knows that caring, or loving, is the most powerful factor in holding people in relationships. It is also true for our relationship with God. It is not fear of punishment that surrounds these Ten Commandments. They are given to people who have been rescued by the God whose basic character is one of love for the whole of creation, and for each person in that creation.

Do you love God? How the people of God can show their love for God is the basic question of the commandments. All of them raise the question of love for God and love for neighbor. Love for God is expressed directly to God in words, and through your neighbor and the rest of the creation. If love is removed from the commandments, you have only empty rules. Do you love God? Perhaps the first question to ask is, does God love you?

Take a few moments of for silent reflection. Ask God to show you the depth of love that God has for you. Be still before God and imagine the love of God for you. It may be hard at first, but give yourself some time. Then, pray for those that will be baptized this year, and for those who will make the baptismal affirmation. Pray that God in mercy will pour out the spirit of love to all.

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



Council President Comments

Our Summer Lunch Program is in full swing. It is so heartwarming to look out and see so many children and adults eating and taking part in our crafts. We are serving between 60 and 70 people each day. God is so good. He is providing donations of money, food, and people helping, and I'm so thankful for all that have helped out. Sometimes I feel it is like 'feeding 5,000' because the food is there when it is needed. Some people have said they walk by our church everyday but have never wanted to come in. Now they feel comfortable coming in, knowing we are a welcoming church. I always hear negative comments about our young people but I will tell you, what I see is polite and considerate children. There are 'please and thank you' all the time and so many of them want to help out. They want to give back by helping. Pastor Sara has stated Zion is becoming a vital part of the community and I totally agree with her. To have so many making Zion a part of their day, changing their schedules so they can be there, speaks volumes. I need to say to all of you, thank you for providing so much support to make this happen. We may be small in number, although our numbers are growing, we are doing God's Work!

The rest of the clues and the crossword are found on page 8.

Down

- 1 "_____ it is therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer." Luke 21:14 (6)
- 2 "And when the day began to _____ away, then came the twelve, and said unto him, Send the multitude away..." Luke 9:12 (4)
- 3 When I was daily with you in the temple, ye _____ed forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness." Luke 22:53 (7)
- 4 Tempted Jesus for forty days. Luke 4:2 (5)
- 5 Jesus mourns for the hard hearts of the people of Jerusalem saying, "how often would I have _____ thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brook under her wings." Luke 13:34 (8)
- 6 One of the men in the line of Christ from Luke 3:36. (6)
- 12 These people asked for increased faith in Luke 17:5 (8)
- 14 The father of James and John. Luke 5:10 (7)
- 16 The Hebrew name for the Lord. (6)
- 18 The holiday that celebrates the events of Luke 24. (6)
- 19 The prodigal son returned to his father with plans to be this type of servant. Luke 15:19 (5)
- 21 If a son asks a father for this, will he give him a serpent? Luke 11:11 (4)



FOOD PANTRY

Our Pantry served 54 households (139 individuals) on June 28, 2014. There were 7 households there for the first time. Our shelves were almost empty by the end of the morning.

Thanks be to God for the 14 volunteers who helped with Food Bank pickup, shelving, and packing on Pantry Day and to John Jarvis for giving ideas to those who needed it. Thanks to those who shop for the Pantry during the month. Volunteers are always welcome.

We have received a \$1900 HPNAP grant from the Regional Food Bank for July 1, 2014—June 30, 2015. Our order for July from the Regional Food Bank came to \$183 for 1,277 lbs. of food with \$777 paid for by the HNAP Grant. Future pickup dates for the Regional Food Bank will be Aug. 13, Sept. 24, Oct. 15, Nov. 12, and Dec. 10. Time of pickup usually ranges from 8—9 am.

Thanks to Vern Hall and his truck for transporting the order to Zion.

Sandy Deems,
Food Pantry Coordinator

2014 "Nearly New" Sale

Sponsored by the Friends of the Lutheran Homes

Friday & Saturday, Sept. 26 & 27, 2014

10 am to 4 pm Friday

10 am to Noon Saturday, \$3 Bag Sale

Nolte Auditorium in the Adult Home

LutheranCare Campus, Rte. 12B, Clinton

We need items to sell:

- Clothing
- Jewelry
- Small appliances
- Household items

Please do not bring:

- Books
- Exercise or sports equipment
- Curtains or drapes
- Suitcases
- Metal office furniture

Please bring items in good repair to the Arntsen Building Reception Desk Sept. 15—19, 7 am to 3 pm only.

St. Matthew's Ministry



The Ministry Board at St. Matthew's Chapel, referred to hereafter as the "MB," held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 1, at 7:00 pm. Six members attended. Before Pr. Sara arrived, members of the MB began discussing the August 30 annual free Ice Cream Social. Members decided to purchase half-gallon packages of ice cream instead of the three-gallon party packs. This plan will allow for more variety of flavors and less uneaten ice cream when the event was over. The event will run from 6:30 pm until 8:30 on that Saturday evening. After the discussion of the Ice Cream Social ended, Pr. Sara led us in prayer at 7:12.

Our next topic was weeding and mulching the soil around our bushes. Pam Kostbar-Jarvis explained that she was going to weed and mulch our "gardens" the following Tuesday morning. She welcomed any helpers. [The following Tuesday Pam, Barb Cousineau and John Jarvis worked a total of eight hours to improve the appearance of the soil around our bushes.] Jean Bakkom donated all but two bags of the black mulch used.

Speaking of the way things look, members commented that our building needs paint. Barb Cousineau and John Jarvis agreed to contact three local painters about painting the exterior in 2015. John added that the barn paint used on the shed last summer is already peeling after less than a year and that he would never choose that brand again. The MB agreed that our foundation needs some work as well. Soon, Lindsay Monser will be making our pews look brighter.

Pr. Sara told the MB members about the July 4 parade in Cobleskill. Zion and St. Matthew's members thus had the opportunity to carry our Chapel and Zion banners. The Litzners, Vern Hall, and Pam & John did so on the holiday. The meeting ended at 7:50 pm with the Lord's Prayer. At St. Matthew' Chapel, there is so much more to be thankful for than just Ice Cream Socials, mulching projects, and our Chapel's banner in the 4th of July parade in Cobleskill. Thanks be to God!

John Jarvis
Ministry Board secretary

W.E.L.C.A. Circle

Our quilting project is temporarily on hold for the summer since everyone is busy with family and outdoor projects. We will resume our meetings in September on the second Saturday (09/13). During the summer, keep your eyes out for items for the Baby Care Kits (sales, lawn and garage sales).



Sandy Deems,
WELCA Leader

Baby Care Kits

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN EACH KIT

- 2 lightweight cotton t-shirts
- 2 long or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- 2 receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52" square
- 4 cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- 1 jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
- 2 pairs of socks
- 1 hand towel, dark color recommended
- 2 bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of gentle soap, in original wrapping
- 2 diaper pins or large safety pins



GUIDELINES FOR KITS

- **Please give new items only, except where otherwise noted.** Sending top quality items shows the greatest care and respect for the dignity of the recipient. Quality items also withstand the harsh conditions that many people who receive these supplies are facing.
- **Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages, or your congregation's name.** LWR provides quilts and kits based on need, regardless of religious creed. Religious reference may be misinterpreted by the governments of the receiving countries, jeopardizing the delivery to the people who need the items most.
- **Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or reference to the armed forces, including camouflage.** LWR and our overseas partners have access to areas of the world others do not because we are impartial humanitarian organizations. If our intentions are misinterpreted as being politically motivated, our work, our partners, and the people we assist could be endangered.

TIPS

- Sizes 6 to 24 months may be used. Varying the sizes of the clothing items included will make the Baby Care kits useful as the baby grows.
- Sweaters may be knitted or crocheted from leftover yarn, or made from heavy double knits or fleece. Select a pattern that suits your skill level. Preferred styles have buttons or ties down the front.
- If knitting or crocheting receiving blankets, including one knitted/crocheted blanket and one flannel blanket will provide maximum versatility.
- Onesies can be cut and hemmed or serged to make a simple t-shirt. Gowns, rompers, or top/pant sets can be substituted for sleepers.

All this information and more is available on the LWR website—<http://lwr.org/getinvolved/babycarekits>

Monthly Serving Schedule for August 2014

St. Matthew's Chapel

Date	08/03	08/10	08/17	08/24	08/31
Acolyte	Karl Graulich	Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich	John Jarvis	Allen Graulich
Reader	Joan Jozifek	Barb Cousineau	Omer Cousineau	Tom Collins	Suzanne Graulich
Greeter	Barb Cousineau	Omer Cousineau	Janet Lynk	Pam Kosbar-Jarvis	Jean Bakkom
Ushers	Janet Lynk & Jean Bakkom	Suzanne & Lara Graulich	Pam Kosbar-Jarvis & John Jarvis	Janet Lynk & Jean Bakkom	Omer & Barb Cousineau
Communion Assistant	Pam Kosbar-Jarvis	John Jarvis	Lara Graulich	Barb Cousineau	Pam Kosbar-Jarvis
Bell Ringer	Karl Graulich	Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich	John Jarvis	Allen Graulich

Zion Lutheran Church

Acolyte	Eilene Fisher	Rich Churchill	Emma Litzner	Rose Keller	Isabella Philipp
Reader	Vern Hall	Eilene Fisher	Sandy Deems	Rich Churchill	Rose Swanhall
Greeter	Brian Swanhall	Leon Beaver	Rose Swanhall	Judith Warner	Eilene Fisher
Usher	Judith Warner	Deb Nadeau	Eilene Fisher	Henry Mau	André Nadeau
Communion Assistant	Henry Mau	André Nadeau	Judith Warner	Charlotte Litzner	Vern Hall
Bell Ringer	Ava Philipp	Charlotte Litzner	Allie Prezorski	Gabriel Litzner	Emma Litzner
Elevator	Eilene Fisher	Henry Mau	Ed Eldredge	Eilene Fisher	Henry Mau
Altar Guild	Karen Wilson				

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

www.zion-coby.org

August 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 27 WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9 am Zion Svc. 11 am	July 28 Summer Food 11—1	July 29 Summer Food 11—1	July 30 Summer Food 11—1	July 31 Bible Study 10:30 am Summer Food 11—1	1 Summer Food 11—1	2
3 WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9 am Zion Svc. 11 am	4 Stephen Ministry 7p Summer Food 11—1	5 Summer Food 11—1	6 Morning Prayer 8 am Summer Food 11—1	7 Bible Study 10:30 am Summer Food 11—1	8 Pastor's Sabbath Day Summer Food 11—1	9
10 WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9 am Zion Svc. 11 am	11 Stephen Ministry 7p Summer Food 11—1	12 Ministry Board 7p Parson's Closet 10—1 Summer Food 11—1 Worship/Music/Ed. 7p	13 Morning Prayer 8 am Summer Food 11—1	14 Bible Study 10:30 am Summer Food 11—1	15 Pastor's Sabbath Day Summer Food 11—1	16 Bold Café @ McDon- ald's 9 am
17 WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9 am Zion Svc. 11 am	18 Finance/Endow. 6:30 Stephen Ministry 7p	19 Events/Evang./ Mission 7:30 p	20 Morning Prayer 8 am	21 Church Council, 6:30 Photo Club, 7p	22 Pastor's Sabbath Day	23
24 WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9 am Zion Svc. 11 am	25 Stephen Ministry 7p	26 Parson's Closet 10—1	27 Morning Prayer 8 am	28 Bible Study 10:30 am	29 String Quartet 6:30 p	30 Food Pantry 9—12
WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9 am Zion Svc. 11 am WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9 am Zion Svc. 11 am	31 Stephen Ministry 7p					30 Ice Cream Social @ St. Matt's, 6:30 – 8:30

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

Across

- 7 "I tell you Nay: but, except ye _____, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:5 (6)
- 8 The book of this prophet was handed to Jesus to read in the synagogue. Luke 4:17 (6)
- 9 "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the _____s." Luke 21:24 (4)
- 10 The liturgical season celebrated after Christmas. (8)
- 11 An act of devotion to show sorrow for one's sin. (7)
- 13 "That he would _____ unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear." Luke 1:74 (5)
- 15 The tetrarch of Galilee. Luke 3:1 (5)
- 17 Its easier for a camel to go through this eye than for a rich man to enter the kingdom. Luke 18:25 (7)
- 20 Feeling regret or sorrow for one's sins. (8)
- 21 "Why do the disciples of John _____ often ...?" Luke 5:33 (4)
- 22 Jesus compared men of this country with the Jews of the time. Luke 11:32 (6)
- 23 "And it is _____ for heaven and earth to pass, than one title of the law to fail." Luke 16:17 (6)

The rest of the clues are found on page 3.

