

ZION LIFE NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 9
December 2014

Special Points of Interest:

- **Mid-Day Prayer,**
Wednesdays, 12:00 pm
- **Bible Study,**
Thursdays, 10:30 am
- **Decorate the Sanctuary,** Saturday, December 6, 9:00 am
- **W.E.L.C.A. Advent,** Saturday, December 6, 10:30 am
- **Advent Family-Style Worship with Dinner,** Saturday, December 7, 4:30 pm
- **Food Pantry & Parson's Closet,** Saturday, December 20, 9—12
- **Christmas Eve. Services:** Wednesday, December 24, St. Matthew's @ 5:30, Zion @ 8:00

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Desk	1-2
SALT Recovery	2
Lunch Program	2
Children's Journey	3
Serving Schedule	4
Calendar	5
Food Pantry	6
W.E.L.C.A.	6
Council President	6
Nominating Cmttee.	6
St. Matthew's Matters	7

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Every once and awhile, I come across a "perfect" story . . . and I just have to share:

Rev. M. L. Lindvall received a letter in a Christmas card. It was a personal letter "not one of those which relates every event of the past year." The letter writer told how his church had held a Christmas pageant for 47 years with the same director. Perfection was her goal "nothing less." For years the church's pageant ran like clockwork. Perfect lines, perfect pacing, perfect everything. Then one year, something even better happened.

You see, the director's commitment to perfection was greater than her commitment to children. Her reasoning was:

"When there are too many youngsters, there is no control." Then the Committee on Education (which included three mothers of last years rejected Marys, Josephs, shepherds and Wise Men) passed a resolution: "All children who wish to be in the Christmas pageant may do so. Parts will be found for them." This was more than the longtime director could handle. She resigned in anger and disgust.

According to Pastor Lindvall the pageant didn't fall flat with the director's resignation, but it was different. There must have been a dozen shepherds and 20

angels (a real heavenly host). There were a couple of dozen sheep. Coming from farms, the boys and girls in sheep costumes knew that sheep wander. They did just that! All over the church!

The real climax of imprecision came when Mary and Joseph entered. Mary was clutching a doll wrapped in a blue blanket. Joseph walked solemnly beside her. The narrator was supposed to read the biblical story about Joseph going to Bethlehem ". . . to be taxed with Mary



his espoused wife, being great with child." One of the young mothers recognized that the children could not really understand the English of the King James Version about Mary being great with child, so she

switched to the Good News translation. So, as Mary and Joseph entered, the narrator read, "Joseph went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant." As the last word echoed through the public address system, little Joseph froze in his tracks. He gave Mary an incredulous look, then looked out at the congregation. "Pregnant? What do you mean, pregnant?" he asked.

Needless to say, this brought the house down. The pastor's wife, wiping tears from her eyes, said, "You know, that

From the Pastor's Desk Cont.ed

may well be what Joseph actually said." The former director had a look which said "I-told-you-so." When SILENT NIGHT was sung, a couple of magical things happened. First, the sheep bleated their way down a side aisle and sat in the pews to watch the conclusion of the pageant and the former director was surrounded by the children she before had excluded! Second, snow began to fall, and the entire church became very quiet. It wasn't planned but no one stirred for some time, including the sheep. Then, Minnie McDonnell, hard of hearing and always speaking too loudly, broke the sell when she "whispered" to her husband in a voice all could hear, "Perfect! Just perfect!"

And it was. It wasn't perfect in the way previous pageants were perfect. It was perfect in the way God makes things perfect, the way God accepts our fumbling attempts at love and fairness and covers them with grace.

What a beautiful Christmas story. And what a beautiful thought. May this Christmas be better than perfect. Advent blessings and Christmas Joy!!



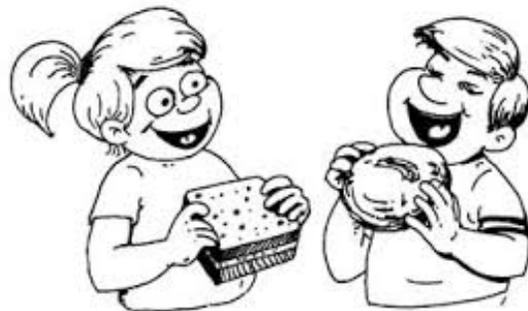
SALT Recovery

Thank you for all who donated can openers to SALT's Hope for the Homebound program. This was a great opportunity for Zion members to support SALT. SALT continues to assist families and businesses that were affected from the flooding. There are many people purchasing homes



to renovate, but as you drive down Bridge Street in Schoharie you can see there is still much more to do. There is one particular family SALT is helping that purchased the home a year ago, much more work needs to be done, they love living in the Village of Schoharie and plan to make this their home. They have four children attending Schoharie Central. I am a SALT Board member and I'm very impressed with their commitment to the Schoharie County for preparedness and recovery. Sarah Goodrich does a tremendous job as executive director. Please check out their new website and logo. www.saltrecovery.org

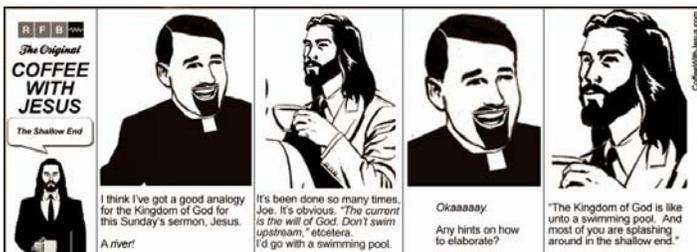
Judith L. Warner



Vacation Lunch Program Returns

We will be providing vacation lunch **December 29th, 30th, 31st and January 2nd**. Please contact me if you would like to provide items for lunch and/or help us serve. I will provide a menu as it get closer. Of course, we can always accept financial support. Thank you so much for all your support in the past and I look forward for your support for this Christmas season.

Judith L. Warner



Children's Journey

to

Christmas

Stories, Crafts, Songs, and more



Sunday, November 30

Sunday, December 7

Sunday, December 14

10:15 – 11:00 am



St. Matthew's Chapel, Leesville

Saturday, December 20

Family dinner and children's program

Dinner at 6:00 with program to follow.

Help your child understand the true meaning of Christmas.

Parents are invited to stay with the children or join the adult Bible study.

For more information, call Pastor Sara at the church office at

518-234-3381 or Pam at 518-234-2933.

Monthly Serving Schedule for December 2014

St. Matthew's Chapel

Date	12/07	12/14	12/21	12/24	12/28
Acolyte	Karl Graulich	Allen Graulich	Barb Cousineau	Karl Graulich	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis
Reader	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Janet Lynk	Jean Bakkom	Joan Jozifek	Tom Collins
Greeter	Barb Cousineau	Omer Cousineau	Janet Lynk	Jean Bakkom	Omer Cousineau
Ushers	Suzanne Graulich	John Jarvis	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Omer & Barb Cousineau	Omer Cousineau
Comm. Assistant	Allen Graulich	Lara Graulich	John Jarvis	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Barb Cousineau
Bell Ringer	Karl Graulich	Allen Graulich	Barb Cousineau	Karl Graulich	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis

Zion Lutheran Church

Acolyte	Isabella Philipp	Rich Churchill	Emma Litzner	Judith Warner	Rose Keller
Reader	Eilene Fisher	Sandy Deems	Rich Churchill	Carol McGuire	Vern Hall
Greeter	Leon Beaver	Brian Swanhall	Judith Warner	Rose Swanhall	Teddy Beaver
Usher	Judith Warner	Eilene Fisher	Rose Swanhall	Brian Swanhall	André Nadeau
Comm. Assistant	Henry Mau	Vern Hall	André Nadeau	Eilene Fisher	Judith Warner
Elevator	Eilene Fisher	Henry Mau	Eilene Fisher	Henry Mau	Eilene Fisher
Altar Guild	Sandy Deems & Eilene Fisher				

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

518-234-3381

www.zion-coby.org

December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Boy Scouts, 7:00 pm	2	3 Mid-Day Prayer 12:00	4 College Tai Chi, 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 am	5	6 Decorate the Tree 9:00 W.E.L.C.A. 10:30 am
7 WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9:00 a Zion Svc. 11:00 am Choir Practice 10:15 a	8 Finance/Endow. 6:30p Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	9 Worship/Music/Ed. 7:00 pm Events/Evang/Missi on 7:30 pm	10 Mid-Day Prayer 12:00	11 College Tai Chi, 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 am Photo Club 7:00 pm	12 Pastor's Sabbath Day	13 Girl Scouts 1:00 pm Isabella Philipp's Birth- day Party 1:30 p
14 WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9:00 a Zion Svc. 11:00 am	15 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	16	17 Mid-Day Prayer 12:00	18 College Tai Chi, 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 am	19 Pastor's Sabbath Day	20 Food Pantry & Par- son's Closet 9—12
Council Meeting 12:15	Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	23	24 Christmas Eve.	25 Christmas Office Closed	26 Office Closed Pastor's Sabbath Day	27
21 WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9:00 a Zion Svc. 11:00 am Choir Practice 10:15 a	22 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	23	24 Christmas Eve. St. Matt's Christmas Eve. Service 5:30 pm Zion Christmas Eve. Service 8:00 pm	25 Christmas Office Closed	26 Office Closed Pastor's Sabbath Day	27
28 WORSHIP St. Matt's Svc. 9:00 a Zion Svc. 11:00 am	29 Office Closed Vacation Lunch 11—1	30 Office Closed Vacation Lunch 11—1	31 New Year's Eve Office Closed Vacation Lunch 11—1	January 1, 2015 New Year's Day Office Closed	January 2, 2015 Office Closed Vacation Lunch 11—1	January 3, 2015 Girl Scouts 1:00 pm



On September 27, 2014, there were 58 households (154 individuals) who came to the Pantry for assistance. Seven households were there for the first time. Our shelves were bare by the end of the day.

We were short-handed for help—about half of our volunteers were unable to serve. We need more people or at least a system where you find a substitute if you cannot serve.

We have used up our grant money so now our orders will be from the Budget Line. The Pantry will be open Saturday, November 22 from 9—12. We will also pack Thanksgiving Baskets that day to be picked up by 10 am. Please keep the Pantry, its volunteers and clients in your prayers.

Sandy Deems,
Food Pantry Coordinator

W.E.L.C.A. Circle

On October 11, we put another quilt together for Lutheran World Relief.

The Fall Assembly for the Foothills Women of the ELCA will be November 8, 2014 at St. John's/St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Canajoharie (see related article).



Sandy Deems,
WELCA Leader



Love. Grow. Serve.



Council President Comments

Autumn is here, the trees have changed their colors and most of those beautiful leaves have fallen off. This is all part of God's wonderful plan. As our Church year comes to an end, we turn our thoughts to Thanksgiving, then Christmas. We have so many things to be thankful for this past year and with sadness, we remember those family and friends that have joined God in Heaven. I cannot ride the elevator at church without thinking of Edward Eldredge, he did so much for our church. It is a big void to fill. I do miss Margaret Angle too. We had so much fun together, playing cards, laughing, and talking about the all our wonderful memories of times past. I'm sure everyone has memories and sadness for those that have left us to join their loved ones in Heaven.

When you are sitting around the Thanksgiving table, give thanks to God for your family and friends and make sure you tell everyone know how much they mean to you.

May God Bless you and your family each and every day.

Judith L. Warner
Council President

Church Council Nominating Committee

I have served my two terms on Council, 6 years and per the Constitution, I cannot be on Council next year. Please consider accepting the nomination to be on Council. 8 people serve on Council and from mid-spring to mid-fall we meet on Thursday evening and the rest of the time we meet after church on the 2nd Sunday. It is a privilege to serve as a Council member. Please pray for guidance, asking God if he would like you to serve.

It has been a true privilege for me to serve on Council and as your Council President. Of course I will continue to serve in the many other ways I do at church. God is Great!

Judith L Warner,
Council President

St. Matthew's Ministry — Oct.



The St. Matthew's Chapel Ministry Board, hereafter referred to as the "MB", met on Tuesday, October 7. Three members were missing. The meeting began with a prayer from Pastor Sara.

Even though Pam Kostbar-Jarvis was absent, she sent in a list of topics for discussion: (1) financially helping students at Sharon Springs Central with additional supplies (2) gift certificates for Camille Grace and Mary-Jane Bianchine for providing music at our recent ice cream social (3) identifying an auctioneer for the October 25 pumpkin auction (4) Bennett's baptism on November 2 (5) a covered-dish supper before the October 25 pumpkin auction (6) how at least four decorated pumpkins will be available for the auction (7) the contract to paint the Chapel next spring.

Barb Cousineau began a discussion of the contract to paint the church. After a short discussion, Pastor Sara agreed to take the selected bid to the Council for its approval.

John Jarvis said that Confirmation class with Karl Graulich is going well.

Jean Bakkom raised a question about why the blue box is in the church parking lot. MB members explained that Zion with St. Matt's makes some money from the items deposited there.

Pastor Sara reminded us to wear red on Reformation Sunday. She also gave updates on two ill congregation members.

MB members decided to work on details for the November 22 giving thanks service, in which there is participation from members of other local churches, at the November MB meeting.

At St. Matthew's Chapel there is much to be thankful for besides music at ice cream socials, pumpkin auctions, our confirmand, and Reformation Sunday.

In service to Christ and His Church,

John Jarvis,
MB secretary

St. Matthew's Ministry — Nov.

The Ministry Board at St. Matthew's Chapel, hereafter referred to as "the MB," held its monthly meeting from on Tuesday, November 4. Seven people attended. The meeting began with a short prayer service.

The first report came from Tom Collins, who discussed many topics: possible future exercise classes at the Chapel; Finance Committee matters involving the 2015 budget, including pledges, the phone at the Chapel; and new thermostats.

Pam Kostbar-Jarvis began discussions of the Nov. 22 giving thanks service and "A Children's Journey to Christmas," which would lead to a children's Christmas program on the Saturday before December 25. Barb Cousineau asked about where profits from the October Pumpkin Auction will go. The group decided to help a local family with Christmas expenses. Pastor Sara talked about *When God Left the Building*, a film to be shown at Zion at 3:00 pm on Sunday, November 9. The meeting ended with prayer at 8:07.

At St. Matthew's Chapel there is so much to be thankful for besides Christmas programs and Sunday afternoon movies.

In service to Christ,

John Jarvis,
MB secretary



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

*Join us on Wednesday, December 24th
for our Christmas Eve. Services:*

St. Matthew's @ 5:30 pm

Zion @ 8:00 pm