

ZION LIFE NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 2

February 2013

Special Points of

Interest:

- **Manna and Mercy,**
Every Wednesday,
Dinner at 6:30,
Study at 7 pm
- **Bible Study &
Velvet Elvis
Discussion,**
Every Thursday,
10:30 am
- **Recorder Choir,**
Every Thursday, 7 pm
- **Bold Café,**
February 9, 9 am
- **W.E.L.C.A.,**
February 9, 10:30 am
- **Ash Wednesday
Services,** February 13,
St. Matt's, 6 pm,
Zion, 8 pm
- **Council Retreat at
Vanderkamp,**
February 22 & 23
- **Food Pantry &
Parson's Closet,**
February 23, 9—12
- **Cabin Fever Days,**
February 23, 6 pm

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From the Pastor's Desk

I want to say a special word of thanks to the congregation. I am overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity. The gift presented to me on December 23rd was truly awesome. And those that especially remembered our children at Christmas, thank you. My family and I know that these are hard times for some and we do not take anything for granted, so thank you.

Some of you know, over the last month, my family has struggled with illness. My son Gabriel was in the hospital for several days because of a severe asthma attack. We have also been plagued, for several weeks now, with a cold and stomach bug that seems to just keep passing from one person to the next. I want to say thank you to those that have prayed for us and helped, especially when Gabriel was in

the hospital. It was an extremely stress-filled time and I appreciate those that stepped up to help with the girls.

As we start off with our new council members and the council retreat in February, I am excited about the new year of opportunities to serve God as a congregation. On February 22nd-23rd, the council members, along with other leaders of the congregation, will be going on retreat at Camp Vanderkamp. Our model for this is found in the Gospels when Jesus went on retreat with his disciples to the mountain. The goal is to help bring focus as we move into a new year. They will be focusing on a book by William T McConnell called, Renew Your Congregation: Healing the Sick, Raising the Dead, which is available through Ama-

zon. One of the struggles we have as a congregation our size is that leadership often burns out, quickly, especially as we move into a ministry that actually demands more of us. It is easy to be distracted by business and we lose sight of the large picture, the mission of Jesus Christ. So this is a good opportunity to retreat, refresh, and refocus.

Please hold the church council members in your prayers as they prepare for the important role of leading our congregation in its ministry. I do believe that this is one of the most vital things the members of a congregation can do for its leadership, pray for them.

I leave you with this experience. While serving in my first parish, I was also asked to assist in another congregation near by, that did not have any pastoral

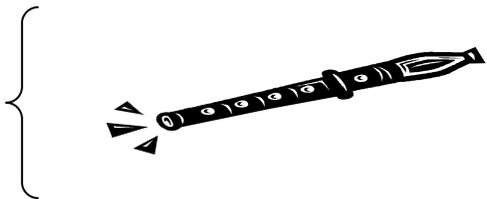
From the Pastor's Desk continued

leadership. Their service started as the service of my own parish ended, so I had to leave worship early so I could hurry to the other congregation. As I rushed into the church to begin worship, haggard and hoping I had not forgotten anything, I could see everyone was waiting to start. As I approached the Assistant to go ahead and light the candles she turned to me and said, "Pastor I am going to pray for you." Not knowing she meant right then,

she set her hand on my shoulder and started to pray. As she prayed, others waiting, came and laid hands on us and joined in the prayer. It was an amazing experience to have. Even though I did not feel overly Spirit filled when I walked into the doors, our worship was so incredibly Spirit filled because the people of that congregation had taken time to ask and allow the Spirit to be a part of our worship. They had a ministry of prayer

and to this day their prayer ministry changes lives.

So pray with me now, Heavenly Father, author and inspirer of all things holy, hear our prayers for our Church. Send Your Spirit to and fill our lives so that we may humbly be guided by your Divine Will. Touch our hearts with true generosity to raise up a house of God for the inspiration and renewal of all your faithful. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.



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

St. Matthew's Matters

The Ministry Board at St. Matthew's Chapel, hereafter referred to as the "MB", held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 8.

The usual round-table format, MB members presented the following topics for discussion:

- A blue box for our parking lot
- The Synod paper on criminal and social justice
- Our mission statement and guiding principles
- The missing period in St. Matthew's Chapel on the Sunday bulletin cover
- Address labels for copies of Zion Life to be mailed to those potential readers who do not attend worship regularly
- When during the service to light candles in the Advent wreath
- The need for more help after funeral receptions, especially with moving chairs and tables
- The cabin fever party on February 23
- A proposal to ban the use of those small glass Communion cups
- The identity of the person with Offering Envelope # 77
- Rex Smith will be taking over Claude Ray's chicken barbeque business this spring
- The date of the BBQ on April 27, the weekend before the next CROP Walk
- The need for ways to do with the really serious financial problems that Tom Collins presented at the December meeting
- How to engage people at the BBQ about coming events, not just hand them the fliers
- Trying to get St. Matt's into the Sharon Springs Memorial Day parade
- The fate of One Wonderful Wednesday
- Additional Sharon Springs community-wide activities that we can become part of in the future

At St. Matthew's Chapel, we have more to be thankful for than barbeque's, blue boxes, and Cabin Fever parties. Thanks be to God! At St. Matthew's Chapel, the glass is always half-full, never half-empty.

In service to Christ,

John Jarvis, Ministry Board Secretary

Christianity 101

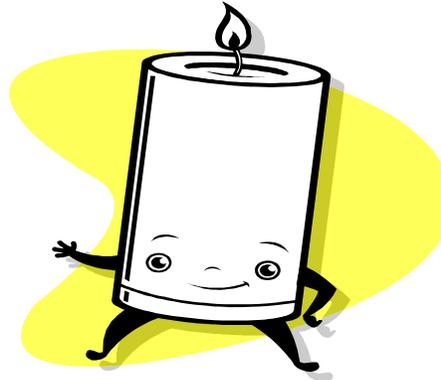
Transformation starts with ourselves at our baptism. The baptismal liturgy in both the Lutheran Book of Worship and in Evangelical Lutheran Worship has a phrase toward the end that the Council President usually says. "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." It is taken from Matthew 5:16. Then the light from the Easter Vigil candle is given to the newly baptized. This is the beginning of their transformative journey.

The light from the Easter Vigil candle was also given to you at your Baptism as a sign of your call to be a light in the world. The giving of a lighted candle to the newly baptized is accompanied with the words quoted above from the Gospel.

Again, and again, you are invited to take out your candle—if you do not have yours, use another candle—and to consider your world. Consider your family, your work, your community and the environment. It is to this world

that Christ sends you to bear the light.

The text suggests that it will be through your works in your world that God will be glorified. You carry the light of Christ in you and it shows through in what you do. Perhaps what you "say" may be important, but here the empha-



sis is on the verb. What you "do" will give glory to God.

Spend time considering what you will do in each of these places in the next 24 hours. Think of the people you will meet, the strangers you will greet, and the work that you will do. Imagine that as you contact these people this will give glory to God. This is

the first step in re-imagining God into our community.

You will not be able to imagine everything. You will have your schedule interrupted each day by unknown events and people. Ask God to help you meet such unexpected things. Ask God to help the light of Christ which is in you show forth during this day. Remember that in Christ the distinction between sacred and secular has broken down. All is holy, for all is under the saving plan of God. Everything you do is sacred.

Now do not get uptight and start thinking that everything has to be done in a perfect way. God gives you freedom to respond in ways that are unique to you. Set aside these 24 hours as belonging to God. At the end of this period, recall what has happened and then spend time giving thanks to God for the grace that you experienced during that time frame.

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



Serving Schedule for February and March

Date	02/03	02/10	02/17	02/24	03/03	03/10	03/17	03/24	03/31
St. Matthew's Chapel									
Acolyte	Karl Graulich	Matthew Jozifek	Seth Keller	Allen Graulich	Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich	Allen Graulich	Mathew Jozifek	Seth Keller
Reader	Jean Bakkom	Janet Lynk	Tom Collins	John Jarvis	Suzanne Graulich	Tom Collins	Joan Jozifek	Omer Cousineau	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis
Greeter	Barb Cousineau	Jean Bakkom	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Dawn Thompson	Dawn Thompson	Janet Lynk	Jean Bakkom	Barb Cousineau	Jean Bakkom
Ushers	Omer & Barb Cousineau	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis & John Jarvis	Tom & Suzanne Collins	Jean Bakkom & Janet Lynk	Courtney & Robert Keller	Omer & Barb Cousineau	Tom & Suzanne Collins	Dawn Thompson & Janet Lynk	Suzanne & Allen Graulich
Communion Assistant	Lara Graulich	Barb Cousineau	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	John Jarvis	Barb Cousineau	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	John Jarvis	Jackie Costello	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis
Bell Ringer	Karl Graulich	Matthew Jozifek	Seth Keller	Allen Graulich	Allen Graulich	Karl Graulich	Allen Graulich	Mathew Jozifek	Seth Keller
Zion Lutheran Church									
Acolyte	Adrienne Madison	Judith Warner	Lisa Borggreen	Richard Churchill	Eilene Fisher	Christina Keller	Adrienne Madison	Judith Warner	Lisa Borggreen
Reader	Janice Ashford	Eilene Fisher	Camille Grace	Robert Holt	Adrienne Madison	Carol McGuire	Karen Scott	Rose Swanhall	Frieda Thorington
Greeter	Judith Warner	Eilene Fisher	Adrienne Madison	Janice Ashford	Helen Mackey	Brian Swanhall	Judith Warner	Eilene Fisher	
Usher	Deb Nadeau	Lisa Borggreen	Judith Warner	Eilene Fisher	Henry Mau	Deb Nadeau	Adrienne Madison	André Nadeau	
Communion Assistant	Robert Holt	Lisa Borggreen	Eilene Fisher	Janice Ashford	Lisa Borggreen	Eilene Fisher	Robert Holt	Adrienne Madison	Henry Mau
Elevator	Everett Merrill	Ed Eldredge	Henry Mau	Ed Eldredge	Everett Merrill	Ed Eldredge	Eilene Fisher	Everett Merrill	

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 St. Matt's Service 9:00 am Zion Service 11:00 am	4 Boy Scouts 7-- 8:30 pm	5 Ministry Board 7:00	6 	7 Head Start 8—2 Bible Study 10:30 am Worship Cmte. 7:00	8 Head Start 8—2	9 Bold Café, 9:00 am @ Coby's W.E.L.C.A. 10:30 am
10 St. Matt's Service 9:00 am Zion Service 11:00 am	11 Boy Scouts 7-- 8:30 pm	12 Parson's Closet 10--1	13 Ash Wednesday Ash Wed. Service @ St. Matt's 6pm Ash Wed. Service @ Zion 8pm	14 Bible Study 10:30 am Council Meeting 6:30 Photo Club 7:00 pm	15	16
17 St. Matt's Service 9:00 am Zion Service 11:00 am	18	19	20 Bible Study 6:30 pm Historical Soc. 7:00 pm	21 Bible Study 10:30 am	22 Council Retreat @ Vanderkamp	23 Council Retreat @ Vanderkamp Food Pantry & Parson's Closet 9—12 Cabin Fever Days 6:00
24 St. Matt's Service 9:00 am Zion Service 11:00 am	25 Boy Scouts 7-- 8:30 pm	26 Parson's Closet 10--1	27 Bible Study 6:30 pm	28 Bible Study 10:30 am Photo Club 7:00 pm	March 1 Head Start 8—2	March 2

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



Join us for Ash Wednesday Services on February 13, 2013

St. Matthew's Chapel Service—6:00 pm

Zion Lutheran Service — 8:00 pm