

ZION LIFE NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2013

Special Points of

Interest:

- **Manna and Mercy,**
Wednesday Evenings
- **Bible Study &
Velvet Elvis
Discussion,**
Thursday Mornings
- **Ministry Board,**
January 7, 7 pm
- **Council Meeting,**
January 10, 7 pm
- **Christmas
Decoration Pack-
Up,** January 12, 9 am
- **W.E.L.C.A.,**
January 12, 10:30 am
- **Food Pantry &
Parson's Closet,**
January 26, 9—12
- **Cabin Fever Days,**
January 26, 10—12

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From the Pastor's Desk

I have a friend named Peter. As a child, he had an eye pressure disease called glaucoma. For years, he suffered from substantial pain in his eye, so much so that he had just grown accustomed to the pain. So when he had surgery on his eye, and woke up—Peter knew something had gone very, very wrong. He knew something had gone wrong because it didn't hurt anymore.

A couple of weeks ago, my husband Jonathan and I spent the day sledding, with our children at Golding Middle School. All of a sudden—in the middle of our adventure—we were overwhelmed. There was something very, very wrong. Then it hit us...we were having fun. It had been decades since we had that feeling.

It is amazing how we grow so accustomed to the environment around us, so that it becomes our norm.

We can grow comfortable with how things are, even when it is very painful and unhealthy, so much so, that to do something that would heal the pain and the discomfort feels more wrong than just living with it. This has certainly been true for us as a church. I hear it in the phrases people use ("no one will do it"—even though no one has been asked) and the general attitude (there are not many people in church, I wish it was like it used to be).

When Jesus entered the world of Luke, he became a threat because he did something about the pain and discomfort. He exposed it and therefore disrupted the norm, and made the leaders of the day (who benefitted from the discomfort) very angry. Jesus brought grace and forgiveness and that

meant that those without power or controlled were empowered to make the word different. They no longer had to wait for the powers-that-be for permission. They already had God's permission. They could stop waiting for someone to do it for them.

Jesus brought to the people of the New Testament world a hope in new beginnings. As we enter into this new year, we too, carry with us the same hope of new beginnings and empowerment from Jesus Christ. What will the new year bring for the church, I can't say, that is up to the Holy Spirit. I invite you to enter into continual prayer to ask the Spirit to be present amongst us, and lead us into the joy that only new beginnings can bring.

St. Matthew's Matters

The Ministry Board at St. Matthew's Chapel, hereafter referred to as the "MB," met on December 4 for its monthly meeting. The MB discussed many topics that evening:

1. approval to put a green clothing collection box on the grass near the Chapel's parking lot as a fundraiser
2. Pam planning to end her three-year term on the Congregation Council followed by the MB voting for her to start a second three-year term
3. letters to be written to participants in the recent community-wide Giving Thanks service about the offering going to the SSUMC food pantry
4. Thursday evening Lenten services at the Chapel when the season comes
5. return to Setting 4 after Advent

6. Lessons and Carols on the Sunday after Christmas with all readings available the following Sunday
7. annual Cabin Fever Party on February 23
8. the December 15 annual Sunday school Christmas program preceded by a covered-dish supper
9. Sharon Springs Central Baccalaureate 2013 at St. Matt's on a date to be determined later
10. poinsettias from SUNY Cobleskill, for a mere five dollars each, to be picked up on Dec. 14
11. problems with the thermostat and temperatures in the sanctuary
12. church mice
13. bad news from Tom Collins of the Finance Commit-

tee: way too much money has been taken from the endowment funds, perhaps improperly, over the past few years

14. tough financial times and hard decisions lying ahead for both churches

At St. Matthew's Chapel there are so many things to be thankful for besides rental money from a clothing box, annual Sunday school Christmas programs, Cabin Fever Parties, mousetraps and low-priced poinsettias from SUNY Cobleskill.

In service to Christ and His Church,

John Jarvis,
Ministry Board secretary

I THINK THIS WHOLE
"BODY PARTS" IDEA
IS COOL.



WWW.AGNUSDAI.ORG

YEAH - EVERYONE
PLAYS A PART
& EVERY PART
IS NECESSARY.



EXCEPT FOR THE
APPENDIX.
I WONDER WHO'S
THE APPENDIX?



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Events Committee

February – Wine tasting
Judy Warner is checking
into this. Stay tuned.

Next Meeting: Thursday,
January 31st – 7:00 pm

Attention Council Members

There will be a Council Retreat at Vanderkamp at Oscar Lodge in Cleveland, NY on February 22 & 23. This will be a time of prayer and reflection on the ministry of our church. All Council members are expected to and should plan on attending.



Recorder Choir will begin practicing on Thursday, January 17 at 7:00. No musical experience is necessary, just bring a recorder.

Christianity 101

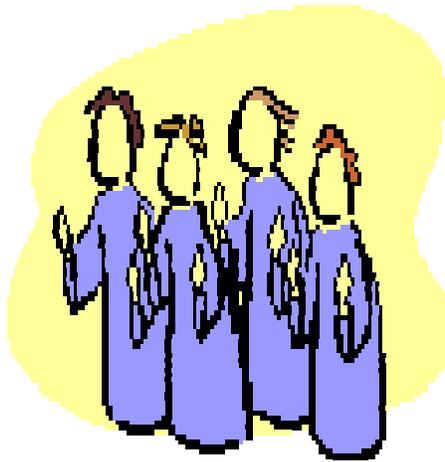
After baptism, our baptismal liturgy say, Clothed with Christ in baptism, the newly baptized may receive a baptismal garment. The Ministers' Desk edition of the LBW says, "Put on this robe, for in Baptism you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ, who calls you to the great feast."

You are clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Luther said that we stand before the cross as beggars with the torn and tattered clothes of our lives; Christ comes and puts this new robe of righteousness on us which will last us throughout our days. God says you are a new creature called to the feast of the reign of God.

These are also the robes of justice which are the signs of the reign of Christ. These two pictures flow into one. The first is the symbol of the righteousness of Christ which covers us. The second is the hope of God for a world of justice.

Much earlier in the history of the church, the newly baptized person was to wear these white robes throughout the season of Easter. We have discarded this practice; you might look a little silly with a

white robe at work. Ministers in the church, both lay and clergy, wear them each Sunday. They are worn to remind you of the robes of Baptism which cover you. Think about the rule of Christ and what that might mean. What would the world be like if all was surrounded by the rule of Christ? You are al-



so asked to consider what you do now to point to that rule of Christ. This kingdom work of the present.

In Baptism, you are given the robes of righteousness and made ready for the great banquet when Christ will draw all things to God. These robes are also a call to live in the justice and peace of God. They are not to be stored for some future feast, but worn knowing the feast has already begun. You are a sign to others of this reign

of God. Paul writes in Colossians 3:12-14:

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

This is the garment we are called to wear. As you spend time in prayer this week, pray that God will enlighten you to see glimpses of the rule of Christ in your life today. Pray for our parish, the synod, and the church in our nation, that our actions would point to this gentle rule of the Lamb of God. Consider the feast already present in your family, work, community, and environment. Where do you feel called by God as one who wears the righteousness of God?

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

Serving Schedule for January and February

Date	01/13	01/20	01/27	02/03	02/10	02/17	02/24
St. Matthew's Chapel							
Acolyte	Allen Graulich	Lara Graulich	Seth Keller	Karl Graulich	Mathew Jozifek	Allen Graulich	Seth Keller
Reader	Barb Cousineau	Joan Jozifek	Omer Cousineau	Jean Bakkom	Janet Lynk	Tom Collins	John Jarvis
Greeter	Dawn Thompson	Barb Cousineau	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Barb Cousineau	Jean Bakkom	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Dawn Thompson
Ushers	Janet Lynk & Jean Bakkom	Suzanne & Allen Graulich	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis & John Jarvis	Omer & Barb Cousineau	Courtney & Robert Keller	Tom & Suzanne Collins	Jean Bakkom & Janet Lynk
Communion Assistant	John Jarvis	Matthew Jozifek	Ethan Keller	Lara Graulich	Barb Cousineau	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	John Jarvis
Bell Ringer	Allen Graulich	Lara Graulich	Seth Keller	Karl Graulich	Mathew Jozifek	Allen Graulich	Seth Keller
Zion Lutheran Church							
Acolyte	Richard Churchill	Eilene Fisher	Christina Keller	Adrienne Madison	Judith Warner	Lisa Borggreen	Richard Churchill
Reader	Janice Ashford	Richard Churchill	Sandy Deems	Gordon Emerson	Eilene Fisher	Camille Grace	Robert Holt
Greeter	Janice Ashford	Helen Mackey	Brian Swanhall	Judith Warner	Eilene Fisher	Adrienne Madison	Janice Ashford
Usher	Adrienne Madison	André Nadeau	Rose Swanhall	Deb Nadeau	Lisa Borggreen	Judith Warner	Eilene Fisher
Communion Assistant	André Nadeau	Henry Mau	Adrienne Madison	Robert Holt	Lisa Borggreen	Eilene Fisher	Janice Ashford
Elevator	Ed Eldredge	Henry Mau	Henry Mau	Everett Merrill	Ed Eldredge	Henry Mau	Ed Eldredge

January 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		 January 1, 2013				
6 St. Matt's 9:00 am Zion 11:00 am	7 Ministry Board 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7—8:30	8	9 Bible Study, 6:30 pm	10 Bible Study 10:30 am Council Meeting 6:30 pm Schoharie Photo Club 7:00 pm	11	12 Christmas Decora- tion Pack Up @ Zion, 9:00 am W.E.L.C.A. 10:30 am
13 St. Matt's 9:00 am Zion 11:00 am	14 Boy Scouts 7—8:30	15	16 Bible Study, 6:30 pm Historical Soc. 7:00 pm	17 Bible Study 10:30 am Recorder Choir, 7pm	18	19 Bold Café, 9:00 @ Coby's
20 St. Matt's 9:00 am Zion 11:00 am	21	22	23 Bible Study, 6:30 pm	24 Bible Study 10:30 am Schoharie Photo Club 7:00 pm	25	26 Food Pantry & Parson's Closet 9—12:00 pm Cabin Fever Days 10—2 pm
27 St. Matt's 9:00 am Zion 11:00 am	28 Boy Scouts 7—8:30	29	30 Bible Study, 6:30 pm	31 Bible Study 10:30 am	February 1	February 2

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

Zion's Food Pantry

As of November 15, our shelves were well-stocked thanks to donations from the Boy Scouts' Food Drive. Our Pantry was open on November 17 from 9–12 pm.

Thanksgiving Baskets for 10 families were also packed on Saturday, November 17. Thanks to all who have donated time and items for these baskets, they mean a lot to those who receive them. Baskets for Christmas were packed on December 22.

Thanks be to God for all who help make these important ministries possible. Please continue to keep our Pantry, its' clients, and volunteers in your prayers.

Sandy Deems
Food Pantry Coordinator



Bold Café will meet on Saturday, January 19th at Coby's. *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. Come join us!

