

ZION LIFE NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 8
October 2014

Special Points of Interest:

- **Bible Study,**
Thursdays, 10:30 am
- **Parson's Closet**
Tuesday, October 14 & 28, 10—1
- **W.E.L.C.A.**
Saturday, October 11, 10:30 am
- **Bold Café @ McDonalds,** Saturday, October 18, 10:00 am
- **Community Movie Night,** Friday, Oct. 24, 6:30 — 8:30 pm
- **Food Pantry & Parson's Closet**
Saturday, October 25, 9—12
- **St. Matt's Pumpkin Auction,** Saturday, October 25, 6:00 pm
- **Reformation Sunday Service & DiversiFest,** Sunday, October 26, Service at 4:00 pm, DiversiFest at 5:00 pm
- **Halloween Party,** Friday, October 31, 4—7 pm

Inside this issue:

Blessing/Animals	1
St. Matthew's Matters	2
Food Pantry	2
W.E.L.C.A.	2
Count Our Blessings	3
Serving Schedule	4
Calendar	5
DiversiFest	6

WHY BLESS ANIMALS?

Autumn is upon us. This is the time of year that processions of animals – from dogs and cats to hamsters and even horses and snakes – are being led to churches for a special ceremony called the Blessing of Animals. This custom is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. Francis, whose feast day is October 4th, loved the larks flying about his hilltop town. He and his early monk brothers, staying in a small hovel, allowed themselves to be displaced by a donkey. Francis wrote an ode to God's living things. "All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures." And there was testimony in the cause for St. Clare of Assisi's canonization that referred to her cat!

The bond between person and pet is like no other relationship, because the communication between fellow creatures is at its most basic. Eye to eye are two creatures of love. No wonder people enjoy taking their animal companions to church for a blessing. Church is the place where the bond of creation is celebrated.

At Franciscan churches, a friar with brown robe and white cord often welcomes each animal with a special prayer. As the prayer is offered, the pet is gently sprinkled with holy water. Believe it or not, most pets receive this sacramental spritz with dignity, though I must admit I have seen some cats flatten their ears a bit.

Usually the Blessing of Pets is held outdoors. But I remember it rained one year, and all were invited inside Christ Our Savior. It was quite a sight to see pairs of creatures—one human, one animal—sitting in the pews. Noah's Ark was never like this! Some people criticize the amount and cost of care given to pets. And certainly our needy fellow humans should not be neglected. Frankly, though, I believe every creature is important and the love of a pet can remind us, "It ain't all about me." The love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet, can draw us more deeply into the larger circle of life, into the wonder of our common relationship to our Creator.

Blessing of the Animals



What is most important, though, about St. Francis of Assisi is his commitment to the way of Jesus. He sold everything he had and gave it to the poor and spent his life caring for those

who society would choose to forget. Instead of turning his head the other way, St. Francis went to those who were hungry, sick, naked, abandoned, and outcast and he brought the love that God had so graciously shown him in Jesus Christ. So why a Blessing of the Animals? Simply, to remember who we are as the people of Jesus Christ and how to make our way by walking.

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;"
– Matthew 25:35

St. Matthew's Ministry



The Ministry Board at St. Matthew's Chapel, hereafter referred to as "the MB," held its monthly meeting at the Chapel on Tuesday, September 2. Seven of eight members attended the meeting, which began at 7:04 with a prayer led by Pastor Sara.

Using our usual round-table format to present topics, Tom Collins started us off by reminding us MB members that we need a third bid for painting the Chapel next year. John Jarvis agreed to call Don Briggs of "Don's Painting". Tom also shared information about how Da-Lai-Wu wants to use the Chapel for exercise classes. Tom pointed out that snow on our parking lot in the winter may cause cancellation of some classes.

Lindsay Monser, the sexton at both churches, had many topics to share. Among them were storing our new gas grill, the cover to our septic tank, snow plowing in the winter, salt in our water softener, bees in our shed, the need for new mower blades, and her need to know



On August 23, 2014 our Food Pantry served 55 households (155 individuals). There were 6 households coming for the first time. We were blessed with volunteers, thanks be to God. Even though the shelves were pretty bare at the end, there was enough to go around.

The Pantry will be open September 22, 2014 with pick-up from the Regional Food Bank on Wednesday, September 24.

Thanks to all who donated food items in August as we studies the book of Ruth. We have \$415.60 left in our HPNAP Food Grant which will go toward the order for September. Volunteers are always welcome to shop, shelve, and serve on Pantry Day.

Sandy Deems,
Food Pantry Coordinator

about special events like baby showers and funeral receptions at the Chapel. Jean Bakkom agreed to notify Lindsay about any special events at St. Matt's.

John Jarvis had many questions about the BBQ at the combined service. He then agreed to shop for burger patties, hot dogs and assorted buns for the event. Pastor Sara agreed to bring some Boca Burgers for people preferring a vegetarian menu for the picnic. Pam Kostbar-Jarvis agreed to bring her pasta salad with no mayo.

John Jarvis also had questions or comments about three future events: Rally Day 2014's traditional ice cream social, the Spring 2015 chicken BBQ and the 2015 annual free community-wide ice cream social. MB members agreed that we would like to have the Sharon Springs FD prepare the chicken halves in May and that our ice cream social will be from 6:00 pm till 8:00 but earlier than Labor Day Weekend.

Barb Cousineau explained that Stewart's Shops headquarters in Saratoga Springs would like photos of our August 30 event. John Jarvis agreed to write a letter of thanks to Maxwell Spritzer of Stewart's Public Relations for the ten free half-gallon cartons of ice cream. The meeting ended just before 8:00 PM with our pastor leading us in the Lord's Prayer.

John Jarvis,
MB secretary

Help End Hunger in our Community

Paint a bowl and donate it for \$8

Empty Bowls Luncheon

on

Sunday November 16 2014

SUNY Cobleskill's Bouck Ballroom

11 am —3 pm

For more information, call (518) 296-8122

W.E.L.C.A. Circle

On September 13 we coordinated two tops and two backs and laid out blocks for a third top for a quilt. Next month we will layer and tie off these quilts. More hands are needed to accomplish this.

Sandy Deems,
WELCA Leader

Count Our Blessings

We here at Zion are blessed, and I'm thankful that we have been able to share those blessings with our community again this year. We are a church that God is calling together into the world, and you can see and feel the joy we are bringing forth as we connect our faith with Christ's call for mission.

I hope you've been part of that excitement this past year in some way. Whether giving of yourself as a volunteer or through your gifts of support, or hopefully both, you are making a difference in your faith life and in the lives of those we are called to serve.

Soon you will be receiving your annual pledge packet. And, while our focus is on serving Christ and continuing

the wonderful ministries that we have in place, it does require that we ask for your generosity as well as your sacrifice and commitment. God has gifted us with much and we are called to answer that with gratitude and generosity.

Please prayerfully reflect on what God is doing in your life and what he is calling you to do as a faithful steward. We are a wonderful faith community, and the evidence can be seen in the outstanding work accomplished by our various ministries that helping people right here in Cobleskill and across the world.

Help us continue to not only count our blessings, but to share them with all we come in contact with.



Donations Needed for Clinton Homes

Christmas is a very special time of the year and the Christmas spirit abounds at LutheranCare (Clinton Homes)...with your help. As we have in the past, we are respectfully requesting the donation of unwrapped items that would surely brighten the season and bring the Christmas spirit to life for those we care for and care deeply about. This "wish list" includes:

- * Personal care items such as unopened boxes of tissues, lotions, shower gel, body spray, and hairbrushes
 - * Jewelry
 - * Books both large print and audio
 - * Afghans, throws, and comforters
- * Crossword and Wordfind puzzles, preferably large print
 - * Slippers, slipper socks, socks, and lap robes
 - * Artwork and tote bags for walkers
 - * Calendars, room decorations, and wall hangings
- * Button-down or zipper-front cardigans both male & female

Be assured that these simple gifts will be long-remembered and treasured by all whom they touch. We deeply appreciate your kindness toward our residents and because they are not able to do so personally, allow me to thank you on their behalf...**THANK YOU!!**

Karen Ann Ostinett
Director of Funds and Volunteer Development

***NOTE: We will be collecting items for Clinton Homes until Sunday, November 20th so they can be sent with Pastor Stef Zehrhuhs during the week of Thanksgiving.**

Monthly Serving Schedule for October 2014

Date	10/05	10/12	10/19	10/26
St. Matthew's Chapel				
Acolyte	John Jarvis	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	John Jarvis	Karl Graulich
Reader	Helen Roberts	Jean Bakkom	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	Janet Lynk
Greeter	Janet Lynk	Omer Cousineau	Jean Bakkom	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis
Usher	Barb Cousineau	Tom Collins	Dave Hayner	Suzanne Graulich
Communion Assistant	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	John Jarvis	Barb Cousineau	Allen Graulich
Bell Ringer	John Jarvis	Pam Kostbar-Jarvis	John Jarvis	Karl Graulich
Zion Lutheran Church				
Acolyte	Isabella Philipp	Rich Churchill	Emma Litzner	Rose Keller
Reader	Carol McGuire	Rose Swanhall	Sandy Deems	Eilene Fisher
Greeter	Judith Warner	Eilene Fisher	Rose Swanhall	Leon Beaver
Usher	Henry Mau	Judith Warner	Deb Nadeau	André Nadeau
Communion Assistant	André Nadeau	Eilene Fisher	Vern Hall	Henry Mau
Bell Ringer	Gabe Litzner	Ally Prezorski	Charlotte Litzner	Ava Philipp
Elevator	Eilene Fisher	Henry Mau	Eilene Fisher	Henry Mau
Altar Guild	Sandy Deems & Jo Ellington			

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

www.zion-coby.org

October 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 WORSHIP St. Mat's Svc. 9:00 a Zion Svc. 11:00 am Choir Practice 10:15 a Family Worship with Pot Luck & Blessing of the Animals 4:30 p	6 Finance 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	7 Ministry Board 7:00 p	8 Morning Prayer 8:30 Stephen Ministry 9:30	9 Bible Study 10:30 am Photo Club 7:00 pm	10 Pastor's Sabbath Day	11 W.E.L.C.A. 10:30 am
12 WORSHIP St. Mat's Svc. 9:00 a Zion Svc. 11:00 am Council Meeting 12:15 pm	13 Columbus Day Office Closed	14 Parson's Closet 10—1 Worship/Music/Ed. 7:00 pm Events/Evangelism/ Mission 7:30 pm	15 Morning Prayer 8:30 Stephen Ministry 9:30 Historical Society 7:00	16 Bible Study 10:30 am	17 Pastor's Sabbath Day	18 Bold Café @ McDonald's 10:00 am
19 WORSHIP St. Mat's Svc. 9:00 a Zion Svc. 11:00 am Choir Practice 10:15 a	20 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	21 Parson's Closet 10—1	22 Morning Prayer 8:30 Stephen Ministry 9:30 Historical Society 7:00	23 Bible Study 10:30 am	24 Pastor's Sabbath Day Movie Night 6:30 pm	25 Food Pantry & Parson's Closet 9—12 St. Mat's Pumpkin Auction 6:00 pm
26 Reform. Sunday WORSHIP St. Mat's Svc. 9:00 a Zion Svc. 11:00 am Reform. Svc. 4:00 pm DiversiFest 5:00 pm	27 Am. Legion Aux. 1—4 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	28 Parson's Closet 10—1	29 Morning Prayer 8:30 Stephen Ministry 9:30	30 Bible Study 10:30 am	31 Halloween  Halloween Party 4—7	November 1

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

Free Community Dinner



*Come join us on Sunday, October 26 for DiversiFest,
a free community dinner from 5—6:30 pm!*

Community Dinner
Sit down with a stranger and leave with a friend