

Zion Lutheran Church
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www.zionlc.com

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ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion's Good News

FEBRUARY
2008

The Theme for Lent this Year

Sundays: "Grow Deep in Prayer"

Wednesday: "Frogs Without Legs Can't Hear"

You are WELCOME to our Lenten Worship Series

Wednesdays in Lent at 5:30

Soup and Sandwich following at

6:30 p.m.

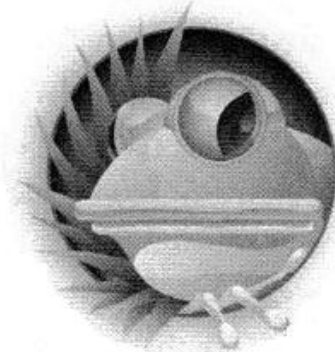
(Free Will Offering)

February 6—Ash Wednesday

Imposition of Ashes /

Holy Communion

(List of Themes for Lent on Page 3)



Baptismal Anniversary

Grandparent's Celebration

February 24

Celebrating last year's baptisms and

Celebrating Grandparents with a

program in the Family Center during

fellowship.

Everyone is welcome

for this celebration.



Frogs Without Legs Can't Hear

It takes a whole church to raise people of faith in a world that doesn't see or sense its need for God. This is not a new statement, but it is one to which the church is paying more attention. If we want our children to have faith, if we want them to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ, then we must become intentional about our sharing.

The "Great Commission" instructs us to pass on the faith. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." So the central question of the church is, "Are we forming faith?" In Gene Roehlkepartain's book, "Building Assets in Congregations," he states that only 20 percent of parents feel that congregations help families form faith.

Our Wednesday night Lenten services will be about equipping the congregation with five principles that are faith formative. David Anderson and Paul Hill together have written a book called "Frogs Without Legs Can't Hear." (You'll hear the story of the frog without legs during one of the sermons.) The subtitle of the book is "Nurturing Disciples in Home and Congregation." This book will share our worship on Wednesday evenings.

On Sunday mornings our emphasis will be prayer. This Lenten series will be based on Psalm texts and will be an opportunity for us to spend six weeks focused on prayer—the first "mark of discipleship". A schedule of services and themes is included for your information.

Lent is a time for all of us to step deeper into discipleship. It is our baptismal journey into the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection. As we worship together we learn together.

Pastor Sue



2008 Lenten Preaching and Teaching Series "Frogs Without Legs Can't Hear!"

Nurturing Disciples in Home and Congregation

- Feb 6th Ash Wednesday - "A Vision for renewing our congregation."
- Feb 10 "Prayer of Trust" - Psalm 31
- Feb 13 "Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships—often in our own homes."
- Feb 17 "Prayer of Thanksgiving" - Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
- Feb 20 "The church is a living partnership between the ministry of the home and the ministry of the congregation."
- Feb 24 "Prayer of Praise" - Psalm 22:22-30
- Feb 27 "The home is church, too, where Christ is present in faith."
- March 2 "Prayer of Promise" - Psalm 119
- March 5 "Faith is caught more than it is taught."
- March 9 "Praying the Scriptures" - Psalm 19
- March 12 "If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults."
- March 16 Palm Sunday
- March 23 Easter

Offering Designations

The offering for the Wednesday evening Lenten Worship will be designated for the following benevolences.

- Feb. 6 General (Ash Wednesday)
- Feb. 13 L.S.S.
- Feb. 20 Missionary
- Feb 27 Crossways
- March 5 World Hunger
- March 12 Mission Partners

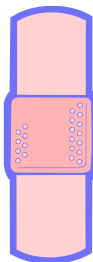
The Un-coin Folder

The Lenten un-coin folder in your February newsletter is for you to put coins in for each day of Lent, or you can put in a set amount of your choice. The money collected from the Lenten envelopes will be given to Lutheran Social Services (LSS). Please hand in your un-coin folder by March 16 (Palm Sunday).

Lutheran World Relief Lenten Project

As our Lutheran World Relief project for this Lenten season, we are collecting Health Kits. The health kits include:

- One hand towel, dark color recommended
- One washcloth, dark color recommended
- One bath size bar (4-5 oz) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- One comb, wide tooth preferred, remove packaging
- One metal nail file or nail clippers with file attached, remove packaging (do not substitute cardboard emery boards for the file)
- Six Band-Aids, preferably 1/2" to 3/4"



NO TOOTHPASTE PLEASE

All items should be new and in good condition.



Baptism

On Sunday, January 27th Jackson Edward Dahlke, son of Russell and Cheryl Dahlke received the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Jackson's baptismal sponsors are Kori & Robert Mateer and Jason Bohman. Jackson was born on December 12, 2007. May God bless him and his family.



Service of Thanksgiving

A service of Thanksgiving was held for Mary Thompson on Tuesday, January 15th at the Peterson/Kraemer funeral home in Edgar. Mary died on Sunday, January 13th at St. Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield. May God grant her eternal rest.

Statements

Your 2007 contribution statements are finished and available in the narthex. You may pick them up at your convenience. If you have any questions, you may call the church office.

Cancellations

Events at Zion will automatically be canceled when the School has been canceled.

Baptismal Anniversary Celebration—February 24th

Zion's baptismal anniversary celebration begins with a baptismal renewal litany and presentation of a remembrance gift during the 8:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, February 24th for all who were baptized in 2007. After worship, we will celebrate with grandparents and students in the Family Center. If you had a child baptized in 2007, watch your mail for additional information.



Grandparent's Celebration February 24th



Zion's definition of a grandparent is: any adult person (other than Mom and Dad) who helps nurture a child's faith. We will be celebrating

all of Zion's grandparents at 9:00 a.m. on February 24th. The celebration will be held in the Family Center. The Sunday school students will show grandparents how much they appreciate them in their own unique way.

Plan to attend these uplifting celebrations of family on Sunday, February 24th.

Souper Bowl Sunday

February 3, 2008

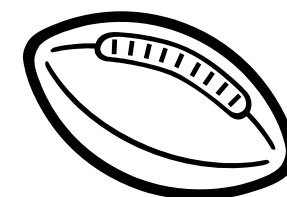
The Souper Bowl of Caring is transforming the nation's biggest week-end of football into its largest youth led week-end of giving.

Since 1990, the Souper Bowl of Caring has raised more than \$33 million for individual charities across the country.

Drop a dollar in the soup pot on February 3rd as you leave worship. Your donation will go directly to the Stratford Food Pantry.

With your help, more dollars will be raised, more lives will be changed, and more young people will experience the joy of serving Christ by serving others.

"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."



Snack List

The following families are responsible for snack during Sunday school (please have it there by 8:30 a.m.). Please be available to help distribute snacks for the helpers and pick up and clean kitchen after distribution. Each family is to bring enough for about 50 children.

- Feb. 3 Blaine Aschenbrenner Family
Kecia Krueger Family
- Feb 10 Terry Hoesly Family
Scott Pupp Family
- Feb 17 Shawn Carl Family
Brian Welch Family
- Feb 24 Grandparent's Day and
Baptismal Anniversary



Sunday School Calendar

- Feb. 3 Sunday School Teachers' Meeting
Grade 1 Baptismal Journey "Stewardship"
Grade 2 Baptismal Journey "Baptism"
- Feb. 10 4 Year Olds Baptismal Journey "This is My Church"
Grade 3 Baptismal Journey "Worship"
- Feb. 17 Kindergarten Baptismal Journey "Prayer Pillows"
- Feb. 24 Grandparent's Day Celebration and
Baptismal Anniversary
Sunday School sing: 8 a.m. 2nd—6th grade
10:15 a.m. 3 year—1st grade

The J Team

The J Team will meet on February 27 with games, devotion and activity. The Griesbach and Foley families are in charge of food and the Hughes family is in charge of beverages.

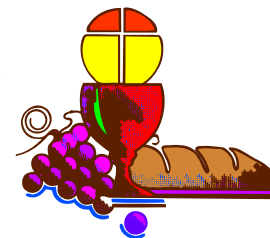
Baptismal Journey

The second grade Baptismal Journey on "Baptism" that was canceled due to the Epiphany celebration will be held on February 3rd.

The Baptismal Journey for the third graders will be held on Sunday, February 10th in the Sanctuary. Pastor again apologizes for missing this class.

First Communion Classes

First communion classes are offered for youth who have, together with their parents, made a decision to take communion. If you would like your child involved in First Communion classes please sign up in the narthex or call the church office by **February 24th**. Classes will be held on Saturday, March 1st and 8th from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. and Sunday, March 2nd at 9 a.m. First Communion will take place on Sunday, March 9th at 10:15 a.m.



Disciples for Christ

Disciples for Christ will be held on February 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the Gathering Space. They will be celebrating our seasoned members of our village by serving a free dinner in their honor.

Confirmation

Confirmation students: Don't forget to ask someone to be your mentor for Lent. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex to write down who your mentor is. Remember, no close relative please!! Thanks.

Confirmation Camp

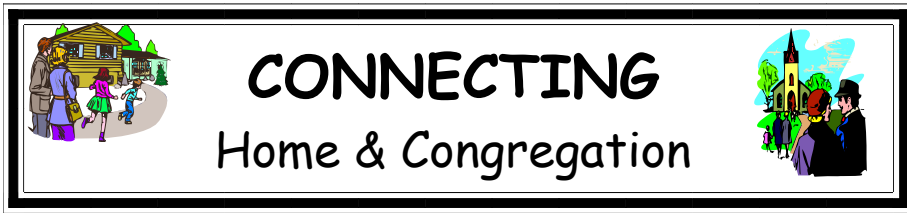
Part of Zion's Confirmation program is to attend Confirmation camp. Camp this year will be held June 15-20th at Waypost, which is ten miles south of Hatley. Information will be sent to students who have not attended camp. Registration is due by March 9th. If anyone else is interested in going to crossways Camp, there are brochures in the narthex describing the summer 2008 programs.

Dear Zion Sunday School,

Thank you all for the wonderful assortment of food you gave to our food pantry. I've used a lot of it to give to many families that need food already.

Be sure to thank God for your food because there are people here in Stratford that don't have much food to eat and that's why we have a food pantry to help them. Bless you all.

Stratford Community Food Pantry



Council Minutes

Zion Lutheran Church Council met on Monday, January 21, 2008. President Marty Ferris called the meeting to order. Rhonda Thompson led devotions and Pastor Sue led the leadership training.

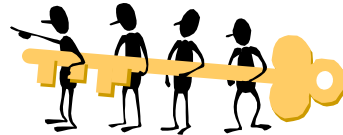
During the meeting the council:

- Secretary Report M/S/C
- Treasurer Report M/S/C
- Thank you cards were received from Pastor Sue, Patti Swensen, Jan Lee, Marge Redetzke, Judy Polege, the Pilsner Family and the Pongratz Family.
- Pastor Sue has had many hospital visits this month.
- The theme for Lent is “Frogs Without Legs Can’t Hear.”
- Pastor Sue will on the Leadership Team Committee for the Synod and will be attending the Winter Theological Event in Eau Claire and a Stewardship Conference at Luther Seminary.
- Jan attended the Youth Workers Meeting in Chetek and will be attending the Certification Retreat at Luther Park.
- The 2008 budget was discussed and approved by Council to recommend to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting to cut Benevolence to 12% with the intent to increase it by 1/2% each year until it’s back up to 15% and to decrease World Hunger from \$6000 to \$4000.
- Two delegates are needed for the Synod meeting June 6 & 7.
- Council members were reminded to talk to their committees and have their designated areas cleaned by Easter, if appropriate.
- Internal Checks and Balance needs to be completed. Pastor will contact some members to help.
- Karen Polege seminary support will be added to the Annual Meeting agenda.

M/S/C to adjourn

Respectfully submitted by,
Rhonda Thompson

With The 4 Keys



Family Devotions
Participate in Ash Wednesday services with your family.

Family Service
Write a letter or create a card for someone who is sick or might be lonely.

Caring Conversation
Have each family member finish this sentence and then discuss: If a member of my family were sick, I would

Rituals & Traditions
Set aside time this month to go to the library as a family, pick out some good books and then read to each other.

Building Update

Payment Date	Start Balance	Payment Amt	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Ending Balance
12/1/07	\$930,220.50	\$ 6,285.19	\$ 4,716.42	\$ 1,568.77	\$928,651.73
12/28/07	\$928,651.73			\$10,000.00	\$918,651.73
1/2/08	\$918,651.73	\$ 6,285.19	\$ 4,831.43	\$ 1,453.76	\$917,197.97
1/8/08	\$917,197.97			\$25,000.00	\$892,197.97

COST SUMMARY FOR 2006 ADDITION

\$1,214,719.97	Cost for building
\$ 2,111.37	Builder's risk insurance
\$ 2,607.00	Closing cost
<u>\$ 26,923.28</u>	Construction loan interest
\$1,246,361.62	

BENEVOLENCE

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actual (1-27 -08.)</u>
LSS	\$1,800.00	\$ 66.00
Missionary	\$3,500.00	\$ 56.00
Crossways	\$1,900.00	\$ 172.00
World Hunger	\$6,000.00	\$ 63.00
Mission Partners	\$ 750.00	\$ 0

Library

“Frogs Without Legs Can’t Hear,” by David W. Anderson and Paul Hill. Using the metaphor of a frog, the authors challenge congregations to partner with the home in passing on the faith. The frog’s head is church leadership, the torso is congregational programs and public worship and the legs are the home. A thought-provoking book for all those concerned about passing on the faith to the next generation. You will find it in your church library. The call number is 8/An.

Acolytes Trained

On Sunday, January 20th, 3 fourth graders, 1 fifth grader and 1 seventh grader completed acolyte training. Acolytes help during worship by lighting the candles and putting them out at the end of the service. The acolytes learn that lighting their torch and processing out with the visible flame is symbolic that we as a congregation are taking the light of Christ into the world. They also assist in serving communion. Completing training were: Macie Frueh, Anthony Gliniecki, Jared Jurgenson, Emilie Greenberg and Carrie Stroetz.

Cards

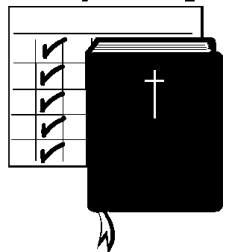
We received a donation of some wonderful “Leanin Tree” cards that the church is selling. They are located in the Gathering Space next to the Welcome Center. The cards will be sold for .50 cents a piece and we will be using the Honor System to buy the cards. There is a can to put your money in. The proceeds will be designated at a later date.

Bible Study

The Holy Spirit, the Church and the Triune God.

January 28th—February 25 from 7 to 9 p.m. in Zion’s Conference

WEEKLY Study Group



Room. This will be a study of the activity of the Triune God in church and world through the work of the Holy Spirit. Focus is on how the Spirit’s work in Word and Sacrament provides the framework for understanding the nature, ministry and mission of the church, Christian faith and life, and the significance of eschatology for theology, life and mission. Please call the church office (687-4110) to register for this free class.

“Seasons of the Church” Coordinator

As the church seasons change, so do the decorations used to enhance worship during each season. The Worship Team is looking for someone who would like to coordinate the changing of the season decorations. This person would be responsible for making phone calls to line up helpers to decorate and undecorate the Sanctuary or Family Center for each new season. Also, this person would learn where the decorations for each season are stored and would oversee the decorating. For more information or if interested, please contact Marge Kollmansberger or Marge Redetzke, Worship Team members.

New Web Page Design www.zionlc.com

Zion’s web page is available for your use! Please take the time to enjoy the features. The web site information will be current and informative. Committees can let the church office know if they want something included on the web page.



GoodSearch.com

Here is a new and easy way to raise money for Zion. Use GoodSearch.com for your search engine and enter Zion Lutheran (Stratford) as the charity you want to support and verify and each search will raise .01 cent for Zion. It doesn’t seem like a lot, but we just received a check for \$36.48 for using Good Search which is powered by Yahoo!

There is also GoodShop (the new online shopping mall) where we could make about 3% on the purchases. So it does pay to use GoodSearch.com. Be sure to spread the word to your friends.

New Member Sunday

New members will be installed on Sunday, April 13th, for anyone wishing to join Zion. Please mark your communion card or call the church office if you are interested in joining at this time.



Baby's Basket of Love

This is a Western Marathon County area program that provides a layette of basic baby items to new mothers in need. This program is targeted to those women who choose life over abortion. This is a non-profit organization that is a means of providing hope and practical help to women who choose life for their baby.

Below is a list of items needed. Cash donations are also accepted.

Baby lotion, baby oil, baby wash, baby powder, Desitin, baby wipes, diapers (sizes newborn –10#), hat, sleepers (different sizes), onesies (different sizes), booties (different sizes), receiving blankets, bottles, burp cloths, bibs, nukes, rattles, outfits (newborn—2T), stuffed animals, baby afghans, quilt/crib blanket, crib sheets.

Items should be new and placed in the basket in the narthex.

Items Needed

Zion collects Campbell Soup labels, Festival Foods receipts, computer printer ink cartridges and aluminum can pull tabs. There is a drawer unit by the welcome center that you may put these items. We can always use pencils for the communion racks. Shorter, used pencils work great. Thanks to everyone that gives these items.

Borrowing Church Items

Please call the church office at 687-4110 if you wish to borrow any church items, such as tables or chairs. We need to know when you pick up and return these items. Please do not remove any church items without making these arrangements. Your help in this matter is appreciated.

Scholarship

The Parish Education Team will again be awarding a \$500.00 scholarship to a 2008 high school graduate. If you are planning on furthering your education and if you or your parent(s) are members of Zion Lutheran Church, you are invited to apply for this scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded upon enrolling in the second semester of the first year of post-secondary education. Letters have gone out to all seniors. If you did not receive one, please let the office know. Thanks.

Weekly Prayers

Monday—Wash Day

Lord, help me wash away all my selfishness and vanity, so I may serve you with perfect humility through the week ahead.

Tuesday—Ironing Day

Dear Lord, help me iron out all the wrinkles of prejudice I have collected through the years so that I may see the beauty in others.

Wednesday—Mending Day

O God, help me mend my ways so I will not set a bad example for others.

Thursday—Cleaning Day

Lord Jesus, help me to dust out all the many faults I have been hiding in the secret corners of my heart.

Friday—Shopping Day

O God, give me the grace to shop wisely so I may purchase eternal happiness for myself and all others in need of love.

Saturday—Cooking Day

Help me, my Savior, to brew a big kettle of brotherly love and serve it with clean, sweet bread of human kindness.

Sunday—The Lord's Day

O God, I have prepared my house for you. Please come into my heart so I may spend the day and the rest of my life in your presence.

“Be kinder than necessary,
for everyone you meet is
fighting some kind of battle.”



Lost and Found

There is a box by the church office (east entrance) for items we have found around the church.

Blood Pressure Screening

At the Stratford Community Hall 9:30—11:00 a.m.
2nd Wednesday of the month

Steak Feed

The Stratford VFW will have its monthly steak feed
on the first Tuesday of each month.

Community Outreach Meal

St. John's Lutheran Church, Spencer will serve a free meal on the 4th
Tuesday of each month, from 5:00—6:30 p.m.

Stratford Community Blood Drive

Sponsored by the Stratford Fire Department
Monday, February 25 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Stratford Fire Hall, 613 South Weber Ave.

Contact the Blood Center at 387-4990 for appt. or information.
Blood donated at this drive will go to help patients in Marshfield. The
Blood Center of Wisconsin is the sole supplier of blood products for St.
Joseph's Hospital. All blood types are needed.

All You Can Eat Pasta Dinner

Wednesday, February 13
St. Joseph Parish Hall, Stratford 4—7:30 p.m.
Large salad bar, homemade chicken noodle soup, spaghetti, lasagna,
Alfredo, corn, bread, beverages and desserts
Adults \$7.00, Children (K-6) \$4.00, Preschool - Free
Matching Funds from Catholic Family

Volunteer Drivers Needed

North Central Health Care is looking for drivers for the Marathon
County Transportation Program. This program was created to take
needy people to their medical and personal appointments. However,
due to increasing demands for rides, we are in need of more drivers to
accommodate the rides requested. If you have free time and would like
to help elderly, veteran for developmentally disabled people in your
community, there is a program that could be tailored to your schedule.
Drivers will be reimbursed at 50.5 cents a mile to cover expenses. Call
715-841-5101 for information. Your help is greatly appreciated.

YOUR CHURCH STAFF

Church Office Hours:
Monday—Friday
7:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Marty Ferris
V. President: Tadd Schoenherr
Secretary: Rhonda Thompson
Treasurer: Rod Huther
Evangelism: Pat Emon
Parish Ed: Wendy Spaeth
Property: Dan Schrameyer
Stewardship: Ellen Leick
Worship: Denise Marg
Youth: Gary Wussow

PASTOR: Sue Eidahl

Home Phone: 687-4381
E-mail: eides@zionlc.com
Parish Associate: Janice Lee
E-mail: janicelee@zionlc.com
Secretary: Wendy Drexler
E-mail: wendy@zionlc.com

CHURCH OFFICE:

715-687-4110
FAX: 715-687-3541
WEB SITE: www.zionlc.com

WORSHIP ON SUNDAY AT 8:00 & 10:15 a.m.

Sunday School—9:00 a.m.

Summer Worship: 9:00 a.m.

INDEX

Page	
1	Lent
2	Pastor Sue's Letter
3	Lenten Series
3	Un-coin Folders
4	World Relief Project
4	Pastoral Acts
5	Baptismal Anniversary
5	Grandparent's Celebration
5	Souper Bowl Sunday
6	Parish Education Page
7	First Communion Classes
7	Disciples for Christ
7	Scholarships
8	Connecting Home & Congregation
8	Building Update
9	Council Minutes
10	Library
10	Bible Study
11	Needing a Coordinator
12	Scholarship
13	Remember the Sabbath
14	Community News
15	Index
	Inside Pull Out
	• Calendar / Serving Schedule
	• Lenten Coin Folder

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The 21st of each month.

ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

Thursdays by 9:00 a.m.

WEEKLY E-MAIL

Goes out on Monday early morning.
email janicelee@zionlc.com to get it
Please keep the office updated on:

- Address changes
- Births