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ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion's Good News

MARCH
2009

The Theme for Lent this
Year

Sundays: *"Stones"*

Wednesdays: *"40 Days with the Lord's Prayer"*



You are WELCOME to our Lenten Worship Series
Wednesdays in Lent at 5:30 p.m.

Soup and Sandwich following at 6:30 p.m.

(Free Will Offering)

Guest Preacher

A church's mission statement is a short summary of what the church sees as its mission to its congregation and the world at large. Writing a mission statement can be as easy as jotting down a few phrases or composing a few sentences. Pastor Amy Odgren, Assistant to the Bishop, will be our guest on



March 22nd. She will be preaching at both services and following a potluck lunch, will lead us in the process of defining our mission and vision for the next few years. Anyone in the congregation who wishes to be a part of this process, as well as Council members and team members, are invited to join us on Sunday, March 22nd in the Family Center.

Lenten Journey

As you read this newsletter we will have already begun the journey of Lent. Lent is a journey that offers rich opportunities for inner growth. Lent has traditionally been a training time for Christians, the ancient holy time of preparation for spiritual growth.

I am writing this article on “Clean Monday,” the Monday before Ash Wednesday. In Eastern Orthodox churches, Lent begins on this Monday. Traditionally, on this day, the faithful were to cleanse their souls by penance and to scrub clean their cooking vessels to remove all traces of meat and fat, which could not be eaten during this penitential season. Tomorrow is Mardi Gras, “Fat Tuesday,” a day to celebrate and enjoy life before we put the “Alleluias” to bed for 40 days.

I’m sitting here looking at the clutter on my desk, and realizing the clutter in my mind, which makes it difficult to engage and participate in the holy days of Lent. Over-committed lives easily become crowded with projects and engagements that are booked days, or even weeks and months, in advance. Perhaps we need to return to the practice of giving up something for Lent. What significant life changes and personal reforms would I like to achieve by Easter, and how about you? A number of you purchased the devotional book, “40 Days with the Lord’s Prayer.” What a wonderful way to spend your Lenten journey. By the way, if you didn’t purchase the book, our library has a copy for your use in the library.

Traditionally, Lent begins with the sign of ashes marked on our foreheads. For our spiritual ancestors, the people of the Bible, wearing ashes was a sign of mourning and lament. In the early church, sackcloth and ashes were a sign of public penance. Lent begins with ashes, but it is not only a dry season—the waters of baptism flow through it. The sign of the cross was first placed on our foreheads with water at our baptism. During the season of Lent this year, our baptismal font will remain open and it will also include some stones, allowing us to follow our Sunday morning themes.

The journey of Lent is really a calling to “go deeper in our discipleship;” to set aside time to “walk the walk” and “talk the talk.” Join us as we step into this holy season.

Pastor Sue Eidahl



2009 Lenten Preaching and Teaching Series

Sundays: “Stones”

Wednesdays: “40 Days with the Lord’s Prayer”

March 1 - “Stones of the Covenant”

March 4 - “Your kingdom come...”

March 8 - “God’s Law Engraved on Stone and on Human Hearts”

March 11 - “Your will be done on earth as in heaven...”

March 15 - “A Millstone as Metaphor for Punishment of Sin”

March 18 - “Give us this day our daily bread...”

March 22 - “Jesus is Stumbling Stone to Unbelievers and the Rock of Salvation for Believers”

March 25 - “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.”

March 29 - “Jesus, the Living Stone Upon Which the Church is Founded”



Offering Designations

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

March 4	L.S.S.
March 11	Missionary
March 18	Crossways
March 25	World Hunger
April 1	Mission Partners

The Un-coin Folder

The Lenten un-coin folder sent in the 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 April 5th (Palm Sunday).

Lutheran World Relief Lenten Project

As our Lutheran World Relief project for this Lenten season, we are collecting for the Food Security Project and Feeding Centers in Malawi. Some parts of Malawi did have an adequate harvest but it was regional, so the Feeding Centers remain vital. There will be jars in the Narthex and the Gathering Space for any donations toward Malawi’s Feeding Stations.



Hello, my name is Blaine Aschenbrenner and I have been a member of Zion Lutheran Church practically my entire life. I grew up with Pastor Gauerke, I was confirmed by Pastor Becker, Kelly and I were married and Amanda was baptized by Pastor Dan, and Laura was baptized by Pastor Sue. I find it interesting that the last 2 pastors we have had are better known by their first names. In fact, I drew a blank when I was typing this as to what is Pastor Sue's last name? I had to go to the website to find it! Eidahl, hmm, if you say so! Of course I am joking around a little here. That just shows how

comfortable my family and I are with this church, its members, and its current "leader."

I was honored to have been nominated to serve on the church council again. I say again, because I served in the mid 1990s when Pastor Dan was our "leader." Our church council is quite different now compared to back then. I enjoy the leadership training session that Pastor Sue teaches during the opening portion of our meetings. In just this short time, I feel that my faith has grown much stronger because of her teachings.

My wife Kelly has been very supportive of my decision to serve again on the church council. As I mentioned above, we have 2 beautiful daughters, Amanda and Laura. We thank God for blessing our lives with their presence. They both make us laugh every day. Our family enjoys our summer weekends at our "seasonal" camp site at Vista Royale Campground just north of Bancroft. I enjoy watching NASCAR and also the local short-track racing in our state. I am a diligent follower of the Packers, the Brewers, and the Badgers. I am currently employed at River View Construction, Inc. in Wausau as the Vice President of Finance. I have been there for over 4 years now.

In closing, I can't imagine worshipping in any congregation other than Zion's. All the members care so much for the teaching of God's word, praising Jesus, and sharing the gifts that God has given each of us.

I admire the ELCA's mission statement and quote it often. "God's work. Our hands." I truly believe that statement is a true reflection of our church and its members.

God Bless each of you, Blaine Aschenbrenner

Daylight Savings Time
Don't forget to change your clocks on March 8th.

Easter Lilies / Bulletin Covers / Palms

If you would like to order a lily to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter, help pay for palms used on Palm Sunday, or help pay for bulletin covers used during Lent / Easter, there are sign-up sheets in the narthex, or you may call the church office (687-4110). They can be in memory of or in honor of loved ones. Lilies can be taken home on Easter Sunday. Lilies this year will be \$9.00.

Blessing Bowls



As we go about our daily lives, be it home, school, work, God is with us. How do we talk to others about God's presence in our day to day routines? ... In other words ... How do we pass on our faith to others? One way to help do this is through a Blessing Bowl.

The Blessing Bowl is filled with stones depicting various symbols and/or words that help us talk about where we experienced God in our life today.

The Blessing Bowl not only serves as a personal reminder to tell our faith stories, but it also is an excellent way to start meaningful conversations with children, family, and guests.

On March 8th, we invite adults (parents, grandparents, singles, empty-nesters, etc.) to join us during the Sunday school hour (9:00 a.m.) to create your own **Blessing Bowl**. This will be a time to come together to create your own visual reminders (*the bowls and blessing stones*) of milestones and thankfulness in your daily life. Also during this time, we will have take home examples on how the Blessing Bowl can be used with our family and friends. There is a sample of a Blessing Bowl on the table in the narthex.

On March 8th, grab a cup of coffee and come to the Family Center to make your Blessing Bowl and stones.

Newsletter Deadline

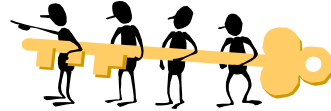
The deadline for March newsletter will be March 18th instead of the 21st. We will be putting together the newsletter on March 25th instead of later in the month because I will be on vacation the end of the month. I want to thank my newsletter team for all the work they do each month: Sandy Blyton, Grace Carpenter, and Margaret Zimmermann.

Thanks. Wendy

Council Minutes



With The 4 Keys



Caring Conversation

Have each family member complete this sentence: During this Lenten Season I will Discuss.

Family Devotions

Prayer: God of love, as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us, so may we give ourselves to you, living according to your holy will. Keep our feet firmly in the way where Christ leads us; help our lips to speak the truth that Christ teaches us; fill our bodies with the life that is Christ within us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Rituals & Traditions

Arrange six purple candles in the shape of a cross to observe the six weeks of Lent. Extinguish one candle a week to symbolize Good Friday's approach; relight all of the candles on Easter.

Family Service

No soda or sugary drinks this month. Choose water, 100% juice or fat-free milk instead. The money that you save on soda donate to the Malawi Feeding Stations.

Building Update

Payment Date	Start Balance	Payment Amt	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Ending Balance
1-2-09	\$814,514.54	\$ 6,285.19	\$4,192.93	\$ 2,092.26	\$812,422.28
1-21-09	\$812,422.28			\$18,500.00	\$793,922.28
2-1-09	\$793,922.28	\$ 6,285.19	\$4,226.61	\$ 2,058.58	\$791,863.70
2-19-09	\$791,863.70			\$11,000.00	\$780,863.70

Total monthly principal payments	\$ 36,105.26
Total of extra principal payments	<u>\$146,500.00</u>
Amount of principal paid 6-1-07 - 2-19-09	\$182,605.26
MIF Checking acct balance as of 2-19-09	\$ 19,364.97

Zion Lutheran Church Council met on Monday, Feb 16, 2009. President Rhonda Thompson called the meeting to order. Rod Huther led devotions and Pastor Sue led the leadership training.

- Secretary Report M/S/C
- Treasurer Report M/S/C
- Teams reviewed bylaws and resolutions
- Council will serve soup and sandwich on March 11th
- Baptismal journey event on February 21st
- Team lists updated
- Audit being completed.
- Pastor Amy Odgren, Assistant to the Bishop, is coming on March 22nd
- Reports from Synod Retreat
- Pastor Sue annual allowance for furnishing M/S/C
- Fund for Leadership
- Outreach to Community Heritage Days to use cemetery for reenactment M/S/C
- Non member wedding approved M/S /C
- M/S/C to adjourn
- Next meeting will be held March 16, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kathy Busche

BENEVOLENCE

	Proposed	Actual (2-14-09)	Percent
LSS	\$1,800.00	\$ 81.00	4.50%
Missionary	\$3,500.00	\$333.00	9.51%
Crossways	\$1,900.00	\$205.00	10.79%
World Hunger	\$4,000.00	\$173.00	4.33%
Mission Partners	\$ 750.00	\$ 35.00	4/67%

New Member Sunday

New members will be installed on Sunday, April 26th, for anyone wishing to join Zion. Please mark your communion card or call the church office (687-4110) if you are interested in joining at this time.

PARISH EDUCATION

Please note this year we have added to the snack list beverages for the parents to bring. Snack/Beverage providers need to be here by 8:45 a.m. to deliver snack/beverage to the classroom by 9:00 a.m. We are also requesting the providers to stay in the snack/beverage area until 9:15 a.m. for any late student arrivals that may need snack/beverage. Cleanup kitchen is also part of the snack/beverage provider's duties. Each snack provider to bring enough snacks for 60 students and beverage provider to bring enough beverages for 120 students. Please take snacks down to the old kitchen in the basement.

- March 1 Dennis Nikolai Family
Dale Federwitz Family
Bev: Elroy Schoenfuss Family
- March 8 Kelly Kramer Family
Chad Kurtzweil Family
Bev: Ted Dasler Family
- March 15 Scott Gebelein Family
Jeanne Griesbach Family
Bev: Brian Welch Family
- March 22 Jeremy Frueh Family
Rob Hughes Family
Bev: Keith Grell Family
- March 29 Kecia Krueger Family
Brian LaSee Family
Bev: Bryce Ford Family



Sunday School Calendar

- March 1—Baptismal Journey Grade 5 “Stewardship”
Teacher’s Meeting
- March 8—Baptismal Journey Grade 1 canceled till April 19th
- March 15—First Communion Class 9 a.m.
- March 21—First Communion Class 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.
- March 22—First Communion Class 9 a.m.
- March 29—First Communion Ceremony 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School Sing 8 a.m.—2nd—6th grade
10:15 a.m.—3 year—1st grade

Vacation Bible School

VBS will be held July 20 through the 23rd 5:30 to 8:15 p.m.

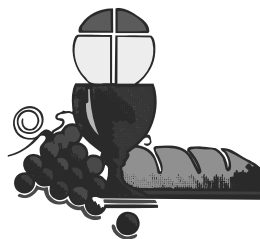
Disciples For Christ

What fun! This month our disciples planned and prepared a dinner for 60 seniors in our community. There was good food, festive decorations, and piano music to tap your toes to. The dinner was so well executed due to all the hardworking hands in the kitchen. Thanks so much to the disciples and mentors who generously donated the food and their time for this service project; Derek & Kevin, C.J. & Dan, Ali & Brenda, Natasha & Marge, Austin & Jon, Kamelle & Cari, Sam & Jan. Thanks to Marge for the piano music. Thanks to Pastor Sue for her role as M.C. Thanks to Darla for ALL of the behind the scenes work planning, organizing, and implementing. Thanks be to God for teaching us to share our time and talents with others.

The J Team

- March activities for the J Team:
Date: March 25, 2009
Game: Musical Chairs
Devotion: What’s Dependable
Activity: Baking for the Ronald McDonald House
Snacks: Stroetz & Dasler Families
Beverage: Burrows Family

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 **March 8th**. Classes will be held on Sundays March 15th and 22nd during Sunday school (9 a.m.) and March 21st at 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. First Communion will take place on Sunday, March 29th at 10:15 a.m.

Zion’s Puppets Entertaining People Squad News

Practice Schedule:

- Tuesday, March 3 at 6 p.m.
Tuesday, March 10 at 6 p.m.
Tuesday, March 17 at 6 p.m.
Tuesday, March 24 at 6 p.m.
Tuesday, March 31 at 6 p.m.

Puppet Fest – March 20 & 21



Baptism

On Sunday, February 1st, Mason Matthew Hollatz, son of Matthew Hollatz and Leah Bento, received the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Mason's baptismal sponsors are Dan Hollatz and Michelle Mueller. Mason was born February 14, 2008.

Bulletin Choices

It is nice to have choices, and now you have some when it comes to the weekly bulletin. You may pick up a paper copy bulletin from the ushers like you always have, or you may want to just use the screen in front of church. Extra announcement pages are run and sitting on the back table if you want to just have the weekly announcement sheet to take home. And now for those that can't see as well as they used to, we have large print paper bulletin for your use. Just ask the usher for a large print bulletin. If there is anything else we can do to make your worship better, please let us know.



National Youth Gathering

Thank you to all who have purchased the "Prayer for your Home" frames. These frames will continue to be on sale in the gathering area.

Upcoming this month will be our Pastry Sale. These are the same delicious pastries that Kali Thompson sold for a fundraiser last year. Watch for more details and order blanks in the upcoming bulletins. Please purchase an item or two when the youth ask.

Attending the Youth Gathering in July are:

Cole Van Der Leest	Kamelle Van Der Leest
Natasha Lindquist	Alison Wieland
Dan Wieland	Carmen Van Der Leest



Please pray for this group as they plan and prepare for this life-changing, faith-stretching adventure!

Thank You

- To Ellen Leick for laundering the Acolyte robes
- To Jeff Bubolz for work done on the laptop computer.
- To EVERYONE who helped with the Baptismal Journey Workshop on Feb 21st.
- To June Krueger for the two new banners.

Fair Trade

Here it is Lent and in six weeks it will be Easter! The Fair Trade Ministry Team is busy working! June is busy making some cute Easter Gift bags to fill with coffee, chocolate or a bottle of wine for us as the perfect Easter Hostess Gift! And with Spring right around the corner, what a great way to share with the Gardener on your list! Fill your Gift Bag with packets of flower seeds along with her favorite tea. These pretty bags make the perfect keepsake for those taking First Communion on March 29. Just add a small remembrance gift along with a bar of milk chocolate from Fair Trade!



There are dozens of ways we at Zion along with other Lutheran Churches around the world are working together to "Pour Justice to the Brim".

- ✓ By choosing to buy organic, decaf or flavored coffee varieties expertly grown by small-scale farmers in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.
- ✓ Enjoying organic hot cocoa mix and chocolate bars made with cocoa beans grown by farmers in the Dominican Republic.
- ✓ Selecting from a variety of organic teas grown, prepared and packaged in India, providing vital income for the region.

Every day Fair Trade items sold through Lutheran World Relief improves the lives of farmers, artisans, and their families by increasing incomes, improving working conditions, protecting the environment, and promoting democratic principles. Thank you to all the Zion Family for supporting LWR and our Fair Trade Ministry!

Prayer Shawls

Zion has a new vision. Anyone can come and pray with us as we knit or crochet prayer shawls. There is no certain pattern or stitch. Prayer Shawls are for anyone and everyone, child or adult to use. Prayer Shawls have been used throughout the generations, our ancient Israeli ancestors used Prayer Shawls to help them to pray and to remind them of God's constant presence. This Prayer Shawl is for you to know that someone has been and continues to pray for you and it is to encourage you to know that God is with you every step of the way and everyday.

There will be yarn available for you to take home and pray and stitch a shawl. Return it when done and we will prepare it for someone to have.

We will meet on March 4th at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference room to share ideas and pick up yarn. Anyone interested, please come.



Green Bay Packers Family Night

Starting in 2005, the Green Bay Packers have held an annual **Family Night Scrimmage** at Lambeau Field shortly after training camp begins. Last year's Family

Night was held Sunday, August 3, 2008. For 2009, we expect to do something similar.

The above announcement can be found on the Green Bay Packers web site. The Youth and Family Team are in the process of making bus arrangements to attend the 2009 Family Night. As soon as the date is announced and tickets are available for purchase, the Youth and Family Team will be purchasing them. What we need from you is whether or not you would be interested in attending the Green Bay Packer Family Night.

The date of the Family Night has not been listed. It is normally the first or second weekend in August. We are also looking at designing and purchasing t-shirts for this event. Preliminary cost to attend this event is estimated to be: with t-shirt \$30-\$35; without t-shirt \$25-\$30. This cost includes tickets to the game and bus fare. This is a family event. Youth 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Friends are also welcome to attend.

We would like an estimate as to how many may be interested in attending so we can determine bus size and ticket purchases. A tentative sign up sheet is in the narthex. If you think you may be interested in attending the Family Night, please sign up. As the date becomes available and the price finalized we will contact you for a definite commitment on attending. Tentative sign up deadline is April 12, 2009.

Confirmation Camp

Part of Zion's Confirmation program is to attend Confirmation camp. Camp this year will be held June 14-19 at Waypost, which is ten miles south of Hatley. Information was sent to students who have not attended camp. Registration is due by March 8th. If anyone else is interested in going to crossways Camp, there are brochures in the narthex describing the summer 2009 programs.

Scholarship

The Parish Education Team will be awarding a \$500.00 scholarship to a 2009 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.

Library

The following children's books have been added to the church library.

Best Friend on Wheels, by Debra Shirley. Call number +/Sh.

A story about two girls who become best friends because they have so much in common in spite of the fact that one of them is in a wheelchair. An excellent book for promoting the acceptance of disabilities in children.

Big Book of Bible Questions, by Sally Ann Wright. Call number +/Wr.

A book of questions and answers about many of the characters and events found in the Bible. It includes an index citing the Biblical references. It will appeal to children.

Real Story of the Creation, by Paul L. Maier. Call number +/Ma.

A retelling of the story of creation that will appeal to children. An epilogue at the end reconciles the Biblical account with scientific knowledge.

Light of the World, by Katherine Paterson. Call number +/Pa.

The story of the life of Jesus for children.

Legend of the Three Trees, retold by Catherine McCafferty. Call number +/Mc.

A classic folk tale that helps us understand that if we follow God's path we will travel far beyond our biggest dreams.

First Bible Story Book, retold by Mary Hoffman. Call number +/Ho.

13 stories selected from both the Old and New Testaments are retold in this beautifully illustrated book which can be read aloud to the very young child.

Blood Pressure Screening

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

Blood Pressure Check and Glucose Testing

Fourth Tuesday of each month, from 1:30-3:30
at the Stratford Library by a nurse.
The blood test requires a 2 hour fast. Free of charge.
Call for information

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.

Immunization Clinic

Will be held at the Stratford VFW Hall on March 17th from 3:30 to
4:30 p.m. Call for an appointment at 1-800-236-0153

Carnival

March 7th 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Immanuel Lutheran School, 604 S Chestnut, Marshfield
Free Admission Game Tickets 4/ \$1.00

Pancake Brunch

Stratford Lions Club will have their Pancake Brunch on
Sunday, March 29th at 7:30 to 1:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church Hall
Featuring: Potato & buttermilk pancakes,
sausage, cheese, desserts, and beverages.

Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

Monday, March 16th at the V.F.W. Hall in Stratford
4 to 7 p.m. sponsored by Ebenezer U.C.C.
Adults \$7, Children 7-12 \$3.00

Health Fair

Wesley United Methodist Church (205 E Third St., Marshfield)
On Friday, March 6th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Blood pressure screening, information on many topics.
Public is invited.

YOUR CHURCH STAFF

Church Office Hours:

Monday—Friday
7:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Rhonda Thompson
V. Pres.: Blaine Aschenbrenner
Secretary: Kathy Busche
Treasurer: Rod Huther
Evangelism: Pat Emon
Parish Ed: Wendy Spaeth
Property: Dan Schrameyer
Stewardship: Ellen Leick
Worship: Denise Marg
Youth: Patti Kuyoth

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.

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The 21st of each month.

ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

Thursdays by 9:00 a.m.

WEEKLY E-MAIL

Goes out early Monday morning.
email janicelee@zionlc.com
to get it

Please keep the office updated:

- Address & email changes
- Births
- Deaths
- Hospitalizations