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ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion's Good News

FEBRUARY

2012

Ash Wednesday, February 22

Wednesday Worship at 5:30 p.m.

Soup and Sandwich Following

(Free Will Offering)

"Journey to the Cross"

Sundays at 8:00 and 10:15 a.m.

"Restoring Relationships"



Baptismal Anniversary Celebration—February 26



Baptism
Birthday

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 26th, for all who were baptized in 2011. After worship, we will celebrate with grandparents and students in the Family Center. If you were baptized or had a child baptized in 2011, watch your mail for additional information.

Grandparent's Day 2012

Date: February 26, 2012

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Zion Family Center

Theme: "We're a Perfect Fit"

Events include:

- Games ● Crafts
- Keepsake Picture ● Food/Beverage

All are welcomed to join us.

*Grandparents
Are a Gift*



The Journey of Lent

February 22nd is Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday we begin a 40 day journey of self-examination, repentance, and confession. It is a time to take stock of our relationships; our relationships with God and with others. As sinful human beings we feel the weight of broken relationships with God and others and long to be restored to wholeness. As we journey together toward the cross, we discover ways to restore our relationships as we follow the footsteps of Jesus in the last weeks leading up to his sacrificial death and victorious resurrection.

On Ash Wednesday you will receive a cross-shaped bookmark with a removable rustic nail which you may carry with you throughout the 40 days of Lent. The nail will serve as a reminder of the journey you are making. It will also encourage you to look at relationships, with the cross as the central focus.

The concept of journeying is fundamental to the Christian faith. From the time that God commanded Abraham and Sarah to “leave their country and their people and their father’s household and go to the land I will show you,” people of faith have journeyed both physically and spiritually toward a deeper understanding of God and God’s purposes. As we walk together on Sunday mornings, we will discover ways to restore our relationships through justice, faithfulness, trust, limits, love, and forgiveness. On Wednesday evenings we will watch and learn from Jesus’ example of the Journey to the Cross.

During Lent it is as though we join Jesus in his walk toward Good Friday and the crucifixion. Our self-denial is a way to enter into the fellowship of Christ’s suffering so that we can identify more fully with those who are hungry, oppressed, in pain, or in need. This year as we journey toward the cross, may we invite God to make us aware of those things that distract us from a wholehearted commitment to God. We may want to gather up all those things we are aware of that vie for our attention and literally nail them to the cross. Carry your nail, and stay focused on the journey.

Pastor Sue



“The Journey to the Cross” Wednesday Evening Worship

February 22—Ash Wednesday “The Journey”

Most journeys begin with a time of preparation. Travelers often create a mental or written checklist. One unique aspect of our journey to the cross is our starting point. For centuries many Christians around the world mark the first day of this journey with Ash Wednesday services.

February 29

“Fulfilling Love”

Jesus’ journey to the cross began a time of both fulfillment and filling. First, the life of Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament promises God had made about the Savior, who was to come. Jesus’ coming fulfilled the Scriptures, and still today, that coming continues to fill God’s people.

March 7

“Lead Us”

The journey to the cross—and beyond that to the empty garden tomb—includes more emotional peaks and valleys than the Jerusalem hills and more twists than their winding roads. Up and down, twists and turns. What a journey!

“Restoring Relationships” Sunday Morning Worship



Sunday, Feb. 26 “Restoring Relationships through Faithfulness”

Because of human sin, the Lord destroys the earth by flood, yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment and faithfulness to his people and all creation. The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan. Our baptism sustains us to restore our relationships through faithfulness to God and to others.

Sunday, March 4 “Restoring Relationships through Trust”

God promises to make Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of nations. Though Abraham and Sarah are far too old to bear children, they trust that God will accomplish what God has promised. Their trust catalyzes their transformation as they receive new names and identities. Paul says God’s promise comes to all who share Abraham and Sarah’s faith and trust in God. We too, get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

Souper Bowl Sunday

Tackle Hunger with us in 2012

February 5, 2012

More than 20 years ago, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

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



Since that day, more than \$71 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving. Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a positive difference in the world – as they collect food, raise money, and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry, and compassion to those in need.

This will be Zion's Youth 9th year as part of those that support the Souper Bowl of Caring. Because of your generous donations, Zion has given \$1,506.58 to date to this ministry. Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday. Every dollar donated goes to our 2012 Souper Bowl of Caring charity, “The Stratford Food Pantry.”

Drop a dollar in the soup pot on February 5th as you leave worship. 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.”



Pasta Dinner with Live Musical Entertainment

February 18, 2012

Zion Lutheran Church, Stratford, WI

Doors open at 4:00 p.m.

Meal starts at 4:30 p.m.

Cost \$10.00 a Ticket

(Only 100 tickets will be sold)

Chicken Alfredo and/or Spaghetti with Meatballs

Surprise your spouse/significant other to a special night of entertainment, good food and the luxury of being waited on.

Sponsored by Zion National Youth Gathering Group



Our Lenten Challenge

This year during Lent we will have a noisy offering for the ELCA malaria campaign. Malaria is a leading cause of death in Africa. It claims the life of a child every 45 seconds. The 2011

ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted to approve the ELCA Malaria Campaign to help eliminate death from this disease—for good!

\$50 treats 25 malaria patients.

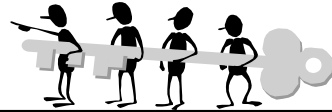
\$250 protects 125 women and their unborn babies.

\$100 trains a village health team.

Talk it over with your family. How do you want to be a part of this campaign? More information will be available on the screen Sunday mornings and in the bulletins on Wednesday.



With The 4 Keys



Caring Conversation

"Kindness can change the world." Have your family members share what kind acts they did that day. Then talk about how doing something nice made them feel, and how the other person responded.

Family Devotions

Pray the following prayer each day this month: At home, at school, at work or at play thank you, Lord, for this new day And, dear Lord, help me remember that happiness lives inside me forever. Amen

Family Service

Do random acts of kindness this month.

- ♥ Pick up another student's jacket that has fallen on the floor.
- ♥ Ask a student you have never played with to join you at recess.
- ♥ Share your snack with a friend.
- ♥ Call your parents or grandparents and tell them you love them.
- ♥ Sweep the kitchen floor for your parents.
- ♥ Take out the garbage without being asked.

Rituals & Traditions

Write notes of appreciation to the cafeteria workers, janitors, or other staff members at your school or work who don't normally receive recognition.

Building Update

Payment Date	Start Balance	Payment Amt	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Ending Balance
10-1-11	\$646,786.58	\$4,097.48	\$2,458.68	\$1,638.80	\$645,147.78
11-1-11	\$645,147.78	\$4,097.48	\$2,534.91	\$1,563.87	\$643,584.91
11-15-11	\$643,584.91			\$5,500.00	\$638,084.91
12-1-11	\$638,084.91	\$4,097.48	\$2,446.50	\$1,650.98	\$636,433.93
Total monthly principal payments				\$135,917.03	
Total of extra principal payments				\$191,119.00	
Amount of principal paid 6/1/07 12-26-11				\$327,036.03	
MIF Checking acct balance as of 12-26-11				\$ 33,921.85	

Council Minutes

Zion Lutheran Church Council met on Monday, January 16, 2012. President Dan Wieland called the meeting to order. Pat Tietzen led devotions. Leadership Training was The Greatest Story: For Every Matter Under Heaven.

During the meeting the council:

- Approved the Secretary Report.
- Approved the Treasurer Report.
- Thank you's from Zion staff read.
- Approved the Ministry Team Reports.
- Approved motion to schedule Paul Oman for Palm Sunday services.
- Discussed task force progress for future direction of the Parish Associate position.
- Approved motion to secure an interim position during summer months for Vacation Bible School and beginning of Sunday School.
- Informed of two delegates needed for Synod Assembly that will be held Saturday, June 2, 2012 and Sunday, June 3, 2012. Zion is also asked to create banner.
- Informed that audit of Ministry Team checkbooks will be starting.
- Discussed that replacement is needed to lead Stewardship Team.
- Informed that Council will serve March 21, 2012 Lenten Soup and Sandwich.
- Discussed suggestion to build pedestal tables in fellowship area.
- Informed of Walking Together at Chippewa Falls Middle School March 17, 2012.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,
Keri Manecke, Secretary

BENEVOLENCE

	Proposed	Actual (1-22-12)
LSS	\$1,800.00	\$ 49.00
Missionary	\$3,500.00	\$236.00
Crossways	\$1,900.00	\$120.00
World Hunger	\$4,000.00	\$163.00

PARISH EDUCATION Sunday School Calendar

Feb 5 Sunday School—Puppets
Feb 12 Sunday School
Baptismal Journey—Grade 2 “Baptism”
Teacher’s Meeting
Feb 19 Sunday School—Puppets
Feb 26 Sunday School
Grandparent’s Day & Baptismal Anniversary

Baptismal Journey

Grade 2 and parents will have their Baptismal Journey on “Baptism” on Sunday, Feb 12th following music class in the Family Center.

First Communion

First Communion Classes will be held on Thursday, March 8th, 6 to 7 p.m., Sunday, March 11th during Sunday School, and Thursday, March 15th 6-7 p.m. Rite of First Communion will be held on March 18th.

Please note: Changes from the Saturday class to Thursday evening class.



Mark Your Calendar—VBS dates have been set:

The 2012 VBS dates are: Sunday, July 22, 2012 through Wednesday, July 25, 2012. We will again be having a supper starting at 5:30 p.m. with VBS starting at 6:15 p.m. until 8:15 p.m. each night.

The Theme will be: Praise—Day 1: Praise God for His Greatness; Day 2: Praise God for His Authority; Day 3: Praise God for His Power; and Day 4: Praise God for His Love.

Please note: VBS will be starting on Sunday evening. That evening we will have a potluck meal (meat provided by the VBS Ministry). More information will be provided as the date gets closer.

J Team

The J Team will meet on Wednesday, February 29th, at 3:15 p.m.

Kilty Family and O’Neil Family are in charge of food and the Manecke Family is in charge of beverage



Confirmation Electives

February 15: 7 Signs (Miracles) in John’s Gospel

Confirmation Core

“Sacraments”

Classroom: January 25, Feb 1, 8

Lenten Mentor

Confirmation students, start thinking about who you want for your mentor for Lent. Lent starts February 22nd. Please ask an adult (not a family member) to be your mentor. Don’t assume since you had them before that they will do it again this year. A sign-up sheet for your mentor’s name is on the table by the worship notes in the narthex.

Disciples for Christ

The theme for our January Disciples for Christ meeting was driving responsibly. This included the "Fatal Vision" program which gave the youth and adults an opportunity to wear uniquely designed goggles that impair vision in an attempt to simulate the effects of drinking and driving. The parents and their teens were also given a young driver/parent driving contract. This gave each family an opportunity to discuss the responsibility of the youth driver and share their expectations regarding the privilege of driving.

Scholarships

The Parish Education Team will be awarding three \$500.00 scholarships to three 2012 high school graduates. 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 these scholarships. The scholarships will be awarded upon enrolling in the second semester of the first year of post-secondary education. Scholarship application forms have gone out to all seniors. You may also fill out the scholarship application on-line. Go to: www.zionlc.com; then ministries, youth, and click on application form.

Confirmation Camp

Part of Zion's Confirmation program is to attend Confirmation Camp. Camp this year will be held June 10—15th at Waypost, which is ten miles south of Hatley. Information was sent to students who have not attended camp. Registration is due by March 10th. If anyone else is interested in going to Crossways Camp, there are brochures in the narthex describing the summer 2012 programs.



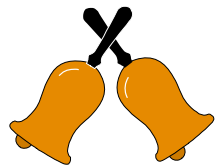
Zion's P.E.P. Squad Schedule of Events

Wed., Feb 1 Puppet Practice 6-7:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb 5 Fruit of the Spirit Sunday School Hour Presentation
Sun., Feb 19 Fruit of the Spirit Sunday School Hour Presentation

Important Upcoming Dates

March 9-10 Puppet Fest
March 14 Lent Soup and Sandwich
April 8 Easter Breakfast

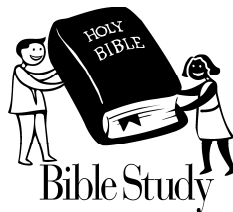
Bell Choir Practice



Bell choir practice for 7th graders through adults will be held on Sunday evenings from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Youth room in the basement of Zion Lutheran Church.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

The Tuesday morning Bible Study meets each Tuesday morning from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the conference room. We are doing a study on "Women of the Bible." Please come and join us.



Statements

Your 2011 contribution statements are finished and available in the narthex. You may pick them up at your convenience. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

Baptism

On Sunday, January 22, Lily Jo Cournoyer, daughter of Ryan & Amy Cournoyer, received the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Lily Jo's baptismal sponsors are Jim & Cory Wiesman. Lily Jo was born on November 13, 2011.

Service of Thanksgiving

A Service of Thanksgiving was held for Carol M. Oertel Remus on Friday, January 27, 2012 at Zion Lutheran Church. Carol entered eternal life on Monday, January 23rd at the Golden Living Center, Three Oaks, Marshfield.

Fair Trade



Christmas is gone and here we are ready for February! Of course February means Valentine's Day! The Fair Trade Ministry Team is having their Fair Trade Table up between services on Sunday Feb 5th. Please stop by and visit us and buy that special someone a great yummy Chocolate Bar! 50 cents off any TWO bars! A great gift for grandchild, teacher, mom or especially those guys! Thanks to everyone here at Zion for supporting this LWR Ministry!

Library

The following new books have been added to the church library.

Lose, love, live, by Dan Moseley. Call number 155/Mo
Stages of coping with grief.

Life Interrupted, by Priscilla Shirer. Call number 248/Sh

Biblical characters often heard the voice of God with messages they did not expect. Perhaps the same is happening to you when things don't go as you expect.

King's Cross, by Timothy Keller. Call number 232/Ke

The life of Jesus and his profound effect on the world based on the Gospel of Mark.

Christianity, by Jonathan Hill. Call no. 209/Hi

The growth and development of the Christian religion for the first four hundred years after the death of Jesus Christ.

From the Garden to the City, by John Dyer. Call number 261/Dy

An incredibly well-written and faithful reflection on the role of technology in the life of faith and the history of God with God's people.



Attention Zion Members

Hey Zion Members,

Did you know that you can go on line to sign up for serving duties here at Zion? This is a great opportunity for you to choose which Sunday service you would like to take a more active role. Are you interested in ushering? Ringing the bell? Reading? You can now sign up for these duties at SignUpGenius.com. If your work schedule, or maybe the weekends the children are available, varies you can easily sign up on line. Just go to www.zionlc.com, click on the links button, and you will find the SignUpGenius icon. Click on this icon and it will take you directly to the various months available for you to sign up. If you are signing up your child for basket carrier or acolyte, just add his or her name in the comment section. Just one note, the first Sunday of every month is on the month prior. After the 15th of each month I have to fill in any empty slots and get it turned in to the church office so that you can get your nifty schedule in each newsletter. Once the newsletter is published we go by that schedule. **Remember, if you are unable to serve as you are scheduled, please let me know as soon as possible so that I may find an alternate for you. Please email me at hutherbk@yahoo.com or call 715-687-4267.**

Brenda Huther

Lenten Offering Designations

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

Feb. 22 (Ash Wed.)
Feb. 29
March 7
March 14
March 21
March 28

General
L.S.S.
Missionary
Crossways
World Hunger
Malaria Campaign



World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is Friday, March 2nd at 1:00 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, B3750 Hwy 13 (2 miles North of Spencer). The theme is "Let Justice Prevail" by the Women of Malaysia.

What are Your Funeral Wishes?

I recognize that the thought of planning a funeral can be very overwhelming and not something that everyone is prepared to handle. Most of us are not prepared to plan and carry out a funeral ceremony for someone we love. And so much of the information available on this critically important subject fails to focus on what is most important: having a personalized, meaningful funeral that helps families and friends begin the healing process of mourning after the death of someone we love.

For most of us the desire to honor the wishes of the loved one who has died is very important, but we don't always know those wishes. **Greg Jackan from Sauter/Rembs Funeral Home will be joining us on February 19th between services** in the Family Center to share information and guides for helping with funeral planning. This will be a very helpful time for all of us.

Care Packages

The Evangelism Team will be sending packages to last year's graduates. If you would like to contribute items such as granola bars, hot chocolate packets, popcorn, calling cards, cookies, etc. they can be dropped off in the kitchen by February 10th. The theme is "Even though you are away—you're still in our hearts."



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.

Christian Music Skate Night

February 24 7:30 to 10 p.m.
Melody Gardens
1200 South Oak Ave., Marshfield
Admission \$2.75 Skate Rent \$.50

Bloodmobile

At Stratford's VFW
3:30 to 6:30 p.m. February 2nd

Pasta Dinner

Wednesday, February 8, 2012
4:00 to 7:30 p.m.

St. Joseph's Parish Hall, 440 Larch Street, Stratford
Adults \$8.00 Children (K-6) \$4.00, Preschool Free
Large salad bar, chicken dumpling soup, spaghetti with meat sauce,
lasagna, chicken alfredo, corn, garlic bread with cheese,
beverages, desserts.

Proceeds benefit the St. Josephs Home & School Association
to upgrade computers and software

Internet Class

The Stratford Branch Library will be having an Intro to the Internet
class on Tuesday Feb 14 from 1:30 until 2:30 sponsored by Marathon
County UW Extension. Come learn about the Internet, basic internet
research, connect with friends and family, download files like music or
photos are some of the tools that will be covered. Call the library at 715
-687-4420 to sign up for this free class.

YOUR CHURCH STAFF

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Dan Wieland
V. Pres.: Mike Snider
Secretary: Keri Manecke
Treasurer: Rod Huther
Evangelism: Della Rudolf
Parish Ed: Keith Grell
Property: Joel Jurgensen
Stewardship:
Worship: Pat Tietyen
Youth: Stacia Burrows

PASTOR: Sue Eidahl

Home Phone: 687-4381
E-mail: eides@zionlc.com
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E-mail: wendy@zionlc.com
Ministry Coordinator: Cari Frueh
E-mail: cari.frueh@hotmail.com

WAYS TO CONNECT

WITH ZION

Write us at Zion Lutheran
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Stratford, WI 54484

Phone us at 715-687-4110 7 a.m.
to 1 p.m. or leave a message on
the phone recorder

Or email us at office@zionlc.com
or directly to emails above.

WEB SITE: www.zionlc.com

FALL WORSHIP
8:00 & 10:15 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 wendy@zionlc.com to get it

PLEASE keep the office updated:

- Address & email changes
- Births, Deaths, Hospitalizations
- Phone / Cell changes