

**GOD IS GOOD...ALL THE TIME!**

**OFFICE HOURS**

T-F (Karen) 12:00 noon-3:00 PM

**Office Phone**

(508) 987-1248

**Office email: Karen Borden**

**[admin@oxfordzionchurch.org](mailto:admin@oxfordzionchurch.org)**

**Pastor Nancy Beckwith**

**Pastor's Phone**

1-508-499-8787

**Email:**

**[pastornancyb@gmail.com](mailto:pastornancyb@gmail.com)**

Call or email Pastor Nancy to  
arrange an appointment or visit.

Pastor's day off: Friday

**Website**

[www.oxfordzion.org](http://www.oxfordzion.org)

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**9:00 AM Worship**

**9:30 AM: Sunday School**

**9:45 AM Bible Study**

**10:30 AM Worship**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Thursdays in March**

**Pastor @ Panera:** 2:00-4:00 PM

**Choir Rehearsals:** 6:30-8:00 PM

**Food Shelf** 5:00-7:00PM

**March 2, 11:30 AM:** Brown Bag Bible Study

**March 2, 6:30 PM:** Stephen Ministry

**March 2, 7:00 PM:** Church council

**March 4, 6:00 PM:** Midweek Lenten dinner and worship

**March 7:** Set clocks back one hour before bed on Saturday to be on time for church on Sunday

**March 11, 6:00 PM:** Midweek Lenten dinner and worship

**March 12, 10:00 AM-2:00PM:** Synod Global Mission meeting at Zion

**March 14, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM:** Autism Resource Center using our building

**March 16, 11:30 AM:** Brown Bag Bible Study

**March 16 5:00-6:30 PM:** Confirmation

**March 16, 6:30 PM:** Stephen Ministry

**March 18, 1:00 PM:** Worship Com.

**March 18, 6:00 PM:** Midweek Lenten dinner and worship

**March 23, 11:30 AM:** Brown Bag Bible Study:

**March 25, 6:00 PM:** Midweek Lenten dinner and worship

**March 28, 10:00 AM-noon:** Holy Week for kids

**March 29:** Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week

**March 30, 7:00 PM:** Healing Service

# Zion Lutheran Church

## March 2015

***FINDING STILLNESS AMIDST THE BUSYNESS.***

I can spend hours in a bookstore, or the library. I love looking at shelves of books and picking out something new to read. The easy availability of ordering books online means that I frequently come home to find a package with one or more books on my doorstep. I love the thrill of opening a book for the first time, and immersing myself in the writer's world.

As much as I enjoy discovering a new writer, from time to time, I enjoy rereading a book. This Lent, I am returning to a spiritual classic that I first read more than a decade ago. I have re-read it several times since. Each time I return to its deep wisdom, I learn something new about myself and faith.

The book is called "A Testament of Devotion" by Thomas R. Kelly. First published in 1941, the book consists of five essays by a Quaker teacher. Each one urges us to center our lives on God's presence, and there to find stillness and peace. The five essays are convenient for Lent, as I can read one at the beginning of each of the 5 weeks in Lent, and spend the rest of the week pondering how it speaks to me of God.

Over the years, I have learned that I often try to do too much for Lent. So this year, I am going to try to keep my Lenten practice simple. I am not going to learn something new, or try to climb spiritual mountains. Instead, I am going to return to the familiar, and enter into the stillness of God's presence.

May you find stillness in this holy Lent, and may Christ be with you.

*Pastor Nancy*

**WORSHIP DURING HOLY WEEK**

**Sunday, March 29, Palm Sunday**

**9:00 AM and 10:30 AM**

Worship with blessing of the palms

**Monday, March 30, Healing service, 7:00 PM**

**Thursday, April 2, Maundy Thursday 6:00 PM**

Supper, foot washing, holy communion, and the stripping of the altar

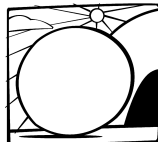
**Friday, April 3, Good Friday 7:00 PM**

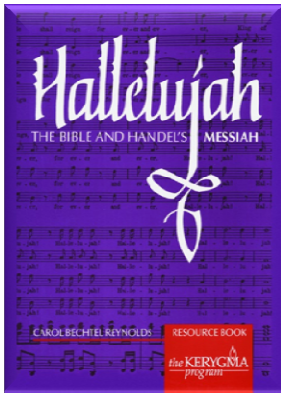
The Passion of Our Lord and The Glory of the Cross

**Sunday, April 5, Easter Day,**

Resurrection of Our Lord,

**Easter Sunday Worship 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM**





**BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY RESUMING**

Brown Bag Bible study will resume **Monday March 2, 11:30 AM** with the Lenten and Easter texts from Handel's Messiah. .

**THE CROSS OF CHRIST BECOMES THE TREE OF LIFE**

**March 4, 11, 18 & 25**



Mid-week Lenten gatherings on **Wednesdays**. We will gather at **6:00 PM** for a light supper of bread and soup, accompanied by the sharing of scripture, prayer and holy communion. Our gatherings this year will focus on how the Cross brings us Life.



Please sign up on the bulletin board to provide soup or bread for one of the meals.



**HOLY WEEK**

**Holy week for Kids and Families  
Saturday, March 28, 10:00 am-12:00 noon**

We will again have an interactive Intro to Holy Week especially for kids. We will 'walk through' Holy Week together from Palm Sunday up to Easter. The Kids (and adults) gain a deeper understanding of the meaning and events of the events of the last week of Jesus' life: The procession into Jerusalem, (Palm Sunday) the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemene, and Jesus' Arrest (Maundy Thursday), Jesus' trial, carrying the cross to Golgotha, Jesus' death on the Cross (Good Friday), ending with Jesus' being placed into the tomb. We will make crafts, hear the Bible story, sing songs, and learn together. Please sign up on the bulletin board at church, with ages and number attending, so we can be prepared with enough supplies for everyone.

**BASKETS OF PROMISE**




This Lent we're joining Lutheran World Relief's Baskets of Promise campaign. Each week, we collect a different item that to add to the Personal Care Kits


giving people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations.

**Here's our collection schedule:**


**Week of March 1**  
Bath Towels (light-weight, maximum 52" x 27", dark color recommended)




**Week of March 8**  
Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)



**Week of March 15 Combs**



**Week of March 22**  
Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)



**Week of March 29**  
More Bars of Soap, in original wrapping.



*Save the Date!*


**Oxford-Webster-Dudley Lenten Ecumenical Gathering**  
**Sunday, March 8, 3:00 PM**

This event will take place at the **First Congregational Church in Dudley**. Our Featured guest speaker will be Rev. Laura Everett, the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches.

**PASTORAL ACTS**

**Holy Baptism on February 1, 2015**  
**Erlinda Montserrat Bueso Gomez**

At Iglesia Christiana Luterana Monte de Getsemani Santa Cruz de Yojoa, Honduras  
Erlinda is the daughter of Yolanda Patricia Gomez Lopez and Eden Bueso Ramirez

 **Darlene Drake**, a member who had been on hospice for a significant amount of time, died January 27, 2015. The funeral service and burial will be in the spring. Our deepest sympathy to Darlene's family.

**FINANCIAL NEEDS**

As you may know the church roof experienced leaking due to **ice dams**. The executive committee made a decision to pay to have the snow removed from the roof. The cost of **approximately \$1600** was seen as a necessary expense to avoid further damage. Funds to pay for this will be taken from the **Building Fund**. If you are able to consider an additional gift to help replenish this fund, please use one of the special building fund envelopes or write "Building Fund" on your check.

Also, due to cancelled services and decreased attendance in other weeks, our **current cash flow situation is very tight**. If you are behind on your pledge, please try to catch up as soon as possible so we can continue to meet our financial obligations. Thank you.



To **Bob Laurens** for plowing the parking lot and back driveway during all of our snow storms. Thank you to **Bud Fischvogt** for snow blowing and shoveling walkways, all exit doorways, and for coordinating the snow removal from roof.



**Food Shelf**

March is Zion's turn to staff the **Oxford Food Shelf on Thursday evenings (March 5, 12, 19, 26) 5:00 PM-7:30 PM**. Please consider taking a turn to help with this important ministry. A Sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex.



**Are You Experiencing a "Winter" in Your Life?**

**Our Stephen Ministers Can Help!**

The winter weather we've had recently can be symbolic of what can sometimes happen in life. A crisis hits and we feel like we're buried beneath a drift of snow. Relationships can become "icy," or we can feel "frozen" by life circumstances. Little difficulties build up like "slush," making us slip and slide, causing every decision to seem treacherous. Life seems dreary, and we begin to doubt if spring will ever come. We can wonder, "Is God even there?"

Stephen Ministers are trained to provide confidential Christian care, giving you the emotional and spiritual support you need to make it through a "winter" in your life. To learn more about how a Stephen Minister can help you or someone you know, contact one of Zion's Stephen Ministry Leaders: Pastor Nancy, Maydee Morales, Jackie Bonneau, or Pam Olson. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you.

**Upcoming Events**

**We are planning a Holy Week healing service to be held on Monday March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.**



**A BIG THANKS TO PASTOR PAUL HENRY** (father of Susan Leboeuf) for his gift of 50 handmade Lenten crosses again this year.

**WHAT'S UP AT SUNDAY SCHOOL IN MARCH?**



- Sunday, March 1 "Abraham and Sarah's Visitors" (Genesis 6-9)
- Sunday, March 8 "The Ten Commandments" (Exodus 20:1-17)
- Sunday, March 15 "The Light of the World" (John 3:14-21)
- Sunday, March 22 "Serve and Follow" (John 12:20-33)
- Sunday, March 29 "Holy Week" (Mark 11:1-11; 14:1-15:47)

**Special Event on Saturday, March 28: Intro to Holy Week for kids and families**



**GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US!**

Time: Sunday morning 9:45-10:25 AM.

Place: Koinonia Room (first room on right upon entering the church)

Pick up your coffee in the Fellowship Hall and return to join us for discussion around the church readings of the day. In an informal gathering we seek the meaning of God's Word and its application to our daily living.

No preparation or special knowledge is necessary. Come with an open heart, share your thoughts and questions or *simply absorb God's message to you that day*. In these few moments God can often provide additional strength and comfort for the week ahead.

During March we will be looking at the following Lenten themes heard in the Gospel readings:

- March 1 What does "following Christ" mean?
- March 8 Understanding Jesus' Mission
- March 15 Exploring the "Gospel in a Nutshell" (John 3:16)
- March 22 Lift high the Cross
- March 29 Palm Sunday: Christ our King and Savior



"A Time for Every Season—A Time for YOU!"

2015 Region 7 Women of the ELCA SPIRITUAL RETREAT

April 17-19, 2015

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center

West Hartford CT 06107

COST: \$255.00 per person\* (Includes registration fee, 2 overnights, & 6 meals)

Saturday Commuter Fee: \$95.00 (includes registration fee, lunch, & dinner)

Make check payable to: "Region 7 Women of the ELCA"

\*Double Occupancy in most cases

Registration forms and more info available in Narthex.

LIPY (Lutheran Inter Parish Youth)



LIPY MOVIE NIGHT

March 1, 2015 3:00 PM-6:30 PM

What: Movie night with your fellow LIPY Friends

Where: Faith Lutheran Church 627 Green St. Gardner, MA

When: What-else: There will be pizza, a movie snacks and drinks

How Much: \$5.00 per person for food.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2015

Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-5:00 PM is the mandatory Mission Trip meeting for parents, youth and chaperones at Zion Lutheran Church in Worcester.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON THE LIPY SCHEDULE 2014-15



We have lots of great activities planned for LIPY this year. Watch the bulletin board at Zion for more info. LIPY is open to all youth, grades 7-12.

Monday-Friday, April 20-24: Annual week-long mission trip to Washington, DC

Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>: Forsberg Dinner Dance (Zion-Worcester)

LIPY-CM Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to all LIPY events. You MUST turn in completed Covenant and Medical forms before you can attend LIPY events. (Forms are available on the Youth bulletin board in the hallway.) You can also join the LIPY Facebook group to be updated on activity plans. Talk to Pastor Nancy if you have any questions.

Save  
the  
Date!

### 125 YEARS OF MINISTRY

Submitted by Paul Peterson  
History Committee

The committee is planning our gala 125th celebration for **Saturday June 20**. Reserve the date for this family event. We have had some problems holding meetings due to bad weather, but our work continues. We are hopeful that this snow will be gone in time for the celebration.



### ZION'S CHRISTIAN CARE LIBRARY

Carol Weinhardt, Library coordinator

**RADICAL GRATITUDE** by Ellen Vaughn is the library's featured book for March. With passion and humor, Radical Gratitude opens our eyes to daily wonders that awaken worship. The smell of fresh cut grass or coffee brewing in the morning heightens our physical pleasures, inspires us say "thank you". But what about when tragedy strikes. When our hearts are pierced and broken? Is gratitude then but a cheery facade that mocks those who face real pain? This book has stories that illustrate that this is not the case. In fact it shows that sometimes in times of trial we actually draw closer to God and our faith strengthens.

### UPDATED LIST OF THE CURRENT COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Robert Laurens, President  
Peter Petrovski, Vice President  
Shirley Rossmesl, Treasurer  
Marleen Bacon, Secretary  
Sue Butchman, Financial Secretary  
Pastor Nancy Beckwith

Erika Blais, Young Adult Member  
Jennifer Peterson, Youth Member  
Antoinette Dobosz  
James Champoux  
Bud Fischvogt  
David Olson  
Jean Peterson



It's that time of year again! On March 7, before you go to sleep, be sure and set your clocks ahead. Yes, we lose an hour's sleep, but we gain more daylight at the end of the day.



### NOTES FROM THE February 16, 2015 COUNCIL MEETING

Submitted by Marleen R. Bacon, Council Secretary

The February Council meeting was called to order by Peter Petrovski at 7:10 PM.

Welcome was given to Jennifer Peterson and Erika Blais as the new Council members.

Devotions were given by Pastor Nancy.

The minutes from the last meeting on January 12, 2015 were accepted as presented.

In accordance with the new bylaws, the following Council officers were nominated and elected to serve for a one year term:

Robert Laurens, President

Peter Petrovski, Vice-President

Shirley Rossmesl, Treasurer

Marleen Bacon, Secretary

Sue Butchman, Financial Secretary

Ms. Rossmesl presented the financial report for the month of January. There was income of \$11,657.88 and expenses of \$11,339.34. Her report included the checking account balance, money market fund and designated funds.

The Council discussed the upcoming expenses for the month of February. Snow and ice removal from the church roof is estimated to be about \$1,650.

The Pastor's report and other committee reports were given. The Pastor noted that she has a partial congregational email list. If you want to be on the church email, please email Pastor Nancy, [pastornancy@gmail.com](mailto:pastornancy@gmail.com). The next meeting is scheduled for Monday March 2, 2015 at 7 PM. This meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
FINANCIAL RESULTS-- ACTUAL VS BUDGET  
JANUARY 31, 2015**

During the month of January, net income received was \$11,657.88 thousand and we disbursed \$11,339.34 thousand. Income exceeded Expenses by \$318.54.

For the first month of 2015, Revenue is \$825.37 under budget and Expenses are \$1,143.91 under budget.

The following is a comparison of 2015 actual to 2015 budget:

	JAN 2015	JAN 2015 YTD	Budget YTD 1/12	Over/(Under) Budget
<b>Operating Net Revenue</b>	\$ 11,657.88	\$ 11,657.88	\$ 12,483.25	\$ (825.37)
<b>Less Operating Net Expenses</b>	\$ 11,339.34	\$ 11,339.34	\$ 12,483.25	\$ (1,143.91)
<b>Income Net of Expenses</b>	<u>\$ 318.54</u>	<u>\$ 318.54</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	

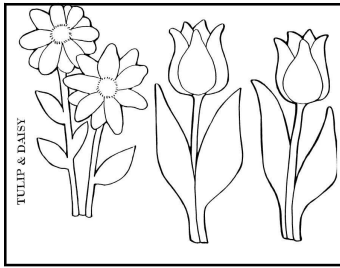
Expenses	JAN 2015	JAN 2015 YTD	Budget YTD 1/12	Over/(Under) Budget
Benevolence	\$ 31.12	\$ 31.12	\$ 545.83	\$ (514.71)
Pastors Ministry	\$ 6,251.93	\$ 6,251.93	\$ 6,438.83	\$ (186.90)
Stephen Ministry	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27.08	\$ (27.08)
Youth Ministry	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41.67	\$ (41.67)
Worship & Music	\$ 2,134.49	\$ 2,134.49	\$ 2,097.92	\$ 36.57
Administration	\$ 1,467.30	\$ 1,467.30	\$ 1,414.67	\$ 52.63
Property Management	\$ 467.48	\$ 467.48	\$ 597.50	\$ (130.02)
Insurance & Utilities	\$ 928.22	\$ 928.22	\$ 1,102.25	\$ (174.03)
Education & Outreach	\$ 45.15	\$ 45.15	\$ 109.17	\$ (64.02)
Evangelism	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ (25.00)
Card Ministry	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8.33	\$ (8.33)
Stewardship	\$ 13.65	\$ 13.65	\$ 75.00	\$ (61.35)
Non-budgeted Expenses			\$ -	\$ -
	<u>\$ 11,339.34</u>	<u>\$ 11,339.34</u>	<u>\$ 12,483.25</u>	<u>\$ (1,143.91)</u>

**2015 Total Operating Budget** \$ 149,799.00

**CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE AT 1/31/15** \$ 3,764.96

**MONEY MARKET & DESIGNATED FUNDS BALANCE AT 1/31/15 (2 accts)** \$ 33,438.51

*Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley I. Rossmeisl, Treasurer*



**EASTER FLOWER GARDEN**

This year we will be purchasing a wide variety of different kinds of flowering plants to celebrate the Resurrection. We will have a beautiful display of lilies, tulips, daffodils, iris and more. All donations received will be combined to purchase a colorful mixture of plants to beautify our sanctuary for worship on Easter Sunday.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_ or In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Easter is April 5<sup>th</sup>. Donations needed by March 25.**



**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

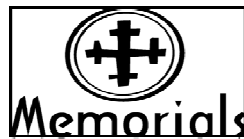
- George Bayer 02
- Nicole Karp 06
- Bev Makowski 06
- Paul Siegmund 08
- Ginny Watkins 11
- Jim Champoux 12
- Phyllis McClintock 12
- Laurie Teece 12
- Karen Siegmund 13
- Mira Filipkowski 16
- Amy Peterson 17
- Tyler Olson 18
- Jenna LaFontaine 21
- William Peterson 26
- Joy Arent 28
- Carol Langer 31



**WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

Lois Austin, Helene Bejune, Ray and Margaret Briere, Esther Elliott, Donna Filipkowski, Corey Goodwin, Alice Grzlecki, Barbara Haggerty, Sal Luco, Dorothy McLellan, Jim Moore, Ray Odgren, Jean Peterson, Conrad Redlitz, Darlene Russell, Emma Schremser, Cecile Steiglitz, Catherine Vogel, Donald Weinhardt, and those without adequate shelter in the cold.

**To let us know about a prayer concern or to add a name to the printed prayer list, call or email Karen in the office or use the card in the pew racks and place in offering plate.**



**IN MEMORY OF PETER PIERCE**

**To The Music Fund:** Janet Abissi  
**To The Memorial Fund:** Barbara Billings

Submitted by Sue Shade



**IMPORTANT REMINDER!**

**In case of emergency hospitalization or death – the best, and quickest, way to reach Pastor Nancy is by calling 508-499-8787. By calling this number, you can reach Pastor Nancy immediately.**



**SNOW CLOSING..**

If you would like to be notified of snow closings, and other Zion news by email, please send an email to [pastornancy@gmail.com](mailto:pastornancy@gmail.com) with the **SUBJECT: "ADD ZION NEWS"** and you will be added to the group email list.



**IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER**



Check the Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/ZionLutheranChurch> or call the church office to check for delayed openings of the office and worship or Sunday School cancellation. Please use your judgment in deciding whether you can safely travel to Zion.



**ZION IS ON FACEBOOK**

<https://www.facebook.com/ZionLutheranChurch>  
 "Like" the page to keep updated about what is going on.



**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Email submissions for the **April** newsletter are due on or before **March 15th.**

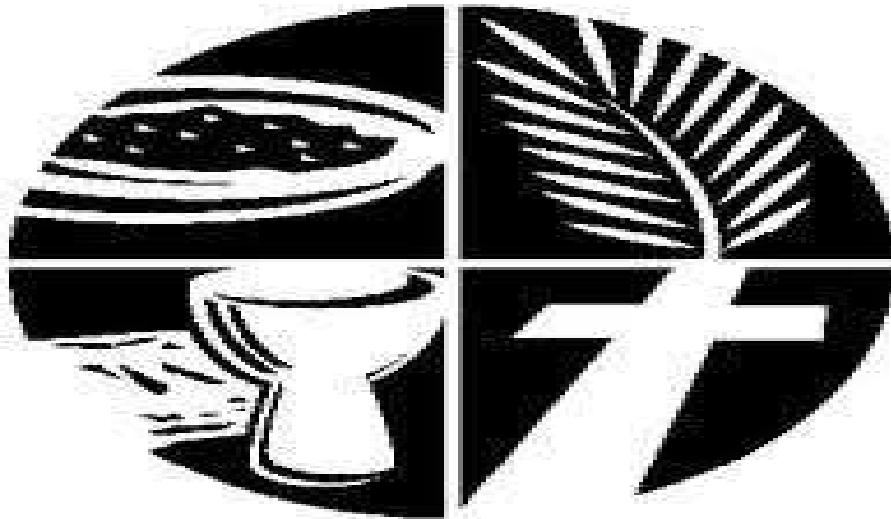
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# MARCH 2015



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