

FEBRUARY 2012



Dear Zion Family,

Not sure how much of our news you read, but this will be the last mailed copy of the newsletter. If you would like to continue to have access to our newsletter, be sure to read the form at the end of this issue made by Marsha.

Hawaii was a great family vacation for the Schmidt family. We had some very special moments. We remembered Grandpa Floyd on the trip multiple times and his gift for us which made the trip possible. We are reminded of God's grace because of Floyd, as someone else has done for us what we could never do for ourselves.

As we slowly got to know Floyd and "Adopt" him into our family, we developed a deep and loving relationship with him. For 9 years in Grand Rapids we got to know and care for Floyd. We met him just after we moved into our home and his wife Barb had just died. We included him in all family affairs and holidays. We took care of his home, lawn, snow and shopping. We cooked for him. We served him as best we could. And in the end, it was he that served us with naming us as heirs.

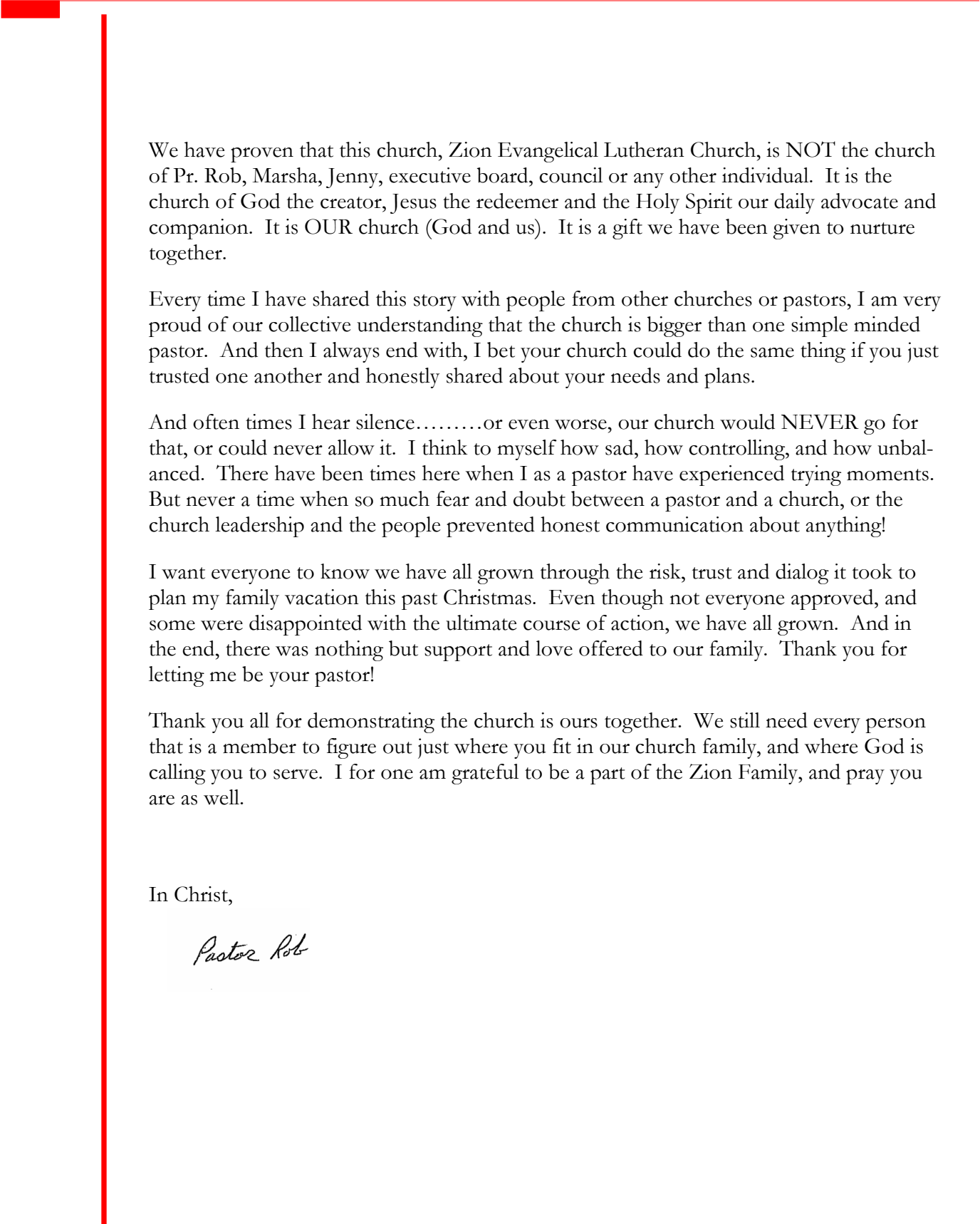
Our relationship with Floyd reminds us in a small way of our relationship with God. It is a love story, one of getting to know one another through spending time together and serving. And in the end, what God does for us is something we could never do for ourselves. It is not material, but it is spiritual, practical and meaningful in this life. It is always a surprise the capacity of God to love. And in the final end, it is a promise of paradise and eternity. Something we could never do or accomplish on our own.

Over the course of time I am certain you will hear stories of our trip and experience. I wept at Pearl Harbor. I was in awe at Gods creation. I had flash back memories to my days in the Peace Corps because of the environment and chickens! I watched the girls surf, and snorkeled with Josh. All of these experiences were great, but when I connect them to my daily faith, they become powerful, awesome and inspiring. That is exactly what happens when we connect our everyday life with every day faith.

Multiple colleagues and members of other churches marvel at how I could have done this at Christmas. And it is here where some of the greatest blessings happened for all of us! Yes I missed being here for Christmas, and I know I was missed.

But what we proved is that the church is bigger than a pastor, it is the people. We proved that church will always go on, no matter who is or is not here. We proved that the responsibility of welcoming people and leading worship is shared between all of the church, not any one specific individual or a pastor. We have proven that through communication and planning a healthy trust exists at all levels of our church.

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We have proven that this church, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, is NOT the church of Pr. Rob, Marsha, Jenny, executive board, council or any other individual. It is the church of God the creator, Jesus the redeemer and the Holy Spirit our daily advocate and companion. It is OUR church (God and us). It is a gift we have been given to nurture together.

Every time I have shared this story with people from other churches or pastors, I am very proud of our collective understanding that the church is bigger than one simple minded pastor. And then I always end with, I bet your church could do the same thing if you just trusted one another and honestly shared about your needs and plans.

And often times I hear silence.....or even worse, our church would NEVER go for that, or could never allow it. I think to myself how sad, how controlling, and how unbalanced. There have been times here when I as a pastor have experienced trying moments. But never a time when so much fear and doubt between a pastor and a church, or the church leadership and the people prevented honest communication about anything!

I want everyone to know we have all grown through the risk, trust and dialog it took to plan my family vacation this past Christmas. Even though not everyone approved, and some were disappointed with the ultimate course of action, we have all grown. And in the end, there was nothing but support and love offered to our family. Thank you for letting me be your pastor!

Thank you all for demonstrating the church is ours together. We still need every person that is a member to figure out just where you fit in our church family, and where God is calling you to serve. I for one am grateful to be a part of the Zion Family, and pray you are as well.

In Christ,

Pastor Rob

What is a Shrove Tuesday Meal?



Fat Tuesday or Shrove Tuesday is the last day before Lent begins.

February 21st — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Tradition has it that many cultures historically would use the “fat” of their foods and cook a feast using such foods. Word origins also suggest a link to our English word confession. Out of this tradition comes the celebration of many cultures eating specific foods prior to Lent beginning.

In March we will be planning our fifth Shrove Tuesday Dinner here at the church. It will be a simple pancake supper with sausage. We will collect a free will offering at the meal to cover expenses and support one of our Youth Program. A sign up sheet will be in the Foyer to give us a better idea to plan on how many will be attending.

If you would like to help with the dinner, please call the office and volunteer or sign up in the foyer. Again this year our new(er) member families along with our Confirmation Students will be serving to help coordinate this event. This is a great place to offer to assist if you have not volunteered lately or are looking for a way to volunteer or just get to know each other.

Sign up sheets and further contact information will be posted in the Foyer.



Worship Times

Sunday - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

“Come As You Are Worship”

Wednesdays- 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Schedule

Shrove Tuesday
February 21st

Ash Wednesday
February 22nd

**Mid Week Lenten
Worship**
February 29th
March
7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

HOLY WEEK BEGINS

Palm Sunday
April 1st
S.S. Bake Sale

**Mid Week Lenten
Worship**
April 4th

Maundy Thursday
April 5th

Good Friday
April 6th

**Easter Breakfast
Set Up**
April 7th

EASTER SUNDAY
April 8th

Second Nature Faith!

Think about how many things we are able to do almost on “autopilot.” We tie our shoes without having to plan every crossing of the laces. We drive our cars without over-thinking every procedure (using the mirrors, brakes, turn signals etc.). We dial familiar telephone numbers in an automatic fashion. It really is amazing just how many daily activities have become “second nature” to us.

How do things become “second nature?” Through the habit of doing them often enough and frequently enough. Question: Has your spiritual and church life become second nature?

In terms of *spiritual living*, most of us are someplace on the continuum between “have to think about it” and “it just comes naturally.” We probably find ourselves living our lives in a manner that sometimes, but doesn’t always reflect our Christian faith and values. And once again, on the *church activity/involvement continuum*, most of us are someplace between “not at all involved” and “very much involved.” When we become aware that the congregation needs help with a project, ministry or activity, and we at least give it a few moments of serious consideration...then we are on our way to becoming a “second nature” member...we just naturally understand that *we have a role to play* within the ministries of Zion. If, on the other hand, we just reflexively ignore requests for involvement, then we may need to think about the concepts of “faith-in-action” and “fruits of the faith.”

There is nothing wrong with carefully thinking about all of our support for our congregation, monetary as well as personal involvement. But know that the more we consider and accept callings that come to us, the more natural and “second nature” our response becomes. Many of the hymns that we sing in church concern themselves with our partnering in Christ’s ministry. Many of Pastor Rob’s sermons concern themselves with the need for members to step forward and become involved. We are all people of faith. Let’s work at becoming intentional Christians. Let’s get into the *habit* of sharing the fruits of our faith often enough and frequently enough so that they become “second nature.”

Lord, show us the path that You would have us travel so that we might grow into the joy and fulfillment of a “second nature” faith. Amen.

Your Stewardship Ministry Team

Church Staff

Rev. Robert Schmidt
695-9626
freelandpastor@sbcglobal.net

Marsha Paetz
Administrative Assistant
695-9626
marshapaetz@sbcglobal.net

Jenny Harding
Director of Music
737-4620
blueblue@charter.net

Sandy Schwan
Handbell Director
692-0236
lschwan@earthlink.newt

Bob LaDuke
Bookkeeper
695-9769
duja1008@gmail.com

Renee Sullivan
Wedding Coordinator
642-2532
rlbarko@hotmail.com

Sally Schlader
Janitress
695-9056

695-9626
zionelca@sbcglobal.net
Church Website:
www.zionfreeland.org



Opportunities for ALL

We will be needing volunteers throughout Lent to serve as servants in various areas.:

- Worship Help**
- Decorating**
- Special fellowship Meals**
- Worshipping on Wednesday**
- Helping cook at various meals/set up/clean up**



**JOIN ANY
BOARD
COMMITTEE
GROUP**

Guardian
Angels
For
Confirmation
Kids for next
year...sign up
early!

Sign Ups Posted In Foyer

- **Wild Game Dinner**
- **Altar Flowers**
- **Shrove Dinner**
- **Chili Cook-Off**
- **Women's Bible Study**
- **Pampered Party**
- **Small Group Ministry**
- **Newsletter retrieval**
- **Co-op Preschool February Scrapbook fundraiser**
- **Conf. Kids March Scrapbook fundraiser**

Steward Story

Time and Talent (our individual gifts).....Each of us has been given an abundance of both. How, where, and why we choose to use them is a personal decision we each make. Is this an area where you could help make a difference?



THE CHILDREN'S CHURCH PROJECT

Member, Sarah Wagner, recognized the need for a Children's Church while sitting in the back of the church with her own children. Because of the frequent distraction of managing children, she felt that she was missing out on important parts of the service and believed other families were probably having the same experience. Sarah had an idea that became reality on Memorial Day, 2010...it was called Children's Church. It has continued since that time at the 10:30 am service.

What is Children's Church? Following the Children's Sermon, children are invited to leave the sanctuary and go to Fellowship Hall, where a prepared activity awaits them. The chosen activities are age appropriate. The children get busy with items such as crayons, stickers, construction paper and Play Dough – a particular favorite. Upon completion, the kids are able to take their finished projects with them. A joy for the kids!

And what are the parents doing while their kids are busy in their Children's Church activity? They are peacefully and attentively listening to Pastor Rob's sermons. A joy for the parents!

Sarah has been happy to spearhead this project, but there have been a few "bumps in the road." First of all, more help is needed. It would be great if some of the parents (or anyone else) would offer to help Sarah on occasion. Also, some of the children might have food allergies or not be completely potty-trained...these issues should be talked over with Sarah.

This is a valuable project that Zion would like to keep "going and growing." There are usually between ten and fifteen child participants each week. Please consider volunteering to assist Sarah in this important children's ministry. She has been providing most of the materials used for Children's Church, but would welcome donations from the parents and congregation. To volunteer or for any questions, please contact Sarah Wagner at 401-1077.

Thank You Lord, for Sarah, her helpers, and for all of Zion's volunteers!

Your Stewardship Ministry Team

Welcome and Thank You

to the members of Zion that have agreed to be part of the Church Leadership

Congregation Council -Executive Bd.	
President	Jeff Schram
Vice President	Cindy Frazier
Secretary	Kathy Smith
Treasurer	Connie Hoverman

Board/Committee Officers	
Ministry of Deacons	Matt Pacholke
	Gary Miller Co-Chairman
	Fred Bartlett (Summer)
	Pat Rickman
	Sally Schlader
	Kyle Krenzke
	Jim Warmbier
	Bill Schlader
	Art Weber Financial Deacon
	Art Schwan
	Jim Stirrett Co-Chair.(Winter)
	Kris Lentner
	Jim Ostrander
	Judy Lincoln
Ministry of Education	Margarette Diechman Chair.
	Jodi Dahley
	Briana Rutkiewicz
	Elaine Merrell
	Bonnie Barko Enollment Sec.
	Dave Susalski
	Lindsay Susalski
	Jamie & Kris Lentner
	Tara Lundstrom
	Sarah Wagner
Mark Frazier	
Ministry of Worship	Kathy Bell
	Janine Joyner
	Tim Cole
	Jenny Harding
	Sharon Frank
	Hillary Norfleet

Ministry of Property	Tom Laatsch
	Jim Beyer
	Todd Drummond
	Nathan Marolf
	Paul Vasold
	Doug Emerson
	Dennis LyVere
	Jeff Talaga
	Jason Rutkiewicz
	Jerry Matuszewski
Ministry of Elders	Don Nuffer
	Art Hahn
	Bill Bell
	Judy Schimm
	Bud Scherzer
	Kerry Pacholke
	Jeff Diechman
	Sue Drummond
	Ruth & Tom Wallace
	Carol Little
	Dianne Shappee
	Donna Wegner
Karen Knox	
In/Out Reach Ministry	Jeff & Kathy Bell
	Lori & Tom Laatsch
	Christine & Tim Vasicek
	Sheila & Steve Boensch
Ministry of Stewardship	Ralph Flatt Secretary
	Fred Bartlett
	Jan Hennink Chairperson
	Barbara Egbert
	Ruth Marcy
Endowment Committee	Connie Stahl
	Sandy Worner President
	Shelley Norris Treasurer
	Claudia Flattery
	John Rivett

Many thanks to the members that have come off boards above and women's bd. this year:

Bonnie Miller, Mark Kern, Brenda Bluem, Craig Rickman, Dave Smith, Lori Chrcek, Claudia Flattery, Cathy Schulz, John Rivett, Pam Miller, Darlene Roth



February is already here, and that means we are heading into Lent. I find it so hard to believe, as we are barely out of the Christmas Season!

I know this is a little late, but I would like to thank everyone who helped on Christmas Eve--all singers and musicians. Thank you--everyone did a terrific job!

Now that Lent and the Easter season are just about here, if anyone is interested in providing special music, please let me know. Even if you can only do something at one service, that is fine. We can put you in a Sunday morning service, a Wednesday evening service, or all three!

If anyone is interested in joining the handbells, sr. choir, or gospel group, please see me. It's not too late to start now!

Tentatively, sr. choir will be starting up again on Thursday, February 16 at 7:00pm in the choir room. We will be working on something for Lent and Easter. Please come and join us!

The next family fun sing will be on Sunday, February 26. We will meet in the sanctuary at approximately 9:45 to learn a new song for the 10:30 service. ALL are welcome!

If anyone needs to contact me, please feel free to call or e-mail me. I'm also at the church on Mondays from noon-2pm.

Thank you everyone, and have a GREAT February!!

Jenny

New Funeral Banner

"You Will Be With Me In Paradise"



This new Banner has graced our Sanctuary for the last couple of weeks.

It is a beautiful picture of doves rising with rays of sun.

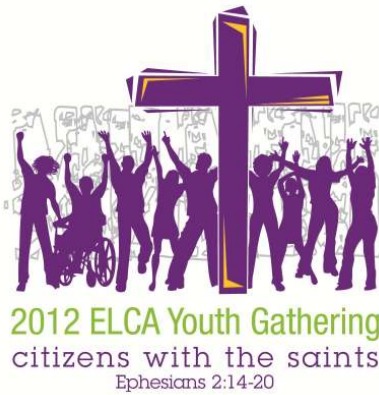
It is made from velvets and satins...it feels as beautiful as it looks.

Thanks again to the talented group of women that make our banners. If interested in helping with banner designs and sewing, please contact

Caroline Wirtz, coordinator of this group.

We are always looking for more people to join all committees.

If you would like to be one of our servants that hang the banners, contact Marsha in the office.



Our Youth are still working at getting to New Orleans in July. Thanks for all of the support we have received so far. Here are some other notes on our activities as we continue fundraising for this Youth ELCA Gathering.

1. Wreaths and centerpieces- Profit of \$178. A special thank you to Jenny Harding of Auburn Green House for helping us with this
2. Jack Links still for sale
3. Ink cartridge collection total so far: \$47.45, please keep bringing them in.
4. Jan. 29th -Youth led service, Pastor was taken hostage with a collection taken to return him to the service.....
5. St. Patrick's Day celebration in Bay City- Lori Brown organizing youth volunteers for parade and marathon event. We may get a cash kick-back for helping out.
6. Buffalo Wild Wing Fundraiser -date to be determined in March.
7. Collecting pop cans after Super bowl-will do a can drive, please save and call one of us and we will pick up
8. Chili Cook Off- March 4th from 12-2pm, please bring in you favorite pot of chili, invite family and friends to bring a pot. Cornbread, crackers, beverage and dessert provided for \$5. We will also have a raffle for items, Butterbraids Pasties will be sold as well.
9. Subway cards will be sold after services for \$20, watch for sale to begin!

Sheryl Krenzke
slk464@aol.com

Chili Cook Off!

Sunday, March 4th
Immediately following
2nd Service

Fund Raiser for kids going to National Youth Gathering July 2012 in New Orleans, Louisiana

Looking for members to enter the chili cook off!

Donate a crock of chili and the congregation votes for their favorite.

Lunch will include several samples of chili, crackers, beverages and desserts.

(5.00 for adults ~ 3.00 for kids~ kids 5 and under free)



2012 ELCA Youth Gathering

Happy February...

We are getting back into the swing of things after our Christmas break. Our young Lutherans are learning about Baptism and walking with Jesus.

Some activities to look forward to:

- ◆ Our service project for the year will be on Sunday, February 19th...
UNDIES Sunday will return. So please help collect underwear and socks for the Saginaw City Rescue Mission
- ◆ In March we will have a PJ and Movie Sunday—date to be announced soon.
- ◆ April 1st—Palm Sunday will be our Annual Bake Sale...so start thinking of those yummy goodies you can donate.

Once again thank you for all your support to our "Little Lutherans".

Margarette Diechman
Sunday School Superintendent



Spotlight on our Kids

If you see one of our small Lutherans doing something special...jot me a note and I will include it in our NL. This is a great way to give our kids/youth a "pat on the pack" or "shout out" or a "high 5", however you put it...a chance to praise our kids for being involved here at Zion. Listed below are a couple I noticed. This is a great way we can show our kids that we really do see their good deeds....

Carter Vasicek and Bryden Susalski designed a bulletin cover ...

All the kids coming to acolyte and carry the cross each Sunday....

To Logan Vasicek for helping his day take all of the Christmas Trees down this year....



Wild Game Dinner

With all the avid hunters and fishermen we have here at Zion, and all our families and friends of hunters and fishermen as well, In-Reach/Out-Reach thought a "Wild Game Dinner" was long overdue!

So, please sign up to attend our first Zion Wild Game Dinner! All are welcome. It is a potluck so we should have a variety of items to taste and enjoy. We encourage dishes with wild game (venison stew, roasted duck, walleye, etc) but if you do not have of these items in your freezer we will also need and welcome side dishes, like baked beans or maybe garden vegetables canned from fall! Whatever you like!

The dinner is scheduled for Sunday, February 19 from 4:00 - 6:00 at our fellowship hall. In addition to the tasty food, we plan on having hunting and fishing videos to view as we eat, mingle, and share sportsman stories.

Please sign up (sheet posted on the board at church) and get ready for a delicious evening!

Thanks!

In-Reach/Out-Reach Ministry

Jeff & Kathy Bell

Lori & Tom Laatsch

Christine & Tim Vasicek

Sheila & Steve Boensch

Future Planned Events:

Walleye Parade Float—April

Summer Congregational Picnic—July

Progressive Dinner—December

Don't Miss Out on This!!

Women's Ministry

The Next Regularly schedule Ministry of Women's Planning meeting will be held on Monday, February 6th at 7pm. Topics on the agenda will be:

- Planning of the Women's Annual Pampered party
- Working on the calendar of events for the year for all women
- Discussing NOIZ Scholarships for the graduating class of 2012
- Spring Rummage
- May Bible Video Retreat
- Mother Daughter Banquet



All Women of the church are members of the Women's Group. Monthly planning meetings are open to all that wish to attend.

Please note that our regular board meetings will be on the 2nd Monday of the month. Remember: Women need not be on the board to coordinate or participate.

Rummage News by Shirley Seitz

Rummage will be sorted the first and third Monday from 12 to 3pm. Anyone wishing to drop something off and can't make it at that time please call me at 695-5158 and I can meet you there. Still collecting Pat's or Krogers brown bags. You can bring them to church and put them in the box for food pantry collection.

Prayer Shawl Ministry by Shirley Seitz

Last month we gave over 40 hat mittens and scarf to the Freeland Schools. We will be meeting Thurs. Feb. 2 at 1:00 up in the fellowship hall . Feb. will be our last month to be doing the hat mittens and scarfs. Anyone wishing a Prayer Shawl can contact me or the office.

Women's Winter Bible Study Begins by Vicki Lundstrom

Stepping Up" – a journey through the Psalms of Ascent. This is a six week study of Psalms 120-134. Saturday 10-12 noon or Monday 7-9 pm. It will begin February 18 (Saturday) and February 20 (Monday). **Registration will end February 6,** allowing for time to order the study guides and have them before the 18th. The study style is a little different – Beth calls it "Saying," "Working," and "Praying" the Psalms. Saying = using several translations to read the week's study Psalm. Working = identifying words in the Psalm that reveal God or a message to us. Praying = understanding ways to serve and worship more intimately. Registration forms are be in the entry on a poster board for sign up by Sunday. Checks are to be made out to Zion Lutheran Church. If you have any questions/concerns, please contact Vicki Lundstrom.

PLANNING BOARD

Gloria Aaron

Diane Dahley

Barbara Egbert

Barb Emerson

Betty Hafer

Peggy Ignatowski

Jacque LaDuke

Gia Locke (VP)

Carole Nuffer

Helen Rossow

Shirley Seitz

Kathy Smith

Bonnie Vasold

Pat Rickman (Sec.)

Kathy Toth (Treas.)

Marsha Paetz (Pres.)



Women's Annual Pampered Party

This annual event is scheduled for Monday, March 12th, 7:00 p.m. at the Memorial Park Building. The Women's Board of Zion began this evening as a THANK YOU to all the Zion ladies that help throughout the year with their volunteerism. There is no cost to anyone attending. Come get ready to be pampered. We have hair dressers, nail technicians, facial wax technician, foot and hand waxing, masseuses and lots of yummy finger foods. (so don't eat dinner)

A Sign up sheet is in the foyer. The deadline to sign up, as we do need a head count on how many are coming, is Sun., March 4th as space is limited. Again this year because of the great response, we are asking for Adults and H.S. girls only to attend. *Note: To High School Girls, if you wish to help, this is a great way to get volunteer hours for school.*

Scholarships for H.S. Seniors 2012

The Women's Ministry gives out a scholarship gift to some of our dedicated High School Seniors. Scholarship letters will be sent out soon to all Seniors that will graduate in 2012. Deadline to return these to the Women's Board is April 8th, (Easter Sunday.)

- We need a Senior Wallet picture of you. (for the newsletter). Please drop them off to the church office by Apr. 1st.

Women's Retreat – 2012 Loving Well / Beth Moore

May 4 – 6:30-9:30 pm

May 5 – 9:30 am -5:30 pm

Hosted by: Women of Ascension – Saginaw **and** Women of Zion – Freeland

Location: Ascension – Saginaw

The Saginaw County 30831 Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans invites Thrivent Financial members and their personal guests

Retreat Planning Meeting: Sunday, February 12 – 9:45 a.m. / Zion Sanctuary

All volunteers, leadership team and all Beth Moore students of Zion are requested to attend this final planning meeting before the promotional materials are prepared for distribution early March.

- sample of the retreat video teaching
- sample of the concert music proposed
- detailed review of the Friday night and Saturday events
- specific areas where workers are still needed

Call Vicki Lundstrom 695-2086; email cvlundstrom@charter.net if you're interested in sharing your gifts with this awesome group of faithful women.

Baptism

Raymond James Fox, infant son of Trisha(Hayes) and Duane Fox, was baptized on January 15th. Sponsors for Raymond are Travis Hayes and Brandi Fox.

Deaths

January Linda Zientek – friend of Rickman
John Greig—friend of Ralph & Daina Barthel

Memorials

Given in Memory of Frank Roenicke
Prayer Shawl Ministry: Barney & Karen Wozniak
Family Wishes: Pat & Joe Zuzula

Given in Memory of Dick Hall
Family Wishes: Jan Hennink; Joe & Pat Zuzula
Music Fund: Bob & Judy Schimm
Boiler Fund: Evelyn & Bill Bell;
Bonnie & Gary Miller
Building Maintenance: Gloria Aaron

Given in Memory of Phyllis Schulz
Music Fund: Bob & Judy Schimm
Not Designated:
John & Elaine Trumbull; Ken & Glenda Lesh;
Roberta Waybrant; John & Elanor Hufper
Boiler Fund: Denise & Dave Williamson

Given in Memory of John Rose
Not Designated: From His Family

Given in Memory of Fay Bowsby
Family Wishes: Art, Elaine & Sandy Schwan

Please Keep Our Shut-ins in your Prayers:

Homebound: Bob Dietzel, Jack Mainprize, Alfred Clayton, Helen Sieggreen, Joe Riha, Fred Lonsway,
Dorothy Balzar, Marge Gehringer, Barbara Kolles,

In Care Facility: Mildred Shotwell, Carl Eggebrecht, Janice Hock, Anna Dobulis,
Marian & Dick Freeland.

WANTED – ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

Jacque and I are looking for 3 willing families for the year of 2012 to join with us in Adopting a Family. We will get the name of a single family from the Freeland Ministerial Society and will partner (confidentially) with that family for the entire year. Our hopes are to offer some relief to a family by remembering birthdays, anniversaries, Holidays, etc.. We would be sending cards, offering prayers, building holiday food baskets, and gifts at Christmas etc. as we as a group decide.

We cannot do this on our own but feel that with a team of 4 families we can make the year of a selected family a little more special to them.

We would meet once or twice during the year to discuss how we want to minister to the selected family and what level of financial commitment would be needed to accomplish this outreach. The ultimate goal is to increase our own understanding of what it means to be Christian.

If you are interested in becoming one of four adoptive families, please contact me at 989-695-9769. Thank you.

Bob LaDuke

Confirmation Class Highlights

by Ilmars Dobulis

Dec. 18

The final class of 2011 concentrated on finishing learning about the Ten Commandments. We covered the eighth through tenth commandments which were about not lying about our neighbors, not coveting their spouse, and not coveting their belongings. Our activity was building Christmas trees (???) using uncooked spaghetti, marshmallows, and gum drops, and then tying our experiences back to our faith. We then made Christmas cards for the elderly, shut-ins, and people in the armed services. Our lunch had us enjoying chicken fingers, tater tots, salad, and cookies. Thanks go to the Balen and Hoffman families for providing these!

Jan 8

We began by performing some service to the church, taking down Christmas decorations. This was followed by a discussion of the highs and lows all of us had experienced since our last class before Christmas, along with our spiritual experiences. In preparation for lessons in future classes about the Lords Prayer and Apostles Creed, we talked about our relationships and communications with other people, and how they compare to how we relate to God. Our activity was about communications, with the students being paired off, one describing a picture and the other drawing it (without seeing it). The Miller and Crook families provided a super lunch of pizza and brownies. Thank you!!!

As a reminder, the confirmation program is more than just attending the confirmation classes. It includes attending worship services and serving the church (examples: be an acolyte, a crucifer, or helping with the children's church during sermons). Students attending worship should fill out Worship Notes and return them (parents can also complete the Notes and compare to see if they received the same message as the kids!). If someone visits a different church, just write a brief summary of the sermon on a sheet of paper, put your name on it and date it, and turn it in the next time you are at Zion.

Peace. Ilmars

Confirmation Camp

We have 16 kids attending our Summer Confirmation Camp in July. This group of kids involves, 8th-6th Graders. Listed below are a couple of fundraiser events that are already in the works.

Scrapbook Crop Fundraiser: Kim Mattson and Julie Young are Coordinating this 2-day fundraiser. Friday, March 9th & 10th here at Zion. Registrations forms are available in the church office, in this NL and on the bulletin board. The Purple Butterfly will also be a vendor at this event.

Easter Breakfast**Sunday Class Schedule 12-2:30pm**

February 12th

February 26th

March 11th

March 25th

April 7th Work at Easter Breakfast

April 15th

April 29th

May 20th last class



Scrapbook Crop Fundraiser



Zion Lutheran Church Confirmation Students invite you to a fun filled weeker for scrappers and crafters.

When: Friday, March 9, 2012 6 pm to 11pm
Saturday, March 10, 2012 9 am to 9 pm

Where: Zion Lutheran Church, 7th Street, Freeland, MI

Cost: \$30 (Includes both days) Friday night will include a snack and cropping space. Saturday will include a light breakfast, lunch and dinner, cropping space and door prizes.

Complete registration form for each person attending and return with payment to:
Kim Mattson, 7750 N. River Rd, Freeland, MI 48623
Questions? Call Kim Mattson (989) 695-6568 or email kbasketk@yahoo.com

Registration

(Make checks payable to ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please seat me near: _____

Thank You

To all who have prayed ~

I want to give an update on my great-niece, Baby Grace. Grace was born on Sept. 21, 2011 and weighed 1 lb. 11 oz. She was 15 weeks premature. I find it amazing that she is 4 months old on her due date! Our little fighting angel has surpassed all expectations and with the help of your prayers and by the GRACE of God, she has thrived. On Dec. 20, 2011 Grace was discharged from the hospital and is now HOME with family. She is healthy and strong. What a blessed Christmas gift for my sister (Gramma) and the whole family. Thank you all for your continued prayers and support. Our God is an awesome God!

Jackie Munger

Dear All at Zion,

How wonderful it was to spend this Christmas season with you! I always have such a great time at Zion and this season was no exception. And I'm so thankful I could help Pastor Rob and his family have an exciting vacation.

And thank you, too, for the generous gift certificates you give me. You really are special people!

My prayer for you in 2012 is for the peace of God to guide you, the joy of God inspire you, and the love of God to move you forward into His future which I know will be a great place for all of you!

Doug

Pastor Doug Kahl

Dear Elders Members, ¹⁻¹⁶⁻¹²
Hello and Happy New Year to each of you and your families.

Wite and I thank you so much for all the work you put into those wonderful Christmas care sacks. Your kindness is very much appreciated, and I must say enjoyed!

Thank you and God Bless each & every one of you in the Elders Ministry.
Wite & Earline Johnson



Leaving A Lasting Impression

Do you care about the mission of Zion Lutheran Church?



Is it important to you that our work continue long after you've passed?

Take steps today to ensure you leave a lasting impression on lives of those we serve.

Include the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Endowment Fund in your will or trust, or name us as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy, IRA, 401(k) or 403(b).

Thank you for your continued support in the Birthday Challenge! To participate in the Birthday Challenge, consider giving \$1 to the Endowment Fund for each year of your age.

2011 Financial Statements

They are in your church mail box. If you have any questions, please contact Art Weber, Financial Deacon.

Treasurers Report December 2011

General Fund

11/30/2011 Balance	\$41,370.96
December Income	\$26,841.17
December Expenditures	\$18,244.26
12/31/2011 Balance	\$49,967.87

Missions (Synodical Benevolence)

Total Received thru 12/31/2011	\$16,249.82
Budgeted 2011 " Goal "	\$22,818.12
\$2362 per week	
Measure to " Goal " thru 12/31/2011	(\$6,568.30)

Other Fund Balances to date

Building	\$111,367.50
Family Wish/Landscape Memorials	\$7,411.46
Special Giving Accounts	\$37,206.37

Worship Volunteer Schedule

2012	Greeters		Readers	
	8:00am	10:30am	8:00am	10:30am
Feb. 5 th	The Leuenberger Family	Bob & Diane Dahley	Brice Leuenberger	SCOUTS
Feb. 12 th	Betty Hafer	Art & Peggy Weber	Carol Little	Taryn Taugher
Feb. 19 th	Collyn & Gary Kolles	Art & Elaine Schwan	Katie Pacholke	Patty Paisley
Feb. 26 th	Melani Egbert	Vern & Sally Schlicker	Heather Leuenberger	Jim Stirrett
Mar. 4 th	Paul & Lisa Knoerr	Margie & Dale Schillings	Paul Knoerr	Tammy Proux
Mar. 11 th	Bonnie Miller	Patty Paisley, Barbara Egbert	Bonnie Miller	Ralph Flatt
Mar. 18 th	The Leuenberger Family	The Lanczy Family	Brice Leuenberger	Tim Cole
Mar. 25 th	Nate & Kathy Marolf	Gloria Aaron	Bud Scherzer	Gloria Aaron
Apr. 1 st	Pat Rickman	The Frazier Family	Carol Little	Tara Lundstrom
Apr. 8 th Easter	The Terry Parson's Family	Jon & Angie McQuinn	Katie Pacholke	Peggy Flatt
Apr. 15 th	Bob & Judy Schimm	Carole & Don Nuffer	Heather Leuenberger	Sandy Schwan
Apr. 22 nd	Jim & Judy Warmbier	Sharon & Fred Bartlett	Paul Knoerr	Diane Dahley
Apr. 29 th	Art & Doris Wirtz	Jackie Munger, Jan Hennink	Bonnie Miller	Jeff Schram
May 6 th	Bud & Betty Scherzer	Billy & Marlene Krauss	Betty Scherzer	Ann Densmore

Worship Assistant 10:30am		Communion Assistant 8:00am	Communion Assistant 10:30am
Feb. 5 th	SCOUTS	Kerry, Adam & Katie Pacholke	SCOUTS
Feb. 12 th	Lauran Stirrett	Shirley Seitz, Elaine Delaney	Bob & Jacque LaDuke, Ralph Flatt, Patty Paisley
Feb. 19 th	Sandy Schwan	Steve Merrell, Elizabeth Merrell	Taryn, Tom, Terry & Maggie Taugher
Feb. 26 th	Bob LaDuke	Melani Egbert, Bonnie Miller	Helen Rossow, Jon & Angie McQuinn, Jackie Munger
Mar. 4 th	Jeff Schram	Kerry, Adam & Katie Pacholke	Sandy & Elaine Schwan, Briana Rutkiewicz, Bill Bell
Mar. 11 th	Tara Lundstrom	Steve Merrell, Elizabeth Merrell	Cindy, Mark & Katie Frazier, Vicki Lundstrom
Mar. 18 th	Bud Scherzer	Elaine Delaney, Bonnie Miller	Lindsay & Dave Susalski, Sue Schmidt & Samantha Schmidt
Mar. 25 th	Sara Miller	Shirley Seitz, Melanie Egbert	Gloria Aaron, Mary Doud, Lauran Stirrett, Krissy Boman
Apr. 1 st	Bill Bell	Bud & Betty Scherzer	Bonnie Vasold, Robert Dahley, Kathy Smith, Helen Rossow
Apr. 8 th Easter	Bud Scherzer Jeff Schram	Kerry, Adam & Katie Pacholke, Elaine Delaney	Ralph Flatt, Sandy Schwan, Bill Bell, Bob LaDuke
Apr. 15 th	Lauran Stirrett	Shirley Seitz, Melanie Egbert	Tara Lundstrom, Megan Schmidt, Sam Schmidt, Patty Paisley
Apr. 22 nd	Sandy Schwan	Steve Merrell, Elizabeth Merrell	Taryn, Tom, Terry & Maggie Taugher
Apr. 29 th	Bob LaDuke	Bonnie Miller, Elaine Delaney	Jon & Angie McQuinn, Brian Rutkiewicz, Jackie Munger
May 6 th	Tara Lundstrom	Bud & Betty Scherzer	Cindy, Mark & Katie Frazier, Ann Densmore

	Nursery Help - 10:30am	Bulletin Artist	Children's Church
Feb. 5 th	Mary Jane Hock, Angie McQuinn	SCOUTS	Sarah Wagner
Feb. 12 th	Mary Jane Hock, Blake Susalski	Jodi Dahley	Volunteers Needed
Feb. 19 th	Mary Jane Hock, Jen Lanczy	Sophie Savage	Volunteers Needed
Feb. 26 th	Mary Jane Hock, Jamie Lentner	Katie Frazier	Volunteers Needed
Mar. 4 th	Mary Jane Hock, Jacque LaDuke	Dave Susalski	Volunteers Needed
Mar. 11 th	Mary Jane Hock, Adrienne Cole	Wagner Children	Volunteers Needed
Mar. 18 th	Mary Jane Hock, Olivia McKeith	Carol Little	Volunteers Needed
Mar. 25 th	Mary Jane Hock, Briana Rutkiewicz	Bryden Susalski	Volunteers Needed
Apr. 1 st	Mary Jane Hock, Kate Savage	Purchased	Volunteers Needed
Apr. 8 th Easter	Mary Jane Hock, Need Volunteers	Purchased	Volunteers Needed
Apr. 15 th	Mary Jane Hock, Judy Schimm	Ilmars Dobulis	Volunteers Needed
Apr. 22 nd	Mary Jane Hock, Blake Susalski	Carter Vasicek	Volunteers Needed
Apr. 29 th	Mary Jane Hock, Angie McQuinn	Jodi Dahley	Volunteers Needed
May 6 th	Mary Jane Hock, Jen Lanczy	Sophie Savage	Volunteers Needed

Coffee Hour Host(s)			Goodies Donation
	8:00am	10:30am	
Feb. 5 th	Jacque LaDuke	SCOUTS	SCOUTS
Feb. 12 th	Bob & Judy Schimm	Jan Hennink	Judy Schimm, Jan Hennink, Briana Rutkiewicz, Kate Savage, Krissy Boman
Feb. 19 th	The Merrell Family	Jackie Munger	Elaine Merrell, Jackie Munger, Carrie Herbolisheimer, Melani Egbert
Feb. 26 th	Pat Rickman	Jon & Angie McQuinn	Pat Rickman, Angie McQuinn, Jamie Lentner, Joyce Kross, Sharon Frank
Mar. 4 th	Kathy & Nathan Marolf	CHILI COOKOFF	Kathy Marolf, Betty Hafer
Mar. 11 th	Jim & Judy Warmbier	Tracy & Al Balen	Judy Warmbier, Tracy Balen, Sally Schlicker, Adrienne Cole,
Mar. 18 th	Marsha Paetz	The Diechman Family	Marsha Paetz, Margarette Diechman, Lori Laatsch, Janine Joyner
Mar. 25 th	Bob & Judy Schimm	Margie & Dale Schillings	Judy Schimm, Margie Schillings, Heather Leuenberger, Jodi Dahley, Jenn Lanczy
Apr. 1 st	The Merrell Family	Peggy Weber	Elaine Merrell, Peggy Weber, Cheryl Dietzel, Sarah Wagner,
Apr. 8 th Easter	EASTER BREAKFAST		
Apr. 15 th	Pat Rickman	Nancy Ostrander	Pat Rickman, Nancy Ostrander, Barb Emerson, Barbara Egbert, Connie Hoverman
Apr. 22 nd	Kathy & Nathan Marolf	Dave & Peggy Smith	Kathy Marolf, Elaine Merrell, Sandy Worner, Diane Dahley
Apr. 29 th	Jim & Judy Warmbier	Jacque LaDuke	Judy Warmbier, Jacque LaDuke, Briana Rutkiewicz, Kate Savage
May 6 th	Elaine Delaney	Tim & Chris Vasicek	Elaine Delaney, Chris Vasicek, Krissy Boman, Jamie Lentner

	Communion Set-up	Paraments & Linens	Banner Changing
February	Sally Schlader	Bonnie Miller	Shirley Seitz
March	Jim & Judy Warmbier	Collyn Kolles	Sally Schlader
April	Gary & Bonnie Miller	Jackie Munger	Marsha Paetz
May	Bill Bell	Bonnie Miller	Shirley Seitz

These people set up communion for Sunday and Wednesday

	Acolyte & Crucifer - 8:00am	Acolyte - 10:30am	Crucifer - 10:30am
Feb. 5 th	Justin Beyer	SCOUTS	SCOUTS
Feb. 12 th	Casey Mattson	Spencer Boman, Madison Boman	Ben Balen
Feb. 19 th	Morgan Leuenberger	C.J. Bond, Jacob Hoffman	Olivia McKeith
Feb. 26 th	Kenedee Beyer	Ashley Schmidt, Sara Young	Danica Miller
Mar. 4 th	Adam Pacholke	Stephanie Steffke, Sara Kern	Michael Kern
Mar. 11 th	Brice Leuenberger	Sommer Hahn, Kevin Hahn	Dalton Remus
Mar. 18 th	Justin Beyer	Tanner Hare, Josh Schmidt	Madison Boman
Mar. 25 th	Casey Mattson	Bryden Susalski, Sara Kern	Blake Susalski
Apr. 1 st	Morgan Leuenberger	Adam DePelsMaeker, C.J. Bond	Caleb Crawford
Apr. 8 th Easter	Kenedee Beyer	Olivia McKeith, Caroline Talaga	Kara Dobulis
Apr. 15 th	Adam Pacholke	Nick Rappuhn, Brady Rappuhn	Jacob Hoffman
Apr. 22 nd	Brice Leuenberger	Hayden Mills, Chase Crook	Allison Hartwick
Apr. 29 th	Justin Beyer	Emily Hartwick, Allison Hartwick	Michael Kern
May 6 th	Casey Mattson	Evan Dubuque, Ben Balen	Taylor Hinkley

FYI:

Acolytes are kids the age of 3rd grade to 6th Grade.

7th & 8th Graders are Crucifer - this cross that the kids carry into the church tends to be a bit heavy for some 3rd/4th graders.

7th & 8th Graders also will be scheduled with a younger student at the 10:30 worship services as an Acolyte.

All kids are scheduled if they are attending church or in S.S. or in the confirmation program.

If your child is not on this list and they would like to be.....call the church office.

Come as You Are Wednesday Worship Volunteers - 7:00 pm

	Greeter	Reader	Communion Assistant	Crucifer/Acolyte
Feb. 1 st	Wil & Connie Hoverman		Michelle Hall, Mary Jane Hock	
Feb. 8 th	Jon & Angie McQuinn		Jon & Angie McQuinn	
Feb. 15 th	Vicki Lundstrom	Vicki Lundstrom	Vicki Lundstrom, Mary Jane Hock	Katie Malo

Mid-Week Lenten Worship Volunteers - 7:00 pm

	Greeter	Reader	Communion Assistant	Crucifer/Acolyte
Feb. 22 nd Ash Wed.	Art & Elaine Schwan	Sandy Schwan	Tammy Barton, Marsha Paetz	
Feb. 29 th	Sarah Wagner & Kids	Sarah Wagner	Sarah Wagner & Kids	Ella Wagner
Mar. 7 th	Michelle Hall		Michelle Hall, Mary Jane Hock	
Mar. 14 th	Sheila & Steve Boensch		Sheila & Steve Boensch	
Mar. 21 st	Tom & Deb Forsberg		Tom & Deb Forsberg	Katie Malo
Mar. 28 th	Sarah Wagner & Kids	Sarah Wagner	Sarah Wagner & Kids	
Apr. 4 th	The Beck Family		The Beck Family	Ella Wagner
Apr. 5 th Maundy Thurs.	Volunteers Needed			
Apr. 6 th Good Friday	Volunteers Needed			

Come as You Are Wednesday Worship Volunteers - 7:00 pm

	Greeter	Reader	Communion Assistant	Crucifer/Acolyte
Apr. 11 th	Sheila & Steve Boensch		Sheila & Steve Boensch	
Apr. 18 th	Tom & Deb Forsberg	Michelle Hall	Tom & Deb Forsberg	
Apr. 25 th	The Malo Family		The Malo Family	Katie Malo
May 2 nd	Jim & Gerry Hacker	Jim Hacker	Jim Hacker/Tammy Barton	

A Recipe for Loving

Love even the most unlovely part of yourself.

Openly and honestly listen to others.

Share your love with those closest to you.

Realize that we all have different values and that is OK.

Face your own anger and fear and share it without dumping it on the other person.

Share love with your acquaintances, colleagues and co-workers in ways that will help them flower.

Share love with strangers so that they may be welcomed and be spared loneliness.

Share love with enemies and thereby accept the part of you that you like the least.



How Do You Wish to Receive Your Zion Monthly NewsLetter?

The February 2012 Newsletter will be the last mailed from Zion.

Because of the rising cost of postage and with all of the advancements of electronic communication, we have decided to join the many churches that no longer mail this publication.

We are not forgetting that some members/friends cannot or/do not choose to use computers and with this in consideration we will be offering the following choices.

- I will read the NL off of the church's web page
- I will read the NL from Zion's FACE BOOK page
- I request the NL be placed in my church mailbox
- I will pick up the NL from the pile in the Narthex

Family Name: _____

Please let the office know of your choice, as we will need the correct number of NL's printed for distribution.

Please note that members out of town that have no computer access may request it to be mailed to them.

Pastor will send a link to the web page and FACEBOOK page in his message when the NL is posted monthly.

Thank you for your responses. A sign up sheet for your preference will also be posted on my office door.

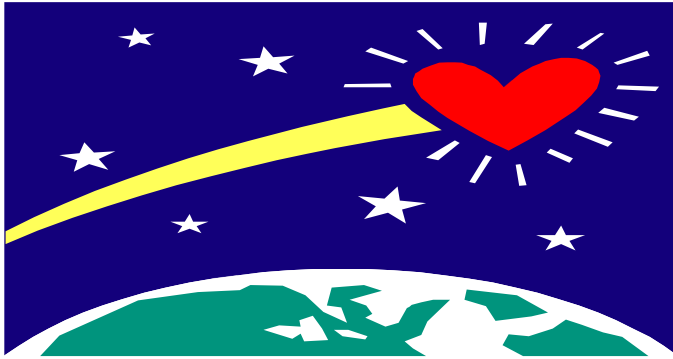
Marsha

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