

The Zion BEACON

Evangelical Lutheran Church Zion

JULY/AUGUST 2009



Dear Friends in Christ,

Entering the summer months I anticipate some time when the normal pace of my day to day life is interrupted by a different rhythm that has me paying attention to God's presence in new ways. Our church season also encourages us to dwell in the life of Christ while growing in our relationship with the Lord. As you worship and see the green colored paraments think about the ways you can grow in the nutrients of God's grace. As a congregation, we are a green, living, growing organism whose branches stretch far beyond our roots.

In the past month or so we have thought about ourselves as *seeds of promise* who are sowed in the fields to grow and bear fruit. I have thought about this in relation to our congregation's mission statement as it relates to Jesus' teachings. These fields are our mission fields offering great opportunity for growth. It has been easy for me to think about spiritual growth as only happening at church and in our home. I used to think that as we ripen and are ready for harvest, then we go out into the world to apply what we have learned to the ways we live.

What I am learning now is that we are growing in faith even as we live our lives

in the fields of our day to day existence. It is in the midst of our messy lives where the dirt piles up and the fertilizer hits hard that we have the means for growth. This is where we put down our roots and draw our nutrients and strength. It is also true that growth occurs as we are exposed to the elements. We grow as the clouds hover and when the skies darken. We also bear fruit as the sun shines and the wind blows.

In the weeks ahead I encourage you to pay attention to the ways God is at work in your life. Get rooted in the Scriptures and be nourished by the Word of Life. Learn together with others. Do not be afraid of the change in weather. The sun (I mean Son) does rise and his love will shine. Let us reflect that light as a beacon of hope for all.

Sent to Grow in Christ,

Pastor Kathy

P.S. I have invited Ethan Lichtenberger to actively participate in Zion's ministry as he continues to discern his sense of call to ministry. He will offer 10 hours a week in a 6 week ministry internship.



**... As a people of God, we are sent to share Christ's love,
grow in faith, and serve others.**

**Annual Church Picnic
Sunday, July 12th, 6:00pm
Middletown Memorial Park**

The Annual Church Picnic will be held **Sunday, July 12th at 6:00pm at the Middletown Memorial Park** (behind the Medical Center). Each family is asked to bring a dish to share. Hot dogs, hot beef, dessert and cold drinks will be provided. Please bring a lawn chair for the closing Vesper service. Children's activities are planned. Watch your weekly bulletins for more details. Plan to join us for good food and good fellowship!



Food for Thought....

- God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.
- We don't change the message, the message changes us.

Mark Your Calendar

July

- 8 Women on the Run (pg 5)
- 12 Church Picnic (pg 2)
- 18 Blood Drive
- 19 Commission Nat'l Youth Participants (pg 15)
- 21-27 New Orleans Youth Gathering (pg 14/15)
- 22 Women on the Run (pg 5)

Aug

- 5 Women on the Run (pg 5)
- 11 Cedar Ridge Adventures (pg 14)
- 16 College Send Off (pg 7)
- 19 Women on the Run (pg 5)
- 23 Promotion Sunday (pg 7)
- 23 Back To School Blessing (pg 7)
- 30 Acolyte/Nursery Volunteer Luncheon

Sept

- 13 Rally Day (see Sept Beacon for details)

Congregational News

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Photo Buffs....



If you have a digital camera and enjoy taking pictures, feel free to take pictures at our church functions and email to communications@zionmiddletown.org.

**Bus Trip - American Music Theater
Wednesday, Sept 16th**



Join us for "Broadway's Best" at the American Music Theater, Wednesday September 16th. Travel the Great White Way from the classic standards of Irving Berlin and George Gershwin to the blockbusters of today like the Phantom of the Opera, Les Miserable and Jersey Boys. The trip arranged by Kewl Travels Bus Lines includes brunch at Shady Maple Smorgasbord. Enjoy a great day of travel, a great brunch and a great stage show with a great group of people.

Date: **Wednesday, September 16**
 Depart: **8:30am - Zion Parking Lot**
 Return: **8:00pm - Zion Parking Lot**
 Cost: **\$77/person**
 Pymt Due: **July 25, 2009**

Contact Blaine Shatzer for questions or to reserve your seating at 301-371-5471. (checks payable to Blaine Shatzer)



President's Notes....

“O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain” It’s the time of year for thrashing wheat, lightning bugs, fireworks, and cookouts. Zion’s SHOUT committee jump started the summer season with a great God Rocks event. It was reported that even though the weather wasn’t the best, many people from the church and the community participated and had a great time. Members of council will be presenting one of our Steeple Clocks to the Town Council in appreciation for the Town’s cooperation and participation in God Rocks. We met with the ELCA Church Building and Architect Representatives on May 20. They were given topics of concern from our Listening and Learning Sessions as well as needs brought forth from the Extended Property Task Force. Both representatives shared their views on all of Zion’s properties and felt that we should put energy towards improving the Rhoderick Property structure. This could involve gutting it and starting new inside, adding on to the back, or tearing it completely down and building new. With regards to finding more Narthex or “gathering” space, they suggested a possible East side entrance with a canopy, and offered ways to open up the library area. These two individuals have a lot of passion and show much enthusiasm for improving our properties. They only offer suggestions and a reasonable starting point. The council now would like to hear and see what you the members can come up with. Taking the ELCA representatives’ suggestions, those of you who have ideas, dreams, imaginations, and the ability to draw, may come up with designs or sketches and put them in either Pastor Kathy’s mailbox, or mine. We look forward to continuing this process.

With the hiring of a new treasurer comes some reorganization. The council began looking at the Future Needs fund to review its function and purpose, and will be working with Margaret and the Finance committee to make the best use of this fund.



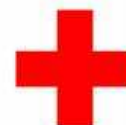
Lastly, Council approved hosting an anti-racism event entitled, “Power-Privilege-Prejudice-A Reformation of Relationship” put on by the ELCA. The event will take place on October 24. Our next meeting will be August 3, no meeting in July. I hope everyone has a safe and festive holiday. “May God shed His grace on thee, from sea to shining sea.”

Steeple Clocks Still Available

There are still "Steeple Clocks" available. Clocks cost \$100 each, of which \$75 is a donation towards Zion’s Steeple Fund. To place an order, please fill out the bright green forms outside the church office. Put the form and check in the Treasurer’s mailbox. Any questions please call the church office at 301-371-6500 or ask a council member.



An Update from the First Response Team



Six people were CPR/AED certified in May. Glenn Baker, Anna Beth Fowler, Vince Bello, P. Keller Dean, Thelma Nixon, and Cathy Baker. We are hopeful the AED will be shipped in July! Watch your September Beacon for updates.

Congregational News

“... Share Christ’s Love...”

Congregation Council Meeting Highlights June 1, 2009



1. DE-MD Synod Assembly Update: Two Memorials (one requiring a 2/3’s vote on ministry policies as part of the Human Sexuality social statement and one supporting inclusion of all in ELCA , confronting racism) one Resolution – (Youth and Young Adult representation at Synod Assembly) were adopted. ELCA Presiding Bishop, Mark Hanson, was the guest of the assembly and Michael Card served as keynoter delivering his message through his music and Bible study. (Voting Members from Zion: Dee Buchanan, Michael Guckenberger, Jim Huckleberry, Richard Lent, Derrick and Ginger Trautman, and Nancy Gordon, synod secretary)
2. An update on the work of the “Traction Task Force” in preparing a timeline for completion of committee structure and a committee handbook, with possible proposed changes to the church by-laws was presented by Dee Buchanan.
3. Leadership Development: Continued discussion from March Council retreat on Outreach program and ways to expand: Christmas in the Valley; Vacation Bible School; Heritage Days; publicity including website; neighborhood ministry; Homebound Ministries program (home communion, nursing home visits, substance abuse groups); Senior Citizen/Youth Center on property. Council liaisons will meet with committees to get input on: What is one way we can tangibly work to do an outreach focus?
4. Extended Properties meeting/update: A meeting was held with ELCA Mission Investment Fund representative and an ELCA architect who reviewed the church properties. Initial discussions included: Defining Zion’s mission, identifying immediate needs, proposals for the properties. Suggestion: Host an “open house” for the Rhoderick property and Youth House and ask members for input on uses of properties. A summary developed by the two ELCA representatives will be reviewed for further planning.
5. Anti-Racism Conference – October 24, 2009: Zion will host a Synod Cluster event for Frederick Conference churches, 9:30am – 2:30pm (This topic is part of the synod strategic plan and was the focus of the 2008 Synod Assembly.)
6. Council began discussion of the “Future Needs” funds and how they should be used. Committees will be encouraged to include anticipated expenditures in the next budget cycle to make sure planning is done through the budget process.
7. Ginger Trautman gave an update on the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering and encouraged members to become “secret pals” for those attending from Zion.



Hershey Park Tickets

There are 3 tickets left for Hershey Park for anyone ages 3-8 and 55-69. Tickets are \$24. These tickets are normally \$30.95. If interested, contact Ginger Trautman at 301-371-6500.

Congregational News

Treasurer’s Report May 2009

	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Operating Income	\$ 43,006.06	\$195,267.90
Operating Expense	<u>(36,807.08)</u>	<u>(208,631.22)</u>
Income Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ <u>6,198.98</u>	\$ <u>(13,363.32)</u>

Hello Zion!

Well, I think I'm finally settled into my cabin and office here at Camp Potomac Woods in Leesburg, Virginia. This summer I am the Assistant Camp Director at Camp Potomac Woods, a Girl Scout resident (overnight) camp in the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital. Our campers come from all over the DC-Metro area including Frederick County, MD and the first 220 girls arrive on June 21. I'm excited to be at camp again this summer and gaining experience with leadership and authority which will help me to prepare for internship as I will be responsible for approximately 200 campers and 60 staff members each week throughout the summer. One of the most fun parts of camp is receiving mail (you'd be surprised how happy just a simple card or small care package can make someone feel at the end of a long day), so I've included my contact info at camp. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you once again after camp is over on August 17th.

Camp Contact Info
Veronica Webber "Scout"
Asst. Camp Director
Camp Potomac Woods
13932 Potomac Woods Lane
Leesburg, VA 20176

God's Blessings,
Veronica



Women on the Run Gather, Grab, Gab, Grow and Go

All women are invited. On Wednesdays **July 8, 22, August 5 and 19** Zion women and friends will **gather** at 7:00 in the Book Room of the Main Cup. We will **grab** something to drink and **gab** about our day, our work, our families and our faith. We will **grow** in our understanding of God's word by reading the weekly texts from Paul's letter to the Ephesians. After an hour or so we will **go** refreshed and already looking forward to the next **get together**.

A bonus: Participants can see Pastor Kathy's pictures from Ephesus and hear about her Seminary Study trip to Turkey and Greece in 2004.

***Pastor Mark is leading another trip "Following Paul's Footsteps in Turkey and Greece in January 2011! Zion members can come too! Watch for more information*



Women on the Run Contd....

- Wednesday July 8—Ephesians 1
Where Gratitude Begins
- Wednesday July 22—Ephesians 2
What Christ Gives—How We Benefit
- Wednesday Aug 5 - Ephesians 3, 4
The Way We Pray IS The Way We Live
- Wednesday Aug 19 - Ephesians 5, 6
Who We Are in Relationship

Heritage Day Parade Float Ideas



We want your input. If you have a creative idea for a float theme for Zion's float for this year's Heritage Parade, please contact Ginger Trautman at gtrautman@zionmiddletown.org or call her at 301-371-6500.

Congregational News

“... Grow in Faith...”



Vacation Bible School Wrap-up!

Approximately 100 kids were registered for Crocodile Dock, Vacation Bible School 2009 at Zion!

Please see your September Beacon and future website postings at www.zionmiddletown.org for photos and details! As always, thank you to our many volunteers who gave of their time and talents to make VBS a reality! We couldn't have done it without you! And thank you to all Zion members for your financial support and prayers. VBS continues to be a tremendous outreach to our community.

For Men at the Intersection—



Watch for more information about a learning opportunity that relates to those times you find yourself in the midst of change and transition.



Congratulations to our Ninth Grade Confirmands

Christian Education

Exciting New Bible Study Opportunities Coming This Fall!



Watch your September Beacon and weekly bulletins for new Bible Study opportunities and Sunday Morning Adult Forums beginning this fall!

'Healthy' spirituality

A study of elderly people and their immune system discovered that senior adults who attend worship regularly have healthier immune systems than those who don't attend regularly. And at UCLA a study showed that college students who participate in religious activities have better emotional and mental health than those with no religious involvement. *Participating in worship and other church activities appears to boost not only your spiritual health but also your physical and mental health. Make a commitment to stay involved — even in the busy summer months.*



Lectionary Text For July/August

Are you interested in reading and reflecting on the Lectionary Text each week? Below are the Gospel texts for each week through August:

July 4/5: Mark 6:1-13
July 11/12: Mark 6:14-29
July 18/19: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
July 25/26: John 6:1-21

Aug 1/2: John 6:24-35
Aug 8/9: John 6:35, 41-51
Aug 15/16: John 6:51-58
Aug 22/23: John 6:56-69
Aug 29/30: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



Summer Sunday School
June 28th to Aug 16th - 9:30am to 10:30am
Ages 3 - 6th grade - Meet in the Social Room

Summer Sunday School is underway! Join us each Sunday for varied themes and learning opportunities for kids age 3 thru 6th grade. Eight grade confirmation students, we look forward to seeing you in the Social Room to help each week. Volunteers are still needed. If you are available and interested in helping, please contact Lonnie Ropp at bmalropp@comcast.net/301-371-6556 or Tammy Panther at pantherfamily@comcast.net /301-371-9516.

Creation (July 5, 12) “God REVEALS His work.”

Everything around us has God’s fingerprint on it.

Christmas in July (July 19) “Christmas EXPLORATION.” The gift of a lifetime!

Bible Journey (July 26th, Aug 2nd) “RETRACE the steps.” Follow the path of the Faithful through the Bible.

History (August 9, 16) “RESEARCH history and pioneers of Zion.” Relive the founding of Zion and more!



Promotion Sunday
Sunday, August 23rd

The youth Sunday School classes will celebrate “Promotion Sunday” on Sunday, August 23rd. On this day, the children will move up to their new classrooms for the 2009-10 school year. Children should report to their normal classroom at 9:30am. During class, teachers will direct the children to their new classrooms where they will meet their new teachers. We encourage all parents to participate with their children.

College Send off
Sunday, August 16th



We invite anyone who is attending college this fall to join us Sunday, August 16th at 9:30 in the garden for a college blessing and send off. This event is for the entire family. Please plan on joining us as we celebrate your higher education journey and as we bless you and your studies. Please contact Ginger Trautman for more information at 301-371-6500 or gtrautman@zionmiddletown.org.

Blessing of the
Backpacks
Blessing for
Kindergarteners
August 22nd and 23rd



During worship services Saturday, August 22nd and Sunday, August 23rd, we will send our children Back to School with a special blessing. During worship, the children will be called up for a special “Blessing of the Backpacks.” There will also be a celebration during worship for those children entering Kindergarten as they enter a new season of life. These are milestones in the lives of our families and as a congregation we will share in the joy. Hope to see you there!

Christian Education

Happy Birthday to our **JULY** celebrants!



- 1 Tom Routzahn Jr.
- 2 Sandy Bell, Karen Kunz, Georgia Patrick
- 3 Julie Fulton
- 4 Dwight Koogle, Jack Williams
- 5 Jaclyn Harding, Kerry Langkammerer, Jonathan Minchoff
- 6 Amanda Darr, Anna Beth Fowler, Michael Webber
- 7 Marty Appleby, Raymond Basler, Karen Durkin, Huntington Hughes, Larry Minnick, Wesley Smith
- 8 Dick Greenawalt, Linda Ifert, Lorraine McAfee, Debbie Palmer, Margaret Reed, Jason Shankle
- 9 Libby Bowers, Stuart Kepler
- 10 Fred Burrier, Malinda Holdcraft, Tim Motherway, John Neary, Linda Tweit, Kenneth Webber
- 11 Cassandra Billotti, Rachel Gouker, Courtney Harding II, Rex Kehoe, Paul Minchoff, Adrienne Rhoderick, Catherine Stockman, Betty Williams
- 12 Donna Huffer, Toni Mullen, Stephen Nickey, Pat Rudy, Kate Stevens
- 13 Sarah Gladhill, Linda Gouker, James Moler
- 14 Dale Guyton, Jeffrey Roche, Maddox Rudy
- 15 Kevin Bussard, Kathy Shankle, Skyler Stasiewicz
- 16 Bill Adams Jr., Katherine Blake, Annabelle Gaver, Mark Gouker, Jeremy Thompson, Judy Turley
- 17 Doris Bidle, Betty Bowlus, Laura Carlstrom, Elizabeth Corson, Edward McCutcheon, Ralph Riggs III, Madison Selin
- 18 Cynthia Anderson, Alli Carlstrom, Michael Kelley, James Spring II, Tricia Wimsatt
- 19 Dottie Dean, Michael Reese, Leah Schroyer, Pat Staples
- 20 Amy House, Georgia Martin, Brian McDermott
- 21 Nancy Allen, Dale Lushbaugh, Larry Lutz, Edgar Poffinberger Jr., Michele Schoch, Lindsay Throne
- 22 Sue McDermott, Thomas Patrick, Anna Rudy, Amy Vanek, June Wilson
- 23 Alissa Burrall, Kate Callahan, Bob Hiltner, Miriam Shafer, Bryan Sloper Sr., Wayne Smith
- 24 Reilly Geritz, Valerie Zumbrun
- 25 Randy Decker, Matt Glessner, Desarie Gregory, Jennie Wiles
- 26 Tyler Ausherman, Cathy Baker, Sarah Holter, Arthur Huffer, Eva Michalak, Dennis & Jennifer Reese, Alexandra Rodgers, Gil Stroup, Samantha Yeager
- 27 Chuck King, Maria Moser, Bob Pyles, Thomas Reese, Allie Rutland
- 28 Brian Carlstrom, Cathy Russell, Sharon Spring, Barb Walker
- 29 Scott Baker, Nathan Follin, Colton Goodman, Mike Guckenberger, Elwood Huffer, Kim Marcantonio, Ruth Miller, Gary Scott Jr., Rachel Shafer, Ella Thompson, David Williams
- 30 Anna Bussard
- 31 Eugene Appleby, Marjorie Brigham, Becky Bybel, Faye Greenawalt, Cameryn Harne, Kelli Kidd, Teresa Rhoades, Kiersten Ropp

and our *AUGUST* celebrants!

- 1 Jimmy Higdon, Hank House, Michael Routzahn, John Shanton III, Karen Smith, Nancy Stroup
- 2 Kathleen Hetrick, Ryan Lundregan
- 3 James Fitzsimmons, Jocelyn Hammond, Tammy Panther, Ursula Powell
- 4 Cathy Boyer, Sharon Boyer, Kaylee Franklin, Allison Musser, Craig Vandegrift
- 5 John Bossard, Ronald Humbel, April Stang
- 6 Phyllis Beachley, Susan Harne, Lynn Shafer
- 7 Louis Ahalt Jr., Jenny Tabler, Charlotte Rae Warrenfeltz
- 8 Raymond Alexander
- 9 Matthew Foltz, Tyler Lushbaugh
- 10 .
- 11 Emily Daly, Frances Lantz, Tim Panther
- 12 Paul Dean III, Kristina Manente, Terry Poffinberger, Cazrol Vanek, David Zolfo
- 13 Mark Adams, Jo Ahalt, Esther Martz, Cindy Pearl, Walter Pond, Bryan Sloper Jr., Bill Thompson Jr.
- 14 Kieffer Crummitt Sr., Lauren Gottholm, Clinton Wimsatt, Ethan Zumbrun
- 15 Margaret Bowlus, Adam Decker, Madelene Goodman
- 16 Bryan Barnes, Bill Blumenauer, Nancy Newkirk
- 17 Melvin Dageforde, Shirley Ferguson, Harold Martz Sr., Jena Wimsatt
- 18 Betty Kunz
- 19 Amy Lowery
- 20 Marcia Ahalt, Carol Martinez
- 21 David Huffer
- 22 Linda Billotti, Alan Gladhill
- 23 Joseph Glover, Natalie Mauro, Bubby Webber, Michael Williams
- 24 Mary Ahalt, Yvette Mann, Cynthia Morris
- 25 Joni Campbell, Connie Kinna, Donald McDermott, Brandon Myers, Michele Taylor, Joni Wiles
- 26 Cole Ahalt, Allen Kinna, Blake Reed
- 27 William Ropp, Sheila Webber
- 28 Nancy Reeder
- 29 Mallory Beck, Dylan Butler, David and Sophie Tressler
- 30 Amanda Blumenauer, Jacob Fogle, Donald Hahn
- 31 Daniel Daly, William McCutcheon Jr.



The People



Welcome to our newest members who joined our church family, Sunday, May 17th !

Justin Thrift and Rae Ann Rhoderick

I (Rae Ann) grew up in Middletown and graduated from MHS in 1999. I earned a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from UNC-Charlotte and I work in Towson, MD for a small engineering consulting company. My mother, Mary, is also a member at Zion. Justin grew up in Huntsville, AL and is a Platoon Sergeant in the US Army. We got engaged last June and spent the next 6 months apart, when Justin was deployed to the Horn of Africa. Justin also served in Baghdad, Iraq from Dec. '05 to Dec. '06. Justin and I enjoy golfing, politics, working out, and cooking. We are getting married on Oct. 3 at Zion and look forward to getting to know our new Christian family and growing in faith.

Thank You!

Thank you so much for all the Birthday cards and phone calls that I received as I celebrated my recent birthday. It meant so much to me and I deeply appreciate your kindness and caring.

Sincerely,
Ellen Bussard



With our deepest sympathy we keep in our thoughts and prayers the family and friends of:

Vanny Burrier
Susan Miller
John Warrenfeltz

Congratulations to our 2009 High School Graduates!

(continued from June Beacon)



Thank you for sharing your good news and future plans with your church family!

Colleen McCutcheon (MHS)
Gettysburg College
Music Education

June Wedding



Congratulations to *Jennifer Chestnut and Jerry Pyles* married June 19, 2009 here at Zion.

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, visits, and flowers during my recent stay in the hospital. Special thanks to Pastor Kathy and Pastor Phil for their prayers and visits during my illness.

Many thanks again.
Raymond Basler

Thank you so much for thinking of us last Sunday. The chicken dinners were delicious. We enjoyed every bite.

We also would like to thank Pastor Kathy and everyone at Zion for the other considerate gestures, such as sending a poinsettia at Christmas and a lily at Easter.

We are grateful for the monthly home communion and enjoy the new CD recordings of the Sunday services.

Thank you and God bless,
Albert V. Shafer, Rachel Shafer, Lynn Shafer

*Article written by Zion's own
Carol Christensen on becoming a
US Citizen this past December!*

U.S. Citizen at Last!

by Carol Christensen

I was born in Lynton, North Devon, which is in the southwest of England, approximately 200 miles from London. As a British citizen, I became a permanent resident of the United States in San Francisco in March, 1971. Last summer, I decided to apply for U.S. citizenship, having lived in this country for over 37 years.

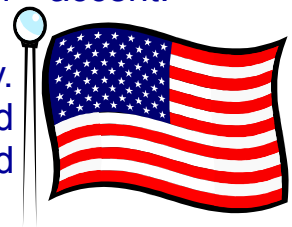
Incredibly, the entire naturalization process only took about four months. I downloaded Form N-400, "Application for Naturalization" from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website. After completing it, I mailed it in with two photos and the fee to the USCIS. I was then notified that I had an appointment on Aug. 29 to have my fingerprints taken. At that time, I was also given a booklet of U.S. civics lessons to study. Two months later, I was informed that my naturalization interview was scheduled for the morning of Dec.4, 2008, in Baltimore.

At the interview, the USCIS officer asked me questions about my application. She gave me a test of U.S. history and government, which I passed with flying colours. To my surprise, I was even given a short English test, which of course presented no problem for me!! She finally informed me that my application was approved and instructed me to report for the Oath Ceremony, scheduled for that afternoon. I was thrilled and relieved that the pressure was off and I could enjoy the rest of the day.

My husband, Wayne, accompanied me to the Oath Ceremony, attended by about 60 new citizens. We were given a short talk and shown a video of President Bush welcoming us. After taking the Naturalization Oath of Allegiance and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, I was presented with my Certificate of Naturalization. It was indeed an exciting and memorable occasion. I assume that a U.S. citizen is not permitted to have dual citizenship, since the Oath requires you to promise to "give up all prior allegiance to any other nation or sovereignty", not an easy thing for me to do!

There are several reasons why I decided to take this step after so many years. My husband and sons are American citizens. Although I still enjoy frequent visits to England, I am always ready to return home to this country, where I have spent most of my life. I feel somewhat Americanized now, especially when my British relatives and some Americans remark that I have acquired an American accent!

When I originally received my "green card" it was valid indefinitely. However permanent resident cards now have to be renewed every ten years. Finally, I have the right to vote in the United States, a benefit reserved only for U.S. citizens.



“...and Serve Others.”



Zion's CD Ministry

What started as a vision of Zion member Hank House has now grown to a thriving Ministry! Along with the CD, a current bulletin, calendar and announcements are shared with 18 households weekly.

Zion member Susan Miller truly looked forward to receiving her package each week, so enjoying the music and the Word. Sue went home to be with her Lord on June 12th but her commitment to the CD Ministry lives on in the form of designated gifts in her memory. Many others will be blessed by Sue's graciousness in the future.

Having the ability to record our worship services also recently touched the life of seminarian, Veronica Webber. As a guest preacher in May, Veronica was able to take a copy of her sermon, critique herself, as she strives to improve her abilities.

Have you not been able to attend a service and wished you could have enjoyed the music, heard the sermon or joined in prayer? Maybe a child or grandchild was baptized, a confirmation was made ... but you just could not be present. Now you can receive a copy to enjoy at home! Contact Peggy Alexander (301-371-6823) for further information.

How Can I Serve?



Operation Sharing

CAP (the Christian Appalachia Project) distributes goods such as toys, games, books, health products, garden supplies, food commodities, clothing, and home repair materials, to needy families, churches, etc. in 13 Appalachia states. Fred and Pat Rudy recently returned from a mission trip to Kentucky, one of the highest poverty states in the country. The Rudys invite you to share in their passion for "Operation Sharing" by placing items in the collection box next to the Food Bank cart. Items will be collected through September 2009.



Visitation/ Home Communion Ministry

SENT TO SHARE CHRIST'S LOVE - what a blessing this Ministry has become to the congregation of Zion and its community!

Started in early 2008, Pastor Kathy engaged Zion members in the idea that many of the homebound would benefit from a monthly visit and home communion from lay leadership of Zion. To date we are serving *41 homebound members monthly*, along with extended families in their homes. 24 units (individuals, teams and families) go visiting monthly, living out our mission to be SENT to SHARE CHRIST'S LOVE, bringing the Word and Body of Christ to the faithful and those still searching.

Are you feeling Christ tugging at your heart to be a part of this ministry? You will be blessed by the experience! Make an appointment to see Pastor Kathy to learn more today.



Care Package for Vicar Cris

The Zion Daughters Sunday School class is collecting small gifts for a care package for Vicar Cris and his fellow students. Items such as gum, hard candy, puzzle books, as well as cards of encouragement will be included. The package will be shipped to him the week of July 12th. A collection box will be placed next to the Food Bank grocery cart. Thank you for your contributions. If you have questions, contact Donna Jean Brandenburg at 301-371-5139 or djb602@verizon.net.

Vicar Cris's address through July _____:

**ENS Cris Frigm, CCPO, USNR
Naval Chaplains School
Class B09010
114 Porter Avenue
Newport, RI 02840**



Friends at Evangelical Lutheran Church Zion,

We, at Care Net, wish to "Thank You" for your recent contribution to the Center thru the Baby Bottle Campaign. Because of your efforts combined with matching funds you raised over \$2,100 for "Life." Our clients will be so blessed because of your generosity! We pray that God richly blesses you in return!

Sincerely in Christ,
*Cindy Morris and
The Care Net Staff*



Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you! Thank you for your gift of \$210 from sales of country ham sandwiches to Mar-Lu-Ridge. On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff, I would like to convey my thanks and appreciation for this gift in support of our outdoor ministry.

There are many exciting projects taking place on The Ridge. As funds allow, we have been: painting the exterior and the interior of the cabins; refurbishing cabin bathrooms and showers; upgrading Dining Hall #1 into a "special events" facility; expanding our campership/scholarship fund in order to help those in financial need enjoy a summer camp experience; replacing aging underground water and electric lines; and paying our general operating bills in an environment of ever-increasing expenses - such as fuel oil and insurance. Your gift helps to ensure the future and growth of this year-round mountaintop sanctuary.

We want you to be proud of Mar-Lu-Ridge and the direction this ministry is going. Your continued support is important.

Please help us spread the word about Mar-Lu-Ridge. There are many who are not aware of this ministry, the value it serves to the church and community, and the improvements we are striving to complete.

Again thank you for your gift,

God Bless,

Derrick Trautman
Executive Director
Mar-Lu-Ridge Conference
And Educational Center, Inc.

How Can I Serve?



Cedar Ridge Adventures

Cedar Ridge offers a 30-element low and high ropes course to participants that aid in the development of one's self-concept, behavior and attitude. You will be introduced to a "challenge by choice" concept which will allow you to explore your inner strengths and weaknesses. Team skills, group dynamics, leadership training and decision-making are just a few of the things you'll experience. Are you ready for a challenge?

When: Tuesday, August 11th

Time: 8:00am-5:00pm

**RSVP: No later than Saturday, July 25th
(SPACE IS LIMITED!)**

Cost: \$30/person (you can use your youth account money. Bring a bag lunch)

Questions or to sign up please contact Ginger Trautman (301-371-6500)



New Orleans Youth Gathering Secret Pals

We invite you to become an active participant in the New Orleans experience by becoming a secret pal to one of the 23 people attending. As a secret pal we invite you to

- † *lift them in daily prayer now,*
- † *write notes/gifts of encouragement now,*
- † *write notes/gifts of encouragement to be given during their journey,*
- † *continue to pray for them while they are away, and*
- † *celebrate with them when they return.*

Please contact Ginger Trautman to be assigned to a pal (see list) or if you have someone in mind, please indicate. Notes can be sent directly to a participant's home (addresses in the church directory) or can be placed in the envelope on Ginger's office door. Upon their arrival back from New Orleans we will disclose who their secret pal was. If you'd like to disclose your identity in your own way upon their return please indicate this when contacting Ginger (301-371-6500.)

Youth News

Special Events and Road Trips!

⇒ **2009 National Youth Gathering**
(8th - 12th Grade)

July 21-27, 2009
New Orleans, LA



⇒ **Cedar Ridge Adventures**
(entering 8th - 12th Grade)

Tuesday, August 11th; 8am-5pm



**New Orleans
Youth Gathering
Participants
July 2009**

*Cole Ahalt
Linda Billotti
Abby Buchanan
Aaron Carlstrom
Erika Carlstrom
Matt Carlstrom
Josh Glessner
Matt Glessner
Alisyn Henry
Amy Hoffman
Kristin Neary
Ben Nickey
Joey Reefer
Nick Riker
Ryan Rudy
Molly Russell
Kelsey Sloper
Kaylyn Toledo
Chris Yeager*

*Chaperones:
Gary Glessner
Kathy Nickey
Ginger Trautman
Chris Tressler*

Commissioning of New Orleans Participants

On Tuesday, July 21st 19 youth and 4 adults will board a charter bus to head to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering. As a congregation we have been with them in this journey as they've prepared spiritually, emotionally and financially. We invite everyone to join us on **Sunday, July 19th at the 10:45am** service as we commission them for their journey and the work they will do for the people of New Orleans. We will meet at 9:30am in the sanctuary for our final meeting. We will sit in the front as families and will stay together through the 10:45am service to be an entire entity during the commission. We will also receive Holy Communion together.



Final New Orleans Youth Gathering Meeting

Reminder to parents and participants of all youth going to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Our Final Meeting will be:

⇒ Sunday, July 19th 9:30-10:30am. **All Participants, Leaders, and Parents are asked to attend.** (NOTE: Location change. As Summer Sunday School will be in session in the Social Room, we will meet in the *Sanctuary*.)



New Orleans Wish List

We're counting down the days until 19 youth and 4 adults load a charter bus for the long ride to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering. As our hotel does not provide a continental breakfast and because time is limited to do grocery shopping while down there we are putting a call out for some items to take along with us. If you are interested in donating any of these items please contact Ginger Trautman (301-371-6500) as soon as possible.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Pop tarts | Disposable cameras |
| Power bars | 4 soft pack first aid kits (to fit in backpacks) |
| Granola bars | |
| Fruit snacks | |
| Peanut butter crackers | Wish list items to be delivered closer to departure (July 21st): |
| Cheese crackers | Bread |
| Peanut butter | String cheese |
| Jelly | Bagels |
| Cookies | Donuts |
| Individual sized chip bags | |
| Bottled water | |



Mar-Lu-Ridge - \$200 and \$75 Scholarships Available

Mar Lu Ridge Camp is still accepting summer camp registrations. If you're a member or active participant at Zion you can take advantage of a \$200 scholarship for overnight camps and a \$75 scholarship for day camps. These scholarships are approximately half the cost of camp! Pick up a registration form on the Mar Lu Ridge bulletin board in the Living Library or contact Ginger Trautman at 301-371-6500 or gtrautman@zionmiddletown.org.

Need more information?



Contacts: Ginger Trautman,
Phone: 301-371-6500 X203
Email: gtrautman@zionmiddletown.org

Youth House Phone: 301-371-3381
If questions ever arise regarding youth events you can call this number to hear a recording.

NEW ORLEANS' FUNDRAISING UPDATE

*We have almost reached our goal!
Thank you for all your support!*

NEEDED TO RAISE	RAISED	BALANCE
\$14,405.00	\$14,311.00	\$94.00

Evangelical Lutheran Church ZION
107 W Main Street
Middletown MD 21769
www.zionmiddletown.org

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The ZION BEACON

A newsletter publication by and for the members of Zion Lutheran Church.

Phone: 301-371-6500; FAX 301-371-8100

**gmagnus@zionmiddletown.org and
communications@zionmiddletown.org**

Please submit your articles **no later than the 18th of the month**. You may fax, e-mail or deposit in The BEACON mail drawer located outside the church office.

"GO GREEN" for Pentecost! Get the Newsletter Online!

We are now in the church season of Pentecost. For the many Sundays "after Pentecost" the church paraments are green. This Pentecost season, lets think Green! Consider receiving your newsletter online saving the church valuable resources in time and money. If you would like to discontinue your hardcopy of the Beacon, simply email communications@zionmiddletown.org and say "Discontinue hard copy" or fill out the form below and place in the "Beacon mailbox" outside the church office. Thank you for going green during Pentecost! (NOTE: this is not recommended for those using dial-up internet connections.)

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

(I would like to discontinue receiving a hard copy of "The Beacon" in the mail, but will receive a monthly email with an attachment or link to "The Beacon.")