

The Zion BEACON

Evangelical Lutheran Church Zion



Sharing Christ's Love in Times of Tragedy

Dear Friends in Christ,

I write this to you on Wednesday April 22. Tomorrow and Friday thousands of people will make the pilgrimage to Holy Family Catholic Community to share their love and support to the Billotti-Wood family. Many of these people are members of our own Zion community who are grieving this terrible loss while also trying to grasp the reality of such an event. I am one of them.

Our community will experience the pain from this for a long time. In the midst of these kinds of tragedies, however, the people of God share Christ's love in the most powerful ways. As pastors, Vicar Cris, Pastor Phil and I have the privilege of seeing our brothers and sisters in Christ shine as a beacon of hope in the midst of darkness. Here are the ways you, the people of Zion and the Middletown community are sharing Christ's love:

- As a friend, you show up and simply be available. You are not afraid to share your sorrow but you also look for ways to help.
- As a committee, you offer supplies for the funeral reception. As another committee, you offer to provide food. As another committee, you help prepare burial plots and help us anticipate the logistics of having a meaningful and well organized internment.

MAY 2009

- As a Sunday School class you provide an opportunity to give to the memorials.
 - As fellow church members, you coordinate meals, help with errands and anticipate needs in the weeks to come.
 - As Sunday School teachers you have provided tender care to your students and their parents who are shaken by all that has happened.
 - You offer prayers and remind the family of your thoughts and prayers through cards and text messages and e-mails.
 - You have also extended your support to the teachers, pastors police officers and others who are called upon to provide care in this time of tragedy.
 - You are respectful of the family's need for privacy and space by not bombarding them with questions or visits or requests. You also share your treasured memories with each other and not the media.
 - As a congregation you are being family to Sam, Cassandra, Katie and Linda. Long after the media is gone and the flowers wilt and the ribbons are torn down and the grave markers are placed we will continue to be family walking together as a people of God who share Christ's love.
- As a family, you, the Billottis, have entrusted us with your sorrow. You also bear witness to the miraculous power of forgiveness. This is forgiveness that acknowledges the absolute horror of the



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

tragedy while also uplifting the prior years of love and devotion.

We will never completely understand why something so terrible could happen. But we are promised Christ’s love. We receive it and we share it. May this prayer from Ephesians be instilled in your hearts.

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:18-19

Together with You—Sharing Christ’s love,

Pastor Kathy



Note from the Vicar:

The internship manual that I was given before this year started was very clear about the ending. Make sure you say goodbye and not “see you later.” Well...I get to say see you later! I have been blessed with the opportunity to not say goodbye. I will be leaving all too soon for Rhode Island, but I will be returning to Zion in August to resume my ministry with you. I want to thank all of you for the support you have given me, especially my internship committee: Paul, Joe, James, Chris, Tammy, Cathy, Nancy, and Anna Beth.

Throughout my time at Zion we have been talking about Appreciative Inquiry which focuses on bringing the best of the past forward into the future. I attended a

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**Focus on Healing at Worship
Saturday, May 2nd at 6:00pm
in the Sanctuary**

In times of difficulty and grief, whether we have physical pain or emotional turmoil, as we gather together, we receive the promise of healing from Christ. There will be opportunity to receive the anointing of oil and receive an individual prayer of healing Saturday, May 2nd at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary.



lecture this week that also talked about taking wisdom and tradition forward into the practices of a community of faith. Now, as I think ahead to the next year of my ministry, I look forward continuing to take the traditions of Zion forward, to take the best of the past into our future practices. These final moments have cemented this idea as I have watched the congregation care for the entire community in the midst of tragedy. I hope we take that love and concern forward as we continue to live out our mission.

Together in Christ’s Service,
Vicar Cris



A Note from the Internship Committee

When Pastor Kathy asked the members of the Associate Pastor Call Committee if we would be open to changing hats and becoming the Internship Committee we all were a little apprehensive. None of us had ever done anything like this before. What did we know about helping an intern grow in his pastoral needs? How could we mentor him when we were just members. Why should he listen to us?

As any of you know who have had a chance to sit and talk to Cris, it doesn't take long for him to put one at ease. He quickly gained the trust and confidence of our committee. The Synod provided a manual for us to follow which laid out what we needed to do each month of the internship process. Although Cris' internship started earlier than most and ended a little early, we were able to finish all the requirements set out in the manual.

However, it was Cris who really gets the credit for achieving our success. He is very disciplined and really knows what he wants and how to achieve his goals. Cris was always on top of things and made our jobs very easy. He continually kept us on pace and lead us through all our tasks.

The whole committee is very pleased with the growth Cris has shown in his path toward ordination. Most folks don't know that Cris suffers from stage fright. When he gave his first sermons you could see how nervous he was. When we observe him now it is wonderful to see how much calmer and in control he really is. He is really driven, especially with the children and youth. The services he has helped

Mark Your Calendar



May

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- 13 Discipleship Class (pg 4)
- 14 Youth Yard Sale Drop Off (pg 18)
- 15 Drum Circle
- 16 Youth Yard Sale (pg 18)
- 17 God Rocks: Seeds of Promise (pg 5)
- 17 New Members Join (pg 4)
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June

- 22-26 Vacation Bible School 2009 (pg 9)

arrange have all been enthusiastically received.

It has really been a pleasure for all the committee members to have worked with Cris. He has a strong Biblical knowledge and foundation and we are sure he will make a wonderful pastor. It was because of what we saw in Vicar Cris that we proposed that we hire him as Assistant to the Pastor during his last year as a seminary student. As a call committee, we will continue to listen to God and the congregation as we seek a candidate for associate pastor..

The whole committee would like to thank Pastor Kathy and the congregation for allowing us to participate in this wonderful process. I know we all have developed a deep respect for the process candidates must endure to become an ordained pastor in the Lutheran church.

By Paul Dean, Chair of Internship Committee

“... Share Christ’s Love...”

Discipleship/New Members Class

We call it a Membership class but it is really a discipleship class. Would you like to learn more about what it means to be a follower of Christ? How about exploring the Bible in a way that makes sense for you today? Whether you join Zion Lutheran Church or decide not to become a member, you are welcome to attend our class.

Sunday May 3, 9:30-10:30 am (Social room)

Our Identity: As a People of God

Sunday May 10, 9:30-10:30am (Social room)

Our Purpose: We are Sent to Share Christ’s Love

Wednesday May 13, 6:00-7:30pm (Social room)

Our Community: We grow in faith and serve others

Discipleship
Class



The entire family is invited for a meal, children’s activities, and an opportunity to learn about the opportunities at Zion for learning, serving and sharing. New members will be received Sunday, May 17 at the 10:45am Worship Service. For more information please call the church office at 301-371-6500.



Compassion International Information Table

Have you ever wondered how to sponsor a needy child in a Third World country? The SHOUT Committee will be providing informational brochures and pamphlets on Compassion International. What is Compassion International? Compassion is a Christian child advocacy ministry that serves children in over 25 countries. How can we as individuals or as a church help? Find out after all worship services on **May 2nd/3rd, 9th/10th, 16th/17th and at God Rocks**. SHOUT Representatives will be available to provide information and answer your questions.

Mother Daughter Banquet "Come to the Drum!" Wednesday, May 6th at 6:30pm



The annual Mother/Daughter Banquet will be held on Wednesday, May 6th at 6:30pm in the Social Room. Tickets are \$4.00 and will be available after all services the weekend of **May 2/3**. We have a fun and unique program planned. Mothers and Daughters will have the opportunity to join in a rhythm circle to play African drums and hand percussion! Be spontaneous with your inner rhythm and see how a drum circle can be relaxing and stress relieving, as well as fun! The drum beats can be powerful, soothing, or invigorating and uplifting. A drum circle is all about participants reflecting their uniqueness in rhythms and layered sound.

Congregational News



**God Rocks: Seeds of Promise
Community Carnival
May 17, 2009 at 12:00-3:00 pm
in the Zion Lutheran Church Rear Parking Lot**

On Sunday May 17th, from 12pm till 3pm, the SHOUT committee will host the God Rocks: Seeds of Promise Community Carnival Event. This event will take place in the parking lot behind the church. The event is for the Zion Congregational Community and the Middletown Community, so please openly invite all your friends to come and have a great time!

Noah's Ark Moonbounce* Dunk Tank* Pony Rides* Alpacas*
Face Painting Duck Pond* Vacation Bible School information and more.
Fair Trade Shop items for sale* Compassion International Information Table

The event is free and food will be available for purchase. ... just come and enjoy the day!
***Please Bring a Non-Perishable item for the Middletown Food Bank**

*Please contact Lonnie Ropp at 301-371-6556 or bmalropp@comcast.net for more information.
Event Sponsored by the SHOUT committee.*



**Fair Trade Shop at Zion
Items for Sale at
"God Rocks"**

Did you miss the opportunity to "shop" at the Fair Trade Shop over Easter Weekend? No worries! Fair Trade items will be for sale at the God Rocks Community Carnival, Sunday May 17th. Invite your family, friends and neighbors. Fair Trade crafts from all over the world such as Jewelry, Baskets, Coffee, Chocolate, and gift items will be available for sale.

What is Fair Trade? Fair Trade is a program where people from third world countries are given fair prices for products to help support their lives and culture without exploitation. This is not a money making venture for Zion but a means of outreach to help others in Third World Countries.

For more information, go to the Lutheran World Relief website at www.lwr.org and click on the "fair trade" tab.



Shade Canopies Needed



The SHOUT committee is seeking to borrow shade canopies (a tent with no sides) for the God Rocks: Seeds of Promise Community Carnival on May 17th. If you have a canopy and would like to help, please contact Lonnie Ropp at 301-371-6556 or bmalropp@comcast.net.



Cakes Needed!

Calling all bakers... we need your help! We are planning a Cake Walk at our God Rocks: Seeds of Promise event on Sunday, May 17th. If you would like to donate a cake for the cake walk, please contact Joann Stanfield at retirement8@yahoo.com or 301-371-6240. Thank you for your help

Congregational News

Congregation Council Meeting Highlights March 30, 2009



1. Council approved the sale of a replica of Zion's steeple: a facsimile of the steeple with a clock on a base of wood from the steeple, for \$100.00 donation (\$75.00 tax deductible) with proceeds going to the Steeple Fund.
2. Council continued Leadership Development, using the feedback from the Listening/Learning sessions as a framework for goal-setting. This month focused on Worship, with initial discussion of a single "Unity service where all members would worship together, held at least once a year. A group will also begin to discuss the necessary steps to offer a Contemporary Worship service to members.
3. Interviews for Church Treasurer will be scheduled soon.
4. Job responsibilities for Vicar Cris Frigm were approved for his continued time at Zion, beginning August 1, 2009.
5. Council reviewed a report from the Task Force on Properties and made plans to utilize an architect (free services through ELCA Mission Investment Fund) to review Zion's properties and give recommendations on how and if the properties could be used to: expand the youth program, provide for additional ministries, provide housing for an associate pastor.
6. Learning sessions are scheduled for late April/early May to offer information and guidance to members on the ELCA Task Force on Human Sexuality Report.

The Youth Yard Sale will be held at the Middletown Fire Hall, **Saturday, May 16th, 8am-1pm** See page 18 for details on donation drop off times.



Help needed for the Mother-Daughter Banquet

We need your help to prepare for the Mother-Daughter Banquet.

- **Tuesday, May 5:**
11:00AM - clean turkeys
6:00PM - table setup
- **Wednesday, May 6:**
11:00AM - pick turkeys
4:00PM - kitchen help needed
5:30PM - servers needed men and boys.

Please contact Bob Pyles (301-293-2173) or Bill Williams (301-371-6233) for more information.

Congregational News

Recognition of High School Graduates Sunday, May 31st



All 2009 High School and college graduates will be recognized the weekend of May 30-31. At each of the three services we will invite the graduates forward for a presentation of a gift and prayer.

A little church humor...

- Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?
A. *Your mother ate us out of house and home!*

Treasurer's Report March 2009

	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Operating Income	\$ 110,049.65
Operating Expense	(128,862.37)
Income Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>\$ (18,812.72)</u>



2009 Delaware/Maryland (DE/MD) Synod Assembly May 28th and 29th

This year's DE-MD Synod Assembly promises an agenda full of opportunities to grow in faith. Some highlights include:

1. ELCA Bishop Mark Hanson will serve as the ELCA Representative and lead information sessions and worship. This is a first time opportunity for the synod.
2. Renowned Christian musician and author, Michael Card, will share his witness and be a part of synod worship, serving as the assembly Keynote Speaker.
3. The focus of assembly, "The Book of Faith Initiative," will provide Bible Study opportunities for participants as the synod begins its work on Bible Literacy. This initiative focus will continue throughout the year as synod offers more ways to study God's Word.

While Zion's voting delegates have been selected, the assembly is open to all. The site is the Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, MD and the dates are May 28th and 29th. Check the synod website (www.demdsynod.org) for more information and links to registration. Talk with Synod Secretary, Nancy Gordon, for other insights.



Zion Steeple Clock Project

It started with a great idea, ingenuity, hard work and craftsmanship and ended with a beautiful keepsake made from the original wood from Zion's own steeple! In the

process of renovating Zion's steeple, Eddie Main suggested incorporating some of the old wood removed from the steeple to make a clock. His idea was approved and a contract was purchased with the Hagerstown based company "BJ's Custom Creations" to have replica cutouts of Zion's steeple made, including a base made from 150 year old wood (possibly cedar) from Zion's original steeple, a working clock, and a touching account of Zion's building, mission and people. Many hours of painstaking labor went into the clocks as Mike Gregory and Eddie Main cut the boards, Bruce Taylor cut the bases, Dixie Eichelberger stripped the old paint and Fran Taylor composed the narrative. Each base is unique, made from what is often referred to as "Old Growth Lumber" -- "*When this beautiful, tight grained,*

antique lumber is rescued, we not only conserve our nation's remaining invaluable stands of old growth timber, we are indeed reclaiming a part of Americas past ."

Clocks are available for purchase and cost \$100 each, of which \$75 is a taxable donation towards Zion's Steeple Fund. Each clock is numbered and there is a limited quantity so place your orders soon! Church council members will be available in the chapel hallway between services to take orders. Again, Special thanks to Eddie Main, Dixie Eichelberger, Mike Gregory and Bruce and Fran Taylor for their many hours and dedication to this project.

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 7, is the National Day of Prayer. Our church sanctuary will be open for prayer from 8:30am - 8:00pm Handouts will be available to assist you.



Congregational News

“... Grow in Faith...”



Congratulations to our First Communicants!

Thursday, April 9th at the 7:00pm Maundy Thursday

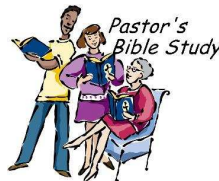
Worship Service, we celebrated First Communion for several of our children. Congratulations to Gabriel Berger, Samantha Cannon, Elizabeth and Jacob Fogle, Aaron Moler, Ryan Renner, Kathleen Russell and Savannah and Miranda Trautman!



Small Group Study on Prayer Sundays @ 9:30am in the Youth House

All are invited to join the Servants of Christ Sunday School class as they begin a new small group study on PRAYER. Please plan to join them Sundays at 9:30am in the Youth House. As always, you are welcome to come and go during the weeks as you are able.

Wednesday Pastor's Study Discussion on 1 John

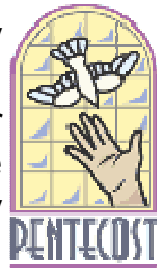


On Wednesday afternoons from 1:30-2:30pm Pastor Kathy, Pastor Phil or Vicar Cris will lead a discussion on 1 John. This small book of the Bible offers a message on the way our words and actions go together as we share Christ's love.

Christian Education

Ninth Grade Confirmands To Participate In Worship Service Sunday, May 31st @ 10:45am

Please join us, **Sunday May 31st at the 10:45am worship** service as our Ninth Grade confirmation students celebrate their Affirmation of Baptism. During the past month, the Ninth Grade Confirmation Class has been studying worship including, the purpose of worship (i.e. to honor and praise God), how we worship and the basic components of worship. The confirmands have planned and will lead portions of the May 31st 10:45am Confirmation service. Please join them for worship and a reception in the Social Room immediately following the 10:45 service.



Lectionary Text For May

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

- | | |
|------------|--|
| May 2/3: | <i>4th Sunday in Easter</i>
John 10:11-18 |
| May 9/10: | <i>5th Sunday in Easter</i>
John 15:1-8 |
| May 16/17: | <i>6th Sunday in Easter</i>
John 15:9-17 |
| May 23/24: | <i>7th Sunday in Easter</i>
John 17:6-19 |
| May 30/31: | <i>Pentecost</i>
John 15:26-27;
16:4b-15 |



Dear Parents:

Are your kids ready to sink their teeth into BIG fun?

That's just what they'll do at Crocodile Dock, where fearless kids shine in God's light! Crocodile Dock is filled with incredible Bible-learning that kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Bible crafts, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the Crocodile Dock activities that help faith flow into real life! Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see God in everyday life-something we call God Sightings. Get ready to hear *that* phrase a lot!

Parents, grandparents, and friends are invited to join us each day at 11:40 a.m. in the social room because that's when we'll be having Firefly Finale-a daily celebration of God's love you won't want to miss.

So mark these dates on your calendar: Monday, June 22-Friday, June 26. The fun starts at 9:00 a.m. and will end at 12:00 noon. Register online at www.zionmiddletown.org. or pick up a registration form outside the chapel on the Christian Education bulletin board. Register your children for this life-changing adventure. Cost is \$15/child.

Middle School & High School VBS Adventures

We invite anyone who is currently in 5th-12th grades to join us for our daily VBS adventures. Sign up sheets will be up on the youth bulletin board or you can register by contacting Ginger Trautman (301-371-6500). (You MUST register by the specified deadlines to participate!)



Here's what you can expect (tentative):

Monday, June 22nd:

Tuesday, June 23rd

Wednesday, June 24th

Thursday, June 25th

Scavenger Hunt in Harpers Ferry

Mini-golf and batting cages at Family Recreation Park

Appalachian Trail Hike to Annapolis Rocks



Pool & pizza party (possibly Braddock Heights pool)



Each day we will leave the church parking lot at 12:45 and arrive back at the church at 4:30. You are encouraged to bring your lunch with you each day (except for pizza party day!) Nominal prices for each will be posted once the schedule is finalized. Not all events have fees.

(Adults: if you are interested in chaperoning or driving for any of these events please call Ginger Trautman as soon as possible. Thank you!)

Christian Education

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
<p>3 Fourth Sunday of Easter 8:15am Service of Holy Communion 9:30am Christian Education for all ages 9:30-10:30am Discipleship Class (SR) 10:45am Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>12Noon Youth Musician's rehearsal (MR) 12:15pm Worship & Music Committee meeting (ChR) 7pm Children's Choir rehearsal (MR)</p>	<p>4 9:30am Wisdom Seekers Bible Study (CR) 6:30pm Youth Committee (LL) 7:30pm Church Council (CR)</p>	<p>5 9:30am Staff/Fall planning (LL) 4:15pm Body & Soul (SR) 7:00pm Handbells (MR) 7:30pm Music Jam (Chapel)</p> <p>All day (SR/K) Setup for Banquet</p>	<p>6 9:30am Ministerium Meeting (Main Cup)</p> <p>6:30pm Mother Daughter Banquet (SR/K)</p>
<p>10 Fifth Sunday of Easter 8:15am Service of Holy Communion 9:30am Christian Education for all ages 9:30-10:30am Discipleship Class (SR) 10:45am Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>12Noon Youth Musician's rehearsal (MR) 12:15pm New Orleans' participants meeting (LL) 7pm Children's Choir rehearsal (MR)</p>	<p>11 9:30am Wisdom Seekers Bible Study (CR)</p> <p>7:00pm Wedding Assistants gathering (LL)</p> <p>7:00pm Bethlehem Market-Place meeting (CR)</p> 	<p>12 9:30am Staff meets (LL)</p> <p>4:15pm Body & Soul (SR) 7:00pm Handbells (MR) 7:30pm Music Jam (Chapel)</p>	<p>13 1:30pm Pastor's Bible Study (CR)</p> <p>6-7:30pm Discipleship Family Meal and Activities (Social Room)</p>
<p>17 Sixth Sunday of Easter New Members joining today (10:45am)</p> <p>8:15am Service of Holy Communion 9:30am Christian Education for all ages 9:30-10:30am Discipleship Class (SR) 10:45am Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>12Noon-3pm God Rocks! Seeds of Promise Community Carnival (rear parking lot)</p> <p>7pm Children's Choir rehearsal (MR)</p>	<p>18 9:30am Wisdom Seekers Bible Study (CR)</p> <p><i>Beacon articles due today</i></p>	<p>19 9:30am Staff meets (LL)</p> <p>4:15pm Body & Soul (SR) 7:00pm Handbells (MR) 7:30pm Music Jam (Chapel)</p>	<p>20 1:30pm Pastor's Bible Study (CR)</p>
<p>24 Seventh Sunday of Easter 8:15am Service of Holy Communion 9:30am Christian Education for all ages 10:45am Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>12Noon Youth Musician's rehearsal (MR) 7pm Children's Choir rehearsal (MR)</p>	<p>25 Memorial Day <i>Church offices closed</i> <i>Summer office hours begin</i></p>	<p>26 9:30am Staff meets (LL)</p> <p>4:15pm Body & Soul (SR) 7:00pm Handbells (MR) 7:30pm Music Jam (Chapel)</p>	<p>27 1:30pm Pastor's Bible Study (CR)</p> <p>6:00-10:00pm CPR/AED Class (SR)</p>
<p>31 Day of Pentecost Confirmation of students (10:45am) Recognition of Graduates (all services) 8:15am Service of Holy Communion 9:30am Christian Education for all ages 10:45am Service of Holy Communion 12Noon Confirmand Reception (SR) 12Noon Youth Musician's rehearsal (MR) 7pm Children's Choir rehearsal (MR)</p>			

<u>day</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
		1	2 8:30am OGOV rehearsal (CR) 6:00pm Service of Holy Communion With Healing (Sanctuary)
	7 National Day of Prayer Church Sanctuary is open for Prayers 7:00am Quilting (Soc Rm) 11:30am Valley Seniors Lunch (SR) 4:15pm Body & Soul (SR) 6:30-8:30pm Youth Group 6:30pm Rainbow Choir (MR) 7:30pm Senior Choir (MR)	8	9 8:00am-12:00noon Yard Sale Drop Off (Youth House) 8:30am OGOV rehearsal (CR) 1:30-5pm Bridal Shower (SR/K) 6:00pm Service of Holy Communion and Dedication of Chapel Organ (Chapel)
	14 7:00am Quilting (Soc Rm) 4:15pm Body & Soul (SR) 5:30-8:30pm Yard Sale Drop Off (Youth House) 6:30-8:30pm Youth Group 6:30pm Rainbow Choir (MR) 7:30pm Senior Choir (MR)	15 7:00pm Drum Circle (MR)	16 8:00am -1:00pm Youth Yard Sale (Firehall) 8:30am OGOV rehearsal 6:00pm Worship (Chapel)
	21 7:00am Quilting (Soc Rm) 11:30am Valley Seniors Lunch (SR) 4:15pm Body & Soul (SR) 6:30-8:30pm Youth Group 6:30pm Rainbow Choir (MR) 7:30pm Senior Choir (MR)	22 6:00pm Wedding rehearsal (Sanc)	23 8:00am-2:00pm Blood Drive (SR) 8:30am OGOV rehearsal 2:00pm Wedding (Sanc) 6:00pm Worship (Chapel)
	28 7:00am Quilting (Soc Rm) 4:15pm Body & Soul (SR) 6:30-8:30pm Youth Group 6:30pm Rainbow Choir (MR) 7:30pm Senior Choir (MR)	29 8:00am BEACON Mailing Group (CR)	30 8:30am OGOV rehearsal 6:00pm Worship (Chapel)
			



Happy Birthday to our **MAY** celebrants!

- 1 Aaron Carlstrom, David Crummit, Mark Main, Ian Price, Pamela Schaffert
- 2 Kenneth Alford, Paul Dean, Jan Lushbaugh
- 3 Samantha Frizzell
- 4 Clinton Appleby
- 5 Jonathan Blake, Linda Yinger
- 6 Mary Ahalt, Marcia Gordon, Harry Jenkins Jr., Sean McCubbin
- 7 Tricia Addington, Ruth Ellen Burrier, Joshua Hairston
- 8 Maggie Motherway, Ryan Tressler
- 9 Ruth Delawder, Thomas Harshman, David Rohrer
- 10 Irene Eisentrout, Kelly McCutcheon
- 11 LeAnne Blake, Alonnie Ropp, Jack Scott
- 12 Andrew Blair, Carson Eye, Patricia Hansen, Eric Reichelt Jr.
- 13 Del Tweit
- 14 Nick Nicholson, Susan Pardo, Sarah Routzahn
- 15 William Bell, Georgia Poffenberger, Bill Stanfield
- 16 Beth Ahalt, John Gladhill, Karen Michalak, Erin Murphy
- 17 Kenny Gladhill
- 18 Kenneth Anthony, Miriam Bolling, Cynthia Keller, Mary Rhoderick
- 19 Sam Bussard, Pearl Huffer, Ben Panther, Katie Stultz
- 20 Jim Follin, Jessica Price, Rick Rogers, Brianna Sheppard
- 21 Travis Ausherman, Lee Gillespie, Debra Kepler
- 22 Betty Falkenstein, Anna Kepler, Val Main, Dominic RUnfola, Coleen Tabler
- 23 -
- 24 Heather Adams, Charlotte Anderson, Rachel Bell, Karol Koogole, Ken Lichtenberger
- 25 Lori Beteta, Wade Clem, Jeffrey Manning
- 26 -
- 27 Alex Addington, James Pearson, Betty Renn
- 28 -
- 29 Jody Rhoderick, Cathy Smith
- 30 Nona Deater, Richard Maiello, James Shankle, Jessica Stauffer
- 31 Charlotte Berger, Janet Livingston



The People



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

Margaret Ahalt
Richard Rhoderick
Christopher Wood
Francie Billotti-Wood
Chandler Wood
Gavin Wood
Fiona Wood
John Wilson

Thank You!

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, flowers and phone calls received following my injury. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.

Catherine Stockman

Thank you to everyone who helped make Holy Week and Easter so meaningful...

Christian Fellowship (refreshments)
John Seachrist and the Adult Choirs
Arvella Lutz & Handbells
Dana Lichtenberger & Children's Choir
Cyndy Zolfo and Youth Musicians
Dee Buchanan & Liturgical Dancers
Special Musicians: Anna Reynal,
Ethan Lichtenberger, Robert Fulton
Donna Huffer, Brent Taylor
Bruce McIntosh, Paulela Burchill
Altar Guild, Ushers, Acolytes
Assisting Ministers, Greeters
Lectors, Sound System, Crucifers
Communion Assistants,
Steeple Bell Ringers, Nursery
Spiritual Enrichment Class
Men's Bible Class, Kim Marcantonio
Jeff Derr, Chris Derr, & John Burrier.

April Wedding

Congratulations to *Julie Bello and Craig Swiney* married April 4th, 2009 here at Zion.



April Baptisms



Congratulations to our newly baptized members:

Kyle Logan Humbel
Son of Kenneth and Tina Humbel

Ethan Joseph Osborne
Son of Joseph and Tracey Osborne

Milo Watson Osborne
Son of Joseph and Tracey Osborne

I wish to express my heart-felt thanks and appreciation to all the wonderful people of Zion for their out-flowing of prayers and concern for me during my recent three-week stay at Frederick Memorial Hospital. The number of personal visits, calls and get-well cards was inspiring. I'm especially grateful to Pastor Kathy, Pastor Phil, and Vicar Cris for the comfort of their visits. now that I'm back home and gradually trying to get back to normal, your support continues to be with me -

Thanks again,
Bill Thompson

Thank you to everybody for all the nice birthday cards I received.

Mildred Cline

Thank you for your caring thoughts, prayers, cards and phone calls concerning my recent surgery. Special thanks to Pastor Kathy and Vicar Cris.

Gerry LaWall

“...and Serve Others.”



**“CHANGE FOR LIFE”
CareNet Pregnancy Center
Thank you!!**

The SHOUT committee is extremely thankful for the response of the congregation to the Care Net Baby Bottle Campaign. As of April 22nd, we have raised **\$1,520.00** and will apply for additional funds from Thrivent. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has co-sponsored the fundraising event. Please stay tuned for the grand total in the June Beacon!! Thank you for your generous contributions.

**Dedication of Habitat House
Sunday, May 17th at 3:00pm**

The dedication of the Middletown Habitat House will take place on Sunday afternoon, May 17th, at 3:00pm. There will be a short service of dedication at the house on S. Jefferson Street followed by a celebration cookout with the volunteers and new owners of the house. Thank you to all who helped support this project!

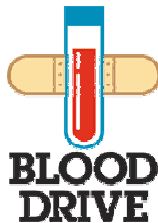


**Emily and Robert Fulton to Walk in
Relay for Life**

On Friday, May 15th Emily and Robert Fulton will once again be walking in the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life. Since beginning their participation (This will be Emily’s 13th and Robert’s 9th year.) they have collectively raised several thousand dollars. Anyone interested in supporting them again this year may place a donation in the box located in the front windowsill of the sanctuary. Thank you for your support!!

Mark your calendar

**Blood Drive
Saturday, May 23rd
8:00am - 2:00pm
Social Room**



For questions or to make an appointment, call Mary Ann Marcantonio at 301-371-7594.



Middletown Food Bank

The Food Bank presently serves over *110 families* which translates to almost *300 people*. We are currently in need of **jelly, boxed potatoes of any type, spaghetti sauce, and toiletries**. Zion Church has been a tremendous support for the Food Bank. We are deeply appreciative for all the donations we have gotten from the congregation.

**CPR/AED Class Reminder
Wednesday, May 27th**



Just a reminder to those who signed up for the CPR/AED Training Class. Class is Wednesday, May 27th from 6:00pm-10:00pm in the Social Room. If you have questions, please contact Cathy Baker at cbaker60@comcast.net.

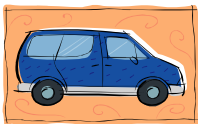


How Can I Serve?

Rudys Take Mission Trip To Appalachia



Prayers for safe travel and for the opportunity to witness to Jesus Christ for Fred and Pat Rudy as they return from their Mission Trip to Kentucky as part of "Christian Appalachian Project" (April 26th - May 1st). Watch your June Beacon for more details of their experience!



Volunteer Drivers for Mar-Lu-Ridge

Mar Lu Ridge Camp is looking for volunteer drivers for the summer. They are asking for people to volunteer to drive camp vehicles to transport kids to different places in the area. It could entail just morning trips taking kids to local horse arenas, or a 2 hour drive to drop-off/pick-up kids for adventure trips. You can volunteer a few days at a time or a day here and there. Please contact Derrick Trautman if you are interested (301-874-5544).



Share Your Gifts as a Wedding Assistant!

Are you available occasionally (3-4 times a year) and have a desire to share your talents by serving as a Wedding Assistant? A gathering of all current or new Wedding Assistants will be held on Monday, May 11th at 7:00pm in the Living Library at Zion. If you can't attend but are interested, give our Office Manager, Gayla Magnus your name via gmagnus@zionmiddletown.org or 301-371-6500.

Thrivent Chapter Meeting Monday, May 4th; 6:00pm

Do you have a worthy local cause that could use some funding? The Frederick County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be holding the monthly fraternal business meeting on May 4 in Creagerstown. Any Coordinators, persons interested in learning more about Thrivent Care Programs, or anyone with a request for funding is invited to join us. Dinner will be provided at no cost to attendees; however, we ask that you RSVP to Deloris Young at 301-473-8344 by Friday 4/24/09. Questions, call Joann Stanfield at 301-371-6240.



VBS Wish List

We still need a few items for Vacation Bible School 2009:

- Cheese Cloth
- Spanish moss/faux Spanish moss
- Fish netting
- Rope twine

Things to borrow:(Put your name on items)

- Hot Knife
- Wicker Fishing Creel (basket)
- Bayou stuffed animals (alligator, raccoon, etc.)
- Inflatable pool alligator
- Hand held lanterns
- Straw hats (not cowboy)

If you are willing to donate or loan these items, please contact Ginger Trautman at gtrautman@zionmiddletown.org or 301-371-6500.

How Can I Serve?

The People



**Congratulations on
the Birth of...**

Taylor-James Harding

*(Son of Jaclyn and Courtney Harding
and brother to Courtney II
and MacGyver)*



We've Moved...

Mike and Desarie Gregory
12260 Itnyre Rd.
Smithsburg, MD 21783
301-416-0220



We've Moved!

John Seachrist

6951 Hatfield Ct., Apt 101
Frederick, MD 21703
301-898-2522
ptownkid1@comcast.net

Dear Zion Family,

I bet you're wondering what I've been up to lately, sometimes my family wonders too because I'm just so busy! If you recall, I spent the fall semester living in Mexico City, Mexico studying Latino Ministry in the first ever ELCA Seminary Semester Immersion Program. The semester provided an opportunity for me to broaden my horizons spiritually, academically, and theologically as I traveled all over Mexico from visits to rural indigenous communities to living in the world's largest city, I was able to experience much of what Mexico has to offer and at the same time discern my Call to serve Latino communities in the U.S.

This semester I'm living with my parents in Broad Run and taking online/independent study classes. It's been a great way to not only save money, but also be able to secure a regular job for the spring and summer. Currently I am working part-time as a substitute special education instructional assistant for Frederick County Public Schools while preparing for my summer job. This summer I will be living and working near Lucketts, Virginia as the Assistant Camp Director for Camp Potomac Woods, the largest camp in the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital. As summer approaches I will be spending less time working for FCPS and more time getting ready for camp.

The biggest news for me right now is internship. After camp is over in August, I will be packing up and moving to southern Florida for my year long internship with Pr. Andy Hagen at Advent Lutheran Church in Boca Raton. I could not have asked for a better site, in fact, I didn't, because ALC was my first choice of internship sites! This site is a great match for me and I look forward to broadening my Latino ministry experience through the congregation's work with both the Cuban and Haitian communities of the Atlantic coast.

As always, I want to make sure you all know how thankful I am for the love and support you give me, whether I am at home or abroad. I've had a few anonymous donors help me to pay for seminary and without financial support I know I could not have done what I have so far in my seminary education. Thank You Very Much and Muchas Gracias for supporting a future ELCA pastor! I am blessed to have the community at Zion supporting me in this journey. I can't wait for you to experience how much I've grown when I preach at church the weekend of the God Rocks celebration on May 17th!

Contigo Dios Sera' Siempre. (God be with you always)
Veronica

A Mother's Love

*A Mother's love is something that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it or take that love away...
It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking...
It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems...
It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanations,
And it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation...
A many splendored miracle man cannot understand,
And another wondrous evidence of God's tender guiding hand.*

-- Anonymous



Zion Memorial Garden

It will soon be time to plant annuals in Zion's Memorial Garden. Plants are grown by and purchased from the Middletown High School Horticulture Department. If you would like to make a monetary contribution to help offset the cost of the plants and other supplies, you can make a donation, payable to "Zion Memorial Garden," and either put in the offering plate or give to Mary Catherine Gordon, secretary-treasurer.



Take time out for family!

Reduced Rate - Hershey Park Tickets

Zion has purchased Hershey Park tickets at a significant discount and we want to pass that savings on to you. **THIS IS NOT A FUNDRAISER!** Our hope is that you will take time out of your busy schedules to celebrate your family. All adult tickets are sold but we have a few Junior/Senior Tickets left:

Junior/Senior Tickets
(ages 3-8 & 55-69) \$24.00
(normally \$30.95)

Tickets are VERY limited so please respond quickly. Contact Ginger Trautman - 301-371-6500.



The Flamingos are Flying!

We are ready to take your requests to flock a friend. For \$15 we'll send a flock of 8 flamingos with a special message to an unsuspecting family. For an additional \$5 you can remain anonymous. Flocks stay in a yard for 24 hours. Forms are on the youth bulletin board and can be deposited with a check in the flamingo flocking box (also on the bulletin board). Want to be assured your yard doesn't get flocked? For \$25 you can buy flocking insurance. Better hurry though, the flamingos are flying.

Mar-Lu-Ridge Open House Sunday, May 3rd, 31st, June 14th



Mar-Lu-Ridge, a year round outdoor ministry of the ELCA, is having an open house on **Sundays, May 3rd, May 31st and June 14th from 2:00-4:30pm.** Meet the directors and the summer staff, tour the cabins, arks and program areas. This is a great time to check it out! Our church offers tuition assistance for each student. If interested, call the church office (301-371-6500) for the tuition assistance forms.

Congregational News

Youth News



IMPACT Youth Conference

Our 14 youth and 5 adults trekked to OC for another awesome year at IMPACT! High point this year was overwhelmingly the powerful speakers Steve and especially Tyra and how their faith stayed strong in adversity. Would you go again? "Definitely... It's just a blast!"



Special Events and Road Trips!

- ⇒ **Confirmation** (Pentecost Sunday)
(9th Grade Confirmation)
Sunday, May 31st; 10:45am Service
- ⇒ **Summer Kick Off Party**
(completing 6th - 12th graders)
Thursday, June 18th; 6:30-9:00pm
- ⇒ **Cedar Ridge Adventures**
(entering 5th - 7th graders)
Tuesday, June 30th; 8am-5pm
- ⇒ **2009 National Youth Gathering**
(8th - 12th Grade)
July 22-26, 2009
New Orleans, LA
- ⇒ **Cedar Ridge Adventures**
(entering 8th - 12th Grade)
Tuesday, August 11th; 8am-5pm



NEW ORLEANS' FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Annual Yard Sale
Saturday, May 16th; 8am-1pm
Drop off Dates
Sat, May 9th; Thurs, May 14th



The annual youth yard sale is May 16th at the Middletown Fire House. Please start looking through your treasures to see what you may be able to donate. We are looking for new or gently used, useable items. (Please do not bring broken items.) We will have TWO drop off dates. **Bring your items to the youth house on Saturday, May 9th between 8:00am-12:00noon. or Thursday, May 14th between 5:30-8:30pm.** If you have questions or need to discuss alternate pick-up/drop-off dates contact Ginger Trautman at gtrautman@zionmiddletown.org or 301-371-6500.

Sign up to Flock!



Calling all youth!! As we are beginning to get flamingo requests we are in need of people to deliver flocks. There is a sign up calendar on the youth bulletin board. Please consider signing up to be "on call" during a week (or more) in case of a flocking request. Flocking requires very little time (drop off and pick up 24 hours later). Remember that your help ensures money in your youth account!

Aluminum Can Fundraiser



Please continue to drop your aluminum cans in the bins on the Youth House porch. Thank you.

New Orleans Update as of April 15th.
(Does NOT include chocolate sale.)

NEEDED TO RAISE	RAISED	BALANCE
\$14,405.00	\$10,998.67	\$3,406.33

Summer Kick-off Party! Thurs, June 18th, 6:30-9:00pm



Mark your calendars! We invite anyone completing 6th-12th grade this summer to join us on Thursday, June 18th from 6:30-9:00 p.m. for a summer kick-off party. There will be games and food! Bring your friends. Please sign up on the youth bulletin board so that we can get a general count of how many people to expect. You won't want to miss it!!!

Cedar Ridge Adventures June 30th and August 11th

Sign up by June 15th on youth bulletin board for June 30th event.

SAVE THE DATE: Anyone entering 5th-7th grades are invited to go to Cedar Ridge Adventures on Tuesday, June 30th. Anyone entering 8th-12th grade are invited to go to Cedar Ridge Adventures on Tuesday, August 11th. Cost for both groups is \$30. Youth account money can be used for these events. Times are 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. More info to follow or call Ginger Trautman at 301-371-6500.

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. 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?* (2008-->)



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.

LYO Applications

LYO stands for the Lutheran Youth Organization, which is the high school leadership program for our Synod. Young people apply to be on one of four teams that work to build confidence and skills in selected areas for service in the Synod, the church and the community.

The application process is now open for the 2009-2010 school year for incoming high school youth. The process consists of a youth application and an adult reference. All **forms are due by July 1, 2009**. Go to <http://www.demdyouthandfamily.org/thelyo.htm> to learn more about the LYO or to download an application form. Ginger Trautman also has copies in her office.

High School Leadership Event

Registration for the High School Leadership Event is now open! For all rising high school youth, the event will be held **June 18-20, 2009 at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg**. Retreat forms are <http://www.demdyouthandfamily.org/hsleadershipevent.htm>, and will be in the mail to Ginger Trautman after Easter. **The deadline for registrations is June 1st.** This a focused, small group intensive retreat opportunity, planned and led by the graduating seniors the LYO with adult mentors and leaders.

New Drop off/Pick up Procedures



The weather is warming up which means the youth will find themselves outside more during youth group. To ensure their safety and to allow them as much room as possible we will begin closing off the lower parking lot around 6:00 p.m. on youth group nights (Thursdays). Please pick up and /drop off youth in the upper parking lot.

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.

Church Humor - Bulletin Bloopers



- ⇒ This afternoon services will be held at the north and south ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.
- ⇒ The Little Mothers Club will meet at 5pm Thursday. All wishing to become Little Mothers, please see the minister in his private study.
- ⇒ This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
- ⇒ Next week we will take a collection to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet should come forward and get a piece of paper.
- ⇒ The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the church basement today.