

The Zion BEACON

Evangelical Lutheran Church Zion

APRIL 2009



***This Changes Everything:
Experience the Cross,
Celebrate the Resurrection***

All are Welcome to Holy Week at Zion.

From Palms to Passion

On Saturday and Sunday April 4 and 5 we worship the Lord as we move through the events of Jesus' last week with a **Passion Presentation** by Pastor Phil Fogarty. It begins with a parade through the streets but ends on a hill far away. Saturday worship will be held in the sanctuary. Sunday's 10:45am worship begins in the garden with a procession to the sanctuary for those who are able.

Maundy Thursday

Noon: We pray, We Partake, We Prepare

We gather in the chapel for a quiet service of prayer and holy communion. We will focus on Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane and contemplate his last supper with the disciples.

7:00 Supper's Ready—Come and Get it!

Our Maundy Thursday worship will have us experience the gift of community as we gather for the Lord's Supper. For many it will be a homecoming. For others it becomes a rest stop on a difficult journey. For all it is a sacrament of Christ's presence when the gap is closed between then and now, between there and here, between us and them. (Following service a reception hosted by the Christian Education Committee to celebrate first communion)

Good Friday:

7:00pm Tenebrae Service

A solemn service of light and darkness. Join us for readings and prayer as we experience the Cross.

9:00am, 12noon, 9:00pm

A journey through the Stations of the Cross during three brief prayer services.

See page 3 for more details.



Holy Saturday

4:30 - 6:00pm: Easter Egg Hunt

Children from birth to 2nd grade are invited to an Easter Egg hunt followed by a light meal. (pg 4 for details)

5:30 - 7:00pm: Fair Trade Shop

A chance to purchase Fair Trade items from third world merchants such as Coffee, Crafts and Chocolate. (pg 5 for details)

Easter Vigil at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary

Join us for a service of light and remembrance, reading and song. The children's choir will provide musical leadership and a reading of the modern parable, "The Ragman" will help celebrate the power of the resurrection.

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service 6:30am

Begin in the garden as we experience the open tomb in the early morning hours. Hear the gospel and a modern day parable of salvation and hope.

Join us for a Continental Breakfast hosted by the Christian Fellowship Committee in the social room. (pg 4 for details).

9:00am - 1:00pm Fair Trade Shop

(see above and page 5 for details)

Easter Festival Worship Services with Holy Communion 8:15am and 10:45am:

This Changes Everything!

The empty tomb is not what we expect. The women are stunned to silence. We, however, know the power of the promise and experience the possibilities of new life. In a world of the same old bad news, now we have the good news on the tip of our tongues. The final word is a good word, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



A Message from Pastor Kathy



Dear Friends in Christ,

Together with our church council members, I hosted eight "Listening and Learning" sessions. Thanks to the ninety two people who participated in these gatherings, we are learning from you. We approached these sessions with an appreciation of all the ways God has been at work in the people of Zion. Now our council is beginning to articulate proposals for our future. **There is a strong tradition of hope and faithfulness that will also be a part of our future.**

As church leaders we are engaging in a process called appreciative inquiry. Vicar Cris and I have been studying this approach to congregational change. In his book, Memories, Hopes and Conversations: Appreciative Inquiry and Congregational Change, Mark Lau Branson approaches this process with the assumption that "people have more confidence in the journey to the future when they carry forward parts of the past."

I think this is good news for our congregation. On the one hand, we see how these are difficult times for congregations. The struggling economy has made it more difficult for many of you to financially support our ministries in the ways you would like. Our society is continuing to disengage from the institutional church. On the other hand, as a congregation we are paying attention


to the ways Christ is present and at work in the midst of challenging times. Our church has survived and even thrived through nearly 270 years. This is by no accident. God is in control. We have a rich tradition of Christ centered worship and strong biblical learning. Our relationships with one another are interconnected across three and sometimes four generations.

We are still listening to God through one another. We are learning how the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives. I ask that each of you also stay tuned in prayer, bible study and worship.

In Christ's love, listening with you,

Pastor Kathy

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

Experience the Cross

Community Cross

You have probably noticed a cross erected out by our church sign. This is our "Community Cross." It will stand through the end of Easter week. The cross is for anyone - including the entire community - who has prayers, burdens or anything that they would like to "nail to the cross of Christ." "We invite you to do this as individuals, families, Sunday school classes, and community groups."

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

~Matthew 11:28

Beginning Palm Sunday (April 5), please come to the cross, write your prayers, concerns or any burden you are carrying and leave it at the Cross. Nails and paper will be available by the cross for you to use.

Watch for the transformation of the cross on Easter Sunday; see how Christ takes your burdens and turns them into something beautiful.

Good Friday Prayer Services

There will be three new opportunities to observe Good Friday this year and the "Community Cross" will be a part of them. There will be three brief prayer services held following the form of the Daily Office (a monastic prayer discipline) and the Stations of the Cross. Please take a few moments of your time to pray and meditate on the power of the cross.

9 am - Morning Prayer in the Chapel

12 noon - Noon Prayer moving from the Chapel to the Community Cross, including the opportunity to add your prayers or burdens to the cross.

9 pm - Night Prayer at the Cross

Lent

Holy Week Worship Schedule



Sunday, April 5:
8:15 am
10:45 am

Palm Sunday
Worship Services with Holy Communion
Worship Services with Holy Communion
(for those who are able, start in the garden)

Thursday, April 9:
12:00 noon
7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday
Worship Service with Holy Communion
Worship Service with Holy Communion (First Communion)

Friday, April 10:
9:00 am
12:00 noon
7:00 pm
9:00 pm

Good Friday
Morning Prayer Service
Noon Prayer Service w/Community Cross
Tenebrae - Worship Service
Compline - Worship Service

Easter Lilies are available for pickup after the 10:45am Easter Worship Services.

Saturday, April 11:
6:00 pm

Easter Vigil
Easter Vigil Service with Holy Communion

Sunday, April 12:
6:30 am

8:15 am
10:45 am

Easter Sunday—The Resurrection of Our Lord
Sunrise Service with Holy Communion
(for those who are able, start in the garden)
Festival Services with Holy Communion
Festival Services with Holy Communion



Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 11th
4:30-6:00pm

All children from birth through second grade and their families are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday April 11th from 4:30-6:00pm in the Social Room. Join us for a celebration of Christ's resurrection as the kids learn that "He Lives!" All are welcome to stay for a light, kid-friendly meal immediately following. If you have any questions, contact Ginger Trautman at 301-371-6500 or gtrautman@zionmiddletown.org.



Continental Easter Breakfast
7:30-10:30am

The Christian Fellowship committee is hosting a Continental Easter Breakfast in the social room Easter morning. Stop by for good food and fellowship as delicious donuts, pastries, fruit, juice and coffee will be available throughout the morning.



Chocolate Sale Pick Up
Sunday, April 5th

If you have ordered Easter/Spring chocolates from the youth they will be available for pick up in the "quilt area" of the Social Room, after services on Palm Sunday, April 5th. If you are unable to pick up this day please contact Ginger Trautman to make other arrangements.

Lent

“... Share Christ’s Love...”



Note from Vicar Cris...

As we are moving through this season of Lent I am painfully aware that I am quickly moving toward the end of my time as Zion’s intern. I am tremendously excited about the upcoming worship experiences being planned – especially for Good Friday. Ginger has put together a wonderful outreach activity in the Community Cross and I have been working hard to incorporate a class project into the life of Zion. Please read the article concerning these events on page 3 and don’t hesitate to ask me about this day.

My Lenten journey has been a very meaningful one, through my own personal disciplines, but more importantly through what I have seen this congregation do as a community – gathering in great numbers for a midweek study and Sunday Forum. As we approach Easter together, take as much time as you can to consider the gift of love that is Jesus Christ and commit to celebrating the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as we journey through Holy Week.

Yours in Christ,
Vicar Cris

Fair Trade Shop at Zion — Easter Weekend

Zion Lutheran Church in conjunction with Mar-Lu-Ridge will be holding a Fair Trade shop starting **5:30pm on Saturday April 11th and ending after all worship services on Easter Sunday, April 12th.** Fair Trade crafts from all over the world such as Jewelry, Baskets, Coffee, Chocolate, and gift items will be available for sale. The weeks before Easter we will be serving Fair Trade coffee for our coffee and fellowship time.



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. Zion is participating in this project as a fundraiser for Mar-Lu Ridge Camp and Conference Center with 10% of proceeds from the sales going to Mar-Lu-Ridge.

LWR’s coffee coordinator states, LWR’s method of working with farmers “means that we are not simply funders. Rather, by working in partnership, we become actors in a process that enables families and organizations to improve their livelihoods.” The partnership, works to improve coffee and cocoa cooperatives’ growing, harvesting, processing and selling methods. By converting to organic in partnership with LWR, the farmer will drastically increase the productivity of her land and the quality of her crop. In addition organic farming is sustainable and helps conserve the environment as traditional coffee farming leads to deforestation and contaminates ground water.



For more information, go to the Lutheran World Relief website at **www.lwr.org** and click on the “fair trade” tab for an overview as well as information on the coffee, chocolate and crafts programs.

Congregational News

Congregation Council Meeting Highlights, March 2, 2009



1. Council approved a process for acquiring a new copier for the church office to include a proposal of necessary requirements to be sent to companies for bids; a score sheet for evaluating the bids; and authorization to utilize an outside company for printing should repairs to the current copier not be made in a timely manner.
2. Expenses continue to exceed income for the month of February. Council discussed a variety of items impacting the budget: underwriting the Rhoderick and Green Street properties, current economic situation affecting members, increased ministries, increased staff. Following the first quarter, the Finance Committee and Stewardship Committee will meet to review the concerns and make recommendations to council, if needed.
3. Council will hold a retreat in late March to review: summaries of the recent Listening/Learning sessions (8 sessions attended by 92 individuals); reports from the Property Task Force; and to continue planning.
4. Council approved continuing to utilize the website developer, Wood Street to make changes and improvements to the church's website. Individuals interested in working on an Information Management Team should contact Margaret Glessner.
5. Fair Trade Display will be in the Social Room during Saturday and Sunday, April 11th and 12th for members to purchase goods from farmers in Third World countries. Fair Trade coffee will be available during the "coffee time" the weeks prior to Easter.
6. Council approved underwriting the cost of attending Mar-Lu-Ridge for member youth: \$200 for the week-long overnight and \$75.00 for the week-long day camp.
7. Council recommends that tickets be available for purchase (at half the meal cost) for members and friends to attend the May 17th "God Rocks" celebration at the Middletown Fire Company Carnival grounds.

CLASSIFIEDS



WANTED: gently used coffee table and/or end tables. Contact Ginger Trautman, 301-371-6500.

WANTED: pool noodles
Contact Ginger Trautman, 301-371-6500.

Congregational News

Zion Daughter's Spring Meeting Wednesday, April 15th

Zion Daughter's Class will hold their Spring Meeting, Wednesday, April 15th at 7:00pm in the Social Room.

Treasurer's Report February 2009

	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Operating Income	\$ 68,581.31
Operating Expense	(86,147.79)
Income Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>\$ (17,566.48)</u>



Spring is finally here, I think... time to get out the tillers and hoes and get the garden ready to plant. Meanwhile at church council we have a lot of exciting projects we are working on and looking forward to. We are currently in the process of getting bids for new copying equipment as the current copier is working above its recommended capabilities and is breaking frequently. A 3 member board will review the bids and present them to council. Council recently approved a proposal to upgrade the church's website. We will continue working with Wood Street as our consulting firm. Anyone with comments or suggestions for improving the website contact Margaret Glessner at communications@zionmiddletown.org. The Traction Task Force is continuing to work with committees to finalize the Flow Chart and develop the Committee Handbook. We look forward to having our council retreat on March 22nd. There we will have an opportunity to discuss future goals and review notes from the Listening and Learning Sessions. Thanks to all of those who offered their thoughts and opinions, they are valued and appreciated. Also, thanks to everyone for your continued support during these hard times. Phillipians 4 says, "...for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Let us continue to go forth as we are able to share Christ's love, grow in faith and serve others.

*Chris Derr
Council President*

Altar Guild Meeting

The Altar Guild will meet, Saturday, April 4th at 9:00am in the Conference Room.

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.



Mother Daughter Banquet

**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. Once again, we have a very special program planned. Tickets are \$4.00 and will be available after all services on weekends of **April 18/19, 25/26 and May 2/3**. See Bill Williams after the 8:15am service and Audrey Boyer after the Saturday evening and Sunday 10:45am service.

Congregational News

“... Grow in Faith...”

Wednesday Evening Adult Forum Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust Wednesdays, April 22 and 29

All are invited to a discussion on the ELCA's proposed statement on Human Sexuality. We will explore the documents together and respond to your questions regarding this statement. Pastor Phil, Vicar Cris and Pastor Kathy will all participate in this conversation with you.

These forums will be held in the Social Room on Wednesday Evenings April 22 and 29 at 7:00 pm. For more information you may go to <http://www.elca.org/faithfuljourney>. Information is also available in the racks by the church office and chapel.



"Marked For Life" Last week ...

All are invited as Pastor Mark leads an in-depth study on the Gospel of Mark Sunday during the Sunday School hour April 5th in the Social Room.

First Communion Thursday, April 9th



Join us, Maundy Thursday, April 9th at the 7:00pm service, to celebrate with the children and their families as they take their "First Communion." Join us in the social hall immediately following services for a reception hosted by the Christian Education committee.

Christian Education

Lunch Gathering CS Lewis's "A Grief Observed" Mondays, April 20 and 27



Join Vicar Cris for a lunchtime study (12:00noon) on Monday, April 20 and April 27. We will spend a little time with CS Lewis' book, **A Grief Observed**. It's only 112 pages, so it shouldn't take too long to read! We'll gather in the Living Library (bring a bag lunch) and explore this book together. Copies of the book can be ordered through Amazon – let Vicar Cris know if you are interested; cfrigm@zionmiddletown.org or 301-371-6500.

Parenting Sunday School Class

Did you know that parents with children through high school meet each Sunday during the Sunday school hour to talk about parenting? We've explored how we were raised in the church as children and how faith played a role in our upbringing. There have been great conversations about fears of outside influences on our children versus strong morals and values taught in the home.

Does any of this strike a chord with you? In coming weeks we will be discussing how media and materialism form social mores contrary to those taught by God, some of the hard questions children (toddler and teens) bring to us and our responses, and guidelines and tools we can use to travel a faith journey along side our children.

Join us in a relaxed setting in a lower level Sunday school classroom and come prepared to experience God at work as we discuss the joys and juggling of being a parent. All are welcome. For more information contact Ginger Trautman at 301-371-6500.

Wednesday Pastor's Study Discussion on 1 John



On Wednesday afternoons from 1:30-2:30pm beginning Wednesday April 15th, 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.

Lectionary Text For April



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

- April 4/5: *Palm Sunday*
Mark 14:1-15; 47
- April 11/12: *Easter Sunday*
Mark 16:1-8
- April 18/19: *2nd Sunday in Easter*
John 20:19-31
- April 25/26: *3rd Sunday in Easter*
Luke 24:36b-48



HELP CHILDREN GROW IN FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS! *How? Join us as a volunteer for Vacation Bible School!*

The theme for this year is Crocodile Dock. Vacation Bible School will be held **Monday, June 22nd - Friday, June 26th from 9:00am-12:00noon.** We are beginning to seek out some key players who will join us in our enthusiasm for this ministry to our kids. We ask that you search your heart (and your calendar) to see if you would be available to help as a leader or helper. Consider leading or helping with:

- *Planning
- *Snack
- *Story telling
- *Decorations
- *Picnic
- *Closing Program
- *Behind the scene "catch-alls"
- *Leader/helper for specific age group
- *Crafts
- *Games
- *Music
- *Registration
- *Photography

Again, we pray that God speaks to you and that you see this service as a worthy one. Do not hesitate to contact Ginger Trautman at gtrautman@zionmiddletown.org or 301-371-6500 if you have questions or would like additional information.

Keep an eye out for the VBS bulletin board.



Vacation Bible School Wish List

In order to help accentuate our Crocodile Dock VBS we are placing these items on our wish list:

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

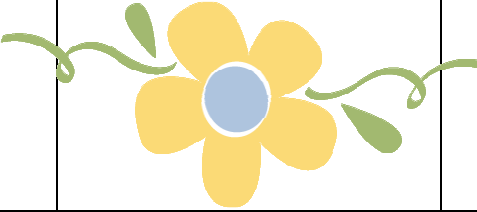
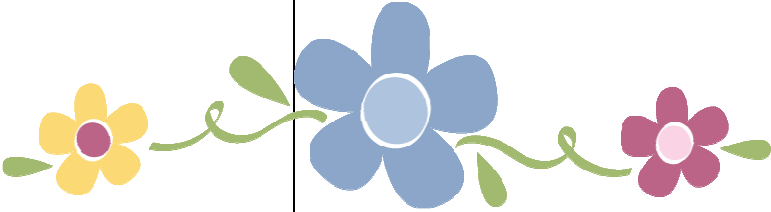
Things to borrow:(Put your name on items)

- 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 301-371-6500 or gtrautman@zionmiddletown.org.

Christian Education

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
<h1 style="color: cyan; text-shadow: 2px 2px 4px black;">April 2009</h1>			<p>1</p> <p>6:15pm Mid-Week Lenten Dinner (SR)</p> <p>7:00pm Mid-Week Lenten Worship (Sanc)</p>
<p>5 PALM/PASSION SUNDAY</p> <p><i>Pick up Chocolates Today! (SR)</i></p> <p>8:15am Worship 9:30am Christian Ed 9:30am "Marked for Life" Adult Forum (SR) 10:45am Worship 12Noon Info Task Force (CR) 12Noon Youth Musicians' rehearsal (MR) 7pm Children's Choir rehearsal (MR)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30am Wisdom Seekers' Bible Study (CR)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30am Staff meets (LL) 4:15pm Body & Soul (SR) 7:00pm Handbells (MR) 7:30pm Music Jam (Chapel)</p> 	<p>8</p>
<p>12 EASTER SUNDAY The Resurrection of Our Lord</p> <p>6:30am Sunrise Worship Service 7:30-10:30am Continental Breakfast (SR) 8:15am Worship 9:00am-1:00pm Fair Trade Shop 9:30am Christian Ed Hour 10:45am Worship</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30am Wisdom Seekers' Bible Study (CR)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30am Staff meets (LL) 4:15pm Body & Soul (SR) 7:00pm Handbells (MR) 7:30pm Music Jam (Chapel)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1:30pm Pastor's Bible Study (CR)</p> <p>7pm Zion Daughters Spring meeting (SR)</p>
<p>19 Second Sunday of Easter</p> <p>8:15am Worship 9:30am Christian Ed 10:45am Worship</p> <p>12Noon Youth Musicians' rehearsal 12:15pm New Orleans meeting</p> <p>7pm Children's Choir rehearsal (MR)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30am Wisdom Seekers' Bible Study (CR)</p> <p>12:00noon CS Lewis Lunch Gathering (LL)</p> <p>7:30pm Christian Education (LL)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30am Staff meets (LL) 4:15pm Body & Soul (SR) 7:00pm Handbells (MR) 7:30pm Music Jam (Chapel)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>1:30pm Pastor's Bible Study (CR)</p> <p>7:00pm Human Sexuality Adult Forum (SR)</p>
<p>26 Third Sunday of Easter <i>Thrivent sub sales today</i></p> <p>8:15am Worship 9:30am Christian Ed 10:45am Worship</p> <p>12Noon Youth Musicians' rehearsal</p> <p>1-4pm Piano Recital (Sanctuary)</p> <p>7pm Children's Choir rehearsal (MR)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:00am BEACON Mailing Group (CR)</p> <p>9:30am Wisdom Seekers' Bible Study (CR)</p> <p>12:00noon CS Lewis Lunch Gathering (LL)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30am Staff meets (LL) 4:15pm Body & Soul (SR) 7:00pm Handbells (MR) 7:30pm Music Jam (Chapel)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8am BEACON Mailing Group (CR)</p> <p>1:30pm Pastor's Bible Study (CR)</p> <p>7:00pm Human Sexuality Adult Forum (SR)</p>

	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	2 7:00am Quilting (Soc Rm) 11:30am Valley Seniors Lunch (SR) 4:15pm Body & Soul (SR) 6:30-8:30pm Youth Group (YH) 6:30pm Rainbow Choir (Rhoderick home) 7:30pm Senior Choir (MR)	3	4 <i>Mar Lu Ridge Clean Up Day</i> 8:30am OGOV rehearsal 9:00am Altar Guild meeting (CR) 9-10am Liturgical Dancers rehearse (Sanctuary) 2:00pm Wedding (Bello/Swiney) 6:00pm Worship (Chapel)
	9 MAUNDY THURSDAY 12Noon Contemplative Holy Communion Service (in Chapel) 7:00pm Service of Holy Communion w/ First Communion (Sanctuary) 8:00pm Reception for First Communicants (SR)	10 GOOD FRIDAY 9am Morning Prayers (Chapel) 12Noon Devotions Service (Chapel/Cross) 3-6pm Liturgical Dancers rehearse (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Tenebrae Worship (Sanc) 9:00pm Compline Service (Cross)	11 EASTER VIGIL 9-11am Senior Choir rehearsal (Sanctuary) 4:30-6pm Egg Hunt (SR) 5:30-7pm Fair Trade Shop (SR) 6:00pm Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary)
	16 7:00am Quilting (Soc Rm) 11:30am Valley Seniors Lunch (SR) 4:15pm Body & Soul (SR) 6:30-8:30pm Youth Group (YH) 6:30pm Rainbow Choir (Rhoderick home) 7:30pm Senior Choir (MR)	17 7:00pm Drum Circle (MR)	18 8:30am OGOV rehearsal 6:00pm Worship (Chapel) <i>Beacon articles due today!</i>
	23 7:00am Quilting (Soc Rm) 4:15pm Body & Soul (SR) 6:30-8:30pm Youth Group (YH) 6:30pm Rainbow Choir (Rhoderick home) 7:30pm Senior Choir (MR)	24	25 8am-12N Thrivent prep (SR/K) 8:30am OGOV rehearsal 6:00pm Worship (Chapel)
	30 7:00am Quilting (Soc Rm) 4:15pm Body & Soul (SR) 6:30-8:30pm Youth Group (YH) 6:30pm Rainbow Choir (Rhoderick home) 7:30pm Senior Choir (MR)		
			11



Birthdays

Happy Birthday to our APRIL celebrants!

- 1 Doug Adams II, Marianna Bere, Robert Bussard Sr., Ann Hasle
- 2 Barry Bussard, Kevin Dean, Pauline Haupt, Jim Powell, Paula Wilmsen
- 3 Christopher Albright, Holly Alford, Linda Kinna Engel, Jennie Payne
- 4 Donald Conrad, Donna Musser, Robbie Nickey IV, Jessica Yeager
- 5 Shannon Baker, Mildred Cline, Karen Hiltner, Lois Shank
- 6 Kathryn Jenkins, Richard McQuillen
- 7 Amy Leatherman
- 8 Kay Reed
- 9 Gabriel Berger, Donna Jean Brandenburg, Nan Walker, Judy Fogle, Annette Goodman, Aaron Poffinberger, Luke Walker
- 10 Judy Foltz, Charlsie King, Daniel Toms
- 11 -
- 12 Natalie Anthony, Nathan Christensen, Elizabeth Dunham, Michael Main, Ryan Renner
- 13 Bill Bere Jr., Tom Bidle, Emily Kehoe, Madison Keller, Zachary Lewis
- 14 Sarah Frattali, Leslie Long Jr., Joshua Shankle
- 15 Tiffany Ahalt, Glenn Baker, Karen Hollis, Robert Martinez, Tyler Sheppard
- 16 Michael Adams, David Burtner, Joy Howard, Colleen McCutcheon, Karen McNeal, Larry Schaffert
- 17 -
- 18 Frances Ahalt, Darin Gordon
- 19 Ethan Lichtenberger, Donald O'Brien Jr., Riley Reese
- 20 Robin Butler, Graham Christensen, Brenda King, Jimmy Tabler, Laura Zolfo
- 21 Lori Baker, Matt Main
- 22 Brett Harshman, Geraldine Markley, Frank Miller
- 23 Brooke Lowery, Briana Manente
- 24 Michael Ferguson, Mandy Huffer, Ralph Ropp, Sara Smith
- 25 Austin Marker, Sandy Nicholson
- 26 Jackie Bandy, Karen Heidemann, Thelma Nixon, Danielle Stauffer
- 27 Kim Durkin, Kristi Frizzell, Vincent Grossman, Ellen Maurer, Esther Poffinberger
- 28 Rhonda Anderson, Sam Billotti IV, Carl Lowery Jr., Kyle Manning, Ruby Pyles
- 29 Brenda Bohn, MacGyver Harding, Heather Mathews
- 30 Marcia Berg, Aaron Cevallos, Hollin Irgens, Erin McCubbin, Alyssa Selin

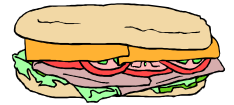
Mark Your Calendar



April

- 4 Mar-Lu Spring Cleanup (pg 14)
- 5 Pick up Chocolates (pg 4)
- 5 "Marked for Life" Adult Forum (pg 8)
- 5 Palm Sunday (pg 1,4)
- 9 Maundy Thursday Services(pg1,4)
- 9 First Communion/Reception (pg 1,4,8)
- 10 Good Friday Services (pg 1,3,4)
- 11 Easter Vigil Service (pg 1,4)
- 11 Fair Trade Shop (pg 1,5)
- 11 Easter Egg Hung (pg 1,4)
- 12 Easter Sunday Services (pg 1,4)
- 12 Easter Continental Breakfast (pg 1,4)
- 12 Fair Trade Shop (pg 1,5)
- 17 Drum Circle (pg 13)
- 20 C.S. Lewis Lunch Gathering (pg 8)
- 22 Human Sexuality Adult Forum (pg 8)
- 26 Thrivent Sub Sale (pg 13)
- 27 C.S. Lewis Lunch Gathering (pg 8)
- 29 Human Sexuality Adult Forum (pg 8)

Thrivent Sub Sale Sunday, April 26th



Thrivent members will be selling subs on Sunday, April 26th after the 8:15am and 10:45am services.



Drum Circle Friday, April 17th; 7:00pm

Come express your inner rhythm! African drums and hand percussion provided. Refreshments will be served. Questions, 301-371-0654 or www.zionmiddletown.org.

The People

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



Pat Miller
Ralph Rohrer

Thank you all for your prayers and support shown to Aunt Marie (Sigler) during her recent illness and death. I would like to thank everyone at Zion for your many prayers, cards and visits to Aunt Marie during her entire residency at Fahrney-Keedy Memorial Home. She really appreciated being remembered by her brothers and sisters at Zion.

I would also like to express a special "Thank you" to Pastor Kathy for her many visits and prayers with Aunt Marie. Also a special "Thank you" to the Zion Daughters class for providing the dinner after the funeral. All your acts of kindness are greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank my brothers and sisters at Zion for their continued support for me during this time.

God Bless you all!
Love, Dixie

Thank You!

I would like to thank all the friends of Zion that sent me cards of sympathy for the passing of my wife, Pat. For the foods and for all the gestures of kindness during my grief.

Donald (Jeff) Miller

Thank you so much for your caring thoughts, prayers, cards and calls following my recent appendectomy. Words cannot express my appreciation.

Charlotte Rae Warrenfeltz

“...and Serve Others.”



“CHANGE FOR LIFE” CareNet Pregnancy Center Campaign for Lent

Just a reminder....

Fill and Return bottles: Bring your filled bottle(s) back to church by **Easter Sunday, April 12th**, and place in boxes at the entrances of the Sanctuary.

This fundraiser is being co-sponsored by Thrivent and the SHOUT committee. Questions, contact Lonnie Ropp at 301-371-6556 or bmal-ropp@comcast.net.



Mar-Lu-Ridge Spring Cleanup Saturday, April 4th

Mar-Lu-Ridge has scheduled its Spring Clean Up for this year on Saturday, April 4th. Everyone is invited to help! Breakfast is served at 8:00am. Work projects begin at 9:00am. We will be placing mulch, trimming bushes, cleaning walkways, painting etc. We have a job to fit everyone. If you plan to be there for breakfast, please let me know. They need a count as to how much food to prepare. Questions, please call M. Lee Ropp at 301-293-2701.

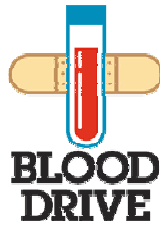
Habitat For Humanity On TV!



Did you happen to watch WUSA, Channel 9 TV News at 5:00pm on Friday, March 20th? The Habitat house on *213 South Jefferson Street* was featured! The house is scheduled for completion/dedication hopefully by the end of April! Questions or for more information, ask M. Lee Ropp or Jack Boglitsch.

Mark your calendar

Blood Drive
Saturday, May 23rd
9:00am - 2:00pm
Social Room



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



Keep the Middletown Food Bank in your thoughts as you shop. Current critical needs include:

- ◆ Jelly
- ◆ Pancake Syrup
- ◆ Spaghetti
- ◆ Toothpaste
- ◆ Shampoo



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).

How Can I Serve?

Carrie Toms....
A 90-year-old Wonder Woman!
(excerpt from "The Citizen")

If you ever visited the Middletown Food Bank on West Main Street as a volunteer, donor or client, you have met (Zion's own) Carrie Toms! Carrie is the tiny woman cheerfully bossing everyone around. If she isn't filling orders for clients, restocking shelves, cleaning out freezers, telling jokes, putting together toiletry bags, or washing Food Bank windows and floors, she is making certain volunteers are kept busy. She does all this with a smile on her face. Her energy is limitless. Having grown up with a strong work ethic and always caring about the plight of her fellow man, working at the food bank is important to her.

Carrie started working at the Food Bank as a volunteer in 1987 when (Zion) Lutheran Church started the Food Bank. Supplies were extremely limited, and few people needed to use it. She remembers when it moved into the old elementary school basement on Prospect Street and then to the present location on West Main Street. Without the daily dedication that Carrie shows, the Middletown Food Bank would not be able to provide clients with the variety and number of items she procures. In fact, it is hard to imagine a time when she wouldn't be there making certain everything is running smoothly. She is a wonderful example to the younger generation -- and to all -- of unselfish volunteerism.



Update from the First Response Team
AED is Ordered; Classes available soon!



The AED (Automated External Defibrillator) has been ordered and the oxygen tanks are in our possession; however, they are not in the building for use yet. After the team is fully functioning, we are hoping to invite the members of the congregation to meet the team members, see the equipment, ask questions, and share any concerns that you might have

Are you CPR/AED Certified? If you are already CPR/AED certified and have not already responded with a desire to serve on the First Response Team, please contact Cathy Baker at cbaker60@comcast.net.

First Response Support: Our Response Team also needs support members who *do not* need to be CPR/AED certified. For example, if a 911 call is placed, a support member would be available to meet the ambulance and direct them to the right location. There also may be times where family members are in need of support or transportation. Contact Cathy Baker if you are interested in being a support team member.



CPR/AED Class: We will hold a CPR/AED training class on Wednesday, May 27th from 5:30 - 10:00pm. **Update: Class is currently full.**

Meeting: Once the class is complete, we will have a meeting for all interested CPR/AED certified people to review the new fully automatic AED, the new oxygen tanks and appropriate paperwork. Watch the bulletin, website and newsletter for details.

How Can I Serve?



**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.

Look for Zion's Bell!



Look for Zion's decorated cutout wooden "bell" during Bell and History days. A big "Thank you" to Amy Reynal for decorating Zion's bell!

Congregational News



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.

Available for sale...

Lutheran Study Bibles

10 Bibles are left.; located on the table outside the church office. Cost \$25/each.

**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.



Bell and History Days

Bell and History Days, on April 4 and 5, 2009 offers a host of fun and free activities for families to encounter local history! Churches all over the county will help get the weekend started with a simultaneous ringing of bells at 10 a.m. Saturday morning. This year's Bell and History Days program recalls the sound of bells related to modes of travel, particularly in the southwestern region where transportation history is strong - historic roads, rails, trails, canals and trolleys are among the features of the 2009 Bell and History Days weekend, including trolley tours of historic Braddock Heights that launch from the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration on Maryland Avenue throughout the day on April 4. A comprehensive guide to the entire weekend, including a special Passport to History incentive program, will be available at the Frederick Visitor Center after March 5.

Bell and History Days Handbell Festival

April 5th, 5:00 p.m.

Jack B. Kussmaul Theater at Frederick Community College



The Bell and History Days weekend finale is a handbell festival featuring seven local handbell choirs, including Zion's own handbell choir, about 100 ringers and several hundred bells and chimes. Mass-ring selections including all choirs will open and close the concert, and each ensemble will perform a solo piece. The one-hour concert will begin at 5:00 p.m. at the Jack B. Kussmaul Theater at Frederick Community College, 7932 Opossumtown Pike in Frederick, MD. The Handbell Festival is free of charge and the public is invited. For details, call Liz Shatto, Frederick Historic Sites Consortium, (301) 600-4042.



Trinity School of Frederick - Open House

Thursday, April 16th; 9:30-11:00am

Did you know Frederick County has an independent school sponsored in part by the Lutheran faith? Trinity School of Frederick has gained the reputation during the past seven years as a school with an outstanding curriculum and a nurturing, family-oriented culture.

Trinity's next Open House is scheduled for Thursday, April 16 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Anyone unable to attend an open house is invited to call Trinity School at 301-228-2333 to schedule an appointment with Head of School Barbara Cartwright, or visit www.trinityschooloffrederick.org for more information.

Trinity School is very conveniently located beside the Key's stadium at 6040 New Design Road. Trinity is affiliated with the Frederick Regional Council for Episcopal Churches in partnership with Evangelical Lutheran Church, Frederick and Urbana.

Congregational News

Youth News

IMPACT Youth Conference



Check back next month for the whole scoop plus photos from the High School youth trip to IMPACT, March 27-29. Attendees.... Cole Ahalt, Josh Glessner, Adam Kelly, Ben Nickey, Nick Riker, Gary Scott, Cody Snively, Abby Buchanan, Lauren Cevallos, Yvette Mann, Kristin Neary, Julie Rockwell, Brianna Scott, Jessica Shirley and adults Jill Minchoff, Lisa Scott, Gary Scott Sr., Chris Tressler and Gary Glessner.



NEW ORLEANS' FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Annual Yard Sale Drop off Dates

Sat, May 9th; Thurs, May 14th



The annual youth yard sale will be taking place 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 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon or Thursday, May 14th between 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.** If you have questions or need to discuss alternate pick-up/drop-off dates contact Ginger Trautman at 301-371-6500 or gtrautman@zionmiddletown.org.

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.



Thank you to everyone who came out in support of our Valentine Breakfast and Silent Auction on February 14th. Many have asked how much money we raised. We apologize for the delay in getting this to you but have still been trying to finalize the payments and pick-ups of auction items. We thank you for your generosity and are humbled to report that the breakfast and auction brought in **\$3,244.43**. Thanks again to everyone who participated in this event!

NEEDED TO RAISE	RAISED	BALANCE
\$14,405.00	\$10,728.67	\$3,676.33



Youth Group News...

No Youth Group, Thursday, April 9th as FCP Schools are closed for Spring Break.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

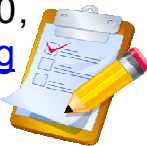
New Drop off/Pick up Procedures

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.**



Covenant and Contact Forms

ALL THURSDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP PARTICIPANTS: Covenant and contact forms must be filled out by all participants and signed by their parents in order to continue attending youth group events. If you have not received a form or have lost it please contact Ginger Trautman at 301-371-6500, gtrautman@zionmiddletown.org or go to the website at www.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.

Cedar Ridge Adventures June 30th and August 11th

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-->)



Special Events and Road Trips!



- ⇒ **Confirmation** (Pentecost Sunday)
(9th Grade Confirmation)
Sunday, May 31st; 10:45am Service
- ⇒ **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

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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 -- Kids in Church!



- ⇒ One particular four year old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."
- ⇒ Three year old Reese: "Our Father, who does art in heaven, Harold is his name. Amen."
- ⇒ A Sunday school teacher asked her little children as they were on the way to church, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."
- ⇒ A Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments. They were ready to discuss the last one. The teacher asked if anyone could tell her what it was. Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off the neighbor's wife."