



ZIONEWS

March 2011 Zion Lutheran's Monthly Newsletter

Lent - Time to Breathe

I walked the path in the Savannah Wildlife Refuge, breathing in the musky smell of rotting vegetation and swamp water. The sun was painfully bright, and had coaxed the alligators out of their holes to lie on the banks in deathly stillness. Not a muscle moved, not an eye blinked, not a sign of an intake of breath was given.



I stood on the banks of the canal and watched a six-footer, looking for a twitch in that gray-green armor and wondering anew at the ability of an alligator to stay as still as stone for extended periods of time. When I breath, my chest rises in rhythmic regularity. No mystery there. My lungs expand with every breath I take – in and out, in and out – and you know that I am alive. It is like that for almost everything that has breath. But, a gator can lay for hours suspended in his hide, and give nothing away.

I read an old Reader's Digest article where they actually did a study to learn how much a *soul* weighs. They weighed people just as they were about to take their last breath and again after their breathing had stopped. They came to the conclusion that a soul weighs ¾ of an ounce. That was the average difference on the scales before and after the "breath" had left a person's body. If you have ever stood at the bedside of a loved one who has expired, you know what that moment looks like; the stillness that settles in when his or her breath has departed. You know precisely when the soul you love is gone.

During the season of the Church year called Lent, we follow Jesus as he makes his slow, deliberate way to the cross, where he takes his last breath, and his soul departs his earthly body. It is a time when we who love him ponder our own dependence on God for *our* life's breath. It is a time when we become still long enough to be conscious of our own breathing; to appreciate it for the gift it is, and to be grateful for it. Lent is when we intentionally take the time to breathe - to stop in the middle of the busy-ness of life to recognize the presence of God living in us, filling us with the Spirit; the breath of God, the Lord, the Giver of Life.

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Pastor Barbara Koch



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This Lenten season, give yourself the gift of time to breathe. Open yourself up to the Spirit's movement! Join your living, breathing, brothers and sisters in Christ as we gather each week to allow God to send forth his breath and renew our souls! Don't let anyone wonder whether you are alive or not!

Lenten Blessings, Pastor Barb <><

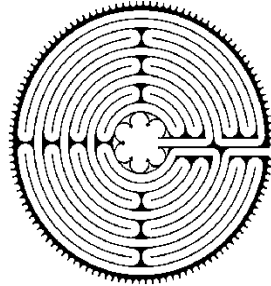
*O Lord... When you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.
When you send forth your breath, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground. Psalm 104: 29-30*

ZION PRAYER LABYRINTH DEDICATION
MARCH 27, 2011

In the Zion courtyard, we have constructed a memorial garden in memory of Dr. Paul W. Hart, a member of Zion who loved God and the beautiful world God created. At the center of the garden is a prayer labyrinth that is open to the community. Dr. Hart was dedicated to the preservation of nature and worked to that end within the US Department of Energy. A place of prayer set in the outdoors is a fitting tribute to his life's work.

The labyrinth is an ancient way of praying as you walk. We have set aside this sacred space to help us grow in our prayer life. It is our hope that our neighbors will come and walk the labyrinth as well, and that they may find the peace of Christ that we have found in this place.

Zion welcomes the community to the dedication of the Zion Prayer Labyrinth on March 27, 2011 following the service.



2011 Easter Lilies

We will be decorating the Chancel area once again on Easter Sunday, with Easter Lilies. If you would like an Easter Lily given "in honor of" or "in memory of" someone, please complete an order form and return the completed form with your check to Rene Atkinson. Please make your check payable to Zion Lutheran Church. The forms are available in the narthex & education building, or you may use the one provided in the newsletter. The Easter Lilies will be ordered locally and delivered to the church with the pots wrapped.

*The cost of an Easter Lily is \$10.50 each.
The order deadline is Sunday, April 10th.*

Easter Lily Order Form

Order Forms & checks must be returned by April 10th

Circle One:

In Honor / In Memory

Lily (\$10.50 each)

Please complete one form for each gift, so the dedication can be properly noted in the bulletin insert

Who the gift is dedicated to:

Who is giving the gift:

Make Checks Payable to: ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Return Completed Form and Check To: **RENE' ATKINSON**

Either in person at church or

Mail to 111 Royal Oak Drive, Guyton, GA 31312

Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

February 13, 2011

(See complete minutes on the Church Bulletin Board.)

Minutes of January 2, 2011, January 9, 2011 Annual Congregational Meeting and the January 16, 2011 Organizational meeting were reviewed and approved.

The *Pastor's Report* and the *Treasurer's Report* were reviewed.

Committee reports. *Property* will post a list of Tasks for volunteers to "adopt" and complete. AC units need to be turned off when vacating the building. Scout Hut framing is begun. *Evangelism* will host a Family Game Night Feb. 25th at 6:30pm; Pancake Supper, March 6th with games at 4:00pm, supper at 5:00. Will need help with Lenten meals. Donations will go to Relay for Life. *Worship and Music* will work with Property Committee to better utilize our sound system until we can locate the system above the Narthex in future. Looking at options for a lockable cabinet for the equipment. *Membership* issues were addressed. David Harris is researching for online donations to be accepted through Pay-Pal to present to *Finance committee* next meeting.

Chairpersons for each committee are as follows:

Property Committee - Craig Pittman.
Evangelism Committee - Rebecca Heidt.
Worship and Music Committee - Louise Sebastian.
Christian Education Committee - Brett Vandenhouten.
Stewardship and Finance Committee - Charlie Heidt.
Social Ministry Committee - Norma Ralph.

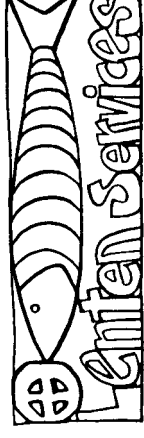
Next meeting: March 6, 2011 at 7:30pm.

Sherri Pittman, secretary

Pastor Barb is in the Church Office:

Tuesdays: 2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m., Thursdays: 9: 00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.
and evenings by appointment.

If Pastor Barb is called away from the office for an emergency during these times, you may still reach her by cell phone - 912-677-7011.



Zion Welcomes Local ELCA Preachers During Lent!

This Lenten season, the three area ELCA churches are working together to offer a series of messages called *The Miracles of Lent*. Each week, we will explore one of the signs and miracles God performed at the moment of Jesus' death on the cross as told in Matthew 27:51-54. Rather than going to each other's churches each week, the pastors will rotate!

We will gather in the sanctuary Sunday afternoons at 5:00 p.m. for a half-hour service centered around the miracle of the week. Afterwards, enjoy fellowship and a simple meal that will be provided. The schedule is as follows:

Sunday, March 13: The Miraculous Tearing of the Temple Curtain:
Pastor Barb Koch.

Sunday, March 20: The Miraculous Earthquake:
Pastor John Barichivich, Jerusalem

Sunday, March 27: The Miracle of the Splitting of the Rocks:
Pastor Barb Koch

Sunday, April 3: The Miraculous Raising of the Saints from Death:
Pastor Patrick Finley, St. John's

Sunday, April 10: The Miraculous Faith of the Roman Soldiers:
Pastor David Hendrix, Retired

This promises to be a thought-provoking, prayerful series, with good fellowship to follow. We know you won't want to miss even one!

Tax Info for Manna House Donations

When you donate to *Manna House*, be sure and ask them for a "Donation Receipt". You fill out the items you are giving, then, fill in the monetary value later. This is your tax receipt for the IRS as a charitable donation. Norma Ralph has the forms, or there are some posted in the Narthex. Please see Norma if you have any questions.

Women of the ELCA

Submitted by Dana Lee Smith

March is a busy month for Women of the ELCA here at Zion. Our ladies are involved in presenting the program and hosting the World Day of Prayer service here at Zion on Friday, March 4th at 7:00p.m.. We are also providing the meal for our annual Mardi Gras

Pancake Supper on March 6th with games starting at 4:00p.m. We'll be hosting a baby shower for Brett & Misti Vandenhouten on Thursday, March 31st. (It's a girl!) On April 23rd, we'll be sponsoring the annual Easter Egg Hunt here at Zion. We are now accepting donations to help cover expenses for this event. Donations can be given to Dana Lee Smith or WELCA treasurer, Emma Lee Dasher. We invite everyone to take advantage of these opportunities to get involved!

Did you know that WELCA provides meals for bereaved families throughout the year and we sponsor wedding showers and baby showers? Anyone, men and women, can help with these projects. Donations to help with expenses for these projects can be given to our meal and shower coordinator, Melinda Heidt, or WELCA treasurer, Emma Lee Dasher.

Have you heard? Our "Circle of Friends" group has a new name. This group is now called "Sisters of Faith". With a "new" name comes "new" excitement as they continue to serve God and others. Remember.....all ladies of the congregation are members of WELCA. Everyone is encouraged to get involved. Check the

Wednesday Night Meals

Come out and join Zion Wednesday, March 2nd, for a meal and fellowship! Dinner starts at 5:15p.m. and is served until 6:45p.m. Rates are as follows:

4 - 10: \$2.00 each

11 & up: \$5.00 each

(No family will be charged more than \$20.00)

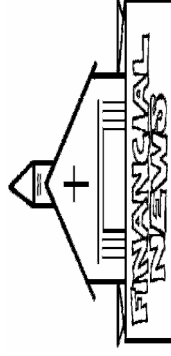
We encourage all to attend. Volunteers to help cook and serve are always welcome too. If you wish to make reservations, sign up to volunteer, or have any questions, please contact Norma Ralph at (912-) 313-2465.



Senior Citizens!

Bill Tyson, Effingham County Extension Director, was the guest speaker for the 41 folks present at our February meeting. He shared his knowledge on how to conquer certain weed, grass, plant, and insect problems. Call him if you need answers to "bugging" questions.

Thank you to **Charlie & Melinda Heidt** and their great group of helpers, **Georgia Foss, Judy Harmon, Cheryl Pannal, and Norma & Francis Ralph** for preparing the delicious meal. Thank you also to everyone who brought food items to share and/or helped clean up afterwards. Our meeting next month will be on Wednesday, March 23rd, starting at 11:30 a.m. "Bingo" will be returning by popular demand. (Folks must be running out of toilet paper!!) So come on out and enjoy the delicious food, good social time, and "the great toilet paper give away"!!



	Income	Expenses	Balance
January 2011	\$25,670.76 Note (1)	\$23,956.96 Note (2)	\$1,713.80
Weekly Average	\$6,417.69	\$5,989.24	\$428.45

Notes: (1) Includes \$11,200.00 from the Ebenezer Trustees.

(2) Includes \$10,000.00 to the Building Fund.

Evangelism

Please note - if any committee or group needs advertising for events, please contact Laurie Langston at least 3 weeks prior to the event at laurie.langston@gmail.com or 912-272-6440

Lutheran Youth Organization News

submitted by Dana Lee Smith

February Highlights

Wow! Thanks to all the youth who helped with the Youth Sunday "Souper Bowl" service on February 6th. It was a wonderful service and many folks have commented on the awesome job the youth did in leading the service. Thanks to the congregation and all who supported "Souper Bowl of Caring". We collected \$375 for Manna House! We ended this special day with a great Super Bowl pizza party. We had fun watching the commercials, playing games and watching the game!

March

Wednesday, March 2nd 6:00pm-7:30pm: Youth Bible Study

Join us for a time of music, fun and fellowship with God. Remember that the meal runs from 5:30pm to 6:00pm.

Friday, March 11th - Sunday, March 13th: All GA at New Ebenezer

Retreat Center in Rincon

The theme, "By Faith" comes from Hebrews 11. The speaker and guest musician for the event is Pastor Jay Gamelin. The bus will leave Zion at 6:30pm on Friday. Dinner will not be provided Friday night. Eat before you come! Youth need to bring a sleeping bag and pillow for bunk beds, towel, wash cloth, and toiletries (tooth brush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.). Youth will need money for Sunday offering. We will arrive back at church on Sunday by noon. We will not be eating lunch. Please remember that ipods, cell phones, mp3 players and etc. are not allowed at the event! If there is an emergency that requires contacting a youth, call Dana Lee's cell at 912-665-1377.

Wednesday, March 16th: No Bible Study - SCHOOL OUT EARLY

Sunday, March 27th 12:15pm - 3:30pm: Visiting Service Project

Youth will need to bring a sack lunch to church. Following worship, we'll eat and depart to visit some of our homebound members. Join us as we share a smile and spread some cheer!

Plan Ahead

Sunday, April 24th: Sunrise Easter Service - Youth will serve Breakfast!

June 19th-24th: AFFIRM at Berry College in Rome, GA

Registration forms are available. A \$25 deposit fee is required from all youth. See Dana Lee for forms and additional information.

All youth in grades 6 - 12 are invited to participate in LYO activities. For additional information contact Dana Lee Smith at 728-3227 or 665-1377.

News from the Sonshine Sunday School Class

During Advent and Christmas, our preschool Sunday School class began collecting children's books for the Storybook Prison Ministry that is sponsored by Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. We have received a wonderful thank you letter from the director of that program, Gail Beard. The letter is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex of the church for our congregation and guests to read and also see the picture of a young man who is reading one of the books provided by the program.

On March 6th, during our Sunday School hour, we will be having a Lenten decorating party. The color will be purple and we will make crafts that reflect our Lenten theme and decorate our liturgical tree. Pastor Barb will bring a special "show and tell" to help us learn about Lent and Ash Wednesday. Come join the fun and learn about the new church season coming up.

Children's Choir by: Melinda Heidt



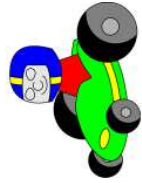
We have 15 children singing in the choir with an average of 11 singing every Sunday Morning. We are having a good time at choir learning our songs, playing instruments, and singing at the Sunday Morning Worship Services. We will sing at the Ash Wednesday Service on March 9th at 7:00 p.m. and at all the Sunday 5:00p.m. Lenten Services. We appreciate all you do to help and support the children as they sing at the Worship Services. Please continue to pray for us as we work with your children every Wednesday.

INVITATION TO A BABY SHOWER!



The women of the congregation are invited to a baby shower for **Misti and Brett Vandenhouten** Thursday March 31st at 7:00 p.m. in Zion's Fellowship hall. They are having a little girl, and are registered at Target and Baby's R Us.

World Day of Prayer 2011 - Zion Lutheran Church Host
 Women, men and children in more than 170 countries and regions will celebrate World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 4th, 2011. Zion Lutheran Church will host a service on Friday at 7:00p.m. Members from Marlow United Methodist Church, Meldrim United Methodist Church and Powers Baptist Church will assist with the worship service. A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow the program. Everyone is invited to join this service in support of ecumenical ministries. For more information contact Emma Lee Dasher at 728-3222.



On **Saturday, March 5, 2011**, Come on out to the Pineora Kartway Race Track and cheer for **Pastor "Lead-Foot" Barb** as she races against other area pastors in a **Go Cart Race** to raise funds for Robbie Moore, an Effingham High School student battling cancer. Pastor Barb says she is ready and raring to go, fully expects to win! The racetrack opens at 10:00 a.m. with the Pastor's race at 2:00p.m. Cost is \$10.00 per person to enjoy the race! See the flyer in the Narthex for more information, or ask Pastor Barb, who is waxing her helmet...

A Mardi Gras Pancake Supper will be held Sunday, March 6th at 4:00p.m. There will be fun for all ages including games, prizes, and a cake walk. We will start serving supper at 5p.m. All donations will go to the work being done at the Scout Hut to expand and enclose the space. Bring sweet treats for the cake walk and your sweetheart. Come play and dance your feet off. Thank you in advance for making this a Mardi Gras to remember. Committee meetings will start at 6p.m. followed by Council Meeting.

Friday "Movie Night" at 7:30 p.m. at Zion!

It won't be long before we can go back outside for our Drive-In Movie Nights, but till then, we are enjoying the big screen in the fellowship hall! On March 25th we will show *Secretariat*. Grab a friend and come on out for a great movie, great popcorn, and great fellowship!



Church Directory Updates

David Harris & Rebecca Heidt Randy Hall & Laura Tilley
 246 Heidt Rd. 105 Lazy Lagoon Ct.
 Guyton, GA 31312 Bloomingdale, GA 31302
 912-728-9184 912-403-7883



To our Zion Church family, Thank you so much for all that you have done for our family. We appreciated the beautiful altar flowers, food that was brought to us, the wonderful visits and the luncheon that was provided after the service. We are so blessed to have you in our life. Your thoughts and prayers have been such a comfort to our family. **Love, The family of Danny Zeigler**

Dear Everyone at Zion, Thank you for everything - the meat and veggie tray you brought over, the meal after the funeral, the kind words and thoughtfulness. Everything you did helped ease the pain of an awful time. I wish I could thank each one of you individually; until then, may God's love continue to shine through you. **Esther Burns**

Special Thanks!!

We are blessed and grateful to have a wonderful group of assisting ministers, who faithfully help lead worship. **Dana Lee Smith, Sherri Pittman**, and **Sean Vandenhouten** are our veteran assisting ministers and they are being joined by **Elliott Foss, Rebecca Heidt** and **David Harris**. We rejoice in the expansion of this important lay leadership position and thank each of these individuals for their time, creativity and faithful commitment to our church.

Thanks! to all of the Scouts and families who worshipped with us on Scout Sunday - Our Lutheran Men in Mission charter and support Troop 691 Girl Scouts (7 & leaders), Cub Scouts (54 & leaders) and Boy Scouts (16 & leaders), for a total of 77 active Scouts plus leaders. Congratulations to **Alex Jonas** and **Johnathan Collins** who recently obtained the rank of Eagle Scout. Special thanks to **Clayton Dasher** who serves as liaison for Zion troops. Our Scout hut is busy every afternoon/night Monday through Thursday with activities - The Scout parents and our LMM are busy closing in the hut porch to make more room for activities. If you would like to help with the work or make a contribution, contact Clayton at 728-3222.

LMM BREAKFAST SOCIAL

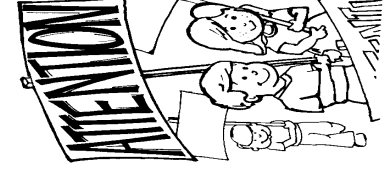
Lutheran Men in Mission will host their monthly Breakfast Social on Sunday, March 27th, at 9:00am.

Milk, juice, coffee, breakfast sweets, cereal and toast will be served. LMM will also have a short meeting during this time. To help or for info, or more information or if you would like to assist with this project, contact Clayton Dasher at 728-3222.



"Celebrate More Birthdays!" with Relay for Life

Grab your party hats and join our Zion Relay for Life team as we "Celebrate More Birthdays!" Our team will be on the track at this year's event supporting all of our friends and family whose lives have been affected by cancer. The Relay begins on April 1 at 7:00PM and ends April 2 at 7:00AM. The walk will be at Rebel Field which has been designated as Effingham's official site for all walks. If you can't walk with the Zion Relay for Life team, you can still be a part of the team by helping us reach our goal to raise \$1500 to fight cancer. The free will donations collected at the Lent Sunday meals, March 13th, 20th, and 27th will be added to the money our Zion Relay for Life team collects and will be donated to the American Cancer Society. Zion's Relay for Life "party coordinator" is Cheryl Pannal, who is happy to help you with any questions or provide more information. You can call Cheryl at 772-5465 or 667-5315. All of us together can make a difference! To join the Zion Relay for Life team and celebrate life, go to Zion's website or FaceBook page and register online or checkout the information in the church narthex. We hope to "Celebrate More Birthdays!" together with you!



Vacation Bible School is June 13 - 17, 2011!

We are pleased that Cheryl Pannal has agreed to organize VBS again this year. It promises to be even better than last year! Cheryl and friends are busily checking out VBS programs to find one that will knock your socks off! We will let you know what you can look forward to as soon as this year's theme is chosen. In the mean time, be sure and mark your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors to come for hot fun in the summertime at Zion!

Serving in March						
Date	Flowers	Acolyte *	Crucifer *	Assisting Minister	Nursery	Communion Servers
March 6 (W)	Rene Atkinson	Melina HeidtHarris	Anna Lee HeidtHarris	Sherri Pittman	Louise Edwards	Francis & Norma Ralph
March 9 Ash Wed.	No Flowers	No Acolyte	No Crucifer	Sean Vandenhouten	Nursery Available	Amber Hall
March 13 (P)	Louise Sebastian	Luke Dasher	Alex Peth	Rebecca Heidt	Joy Hutcheson	Jenni Fichthorn
March 20 (P)	Lida Peth	Lauren Conway	Autumn Conway	Dana Lee Smith	HeidtHarris	Craig Conway
March 27 (P)	Minnie Lee Zipperer	Caycee Pannal	Christian HeidtHarris	David Harris	Ruth Phillips	Terry Sexton

* Acolytes and Crucifers need to meet in the pastor's office 10 minutes before worship (10:50 am).

Week of	Clean Church	Clean Education Building	Questions/Changes
March 14	Luke Dasher and Kaley Jackson	Alex Peth and Benji Peth	If you cannot clean on your assigned week, Contact Dana Lee Smith @ 728-3227 or 665-1377 by Wednesday of the week assigned.
March 28	Autumn Conway	Cassidy Edwards and Megan Edwards	

Month of	Greeters	Ushers	Visiting Comm.
March	Bill & Laurie Langston	Joe Studier, Rhett Lott, Theresa Sikes, Cheryl Pannal	Melinda Heidt & Judy Harmon

Women's Circles	Program	Place
Evening March 8th	Emma Lee Dasher	Home of Judy Harmon (748-1387)
Afternoon March 10th	Mary Johnson	Home of Bessie Studier (772-3424)
Sisters of Faith March 21st	Norma Ralph	Church Education Building
Mary/Martha March 28th	Dana Lee Smith	Home of Dana Lee Smith (728-3227)

