



THE VISITOR FROM ZION

NEWSLETTER OF ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN RAHWAY

JANUARY 2016

RAHWAY, NEW JERSEY

VOLUME 66, ISSUE 1

Pastor Pernini's Message: *Should Old Times be Forgot...*

As we survey the past year, or the past in general in this new year, what will be remembered and what will be forgotten? "Things ain't like they used to be" is a refrain that is tossed around a lot these days. There is, for lack of a better word, a great "harkening" going on. Harken back to when you were a child and soon enough these or similar words will cross your lips, "When I was a kid, we didn't have terrorism." Or, "Not that long ago people had respect for their parents." Or, "I remember when we didn't have to worry about how much we ate or how much we drank." Or, "I remember when people had a sense of common decency and manners." As we harken back, or look over our shoulder into the historical past, I think we tend to do so in a spirit of optimism which obscures not only the integrity of our collective memory, but also the historical facts which for better or for worse we selectively forget.

For historians of all stripes, the 20th century was the bloodiest in human history. There were more wars and loss of life in the 20th century than nearly any other historical period on record. As a result of these wars, the United States scapegoated first Germans as a result of World War I and sought to demonize all things German in the US; the Japanese with internment and Jews by denying refugees during World War II; Asians in general as a result of Vietnam; and Haitians in the 90's and of course Syrian refugees today in response to ISIS. Amidst all of this, African Americans were segregated, and often lynched and beaten during "Jim Crow," women were treated as second class citizens and were denied the right to vote and work, and Jews were killed indiscriminately by the Nazis (as well as the disabled, gays, atheists and Catholics). The 20th century was the birth of all the "isms": racism, sexism, McCarthyism, socialism, communism, capitalism, and

the like. It is not as though these "isms" were invented in the 20th century, but we as a culture developed the vocabulary to identify them. The largest financial decline, to date, occurred during the "Great Depression" where huge numbers of men, women, and children struggled to find jobs, food and shelter. And let us not forget the lurking possibility of nuclear apocalypse during the Cold War. The past, even when surveying only the 20th century, is considerably dimmer when all historical factors are considered.

The 19th century was no different. It was marred by slavery, biases against immigrants from Europe (the "Know Nothing Party" sought to ban the naturalization process to citizenship in response to an influx of Irish and German immigrants), the bloodiest war fought on American soil (the Civil War), and the beginning of reconstruction which many historians now see as an extension of slavery in the form of institutional oppression with segregation and a denial of resources for African Americans (embodied in mass incarceration today). There is no "golden age of morality and tranquility" to harken back to. In short, human history is bloody and the peace that was enjoyed by a few was more often than not at the expense of others. There is no way forward by echoing those events of the "past" that seemed to provide a better life for some because the supposed "better life" came on the backs of others. This can even be said of the precious "manners" that so many decry are the reason for the supposed downfall of today's society. "Manners and Order" were nothing other than convenient ways of keeping the repressed from being taken seriously when the repressed were "disorderly" in their expression of calling out injustice in their world.

Continues on page 3.

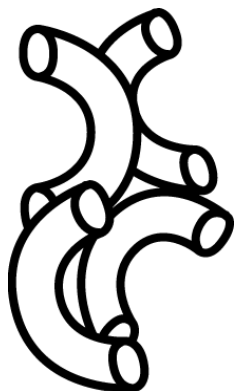
UPCOMING EVENTS

Operation Warm Heart continues!

every week in the winter, 6pm Wednesday through 6am Thursday

Please consider how you can serve our brothers and sisters who are without homes in this season of ice and snow.

Volunteers are needed to greet and welcome our guests,
cook and serve meals,
and stay overnight.



Mac & Cheese Cook-Off

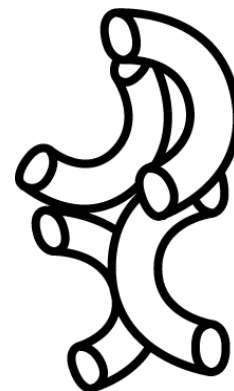
Saturday, January 9th at 6:00 PM

Cook up your best mac & cheese and bring an appetite to enjoy this event!

Like the Chili Cook-Off, it's a fundraiser/contest, so you will be able to vote for your favorites with cash if you wish.

All are welcome to enjoy a hearty meal and good fellowship!

For more information, contact Charlene or Carley Lesinski:
call 732-388-9044 or text 848-467-0592



New Bible Study Topic

Beginning Tuesday, January 12th at 7:30 PM and every Tuesday night

What are the differences and similarities between Christianity and Islam?
Where did ISIS come from? What does ISIS want?

Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council Meeting

Thursday, January 21st from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

At United Presbyterian Church, 525 E Front Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 31st after worship

NOTICE

A volunteer is needed to take over the work of putting together The Visitor. Kathryn Irwin will no longer be able to complete this after the February issue, as their third child will have arrived.

If you are interested,
please contact Pat Ogarek at the church office (732-388-1815).

Pastor's Message (continued from page 1)

You may be saying to yourself, "Pastor is such a pessimist or cynic," and you might even be right, but the truth is that our world, the world enumerated above, is the world that Jesus lived in. Today is not much different than the world that Jesus Christ was born into. Recall Matthew 2:16-18: *"When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men."* Jesus, Mary, and Joseph fled for their lives and lived as refugees in Egypt. They fled the tyranny of Herod—a man who would stop at nothing to preserve his throne by killing children. "The Holy Innocents (Dec. 28)" is a day preserved in the historical memory of the Church in remembrance of those children whom Herod killed. It is not a day that is often observed, but it is important for the life of the church that such a day exists at all. Were the church to observe such a day we would better be able to wrestle with the depth of the faith and the circumstances which such a faith addresses: the world that we inhabit today. That is, because the "slaughter of the innocents" is rarely observed in our Churches, there is a tendency to smooth over the historical circumstances in which our Savior was born. This "smoothing over" is done not only with the biblical account, but with contemporary history as well—"things ain't what they used to be"—see above. If we cannot honestly grapple with our past—either as individuals or collectively as a nation—we will never truly appreciate the gravity of God's saving gift of grace in Jesus Christ. For what sins might Jesus have died, the Son of the creator of the Universe, if they were not serious sins, sins which are bloodied by the history which we have all either directly or indirectly had a hand in creating either by personal action, denial of personal and institutional sin, or acquiescence to societal conditions that routinely victimize an "other" for the sake of a fictional "in-group"—i.e., the current debate concerning Christians and Muslims—American vs. not-American; Patriot vs. Refugee.

You see, the "Good News" is that no matter how bad your life, or our history for that matter, there is always the possibility of restoration through Christ. That is, after all, what the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany are about. There has been born for us a "King of Peace" despite our warring ways and inclinations. It would be enough in this season of deliverance to acknowledge that our Savior was the Prince of Peace and that we, the sons and daughters of war, are in desperate need of such a Prince. There has been born for us a refugee Messiah

who fled for his life as a child to avoid Herod's despotism—the slaughter of the innocents (see Matt. 2 above). How might our understanding of Jesus as a refugee shape our understanding of Syrian refugees? How might the lack of "room at the inn" at the manger inform our understanding of welcome for all, not simply for those whom it is convenient to welcome? There has been born for us a Savior whose grace outmatches not only our ability to commit sin but also our inability to acknowledge that we have done so. It is true that God's grace knows no limits, but the empathy and humility produced by repentance—in this instance attempting to grapple with an inheritance of peace and tranquility that has been granted at the expense of others—has a life saving effect on those who are currently suffering in the world. Such an empathy is not for God's sake, though it comes from God, but for the sake of others. Empathy, if it is nothing else, is the participation in another's suffering. St. Paul tells us in the letter to the Romans 5:3-5, *"suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."* Empathy then is the connective tissue between those who "have" and those who "have not." Empathy, from the perspective of the privileged or well off, forms the symbiotic relationship, that is, the Church, which constitutes God's kingdom in this world. To empathize is to suffer with someone when you do not share the circumstances that produce suffering in another person. Such a thing causes an individual to reflect on those things which a person has which the other does not—one such thing might be "peace of mind" which is thus surrendered to the other for the sake of deepening the relationship between the tranquil and the suffering such that suffering together might produce tranquility in the afflicted.

The "past," our often ugly and very real past, is the lake of fire that we must all pass through. We must ask "why" and "how" before we can move forward in a restorative way. The beginning of the way forward in this new year is to recognize not only the "world as it is," but also the "world as it was" when Jesus was born many years ago.

Continues on page 4.

Pastor's Message *(continued from page 3)*

The Savior was born into our world, a world of suffering—poverty and “isms” in our day and the “clean and unclean” in Jesus’ day; a world of arbitrary national borders which convey personhood onto some and nothingness onto others—refugees vs. citizens of the US today and Roman Citizens and the occupied in Jesus’ day; a world of great excess—over consumption in all areas of life for us and Empire Building and ultimately collapse on account of overextension in Jesus’ day by the Roman Empire, a world of endless entertainment—handheld distractions and a “Golden Age of TV and Movies” today and the Colosseum and Royal drama in Jesus’ day. This is the world that Jesus came to save and it is our world, not some world that existed long ago that has vanished. Repentance, or empathy for those who have been ill-served by society—us!, is the way forward regardless of our apprehension of our historical past or our participation in it. Without empathy for others we truly have no neighbors, and

with no neighbors we are strangers to one another. We can never truly love our neighbor if we do not know their travails. But through Jesus Christ and our contemplation of his life, death, and finally resurrection, we can begin to know our neighbor because Jesus' plight is our neighbor's plight, we simply do not see it, or at least do not want to.

Each New Year it is only natural to think about what could have been and what the future might hold for us. But it is both the past and future that Christ died to save and it is only when we thoroughly examine who we are and how we have come to be that the passion of Christ's birth and death come into focus. It is in such a moment, an epiphany, that God becomes larger, God's grace becomes larger, and the human predicament, whatever it is, becomes truly human because it is finally honest.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Carmine Pernini

OPERATION WARM HEART



Zion Lutheran Church houses and feeds 15 people who are homeless every Wednesday evening through Thursday morning.

Sign up on the sheet in the entrance to worship to volunteer!

For more information,
contact

Kathleen Silva at 210-988-2774

**EVERY WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 2ND THROUGH MARCH 30TH**

Union County Faith Communities Stand Together For Unity and Against Hate

On Tuesday, December 22 at 5:30pm, members of the Scotch Plains/Fanwood Ministerium and the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council, community leaders from Union County, and people from diverse religious traditions came together at Town Hall in Scotch Plains, NJ in support of religious tolerance, acceptance of one another, and radical welcome. The gathering was a response to billionaire and presidential candidate Donald Trump's call "for a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States (www.donaldtrump.com)."

Oren Segal, director of the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism, reported to USA Today, "We're definitely seeing anti-Muslim bigotry escalating around the country [since Donald Trump's remarks on banning Muslims from entering the U.S.]." The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR - www.cair.com) decried what it called an "unprecedented backlash and discrimination targeting the nation's Muslim community" since the Paris attacks (www.washingtonpost.com).

Former president of the Scotch Plains/Fanwood Ministerium, Rabbi Joel N. Abraham of Temple Sholom, said of the purpose of the "We Stand Together" gathering, "We want to raise our voices in support of mutual tolerance and respect, and to firmly state to our Muslim brothers and sisters that we will not be silent in the face of political rhetoric that seeks to incite hatred and cause division. We believe strongly that the country that we all love was founded on the concept of religious liberty for all (www.nj.com)."

Approximately 150 people gathered at Town Hall in Scotch Plains in support of "A Statement For Religious Tolerance" which everyone at the gathering was asked to sign. The statement reads:

The members of the Scotch Plains/Fanwood Ministerium (representing not only the communities of faith but the service organizations, schools, and towns as well) and the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council come together to build relationships of mutual respect and support.

- *We believe that our communities are better because of their diverse members.*

"While interacting with members of my own faith or ethnic community, or with others, if I hear hateful comments from anyone about members of any other community, I pledge to stand up for the other and challenge bigotry in any form."

- *We share in our various traditions that we should treat others as we wish to be treated, and not do to others what is hateful to ourselves.*
- *Therefore, we utterly reject and condemn the current trend in political rhetoric which foment division and hatred.*
- *TO OUR MUSLIM BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WE UNEQUIVOCALLY STATE THAT THEY SHOULD FEEL AS EQUAL IN CITIZENSHIP, RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, AS ANY OF US.*
- *We commit to drown out the rasp of hate with the clarion call of acceptance and welcome.*
- *No citizen of the United States - no one - should feel that they need to hide who they are, lest they endanger their lives.*
- *We will not let fear deflect our moral compass.*

- *We will proclaim liberty and justice for all.*

If you wish to sign the statement, please contact Pastor Pernini at carminepernini@gmail.com

Those at the gathering pledged together, "Racial bigotry, religious persecution, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia or any other form of hatred cannot be wiped out unless each and every one of us confronts it within ourselves, our own circles of family, friends, and others we interact with.

Silence is seen as consent. It takes courage to stand up for the other! By taking this pledge, each one of us can make a profound difference in the world. While interacting with members of my own faith or ethnic community, or with others, if I hear hateful comments from anyone about members of any other community, I pledge to stand up for the other and challenge bigotry in any form."

Rabbi Joel Abraham, Temple Shalom in Scotch Plains, Imam Ali Jaabar, Darul Islam in Elizabeth, Rev. Michael Morgan, All Saints Episcopal Church in Scotch Plains, Sidney Blanchard, Executive Director of the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council and Community Access Unlimited, Cantor Darcie Sharlein, Temple Shalom in Scotch Plains, Dr. Mohammad Ali Chaudry, Islamic Society in Basking Ridge, Bishop Kelvin Brooks, Kingdom Life Cathedral in Scotch Plains, and Rev. Carletta Aston, First United Methodist Church in Scotch Plains spoke at the event. The event was covered by the Star Ledger and NJ.com.

Epiphany : Navigating by GPS

Maria Blajsa

"When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was." Matthew 2:9

In the church of Jesus Christ we do our work by starlight.

The wise foreigners in the story of Jesus' birth found their way to the Messiah by following a mysterious light that guided them through unfamiliar territory. They navigated by GPS--God's Peculiar Star. It was a surprising, uncommon, travelling star. It appeared out of nowhere, but somehow they knew it was a sign from God. It led them to a peculiar place where they found a peculiar scene: a poor child in a manger who was the King of the universe, Son of God, Prince of Peace, and Savior of the world. The Bible tells us that they were "overwhelmed with joy" as they bowed to worship him.

In the church, we are servants who allow ourselves to be guided by God's mysterious starlight through unfamiliar territory to the places where Christ is revealed. As we move through the darkness of uncertainty or conflict, or puzzling change, we know that we are headed in the right direction as long as we follow God's light. We never lose faith, even when the destination seems a bit peculiar. The manger and the cross are not treasures in the eyes of the world, yet in God's grace we know that these peculiar gifts come to us bearing eternal life.

God's guiding starlight is still everywhere in the church and in the world. It glistens in the water of Baptism, illumines the bread and the wine, and shines over places of poverty and hopelessness where Jesus lives among the poor. By this light, miracles happen, wounds are healed, the hungry are fed, prayer is answered, leaders are raised up, and reconciliation overcomes hatred. We can feel joy grow as we find our way closer and closer to the places where God calls us to be the light of Christ. Even though we were frightened and uncertain as we set out to follow this peculiar light, the overwhelming joy at the end of the journey assures us that it is God who has brought us to this place.

Operation Warm Heart Donations Requested

As we welcome again our brothers and sisters on Wednesday nights, there are a few easy ways to help out.

A 3-drawer organizer is located in the fellowship hall near the kitchen door. In it, please consider placing: **new, travel-sized items:**

<i>Shampoo</i>	<i>Conditioner</i>
<i>Body Wash or Soap</i>	<i>Hand Lotion</i>
<i>Lip balm</i>	<i>Toothpaste</i>
<i>Floss</i>	<i>Toothbrushes</i>
<i>Deodorant (regular or travel sized)</i>	

If you have a job where you travel a lot, chances are you have easy access to stocking up on these from hotels!

Additionally, donations of **feminine hygiene products** (place under sink in ladies' room) as well as **"Hot Hands" chemical warmer packets** would be welcome.

For more info, call Kathryn at 732-381-1867.

It's Another Lutheran!

Dear brothers and sisters, help us welcome the newest member of our church family by offering edible support to **The Irwin-Pernini Family!** Pastor, Kathryn, Tucker and Tillie hope to welcome the newest little Lutheran around **February 7th**.

The arrival of a new family member is a wonderful, but also exhausting time. Please consider helping our brothers and sisters settle into this new life together by providing a meal or two for them.



An online CareCalendar has been set up to facilitate signing up to bring meals to the family. To access The Irwin-Pernini Family's CareCalendar site, visit <http://carecalendar.org/> and enter the following information in the appropriate spaces:

Calendar ID : 226650
Security Code : 3876

For more information or help signing up, contact Kathryn Irwin (732-381-1867)

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH JANUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 2 nd Sunday in Christmas 9:45a Sunday School 10:00a Worship 11:15a Fellowship Hour	4	5 6:00p Evangelism 6:30p Youth & Family 7:30p Bible Study	6 Epiphany 6:00p Operation Warm Heart 7:00p Property	7 10:00a Sewing Group	8 1:00pm 2 nd Friday Cupcakes -2:00pm	9 5:00p Worship 6:00p Mac & Cheese Cookoff
10 Baptism of our Lord 9:45a Sunday School 10:00a Worship 11:00a Worship & Music Mtg 11:15a Fellowship Hour	11 12:30p WELCA	12 6:45p Stewardship 7:30p Bible Study	13 6:00p Operation Warm Heart 6:00p Finance	14	15	16 5:00p Worship
17 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany VISITOR DEADLINE 9:45a Sunday School 10:00a Worship 11:15a Fellowship Hour	18	19 7:30p Bible Study	20 6:00p Operation Warm Heart	21 10:00a Sewing Group 7:30p Congregation Council	22	23 5:00pm Worship
24 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany 9:45a Sunday School 10:00a Worship 11:15a Fellowship Hour	25	26 7:30p Bible Study	27 6:00p Operation Warm Heart	28	29	30 5:00p Worship
31 4 th Sunday after Epiphany 9:45a Sunday School 10:00a Worship 11:15a Fellowship Hour Congregational Meeting						

JANUARY 2016 SERVER SCHEDULE



DATE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	COUNTERS
January 2		
January 3	Linda Cenci	Herman Renkevans Vi Stebner
January 9	Herman Renkevans	
January 10	Kathryn Irwin	Annette Nielsen Donna Murphy
January 16	Lee Thor	
January 17	Barbara Brown	Barbara Brown Kip Palmer
January 23		
January 24	Nancy Jean Wallace	John Blajsa Maria Blajsa
January 30	Herman Renkevans	
January 31	Kip Palmer	Bob Shackleton Kevin Engstrom

January Altar Guild:

If you are interested in participating in worship leadership as a worship assistant, please contact Vi Stebner (732-382-2514).

January Celebrations

Birthdays

2	Corey Shine	14	Roger Cottrell
2	Zoey Ellen Bacon	14	Kristen Emily Konopi
5	Margaret Felver	28	Sherry Lynn Lerant
7	Tucker Irwin-Pernini	29	Carol Meadowcroft
9	Cathy Jones	30	Joyce Reichard
13	Dorothy Cole	30	Leo Battenhausen
13	Marcia Eversley		

Baptismal Anniversaries

1	Grace keller
4	William Marbach
11	Andrew Huber
19	Samuel Rivera
20	Jonathan Meskowsky
22	Tucker Irwin-Pernini

Let us Pray...

Justin Finnerty
Ursula Lochner
Carol Meadowcroft
Ted Meadowcroft

Eileen Miller
Creigh Reichard
Ellie Ringled
Ryan Roos

Lee Thor
Kathy Ward
Charlotte Zygo

Abby Allen----- friend of Marcia Eversley
Debbie Beer ----- cousin of Cheryl Piccard
Layna Rose Boiselle ----- friend of Cheryl Piccard
Matt Bolger----- friend of Annette Nielsen
Ginny Bonicker ----- friend of Therese & Yogi Bera
Andrew Born, USMC ----- nephew of Doug Born
Linda Brown ----- friend of Pat Ogarek
Robin Brown----- friend of Lee Thor
Holly Brown ----- friend of Cheryl Piccard
Jackson Bunce ----- friend of Pat Ogarek
Dominick Condo ----- friend of Therese & Yogi Bera
Richard DeNero ----- friend of Cheryl Piccard
Helen Deppe ----- sister of Gert Shackleton
Robert Deppe ----- nephew of Gert Shackleton
Ira Glover ----- friends of Marcia Eversley
Patricia Grant ----- friend of Cheryl Piccard
Charles Gritschke ----- nephew of Helen Gehring
Elanore Hintenach--- mother of Tommy Hintenach
Meg Keller ----- daughter-in-law of Grace Keller
Marilyn Kelly
Ed Kertesz ----- cousin of Frank Kertesz
Frieda Konopi --- mother-in-law of Carolyn Konopi

Amy Martin----- friend of Zion
Barbara McDarby ----- friend Yogi & Therese Bera
Ginny Mentzel ----- sister of Natalie Ford
Dori Miller ----- friend of Therese Bera
Kurt Muzer ----- nephew of Therese & Yogi Bera
Daniel Nietzold ----- son of Kathy Ward
Michael Nicols ----- friend of Yogi & Therese Bera
Tom Piccard----- friend of Cheryl Piccard
Donna Policastro ---- friend of Therese & Yogi Bera
George Policastro --- friend of Therese & Yogi Bera
Rita Reddington ----- mother of Carolyn Konopi
Emily Resch ----- friend of the Irwin-Pernini Family
Angel Rivera ----- husband of Lisa Rivera
Donna Romano ----- friend of Therese Bera
Craig Schonour ----- cousin of Kathryn Irwin
Marianne Sabol ----- cousin of Therese Bera
Francis Sawler ----- father of Patrick Sawler
Helen Spillar ----- friend of Gert & Bert Shackleton
Susan Trail ----- friend of Therese & Yogi Bera
Hugh Wallace ----- husband of Nancy Jean Wallace
Gary Webb ----- brother-in-law of Cheryl Piccard
Betsy Whitehead ----- friend of the Irwin-Perninis

We pray for members at a distance & unable to join us:

Dot Cole
Margaret Felver
Arlene Hasbrouck
Marie Jensen

Grace Keller
Alexander Kitsakos
Geraldine Lovenguth
Harry McDowell

Bill Marbach
Richard Sillen
Henry Thoden
John Thompson

Dorothy Zehrer

Memorials

In memory of Helen Rokos by Marge Speidel and Marcia Eversley

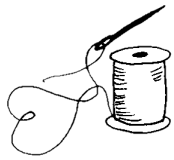
SECOND FRIDAY CUPCAKES

Thanks to all who contributed cupcakes that were delivered to First Presbyterian Church on Friday, December 11. All of this is much appreciated.

The next opportunity to help with this faithful mission is **Friday, January 8th**. Please drop off a batch of 24 cupcakes **between 1:00 and 2:00 PM** at the Parish Office or call the office for a special arrangement.



SEWING GROUP



The sewing group meets on the first and third (sometimes the fifth) Thursday of each month in the Education Building. Our next meeting times are **January 7th and 21st at 10:00 AM**.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Our next meeting is on **Monday, January 11th at 12:30 PM** in the Social Hall.

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild is looking for additional people to serve for one month a year. Call the church office to sign up.



VISITOR NEWS

Visitor submissions should be emailed to the church office (secy@zionlutherannj.net). If you do not have access to the internet you may still submit a hard copy. Please keep us up to date on your events. The deadline is the third Sunday, which is **January 17th**. Remember: if at all possible, please email your news.

MEDICAL SUPPLY CLOSET

If you would like to borrow walkers, crutches, canes, etc., please call the church office.

DONATEABLE ITEMS

CAMPBELLS SOUP LABELS for Navajo Lutheran Mission, Rock Point, AZ



Please save your Campbell's Soup Labels proofs of purchases! The labels are used to purchase vehicles for the Mission and are very valuable, as in the past they have been able to

redeem these points in exchange for four 15-passenger vans (worth 1.5 million labels each!), and two 7-passenger mini vans for employee use. Although Campbell's no longer has the 15-passenger vans, the Mission is still able to purchase smaller vans and educational equipment, such as overhead projectors, computers, and playground equipment.

The Campbell's Soup program will only be accepting the bar code portion from the labels. Instead of saving the labels from Campbell's, Swanson's, V8, Prego, and Franco American products, they now just require that the UPC (bar code) insignia be sent. (Any bar code whose number begins with 51 or 14 or any with the Labels for Education will qualify). If the bar code has dotted lines around or near it, cut on the lines.

For more information, see <http://www.nelm.org/support-the-mission.php>

SODA CAN TABS for Zion



Save the tabs from your soda cans. They will be collected to aid Zion and will be put toward our general operating fund.

A box is in the back of our worship space labeled "Can Tabs." For more information call Carley Lesinski at 732-388-9044.

USED EYEGLASSES for those in need

Please bring them to Zion and put them in the box in the back of our worship space.



SAVE THE DATE

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Talent Show

Tuesday February 9th, 2016

“Celebrity Chef” Darren Lesinski will provide the pancakes.

**If you are interested in helping to set up/clean up,
contact Charlene Lesinski at 732-388-9044.**

**If you are interested in organizing the talent show / emceeing,
contact Pat Ogarek at the church office.**

An open letter to the Muslim American community from Presiding Bishop Eaton of the ELCA

Dec. 11, 2015

Dear Muslim Sisters and Brothers,

Grace and peace to you. I am writing on behalf of many Christians in this country who wish to share a word of solidarity, love and hope with you in these difficult days.

In this season of Advent, we, your Christian neighbors, are preparing to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who commanded that “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart ... [and] you shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:30-31, NRSV).

In our love for you, our Muslim neighbors, we are distressed by the ways in which you are being forced to bear the fears held by many in our nation. Therefore, we renew our commitment to find even more effective ways to protect and defend you from words and actions that assault your safety and well-being. We believe God calls us to resist what is divisive, discriminatory, xenophobic, racist or violent, and we want you to look to us as allies and friends.

The global refugee and migrant crisis and the acts of terror committed in this country and around the world are challenges that demand our collective efforts and our common prayers. Therefore, we will seek to stand shoulder to shoulder with you as agents of peace, justice, understanding, welcome and reconciliation for the sake of the world that God so loves.

In this holy season, when we anticipate the light that the darkness cannot overcome (John 1:5, NRSV), we are reminded of God's gift of life abundant for all. Together with you, we are committed to building a stronger society based on the dignity of each human being, the value of diversity, the holiness of creation and the common good. We pledge our partnership and invite our local communities into continued dialogue and engagement to this end.

In peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Zion Lutheran Church
215 Elm Avenue
Rahway, NJ 07065

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Weekend Worship Schedule

Saturdays

5:00 PMWorship with Holy Communion

Sundays

9:45 AM Sunday School

10:00 AMWorship with Holy Communion

11:15 AM Fellowship Hour

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 31ST
AFTER WORSHIP

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Jersey Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

215 Elm Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-3220

Phone: 732-388-1815

Fax: 732-574-2559

Web page: www.zionlutherannj.net

E-Mail: secy@zionlutherannj.net

Saturday Worship at 5:00 PM

Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM

Holy Days as Announced

The Parish Staff

Ministers: The People of Zion Church

The Rev. Carmine Pernini, Pastor

Patricia Ogarek, Parish Secretary

Dr. Brian F. Dallow, Director of Music

Frank Kertesz, Sexton

Mr. Kevin Brown, Congregation President

**LOVE GOD, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR,
TELL THE WORLD!**

JANUARY 2016