

A monthly publication of Zion Lutheran Church

The Lenten Journey begins

Ash Wednesday - March 9th

**Worship, Holy Communion, and Imposition of Ashes
10:00am in the Chapel; 7:00pm in the Sanctuary**

**Mid-week Lenten worship services will continue every Wednesday
through April 13th^h**

**10:00am in the Chapel, using Service of the Word
-and-**

7:00pm in the sanctuary, using Holden Evening Prayer

Let us come together and begin to unbind our hearts ... to God and to one another.



*“Holy one, I’m only scratching the surface of what it means to be a Christian.
Will you show me what I can do to be a better disciple, a real follower?
Please show me the steps and give me the courage to walk them with you. Amen”*

from Unbinding Your Heart

ZION'S SCHOOL OF CHRISTIANLIVING

March 6th—April 10th (5:00—7:00pm)



Offered on Sunday evenings, there is one class for adult this year. Each evening begins with a Light supper (freewill offering) Child care provided from 5:15 - 7:00pm.

***Unbinding Your Heart*—for adults**

The second part of the “Unbinding the Gospel” series, this 6-week study offers us help with enriching our prayer life -and- enabling us to sharing our faith with others in a very natural, comfortable way.

Participants will read a chapter each week, along with weekly journaling exercises.

Facilitated by Pr. Ritva & Pr. Del

Class books: Copies of Unbinding Your Heart are available in the Narthex at no charge.

(Couples may each want their own book, as there are journaling pages for each week.)

Note that the Monday-morning “Immersed in the Word” class is also doing the Unbinding Your Heart study through the Lenten season.

Lenten Devotionals

In addition to the “Unbinding Your Heart” Lenten focus, Zion also has a variety of daily Lenten devotionals for adults, children, and families are available at the Hospitality table in the Entryway/Lounge area. Stop by and pick one up soon.

Copies of the “**Unbinding Your Heart**” which are the basis for the Lenten messages at our midweek services will also be available at the Hospitality table.



Pastor Del deliberates ...



Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

(Is 58:6-7)

In the latter writings of the book of Isaiah (the 58th chapter is a wonderful example) the words of the prophet/poet reflect deep conflicts within the community. In this particular poem, we see conflicting views of what constitutes "authentic religion." Surprisingly these are conflicting views of authentic religion that the people of God still struggle with today, some 2500 years later. Some stories seem to never change.

The 58th chapter of Isaiah (it's a beautiful poem, I encourage you to read the whole chapter) opens with the voice of God exhorting the prophet to "shout out" to the people their rebellion. God acknowledges that while the people attend to traditional religious practices of sacrificing, keeping ordinances, fasting, and crying out to God, God will not answer them. God is troubled that the people are practicing a private faith. They are pious and they conduct the sacred rites, but they are doing so only with themselves in mind. They are not mindful of the bonds and yokes put upon others; not only physical bonds and yokes, but also those created by human prejudices and structures. They are not attending to the hungry and the homeless. Those in wretched poverty are passed by, those considered impure are over-looked even by their own kin. In Isaiah's community, religion is dishonest because it is only done to enhance self and is unrelated to the realities of life. Their relationship with God was just a "God and me" relationship. But God is not interested in individualistic relationships. God is a God of community and God is a missionary God.

Through the prophet, God mocks a worship that is pre-occupied with ritual while being blind to human need. God emphasizes that authentic worship occurs when the liturgy is joined to a hands-on involvement with the hungry and the homeless; the "yoked" and the vulnerable. When liturgy is separated from the needs and inclusion of others, we avoid the reality of God.

The presence of God, so the poet claims, is found in the embrace of the neighbor, the hungry, the poor, the naked. God's reign concerns our bread, our home, our body and flesh, and active engagement with the painful daily reality of human wretchedness and need. This is the worship God desires.

Understanding that mission to others is the worship that

God desires results in gospel- good news. The poem doesn't comment on what such acts will do for the recipients the faith community's actions.

We assume they are blessed by such worship. The poem does, however, comment on who the main beneficiaries are in God's view:

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. (Is 58:9b-11)

The main beneficiaries of attending to others are those who take the initiative to attend to others. God proclaims that participating in God's chosen fast of caring for others evokes healing. It heals those who reach for that life of authentic worship. Healing is a by-product of a life that is lived for the good of others, for the sake of others.

God has blessed us with amazing outreach opportunities. And God has provided us with the blessings of people and resources to reach out and "worship" though our congregation's service to the neighborhood and those in need. This is an exciting time to be part of Zion. We are "doing." We are healing. God is present with us which means that we have wonderful stories to tell others. Yet, sometimes that seems a difficult thing to do. Please continue reading Pr. Ritva's article on the following page. As part of our upcoming Lenten journey, use the forty days of Lent to participate in the all-Church study [Unbinding your Heart](#).

*Peace,
Pastor Del*

*Welcome,
New Members!*

**Carl & Charlene
Engstrom**

received Feb. 27, 2011



Pastor Ritva invites you to ...

Unbind your Heart!

These days I'm imagining Zion as this giant sprawled on its back, staked out in the sand, tied down, crisscrossed with ropes. Kind of like Gulliver in the land of Lilliput.

There's so much potential in the giant, how to set it free? How do we untie all those ropes? How do we unbind Zion so that it can continue to grow in faith to reach out in love?

Since the beginning of January a group of ten (Anita Hagen, Tom Handlen, Sue & Steve Keller, Mary Lou Kelley, Janine Johnson, Kris Preston, Cary Scott, Kirsten Wright, and myself) have been studying a book called *Unbinding the Gospel*.

We are learning that the best way to untie the giant and free up all that potential is for each of us to re-connect with our Lord and Savior. We are learning how to build deeper relationships with Christ, with each other, and the people in the world around us. We would like to invite you into this process.

Our Lenten journey this year is all about untying that giant one rope at a time by unbinding our hearts. To become part of this process of renewal and growth you can do one or more (the more the better) of the following things:

1. Get a copy of the book, **Unbinding Your Heart**, and read it, one chapter each week through the season of Lent. (The book is free; copies are in the church office).
 2. Engage in the daily prayer exercises and the 40 day prayer journal in the back of the book.
 3. Join one of the following classes for 6 weeks:
 - Immersed in the Word**— Mondays 10:30-11:30 a.m., Feb 28 thru Apr 12
 - School of Christian Living**— Sundays 5:00-7:00 p.m., Mar 6 thru Apr 12, Dinner & Study, Childcare provided
- And come to our **midweek Lenten services**, Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m., March 9 thru April 20
These are open to everyone.



May this Lenten journey unbind your heart, opening it up for indwelling of the resurrected Christ.

Blessings+
Pastor Ritva

Sunday-Morning Adult Christian Ed ...

Faith Talks— *Sunday mornings*
10:15-11:15am in the Chapel

- Mar. 6 “Faiths of Our Neighbors: Islam and Its Holy Book—the Qur’an” w/ Dr. Cyrus Ali Zargar, Augustana College
- Mar.13 “Faiths of Our Neighbors: the New Atheists and their Challenge to the Church” w/ Dr. Jason Mahn, Augustana College
- Mar.20 “Faiths of Our Neighbors: Some ‘Old Christians’ and their Responses to Atheism” w/ Dr. Jason Mahn, Augustana College
- Mar.27 “Theology of Food” w/ Pastor Del



Fellowship & Hospitality

T.G.I.S.
[Thank God It's Sunday!]
(Entryway & Lounge)

*The coffee pot's on,
the treats are de-lish,
and the conversation friendly
and casual.*

*Taste, see, and hear that the
Lord is good!*

ALL are welcome.



Sunday School "Scoop"



In our recent New Testament SPARK lessons we met Jesus' disciples and began to read about Jesus' ministry. We have been reminded that caring for others is our way of sharing God's love.

Fourth grader, Kate Kealey saw others in need and did something about it! Within two weeks, 75 coats and \$200 for additional coats were donated to "Coats 'cuz We Care." Thank you, Kate, for your leadership. And, heartfelt thanks to our Zion family for reaching out in love!

Next... our Sunday School will focus on supporting Zion's food ministry. Special offerings will be gathered each Sunday during Lent. Those coins and dollars will be used to provide complete "Ham-Hop" Easter meal boxes for families in our neighborhood and community. Each time

we reach \$25, another family will be fed. We follow Jesus by serving others in our community!

On upcoming Sundays, we'll all read Bible stories of Jesus' healing, teaching, and forgiving, including the House on the Rock parable. Third, fourth, and fifth graders are reminded to bring their SPARK Bibles each week.

We remain grateful to everyone who has worked with Zion's young people on Sunday mornings. Please keep checking the needs listed on our schedules posted across from the church office. If you have wanted to join us, we are always happy to answer questions and get you started. Together, we can SPARK more growing in faith!

SPARK Leadership team:
Linda Baustian, Anne Flynn, Ellen Heritage

Confirmation News



Confirmation Large-group sessions continue for **6th-7th-8th** graders— Wednesdays at 6:15pm in the Chapel, as we continue in our study of New Testament with Pr. Ritva, Pr. Del, and 'gramma' Jay.

Lent begins on March 9th with Ash Wednesday worship, so **ALL students (and at least one accompanying adult per family)** are expected to attend the midweek Lenten worship services at 7:00pm — at which students are to take sermon notes.



Council's contribution ...

Zion's Council invites congregation members to voice any comments, questions, or concerns at the regular meetings of Council in the odd-numbered months of the year (March, May... Sept, etc...). The meetings are at 6:15pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

If you are interested in attending a meeting, we do ask that you contact the Zion office by the Friday before the meeting so we can put you on our agenda. Each person will be given five minutes to address the council. Any responses from Council will be given at a later date.

Thank you from Council Officers:

Sue Keller, President
John Ford, Vice President
Jody Kealey, Secretary



Reporting on

Coats 'cuz We Care...

... and boy, do we care!! Zion youth raised over \$200 to purchase over 25 new coats for children and donations from Zion families of an additional 50 coats all went to Humility of Mary and the Men's shelter of Davenport. Thank you Zion for reaching out in love!



Reaching out in Love

News from Neighborhood Ministry



Food Pantry: The food pantry is moved into its new home in Room 5 and life for the pantry is settling into a new routine. We continue to make minor adjustments, as needed, to improve the service we provide to the community. Our guests as well as those who help are becoming more comfortable in our new home. This new space is providing the pantry with more space, accessibility and comfort for all.

The Food Pantry is open Monday and Wednesday 3:30–5:00. There is always need for help, so please consider how you might be able to assist. We hope the new location is more accessible so people will feel more at ease to volunteer. As always there are many ways for folks to help out by stocking shelves, picking up food at the food bank, checking guests in and putting boxes together for distribution. This ministry of Zion reaches out to those in our neighborhood and community who struggle with making ends meet each month. If you happen to be at the church when the pantry is open please feel free to stop in. Is God calling you to be a part of this ministry?

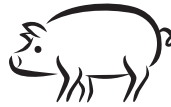
Zion worshipService Dinner:

“**The Luck of the Irish Dinner**” will be held on **March 16th, 6:00–7:00**. St. Patrick’s Day is the next day so we thought we should start the celebration early. **Even more to celebrate this evening as this month marks the 1st Anniversary of Zion’s worshipService Dinners;** it’s been a year of dinners and fellowship with our friends from the neighborhood. **What a blessing it has been. THANKS BE TO GOD.** So put on your green, find those 4 leaf clovers and shamrocks and let the fun begin. There will be plenty of Irish food and music and maybe



an Irish jig or 2. Please consider signing up to help, as you are able. The signup sheets will be on the “glass wall” outside the office. Come and join in the fun and fellowship of this monthly Zion and Neighborhood Event.

worshipService Dinner Planners will meet March 22 at 4:15 in the Lounge to plan April’s Easter dinner. All those interested in helping to plan April’s dinner join us on March 22 (April 20th is next month’s dinner.).



Annual Easter Ham Hop:

The season of Lent begins in a few days and Easter is approaching, which means the gathering of food for the annual Easter Ham Hop begins March 28th. This annual sharing is one of the ways Zion reaches out in love to our neighbors and community. Through this ministry Zion provides families with the things needed to make Easter dinner a little more festive. During these economically challenging times the gift of a food box is greatly appreciated. The Ham Hop has many ways for people to participate; you can donate food or money, help shop, assist with putting baskets together and help to distribute them and as always we ask for your prayers.

We will be collecting donations March 28 through April 17. Feel free to drop donations off here at the church through that date. We need the following to fill the boxes: hams, canned vegetables and fruit, potatoes, gravy, breads, margarine, jello, cookies, candy and paper towels. Look for more info in next month’s Zion news. This is truly a generous and thoughtful gift Zion provides to our neighbors and friends in the community. If you have questions or are interested in helping please feel free to talk with me.

Micah 6:8 “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (NRSV)

‘Senior’ Fellowship & Fun!

O.W.L.’s Older Wiser Lutherans (60+ Fellowship)



Don your green and join your pals at the Machine Shed restaurant in Davenport on **March 17th, 11:30am**, for our annual St.Paddy’s gathering.

Being ON St.Pat’s this year, we’re sure to have corned beef & cabbage available, but not required – we’ll order from the menu and share a little ‘blarney’ just for fun!

Call Phyllis Beck or Grace Haller if you’d like to come.

Wishin’ the Birthday

*“Luck o’ the Lutherans” to you
Zion Seniors who will celebrate in March!*

- 3/02 Cheryll Accola
- 3/04 Helen Testroet
- 3/05 Robert Stroupe
- 3/12 Betty Williams (90!!)
- 3/21 Opal Moore
- 3/24 Esther Keller
- 3/31 Bob Lehms



Small Groups and Such ...

Morning Book Review

Date: Monday March 21, 9:00am
 Place: Zion's Dengler Lounge
 Book: **1984** by George Orwell



technology, to produce a "society of fear."

Availability: Book Review 'regulars' will use the "Books in a box" kit. Otherwise, check local libraries and/or bookstores.

Maybe you read "1984" when you were in high school, (this classic is *still* being read in high school) ... or maybe you are revisiting it. Some people have read it many times. It has plenty of shock interest as well as literary value. Orwell's book, written in 1948, was very visionary—over a quarter of a century later we have seen and know the invasion of privacy, abetted by

The Morning Book Review is an open group inviting all with an appetite for reading, meeting monthly to share reflections out of the books we've chosen. We welcome all to come, even if you haven't "quite finished" the book of the month yet... *sometimes hearing different perspectives of the ending first enhances rather than spoils it!* Come for just one month, or become a 'regular' - whatever your schedule allows. Questions? Talk with Anita Hagen.

Women's News

Looking ahead ...



**Zion will host the
 S.W.O. Cluster 6 Spring Meeting
 on Saturday, April 9th—
 Registration 8:30am
 Breakfast buffet 9:00am
 -and-
 special guest, Kit Miller of Winnie's Place will
 inform and educate us about the mission &
 ministry of this safe haven for women &
 children.**

Offerings for Winnie's Place are always needed most welcome! A list of items is/will be posted on the ZLCW bulletin board, across from the Women's room.

Zion Men's Group

The Zion Men's group (ALL welcome!) will meet on Saturday, March 26th -one week later than usual— at 8:00am at the Hickory Gardens restaurant in Davenport.

ALL men are welcome to join in this monthly morning of breakfast, fellowship, and brief Bible study led by Tom Handlen or one of the 'regulars' of the group. Join us - bring a friend!



Feel free to call Tom if you have questions or are interested in coming for the first time.



Betty's Birthday 'Bash!'

*The Family of Betty Williams invites
 Zion folks to a
 90th birthday open-house for her
 on March 20th, 1:00-4:00pm, at
 Northgate Plaza in Davenport.
 Come help Betty celebrate her 9th decade in style!*

Figures & Financial Facts:



Regular Budget offerings		
received February 2011	=	\$ 20,066.40
S.S.I. (Internal Pay-back) rec'd		50.00
February 2011 Expenses	=	\$ 26,453.53
Covered by Legacy funds =		<u>\$ 6,437.13</u>
per Legacy Committee &		
Council approval		
Current month status +/-	+ \$	0.00

Zion Lutheran Church presents...
**An Evening of
 Gospel & Spiritual Songs
 with Joseph Obleton**

Please join us for an evening of Spirituals and Gospel music, performed by Joseph Obleton in his premier solo concert.

Musical accompaniment by Dr. Keith Haan, Professor of Music, St. Ambrose University

**Friday, March 4th, 2011
 6:30pm
 Zion Lutheran Church
 8th & Marquette, Davenport IA**



For more information, call (563) 650-2636

Address Changes for
 Zion Members

MEYER, Karen 3210 Chateau Knoll
 Bettendorf IA 52722

*Looking down
 the road...*



**The 8th Annual
 Blessing of Cars and Classic Car Show
 will be Sunday, May 1st at 1:00pm
 in the Zion parking lot**



There's still time to register for the **Called Together in Mission** event on **Saturday, March 12th** at **First Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids**

A great resource event for all congregations of the SE Iowa Synod, with special guest, Rev. Dr. Benjamin Stewart speaking on "Deep Roots: Christian Worship in Our Local Places"

Also GREAT Workshops on every aspect of congregational life and mission, plus opportunities to meet and learn about our next-of-kin congregations here in the SE Iowa Synod ELCA, plus Lunch!
 Stop in the Zion office to get details about the day—and to sign up!



Council Highlights

(Full copy of Council meeting minutes posted across from the Church office)

Excerpts from February 8, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Ford, Jody Kealey, Sue Keller, Brad Kirkeeng, Gene Rome, Jenny Winn, Dave Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Pastor Del Preston, Pastor Ritva Williams

Sue Keller opened the meeting with devotions based on Philippians 4:6-7 and prayer.

MSC - Minutes of the January 11, 2011 Council meeting be accepted as written.

MSC - Minutes of the Annual Meeting and Council Reorganization Meeting held January 23, 2011 be accepted as written.

The January Parochial report was reviewed with attention to worship attendance numbers.

MSC - The Parochial report be accepted with the addition of Mary Stange’s funeral, January 12th (at Dav.Memorial Park, officiated by Pr. Del).

MSC - As requested, transfer be granted to Eric Longlett and Tyler Longlett.

PASTORS’/STAFF TIME

Pastor Del thanked all council members for their willingness to serve in positions of leadership. He reviewed the purpose of the Mutual Ministry team and also the fact that members of the congregation may bring concerns to the council on regular meetings held in the odd-numbered months.

Pastor Ritva reported that the 8-week study, *Unbinding the Gospel*, will be followed by *Unbinding Your Heart* during Lent. There will be opportunities to participate on Monday-morning “Immersed in the Word” study, during “Thursday-Church” and at the “School of Christian Living.”

REPORTS:

Finance

MSC - Approve January 2011 financial statements as submitted.

Council agreed on the importance of keeping the congregation informed about Zion’s finances, with a suggestion of a quarterly budget “update” during the Sunday-morning FaithTalk time.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1.) April 8-9 was selected for a council retreat.
- 2.) Four Zion youth will participate in a mission trip to Kansas City on June 12-18.

The meeting adjourned with prayer by Sue Keller.

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Zion gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following Memorial gifts

In loving memory of **Greg Arp** from Jim & Sherry Koens, and the family & friends of Greg.

ALTAR FLOWERS 'GIVING' - MARCH

- 3/06 Schnack family
- 3/13 OPEN
- 3/20 OPEN
- 3/27 Jen Felsman



The Lily & Palms Sign-up chart is posted on the 'window-wall' in the office hallway. Sign up to give a bunch of palms or a Lily for Palm Sunday and Easter services.

Remember, you can give flowers for the altar—or— an alternative offering to one of Zion's special funds (ie: Brown Bag, Scholarship fund, etc.) in lieu of flowers.

USHERS - March 2011 (One Svc - 9:00am)

**Jerry & Barb Grady, Jane Wiese,
Nick Ford**

Ushers needed for ALL services - Contact Glenn Kelley if you could give a month or two .

Lectors— March 2011

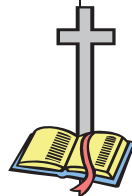
- Mar. 6 - Laurie Elliott
- Mar. 13 - OPEN
- Mar. 20 - Mary Schnack
- Mar. 27 - OPEN

ACOLYTES - MARCH 2011 (Sundays - 9:00am / Wed's—7:00pm)

- Mar. 6 Mara Kealey, "Alleluia" students
- Mar. 9 (Ash Wed) Daniel & Rachel Crable
- Mar.13 Anthony Howland, Jake & Courtney Hamann
- Mar.16 (Wed.) Kaleigh Rhodes, Grace Geering
- Mar.20 Erik Hahn, Hannah Tegtmeier
- Mar. 23 (Wed.) Jake Airgood, Bailey Hermann
- Mar.27 Allison Grady, Christian Elliott
- Mar.30 (Wed.) Daniel Crable, Brian Sanders



Sorry to have to double-duty some of you, but this is our busiest time the year, folks, with Lenten midweek services (closely followed by Holy Week and EASTER!). Please know that YOU ARE SOOO APPRECIATED for your dependable leadership!



Greeters for March 2011 (One Svc - 9:00am)

- 3/06 Tina Atwater
- 3/13 Kent & Sue Cherryholmes
- 3/20 Janet & Merle Keppy
- 3/27 Birdine Tucker



March COMMUNION Set-Up/Clean-Up (One Svc - 9:00am)



- March 6 Darrell & Kathy Longlett (glasses)
- March 13 Mary Lou Vikdal (glasses)
- March 20 Beth Longlett & Brian (intinction)
- March 27 OPEN (glasses)

March LINENS Care: MLVikdal

THANKS!

Communion Assistants - March

- Mar. 6 "Alleluia" families
- Mar. 13 Mary Schnack
- Mar. 20 OPEN
- Mar. 27 OPEN

TELLERS - March (One Svc - 9:00am)



- 3/06 Chuck Dau, Dave Wright, Lois Kershaw
- 3/13 John & Roxeann Ford, Birdine Tucker, Lisa Zosulis
- 3/20 Stu Goldsmith, Delores Smith, Doug Kline
- 3/27 Mark & Beth Meyer, Mike Hamann, Gene Rome

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1216 W. 8TH STREET
DAVENPORT, IA 52802
(563) 322-3533 / (Pastor's cell: 370-6466)



MARCH 2011
ZION NEWS

Pastors: Del Preston; Ritva Williams, PhD
Keith Haan, PhD, Organist / Adult Chr Dir
Jonathan Turner, Accompanist
Rosie Bates, Childrens' Choir & Handbells Dir.
Janine Johnson, Neighborhood/Activities
Beth Longlett & Betty Rock, Admin. support
James Hill & Jeff Haack, Custodians

WORSHIP with HOLY COMMUNION

Thursdays - 5:30pm Word & Sacrament
Sundays - 9:00am Liturgy, Word & Sacrament

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
March 9th - 10:00am & 7:00pm

LENTEN MID-WEEK WORSHIP
Wednesdays Mar.16—April 13 10:00am & 7:00pm

NURSERY ROOM & 'SKYBOX' available for
parents with small children

LEARNING & FELLOWSHIP for All Ages
Sundays at 10:15am

SPARK! Sunday School for 3-yrs — 5th Grade
"Book of Faith" Interactive discussion for 6th-12th Grades
"FaithTalk" topical forums for Adults

Join us - ALL are Welcome!