

Ebenezer Lutheran Church

96 Oak Street
Willimantic CT 06226
(860)-423-2193
Pastor Kari Plymette

9:00 a.m. Worship w/communion

Sunday Church School

Confirmation Class

Nursery Available

9:00 a.m. Worship Service with Communion

Ebenezer Lutheran Church is Handicapped Accessible



The Answer

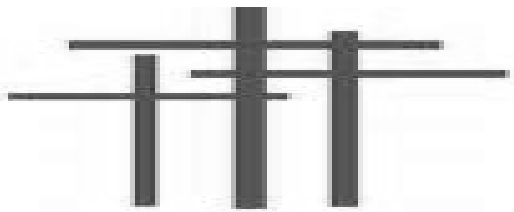


Handicapped
Accessible

Website: www.summitandoak.org
Email: ebenezerpastor@gmail.com
ebenezersecretary@gmail.com

Sponsoring church of W.A.I.M,
(Windham Area Interfaith Ministry)





Enlightener

February 2012

The season of Lent is fast-approaching! Of course, this season always brings with it the question, “What should I give up?” For those of you who know my love of chocolate, you know that it would be a very easy and quick response to say that I will give up chocolate for Lent (well ok, maybe not *easy*). And then, of course, there is always the question of if we will actually manage to stick with our Lenten disciplines throughout the entire season.

What if, instead of asking “what should I give up?” we asked the question, “What are those relationships, characteristic, or loyalties that are pulling me away from Christ?” This seems like a much more difficult question to answer. When I start to think about *this* question, I start to realize just how many things there are that distract me from remaining focused on Christ. There is money and financial concerns. There is my own vanity and ego which keep my focus on *me* rather on others. And what of my relationships with others? If I think about the items that I consume or purchase each week, I realize that I might be causing more harm than good. Have the farmers and manufacturers received a fair wage for their labor? Often times, the answer is “no.”

There are many things in our lives that become idols—drawing us away from Christ. I encourage you to spend time in these next few weeks leading up to Lent to think about the things in your life that turn your attentions from Christ and living as faithful disciples. Consider the ways in which your Lenten disciplines might help you to repent, and to refocus your relationships. What practices can you think of that could be helpful in renewing your life as a Christian?

One way that was recommended by one of my professors in seminary, was that, rather than “giving something up,” we “take on” a practice—such as spending time in devotion and prayer, or scripture reading if those things have been lacking in our lives. Or perhaps it *is* food that gets in the way of your relationships with God and with your neighbor. Then maintaining a practice of fasting might be a discipline that would be beneficial.

Whatever Lenten discipline it is that you decide to take on this year, it is my hope and prayer for you, that this season be one of renewal, repentance, and preparation for you. As we continue to gather together in worship each week, we will be joined together in community, to listen to the Word and to be fed at the Table, as we continue our journey through this season towards Holy Week. There will be a service on Ash Wednesday, February 22, with the imposition of ashes as Lent begins. I look forward to seeing you in worship with us this Lenten season!

In Christ,
Pastor Kari

Mardi Gras AND Pancake Supper



Please join us on
Sunday February 19 at 5:00pm
for a Mardi Gras celebration, and pancake
supper!



Donations will be received at the event for
Cashay Poudrier's July trip to the
**ELCA National Youth Gathering in
New Orleans, Louisiana**

Join us for fun, fellowship, good food, great conversation
and Mardi Gras celebrations!

Come and support Cashay,
as she continues to work to raise money for this GREAT
ministry and mission experience!



*If you cannot be at the event, but would still like to help Cashay as she
prepares for her trip, please speak with Cashay, Annie Poudrier, or Pastor
Kari*



Grapevine February 2012

(WEB) Women of



Ebenezer

As you know, the Silent Auction was a huge success and, as always, we're giving 10% of the proceeds to various charities. They are: WAIM, The Covenant Soup Kitchen, The American Cancer Society, The Multiple Sclerosis Society, The American Heart Association, The Muscular Dystrophy Association, The American Diabetes Association, The Arthritis Foundation, The National Parkinson Foundation, and The Autism Society.

The group of women, who have been working on the church kitchen, will meet soon to make plans to complete the project. We'll also plan a workday to finish the painting and any other small tasks in the kitchen. We hope you'll join us to help.

Sandi Dunnack and I have chosen several Mixes in Jars that we think will be yummy and fun to make. We'll meet at church to make the mixes on Saturday, March 3rd, at 10AM. We'll have all the supplies, but if you have any kitchen tool that could be used to tamp down the ingredients, please bring it. Yes, we will make money for church projects when we sell the mixes in jars. Most of all, however, Sandi and I are excited about the opportunity to get together and talk and laugh as we work.

Wendy Clifton

Fellowship...

As I wrote this, I was aware that the weather experts were not prediction any snow before our planned sledding event at Horse Barn Hill. We did, however, have a snowball fight! Ask someone who was there how we had a snowball fight without even a flake of snow! Additionally, Sandi Dunnack led a craft time, and we enjoyed coca and cookies.

Continued....

It's Mardi Gras time! Berti Hawkins and I are planning a wine, appetizer, and Jazz get-together at church on Sunday, February 19th, at 5 PM Please bring a bottle of wine (or juice) that you enjoy, your own wine glasses, and a appetizer of any kind. Also, if you wish, bring a hat—one with a great history to it, or a funny one you've made for the occasion. The best part of the evening, however, will be the music! With Berti and Mark planning it, we know the Jazz will have us ALL tapping our feet! Please sign up in the narthex, and join us for the fun!



Wendy Clifton



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Barbara Boucher Diane Jeffers
- Ellen Cormier Matthew Maynard
- Dave Dunnack Keith Mendes
- Joseph Evans David Ouimette
- Berti Hawkins Kevin Scanlon
- Maggie Hayes


February **Congratulations to**
Richard & Lynn
Archambault
Anniversaries

Happy Belated Birthday to
Edgar Poudrier
He turned 12 years old
On 1/3/2012



Ebenezer Lutheran Church

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Communion Assistants: Sally Ireland, Sally Lehoux Altar Guild: Joan Anderson, Kathy Burdick Coffee Hour, Feb 20th: Sally Lehoux, Anita Evans, Tonya Lemire, Annie Poudrier			1	2 	3	4
5 9:00AM Worship Acolyte: Tommy Lehoux	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 9:00AM Worship Acolyte: Elena Osorio	13	14 	15	16	17	18
19 9:00AM Worship Acolyte: Edgar Poudrier	20 Presidents Day  COUNCIL MEETING 6:30pm	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:00AM Worship Acolyte: Nick Angeloff	27	28	29	Fellowship Gathering Sunday, Feb 19th 5:00PM Food, Jazz music, crazy hats, LOTS OF FUN!!! 		

Pastor Kari's Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday 9:00AM-4:00PM
(860) 786-7125 or (860) 428-1726

Pastor's email Address

ebenezerpastor@gmail.com

Secretary's Office Hours:

Monday—9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Secretary's E Mail Address:

ebenezersecretary@gmail.com

Church E Mail Address:

ebenezersecretary@gmail.com

Church WEB Site

www.summitandoak.org

Church Telephone/Fax Number:

(860) 423-2193 / (860) 423-8112

Ebenezer's Leadership:

We give thanks for those willing to serve our Lord as leaders of Ebenezer. The Council meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 PM. The officers are:

- President –Don Evans/Sandi Dunnack
- Recording Secretary – Becky Eckert-Borland
- Treasurer – Tom Anderson
- Financial Secretary – Sally Lehoux

Completing the council are: Pastor Kari Plymette, Lynn Archambault, Kathy Burdick, Wendy Clifton, Anita Evans, Sally Ireland, J.J. Cramblit, Tim Swanson, Dean Vertefeuille.

Committee Chairpersons:

- Property – Frank Mendes
- Christian Education – Lynn Archambault
- Mutual Ministry –
- Stewardship –
- Worship & Music – Sue Cormier
- Fellowship – Wendy Clifton
- Evangelism – Sandi Dunnack

*If you are interested in joining a committee, please see the committee chairperson or Pastor Kari. All are welcome!

Our Vision
All people who experience the
promise of hope and peace

**Volunteer
Schedule
February & March**



Communion Assistants:

February—Sally Ireland, Sally Lehoux
March—Tom Anderson, Don Evans

Acolytes: 9:00 a. m.

February 05—Tommy Lehoux
February 12—Elena Osorio
February 19—Tyler Lemire
February 26—Nick Angeloff
March 04—Katie Ouimette
March 11—Cashay Poudrier
March 18—Edgar Poudrier
March 25—Tommy Lehoux

Altar Guild:

February—Joan Anderson, Kathy Burdick
March—Wendy Clifton, Marie Liskom

Coffee Hour:

February 19th—**Sally Lehoux**, Anita Evans, Tonya Lemire, Annie Poudrier
March 18th—**Missy Hayes**, Amy Taylor, Berti Hawkins, Sally Ireland

Nursery:

Parents, the nursery in Fellowship Hall is used for Preschool. Please talk with Lynn Archambault or Marie Liskom if you want to bring your child there

Our Mission
Together we spread the Word of
Jesus Christ by serving others.

Ebenezer Lutheran Church Council Meeting January 16, 2012

Pastor Plymette	Tom Anderson	Lynn Archambault	Wendy Clifton
Don Evans	Tim Swanson	Becky Borland	J.J. Cramblett

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm
Pastor opened with devotions.

Review of Minutes: The minutes were read and accepted as corrected. Motion (Lynn/Tom) to accept as corrected.

Treasure's Report:

Current accounts and expenditures for the month and the year were reviewed.

For the entire 2011 fiscal year, the beginning current account was \$18,483.33. The total income for the year to date was \$89,215.90 and expenditures were \$100,161.42. The ending balance in the account was \$7,537.81.

For the month of December, the beginning current account was \$5,870.22. Income for the month was \$9,442.90 and expenses were \$7,775.31. The ending balance was \$7,537.81.

Tom has supplied a summary of the 2011 financial status to be provided for the congregation as a bulletin insert prior to the annual meeting.

Tom and Pastor Kari have discussed the possibility of modifying the way in which the church handles the responsibility of paying for utilities, so that this payment is made similar to the way in which it was handled with previous pastors.

Designation of Parsonage Allowance –

As stated by the Treasurer of Ebenezer Evangelical Lutheran Church – according to current tax law, the parsonage allowance paid to the Pastor as part of her compensation is not subject to federal income tax to the extent used by her to provide a home.

The parsonage is owned by the church and the actual utility expenses will be paid by the church.

After considering the estimate of Pastor Kari Plymette of her additional home expenses, a motion was made by Tim and seconded by Lynn and passed to adopt the following resolution:

Resolved that of the total cash salary for the year 2012, \$3,000.00 is hereby designated as parsonage allowance.

Resolved that as long as Pastor Plymette is our employee, the above amount of designated parsonage allowance shall apply to all future years until modified.

A proposed 2012 budget was provided and discussed. A note will be made to emphasize the key change of transitioning from a part-time pastor to a full-time pastor. This is a challenging budget year and our church needs and responsibilities must be communicated clearly at the Annual Meeting.

A motion was made and seconded that the Church Council recommend the proposed 2012 budget to present to the congregation at the Annual Meeting (M/S: Tim/Wendy). The motion passed unanimously and Tom will present the Council Recommended 2012 Budget to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 22.

A commendation was made about the careful attention that Anita Evans has been paying to the church in her role as the sexton. When additional funds are available in the budget, the Council would like to discuss increasing her salary.

The report was read and accepted as presented. (M/S: Tim/Wendy)

Pastor's Report:

Immediately following the Annual meeting, Pastor Kari will be leaving for First Call Theological Education in Malern, PA. During her absence, Pastor will have her phone with her, should there be any need for pastoral care. Pastor Sara Anderson will be available in case of an emergency.

In December, we celebrated two First Communions, Boone Swanson and Leila Osorio. We held two Christmas Eve services, both of which went well. One suggestion that Pastor has received from a number of people is that there be more involvement by the children at the

earlier service, perhaps a short performance, or something to that effect. Pastor will keep this in mind and work with Berti, Mark, and the Christian Education Committee next year to discuss this possibility as Christmas approaches.

Christmas Day service attendance was a bit sparse, so we should probably re-evaluate the efficacy of holding worship on Christmas Day in the future.

The conference pastors met a few weeks ago to start sharing in conversation about our thoughts on the election of the new bishop. It is essential that we elect our congregation's representatives who will serve at the synod assembly this year in June (June 3-5 in Springfield, MA). An important date to keep in mind for this will be February 12, at 3:00 pm which will be a meeting at which anyone interested is welcome to attend (to be held at Concordia Lutheran Church in Manchester, CT), as we share in conversation and discernment about the election of the bishop. There will also be a meeting in mid-March to further continue this conversation, and it is hopeful that our congregational representatives will be able to participate in these important meetings. A suggestion was made to share this opportunity with the entire congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Cashay is continuing her fundraising efforts to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. The next event will be a pancake supper on February 21st on which Cashay will coordinate with the fellowship committee to combine this event with the Mardi Gras celebration.

Pastor Kari would like to take a day of vacation, Thursday, February 2, in order to attend a wedding of a friend. Arrangements have been made with Pastor Sara Anderson, in case of pastoral emergency. Pastor will be traveling February 1-4.

Shannon has requested a temporary change of office hours. Shannon has asked that she work on Mondays as usual, but complete the rest of her hours at other times (some evenings, some work from home, etc.), and she is willing to make herself available to meet with anyone who needs to, and share her number with any who might need to reach her. In relation to that, as a way to save on heating costs, if Shannon is not going to be in the office, Pastor will plan on working from home during the other days (and Pastor's cell number will be published and included on the voicemail so that anyone trying to reach her will be able to make contact). Council members agreed to this plan and recognize that it may take several weeks to figure out the best way to implement this plan and maintain support for the congregation and Pastor.

Motion to accept Pastor's report was unanimously approved. (M/S: Tim/Lynn)

Property:

An individual was hired for snow removal.

The phones and internet service for the church have been straightened out.

The furnace is going to be cleaned on Monday, January 23rd.

Fellowship/Web:

Sledding at Horse Barn Hill, on Saturday January 21st, at 1:00 pm, will be followed by crafts by Sandi, cookies and cocoa at church. Snow or no snow, there WILL be a snowball fight!

There will be a Mardi Gras party at church on Sunday, February 19th, in conjunction with Cashay for fundraising for the National Youth Gathering.

A discussion occurred about the possibility of hosting a Lenten Soup Supper on Ash Wednesday.

Charities soon will be paid 10% of the proceeds from the Silent Auction. Almost everyone has paid for their auction items, and Anita and Wendy hope to complete that soon.

Work on the church kitchen should be finished this winter. A workday is being planned, and we hope to get lots of help.

Planning meetings for work on the fellowship hall will begin this winter – but we've already been talking ideas!

Mixes in Jars will be done on Saturday, March 3rd, beginning at 10:00 am.

Worship and Music:

Need to plan a meeting before January 22nd

Youth:

No report

Evangelism/Outreach:

No report

Christian Ed:

We will try to meet this Wednesday, January 18th at 6:00 pm.

Bertie is planning a children's music service the last Sunday in January (1/29).

Now is the time to begin planning for the possibility of Vacation Bible School.

Stewardship/Finance:

Discussed previously

Reports Accepted. Motion: Wendy/JJ

Old Business:

Lynn had a conversation with a craftsperson about adapting pews to accommodate a wheelchair. Basically, a wheelchair requires 4-5 square feet for a turning radius.

The tee shirts to raise funds for world hunger are still under development.

New Business:

Are there any Church Council vacancies that need to be filled? We need to go to the previous 6 years of annual meetings to determine who (if anyone) is completing the third year of their second term. This will be accomplished before the Annual Meeting so that elections can be held for Council positions.

The next Church Council meeting will be Monday, February 20th at 6:30 pm at Wendy Clifton's.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:55.

*These draft minutes
will be approved at the next
council meeting on
February 20, 2012*