



# Zion Lutheran Church's On the HORIZON

Volume 25, Issue 1

January 2009

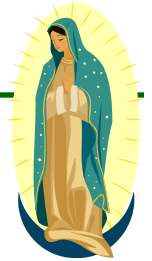
## The Shack



Now's the time to begin reading the book everyone's talking about — *The Shack* by William P. Young. We'll be getting together on Thursday evening, January 8 at 7 p.m. for a book discussion. I hope you'll join us. *Pastor Debner*

## Leadership Insights from Biblical Women Bible Study

Join Vicar Olsen for a four part series highlighting leadership insights from Biblical Women. The Bible study will be held on the following Thursday nights at 7pm: January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and February 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Bring your Bibles!



## [www.zionlutheranct.org](http://www.zionlutheranct.org)—Now Even Better

Be sure to visit our new website, still at the same address, [www.zionlutheranct.org](http://www.zionlutheranct.org). This new website gives us the opportunity to post up-to-the-moment information on what's happening here at Zion. You'll see more pictures and videos, too. As always, you can listen to a sermon — and coming soon you'll be able to subscribe to our podcast — so the sermons will come to you! To sign up for coffee hour or as a worship servant, simply go to the Worship Tab and click on Worship Servants. You can submit a prayer request, ask Pastor a question or read his blog (and much more)! Let us know what you think about the new site and what you might like to see in the future.

## Important Meeting Dates: January 11 & January 25, 2009

Join us for an informational meeting on Sunday, January 11 at 9 a.m. where we will discuss some pressing maintenance needs and capital expenditures. We'll be discussing these issues in preparation for our Congregational Meeting on January 25, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. We're asking everyone to attend so that all are well-informed on what's happening within the church.

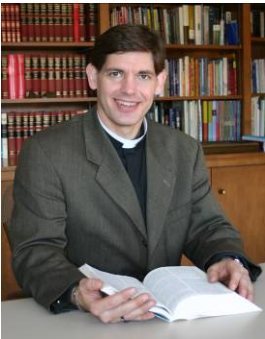


## The Knight's Templar Presents Certificate to Pastor January 18 @ 10:15a

The Rev. James A. Debner of Zion Lutheran Church in Southington, CT has been selected to join February's two week pilgrimage of Christian ministers to the Holy Land under the auspices of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA and Connecticut sponsorship of Washington Commandery No. 1 in East Hartford.

(Continued on page 2)

# Pastor's Corner



Pastor's message will return in next month's Horizon. Pastor Debner and his family are currently in Iowa for Barbara's dad's funeral. Duane Hanna died in a car accident on December 20, 2008.

*(Continued from page 1)*

Rev. Debner, a native of Iowa, graduated from Wartburg College with a BA and received a Master of Divinity from Luther Northwestern University. He began his ministry in 1988, serving parishes in West Union, West Virginia and Rindge, New Hampshire before becoming minister of Zion Lutheran Church in 1995. Assisting him in all his parish duties are his wife Barbara, son Joshua and daughter Abigail. Rev. Debner is excited about how such a trip will deepen his ministry: "To smell the earth of Israel and to be covered in the dust of the roads Jesus walked, will make the scriptures come alive as nothing else could do." Modern day Knights Templar is a Christian organization of the Masonic fraternity, and the Holy Land Pilgrimage is one of their many community oriented projects, reminiscent of ancient Templars who, during the Crusades, protected pilgrims in their travels to the Holy Land. Rev. Debner's sponsoring organization, Washington Commandery, adds further tradition, being organized in 1796 and remains today as is the oldest commandery of Knights Templar in the western hemisphere in continuous existence.

## Reflecting Back on 2008

### We baptized:

- Carter Michaud
- Shane Patrick Barry
- Colleen Lee Barry
- Matthew Alexander Crooker
- Skylar Sienna Bell
- Hailey Paige Bryant
- Jayden Jonathan Bryant
- Ryan Robert Goupil, Jr.
- Michael Shawn Gallant
- Jessa Jean Cullen
- Carrigan Elizabeth Mack
- Ryan Jason DeGumbia
- Emily Rose Terry
- Sean Michael Terry

### We married:

- Sweden Charles & Laurie Jean Bleau
- William Miller & Lisa Chalko
- Jesse Wright & Carol Ann McCormack
- David Guest & Kathleen Brazerol
- David Belval & Michelle Liu

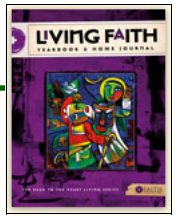
### We confirmed:

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| • Michael Davis     | Andrew Dudac       |
| • Paul Garrett, Jr. | Samantha George    |
| • Kyle Graham       | Ryan Hurley        |
| • Kevin Johnson     | Michaela Sadlowski |
| • Nicholas Tosta    | Jacob Webster      |
| • Lauren Zdeblick   |                    |

### Funerals/Memorials:

- Ruthann Whitney
- Frank Olschefski
- Wilhelmina Meier
- Doris Hecht
- Shirley Ballard
- Carolyn Mauro
- Frances Amter
- Steven Rovillo
- Johanna Kuhr
- Daniel Charamut
- George Carlson

# Confirmation



This year's program explores Martin Luther, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer.

January 4	Off
January 11	Ninth & Tenth Commandments—Coveting
January 18	Off
January 25	Off

Other important dates: January 30—February 1—Youth Quake in MA  
February 1—Souper Bowl of Caring

## What Is Fair?

“Churches cost money to operate and they must depend on the contributions of their members to meet these expenses. One duty or responsibility of belonging to a church is supporting that church financially. All church members should contribute fairly to meet the costs of the community's life and mission. As for the amount, the Bible says that everyone is to give “according to means” (II Cor. 8:3,11). This means that Christians should give in proportion to their assets (Acts 11:29, II Cor. 8:12-14) and those who are able to give much are never to be esteemed above those who are only able to give a little (Mark 12:41-44).

Many church members throughout America today have never thought about this matter very intentionally. They don't even know what their proportionate share of the congregation's expenses might be. They simply go to church, take part in congregational programs, and feel that they are being generous when they put money in the offering plate. Membership in other civic organizations usually involves a fee – dues, monthly assessments for maintenance, or special assessments for unanticipated expenses. We are not just a club or a civic organization and we do not charge people membership dues. The simple truth is that most churches have many members who rarely contribute anything at all to their congregation's financial needs. This is not fair by any human standard, but churches are communities of grace in which persons touched by God's goodness are often willing to do far more than what should be expected of them. Some persons give well beyond their share for the sake of those whose commitments or abilities may be only marginal. This may not be fair but it is good. God gives to us what we do not deserve and, in turn, we sometimes bear the burdens of others, regardless of whether they are worthy or appreciative or even aware of what we are doing for them.” *Giving to God, The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life* by Mark Allan Powell.

*Steve Long*

## Bells & Blessings



The Bells & Blessings Program originally scheduled for December 21 was postponed due to the snowstorm. Please watch the weekly announcements and your e-mail inbox for the new date, expected to be in late January or early February. (Please e-mail the office at [office@zionlutheranct.org](mailto:office@zionlutheranct.org) if we don't have your e-mail address).

## Worship Servants for January

Date	Communion Assistants	Lectors	Ushers	Acolytes
1/4	Carra Rockwood (8) Nancy Benoit (10:15)	Linda Graham (8) Beth Long (10:15)	Peter Kurtz & Bill Welton (8) Mike Babon & John Miller (10:15)	
1/11	Lois Davis (8) Joyce Suess (10:15)	Jeanne Garrett (8)	Sue Skrzypiec & Betty Lou Schweiger Wm. Holbrook & Mike Webster	
1/18	Lisa Gentile (8) John Kjellson (10:15)	Linda Klopp (8)	Nick Salerno & John Darling (8) The Crampton Family (10:15)	
1/25	Barbara Welton (8) Lee Sirotnak (10:15)	Beth Moller (8) Steve Long (10:15)	Frieda Fries & Mike Babon (8) Mike Kurtz & John Sirotnak (10:15)	

Altar Guild in January: Colleen Jones & Beth Moller

## Flowers



The 2009 Flower Chart is now available in the Gathering Place. Be sure to sign up early to get your preferred dates.

## Is There Truth & Justice Today?



Tickets are now available for the 13th Annual Martin Lutheran King, Jr. Community Event to be held on Sunday, January 18, 2009 from 2-5 p.m. at the Aqua Turf. The guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Peola Hicks. There will be a buffet. Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased by calling Diane in the church office at 628-5759.

## Sunday School Resumes on January 11 at 9 a.m.

Join us for the new Sunday School year on January 11 at 9 a.m.

## Pew Committee Meeting—January 17, 2009 at 9 a.m.

## Souper Bowl of Caring

Please consider donating \$1 as you leave worship on Saturday and Sunday, January 31 & February 1. Your donation, combined with those from other congregations and organizations, raises millions of dollars for hungry people!



**Click on our**

**New “Calendar” Link**

**To see the most up-to-date**

**Info & events**

# January Sermons

Visit [www.zionlutheranct.org](http://www.zionlutheranct.org) to view upcoming sermon titles or to listen to recent sermons you may have missed.

## Recycling

If you don't bring your bulletins home, please leave them in the paper recycling bag. Kathy Petruzzello has volunteered to collect them for recycling — thanks Kathy! If anyone has extra paper shopping bags, please bring them in for this project.



## Death of Duane Hanna, Barbara Debner's Dad

Duane Hanna, Barbara Debner's dad, died Saturday, December 20 in a car accident. Funeral services were held at the Evangelical Free Church, in Britt, Iowa. Mr. Hanna's obituary can be viewed at

[www.cataldofuneralhome.com/obituaries.php](http://www.cataldofuneralhome.com/obituaries.php)

*On the Horizon* is a monthly publication of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 531 Woodruff Street, Southington, CT 06489. Phone: 860-628-5759. Fax: 860-620-0742. Web: [www.zionlutheranct.org](http://www.zionlutheranct.org). Email address: [pastor@zionlutheranct.org](mailto:pastor@zionlutheranct.org) or [office@zionlutheranct.org](mailto:office@zionlutheranct.org). We welcome your comments, suggestions, and contributions. **Deadline for the newsletter is the third Thursday of the month.** Please call the church office to remove your name from the mailing list.

Zion is affiliated with the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, one of over 11,000 congregations in the ELCA.

We worship every Saturday at 4:00 p.m. and Sunday at 8:00 & 10:15 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated weekly at all services. Sunday School and Adult Study Hour: 9 a.m., except during the summer. Summer Sunday worship at 9 a.m.

### Staff

The Rev. James Debner	Pastor
The Rev. Will Baumgartner	Asst. Pastor
Christopher Messner	Music Director
Barbara Debner	Nursery School Director
Diane Lamb	Parish Administrator
George Morales	Custodian

### Council Officers

John Miller	President
Rich Suter	Vice President
Michelle Gladue	Secretary
John Kjellson	Treasurer
Mark Reider	Asst. Treasurer

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Steve Long	Financial Affairs
Carol Wright	Membership/Witness
Faith Kjellson	Worship/Music
Shawn Darling	Christian Fellowship
Peter Kurtz	Church Facilities
Dawne Cappellino	Christian Welfare
Beth Long	Christian Education

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

On the Horizon

