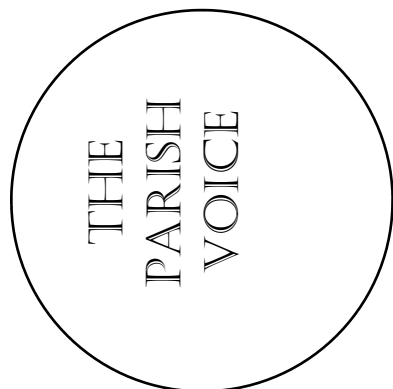


*I have set before you an open door,  
which no one is able to shut.*

*Revelation 3:8*



## ***Prayers for the People***

- ◆ Bo Abernathy
- ◆ Blair Clark
- ◆ Diane Gravely
- ◆ Mike Apel, brother of Beth Smith.
- ◆ Mildred Perry, recovering from hip surgery.
- ◆ The family of Nolan Radford.
- ◆ The family of Aileen Salmons, aunt of Rhonda Daiber.
- ◆ The family of James Bush.
- ◆ Tonya Slusher
- ◆ PFC Raymond Hufford, grandson of Tom King, deployed to Afghanistan.
- ◆ Eddie Harris, recovering at home from breathing problems.
- ◆ Shirley Vangilder, healing from foot surgery.
- ◆ Sanna Walker
- ◆ Yvonne Wepler
- ◆ Zeth Alley, deployed in Afghanistan.



### **“Thank God for Church Ladies With Typewriters”**

- from Judy Lowrance

- ◆ Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- ◆ The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
- ◆ Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
- ◆ Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say ‘H e l l’ to someone who doesn’t care much about you.
- ◆ Don’t let worry kill you off...let the Church help.
- ◆ Miss Charlene Mason sang ‘I will not pass this way again’, giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

**Are you in the church directory? Do we have your birthday and those of your family members? Do we know your wedding anniversary date? Is your email address current? Do you want others to know your cell phone number? Please contact the parish office with updates. [zionstmk@swva.net](mailto:zionstmk@swva.net) or voice mail message 745.2096. Thanks!**

*Pleasant words are like a honeycomb,  
Sweetness to the soul and  
Health to the body.  
- Proverbs 16:24*

## Opportunities To Serve

How do you feel more a part of your congregation? How do you get to know more people? How do you give back to your church family? How do you grow in God's love? How do you share your gifts? There are lots of opportunities!! At St. Mark, please speak to Debbie Fullbright and at Zion, please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the narthex or speak to Diane Giessler.

Lector - You will receive your readings during the week prior to reading them in Sunday's service.

Flowers - At Zion, you give a check for \$30.00 (made and given to Debbie Snellings) and let the parish office know who you would like to honor. At St. Mark, flowers are a part of the Sanctuary Care/Altar Guild.

Greeters - At Zion, arrive at 9:15, place the page numbers of the hymns on the hymn board, greet congregants and visitors and have visitors sign the guest book, hand out bulletins and offer prayer cards, notify the pastor of new guests and take up the offering.

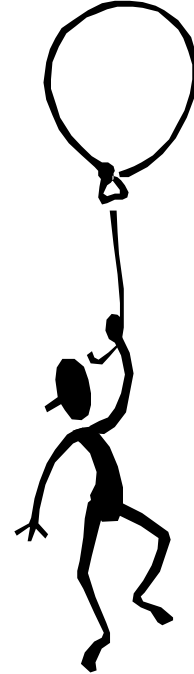
Altar Guild - Change the colors in the sanctuary (you will be notified ahead of time with a reminder and the color for your month's Sundays) and attend to Communion supplies.

Fellowship Hosts - (Zion only) Furnish light refreshments, make coffee and clean up the kitchen/fellowship area. Ask a friend to share a Sunday as hosts.

Candle - At Zion, \$15.00 is the monthly cost for the four candles that are used during the month. Prepare a check made to Debbie Snellings and let the parish office know the wording for the dedication.

## Happy Birthday !!!!!!!

- 9 - Barbara Triplett
- 11 - Elaine Braley
- 16 - Tom King
- 18 - Bonnie Outten
- 20 - Lee Ann Farley
- 24 - Sybil Chrisman
- 29 - Luis Garcia



## Anniversaries

- 12 - Kathy and Kenneth Blackwell

**If you have a birthday, an anniversary or a baptismal birthday to add,  
please contact the parish office at 745.2096 or email  
zionstmk@swva.net. Let your light shine!**

## Workshop in Blacksburg

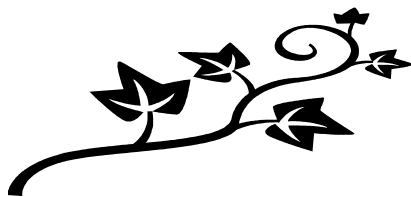
Dr. David M. Rhoads, director of the ELCA Green Congregation Program, will lead an Ecumenical Green Congregations Training Workshop at Luther Memorial, Blacksburg, Saturday, Feb. 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Rhoads, also a New Testament professor at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, will be in Blacksburg as Luther Memorial's 2010 visiting theologian.

The free training event is planned to offer practical and inspirational guidance and resources for the process of initiating or expanding care for creation programs in congregations. Green teams from Christ Episcopal and Blacksburg United Methodist congregations were early registrants for the workshop. Teams of three to five people or more are encouraged to learn how to start or to enhance greening programs, according to Rebekah Paulson, planner for the event.

"As Christians, we have a special call to care for the earth by reducing our negative impact upon God's creation and seek to discover ways to care for earth," Paulson said.

Rhoads, a graduate of Gettysburg College and Seminary, earned a master's degree at Oxford University and a doctorate at Duke University. He was pastor of an Asheboro, N.C. church and he taught at Carthage College before joining Lutheran School of Theology faculty in 1988. He has written The Green Congregation Training Manual and co-authored An Environmental Guide for Churches, Their Buildings and Grounds and he has planned eco-conferences helped initiate the Web of Creation, an online environmental service for congregations. The Green Congregations Program operates primarily with clusters of Midwest churches.

The workshop is sponsored by Luther Memorial and Virginia Interfaith Power & Light. If you are interested in attending, please let Pastor Linda know.



## Zion Tree Bowls

Derek Mannon has crafted beautiful wooden bowls from the trees cut last summer in Zion's oak grove. Many of you have pre-ordered your bowls and those may be picked up by contacting Debbie Snellings at 745.4505. If you didn't pre-order, you may speak with Debbie about getting one of the extra bowls that were made. The prices are in the \$50-80 range. Derek has a limited amount of the Zion wood available if you would like to commission a special piece. All are completed with a natural, food-safe finish. To commission a special piece, Derek may be reached at 540.392.1930.

## From Pastor Linda

*Merry Christmas!* As you read this, the needles may be falling off the tree and you may be boxing up the decorations, but the gift of Christmas lives on. The Christ-child born in Bethlehem is born anew in our hearts every day, loving us into bearing God's love to the world.

A new year lies before us, filled with opportunities to serve God with renewed purpose. Thank you for calling me to share that holy work with you. May the miracle of the first Christmas fill our hearts to overflowing with God's love for all.

*Happy New Year!*

Pastor Linda

## Global Missions, VA Synod

Due to minimal compensation of pastors in the New Guinea Islands District - our Global Companion Synod - many pastors have needed to decide whether they would continue to serve as pastors or find another job in order to pay for their children's school fees. The education of children is expensive in the New Guinea Islands, education is necessary to find employment for them as young adults, and the income of the children is the only means of caring for aging parents. Through the generous gifts of VA Synod disciples the school fees of pastor's children have been cared for the past several years, allowing for pastors to continue to serve their congregations and parishes ... Yet gifts are needed to continue our efforts. They pay their school fees in late January and we have been asked to support 5 returning seminarians and 8 students at Church College (Banz) and/or Evangelist Training School (Amron). We have heard rumors (yet unconfirmed) that there is a possibility of a few more at one of these institutions. Otherwise, there will also be approximately 30 more children of pastors to support. I estimate that between \$10,000 and \$12,000 will be needed.

Zion's NOISY OFFERING is contributed to the ministry in New Guinea. The amount we have been able to contribute this year was \$291.25