

ZIONEWS

JULY & AUGUST 2011

A publication for the family of Zion Lutheran Church



202 Erie St., Stratford, Ontario N5A 2M8

Phone: 271-8527 Fax: 271-8536

e-mail: zionlc@golden.net

PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL

"BE STILL"

"Be still and know that I am God."

(Psalm 46:10)

By the time you read this, summer will be in full swing. With children out of school, many families are enjoying summer vacations and weekend outings.

Vacations are a gift from God. It is an opportunity for recreation. The word recreation, of course, comes from recreate. Vacations are an opportunity for us to recreate ourselves, our families, and even our circle of friends. It is time to be still and let God breathe new life into our relationships and our lives.

To be still can be very difficult for some of us. I used to be very anxious when I was two to three days into a holiday, until I realized I was still in a doing mode rather than being mode. What would I do when there is nothing to do or accomplish? I did not know how to be still. Fortunately I am now much better at it.

God knows that we all need quiet time. We can learn from our Saviour. In the gospel of Mark, when the disciples felt stressed, Jesus encouraged them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest. (Mark 6:31)



All of us find quiet time in different ways and different places. I find quiet time when I read a good novel, when I sit by the lake with the wind full in my face, when I walk on a trail in the middle of a forest.

As well as seeking quiet places, the Son of God, also sought to be in communion with God's people. It was the habit of Jesus, we are told, to go to the temple on the Sabbath.

Thanks be to God for the gift of the church. The church is one of the few places where in the midst of the busyness and confusion of our everyday lives we can be still. It is good to hear God's word, to commune with God's people and affirm that God is God.

Going to church is a good habit for all of us even when we are on vacation. Summer is a great time to get to know some of our other sisters and brothers in Christ in this Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada of ours, by attending church wherever we are vacationing.

Of course, if you are not on vacation, then come worship in your own church, at Zion. God doesn't take vacation and would love to spend some time with you.

Peace be with you,

Rev. Douglas Reble
Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church

ZION GARAGE SALE



Zion Church is holding a garage sale on Friday, July 15, beginning at 12 noon. We're telling you now so you can think of us when you are doing your spring cleaning. All the proceeds of this sale will be to our own congregational ministries for seniors. The contributions we are looking for are books, glassware, jewelry, dishes, tools, electrical appliances, sports equipment, toys, games, etc. The convener is Terry Faulhafer who can be reached at our church office 519-271-8527. Last day for donations, is Monday, July 11. She has a place to store items and will also arrange pick up, if needed. Thank you!

NATIONAL CHURCH CONVENTION

Lutherans from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada will meet in Saskatoon for the 13th Biennial National Convention taking place July 14-17. Steve Hoffard will be our lay delegate representing Zion Church. Pastor Doug will attend as a member of the National Church Council.

As delegates, visitors, staff and special guests come together for our National Convention we will be reminded that our call to be *In Mission for Others* articulates the mission and ministry of our church. This year we will come together for our convention

under the theme *Covenant People: In Mission for Others*.

Our theme is drawn from Isaiah 56:6-8 and focuses on our identity as God's servants, and on the responsibility we bear toward each other and collectively toward others by virtue of this covenant. We are joined together in the covenant of baptism and called to live our lives as disciples of Jesus. ELCIC National Bishop Susan C. Johnson has been encouraging the ELCIC community to engage in a call to spiritual renewal and to be a more visible witness to our neighbours. At National Convention, we will explore aspects of this call to read, pray, worship, study, serve, give and tell.

The word "covenant" is also a synonym for "treaty," so the theme Covenant People: *In Mission for Others* gives us the opportunity to explore how we as a church and as Canadians are treaty people, and challenge ourselves to renewed relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous people.

The 2011 National Convention logo is comprised of the visual elements of a pitcher and water, signs of the baptism that gathers and connects us. This life-giving water is ever weaving around and through God's covenant people.

There are many ways you can keep informed with all things convention-related:

- >ELCIC Website: www.elcic.ca/In-Convention/2011-Saskatoon
- >ELCIC INFO: email info@elcic.ca with the word "subscribe" in the subject line to receive press releases and highlights from the National Convention and the National Office
- >Facebook: become a fan of the ELCIC on Facebook
- >Twitter: follow@ELCICinfo

SUNDAY SCHOOL SNIP-ITS!



Though Zion's Sunday School is on summer break that doesn't stop people from preparing for the upcoming year which begins in September. Plans are already well underway and there will be lots of new events and activities to look forward to, not to mention some curriculum changes to meet our needs.

Of course, we need some new teachers to join the ones who are remaining especially ones to teach the 3-5 year olds. The curriculum and activities look great and you may want to sign on. A wonderful way to put your love for God and God's children together and a great way to say thanks for all of God's blessings.

To say "yes" to teaching or for more information before you say yes, our Sunday School co-ordinators would love to hear from you. Please contact Jan Bennewitz (519-271-6073) or

bennewitz_jan@hotmail.com or Mary-Lou Drown at (519-273-2268) or drown_ml@yahoo.ca



FRIENDSHIP MEAL MINISTRY

Thank you to all who serve in this ministry of care and compassion. As you know, we continue to serve in the summer for people in our community in need. Friday, July 22 and Friday, August 26 are our summer dates. You can help by preparing, serving, or cleaning up. It is a joyful experience to serve in this way. If you wish more information please contact one of our co-ordinators, Ingrid Fraser (519-271-4382) or Pastor Robert Hutchison (519-271-5808).

P.S. First time volunteers are always welcome and needed too, especially in the summer, when people are on holidays.

JUST SO YOU KNOW



As we break for the summer months – and begin to look to the fall – we have to report that no one has stepped forward to take the lead on decorating the church for Thanksgiving Sunday, October 9. Worship and Music Committee is suggesting we take a hiatus from the decorating, and have flowers on the altar. Then, again, it's not too late for someone to come forward and take the decorating on. Two people could do it together. If you are one of those people, please contact Wayne Young (519-271-3225) or Pastor Doug. They'd love to hear from you.

THIS MAY INTEREST YOU



Susan McKenzie, a member of Zion and a kidney transplant recipient, is also the head development officer for the Kidney Foundation of Canada. Her next adventure, as if receiving a new kidney wasn't enough, is to walk the 3 day, 100 km Kidney March in Calgary from September 9-11. If you would like to sponsor Susan on her walk, you'll be helping to fight kidney disease across Canada. Your contribution will go to The Kidney Foundation of Canada, the national volunteer organization committed to reducing the burden of kidney disease through research, early detection, and patient support initiatives. To find out how to help, please contact Susan at smckenzie@kidney.on.ca

ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS



Did you know that the Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund distributed over \$18,000, this spring, to local, national, and international agencies and ministries whose goal is to support people with special needs and that doesn't even include monies set aside to support our congregational ministries at Zion. We have begun receiving thank yous from the various groups and they contain a common theme: "Thank you for helping us make a difference."

That is what the Endowment Fund, at Zion, is all about – making a difference! To learn more about this incredible legacy we have and how you might become a part of it, please speak to any member of the Endowment Fund Committee: Dianne Yundt (chairperson), Bob Gladding, Enid Lantz, Glenn Querengesser, Fritz Steigmeier, David Frier, Mervyn Dietz, or Pastor Doug.

CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Another way we make a difference, at Zion, is through our support of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, which supports international development and relief work when and where needed. Robert Granke, Executive Director of CLWR recently sent a thank you note to us. This is what he said:



"In every seedling there is the possibility of a strong tree that bears fruit. In every person there is potential for a bright future."

*This is the truth that drives Canadian Lutheran World Relief in all its development work. It is at this time of year, as we plant our own **Seeds of Hope** in our gardens, flower beds or fields that we best understand the possibilities and potential in every living thing.*

*As a supporter of CLWR you share in an incredible **legacy of caring**. Every day you make a real difference and a fantastic positive impact around the world.*

You are making a real difference in communities where wells provide clean, safe water for household use and irrigation.

You are making a real difference for women who now have a voice in their community.

You are making a real difference for people who now have access to basic health care.

You are making a real difference for children who now have classrooms and trained teachers.

You are making a real difference for families who have built businesses and a future through micro-finance loans.

You are making a real difference for communities which have become food secure through the gift of agricultural training, implements, livestock and seeds.

You are making a real difference for people who fall asleep under the warmth of a quilt stitched by loving hands in church halls and basements throughout Canada.

You are making a real difference for refugees who have made a new home in Canada.

You are making a real difference in rebuilding the lives of those affected by natural disasters in places like Haiti and Pakistan.

For all of this and so much more that you do, we join with the countless thousands whom we serve to thank you for your investment in hope and your confidence in CLWR.

Sincerely,
Robert Granke,
Executive Director, CLWR

P.S. Donations to the work of Canadian Lutheran World Relief can be made through our congregation. A charitable tax receipt will be issued for all gifts.

P.P.S. Thank you for making a real difference!



Weddings

Frederick Youngs & Cornelia Illman, July 2

David Butler & Caitlin Hanly, July 30

Timothy Faulhafer & Diana Hyde, August 13

David Grant & Megan Mitchell, August 27



Halle Sophia Waters, daughter of
Christopher & Amanda on June 4



Mamie Roadhouse, May 18
Kenneth Kaufman, May 29
Dorothy Weber, June 12

JULY AND AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers assist with our Sunday morning worship services. Listed below are those who serve in July and August as a reminder and as a thank you for serving.

Date	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Readers	Usher Captains	Counting Captains
July 3	David Bennewitz Judith Hammond	Erika Behnke	Marilyn Sylvester	Don Wagner	Rob Leifso
July 10	N/A	Shaneika Huff	Verne Hammer	Steve Lamont	Rob Illman
July 17	N/A	Bruce & Beth Sippel	Mary-Lou Drown	Irvin Riehl	Rob Illman
July 24	Barb Higgins Verne Hammer	Sarah Hartfiel	Sarah Hartfiel	Ed Illman	Steve Arand
July 31	N/A	Brian & Sharyl Coe	Bill Sylvester	Mike Bomasuit	Joanne Wallace
Aug 7	Stephen Fischer Mike Bondi	Adrien Bourassa	Sharon Fetter	Wayne Hinz	Steve Arand
Aug 14	N/A	Verne & Joyce Hammer	Hannah Bush	Fritz Steigmeier	Joanne Wallace
Aug 21	N/A	Mike & Liz Bomasuit	Bob Gladding	Jerry Terhaerd	Joanne Wallace
Aug 28	N/A	Samantha Kuno	Melissa Tuer	Don Wagner	Bill Hoffard

ZION CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
Monthly Requirements	\$27,419.25	\$4,504.66
May Income	\$24,633.10	\$3,297.50
May Expenses	\$27,980.62	\$3,297.50

CURRENT FUND DEFICIT (as of May 31, 2011): \$22,459.16



Zion Church is a large congregation that needs the support of everyone to meet the commitments we approved in our budget. Summer is now upon us and when people are away, the offerings also tend to take a vacation. As you can see, we have a deficit in our current fund which is for our day-to-day expenses. We need your help. We encourage everyone to give out of their blessings so we can make up the shortfall!

If you are traveling, over the holidays, simply forward your offering envelope (cheques only, don't mail cash) to our church office: Zion Lutheran Church, 202 Erie St., Stratford, ON N5A 2M8. You may also drop your envelope off any weekday morning. The best way, for sure, is to bring them, along with yourself to our 10 AM worship service.

P.S. Of course another option to ensure your financial commitments to God's church are met through the POP program (Pre-Authorized Offering Program). To sign up, please contact Terry at the church office and she'll get you started. A wonderful easy way to share your blessings with others.

THIS MAY APPEAL TO YOU



With Daily Grace, an iPhone app. you'll encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace. This free App features daily readings, reflections and prayers along with connections to the liturgical and secular calendars. Go to www.womenoftheelca.org/Apps for more information.

P.S. This devotional help comes out of the women's organization of our sister church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

COFFEE AND BEYOND

Coffee shops bustle with friends relaxing, chatting and catching up over hot coffees. Something similar happens at House of Blessing, only the friends are catching up in the sorting room and the food bank!



Meet Sharon and Michelle – friends, working moms and now, volunteers at House of Blessing. One day, while enjoying coffee together on their days off, they began tossing around the idea of doing something productive while at the same time having a visit together. Before long, they were in our Volunteer Coordinator's office inquiring about volunteer opportunities. They are now an enthusiastic, helpful and dedicated food bank team that, once a month, are a blessing to our clients.

Joan and Ellen have also decided to share their energy with House of Blessing! These two retired friends arrive twice a week to sort clothes, share stories, encourage others and continue to build their friendship – all the while, contributing to a caring community.

Maybe you've got a friend you like to visit with. Maybe you treasure the conversation over coffee. How would you like to add a new and deeply satisfying dimension to your visits? There are so many opportunities to serve others through volunteer work at the House of Blessing. You'll know that you're making a serious difference in the lives of people you haven't even met.

Volunteering Friends – a win-win situation!

To learn about volunteering opportunities at the House of Blessing, contact Donna Hoskin, Volunteer Co-ordinator, at 519-273-3433 ext. 204 or volunteers@shob.org

LUTHERAN PLANNED GIVING

Jeff Pym, the Lutheran Planned Giving Director for our Eastern Synod of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada share the following with us:

THE BEQUEST

It's no wonder that 80% of all planned gifts to Canadian charities come in the form of bequests. A bequest can be one of the easiest, simplest and least expensive ways of making a planned gift to the church. In this article we'll take a look at the steps involved in making a charitable bequest.

A bequest is simply a gift specified in your last will and testament. Money, investments, real estate, collections and other personal property may be the subject of a bequest. Cash is often most useful to a church because it is needed to carry out the organizational mission. Other forms of property are frequently, although not always, converted to cash and then either invested or spent after they are received by the church.

The steps in establishing a bequest are fairly straightforward:

1. **Determine what will be given.** *Cash is always appreciated, but gifts of appreciated property (investments, real estate, valuable collections of stamps, coins or art, etc.) can be beneficial to you from a tax point of view. It is particularly advantageous to*

donate appreciated securities rather than to sell the investment and donate the proceeds.

2. **Choose an amount.** *With gifts of money you can specify an amount, a percentage or a number of shares in the "residue" of your estate (what remains after debts and other gifts are discharged). Some people "adopt the church"; that is, they give a share to the church equal to what they give each of their children. Another choice is to make the church a contingent beneficiary. That gives to the church the bequest of any named heir who predeceases you. If you are bequeathing real or personal property, choosing an amount usually isn't an issue. By naming the item you are also determining the value of the gift.*
3. **Select the beneficiary(ies).** *There are different needs and opportunities within all expressions of the church – congregational, synodical, national, institutional – and Lutheran Planned Giving will help you make a gift to any of them. Whatever your choice, it is critically important to use the accurate corporate name of the beneficiary. Failure to get the name correct can result in long and expensive court proceedings to determine the rightful beneficiary. In cases where the will says one thing but you meant another, your real intentions may not be carried out.*
4. **Decide on designations and restrictions.** *You can choose to leave your gift for a specific purpose. Alternatively, by not designating a purpose you allow the governing body to use your gift where it's needed the most. Bequests can be left as endowments, where the money is invested and the principal is preserved in perpetuity, while only the income is spent. This ensures that there will always be income to support the designated purpose. If you don't restrict the gift in this way, both the principal and the income may be spent as they are needed.*
5. **Take your list of decisions to your lawyer.** *Your lawyer will convert your choices into the language of a will. Make sure you select a lawyer whose advice you trust, and then take that advice.*

Call Lutheran Planned Giving: 1-888-308-9461 for information and assistance.