

ZIONEWS

FEBRUARY 2012



A publication for the family of Zion Lutheran Church
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PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL

"PASS IT ON"



I read a story, years ago, about a man whose car ran out of gas. A passing motorist stopped, dug a battered red can of gas out of his trunk, and gave it to the author without charge. The only condition was that he had to pass it on, in turn, to someone else who needed it.

So the writer of the story did. With the same condition.

Good fortune must be shared, not hoarded. The can must be passed on.

Of course, years later, the same motorist ran out of gas. And, of course, another one came to his aid. And to his amazement, he was given back the same old gas can, considerably more battered by now, but undeniably the same can.

Most recently, I saw a similar kind of story in a church magazine. When the author went to his car in the parking lot, he found that his gas tank cap was missing. His first thought was that someone had swiped it. So he bought himself a locking gas cap. "That'll fix them!" he thought.

But later, he began thinking about two kinds of worlds! The kind where you had to keep everything under lock and key, and the kind where everyone was willing to share. Wouldn't it be much better, he thought, if he saw someone without a gas cap, to share whatever he had, even his only gas cap – knowing that someone else would do the same for him?

That's the kind of world Jesus was talking about, when he gave his disciples the great commandment. "Love others, as I have loved you," he said.

"Pass it on," he was saying. "Don't try to hoard the good things. They're not yours to keep."

That applies to our time as well as our possessions. Sometimes I have been asked why

I let people take advantage of me. Some of them may never repay me. I can't answer that question. All I can reply is that I don't really have a choice. All through my life, people have done me good turns. Sometimes I haven't realized it at the time that they were doing it. Sometimes, perhaps, they themselves may not have realized what they were doing for me. But I've ended up with the benefit.

I can't pay them back. I don't know who some of them were. Others are long out of touch. Some have already died.

So I have to do the next best thing. I have to pass it on.

Someday, like the gas can, some good that I have done for somebody may come back to me. But if it doesn't – well, all that really matters is that they "pass it on," too.

Food for thought...Acknowledge times when you have felt bitter or hurt because people whom you have helped took it for granted with not even a word of thanks. Confess that you haven't always repaid your obligations for others' kindness. Sometimes it was too late to do anything. And what about repaying God's goodness to you? Express gratitude for the opportunity of passing it on to others.

Something to think about.

Peace be with you,

Rev. Douglas Reble
Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church

VICAR'S DEVOTIONAL

"Poetry and Song, In the Bleak-Mid Winter"



What does one write for a February newsletter? February the month found "In the bleak-mid winter." Is it not strange that the mere thought of February brings to my mind a Christmas hymn? Once January 6th rolls around, I delete all the Christmas music from my play lists except for Sara McLachlan's version of this classic hymn. It is a song I love to listen to at anytime of the year, but it seems especially suited to cold and dark February.

Christina Rossetti wrote the hymn as a poem in January 1872, titled "A Christmas Carol." Rossetti, an important Victorian poet suffered a nervous breakdown when she was fourteen, and she battled illness and depression for most of her life. The torment

she suffered comes through in her poetry and yet...to quote another great poet, Leonard Cohen, "There is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in." I can't help but think that is how Rossetti (and most artists) get through the darker winter days.

Recently Pastor Doug asked me if I was familiar with the music of the English singer Adele. I was not, so I searched for her on the internet and came up with a YouTube video of her singing live her hit "Someone Like You" at the O2 Arena in Greenwich, England. By the end of the song, I was very aware that she had written a deeply personal song and had just laid her soul bare for all to see. This is how she worked through her pain, vulnerably opening a crack to let the light in.

One of the questions on the "Availability for Call" forms that I fill out for the Synod to help match me with a congregation is, "What are your hopes for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada?" My answer is this,

My hope for the ELCIC, is the same hope I have for any church body. That it becomes well known in the world as a place that proclaims the gospel, not as a place of judgement. Churches have had a bad history. They are more often than not assumed places of exclusion and judgement. My hope is a church known to be a safe and caring place for all. A place not to be avoided during times of trouble, but a place sought out for refuge and strength.

We are not all poets and musicians, and so my prayer for the church is that it becomes a safe place for people to turn to in their bleak-mid winters, a safe place to bare one's soul, opening the crack to let the light in. We as the church, without a doubt have some work to do in this area, but also the church, we have an advantage. We already have the Light.

Shalom,
Vicar Steve

ANNUAL MEETING: FEBRUARY 5



Please note that our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 5 beginning at 10:30 AM after our 9 AM worship service and Sunday School time. This new format which we began last year, was well received. This allows people to attend the meeting and still have their afternoon for rest, family, and friends. After all, Sunday is a Sabbath day.

We hope that you will be able to attend the meeting. An annual meeting allows all

members to review the year that was and to plan for the future. An annual meeting is always essential as it allows us to work out together how we can best be the church of Jesus Christ. Please exercise your privilege as a member of Zion Church. All confirmed members have voice and vote.

P.S. Annual reports will be available a week before the meeting, so please pick one up and read it to prepare for the meeting.

ASH WEDNESDAY: FEBRUARY 22



On Wednesday, February 22, we begin our journey with our Lord to the cross by observing Ash Wednesday, one of the holiest days of the church year. Ash Wednesday begins the sacred season of Lent which prepares us for our Easter observances and celebrations. It reminds us that to rise with Jesus we have to first die with Jesus. Our worship service is at 7:30 PM. Of course, our worship includes the imposition of ashes, and the sacrament of Holy Communion. Come and worship!

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN LENT



Our journey to the cross takes on a new format this year. This Lenten season we gather in the church parlour on Wednesday evenings starting February 29th at 7:30 PM to hear and reflect on the word in a new way. Each evening we will watch a DVD reflection by Pastor Rob Bell called Nooma. The name nooma comes from a phonetic spelling of the Greek word pneuma (πνευμα) meaning "wind," "spirit," or "breath." Our prayer is the Holy Spirit will guide our personal reflection and journey to the cross. Immediately following we will process to the chapel for Evening Prayer (Compline). Compline an ancient practice of the church offers a time to acknowledge both the gifts and failings of each day, and we commend ourselves and the whole world into God's hands as night comes.

ZION LUTHERAN WOMEN OF FAITH

"OFFICERS OF ZION LUTHERAN WOMEN OF FAITH 2012"

President: **Linda Springer**

Secretary: **Kathy Schellenberger**

Treasurer: **Joanne Young**

Mary Martha Recorders: **Jan Bennewitz & Mary-Lou Drown**

Gleaners Recorder: **Marie Brandon**

Outreach & Fellowship: **Rita Mueller**
Program Co-ordinator: **Darlene Illman**

Please Note: Gleaners meetings are being changed to the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Gleaners next meeting will be February 14 at 2 PM. Marie Brandon, Vi Cook and Elaine Kalbfleisch are in charge of the program. If you have a poem or something to share for Valentine's Day, please bring it along.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SNIPITS

Sunday School has welcomed back students, teachers, and helpers for the second term. We are fortunate that all our staff were able to return. Thanks everyone!

Upcoming events:

- February 12:** The Sunday School will hold a bake sale between the services with proceeds going to Canadian Lutheran World Relief.
- April 8:** Easter Sunday. No Sunday School as children and staff worship with their loved ones.
- April 22:** Parents visit the Sunday School classes.
- May 27:** Last day of Sunday School.
- May 30:** Staff appreciation BBQ

Jan and Mary-Lou



ZION'S FRIENDSHIP MEAL

Did you know that almost 150 guests were served by our Zion volunteers? Wow! We rested in December as a number of community meals were available over the days leading up to Christmas. By the time you read this, January's meal will be history. Friday, February 24 will be our next meal for people in need in our community. If you would like to help prepare, come around 1 PM and to serve before 5 PM when the dinner is served. Please join us. You are needed. For more information, contact, Ingrid Fraser (519-271-4382) or Pastor Robert Hutchison (519-271-5808).

P.S. We are looking for Friendship Meal cooks to serve on a rotation basis so the work can be shared. Though there are plenty of helpers, we need people to have oversight over the shopping and cooking. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Ingrid Fraser or Pastor Robert.

P.S.S. From the grocery tapes which were collected during 2011. Zion Church

received \$505.65 from Zehrs Supermarket. This money helps support our Friendship Meal Program. Thank you very much for saving and donating your tapes.

ZION TABLE FOR SENIORS

The next gathering of Zion Table For Seniors our ministry which promotes fun, food, and friendship is Tuesday, February 28 at 12 noon. Please let Doris Bartlett (519-271-9622) or Phyllis Jeffery (519-271-5808) know by Tuesday, February 21 (one week before) if you can attend. Lunch cost is only \$10. Our after dinner speaker is our own Cindy Bondi. Cindy has put together a visual presentation from the many slides of Jean Yundt, a beloved former member of Zion. Come and take a journey down memory lane. All are welcome!



THANK YOU'S ARE IN ORDER



We would like to thank the following people who donated towards the purchase of flowers which decorated our sanctuary over the Christmas season and into Epiphany. They were beautiful! We thank, as well, the Women of Faith group, at Zion who helped to organize it, the Worship and Music Committee and their volunteers who decorated the church for Advent and Christmas, and Linda Faulhafer and Elaine Steed who worked with the flowers. Those who donated flowers are: **Noreen Wilker, Paul & Ruth Illmann, Elfrieda Zimmermann, Mike & Cindy Bondi, Margaret Golder, Wayne & Joanne Young, Bob & Heather Wickenheiser, Don & Eva Wagner, Judith Hammond, Jean Weir, Ralph & Vi Cook, Brian & Barb Gropp, Bea Huras, Paul & Norma Hansen, Bill & Irene Ehgoetz, Verne & Joyce Hammer, Bob & Marilyn Wells, Elsie Dahm, Ken & Mary Helen Dale, Tim & Darlene Gropp.**

LAY DELEGATE NEEDED



The 2012 Eastern Synod Assembly will be held from Thursday, July 5 to Sunday, July 8 at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo this coming summer. We require a lay delegate to represent Zion at the convention. What does it mean to be a lay delegate? You attend all sessions of the convention and report back to the congregation concerning decisions and activities at the convention. Of course, registration fees, accommodation, and meal costs are all covered. Since the convention is close by, you can have the choice of staying at the university or daily commuting. If you are interested in serving your congregation and the wider church, in this way, please contact Pastor Doug by February 15, at 519-271-8527 or zionlc@golden.net

FEBRUARY 2012 VOLUNTEERS

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

Date	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Readers	Usher Captains	Counting Captains
Feb. 5	9 David Bennewitz & Wayne Young	9 Peter & Dianne Hiller	9 Janine Pearson	9 Steve Lamont	Cathy McCord
Feb. 12	N/A	9 Wayne & Gloria Hinz 11 Tim & Susan Iredale	9 Bruce Sippel 11 Maria Doherty	9 Ed Illman 11 Brian Wilker	Joanne Wallace
Feb. 19	9 Anne Cooper & Wayne Hinz 11 Janet Ahrens & Liz Bomasuit	9 Braden Hoffard 11 Paul & Janet Jeffery	9 Susan Steven 11 Mary-Lou Drown	9 Ed Illman 11 Brian Wilker	Joanne Wallace
Feb. 26	N/A	9 Shaneika Huff 11 Cole Johnston	9 Dr. Jo Knackstedt 11 Stephen Fischer	9 Wayne Hinz 11 Irvin Riehl	Bruce Sippel



Max Christopher Aarts, son of Christopher & Ashley, on Dec 15

In Memoriam

Joseph Clifford, Nov 26
 Max Aarts, Dec 15
 Ruby Singer, Dec 17
 Barry Bundscho, Dec 15
 Kim Fields, Jan 1
 Patricia Raycraft, Jan 4
 Jean Schmidt, Jan 11
 Joyce Binkle, Jan 12
 Tyler Grant, Jan 17

ZION CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT



The annual financial statements of our congregation are being prepared, as this is written, and will be available one week before the annual meeting. We do know that all our commitments to the Current Fund have been met and the deficit was eliminated thanks to your generosity and love to God. Approximately \$9,000 had to be transferred to meet our Benevolence Fund commitments, from the Internal Ministry Fund of our Endowment Fund. Education of what Benevolence is obviously needs to happen. Stay tuned!

With thoughts of the year which has just begun and our financial stewardship in 2012, Pastor Doug writes the following:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

“Big Ben,” the clock tower on the Houses of Parliament in London, struck up a happy acquaintance with the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy. Can inanimate objects talk? Of course they can. Children know that. We, adults, aren’t sure.

At any rate, Big Ben and the Leaning Tower developed such a warm friendship that Ben invited “Leana” to come to London for a visit, for, said he, “I have the time if you have the inclination.”

Well, that takes some thinking over. The point of this little homily is that “Time” is tremendously important. It may be “Sun Time” or “quality time,” the golden moments we share with our dear ones, times of insight, and times of spiritual peace and joy.

In these early days of 2012 and these days leading to the Lenten period of penitence and self-examination, it is worth asking these questions, “Do I have time to be kind? To be loving? To be thoughtful? To be considerate? To be generous? To be holy?” The words of an old hymn are apt here:

“Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord; Abide in God always and feed on God’s Word; Make friends of God’s children, help those who are weak; Forgetting in nothing God’s blessing to seek.”

A footnote about the Leaning Tower. A maid who did housework and cleaning in a certain home looked at a picture of the famous structure and kept trying to straighten it. Moral: don’t leap to hasty judgements. Some things had best be “let be.”

God's church, at Zion, spends much time providing worship, teaching opportunities, and helping those in need. May each of us gladly assist her with our offerings.

**Blessings,
Rev. Douglas Reble
Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church**

WATERLOO LUTHERAN SEMINARY LECTURE



Abrahamic Faiths Forum: "David Prophet and King's Three Perspectives"

On Wednesday, February 8 at 5 PM in Room 201 of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, a public lecture will be presented which is free and open to all. David an important figure for all three Abrahamic faiths. He is very human and flawed; he must deal with a king who wishes to kill him; he's the best friend of the king's son; he's also the one who delivers Israel from its enemies. Finally we remember this remarkable man and his dysfunctional family as the key to understanding our history and our faith.

Speakers are:

***Carol McMullen, from the Jewish community and Interfaith Grand River.**

***Derek Suderman, from the Christian community and Conrad Grebel University College.**

***Idrisa Pandit, from the Muslim community and Interfaith Grand River.**

Join us for three interesting perspectives and a very good discussion. You may want to read 1 & 2 Samuel as a way of refreshing your memory of David: prophet and king.

CALL TO SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Over the past couple of years, National Bishop Susan Johnson, has been encouraging a call for spiritual renewal and deeper discipleship within our church, which includes regular attendance at worship, daily prayer and scripture reading, involvement in a program of study, regular service in the community (not just the congregation), regular and proportional giving similar to the understanding of the tithe found in scripture, and commitment to sharing the good news with those around us, beginning with our family and friends. A simplified list of this call to deeper discipleship includes: Worship, Pray, Study, Serve, Give, Read, and Tell

This month, we focus on the word "Serve," since one of the Lenten disciplines is charitable service. Remember, don't over do it! It's just like starting a physical exercise program. Start with one or two practices and make them a habit before you take the next step.

SERVE

We are called to follow Jesus' example of serving those in need. God so loves the world that we are invited and entrusted to participate in God's mission to love and save the world. Here are some ideas to help you in your service to the community.

- ✦ Create or join a local church outreach program such as a food bank or our Friendship Meal**
- ✦ Consider what gifts you have to share with others. Can you offer to share your talents as a way that serves God and others?**
- ✦ Volunteer with an outside organization such as a local women's shelter, a local hospital, a literacy program...**
- ✦ Volunteer or give your support to Habitat for Humanity, give useable building materials to your local Restore, join a build in another area.**
- ✦ Look for an unmet need in your community and gather people to meet it!**
- ✦ Check your local paper for volunteer opportunities or see if your community has a volunteer agency.**
- ✦ Donate blood.**
- ✦ Adopt a highway or green space and keep it clean.**
- ✦ Become involved in a political advocacy group, a campaign, or a political party to be a voice for positive change.**