

ZIONEWS

NOVEMBER 2013

November

A publication for the family of Zion Lutheran Church
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FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

I sometimes wonder why God is so patient with us. After all, throughout the whole of our salvation story, God has made it very clear what he expects of us. We read in the Old Testament that God told his chosen people through the prophets that he was very unhappy with them whenever the gap between the rich and the poor got too wide. God always let his people know that, when the well-to-do started to get richer by exploiting the needy, by allowing their sisters and brothers to suffer, they could expect God's displeasure.

In Amos chapter 8 God speaks through the prophet in words like these, "Listen all of you who trample on the needy and let poor people die! Listen all of you who can't wait for holy days to end so that you can get back to your businesses and start cheating poor and needy people all over again, taking everything they have and giving them produce unfit to eat in return! For all you there shall come a day of reckoning." Amos tells us that what really pleases God is "justice rolling down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream." And if we don't quite "get it" when we read the words of the Old Testament prophets, Jesus shows us what Amos meant about justice and righteousness by his own example. Jesus worked among the people of his time, often to the point of exhaustion. He cared for the sick, fed the hungry, told society's outcasts that God loves them, and, most of all, Jesus rebelled against the unjust society of his time so that justice might "flow down like waters." Jesus wanted all of us to know that God loves us, and Jesus wanted all of us to love one another.



In Matthew 25 Jesus brings us the same message that Amos brought. With the "sheep" that care for the needy of the world God is pleased. With the "goats" that have been selfish and ignored the needy of the world God is most unhappy. What astounds me about Matthew 25 is that Jesus makes the message about "sheep" and "goats" personal. Whenever you show love and kindness to another person, Jesus says, it's me you're showing love and kindness to! Whenever you don't love a sister or brother, you don't love me! That's how personally Jesus takes it! Incredible! Jesus is saying that he is right here in each one of us! That's something to think about!

Doesn't Matthew 25 lend new meaning to the incarnation? When God became

human flesh, it wasn't just as the baby Jesus. The incarnation means that God "became" our flesh too. Just think! The birth of Jesus made you and me holy and consecrated us as the body of Christ, as Christ's arms and legs and heart! What a responsibility that is, because it means that God expects us to "be Jesus" and to carry on Jesus' work among the forsaken of our world. When we pray in the Lord's Prayer "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven," God does not want us to wait for it to happen. God wants us to make it happen! As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and as we keep watch for Jesus' return, God wants us to make his "kingdom come!" God wants us to make his "will be done on earth as in heaven!" God needs you and me.

Well, are we doing what God wants us to do? Very slowly in fits and starts! There are still a lot of poor and suffering people in the world. Just listen to the news. Injustice and suffering abound. So why is God so patient with us? Because he loves us! God is waiting patiently for us to do our part in bringing in the Kingdom.

Pastor Dale Finch
Interim Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church

ALL SAINTS' WORSHIP



On Sunday, November 3, our parish, together with Christians around the world celebrates the Festival of All Saints. A time to celebrate the triumph of the Lord of Life Jesus Christ over the powers of death, the day is traditionally the time Christians remember those by name who have died since the last All Saints' Day. Indeed it is a good time to remember all our loved ones who have died and to praise our Lord for his victory over death and the grave. Our All Saints' liturgy will be celebrated at the 10 AM service. Come and worship! **P.S. We give thanks, and warmly welcome Bishop Michael Pryse and Pastor Doug Reble, Assistant to the Bishop for their worship leadership as we will be rededicating Zion's refurbished sanctuary to be rededicated to God's glory.**



CALL COMMITTEE COLUMN

Bishop Michael Pryse met with the Call Committee on October 17th. He provided a list of suitable candidates to be considered. The Call Committee also suggested some names. Pastors will be encouraged to provide a resume package to the Synod Office. The Call Committee should receive these packages in late November.

POT LUCK & GAMES NIGHT NOVEMBER 13TH



Please join us for a Pot Luck and Games Night, Wednesday, November 13th 6 - 8 PM. Bring the whole family, along with your favourite board or card game, plus a dish to share. Sign-up sheets are at the back of the church.

(Pssst...if you bring your own dishes and utensils, we won't have to spend hours in the kitchen cleaning up. Thanks!)

Congregational Life Committee

MMMM CONCERT NOVEMBER 16



MMMM Composers In Concert presents their second concert of 2013 on November 16 at 4 PM. Composers Michel Allard, Marco Burak, Michael Dobinson and Michelle Wells, and Doug Peterman present new music for voices, piano, and electronics. Admission is by donation, with proceeds

to Zion's Friendship Meal.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

A fall series of Adult Bible Study continues Mondays until November 18 at 7 PM.

The 7 Week Evening Series "Animate Faith" is designed to trigger deep conversation. Animate is an original take on adult education that stirs curiosity.

Weekly Topics:



November 4: Cross/Where God Is

November 11: Bible/A Book Like No Other

November 18: Church/ An Imperfect Family.

For further information, you can contact me Bill Hoffard at 519-276-1942 or bill.hoffard@bell.net

WOMEN OF FAITH NEWS

Thank you again, to all who donated sweaters for Syria. It was greatly appreciated!

It's that time of year again when we are thinking about Christmas. Our ladies will be doing shut-in baskets on December 7. We again, are asking for donation of cookies. Please have them to the church by 8:30 AM that Saturday morning.



Monday, November 4: The WOF Board meets at 7 PM.

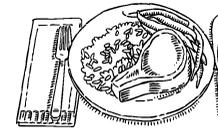
Monthly Meeting, Wednesday, November 27 at 7:30 PM

All ladies are welcome to join us. Why not start something new with being part of our ladies group, a place to grow in faith, socialize and get to know each other better. We are called to serve and that is what we try to do.

This year for our Lutheran World Relief Project at Zion we will be doing the Living and Learning Kits again but with a change. We are asking you to provide the whole kit this time. There will be a copy of what goes in the kit. All kits will be accepted until April 30. The congregation is also welcome to do the kit as well. This past year, we sent 36 kits. They were very much appreciated. Let's see if we can do more.

For more information about WOF happenings, please contact the WOF President Linda Springer at klspringer@rogers.com or 519-273-2093.

ZION TABLE FOR SENIORS



Our next gathering of Zion Table For Seniors, our ministry which promotes fun, food, and friendship takes place on Tuesday, November 26 at 12 noon. Please let Doris Bartlett (519-271-9622) or Phyllis Jeffery (519-271-3668) know by Monday, November 18 if you can attend. Lunch cost is only \$10. Our after dinner entertainment is Greenwood Hill Bluegrass Band. All are welcome! (Africa Collection: Need of the month - toothbrush. Also accepted anytime are eyeglasses or sunglasses). Thank you!

FRIENDSHIP MEAL NEWS



Our Friendship Meal ministry continues to serve the people of our community who are in need. Of course, given these difficult economic times the need increases. Our next Friendship Meal is Friday, November 29. Thank you "ministers" of Zion for your continuous support and help which is a great blessing. Questions? Call our coordinator Sister Jean Widmeyer (519-273-6810). She'd love to hear from you.

P.S. Due to the number of community Christmas dinners that are held in and around Stratford in December, we are going to have no Friendship Meal in December. We'll give our volunteers a well-deserved rest but we'll be back in January.



Christopher Schmidt, September 19
Edward Jacques, October 12



Kohen Matthew McLeod, son of Kyle & Jennifer, on October 27

NOVEMBER 2013 VOLUNTEERS

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

Date	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Readers	Usher Captain	Counting Captain
Nov. 3	Sister Anne Keffer & Michael Garland	Bob & Heather Wickenheiser	Tristan Hartfiel	Jerry Terhaerd	Paul Hansen
Nov. 10	N/A	Wayne & Joanne Young	Sister Anne Keffer	Tom Cosstick	Paul Hansen
Nov. 17	Verne Hammer & Barb Higgins	Wayne & Dianne Yundt	Dr. Jochen Knackstedt	Tom Cosstick	Bill Hoffard
Nov. 24		Gerry & Janet Ahrens	Marg Lamont	Darrell Renecker	Bill Hoffard

ZION CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT



	<u>Current</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
Monthly Requirements	\$28,000.00	\$4,600.00
September Income	\$24,493.30	\$3,485.50
September Expenses	\$28,159.33	\$3,485.50

CURRENT FUND DEFICIT (as of September 30, 2013): \$38,548.77

Early in November, on Sunday, November 3, All Saints Sunday, we remember by name all those who have died in the last year, and we pray that through God's mercy, our loved ones are now with God in paradise. We appreciate their stewardship. By their sharing of their time, abilities, and money, Zion Church stands here on earth, a holy place. By example, they have taught us what it means to be a loving, caring Christian committed to doing God's work through this congregation. Let us follow their example.

CANADIAN LUTHERAN ANGLICAN YOUTH GATHERING (CLAY)



The Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering will meet next summer in Kamloops, BC. Dates for the Gathering are August 14 -17, 2014. Youth are invited to come to Kamloops and explore all that's WORTH IT (topics like discipleship, seeking justice, and God know you are "worth it."). The Gathering is designed for young people who are ages 14 through 19 in 2014 (born between 1995 and 2000).

The Gathering involves Bible Study done in meaningful ways, worship in ancient and modern ways, learn in special interest forums, workshops, enjoy social activities and explore Kamloops. Youth from all across Canada are expected to attend the Gathering. Youth will be housed at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops.

At Zion, we are checking to see if young people have interest attending this event. Since there is a significant cost for the event, we need to determine who would like to go and begin the planning and fundraising. Expenses will be borne by cost sharing by the youth and their families, by the congregation and by fundraising activities.

Further information about the Gathering can be found at www.claygathering.ca

Does going on this trip interest you? Please indicate your interest by speaking to Sister Jean or calling her at Zion 519-271-8527.