

ZIONEWS

OCTOBER 2013

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

We've just celebrated the 12th anniversary of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre. It's hard to forget those terrible events of September 11, 2001. On that day our faith was put to the test. How could God let such a terrible thing happen? How could almost 3000 lives be snuffed out so quickly? Jerry Falwell, the TV it's better not to listen to, told the American people that God had punished them because of their attitude toward abortion and homosexuality, and the removal of prayer from public schools. Such tripe! God does not cause bad things to happen to us, because God loves us. Remember when the Pharisees asked Jesus if the score of workmen killed when a tower collapsed, or the dozens slaughtered when Herod's troops raided a synagogue, were sinners. Jesus answered "No more than anyone else!" In this world people do bad things to each other. The world will not be perfect until we collaborate with God and build a world of mutual love, justice, and peace – a world with no war and no terrorism. God needs us and is waiting for us to do our part. But while God waits for us, God still loves us, and wants only the best for us.



In Genesis we read that God created us in his image. I understand that to mean that God gave us what is dearest to him, namely freedom to choose. God, who is perfect, always chooses to do good, but we with our hate and prejudice sometimes choose to do evil. God does not intervene when we choose evil over good, because that would take away the gift of freedom of choice, and we would no longer be in God's image. So, a group of people chose evil over good and caused deaths of almost 3000 people. People did it, not God!

You and I can choose to make the world a better place. In fact, that's what Jesus' call to discipleship is all about. Jesus asks us to choose to do good by making sure that all people in the world have enough of the world's wealth to live with dignity, by making sure all people have the same freedoms, by making sure that all the people of the world know that we love them. If we disciples could do all those jobs the way Jesus wants us to do them, then I don't think things like those terrorist attacks of September 11 would take place. People wouldn't have any reason to hate each other. The message is clear. Jesus asks us to make the world a better place to live in.

A visible sign of grace in the horror of September 11 came from a child's pencil sketch that a friend emailed to me just after the attack. It showed a figure of Christ above the burning World Trade Centre with arms raised in sorrow.

God is waiting for us to work alongside Jesus in cleaning up this ragged old world.

Blessings,
Pastor Dale

INTERIM DIACONAL MINISTER



With great thanksgiving I welcome the opportunity to serve God's people at Zion Lutheran Church. I will be serving Zion by visiting among parish members who are confined to their homes. I will bring Holy Communion to people who cannot attend worship. I will also teach one of the Confirmation Classes. I will continue to work with the Friendship Meals, which Zion hosts for residents of Stratford. I will be available in pastoral emergencies, since I live in Stratford. I will work at Zion fifteen hours a week and will be at worship three Sundays a month. I look forward to meeting you at worship, at parish activities and in your homes.

Let me introduce myself. My name is Sister Jean Widmeyer. For parish purposes please simply call me Sister Jean. I am a deaconess, a sister in the Deaconess Community. The Deaconess Community is a community of women who devote themselves to a ministry of Word and Service in the church and in the world. Within the ELCIC deaconesses are included in the roster of Diaconal Ministers.

During my high school and university years I was a member of Zion. My family moved to Stratford in 1960 and joined Zion. My siblings and I were all confirmed at Zion. My mother was member of this parish until her death. In a way this opportunity to serve here is like homecoming.

Last fall I returned to Stratford to be closer to my family. I am a graduate of Waterloo Lutheran University (now Wilfred Laurier University) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. I was consecrated as a deaconess on July 2, 1978, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. Since then I served in congregations in inner-city Philadelphia, Hutchison, KS, and Lincoln, NE. In 2007 I returned to Canada to serve as Diaconal Minister at Trinity Lutheran Church in Estevan, SK and Interim Diaconal Minister at Zion Lutheran Church in Saskatoon.

I look forward to meeting you and serving at Zion along with Pastor Finch.

In Christ,
Sister Jean Widmeyer

THANKSGIVING AT ZION: Call for decorating help

Thanksgiving Sunday is October 13 and, as is custom, it will be a wonderful worship celebration as we gather in gratitude around Word and Sacrament. What better way to mark Thanksgiving than by turning our hearts to God with our brothers and sisters in Christ.



As in other years, we would like to enhance our celebration by asking for donations to help in the church decorations which are traditional at Thanksgiving. Can you help? We are looking for home canning, apples, squash, pumpkins, potted fall flowers, hay bales, corn and corn stalks, table cloths, wooden baskets, or anything you think may be appropriate. The food stuffs brought will be used for our Friendship Meal ministry.

Please bring your decorations to the church by Friday morning, October 11 at the latest. You may leave them in the boardroom or bring them to the office.

ORDINATION SERVICE FOR JENNIFER WIRT



On Sunday evening, October 20, at 7 PM, Bishop Michael Pryse invites members and friends of our Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada to come together at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Kitchener (Bridgeport) as our former Choir Director Jennifer Wirt will be ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Jennifer has been called to serve the people of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, (Bridgeport). All are welcome to attend this service of celebration. And, yes, Jennifer would love to see her Stratford friends attend, if at all possible. P.S. Preaching for her ordination will be our former Pastor Doug Reble.

BAD NEWS: NO PIG ROAST

GOOD NEWS: POT LUCK & GAMES NIGHT

Your Congregational Life Committee has had its hands full this fall, and we've discovered there really is no good date to hold our traditional pig roast. Regretfully, we've decided to cancel the event for 2013.



The good news is, we're planning something new! Mark your calendars for a Pot Luck and Games Night, Wednesday, November 13th from 6 PM - 8 PM. Bring the whole family, along with your favourite board or card game, plus a dish to share. Sign-up sheets will be 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!)

RESTORATION CAMPAIGN STILL NEEDS \$15K. CAN YOU HELP?



Last month we reported a need to raise \$40K to meet our commitment to the restoration campaign. Great news! The project came in under budget, plus we were able to apply an HST rebate to the costs. Most importantly, your gifts have been coming in all month, so now we only need to raise \$15K. Thank you!

We've borrowed the \$15K from the Endowment to pay the final bills, but are committed to paying this amount back to keep the Endowment strong and healthy for our future.

Please give as you are able. Your gifts are a lasting tribute to your love of Zion and its people, and any amount is welcome and needed. Your donations may be dropped off to the church office any time. Again, thank you.

WANT TO TRY SOMETHING NEW?



The Zion Shuffleboard Club will be starting up again in November. Former shufflers and new shufflers are welcome to join for fun and fellowship. For more information, contact Enid Lantz at 519-271-9461 or email klantz@rogers.com

CALL COMMITTEE COLUMN



The purpose of this column is to keep everyone up to date as we search for a new pastor,. This column will appear each month until our new pastor has been installed.

Thank you for participating in the “sticker sessions” downstairs which identified the key traits the congregation is looking for in our new pastor.

Bishop Michael Pryse has agreed to serve as our Synod liaison during this process. He will meet with the Call Committee on Thursday, October 17th.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY BEGINS OCTOBER 7

A fall series of Adult Bible Study begins Mondays, starting October 7 at 7 PM and runs for 7 weeks.

A 7 Week Evening Series “Animate Faith” designed to trigger deep conversation, Animate is an original take on adult education that stirs curiosity.

Weekly Topics:

October 7: God/Faith Is A Quest

October 14: Religion/Spirituality Is Not Enough

October 21: Jesus/The Revolution Of Love

October 28: Salvation/Abundant Life Now

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

OCTOBER 27 SOUP & SANDWICH SUNDAY TO SUPPORT MISSION TRIP



Walter Mueller and Jenn Fetter are part of a construction team leaving on November 6th for “Las Lajas” ElSalvador, to build homes for needy families. For more information, we invite every one to a Soup & Sandwich Luncheon on Sunday, October 27th following our church service in our Fellowship Hall. All donations will be used for this very worthy cause.

NEW DECOR TECHNIQUE WILL PROTECT PLASTER AND MASONRY



Worship Committee

Your Worship and Music Committee is recommending a change in decorating technique for Advent, Christmas and other Festivals this year. In order to protect the new plaster and masonry work around the sanctuary windows, we recommend free-standing displays and decorations, rather than hanging or attaching banners, candles and other decor to the window sills. This decision may be revisited after the plaster has properly cured, but for now we appreciate your understanding.

FALL CLEAN-UP DAY OCTOBER 20



Saturday, October 20 has been chosen as our fall clean-up day for the outside of our Zion Church property. From 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM, our Property Committee is asking Zion members to lend a hand doing outside yard work. Putting the flower gardens to bed for the winter, raking, etc., will be the order of the day. Many hands make light work so plan to come out. We need YOU!

Please bring rakes, shovels, trimmers, etc., if you have them. Rain delay date is Saturday, October 26.

FRIENDSHIP MEAL NEWS



The October Friendship Meal takes place on Friday, October 26. It is a joy to serve the community of Stratford in this way and carry out our Lord's call to service. Those who wish to help prepare usually gather around 1 PM, and those who wish to serve and clean up gather at 4:30 PM or just after. You are welcome to join in this ministry. New volunteers are needed and welcome. For more information, call Sister Jean Widmeyer 519-273-6810.

ZION TABLE FOR SENIORS



Our next gathering of Zion Table For Seniors, our ministry which promotes fun, food, and friendship, takes place on Tuesday, October 22 at 12 noon. Please let Doris Bartlett (519-271-9622) or Phyllis Jeffery (519-271-3668) know by Thursday, October 15 if you can attend. Lunch cost is only \$10. Our after dinner entertainment will be "Observations From The Courtroom" by paralegal secretary Emily Clutton. Should be interesting. All are welcome.

WOMEN OF FAITH NEWS



Women's Conference

WOF Ladies are invited to St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Brodhagen, who will be hosting the London Conference Fall Gathering, on Saturday, October 19. Registration is from 9-9:30 AM. Cost is \$10. Guest Speaker will be Rev. Dan Walker from Youth Unlimited, who will speak about ministry with the youth of Mitchell, ON. Roll Call will be donations to Youth Unlimited. Please call Linda Springer if you plan to attend this conference by Friday, October 11.

Monday, October 7: WOF Board meets at 7 PM.

Wednesday, October 23: WOF ladies monthly meeting 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.



Kurtis Waymouth & Emily Larsen
on October 5
Justin Ahrens & Sarah Merkel on
October 12



Muriel Stone on September 11
Rhea Struthers on September 20



Wyatt John Rose, son of Dustin & Jenine on
September 1
Declan Garrett Bessey, son of Garrett & Karen
on September 1

OCTOBER 2013 VOLUNTEERS

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

Date	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Readers	Usher Captain	Counting Captain
Oct. 6	N/A	Klaus & Linda Springer	Ed Illman	Ed Illman	Cathy McCord
Oct. 13	David Bennewitz & Liz Bomasuit	Bill & Marilyn Sylvester	Dianne Hiller	Wayne Hinz	N/A
Oct. 20	N/A	Dianne Stone & Nancy White	Teddy Gough	Wayne Hinz	Joanne Wallace
Oct. 27	Mike Bondi & Anne Cooper	David & Sheila Wittig	Susan Iredale	Jerry Terhaerd	Joanne Wallace

ZION CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
Monthly Requirements	\$28,000.00	\$4,600.00
August Income	\$18,228.35	\$2,927.00
August Expenses	\$22,414.68	\$2,927.00

CURRENT FUND DEFICIT (as of August 31, 2013): \$29,388.63



WE NEED YOU

As is custom for this congregation (and most), we come out of the summer with a deficit in our Current Fund. Some of the deficit is due to these economic times in which we live and people being away for the summer. It is now time to get caught up as we head into the last four months of the year. God has so richly blessed us and this congregation. Let us give to God as we have been blessed.



ZION CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD

The following items have come into the church office in recent days. We share them with you for your interest and possible response. Please note:

1. Needed: Volunteers to help run breakfast programs at local schools. Shifts of about 1.5 hours in length include cooking, serving, and clean up of breakfast. Not to mention have the opportunity to “be the change” in the lives of youth here in Stratford. Shifts on various days available. For more information please contact Henri Molenhuis at molenhuis@hotmail.com or 519-272-4816. **WE REALLY COULD USE YOUR HELP!**
2. Waterloo Lutheran Seminary: The Board of Governors of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary is please to announce the opening of The Delton Glebe Centre, A Place For Holistic Creative Healing on Friday, October 4 at 11 AM. Refreshments and tour of the Centre will follow the Service. Where? Keffer Memorial Chapel, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, 75 University Ave, Waterloo, ON. The Seminary is located on the Wilfrid Laurier University Campus at the corner of Bricker Ave and Albert St. Please RSVP to: Dorinda Kruger Allen 519-884-0710 ext. 3241 or kdrugerallen@wlu.ca
3. Annual Harvest Dinner: St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Milverton is holding their Annual Harvest Dinner on Tuesday, October 23 from 5 PM to 7 PM at the Perth East Recreation Complex. Adults: \$14; Children 6- 12: \$6.; 5 and under: free. Sponsored by Faith Life Financial. For tickets or more information call, Joan 519-595-4952 or church office 519-595-8357.
4. Health Equipment Loan Program: Health Equipment Loan Program (HELP) loans medical equipment for a nominal fee to people recovering in their homes from injury, illness or surgery. Available equipment includes: wheel chairs & transport chairs; walkers - with or without wheels; canes & crutches; bath chairs, transfer

benches & bath seats; raised toilet seats, commodes; tub grab bars and bed frames. Fees range from \$12 to \$40 a month. HELP is a non profit service: money collected from the loan rental charges are used to pay for the specialized cleaning of the equipment and transport to you community. Hours of service: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM Monday - Friday. For more information call The Canadian Red Cross at 519-273-9339 or 1-877-528-8802.

5. ‘Dancing With Death: Enriching Your Life’: A four-part workshop exploring our relationship with death will be offered. Sessions will be held October 8, 15, 22, 29 from 7 PM to 9 PM in the Conference Room #2 at Spruce Lodge. Attendance is restricted to 14 people, cost is \$80 +HST. Mind, Body, Spirit, Choices are the topics we will be exploring. This course is for anyone interested in preparing themselves for the decisions the future will bring or supporting someone on the final stage of their journey. For further information contact Lynda Weston, 519-273-6063 or email: dancingwd@wightman.ca Website: [www.http://dancingwithdeath.ca](http://dancingwithdeath.ca)
6. Estate Planning: Keeping Your House In Order Seminar will be held on Saturday, October 5 from 9:30 AM - 12 Noon at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. Come, bring a friend. Put your mind at ease. Join us over coffee and muffin for this informative few hours. Guest speakers: Lawyer - Martha Cook; Accountant - Jeff Skubowius and Herb Gale from the Presbyterian Church. Discover If Your House Is In Order.