



ZIONEWS OCTOBER 2014

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

"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God." – 2 Corinthians 9:11-12.

Thanksgiving Day was also a very special time for me as a child. It was the day in which my family (or at least a small portion of it) gathered around a table overflowing with turkey and all of the trimmings of our beloved Thanksgiving feast. It was a time in which churches in my hometown gathered together for our annual Thanksgiving worship service, which gave us the opportunity to visit our friends' churches and experience their worship traditions. In my hometown, Thanksgiving Day featured the most important football game of the year in which my high school, North Plainfield High School, played the last game of the season against our tradition rivals at South Plainfield High School. From morning until evening, Thanksgiving was a day of great celebration and fond memories.



Of course, in my childhood Thanksgiving Day fell on the fourth Thursday in November; but no matter if you celebrate it in late November or on the second weekend in October, Thanksgiving is an occasion in which we pause to give thanks for all of the blessings God has bestowed upon us. It is a time in which we are reminded of the importance of giving thanks for all of God's blessings, to remember that *"all good gifts around us are sent from heaven above"* and that *"it is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ."* (Evangelical Lutheran Worship). As we gather at tables overflowing with the abundance of the harvest, Martin Luther calls us to remember that even though *"we plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land ... it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand."*

diligently and seek our food from the soil, we must in no way trust in our work as though our hands made the harvest. More is needed than our human hands. God's blessing and his mighty keeping are essential for growth." – *Day by Day We Magnify You.*

As we prepare to celebrate our first Thanksgiving Sunday together here at Zion, we hear St. Paul remind us that thanksgiving is more for Christians than one day in which we gather to share in the abundance of the harvest that God has provided for us; thanksgiving is a way of life in which we give thanks to God for all of the blessings that our Lord bestows upon us every day, and the way in which we approach each day in recognition that *"all that we have is thine alone – a trust, O God, from thee."* As Paul encourages the Corinthians to view thanksgiving as the way in which they live their daily lives as stewards of God's gracious gifts, so are we called upon to live each day in thanks for all that God has given us and to be as gracious and generous in sharing these blessings as God has been in showering them upon all of God's children.

· "Similarly, stewardship must be understood first as descriptive of the being – the very life – of God's people. Deeds of stewardship rise out of the being of the steward... We are able to love and perform deeds of love because we have been loved [*"We love because he first loved us."* – 1 John 4:19]... Stewardship honours this same law: the deed springs from the gift – the gift of new life. It presupposes endowment by an abundance that must be shared with others." – Douglas John Hall, *The Steward.*

Susan and I are looking forward to once again celebrate Thanksgiving in October in our new Canadian home; but no matter when we gather to give thanks to God (and we'll probably continue to celebrate the November day as well!) it is good for us to remember that for God's people thanksgiving is far more than one date on the calendar; it is the way in which we live each day in gratitude for all that God bestows upon us each day *"out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or benefit of mine at all"* (Small Catechism), and the call to us every day as God's faithful people to *"thank and praise, serve and obey him."* God's people are truly a thanksgiving people – in October, in November, and every day of the year!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jeff Laustsen

· "A believing heart well perceives how our plowing and sowing would be lost unless God's goodness were here at work. Even though we must do our work

CONCERT FOR HOSPITAL IN JERUSALEM

On Sunday, October 26, at 2 PM, the Zion Choir will be hosting a fundraising concert. Funds will be raised through Canadian Lutheran World Relief for a large hospital in East Jerusalem.



Choir Concert

The hospital, where needs for medical equipment are pressing, is where Pastor Dale and Donna Finch spent several months volunteering, and they will be joining us for the event. Also joining us will be Stratford's Teutonia Choir, along with several other guests from the community.

We invite all members of the Zion community to participate and contribute to the afternoon in any way you would like and are able, from...music, art, drama...or baking for the reception after the program.

Above all, please put the afternoon on your calendar, and come and enjoy a time of fellowship and outreach as we share in responding to the needs of the global community.

THANKSGIVING AT ZION



Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Sunday is October 12 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? Donations of preserves, fruits, vegetables and flowers would be appreciated as decor in celebration of this special event. You may take the items you loaned after the service. Items remaining on Tuesday, will be given to the House of Blessing. Decorating will take place Friday, October 10 at 10 AM. Please leave your contributions at Zion on Thursday or before 10 AM on Friday. Thank you for your generosity.

ALZHEIMER COFFEE BREAK DAY, OCT. 19



The Alzheimer Coffee Break is an annual grassroots initiative to raise funds to support the programs and services of our local Alzheimer Society here in Perth County. Currently more than 1,400 people in Perth County suffer from

this disease and related dementias. The Alzheimer Society exists to help these people and their families.

Our Alzheimer Coffee Break Day at Zion will take place on Sunday, October 19 after the service as a part of our fellowship time. All donations big or small will be accepted. Plan to attend! Spread the word! Thank you for your support!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

"All praise to you, O Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures." St. Francis of Assisi, "Canticle of the Creatures"



dwel."

In honour of St. Francis and in remembrance of his love and remembrance of all God's creatures, we will be joining with our fellow Christians here in Stratford for a Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday, October 5 at 3 PM on Tom Patterson Island. We invite you to bring your pets and join us as we bless these special members of our households and give thanks to God for *"all creatures that on earth do*

WANT TO TRY SOMETHING NEW?



GET OFF THE SIDELINES!

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

SONGS FROM THE HEART...



In Concert

On Sunday, October 5 at 2 PM, at Zion Church, Katherine Napiwotzki, soprano and Samantha Lee, pianist will be holding a concert. The concert will feature: Haugtussa (The Mountain Maid; song cycle) by Edvard Grieg and also music by Handel, Chausson, Wolf, Strauss, and

Lee Hoiby.
Tickets will be available at the door for \$15; Children and Youth ages 18 & under \$5. All are welcome!

FRIENDSHIP MEAL NEWS



COMMUNITY DINNER

The October Friendship Meal takes place on Friday, October 31. 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



Seniors' Gathering

Our next gathering of Zion Table For Seniors, our ministry which promotes fun, food, and friendship, takes place on Tuesday, October 28 at 12 noon. Please let Doris Bartlett (519-271-9622) or Beryl Horst (519-276-3501) know by Thursday, October 14 if you can attend. Lunch cost is only \$12. Our after dinner entertainment will be music by Wilbur Schwindt. All are welcome.

WOMEN OF FAITH NEWS

We have a busy October planned. Please mark your calendars.



Women in Mission

Monday, October 6: WOF Board meets at 7 PM.

Wednesday, October 22: We are planning to invite other area Lutheran Churches to join us. We will have a guest speaker from the Hospice in Stratford. More information to follow. This will be in place of our regular Wednesday meeting.

October 25: Women of Faith in Cambridge. Sowing the seed. Call Linda Springer if you are interested in going.

We are looking for Ladies who are crafty. We have a project to do and need your help in making Crismons for our Christmas Trees. Please call Linda 519-273-2093 if you can help with this.

Reminder of our Living and Learning Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Copies of what is needed will be available on the table at the back of the church. When kits are complete, please put in collection box at the back of the church. Thank you!



Weddings

Samuel Cade & Jessica Broadfoot
on October 4



Lloyd Tuer on August 29



Eva Elizabeth O'Leary, daughter of Shawn & Holly on September 28

OCTOBER 2014 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. 5	N/A	Glen & Fern Schaefer	Teddy Gough	Tom Cosstick	Brian Gropp
Oct. 12	Anne Cooper & Verne Hammer	Gerald & Isabel Cook & Susan Laustsen	Marg Lamont	Darrell Renecker	N/A
Oct. 19	N/A	Brian & Carol Schmidt	Madison Hendricks	Darrell Renecker	Deb Kindler
Oct. 26	Liz Bomasuit & Linda Weitzel	Percy & Edith Schneider	Dianne Hiller	Brian Wilker	Deb Kindler