

ZIONEWS

SEPTEMBER 2014

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

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.”
– Ephesians 2:19-20.

Our new home is giving us a front-row seat to the construction of a row of new houses directly across the street from us. As we are settling into our townhouse, we are watching the progress of another row of townhouses that will soon become the homes of our new neighbours. At first, it appeared as if progress was moving slowly; but a closer inspection revealed that the builders were taking care in building a strong foundation before the structure of the houses began to take shape. Without a solid foundation upon which to build, even the most elegant home will not last.

The home in which we gather as the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church is one that is built upon strong foundations. For over 100 years, we have been blessed with a church building that has stood as a strong witness in our community, the place where God's people gather regularly to hear God's Word, to share in the Lord's Supper, to pray and give thanks to God, and to go forth to serve in Jesus' name. The foundations upon which our buildings have stood to bless God's people throughout the years will continue to bless us now and in the future. But as strong and solid as the foundations of our buildings have been, the true foundation upon which our congregation – and all churches of Jesus Christ – are built is the foundation that lasts from generation to generation, one that is so strong that neither the forces of nature nor the effects of time can damage or destroy it. It is the foundation upon which our faith is built: the Word of God that assures us of God's eternal presence, that comforts us with the confidence that nothing can separate us



from God's love, the steadfast reliance we have that the solid rock the sure foundation upon which Christ has built His church is so strong that even *“the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”* (Matthew 16:18). While foundations built of brick and mortar can erode and fail, the church built on the foundation of God's Holy Word lives in confidence and hope that even though *“the grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.”* (Isaiah 40:8). While we endeavor to maintain the foundations upon which our beautiful church building continues to stand, we know that our trust as God's people is built upon *“Christ [who] is made the sure foundation, Christ our head and cornerstone.”*

As we continue to gather as God's people around the Word of God that strengthens and sustains us every Sunday, I invite you to join me for new opportunities to come into the presence of the Word of God which gives us the strong foundation upon which we build our life together:

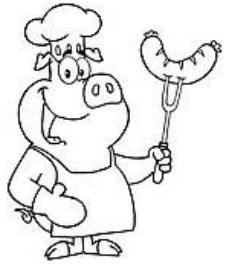
- **Sacrament and Word** – On Monday evenings, at 7 PM, beginning on Monday, September 15, we will gather in the Chapel for an informal service of Holy Communion followed by a Bible Study that will reflect upon the Bible readings from the previous Sunday and especially what God's Word is speaking to us as God's people.
- **Thursday Noon Bible Study** – On Thursdays beginning on Thursday, September 18, I invite you to bring your lunch and join us in the parlour for a study of the Bible readings for the coming Sunday, engaging in discussion on how these words are applicable to our ministry here at Zion.
- **Confirmation Classes** – On Sunday, September 21, I invite parents and students from both Grades 7 and 8 to join me, in the chapel, after worship, for a discussion of this year's Confirmation program, which will include determining our schedule for class meetings as well as expectations for those who wish to affirm their baptismal promises and engage in discussion of the Word of God and the *Small Catechism*. A letter with additional details will be sent to all families.

In a few months, we will be welcoming new neighbours who will be making their new homes in those houses that are being built upon carefully-laid foundations that will hopefully withstand all that time and the elements will throw against them. At Zion, we know the importance of strong foundations that have supported our building and our ministry: the foundations upon which our church building has stood

these many years, and the sure foundation of God's Word upon which our faith will continue to stand for us and for future generations who will be blessed by the Word of God that will stand forever.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jeff Laustsen

RALLY SUNDAY & PIG ROAST



A much loved tradition, at Zion, returns on Sunday, September 14, as our congregation gathers for Rally Sunday which marks the beginning of another program year for the congregation. On this Sunday, our 2014-2015 Sunday School teachers and helpers will be installed for their ministry of service and teaching.

Of course, our traditional pig roast luncheon follows the service. All are welcome! Why not invite a friend.



Choir Concert

ZION CHOIR NEWS

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.

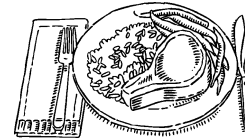
The hospital, where needs for medical equipment are pressing, is where Pastor Dale and Donna Finch spent several months volunteering, and they will be joining us for the event. Also joining us will be Stratford's Teutonia Choir, along with several other guests from the community.

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.

P.S. The Zion Choir rehearsals start on Thursday, September 11, from 7:30 PM - 9 PM.. All ages are welcome. Questions? Contact Lynne Hopcraft, our choir director, at hopcrafttutoring@yahoo.com or 519-274-3120. She'd love to hear from you.

ZION TABLE FOR SENIORS



Zion Table For Seniors, a beloved ministry at Zion promoting fun, food, and friendship, returns on Tuesday, September 23 at 12 noon. Please let Doris Bartlett (519-271-9622) or Beryl Horst (519-276-3501) know by Tuesday, September 16 if you can attend. Lunch cost is only \$12. A deal by any name!

Our special after-dinner guest to kick off the program year will be Steve Stacey, the Director of The Local Community Food Centre, who will provide an update on the first two years of the organization's operations. The Local's goal is to promote health and social justice through food programs including meals, cooking classes, gardening, and healthy local food distribution. All are welcome!

SUNDAY SCHOOL SNIPITS



We are quickly approaching the start of the Sunday School year and we are looking forward to seeing old friends as well as new. Classes will start on Sunday, September 14 this year. There has been a change to the class combinations to better accommodate our class numbers and needs. Again this year, the primary class will include 3/4/5 year olds, this year Grades 1, 2, and 3 will be in one classroom, Grade 4 will be in their own classroom and Grades 5 and 6 will be together as they have been in the past. We are still looking for a primary teacher to join our group of dedicated instructors. If you are interested, please contact Mitzi Podann by email at mitzianddoug@sympatico.ca or Tina Small at tinasmall142@gmail.com. Enjoy the remainder of the summer and see you soon.



Prayer
Shawl
Ministry

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will resume meeting every Monday in the Parlour, starting Monday, September 8 from 2-4 PM.

Come join us for knitting, crocheting, friendship or learning how to knit. We gladly accept any donations of wool. These lap blankets and shawls will be donated to patients at home, in hospitals or nursing homes.

You are also invited to take a lap blanket for a loved one in need of comfort. All are welcome! For more information, please contact Gerda (Gerry) Bornath at 519-513-5400.

ZION WOMEN OF FAITH

Hard to believe summer is soon over. Hope everyone had a good summer.

Mark your calendar with these dates.



Dates to Remember:

Board Meeting, Monday, September 8 at 7 PM

Monthly Meeting, Wednesday, September 24 at 7:30 PM with

guest speaker Suzi Higgins from YFC/Youth Unlimited Stratford. She will talk to us about this organization. Reaching out to youth with programs that nurture the whole person. All ladies are invited and encouraged to join us to hear the speaker.

Wednesday, September 24 - The Women's Auxiliary of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary's annual meeting will be held at St. John's Church starting at 9:30 AM. Contact Mildred Knackstedt 519-662-3739 for more information or if you are planning to attend.

For your information, in May, we sent to Lutheran World Relief 20 Living and Learning Kits, 2 Sewing Kits and 1 Hygiene Kit. We received a thank you letter for these kits. This year again there is a strong need for Living and Learning Kits. September, with school starting the items needed for the kits are on sale. I would like to invite the entire congregation to participate in the project for Lutheran World

Relief. Place your items in a new or slightly used pillow case. Thanks for helping with this mission.

Linda Springer, WOF President



NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ZION MEALS ON WHEELS



We are currently seeking new volunteers to join our very dedicated Zion Meals on Wheels team. Through 'One Care,' Zion's team delivers meals to clients four times a year. This wonderful service helps individuals to remain in their own home. Clients are most appreciative of our help. If you would like more information, please contact me at 519-271-3187.

Heather Wickenheiser
Co-Ordinator Zion Meals On Wheels

WLS WOMEN'S AUXILIARY



The Women's Auxiliary of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary will be holding their 101st Annual meeting on Wednesday, September 24 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Waterloo from 9:30 AM to 4 PM. The guest speaker is Rev. Dr. Mark W. Harris, Assistant Professor of Functional Theology and Director of Leadership in Ministry at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, who will be speaking on "Practice Makes Perfect: SPE, Clinical Training For Pastors. The cost for the event is \$20 which includes registration and lunch. For more information, please contact Brenda Stockman at

dbstockman@rogers.com or 519-747-5840. Come out and enjoy a wonderful day of uplifting music, worship and fellowship. Meet the new Seminarians and see the beautiful quilts!!

FRIENDSHIP MEAL MINISTRY

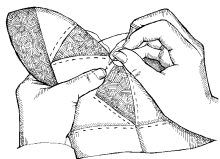


Zion will host a Friendship Meal on Friday, September 26 at 5 PM. Guests are residents of Stratford and community who come to eat a home-cooked meal, visit with friends and establish a relationship with our parish. Preparation and serving a Friendship Meal is a ministry that involves many members and friends of Zion, adults and youth. Your help in this ministry is appreciated. Help is needed in cooking, setting tables, serving and cleanup. Preparation begins at 1 PM, but volunteers are invited to come to the kitchen, as your schedules permit.

If you want to be involved in the Friendship Meal, please speak to Sister Jean or call her at 273-6810. The Friendship Meal staff will be glad to hear from you.

P.S. The Friendship Meal is an important serving ministry of our parish. In the liturgy on Sunday, September 21, volunteers for this ministry will be commissioned. Commissioning involves the volunteers coming forward, hearing the call for serving, and promising to participate in this ministry for the next year, as able. It is an appropriate way for us all to undertake ministry in the name of our Lord.

ZION QUILTERS



QUILTING GROUP

Another beloved group at Zion, affectionately known as the "Quilting Queens," are our quilters who meet on Wednesday mornings from 9 AM to 1:30 PM in our Parlour. Quilting, once a lost art, has become fashionable again. It is a craft enhancing the beauty in God's creation. Our quilting group always welcomes new members, be you experienced or a novice wanting to learn the art of quilting or doing tied quilts for CLWR and for local needs. If you can't stay all morning, not to worry. A couple of hours is just fine. Your presence is what is appreciated. Quilting begins on Wednesday, September 10. Please call Verlie Sippel at 519-271-9107 for information, or if you have a quilt you would like quilted.

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

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

DATE	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	GREETERS	READERS	USHER CAPTAINS	COUNTING CAPTAINS
Sept 7	David Bennewitz & Stephen Fischer	Abigail Luckhardt	Mindy Gough	Wayne Hinz	Audrey Miller
Sept 14	N/A	Marten & Dianne Mann	Bruce Sippel	Jerry Terhaerd	Rob Illman
Sept 21	Liz Bomasuit & Marilyn Sylvester	Samantha McKay	Nancy Schaff	Jerry Terhaerd	Rob Illman
Sept 28	N/A	Audrey Miller	Tristan Hartfiel	Tom Cosstick	Brian Gropp