

ZIONEWS

SEPTEMBER 2016

A publication for the family of Zion Lutheran Church, 202 Erie St., Stratford, ON N5A 2M8

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PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL

"It's the most wonderful time of the year."

Several years ago, a major office supply chain used this familiar Andy Williams Christmas song as a part of its Back to School campaign. The commercials featured a father merrily dancing around the store, trailed by two sullen children who shared none of his enthusiasm for going back to school. The advertisement struck a chord with parents who look forward to the resumption of the school year, while also speaking to the sadness experienced by students in the waning days of their summer vacation.

While I'm not sure I'd agree that this is the "most wonderful time of the year," there are many wonderful aspects that accompany the approach of this new season. September is a time when we are reunited with family and friends who have been away for the summer, and resuming many of the familiar routines that were missing from our summertime agendas. Students and teachers return to school; co-workers are back at their jobs; and many of our local clubs and organizations become active once again. While there is some sadness that comes with saying farewell to summer, there is a sense of newness and excitement that comes in September that can truly make this a most wonderful time.

This is also a "most wonderful time of the year" in the life of the church. While it is not the beginning of the church year on the liturgical calendar (that honour goes to the First Sunday in

Starting
Again



Advent later this autumn), it is in many ways the beginning of a new season in the life of our congregation. We return to our regular worship, learning, and meeting schedule here at Zion, welcoming back many of our sisters and brothers who have been enjoying summer vacations. Our Sunday School begins its new year, which means that Children's Sermons (and loud "amens"!) will once again be a part of our Sunday worship experience. We will be welcoming a new group of

Confirmation students as we welcome back our Grade 8 class for their second year of learning and discernment. Our adult classes will once again explore the Word of God and our Lutheran heritage,

and our many organizations will once again gather to continue their ministries in our midst. This year, we are especially excited as we look forward to our new kitchen and washrooms that will greatly assist in fulfilling the ministry that our Lord Jesus Christ has entrusted to us in this congregation.

We may not all feel that this is the "most wonderful time of the year" as we bid farewell to summer; but as we gather together to worship, to learn and to serve as the people of God in this place, we know that we will experience the wonders of God's mercy, the joys of God's steadfast love, and the confidence that God will bless this season as God blesses all of our times. May this truly be a wonderful time for all of us in the presence of our Lord who makes all things wonderful!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jeff Laustsen

SACRED SEPTEMBER



By the time this newsletter is published, our *official* summer-time season for this year will be over; students will soon be going back to school; and we will have begun falling back into our usual September routines. As I write this though, in the second week of August, there is a heat warning forecasted for today. It is hot and very dry out. That has really been the story of our summer thus far...it has been very hot and dry (and my home does not have air conditioning!).

As Pastor Jeff and I have greeted people on Sunday mornings before church this past summer we have often found ourselves talking about the weather, but then we nearly always conclude by saying something like, "but I'm not complaining, this is what we wished for when winter was blowing and the snow was falling." Yes, the humbling memory of our equally sacred winter season forever looms in the foreground. It keeps us grounded in the present and entices us into a special appreciation of the distinct gift of summer warmth.

For me there is a certain peace that arrives with summer. Simple activities like cutting my lawn, biking around town, camping, or hiking in the woods proclaim the hidden wholeness of created beauty:

*There is stillness in the woods
That you do not find in the rest of the world
It is profound, restful, visceral quiet
That can pierce your soul if you allow it*

*The forest invites reflection
Encourages prayer
Beckons communion, and
Pulls all who consent into deeper awareness
Of the grace of God*

*To experience this richness
One need only go for a walk
Sit by a tree...
And listen.*

By now that September has arrived a new energy is in the air; renewal of church life at Zion. This is now my second September at Zion. But each September, any church I have been at exudes this same energy, a buzz around the work of God in our lives and in the world.

Sunday school will begin again soon, as well as confirmation classes, bible studies, and committee meetings. It seems that in September especially, we enjoy renewing acquaintances after a summer season of travel and outdoor activities. In September we seem to celebrate God's presence in our lives through *Word and Sacrament* with renewed openness. Yes, September is an especially wonderful time of the church year.

I pray that you have all been well over the summer and I look forward to this new season of worship and relationship.

God is with us now and always.
Vicar Albert

MIDWEEK LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



As our Sunday School begins a new year of learning this month, our midweek classes will also be resuming their gatherings of learning and discernment on our lives and mission as the people of God in this congregation:

- Our Monday Adult Class will begin meeting on **Monday, September 26 at 7:00 p.m.** (The meeting location for these classes will be announced). As Lutherans prepare for the observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, we will begin a series of classes on our Lutheran faith and heritage. Our first classes will explore Martin Luther's

Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences (better known as "The 95 Theses"), which were posted on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517 and became the catalyst for the Lutheran Reformation. We will continue to explore various biblical and theological foundations of the Lutheran movement throughout the coming year.

- Our Thursday Noon Adult Class will have its first meeting on **Thursday, September 22 at 12:00 noon.** We gather at lunchtime to explore the Bible readings for the coming Sunday and to discuss their impact on our lives and faith. We look forward to more lively discussions and insights shared around our lunch table in the Church Parlour.
- Our Confirmation Classes begin their new year on **Thursday, September 29 at 4:15 p.m.** We will be welcoming our new Grade 7 students as we welcome back our Grade 8 Class for their second year as they prepare to celebrate their Confirmation in 2017. This year, our classes will focus on the Old and New Testaments and the place of the Word of God in our daily lives.

We welcome everyone to join us in these learning ministries that promise to help us grow in our personal faith and in our devotion to our Lord and Saviour as the people of God. For more information on any of these classes, please contact Pastor Jeff at the church office or at laustsen311@gmail.com.



RENOVATION UPDATES

We have encountered multiple problems during these renovations which will undoubtedly slow down our progress:

Problems such as:

- > The interior wall against the outside wall was found to have major water damage caused by water leakage over many years. Also, very little insulation was used. This wall had to be taken out and will be replaced.
- > The ceiling over the Kitchen was found also to be in very bad condition with falling plaster and a mess of electric wiring that was even a nightmare to our electrician. The ceiling is being taken down slowly because of the dirt and wiring that one has to work around in doing so. The walls and ceiling will have to be insulated and dry walled properly to meet fire code. This will take additional time.
- > The plumbing also has been slower than expected due to the very old existing plumbing that our plumber had to deal with.

All this work has to be dealt with sooner or later. I guess this is the sooner time!!! We cannot

always know just what we will find behind these walls. This part of the church is very old and breaking down and must be repaired.

It now appears that this work will extend into September, how far one can only guess depending on what else we may encounter, although we do not expect anything as extensive as already encountered.

Hoping this report will enlighten all as to our renovation progress.

Paul Hansen, Property Chair

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL



On Wednesday, June 29th, a group of interested people met to talk about Accessibility for Zion Lutheran Church. A lot of information and ideas were shared and all present took an Awareness Quiz and a Test Your Knowledge Quiz about the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.

At the close of the meeting six members indicated their willingness to serve on this Committee. Zion's Accessibility Advisory Committee is as follows: Chairperson Tim Iredale, members Diane Beckner, Anne Cooper, Susan Iredale, Darrell Renecker and Nancy Schaff. There are four other Congregation members who were unable to attend this meeting but have indicated an interest in being part of this important ministry. The next scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, September 7th, at 7 PM in the Parlour.

RALLY SUNDAY



A much loved tradition, at Zion, returns on Sunday, September 11, as our congregation gathers for Rally Sunday which marks the beginning of another program year for the congregation. On this Sunday, our 2016-2017 Sunday School teachers and helpers will be installed for their ministry of service and teaching. **P.S. The Pig Roast will be postponed until the kitchen renovations are complete. We will then dedicate the kitchen and have our pig roast to celebrate.**

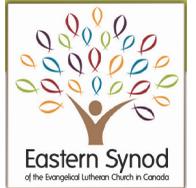


ZION TABLE FOR SENIORS

Please Note: Due to Kitchen renovations Zion Table will not be held in September. Thank you for understanding. Zion Table For Seniors, a beloved ministry at Zion promoting fun, food, and friendship, returns on Tuesday, October 25 at 12 noon.

EASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT

It was my honour to serve as a delegate to our Eastern Synod 16th Biennial Assembly in Toronto from June 23 - 26, 2016.



For me, it was a very rewarding experience.

The theme for the Assembly was "Liberated By God's Grace."

We attended a service in both the morning and evening each day. The agenda was very full each day and at times all the information was overwhelming, but, it reconfirmed for me the diversity of our church. The sessions were lengthy, although, through these sessions you became aware that our church is much larger than just Zion Lutheran Church, Stratford. In these sessions, you were informed of the successes within the Eastern Synod as well as the challenges. I know we are not immune to some of these challenges, however, hearing some of the stories reconfirmed for me how blessed we are at Zion Lutheran Church, Stratford.

The Rev. Dr. Munib Younan, President of the Lutheran World Federation and Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land was the principal speaker. He spoke passionately about the central article of faith for Christians as expressed through the Reformation Commemoration theme.

The election of officers for Synod Council as well as delegates to the National Convention next year was done using the display screen and clickers. The process was handled very efficiently.

Another highlight was the Leadership Banquet on Saturday evening. During the banquet, Eastern Synod Leadership Awards were presented to several individuals. Also, several Pastors were recognized for 25, 40, 50 and 60 years of faithful service. Under 25 years, known to our congregation, Dale Finch, James Brown and Jerry Slote were recognized.

It was wonderful to get reacquainted with our former Vicars and hear their stories as well as

meeting and getting to know fellow delegates from congregations throughout our Synod.

In conclusion, I want to thank the members of Zion Lutheran Church, Stratford for giving me the opportunity to represent our Church at this important Assembly.

Gerald Cook, Eastern Synod Delegate 2016

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will resume meeting every Monday in the Parlour, starting **Monday, September 12** 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 (Geri) Bornath at 519-513-5400.



Gerard Herod on June 23
John Malcho on July 26

ZION WOMEN OF FAITH

Mark your calendar with these dates.

Dates to Remember:

Executive Meeting, Tuesday, September 6 at 7 PM, Board Room

Monthly Meeting, Wednesday, September 28 at 7:30 PM Meeting will be

held in Church Parlour.

Zion Women Of Faith welcome ladies of all ages to our monthly meetings.

Joanne Young, 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. **P.S. Zion was unable to meet our commitment to this community service in June. We are currently short of volunteers, due to unforeseen circumstances. PLEASE, help us with this much needed volunteer service. If you can help out just one or two times a year that would be greatly appreciated by our clients and our co-ordinator Heather Wickenheiser. PLEASE give her a call today. Thank you!**

Heather Wickenheiser

Co-Ordinator Zion Meals On Wheels

WLS WOMEN'S AUXILIARY



The Women's Auxiliary of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary will be holding their Annual meeting on Saturday, October 1 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Waterloo from 9:30 AM to 4 PM. The guest speaker is Rev. John Malloy, Assistant Professor of Public Ethics at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, who will be speaking on "Faith In The Public Square": How do you bring your faith to the secular world? The cost for the event is \$22 which includes registration and lunch. For more information, please contact Mildred Knackstedt 519-662-3739. 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



Please note: The Friendship Meal for September 30 is cancelled this month due to kitchen renovations. Thank you for understanding. Zion will host the next Friendship Meal on Friday, October 28 at 5 PM.

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.

ZION QUILTERS



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 14. Please call Irene Ehgoetz at 519-271-8878 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 4	Darlene Illman & Rob Leifso	Glen & Fern Schaefer	Susan Iredale	Brian Wilker	Brian Gropp
Sept 11	N/A	Jim & Kathy Schellenberger	Dr. Jo Knackstedt	Fritz Steigmeier	Lynnette McLeod
Sept 18	Loralee McNaughton & Linda Springer	Percy & Edith Schneider	Marg Lamont	Fritz Steigmeier	Lynnette McLeod
Sept 25	N/A	Bruce & Beth Sippel	Lynette McLeod	Steve Lamont	Paul Hansen

Kids Bible Wordsearch

Animals in the Bible
Puzzle # 1

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.



BEAR
CAMEL
DONKEY
GAZELLE
GOAT
HART
HORSE
IBEX
JACKAL



LEOPARD
LION
MOLE
MOUSE
NIGHTHAWK
OSTRICH
SHEEP
UNICORN
WOLF



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