

# ZIONEWS

## SEPTEMBER 2012

A publication for the family of Zion Lutheran Church

202 Erie St., Stratford, Ontario N5A 2M8

website: [www.zionstratford.com](http://www.zionstratford.com)

Phone: 271-8527

Fax: 271-8536

e-mail: [zionlc@golden.net](mailto:zionlc@golden.net)

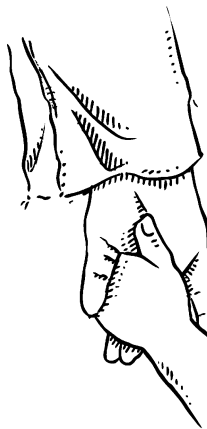
### PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL

#### "DON'T FORGET GOD! GOD DOESN'T FORGET YOU!"

Here we are at the cusp of fall. I pray that some time over the summer you were able to recharge your spiritual, emotional, and physical batteries – and that you have been refreshed in the Lord!

In the Old Testament, 1 Kings chapter 18 and 19, we hear the story of the prophet Elijah. Elijah is mighty and strong, bringing down fire from heaven and showing up the priests of Baal. But Elijah suddenly loses his energy and confidence. Major burnout. Threatened by the evil Queen Jezebel, he turns tail and runs into the desert. Angels send him to the holy mountain Horeb to wait for the Lord.

Elijah climbs the mountain and hides in a cave to wait for God. Is God in the noisy, violent wind that sends rocks flying? In the mighty earthquake or the fire? No. Elijah found God in the silence.



IN GOD'S CARE

*"... and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him..."*

Our world is noisy. We are assaulted with so much information and often too much information. Stress abounds. For our families and our individual lives, September arrives like a hurricane and it can be hard to cope with it all. Our church world ~~also gets busy come~~ September as programs begin again.

We can thrive in our busy chaotic world as long as we take the time to wait for the Lord. So as you start your fall routines build in time for silence, prayerful reflection, God. May God's holy angels

tend to you just as they did to Elijah, nourishing you with God's love, God's peace, God's grace.

And come back to worship! We miss you!

Peace and Joy,

Rev. Douglas Reble  
Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church

### WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL IS AT 10 AM!!!



As most of you know, by now, we are maintaining the worship schedule of one service only, beginning at 10 AM, after Labour Day. This is for a trial period until a congregational decision is made to make it a permanent change or not. That meeting will be held near the end of November.

Why this change? As shared, in an earlier newsletter, the reality is our members on Sunday morning no longer reflect the need for two services. Some of the pluses of one service is a fuller church, choir at almost every service, more ready supply of volunteers to fill the needed tasks, no early morning hassles getting the kids ready for Sunday School.

What are minuses? We don't know. Maybe none but we need to evaluate and we will with your help as shared above. That is a promise.

So, we continue to worship at 10 AM and Sunday School, too, starting on Sunday, September 16. Spread the word!

### INTRODUCING PASTOR KAREN KUHNERT



and shut-ins.

During the month of September it is our privilege to welcome Pastor Karen Kuhnert to our Zion Church family. With the absence of a vicar this year, at Zion, Pastor Karen has been engaged to assist Pastor Doug in doing ministry with and for the people of Zion. She will be employed on a 1/4 part-time basis with specific responsibilities, including occasional preaching and worship leadership, Confirmation teaching, visitation ministry to our sick

Pastor Karen was ordained in July 2008 in London, Ontario and has served the congregations of St. James, Baden, St. Stephen's, Kitchener, and St. James, Mannheim. Pastor Karen is the Acting-Archivist for our Eastern Synod and the KAIROS Indigenous Rights Circle representative for our Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. She is married to Rev. Dr. Peter Kuhnert, and they have three daughters, Kristina (16), Katrina (15), and Hanne (12) who attend Marantha Caribbean Lutheran Mission and Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Waterloo.

Pastor Karen will begin work on September 1, at Zion, and will be officially installed on Rally Sunday, September 16 at our 10 AM service. Please welcome Pastor Karen with grace and warmth. We are blessed to have her as our partner in ministry.

## RALLY SUNDAY & PIG ROAST



A much loved tradition, at Zion, returns on Sunday, September 16, as our congregation gathers for Rally Sunday which marks the beginning of another program year for the congregation. On this Sunday, Pastor Karen Kuhnert will be installed officially as our assisting pastor for 2012-2013 and our Sunday School teachers and helpers blessed 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, be they a member of the Zion Church family or not.

**P.S. Remember, we have one service only on Sunday morning beginning at 10 AM. The children will proceed to their classes after a children's message before the sermon, same as always. A fellowship time of refreshment and visiting will still be offered after the service.**

## ZION FALL HIKE



The Congregational Life Committee has planned a fall hike to take place on Saturday, September 29. The purpose of the hike is two fold. One, to promote fun and friendship among our congregation. Two, to celebrate God's creation in a most beautiful time of year, autumn. In the spring, we had our first Zion hike on the Bruce Trail. Over 25 people attended and it was well-received and enjoyed.

This hike will be a little closer to home. One of the gems of our area is the Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area located between Seaforth and Clinton and just north of Highway #8. The trails

meander through interior forests, native grasslands, meadows, and flood plains, while the dykes and viewing stands allow for an elevated view of the ponds and wetlands, located on the paths of two major waterfowl flyways.

This is what you need to know. We leave from the church parking lot at 9 AM. A 45 minute car drive. Yes, we will car pool. After a pleasant hike of 2-3 hours we'll stop in at one of the pubs in Seaforth for lunch. The only costs involved are your lunch costs. We'll be home by mid-afternoon. You need good walking shoes for an easy to moderate trail, drinking water or snack if you need them.

A sign-up sheet will be at the back of the church from Sunday, September 2-23. Please indicate if you can drive and how many seatbelts you have. Questions? Speak with Pastor Doug. He is our hike leader. He promises not to get you lost!



## ALZHEIMER COFFEE BREAK DAY

The Alzheimer Coffee Break is an annual grassroots initiative which raises 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, September 23 after the service as a part of our fellowship time. All donations big or small will be accepted. Plan to attend! Spread the word!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



We are quickly approaching the start of the Sunday School year and we are looking forward to seeing old friends as well as new. Rally Sunday this year, is September 16, which offers the opportunity for children and parents to meet their teachers for the upcoming year. Please keep in mind regular classes will start the following Sunday. We are still looking for a second grade 5/6 teacher to join our group of dedicated instructors. If you are interested, please contact Mitzi Podann by email at [mitzianddoug@sympatico.ca](mailto:mitzianddoug@sympatico.ca) or Tina Small at [kerbysmall@yahoo.ca](mailto:kerbysmall@yahoo.ca). Enjoy the remainder of the summer and see you soon.

## MAKING MUSIC FOR JESUS & FOR PEOPLE

In the heat of summer, and with a change of pace, time with loved ones, and time spent out in nature, there are often opportunities for reflection. What with cheery messages of catastrophic ecological collapse just two or three generations down the road, bringing challenges never before seen in human history, just how do we live meaningfully and responsibly in the present? Fear can be paralyzing; it can also be motivating.

As people of faith, we are called to 'buck the system'; in a society that tells us that things are important, Jesus shows us that actually only people are important. If we have the courage to live our faith fully, our lives will manifest this truth. A fancy new front door might be nice for the house, but really all that matters is my relationship with the people behind that front door.

Shifting our values away from things, towards people, we begin to realize that our world, together with the millions of lives and life forms it supports, needs cherishing, loving and valuing. Jesus asks us to not fear the future, and to simply love the present, and all here sharing it with us.



In whichever way you like to experience music at Zion...singing hymns from the pews, learning anthems in the choir, playing an instrument in a service or a concert...do it for people; do it for Jesus, the ultimate lover of people; do it for the love of all of life on our broken and hurting planet.

Peace be with you,  
Lynne Hopcraft, Choir Director

**P.S. The Zion Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings, in the church sanctuary, from 7:30 PM to 9 PM, beginning Thursday, September 13. All ages are welcome and, yes, we need more male voices. Please consider coming to make music for Jesus and for people with a wonderful group of people.**

**P.S.S. Questions? Contact Lynne Hopcraft, our choir director, at [hopcrafttutoring@yahoo.com](mailto: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, which promotes fun, food, and friendship returns on Tuesday, September 25 at 12 noon. Please let Doris Bartlett (519-271-9622) or Phyllis Jeffery (519-271-3668) know by Tuesday, September 18 if you can attend. Lunch cost is only \$10. A deal by any name!

Our special after dinner guests to kick off the program year, are Kountry Korners from St. Marys, who have a decidedly country flavour to their music. All are welcome!

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



The Prayer Shawl Group will start, again, on Monday, September 10 from 2 PM to 4 PM. If anyone would like to join our wonderful group of knitters and crocheters you are most welcome. It certainly is a fun way to enjoy a Monday afternoon. It is also a ministry as shawls and blankets are given to people in hospital and care facilities and people who need a reminder that God loves them unconditionally. For more information, if needed, please contact Lisa Hutchison at 519-271-5808 or Gerda Bornath at 519-271-3055.

## FRIENDSHIP MEAL MINISTRY



Friday, September 28 is our next meal to share friendship and food with the people of Stratford who need it and seek it. Thank you to the ministers, of Zion, who continue to prepare and serve the meals. Preparation time is usually around 1 PM and serving begins just before 5 PM with clean-up afterwards. If you can't do the prep time, not to worry. People are needed to serve and clean up and do dishes. This ministry also qualifies for student service hours for our young people in high school. If you need more information, please contact Ingrid Fraser (519-271-4382) or Pastor Robert Hutchison (519-271-5808).



## ZION WOMEN OF FAITH

What a beautiful summer it was. I hope everyone had the opportunity to enjoy God's gift of nature during this season. We are truly blessed.

### Dates to Remember:

**Monday, September 10:** Board meeting at 7 PM

**Wednesday, September 26:** Joint meeting. We will be heading to Sakura House in Woodstock. Meeting at the church at 6 PM. Please let Kathy Schellenberger (519-393-6613) or Anne Graul (519-271-3662) know if you are planning on going so they can set up people to car pool.

**P.S. Sakura House is a hospice that provides palliative care to its residents as they approach the end of their life. It serves not only Oxford County but Stratford and Perth as well.**

**New This Year:** Starting in September we will be collecting items for the Learning and Living kit for Canadian Lutheran World Relief. Each month if you are able, the item will be listed in the newsletter. **THIS MONTH: 3 THREE RING BINDER NOTEBOOKS**

**HELP NEEDED!!!** We are looking for volunteers to join the flower committee. If you like working with flowers, we sure could use you. Please call Linda Springer (519-273-2093) if you are interested. Thanks. Enjoy the rest of summer!

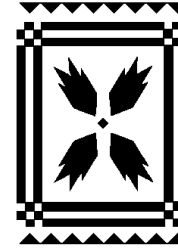
## CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

Confirmation classes will soon begin, at Zion, for another year. Designed to help our young people grow in faith and grace, confirmation ministry also prepares them to commit themselves to God and the Church.



Pastor Doug and Pastor Karen will be meeting with the Grade 7 and 8 youth and their parents who will be a part of this year's confirmation ministry program. We meet, in the chapel, on Thursday, September 20 with the Grade 7 group gathering at 7 PM and the Grade 8 group at 8 PM. Classes, themselves, begin on Thursday, September 27.

## 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 Assembly Room. Quilting, once a lost art, has become fashionable again. It is a craft which enhances the beauty in God's creation. Our quilting group, at Zion, always welcomes new members be you experienced or a novice wanting to learn the art of quilting. 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 12. Again, all are welcome!

## BEAVERS & CUBS REGISTRATION



An important program for the children of our congregation and community is our 17<sup>th</sup> Zion Group which is sponsored by Zion. A co-ed group open to boys and girls, between age 5-11, the Beavers and Cubs meet on Tuesday evenings, at the church, at 6:45 PM.

Registration for all the Beaver, Cub, and Scout groups, in the city of Stratford, takes place on Tuesday, September 4 from 6:30 PM to 8 PM at the Rec. Complex in the Tim Taylor Room. If you miss that, simply come to the first Beaver and Cub gathering on Tuesday, September 11 at 6:45 PM.

If you have any questions, please contact Pearl Alles (519-273-0457).

## ADULT EDUCATION AT ZION



Pastor Robert Hutchison, a beloved part of our Zion Church family will be taking the lead in offering adult education opportunities, this fall, at Zion. Starting in mid-October, Pastor Robert will offer his regular Thursday noon-Bible study, and a Monday evening study entitled "Living The Questions." Look to the October newsletter for more details.

**P.S. Pastor Robert is wondering if anyone wants to gather on Sunday mornings, at 9 AM, for a brief 45 minute Bible study. This is now possible as we are moving to the one 10 AM service. If this interests you, please contact Pastor Robert at 519-271-5808.**

*In Memoriam*

Helen Hemstock on June 14  
 Floyd Malcho on June 16  
 Earl Page on June 20  
 Leila Davis on June 28

*Baptisms*

Elliot Elias Peter Hardy, son of Ian &  
 Susie on July 29

*Weddings*

Michael Holman & Dana Hill, September 15

## GOD AND YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

We need people to help prepare the altar for Sundays we celebrate Holy Communion. The more teams we have the less you have to do it. For example 5 teams would be once every 10 weeks and so on.



What's involved? Taking out the communion vessels, pre-filling the individual glasses, setting the table, cleaning up afterwards. You, of course, would be trained. This task involves your gift of time but it is quiet, behind the scenes. You don't have to get up in front of people. What this volunteer activity does ensure is that people continue to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion which is so important to Lutheran Christians. Preparing the table would be a labour of love – for God and God's people. Please speak with Pastor Doug and feel free to contact him at [zionlc@golden.net](mailto:zionlc@golden.net) or 519-271-8527. He'd love to hear from you.

**P.S. Please note! Since we are going to one service this volunteer job does not involve the whole morning like it used to. You set up before worship, stay for worship, and clean up right away. Hopefully this helps you say yes!**

## 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 2	Rob Leifso & Liz Bomasuit	Doug & Jean Wagner	Mary-Lou Drown	Mike Bomasuit	Bruce Sippel
Sept 9	N/A	David & Sheila Wittig	Sharyn Cheney	Mike Bomasuit	Bill Hoffard
Sept 16	Caroline Lorentz & Pastor Karen	Wayne & Joanne Young	Teddy Gougn	Fritz Steigmeier	Bill Hoffard
Sept 23	N/A	Brian & Carol Schmidt	Madison Hendricks	Fritz Steigmeier	Wendy Holman
Sept 30	N/A	Craig & Lisa Wesson	Stephen Fischer	Steve Lamont	Wendy Holman

## ZION CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
Monthly Requirements	\$28,000.00	\$4,600.00
July Income	\$18,555.10	\$3,398.00
July Expenses	\$24,685.98	\$3,398.00



**CURRENT FUND DEFICIT (as of July 31, 2012): \$38,915.22**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**As is custom for this congregation (and most), we come out of the summer with a deficit in our Current Fund. It is a little larger than usual . It is now time to get caught up as we head out into the last four months of the year. God has so richly blessed us and this congregation. Let us give to God as God has given us.**

**A STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT**

*Tourists that travel through Pennsylvania Dutch country like to take away a souvenir or two. One of the most popular is a plate that features the folk saying "Kissing wears out. Cooking don't."*

*There's probably more than one way to interpret that saying, but most would assume it means that romantic love is fine as far as it goes, but real love is pot roast, mashed potatoes, and gravy on the table.*

*The ancient rabbis considered the biblical book known as the Song of Songs every bit as substantial as meat and potatoes. Rabbi Akiba (who died around the year 135 CE), one of the most famed of the teachers, wrote, "The whole world is not worth the day on which the Song of Songs was given to Israel, for all the scriptures are holy, but the Song of Songs is the Holy of Holies."*

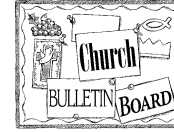
*This little book of love poetry is an extremely important voice in the Hebrew Scriptures – yet it rarely appears in Christian worship, and few sermons are preached on it. The Song of Songs demonstrates how love should be at the center of everything we do, including our offerings. Love, not guilt, should be the motivating force in our giving. Otherwise we would refer to grudge offerings instead of love offerings.*

Something to think about!

## WLS WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

The Women's Auxiliary of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary invites everyone to attend their 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on Wednesday, September 26 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Waterloo from 9:30 AM to 4 PM. The cost is \$18 which includes lunch. Event speakers are Bishop William Huras, Rev. Dr. Richard Crossman and Julia Hendry, WLU Archivist. The theme is "Helping Students For 100 Years." Come and enjoy a wonderful day of music, worship, and fellowship. Meet the new seminarians and see the beautiful quilts.

If you would like to attend please register with our Zion WLS Women's Auxiliary Contact Person, Millie Rhem at [millie\\_rhem@hotmail.com](mailto:millie_rhem@hotmail.com) or 519-662-2727 by Wednesday, September 19.



## ZION CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD

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

1. **New Horizons, New Dreams:** The program is facilitated by volunteers who have gone through the process of adjusting to life with vision loss. The group offers seniors a way to connect to others experiencing similar challenges. Participants receive empowering, practical and useful information about vision loss and how CNIB services can help, as well as suggestions from other participants on how to reduce the impact of vision loss on their daily lives. There is no cost to participate in the New Horizons, New Dreams Program. To learn more or to register for this, or other, CNIB programs call 519-685-8420.
2. **Camp Edgewood Golf Tournament:** The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Swing Low Golf Tournament, in support of Camp Edgewood, our Lutheran camp and retreat centre, takes place on Saturday, September 15 at the Brookfield Golf Course in Cambridge. More information and registration forms are available online at [www.edgewood-camp.on.ca](http://www.edgewood-camp.on.ca) or by contacting Rick Ritz at 519-748-4868.
3. **WLS Public Lecture:** Waterloo Lutheran Seminary invites you to a one day conference entitled "Muslim-Christian Dialogue: Reflecting On Experience" to be held on Saturday, September 29 from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Among the themes that will be discussed are: "Women in Christianity and Islam," "Worship and spiritual care in Islam and Christianity," and more. Lunch will be provided. Registration is \$20.00 per person. The registration form is available online at: [http://www.wlu.ca/events\\_detail.php?grp\\_id=12516&ev\\_id=9452](http://www.wlu.ca/events_detail.php?grp_id=12516&ev_id=9452)