

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

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## PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God." – Hebrews 12:1-2.*

One of the greatest challenges that I experienced when the COVID-19 pandemic began was adjusting to the new reality of preaching to a camera and posting my sermons online. While we had videotaped our sermons during preaching classes in seminary (and I sincerely hope that the seminary destroyed those tapes!), I had no experience in this kind of preaching, and my early efforts bear witness to my discomfort in this style of speaking. Thankfully, I began to adapt to addressing a camera instead of a congregation, and when I began recording in our Sanctuary, I found that being in this familiar space made me feel more comfortable. What was not comfortable, however, was speaking to an empty church; the "assembly of all believers" that is at the heart of Lutheran worship was not able to assemble for several months due to the pandemic. Our church staff helped me feel more at home by putting photographs on the pews, so I could at least see the familiar faces that I was missing; but hearing my voice echo throughout the empty worship space was a very strange experience.



One Friday (which has become my recording day) I was preparing my preaching space when I noticed the names that are on each of the beautiful stained-glass windows that grace our Sanctuary. I recognized very few of these names, but I know that these are our ancestors in faith who worshiped our Lord in this place, who served God in the church and community, who brought their children to the waters of Holy Baptism and taught them what it means to be a Christian. These are the blessed saints who we remember on All Saints Day, the faithful departed "who from their labours rest," who now rest in the eternal home that our Lord Jesus Christ has prepared for all who have been

baptized as children of God and made members of the church which is the Body of Christ. They are the "cloud of witnesses" who surround us as we continue to run the race that Christ has set before us, whose legacy of faithfulness gives us guidance and strength as to how we might continue to faithful witness what they passed on to us after the race they had run reached its conclusion. Even though I was the only person present in our worship space, these names reminded me of those whose faithful presence in this place gives us the strength to "*run with perseverance the race that is set before us.*"

On All Saints Day, which is Sunday, November 1, we will give thanks for all God's faithful who now rest in our Saviour's loving arms. We will especially remember our sisters and brothers in Christ who have died in this past year. While the physical place they occupied among us is empty, their example of faithfulness lives on among us as we continue to share the good news of Jesus Christ, serve all people in Jesus' name, and ensure that we continue to pass on the legacy that has been entrusted to us to future generations who will come to know God's love in this place. As we remember and gives thanks for these faithful departed brothers and sisters in Christ, we endeavor to continue the race that has been entrusted to us so that the faith into which we are baptized might continue to be a source of life and hope for us and for all generations.

1. "On All Saints' Day, we make the very bold claim that all these people are our relatives. In the words of one beloved hymn, 'They are all of them saints of God and I mean, God helping, to be one too.' We have the same blood running in our veins – Christ's blood – and the same light we see shining in them shines in us too ... Because you are part of them, and they are part of you, and all of us are knit together in the communion of saints, [we know] that being a saint means first and foremost belonging to God." – Barbara Brown Taylor.

We have resumed worshiping in-person on Sunday mornings in our Sanctuary, but I am still recording my sermons on Fridays in our Chapel. While I am physically alone, I rejoice that I am surrounded by the "great cloud of witnesses," the communion of saints whose example of faith and love gives me the confidence to continue their legacy of sharing the good news of God in Christ. We give thanks for all God's saints on this Sunday, as we continue their work of being God's holy people called to "*proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*" (1 Peter 2:9).

Your fellow saint,  
Pastor Jeff Laustsen

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEPTEMBER CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING



## **Congregational Council September Highlights**

The September 16, 2020 Congregational Council Meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall with some Council members joining via Zoom conference.

Sunday in-person worship services commenced on Sunday September 6<sup>th</sup> with physical distancing, screening and cleaning measures in place. We are thankful for the efforts of many people who helped to make this possible. As well, Pastor Jeff will continue to make on-line services available for those who do not attend in person.

Quotes were obtained to replace/or repair windows on the first floor of the Educational Wing of the Church. The carpenter has ordered the windows and will complete the work as soon as the windows are received. Also, a large donation was received from the Pauli Foundation (separate from the Endowment Fund) recently. The specific instructions were to direct the donation to the Building Fund, in order to replenish the Building Fund. This donation will enable the Property Committee to move forward on much needed repairs/upgrades to the building.

Congregational Council are engaged in discussions regarding possible ways to increase revenue during the pandemic and post-pandemic. One of the ways the Congregational Council is considering in order to increase revenue in the future; the Endowment Fund Committee met with a representative from the Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Synod (ELFEC) recently and Marg Lamont and Mervyn Dietz provided the Congregational Council with a synopsis of this meeting. Based on the findings of this meeting, the Endowment Fund Committee recommended to the Congregational Council that we move the Endowment Fund funds to ELFEC and that the funds be invested in their Income and Security Fund of 60% stocks and 40% fixed income on or before April 15, 2021. The motion was approved by the Congregational Council. This recommendation will now be presented at our Annual Meeting for approval/disapproval. A meeting has also been arranged with Karen Bjerland, Congregational Redevelopment Services Advisor for the Eastern Synod to meet with the Congregational Council and Finance Committee to discuss opportunities for repurposing the building/property. The information acquired at this meeting will be for information purposes only at this time. However, information acquired will be helpful to consider, as we look into the future of Zion Church.

Donations/offerings can continue to be completed via our Church website in addition to the PAR program, mailing cheques or dropping off donations either at the Church office weekday

mornings or in the locked mailbox at your convenience. Also, donations can now be made via E-Transfer.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OCTOBER CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING



### **Congregational Council October Highlights**

The October 21, 2020 Congregational Council Meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall with some Council members joining via Zoom conference.

We have now had seven in-person Sunday services with average attendance being 35. The online services are also continuing and the most recent Sunday had 62 online views. We are continuing to follow the guidelines as provided by Huron-Perth Public Health and by Synod.

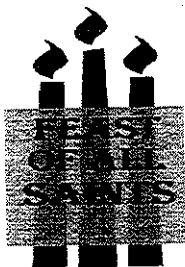
The repair and/or replacement of windows on the first floor of the educational wing have been completed. The area around the exhaust fan for the kitchen, where it extends through the wall to the outside of the building, has now been securely closed.

The Women of Faith provided \$1,000.00 for replacement of the lights in the Fellowship Hall. The ballasts have been removed and the lights replaced with energy efficient LED tubes.

The Women of Faith have also provided \$1,000.00 to be used to complete installation of an automatic door at the back of the Church. These funds and the proceeds of the baked potato lunch will be used to complete the installation.

Donations/offerings can continue to be completed via our Church website, including an option for E-Transfer, in addition to the PAR program, mailing cheques or dropping off donations either at the Church office weekday mornings or in the locked mailbox at your convenience.

## ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY



On Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, our parish, together with Christians around the world celebrate the Festival of All Saints. A time to celebrate the triumph of the Lord of Life Jesus Christ over the powers of death, the day is traditionally the time Christians remember those by name who have died since the last All Saints' Day. Indeed it is a good time to remember all our loved ones who have

died and to praise our Lord for his victory over death and the grave. Please call to attend this special worship!



**On Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> "All Saints' Sunday" we remember all of our loved ones who have died, namely:**

- +Ruby Taylor*
- +Linda Springer*
- +Dona Ahrens*
- +Heinz Mikler*
- +Horst Bornath*
- +Jean Wagner*
- +William Osborne*
- +Margaret Henning*
- +Paula Thomson*
- +Walter Cates*
- +Gerald Ney*
- +Norman Cormier*
- +Melvin Leasa*
- +Ingrid Fraser*
- +Jean Allen*
- +William Ehgoetz*
- +Ingeburg Fleischauer*



## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Endowment Committee will be on  
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.**

## ZION WOMEN OF FAITH



The Executive recently met to discuss our usual upcoming events. As you know, the sausage and sauerkraut dinner (as on Reformation Sunday in the past) is not taking place.

### Christmas Care Gifts

Another of our yearly events, the Christmas Care Gift, will not be happening in our usual way. Because we will quite likely not be able to deliver to retirement and nursing homes, we will do something different this year. We will send a Christmas card to the people on the list which Pastor Jeff provides for us. In that envelope we will include a small token of our thoughts for them along with Christmas wishes. Unfortunately, we will not be packaging baked goods. We dearly appreciate the baking contributions from the congregation in the past. That will not be happening this year and we look forward to the time when we can do this.

### Canadian Lutheran World Relief

We have recently heard from Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) regarding the We Care program. The CLWR made the decision to begin transitioning the shipping component of the program with the intent to be fully closed by the end of 2021. The decision was made keeping in mind their values of responsible stewardship, shared learning and honouring the voices of those called to serve.

As we all know the COVID-19 pandemic has brought new complications and at each turn of the calendar we are faced with different challenges! The Women of Faith will no longer collect items for shipping to the WE Care Program.

However, with this decision we are discussing ways of distributing what we already have to local charities in need. Stay tuned.

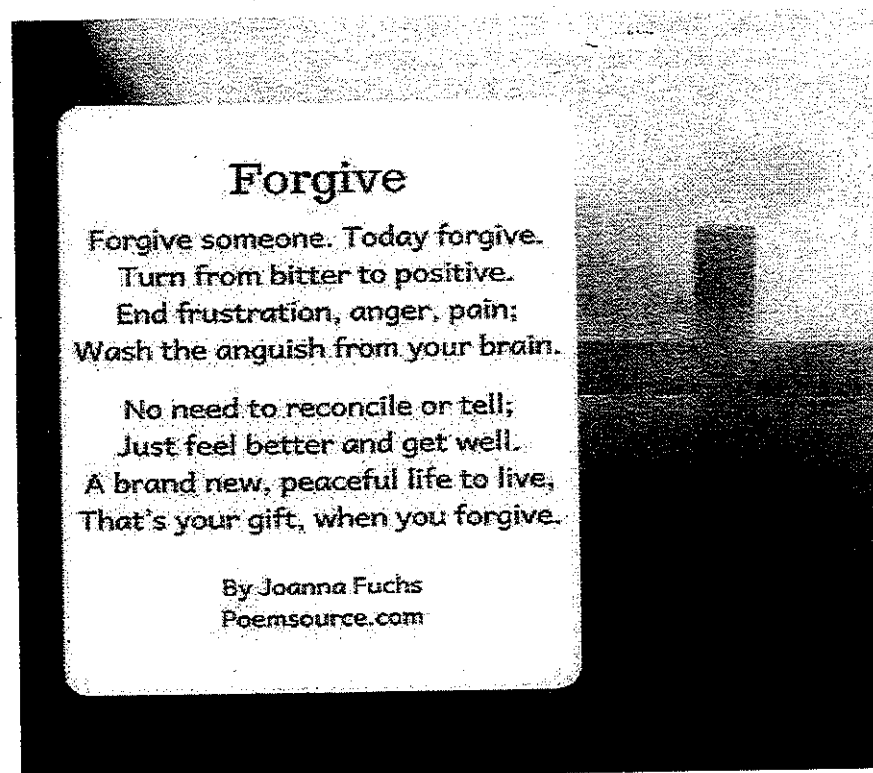
I would like to share this quote from the CLWR letter:

“The We Care program, in its decades of operation, has provided comfort and care to tens of thousands of people. **To our incredible community of faithful, loyal volunteers and churches, we want to say that we are inspired by you.** Your generosity has wrapped quilts around those who have lost their homes, has put supplies in otherwise empty school classrooms, and has given young mothers the very first clothes their new babies will wear. **Your efforts have made such a difference. You have our deep thanks. And we also want to say you are needed now – as much as ever.”**

### Eternity for Today

If you are interested in receiving this devotional book, please call Darlene Illman at 519-271-0996 so she can put you on the list to receive this inspiring book. To those who are already receiving it, the cost for 2021 is \$13.50.

Submitted by Ellen Wolfe, President



# *Lest We Forget...*



As everyone knows, November 11<sup>th</sup> is  
Remembrance Day.  
In honour of those who gave their lives  
for us to have what we have today,  
below is the famous poem  
"In Flanders Fields"

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

*By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae*



## **Background of John McCrae, Author of "In Flanders Field"**

Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae was a soldier, physician and poet.

John McCrae was a poet and physician from Guelph, Ontario. He developed an interest in poetry at a young age and wrote throughout his life.[1] His earliest works were published in the mid-1890s in Canadian magazines and newspapers.[2] McCrae's poetry often focused on death and the peace that followed.[3]

At the age of 41, McCrae enrolled with the Canadian Expeditionary Force following the outbreak of the First World War. He had the option of joining the medical corps because of his training and age but he volunteered instead to join a fighting unit as a gunner and medical officer.[4] It was his second tour of duty in the Canadian military; he had previously fought with a volunteer force in the Second Boer War.[5] He considered himself a soldier first; his father was a military leader in Guelph and McCrae grew up believing in the duty of fighting for his country and empire.[6]

McCrae fought in the Second Battle of Ypres in the Flanders region of Belgium, where the German army launched one of the first chemical attacks in the history of war. They attacked French positions north of the Canadians with chlorine gas on April 22, 1915 but were unable to break through the Canadian line, which held for over two weeks. In a letter written to his mother, McCrae described the battle as a "nightmare",

For seventeen days and seventeen nights none of us have had our clothes off, nor our boots even, except occasionally. In all that time while I was awake, gunfire and rifle fire never ceased for sixty seconds ... And behind it all was the constant background of the sights of the dead, the wounded, the maimed, and a terrible anxiety lest the line should give way.

— McCrae[7]

Alexis Helmer, a close friend, was killed during the battle on May 2. McCrae performed the burial service himself, at which time he noted how poppies quickly grew around the graves of those who died at Ypres. The next day, he composed the poem while sitting in

the back of an ambulance at an Advanced Dressing Station outside Ypres.[8] This location is today known as the John McCrae Memorial Site.

## NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

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

Date	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Readers	Usher Captains	Counting Captains
Nov. 1	N/A	Volunteers Needed	Brian Wilker	Tom Cosstick	Dan Neumeister
Nov. 8	N/A	Volunteers Needed	Liz Bomasuit	Darrell Renecker	Lynnette McLeod
Nov. 15	N/A	Volunteers Needed	Marilyn Wells	Brian Coe	Lynnette McLeod
Nov. 22	N/A	Volunteers Needed	Nancy Schaff	David Doherty	Tim Gropp
Nov. 29	N/A	Volunteers Needed	Stephen Fischer	Steve Lamont	Tim Gropp



		2			7			
		3	1		2		9	4
		4	5	6				7
4						9	5	
3								2
	1	9						3
9				2	1	6		
7	2		4		5	1		
			6			2		

### Sudoku (Medium) #201022

By Phil Fraas

Fill the 9x9 grid with numbers so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 sub-grids that compose the grid contain all of the digits from 1 to 9.

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By Phil Fraas  
Sudoku (Medium) #201022

5	3	1	6	7	8	2	4	9
7	2	6	4	9	5	1	3	8
9	4	8	3	2	1	6	7	5
2	1	9	8	5	4	7	6	3
3	6	5	7	1	9	4	8	2
4	8	7	2	3	6	9	5	1
1	9	4	5	6	3	8	2	7
6	7	3	1	8	2	5	9	4
8	5	2	9	4	7	3	1	6

# Fall Word Search

M	N	I	H	S	Q	U	I	R	R	E	L
L	Y	I	P	R	E	B	O	T	C	O	J
Z	E	Y	K	X	Y	D	F	A	L	L	Y
R	A	E	G	P	X	L	I	T	J	Z	E
E	F	L	L	O	M	R	L	R	A	K	E
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S	B	C	F	S	O	R	A	N	G	E	F
A	T	J	N	G	C	P	N	B	R	Y	E
J	O	Q	U	Q	M	H	Q	X	Z	O	F
D	O	S	S	A	C	O	R	N	E	P	K
C	F	Q	F	N	W	O	R	B	X	R	H

FALL

AUTUMN

LEAVES

PUMPKIN

APPLE

ACORN

SUNFLOWER

HAYRIDE

CHILLY

RAKE

FOOTBALL

SQUIRREL

ORANGE

SCARECROW

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

CIDER

YELLOW

BROWN

RED

