

## PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL

*"Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."* – James 5:16.



A regular part of our Sunday worship service that has endured throughout the COVID-19 pandemic – both in our in-person and online services – are the Prayers of Intercession that we offer *"for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs."* Intercessory prayers are offered on behalf of others in obedience to the biblical command to *"rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Among these intercessory prayers are the people we remember by name, people who have asked for our prayers, people who are often undergoing surgery or enduring long-term physical illnesses or challenges. Some of these names appear in our prayers for a few weeks, while others remain a part of our weekly worship service for months and years. We pray because we believe that prayer is *"powerful and effective,"* that our Lord Jesus Christ is the *"healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow, give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow."* (ELW Hymn 612).

While we "pray without ceasing" for those who are suffering various physical ailments, we recognize that there are also other situations in which people are in need of healing prayers. Many people suffering from emotional, psychological, and spiritual trauma that can be as serious and debilitating as the worst physical disease. Long after one's body has healed, the enduring wounds that live on in one's mind can continue to afflict a person and prevent them from returning to the abundant life that they enjoyed before they were struck with their particular illness. As we pray for those who are in hospital or recovering at home, we also remember those who are suffering from the after affects of these traumatic experiences, as well as people who are enduring crippling mental afflictions that call out for our prayers as well as the care of learned healers and practitioners.

In the month of October, we remember and give thanks for St. Luke the Evangelist, the author of both the Gospel According to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. St. Luke is also remembered as a physician who accompanied Paul on his missionary journeys (*"When we arrived in Jerusalem, the brothers welcomed us warmly."* – Acts 21:17). Luke is also remembered as a physician (*"Luke, the physician, and Demas greet you."* – Colossians 4:14). St. Luke's Day on October 18 has become an occasion where many congregations offer services of healing, inviting people *"come and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God"* (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship Service of Healing*). People are invited to receive the blessing of the laying on of hands and anointing with oil, an ancient practice mentioned in the letter of James:

1. "Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven." – James 5:14-15.

In our prayers for healing and wholeness, we ask our *"Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, send your Holy Spirit upon your servant ... drive away all sickness of body and spirit; make whole that which is broken; deliver them from the power of evil; and preserve them in true faith, to share in the power of Christ's resurrection and to serve you with all the saints now and forever."* We pray in obedience to our Lord's command to pray for one another in the confidence that our prayers will be heard by our God of steadfast love, and that our prayers are indeed *"powerful and effective."*

This year, our healing prayers include those who are suffering the affects of the current pandemic; while some have suffered from the physical virus, many others are suffering from the emotional and psychological affects of the separation and isolation that the pandemic has inflicted upon us. In an article in the current edition of *Canada Lutheran*, Jamie Foley, a registered psychotherapist and spiritual care practitioner at Grand River Hospital in Kitchener, identifies the root causes of the distress and despair that has caused so much suffering during these difficult and uncertain times:

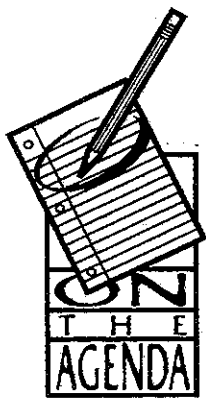
2. "Loss is everywhere, except now, with COVID, loss has been more than a constant background experience. It's become a steady series of walls, hemming us in, circumscribing our every move, pushing us around when we least expect it ... COVID hasn't been characterized, for most of us, by acute distress, or disaster. It's

been one long slow-motion crushing of the spirit, a forcing down and pushing over, a depressing exercise in compression and restraint.”

We will continue to pray for those who are suffering physical illness or challenges in our worship services; but in these times, we need to pray for all – including ourselves – who are suffering the emotional, psychological, and spiritual challenges that this unprecedented pandemic has inflicted upon us. When we feel lost, or alone, or hopeless or in despair – these are occasions for us to ask for the prayers of the faithful, to reach out to one another with the love of Christ, to pray for each other in the knowledge that “*the LORD of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our stronghold.*” (Psalm 46). May we continue to faithfully pray for all people who are suffering in so many ways, knowing that God will hear our prayers and surround us with his gracious, loving, healing presence. Let us pray in confidence, for our prayers of intercession in the name of the “healer of our every ill” are **powerful and effective!**

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Jeff Laustsen

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2021 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING



No meetings were held during July and August. The September 15, 2021 Congregational Council Meeting was held in-person in the Fellowship Hall and via Zoom conference.

A Motion was made and passed that we proceed with investigating livestreaming our services by increasing the Wi-Fi capability in the sanctuary and look into purchasing cameras for the sanctuary.

A Motion was made and passed that the Thanksgiving offering envelopes be apportioned one-half to House of Blessing and one-half to current fund.

The Redevelopment Committee will meet September 21 with Dr. Mark Harris, Congregational Redevelopment Services Advisor, from the Synod Office.

It was noted that the terms of the Constitution of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church have not been reviewed or amended in some time and some of the terms need updating. Congregational Council will be reviewing the Constitution over the next few months with a goal to possibly having the new terms ready for presentation at the Annual Meeting in 2022.

Donations/offerings, including donations to the Deficit Fund 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.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



We are hoping that all Sunday School families could please fill out the attached survey so that we are better able to plan for the return of Sunday School, when it is safe to do so. If for some reason you are unable to complete the survey, you can also email your name, your child(ren)'s name(s), current grade(s), and whether or not they would be participating in Sunday School to Paula at [pauley\\_mчнаughton@hotmail.com](mailto:pauley_mчнаughton@hotmail.com).

Click here for the survey: <https://forms.gle/bS3dCdiEaSmrnXLEA>



### **Sunday School Teacher Needed:**

for our Grade 5/6 class.

If you are interested, please contact

Paula McNaughton

by email: [pauley\\_mчнаughton@hotmail.com](mailto:pauley_mчнаughton@hotmail.com)

or cell after 6:00 p.m. 519-274-4121

Thank you for your continued support.

Paula McNaughton  
Sunday School Coordinator

## ETERNITY FOR TODAY



**Eternity**  
For Today

Any one wanting to renew their subscription; or, new subscription requests to "Eternity For Today" please contact Darlene Ilman at 519-271-0996 or Jane in the Church Office at 519-271-8527 by **October 31<sup>st</sup>**.

Payment may be made by placing cash or a cheque in the amount of \$13.50 in a separate envelope with your name and "Eternity For Today" written on the outside.

The envelope can then be either mailed, placed in the offering plate upon entering the Church or put in our mailbox.

Thank you!

## WOMEN OF FAITH "EXECUTIVE" MEETING



A Meeting for the Executive of The Women of Faith will take place in the Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, October 13 at 10:00 a.m.**

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TREASURER



As I mentioned in my September "Message from your Treasurer", your Finance Committee held a meeting earlier this month. The members were informed that the deficit in the Current Fund as of the end of August was \$40,167.44. This is an increase of approximately \$14,000.00 over the same period last year. It is also to be noted that the Current Envelope offerings are down by this same amount

approximately as of the end of August.

Having shared this information with you, firstly I want to convey a "special thank you" to our members on the PAR Program. It is your offerings that have gone uninterrupted during these very challenging times. To the members who have responded after receiving the September Newsletter, "thank you" for responding to our request. The offering options that have had the most noticeable decrease is the drop-off of offerings at the church office during the week, offerings via our church website and the e-transfer option.

We do realize that many of us are tired of this ongoing Pandemic and we can truly appreciate this fact, however, we also need to realize that everything is being done to offer the services that we were accustomed to in the past, but of course with limitations in order to follow the many protocols. As we offer these services under very challenging times, we need to remember that the ongoing expenses of your church still continue and we need everyone's financial support to cover our expenses. Unfortunately, this is our reality as a church currently, but at the same time in speaking with my counterparts at some of our neighbouring churches, we are all being faced with this same reality.

As you already know, one of my responsibilities as your Treasurer is to keep you informed as to what has been happening financially in your church. Due to our financial situation as of the end of August that I shared earlier, we ask that you prayerfully consider our request to assist with our financial situation and respond as you are able at this time.

Once again, it is our hope that this message continues to find you and your family and friends safe and healthy.

Gerald Cook, Treasurer

On behalf of the Congregational Council and Finance Committee

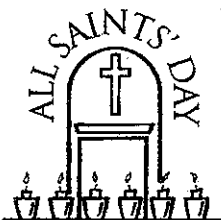
## THANKSGIVING OFFERING



A motion was made and passed at the September Congregational Council Meeting that the Thanksgiving offering envelopes for this year be apportioned one-half to the House of Blessing and one-half to the Current Fund.

"Thanksgiving" offering envelopes are available on the table at the back of the Sanctuary and also on a table inside the entrance off the parking lot.

Thank you for your continued support!



## ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY \*NOVEMBER 7, 2021\*

The church remembers those who have passed away over the past year. *This*

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*year All Saints' Sunday will be celebrated on November 7, 2021.*

If you wish to have a loved one added to our prayer list, please call Jane in the office at 519-271-8527 by **Thursday, November 4, 2021.**



## **SEPTEMBER BAPTISMS**

***We welcome to our Zion Family through the Sacrament of Baptism:***

***ISABELLE LEIGH CAMPBELL***

***Daughter of  
Amanda & Joel Campbell  
on  
Saturday, September 11, 2021***

***AND***

***CARTER DAVID MORSE***

***Son of  
David & Amy Morse  
on  
Sunday, September 12, 2021***

***CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH FAMILIES !!***

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## OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

Listed below are those who are scheduled to serve in October as a reminder and as a *“thank you”* for serving.

**Please Note:** There are no Communion Assistants or Greeters at the present time due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Date	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Readers	Usher Captains	Counting Captains
Oct. 3	NONE DUE TO COVID-19	NONE DUE TO COVID-19	Stephen Fischer	Jerry Terhaerd	Dan Neumeister
Oct. 10	NONE DUE TO COVID-19	NONE DUE TO COVID-19	Sister Jean Widmeyer	Darrell Renecker	No Counters
Oct. 17	NONE DUE TO COVID-19	NONE DUE TO COVID-19	Isabel Cook	Tom Cosstick	Marilyn Wells
Oct. 24	NONE DUE TO COVID-19	NONE DUE TO COVID-19	Marg Lamont	Brian Coe	Marilyn Wells
Oct. 31	NONE DUE TO COVID-19	NONE DUE TO COVID-19	Brian Wilker	David Doherty	Kevin Tuer

