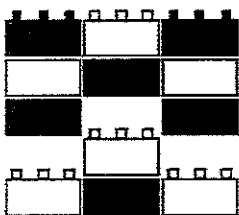


PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL

"Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone." – Song of Solomon 2:10-11.



**Let Us
Start Building**

This October marks the tenth anniversary of the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy. The storm was so powerful and unprecedented that it is often referred to as a "Superstorm," hitting the east coast of the United States with tremendous force and causing tremendous damage. While I had experienced many coastal storms during the years I lived in New Jersey and New York, nothing had prepared me for the experience of living through such a storm and coming to terms with the damage it caused. While our home on Long Island was spared any damage, many people in our community and congregation suffered tremendous damage to their homes; some homes were beyond repair and had to be torn down. Many communities were without electricity for over two weeks, and the number of cars that were totalled numbered in the thousands. Lines formed at gas stations to power generators, and tensions grew so great that police officers were called in to guard the gas pumps. Emergency crews from across the country descended upon the area to begin the long process of rebuilding and restoration, a process that took several years. This anniversary will be a reminder of the power of nature and how vulnerable homes and communities can be in the face of such unprecedented and overpowering force.

Among the many challenges I faced during that time was how to preach to a congregation that had suffered so much loss, people who were displaced from their homes and uncertain as to how and when they might be able to rebuild and return to some sense of normalcy. The regular lectionary lessons did not seem to be appropriate in such a time, so I began to search Scriptures for a word that would be relevant and hope-filled for my displaced and traumatized congregation. My research led me to the book of Nehemiah, which is set during

the period of Israel's history known as the Restoration, the time when the exiles in Babylon were freed from their bondage and allowed to return to the land of promise. It was a moment for which they had yearned for years; but when they returned, they discovered that the city of Jerusalem was in ruins, and that the reality of the rebuilding process would be long and difficult. They are left with the decision as to whether rebuilding was possible, a decisive moment in which Nehemiah addresses the people and the people in turn declare their decision:

1. "Then I said to them, 'You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burnt. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, so that we may no longer suffer disgrace.' I told them that the hand of my God had been gracious upon me, and also the words that the king had spoken to me. Then they said, 'Let us start building!' So they committed themselves to the common good." – Nehemiah 2:17-18.

As we are entering a new season and the beginning of our program year in our congregation, we are also assessing the damage that has been caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, discerning what can be saved or rebuilt and what may have been lost forever. We know that we cannot simply return to the way things were before we entered this difficult chapter in history; we have lost friends and loved ones, have experienced separations and cancellations, and had our sense of security and certainty challenged in ways we have never experienced. For the church, it meant making previously unthinkable decisions such as cancelling worship services, closing our church buildings, rescheduling baptisms and weddings, restricting attendance at funerals, being forbidden from hospital and long-term care facility visits, and resorting to visiting via phone calls and becoming regular users of Zoom. While we rejoice that we are now able to again gather in person for worship and other important occasions, we know that it will take us some time to assess how much we have lost and to lament the losses of things that are permanently gone from our sight. The aftermath of Covid is in many ways as life changing as what was experienced from those caught in the path of Superstorm Sandy.

As we lament what we have lost, we are also reminded that the laments of God's people are always expressed in the context of our confident hope in God's loving presence and our assurance that our Lord is with us always, that even the most devastating storms and pandemics can never separate us from God's eternal, empowering love. As Israel mourned the devastation that the entire nation had experienced, they remembered the faith that gave them strength to persevere and look toward the future with hope:

2. "The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." – Lamentations 3:19-23.

We are planning for a wonderful season in which we will be able to resume many aspects of our congregational life that were impacted by the pandemic. We are excited about our Rally Sunday worship gathering in Upper Queen's Park, the resumption of Sunday school and adult Bible studies, the return of our choir to Sunday worship, and once again gathering for coffee hours and other fellowship opportunities. But we are also aware that this rebuilding may take time, and we may discover that some things we once enjoyed have sadly been lost. But even though we may find ourselves in mourning for what has been lost, we share the faith of those who lamented what had been lost to them as we share their faith in the steadfast love of God that is with us always, the good news that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. May we join with our ancestors in faith as we also commit ourselves to that which they vowed: *Let us start building!*

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jeff Laustsen

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TREASURER



As we enter the Fall season, it is time for me to bring our members up-to-date in regards to the financial status of our Current Fund.

We are on target as it relates to our approved Budget for our Current Fund expenses, however, this is not the case as far as our Current Fund Income. The envelope income at the end of August is nearly at the same level as in 2021, however, this income is down 13% approximately as it relates to our approved Income Budget. Also, part of the reason why our "overall income" is down, is due in a large part to no longer receiving the Wage and Rent Subsidies which in the past greatly assisted our overall income in 2020 and 2021, but this is no longer the case.

As I mentioned earlier, as we enter the Fall season, we have enclosed for your information your Offering Statement from January 1st to August 31st. Based on each member's Statement, we ask that each of you prayerfully consider your Church financially at this time.

The income financial challenges require everyone's support over the next few months and your consideration of our need, whatever the amount, will be greatly appreciated.

In closing, thank you for your ongoing financial support of our Church which enables us to fulfill our mission as a Church.

Gerald Cook

On behalf of the Congregational Council and Finance Committee

ZION LUTHERAN WOMEN OF FAITH



The following appeared in the July/August Newsletter; however, we are publishing it again as a reminder.

Funeral Lunches

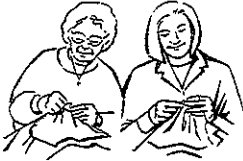
At our June meeting we decided that we would like to continue the tradition of offering funeral lunches to our Church membership as restrictions allow. Instead of making the food ourselves, we decided to have it catered. We will follow the same process as in the past; that of setting out the prepared food; setting out plates and cutlery; beverages made for serving; clearing of tables and dishwashing. This stays in keeping with our mission of expressing our faith in action and is a good solution to our maturing/ripening membership.

September Meeting

We would like to invite anyone interested in what we do to come to our September meeting. We will meet on *Tuesday, September 20th at 10:00 A.M. in the church Fellowship Hall.* If anyone is curious about who and what we are, just ask any one of us!

Submitted by: Ellen Wolfe, President

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Prayer Shawl Ministry

September brings thoughts of the changing season and routines. Perhaps you are considering doing something new or returning to something you haven't done for a while; like knitting or crocheting?

Please consider joining the Prayer Shawl Group. No experience is required. Yarn and needles are provided as well as support and mentoring by experienced knitters and crocheters as the group makes shawls, lap blankets and other items in outreach to others.

The Group meets Monday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. in the Parlour commencing Monday, September 12, 2022.

All interested Ladies and Gentlemen are welcome!

Submitted by: Nancy Schaff

SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY SCHOOL *We will be starting Sunday School classes on Sunday, September 18th.*
Come out and meet your friends, meet new friends and your teacher.



STARTING SOON!

A couple of changes to our Sunday School morning routine:

- We will not be having music in the chapel;
- Sunday School will be over at **11:15 A.M.**

We look forward to working with Susan Laustsen once again this year. Susan is busy working on some exciting and new ideas for the children to do.

Paula McNaughton,
Sunday School Coordinator

CHOIR RETURNING IN SEPTEMBER

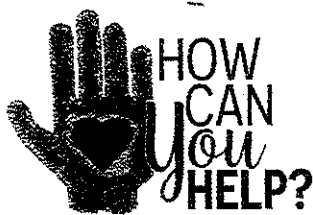


We are happy to report that, starting in September, the choir will begin rehearsals in preparation for our first Sunday appearance at worship services since March 2020; appropriately, on Thanksgiving Sunday, October 9th.

Many of our regulars are back and we would be happy to hear from anyone else who loves to sing and could offer their vocal talents to help fill our worship services with joyful voices.

If you are interested, please contact Paul Shilton, our Minister of Music by email at parkvilla36@gmail.com or by phone at 519-949-8077. You can also contact Jane in the church office at 519-271-8527 Tuesdays to Fridays from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

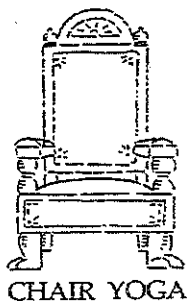


With the onset of fall and the anticipation of Worship returning to what it was pre-COVID, we are looking for volunteers as “Greeters” and “Ushers” to assist at Sunday Worship.

If you are able to serve your church community as a “Greeter” or “Usher”, please call Jane in the office at 519-271-8527 between 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. Tuesday to Friday.

We deeply appreciate ALL of our current volunteers and are excited to add your name to our list of “special” people.

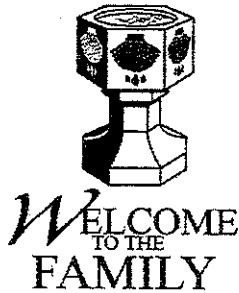
CHAIR YOGA STILL GOING STRONG AT ZION



With Summer over and Fall at our doorstep, we tend to get back in routine. If you are looking for some excitement and fun to incorporate into your routine, why not come out and join us at “*Chair Yoga*”! The benefits of “chair yoga” include: increased flexibility, improved strength, improved proprioception, reduce stress and pain, improve pain management skills and

sleep better; not to mention socialization. Everyone is welcome!! So if you want to join in on the fun on **Tuesday mornings from 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.** please call Jane in the office at 519-271-8527 or just come out on the next Tuesday morning.

“AUGUST” BAPTISM



TYE RONALD JONES

Son of

Kyle & Jada Jones

was Baptized on

Sunday, August 14, 2022

Congratulations to Tye and his parents, Kyle & Jada.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ZION MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY TEAM !

We are currently seeking more volunteers for our amazing and very dedicated Zion Meals on Wheels Team. Our team has become a little smaller and our current volunteers keep themselves busy with many things! We have had difficulties fulfilling our commitment to this community service for a number of months now.

Through "One Care, Home and Community Support Services", Zion's team delivers meals to clients four times per year. This wonderful and very much needed service helps individuals to remain in their own homes. Clients are most appreciative of our help and our volunteers love delivering and putting smiles on their faces as a warm meal is delivered to them.

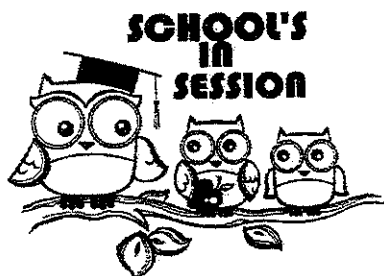
It is not a huge time commitment on delivery days and very enjoyable. Approximately 1 ½ hours of your time, working with a partner, on a day or two that will suit your schedule during the weeks we deliver. Delivery days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

If you would like more information, and would love to be a part of Zion's Team, please contact me at 519-902-9126 or jane@terhaerd.ca.

Blessings,

Jane Terhaerd, Co-Ordinator Zion Meals on Wheels

SEPTEMBER MEANS "BACK TO SCHOOL"



Please pray for our teachers and students for this new school year:

A Back-To-School Prayer

Loving God thank you for the rest and relaxation we enjoyed over the summer. Today, we pray for our children as they begin their new school year. Bless them with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences and a love of learning. Watch over all who learn, replacing fear with joy, cruelty with peace and tiredness with energy.

Grant teachers wisdom, patience and joy in serving their students.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Pause and Restart: Tips to Start Going to Church Again

By: Jessica Brodie



Have you stopped attending church in person and are finding it really difficult to get back into a regular routine of going again?

When COVID-19 forced our church to start meeting online, I was excited we had a new way to worship amidst a pandemic. And I have to admit – I loved doing church in my pajamas, with no makeup on while sipping coffee on the couch.

After a while, though, I started to feel disconnected. I tried going back, but one of my teens would be tired, so we'd skip in-person and "just do online," or someone had the sniffles so

online worship seemed safer. Eventually, we were barely attending in-person, but attending online no longer felt meaningful for our family. It was time to face the truth: We'd hit pause and needed a church restart.

So that's exactly what we did.

If you, too, have found you stopped going to church with the pandemic or some other reason and can't seem to get started again, I offer a few tips to reignite your passion for going to church.

Here are some ways to start going to church again when you've hit "pause."

Do We Need to Go to Church?

First, a question: Do we need to go to church? And if so, why?

The Bible tells us yes, we should go to church. While it is entirely possible to be a Christian and follow the ways of Jesus without setting foot in church or ever gathering with other believers, it's a lonely and difficult road to walk.

In his letter to the early church in Ephesus, the apostle Paul compared the church to a body with Jesus as the head. For the body to work properly, it must do its part and work together, for, *"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work"* (Ephesians 4:16).

Attending church encourages us, and helps us encourage each other. As it says in Hebrews 10:24-25, *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

It also helps us know how to love each other well and help each other.

As Galatians 6:2 tells us, *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."*

It's good to go to church, to set aside a sabbath and worship the Lord, to gather with other believers so the Holy Spirit can move through the body of Christ and ignite the world through us.

The early church is lifted up in Acts 2:42-47 as an example of the good way the Spirit worked through the fellowship of the believers, and this is a positive and important thing.

1. Put It on Your Calendar

One great way to make yourself go to church is to put it on your calendar, whether it's on your smartphone or a printed one hanging on your wall. Treat it like any other appointment. Dress like it matters, show up on time, be engaged, and stay the whole time. Make it important; make it a priority.

2. Change up the Time

If your church offers multiple times of worship, go to a different service, whether an early service or a late service. Maybe you've always been an 11 a.m. worshipper, but going to a 9 a.m. service allows you the opportunity to go to lunch after, or enjoy a coffee with the pastor, or attend a Sunday school class.

3. Make a Day of It

Speaking of lunch, don't just go to church and be done. Go to church and then continue on with a special day.

Exodus 20:8-11 urges the Israelites, "*Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*"

This doesn't just apply to God's people in the Old Testament; a sabbath is as important today, as well. Go to lunch after church, or pack a picnic and go to the park if money is tight. Maybe stroll through a public setting and try to live out the message you received from that

morning's service. Make a day of it, a special time set aside for you and God and other loved ones.

4. Try a Wardrobe Makeover

Maybe you've always dressed up for church because that's how you were raised. Perhaps now might be a time to consider a different style of clothing. If your church is comfortable with a more casual style, try that and see how it feels. Or try a color you don't typically wear on a daily basis and that can be your "special church color" that you wear to worship.

Or if you have always worn casual clothing to church, try the opposite. Dress up fully. Shine your shoes and style your hair extra-fancy. Something different can reinvigorate you.

5. Get to Work

Give yourself a job at church. Commit to some sort of role at church and you'll find it will help get you there. Join the choir; or sign up to be an usher, a greeter, or someone who works with children. Or maybe give yourself a secret job: your "job" is to offer a genuine smile to everyone you make eye contact with, or to say something kind to four people.

Shaking up your routine and trying something new might help you understand the message in a new way or open a new door for worship that you haven't yet experienced.

Maybe you've tried all this and still don't feel enthusiastic about attending church. That's OK — because worshipping God doesn't need to have anything to do with how we feel. Christianity is not a feeling, rather, it's a way, a belief, a lifeline. It's based on reason and truth, the truth of God's Holy Word.

So have faith despite feelings, stand firm on the truth despite any doubts, and know that God is with you. Even if you feel distant or disengaged, God isn't distant or disengaged from you. God is with us always, loves us always, and wants us in His family.

Do you want to be in God's family, too? All are welcome who believe.

We Hope To See You Soon !!



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	N/A	Wayne & Linda Faulhafer	Carmen Beck	Steve Lamont	Janet Chandler
Sept. 11 Rally Sunday	N/A	N/A	Susan Laustsen	N/A	N/A
Sept. 18	N/A	Jim & Judy Stanley	Sr. Jean Widmeyer	Tom Cosstick	Marilyn Wells
Sept. 25	N/A	Robert & Beverley Keutsch	Mary-Lou Drown	Darrell Renecker	Liz Bomasuit

We "Thank You" For Serving