

**PASTOR’S DEVOTIONAL**

*“Who are these, robed in white, and where do they come from?”* – Revelation 7:13

For All the Saints



The campus of my university is located in an area of southeastern Pennsylvania where some of the oldest Lutheran churches in North America are located. One of these historic buildings is Augustus Lutheran Church in Trappe, a congregation that includes among its pastors Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, a pastor who is considered the patriarch of Lutheranism on this continent. While the congregation currently worships in a newer building, the original church from the Eighteenth Century is still standing, surrounded by a graveyard with the remains of faithful ancestors who worked to establish the Lutheran Church in a new land. People from around the world visit Augustus Lutheran Church to learn about its history, tour its historic buildings, and walk through the graveyard and read the names of persons who laid the foundations for the Lutheran Church that continues to serve in that place today.

But one of the realities of the graveyard at Augustus Lutheran Church – and many churches of its era – is that time and the elements have not been kind to the gravestones in these cemeteries. Many have become so worn that it is almost impossible to read the names, dates, and other information about the persons buried beneath the stones. It is a visible reminder of the transitory nature of human existence, that *“time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all of us away; we fly forgotten as a dream dies at the opening day.”* (ELW Hymn 632). Even in more modern cemeteries that use materials that withstand the harshness of our climate, many of the graves of persons who were once known and loved by family and friends now go unvisited and unnoticed. Persons who visit these places of rest may find themselves asking the question that John of Patmos received in response to his vision in Revelation of *“a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation,*

*from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.”* (Revelation 7:9). Like John, we know that these were people who accomplished great things in their lives, but their identities have been lost to the passage of time. The people buried in cemeteries in Pennsylvania, Ontario, and throughout the world are people who were loved in life and mourned in death, but those who knew them may also have passed away, taking their memory with them. As one of the elders asked John of Patmos *“who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?”* we may wonder about the persons buried in graves that are unmarked and unvisited. Who were these people for whom these monuments were erected, and what impact did they have on the lives of others?

November is a month of remembrance for both the church and our nation. On November 11, Canadians across the country pause on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month to commemorate Remembrance Day, remembering those who gave their lives for the sake of our country and our freedom. On the first Sunday of November, the church gathers to remember *“all the saints who from their labours rest.”* All Saints’ Day is an occasion when we remember all the saints, especially those of our congregation who have died in the past year. Saints in our Lutheran tradition are not only those persons after whom churches, hospitals, and schools are named; saints are all God’s people who have been baptized in Christ Jesus and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Saints are persons we have known in our families and congregations; they are the people who brought us to the waters of Holy Baptism, taught us the good news of our faith, and served as role models on how one can live as a Christian every day. We also remember those saints whose names have faded over time, saints who we may not have known but who played an important role in passing on our faith from generation to generation. Even if their names have been lost in the sands of time, they remain known by the one who calls us by name and promises to abide with us forever. As the elder responds to John’s comment that *“sir, you are the one who knows,”* all God’s saints – known and unknown – abide in that place where God will one day call all those who have been *“sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.”*

1. “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason, they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the

Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to the springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” – Revelation 7:14-17.

The names on the gravestones at Augustus Lutheran Church may no longer be legible, and the graves at Avondale Cemetery and other cemeteries in our area may no longer be visited; but we know that while those buried in these places may be forgotten by subsequent generations, they are remembered and loved by our God of steadfast love, from whom “*neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever.*” On both All Saints’ Day and Remembrance Day, let us give thanks for those who have gone before us – those we have known and those we have not known – in the knowledge that while their names may not be known to us, they are known and loved by the one who has promised to gather all of God’s saints together in that place where one day all of us will abide, where “*God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.*” (Revelation 21:4).

Let us give thanks for all the saints who served our Lord and now rest from their labours; and let us endeavor to follow their example as the “*communion of saints*” who continue the work of sharing the love of God who calls all people to sainthood as children holy and precious in the eyes of our Lord!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Jeff Laustsen

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OCTOBER 19, 2022 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING



The October 19, 2022 Congregational Council Meeting was held in person in the Fellowship Hall and via Zoom Conference.

Our COVID policy will remain the same - masks are recommended.

Congregational Council reviewed the Bridgebuilder Report completed in 2017 and received a report from the Envisioning Committee with

suggestions and questions on how to move forward with our ministry at Zion and in the community. An in-depth discussion followed and will continue at our November meeting.

The lights in the sanctuary will be bat-proofed and the light bulbs will be replaced with LED light bulbs.

The wheel chair parking signs in the parking lot will be installed shortly.

The “Do Not Enter” sign at the parking lot entrance from St. David Street will be replaced with a “One Way Do Not Enter” sign.

Bulldog Fire & Security have started their annual inspection. Our 51 fire sensors need to be replaced due to their age, cost \$1,275.00.

A Quote will be obtained for replacing the door to the accessible entrance from Erie Street to the Fellowship Hall.

Coffee Hour following Sunday Service has returned for those members wishing to partake. In order for it to continue, more volunteers are needed. The members who were on various Teams, prior to COVID-19, will be contacted to ascertain if they are willing to serve in this role once again.

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.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Sunday School is enjoying the music that is being taught to them by Susan Laustsen. She is going to be teaching music a few Sundays a month. She will also be helping with the music for the Christmas Program. We have tentatively set the date for December 18, 2022.

During the month of November, your child will be bringing home more information about the Christmas Program.

Paula McNaughton  
Sunday School Coordinator

## SYRIAN FAMILY COMING TO STRATFORD

A new family from Syria will be arriving in Stratford soon (hopefully in the new year). The family consists of a husband and wife and six children. Zion is participating in the planning for the family's arrival. Zion is also helping with the furnishing of the family's new home.

Zion is involved in the equipping of the kitchen.

We thank you for your generous support to date in equipping the kitchen.

*We are still in need of a kettle, microwave, mugs, coffee maker, baby bottles, ladle, tongs, juice jug and pot scrubber. If you can help in supplying these items, please drop them in the boxes labelled "kitchen equipment" at the Erie Street entrance of the church. Also needed are sheets, mattress protectors, blankets and comforters for two (2) double beds, four (4) single beds and one (1) crib. These items can be dropped off at the Church office weekday mornings.*

Please note that SALT 3, a committee comprised of Anglican churches (St. James, St. Paul's and St. Stephen's) and Zion are working to host this family. Jan Bennewitz, Sister Jean Widmeyer and Pastor Jeff are working with this committee.

## ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

On *Sunday, November 6th*, 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 power 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.



On Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> "All Saints' Sunday" we remember all of our loved ones who have died, namely:

- +Carl Marklevitz
- +Bernice May Liedtke
- +Murray Zulauf
- +Elizabeth Wachsmann
- +Doris Bartlett
- +Muriel Riehl
- +Robert Ronald (Ron) Frank
- +Violet Cook
- +Beatrice Deighton
- +Elizabeth (Betty) Seyler
- +Beryl Horst

## OCTOBER BAPTISM

In October we welcomed to our Zion family

***"Ruby Grace Tortyna"***

daughter of Jason & Ashley Tortyna.





## UPCOMING CONCERTS

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2022 AT 4:30 P.M.**  
At Zion Lutheran Church

**\* MARCO BURAK & MICHAEL DOBINSON \***

With

Guest Composer: Wendy Edwards Beardall-Norton

Guest Performers: Sandra Mogensen, Christopher Norton & Tyler Reidy

**(Admission by Donation)**

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**STRATFORD CONCERT CHOIR**

**PRESENTS**

**“MESSIAH”**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M.**

At Avondale United Church

**Tickets: \$40**

**Conductor: Stephane Potvin**

**Organist: Brent Fifield**

**Soprano: Ariel Harwood Jones**

**Alto: Andrea Ludwig**

**Tenor: Michael Taylor**

**Bass: Dan Van Winden**

**Tickets available online at [StratfordConcertChoir.org](http://StratfordConcertChoir.org)  
and at Blowes Stationery**



## REMEMBRANCE DAY - NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>

### ***“FOR THE FALLEN” POEM***

English poet and scholar, Laurence Binyon, composed his most famous poem, “For the Fallen,” in September 1914. A section of the poem, entitled “Ode of Remembrance,” is recited to this day at Remembrance Day memorials and services across Canada.

By September of 1914, mere weeks after the start of the First World War, the British army had already suffered thousands of casualties at the hands of the German Empire. During the Battle of Mons (August 1914), 1,600 British sacrificed their lives. Later that same month at the Battle of Cateau, there were another 7,812 British casualties. Then in September, during the bloody First Battle of the Marne, a total of 81,000 defending French and British soldiers died while facing the invaders.

Emotionally moved by the deaths of so many young men, Binyon wrote “For the Fallen” while overlooking the Atlantic Ocean from Britain’s Cornwall cliffs. His poem was published in The Times and it quickly gained notoriety, bringing together a nation that was mourning its losses. In 2001, A plaque was created to commemorate the place where Binyon wrote the poem.

At the time of the war, Binyon was too old to join the army. He did, however, volunteer as an orderly with the Red Cross on the Western Front in 1916. He wrote about his experiences in his book “For Dauntless France” (available online).

During Remembrance Day ceremonies, the Canadian Armed Forces recite the poem as an Act of Remembrance for the fallen, often taking place after the gun salutes. During the First World War, nearly 620,000 Canadians enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces, of which 61,000 died and another 172,000 were wounded.

Binyon passed away in 1943.

## For the Fallen

By Laurence Binyon

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,  
England mourns for her dead across the sea.  
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,  
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal  
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,  
There is music in the midst of desolation  
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;  
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;  
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;  
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;  
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,  
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,  
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known  
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,  
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;  
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,  
To the end, to the end, they remain.



## 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. 6	N/A	Paul & Janet Jeffery	Linda Faulhafer	Brian Coe	Tim Gropp
Nov. 13	N/A	Gerald & Isabel Cook	Susan Laustsen	Steve Lamont	Tim Gropp
Nov. 20	N/A	Bob & Marilyn Wells	Stephen Fischer	Jerry Terhaerd	Judy Stanley
Nov. 27	N/A	Brad & Sherry Beatty	Mary-Lou Drown	Tom Cosstick	Judy Stanley

