

ZIONEWS

APRIL 2012



A publication for the family of Zion Lutheran Church
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PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL "CHRISTMAS AND EASTER"

When I was a child, I liked Christmas more than Easter. Christmas felt a lot more like a holiday than did Easter. The Christmas school break was longer, there was more Christmas food, and, of course, there were the Christmas presents. To my mind there was no way you could compare a chocolate bunny and a few colored eggs to all the wonderful gifts you get at Christmas. Then, of course, there were all the wonderful Christmas decorations. The Easter season is no match for Christmas when it comes to decorating the house.

As I grow older I am discovering that my attitude, concerning these two seasons, is changing. It's not that I like Christmas less. I still love Christmas. It's just that I am liking Easter more.



*The Promise
of Easter*

My growing love for Easter comes from a couple of sources. One is the weather. Though I love snow the older I get the more the cold of winter bothers me. I am now finding that I look forward to the warmth of spring a lot more than I look forward to the cold of winter. Because of its association with the warm spring sun, Easter has a lot going for it in my books.

The second and more important reason for my increasing love of Easter is because of the unseen gifts of the Spirit this season bestows. The material gifts are nice but they don't stand the test of time. They wear out, get thrown out, or end up on a garage sale table.

The gift of Easter, however, grows more valuable as the years pass. God's victory over sin and death, the power of God's love over our human frailty, that we have in Christ's resurrection, is a spiritual possession that grows in meaning for me from one Easter season to the next.

I can't think of any single Christmas gift that has changed the course of my life

and I have received just as many great Christmas presents as the next person. However, the gift of hope for the present and future that God has given me in Easter, is a gift that has altered my understanding of life. Jesus' death and resurrection has changed my life and I repeat will continue to change my life until that day I close my eyes in death.

I will always enjoy singing songs about what God did in the past when Jesus was born. What is even better is to sing songs about what God is doing today through the power of Christ's resurrection. Alleluia!

Easter Blessings to you all,

Rev. Douglas Reble
Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church

VICAR'S DEVOTIONAL "APRIL FOOLS"

"Palm Sunday," or the "Sunday of the Passion," lands on April 1st or what we also celebrate as April fool's day, this year. April fool's day was created sometime in the middle ages so we can be certain that Jesus did not ride into Jerusalem on a donkey shouting "April Fools! Got you, didn't I?" even if that first Palm Sunday were to have landed on April 1 (and yes that too is highly unlikely). However, I must point out how appropriate that would have been. Jesus had pulled off the best April fool's trick ever. A trick is defined as:

a: a crafty procedure or practice meant to deceive or defraud; b: a mischievous act: prank; c: an indiscreet or childish action; d: a deceptive, dexterous, or ingenious feat.



I do not mean to say that Jesus was deceptive; but the Jews sure would have felt as if they have been deceived. They were expecting an all-powerful king to save them. They were expecting someone dressed in armour, wielding a sword, arriving in a chariot. Instead they get Jesus as a peasant carpenter, wielding words of justice and equality for all, riding a humble donkey. Jesus was able to show what we must define as an ingenious feat that we have trouble enacting; that the kingdom of God rules with humble compassion not oppressive power.

It is my hope that this Holy Week and Easter Season as we hear once again, the story of Jesus being raised to new life, it will continue to transform us. May we continue to recognize that the kingdom of heaven is indeed at hand and that Christ offers us new life now, here on earth.

We don't celebrate his biggest prank on April fool's day until 2018. I can't wait to plan that Easter Sunday. The call to worship will begin, "April Fools!" You thought death had the last word! Yet he is Risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

That is the present-day message of Easter. Jesus is alive, now and forevermore! And he offers us new life, and not just "in heaven, after we die." He offers us a new way of life – now!

Blessings on the Journey,
Vicar Steve



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Jesus Enters Jerusalem: On Palm Sunday, April 1 we become a part of the parade of people trailing behind Jesus, who is mounted on a lowly donkey. We wave palm branches and shout "Hosanna!" on this day as a way to praise the one who has come to save us all – in great humility. Our joy is mingled with sorrow because we know Jesus is heading into his last days on earth. That is why the Christian Church also calls this day the Sunday of the Passion. Come and worship at 9 AM or 11 AM as we begin

Holy Week.

Jesus Goes To The Upper Room: On Maundy Thursday, April 5, we climb the stairs to the upper room prepared for Jesus and his disciples, where they share a Last Supper together. In the bread and wine served here, Jesus gives his very body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Today we partake of this special meal together as the family of believers – to remember his death until he comes, find grace to help in our time of need, and renew our Christian love. We come together, at 7:30 PM, for worship. Our worship concludes with the stripping of the altar.

Jesus Dies On The Cross: On Good Friday, April 6, we stumble through the streets of Jerusalem to witness Jesus on his path to the cross to suffer and die. We recognize that we should be on this road ourselves, but understand that Jesus is the only one who can walk this way if we are truly to be saved from sin and death. We contemplate the cross, express grief over his suffering, and marvel at the sacrifice of the sinless Son of God. We gather for solemn worship at 10 AM.

Jesus Rises From the Dead: On Easter Sunday, April 8, we walk with the women to Christ's tomb. There we will see the stone rolled away. We will see Jesus alive again, beckoning us to come, follow him to everlasting life. As followers of Christ, we rejoice on this day that our home is in heaven. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Our festive Holy Communion services begin at 9 AM and 11 AM. Come and worship the risen Lord!...P.S. Sunday School is on holiday on Easter morning, so our teachers and children can worship with their family.

MAUNDY THURSDAY POTLUCK SUPPER

On Maundy Thursday, April 5, we begin what is known in the church as the Great Three Days, the holiest time of the church year. As is our custom, we gather for worship, at 7:30 PM, to remember and celebrate when Jesus gave the gift of the Sacrament of Holy Communion to the Christian church. The first communion took place when Jesus gathered with the disciples around a meal in the Upper Room.



Potluck
Dinner

Our Congregational Life Committee, at Zion Church is hosting, a much beloved tradition, a potluck supper on Maundy Thursday, at 6 PM in our Fellowship Hall. This gathering besides celebrating fellowship and friendship, reminds us that our faith journey is one we make together. So come for worship most certainly and join us for supper if you can. Again, a potluck supper. Coffee, tea, and cold drinks will be provided.

ZION SPRING HIKE



The Congregational Life Committee has planned a spring hike to take place on Saturday, April 21. 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.

This is what you need to know. We leave from the church parking lot at 8 AM and travel one hour to Hilton Falls on the Bruce Trail. Hike leader is Richard Reble (yes, Pastor Doug's brother) who has walked the complete Bruce Trail three times. After a pleasant hike of 3 hours or so, we head to our own Lutheran Camp Edgewood, which is nearby, for lunch and a beverage. Cost is \$15 per person. We'll be home by suppertime. 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, March 25 - April 15. We will car pool so please indicate if you can drive and how many seatbelts you have.

Questions? Speak with Pastor Doug at zionlc@golden.net or 519-271-8527 or in person of course.

RELAY FOR LIFE



It's that time of year again, to register for this year's Relay For Life, held on Friday, June 8. You can do it easily online @ www.relayforlife.ca/stratford or see one of us downstairs between services. Registration is \$10. We will have a team meeting in the very near future to discuss fundraising ideas. In the meantime, begin saving any empty beer or spirit bottles, cans, containers, as we will again be doing that as a fundraiser. We had great success with that one last year. Zion has raised over \$50,000 in our years at Relay, definitely a great achievement. Looking forward to a night of fun. Celebrate, remember, and fight back! Any questions or comments, call Carrie Wilson: 519-275-2775; Linda Springer 519-273-2093; Ed Illman: 519-271-0996.

CARING CONVERSATION AT ZION

At the 2011 National Convention, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada adopted a Social Statement on Human Sexuality together with three related motions concerning the unity of the church, the marriage of same-sex partners, and the ordination of GLBT individuals. The London Conference is hosting a Caring Conversation event here, at Zion, on Saturday, April 14 from 9 AM to 4 PM, to reflect on the new policies of our church and what they may mean to the ministry we provide. Each congregation, in our London Conference to which Zion belongs, is encouraged to send a team of 4-6 people to be a part of the conversation. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Pastor Doug or Vicar Steve. Registration closes on April 2. You must pre-register.

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY



Saturday, April 28 has been chosen as our spring clean-up day for the outside of our Zion Church property. From 8:30 AM to 12 noon our Property Committee is asking Zion members to lend a hand doing outside yard work. Many hands make light work so plan to come out. **We need YOU!**

P.S. Please bring rakes, shovels, trimmers, etc., if you have them.
P.P.S. If it rains, our rain date is one week later, on Saturday, May 5.



THURSDAY NOON BIBLE STUDY

Springtime, life, growth, colour, planting. Try sowing the seeds of God's Word in your everyday living and bear the fruits of faith.

Thursday, 12 noon to 1 PM. Coffee, tea, provided. Bring a lunch. We seek God together.

P.S. There is no study Maundy Thursday, April 5.

Learn
&
Grow

Pastor Robert Hutchison

ZION WOMEN OF FAITH



Both our Zion Women of Faith Circles will be meeting in April. The Gleaner Circle meets on Tuesday, April 10 at 12 PM for lunch. The cost is only \$3. Guest speaker is Shirley Leasa, formerly a head nurse in the SGH emergency department for many years, she is now an active volunteer with Heart and Stroke. Please let Beryl Horst (519-271-9898) or Doris Bartlett (519-271-9622) know by April 5 if you can attend. Join us and bring a friend.

Please note that the Mary Martha Circle of our WOF group meets on Wednesday, April 25 at 7:30 PM. The program is to be announced.

And don't forget the annual trip to the Huron County Playhouse on Wednesday, June 13 supper, at Young's cottage, followed by a performance of the Wizard of Oz.

Questions? Contact Linda Springer, our WOF President, at 519-273-2093 or klspringer@rogers.com

ZION TABLE FOR SENIORS



Our next gathering of Zion Table For Seniors, our ministry which promotes fun, food, and friendship, takes place on Tuesday, April 24 at 12 noon. Please let Doris Bartlett (519-271-9622) or Phyllis Jeffery (519-271-3668) know by Tuesday, April 17 if you can attend. Lunch cost is only \$10.

Our after dinner speaker is Dr. Bill Hazen who will speak on his work with Vets Without Borders. All are welcome!

SUNDAY SCHOOL SNIP-ITS



On Palm Sunday, April 1 the children will be hearing the Easter story. There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 8, so children and teachers can worship with their families. Sunday, April 22 will be the day for parents to visit the classes between 10:15 and 10:30 AM. Sunday, May 27 will be the end of year celebration with the staff appreciation BBQ on Wednesday, May 30.

Jan and Mary-Lou, your educational team

FRIENDSHIP MEAL



Our Friendship Meal ministry continues to serve people in our community. Our April gathering is Friday, April 27 at 5 PM. The people who come to our meal are a blessing and so are the people who volunteer. We need our volunteers to share their blessing of time and service. Questions? Contact Ingrid Fraser (519-271-4382) or Pastor Robert Hutchison at 519-271-5808.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY THANK YOU

One of the blessings that Zion Church shares in our community, is the prayer shawl ministry. They recently received a letter of thank you from the Stratford General Hospital which we share with you here.

Dear Friends:
On behalf of the Staff in our Paediatric Unit and especially the children who benefit, I just wanted to say Thank You for your generous donation of knitted teddy bears and slipper socks.

In this day of healthcare restraint, there often isn't the funding available for those "little extras." Your thoughtfulness and generosity will help children pass the time and bring smiles and comfort to the children here at the hospital.

Thanks for thinking of our children.

*Sincerely,
Andrea Page,
Executive Director*

APRIL 2012 VOLUNTEERS

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

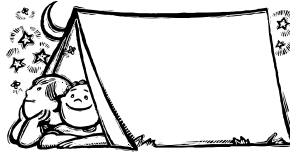
Date	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Readers	Usher Captains	Counting Captains
Apr 1	9 Rob Leifso 11 Judith Hammond	9 Rob/Lesley Illman 11 Sherry Malcho	9 Mike Bondi 11 Connor Hendricks	9 Tom Cosstick 11 Fritz Steigmeier	Wendy Holman
Apr 8	9 Caroline Lorentz 11 Barb Higgins	9 Steve/Marg Lamont 11 Fred/Deb Kindler	9 Ian Watson 11 Erin Iredale	9 Darrell Renecker 11 Brian Wilker	N/A
Apr 15	N/A	9 Jeanette Lamb 11 Dakota McNichol	9 Melissa Tuer 11 Enid Lantz	9 Darrell Renecker 11 Brian Wilker	Sherry Malcho
Apr 22	N/A	9 Samantha McKay 11 Sharon Reble	9 Anne Cooper 11 Sharyn Cheney	9 Steve Lamont 11 Irvin Riehl	Sherry Malcho
Apr 29	N/A	9 Audrey Miller 11 Glen/Fern Schaefer	9 Andrew Famme 11 Beryl Horst	9 Steve Lamont 11 Irvin Riehl	Steve Arand



Joan Gibson, February 4
Bruce Hicks, February 19
Timothy Wood, February 25
Ryan Wood, February 25
Norman Schultze, Mar 10

SUMMER CAMPS REGISTRATIONS

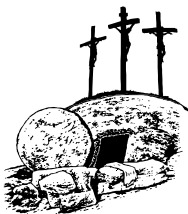
Camp Edgewood, our Lutheran Summer camp located in Eden Mills, just east of Guelph has just released their new brochure outlining the various camps and programs they will offer this coming summer. You can pick up a copy from the church. You may also check out the Camp Edgewood website at www.edgewood-camp.ca



Camp Edgewood's Mission Statement: "A Christian organization, Edgewood welcomes all to experience growth and development in the midst of God's creation at our year round camping and retreat facilities "In keeping with their mission, Edgewood's summer camp programs focus on providing positive experience and development in Christian faith, community living and environmental awareness.

P.S. Camperships will be offered, once again, thanks to the Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund. The amount is \$200 per child to defray the costs. The only stipulation is that the child has to be a member of our congregation. If your child is attending, please let Terry know in our church office, once you register.

AN EASTER STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT



It's not an accident, whatever else it is Mark's Gospel ends at a strange place, the eighth verse of the sixteenth chapter. After having Jesus tell us that he would be killed in Jerusalem, and buried, but would rise after three days, Mark lets us see Jesus killed, as prophesied. He lets us see Jesus buried. And then, on the third day, he shows us the women who come faithfully to dress Jesus for proper burial, their discovery of the empty tomb, and a young man in a white robe who tells them Jesus is raised and they are to tell the disciples to go ahead to Galilee where

they will meet Jesus.

Then, as the women run off, full of fear and wonder, the Gospel ends in mid-sentence. It ends with the word "for." A good translation ends with three dots, to show the sentence is trailing off.

And that's it! The oldest manuscripts will end that way. It was only centuries later that someone, meaning well, added the rest of chapter 16 as we know it. But we are left with the abrupt ending, in mid-sentence and a question: What happens next? Well, we know what happens next. Jesus already told us in the gospel. So why didn't Mark show us?

There are many theories, but I'd like you to think about it this way – you now have the

opportunity to write the ending yourself, with you in it! The gospel, after all, is more than just about Jesus. It's about us, and how the resurrection changes our lives, and the way we continue the story. You write the ending – with your living, with your giving, with your loving. Your discipleship, your ministries, your service, and your offerings, are all part of the testimony that Jesus is risen! I wonder if Mark deliberately ended his Gospel this way because he wanted to tell his readers, "Wow, that was great! Now it's your move!"

Now it's your move!

Pastor Doug

EASTER OFFERINGS

To celebrate the risen Lord, we show our gratefulness with our extra mile Easter offerings. This year's special Easter envelope will be divided in three equal parts between our Current Fund for the work we do in our church community, Canadian Lutheran World Relief for the work it does for people around the world, and a local charity for the work it does in our community. Our Church Council will determine which charity at our April meeting. We thank you for your gifts. One way of saying thank you to God for the risen Christ.



LUTHER HOSTEL

Experience Luther Hostel June 4-8, 2012

This summer, Luther Hostel returns to Waterloo as we continue our journey in lifelong learning. Luther Hostel will leave you feeling inspired and energized as you take the time to explore your faith, meet new friends, rekindle old relationships, and stretch your understanding of what it means to be people of faith in today's global community.

Worship

At Luther Hostel we begin and conclude each day with prayer and song. Luther Hostel's inspiring worship helps to unlock each day's presentations with praise and thanksgiving.

Learn

Our theological perspectives and ways of being church can be challenged and transformed through conversation with those whose culture and experience are different than our own. Come, listen, ask questions, experience and discuss, as we explore what it means to be in conversation with others in our global community of faith.

For more information or to register, see the Luther Hostel link on the Eastern Synod or Waterloo Lutheran Seminary homepage www.easternsynod.org or call the Synod Office at 519-743-1461.

EASTERN SYNOD NEW COMMUNICATION TOOLS



Our Eastern Synod of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada is getting the word out in many and new exciting ways over the internet. Many options to choose from, which we share with you now:

E-Notes

Is our newest communication tool. We send it to your email in-box twice a month. It is a great e-newsletter full of resources, upcoming events and news. Make sure you open it, read it and send it to as many friends as possible. We would like you to promote E-Notes to your congregation members since they too can subscribe and receive E-Notes. Please click the link which will take you to the subscription form <http://eepurl.com/iErd9>

Twitter

We are also on Twitter! Please follow us at **Eastern Synod-ELCIC@ESynodELCIC**

Facebook

You can find us and like us on Facebook - **Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada**

Eastern Synod Website

www.easternsynod.org

Our website is now managed in-house and updated frequently. Please visit our site often and share with others. We are always looking for news and stories to share on our website and keep our website alive! If you send photos, please be sure the photos are sent in their original size.

CALL TO SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Over the past couple of years, National Bishop Susan Johnson, has been encouraging a call for spiritual renewal and deeper discipleship within our church, which includes regular attendance at worship, daily prayer and scripture reading, involvement in a program of study, regular service in the community (not just the congregation), regular and proportional giving similar to the understanding of the tithe found in scripture, and commitment to sharing the good news with those around us, beginning with our family and friends. A simplified list of this call to deeper discipleship includes: Worship, Pray, Study, Serve, Give, Read, and Tell.

TELL

We are called to share our faith with those around us, starting with our family and friends. We have developed a bad habit of relying on the “paid professionals” to do this work for us! Here are some ideas to help you get back on track with sharing your faith.

- ✚ Think of one person among your family, friends, neighbours to whom you will say something about your faith and invite that person to come to church with you.
- ✚ Talk to your parents and grandparents about why faith and their relationship with God is important to them.
- ✚ Tell or read Bible stories to your children at bedtime.
- ✚ Ask people you know or meet if they have a faith background, or are part of a faith community.
- ✚ Ask a pastor, diaconal minister, church leader or friend to recommend a book on mission/outreach/faith-sharing.
- ✚ Call a person that you haven't seen in church for a while to see how they are doing.
- ✚ Look for opportunities and openings to share your faith.
- ✚ Find a faith-sharing partner to practice with and debrief.
- ✚ Join the ELCIC's Facebook page and tell others about what's going on in your faith. (facebook.com/CanadianLutherans).
- ✚ Help a grieving friend to return to church.
- ✚ Tell someone you've missed them at church.
- ✚ Video tape what your faith means to you and post it on YouTube.
- ✚ How would you describe and express your faith through art – drawing, poetry, music or your own preferred media?