

ZIONEWS

JULY & AUGUST 2014

A publication for the family of Zion Lutheran Church

202 Erie St., Stratford, Ontario N5A 2M8

Phone: 271-8527

Fax: 271-8536

www.zionstratford.com

e-mail: zionlc@golden.net



PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL

"Thus says the LORD God: I will soon lift up my hand to the nations, and raise my signal to the peoples; and they shall bring your sons in their bosom, and you daughters shall be carried on their shoulder." (Isaiah 49:22)



The highlight of every summer in my hometown in New Jersey was our annual Fourth of July parade. It featured marching bands, floats, fire trucks, antique cars, and all sorts of marvelous sights and sounds. The parade route was always crowded, and if you didn't arrive before dawn chances are you wouldn't get a good place to view the parade. That's why my parents would always wake me up early every July 4th so that we wouldn't miss a single moment of this wonderful event. But even though we almost always got a good spot along the parade route, as a young boy I still had a problem seeing everything in the throngs that were standing at the side of Front Street (yes, there was a time when I wasn't this tall!); but this dilemma was solved when my father picked me up and placed me on his shoulders, so that I could see everything that was coming down the street on that great celebration day. Perched atop my father's shoulders, I was able to witness and appreciate what I could not have seen on my own.

I quickly outgrew being able to sit on my father's shoulders, but in many ways I am still being blessed by all that my parents – and so many other adults in my life – allowed me witness when I was a child. They were the people who raised me up so that I could see the wonders of God's creation; they were the ones who gave me a vantage point from which I could see that I was a part of a community that loved and supported each other; and they were my teachers and mentors who gave me a firm foundation in life and in faith so that I might be able to grow in stature and in understanding of who I am and what my place was to be in God's world. Even though I can physically stand on my own and witness with my own eyes all of the wonders that surround me, I am still standing on the shoulders of those who first lifted me up and carried me so that I could

experience all that they knew God had in store for me as one of God's beloved children.

As we celebrate our national holidays this month (and yes, we will be celebrating on both July 1 and July 4!), we give thanks for all of those people in our nation, in our community, in our families, and in our churches who were the ones who placed us on their shoulders, the ones who allowed us to witness all of the wonders of God's creation, and the ones who have given us the foundation upon which we have been able to build our lives. We give thanks for our ancestors who built our nation, our father and mothers who nurtured us and gave us a home and a heritage, and our ancestors in faith who gave us the ability to see and hear all that God has in store for us. As we celebrate with fireworks and parades, we also celebrate the saints who still carry us on their shoulders, even as we are now the ones to give our children the same opportunity to witness for themselves that we are truly living in a wonderful country, where we can see and hear for ourselves all of the wonders that God has in store for all God's children.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jeff Laustsen



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

Though Zion's Sunday School is on summer break that doesn't stop people from preparing for the upcoming year which begins in September. Plans are already well underway and there will be lots of new events and activities to look forward to, not to mention some curriculum changes to meet our needs.

Of course, we need some new teachers. To say "yes" to teaching or for more information before you say yes, our Sunday School co-ordinators would love to hear from you. Please contact Mitzi Podann at mitzianddoug@sympatico.ca or 519-662-4856 or Tina Small at tinasmall@gmail.com or 519-273-3860.



OPEN HOUSE!

The Walter Mueller family invite their neighbours and friends to celebrate with them Gisela's 80th Birthday on
Saturday, July 12 from 2-4 PM at the
Griffith Auditorium, 643 West Gore St., (Spruce Lodge)

Best wishes only, please.

JULY AND AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

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

Date	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Readers	Usher Captains	Counting Captains
July 6	Judith Hammond & Wayne Hinz	Ed & Darlene Illman	Bill Sylvester	Brian Wilker	Linda Weitzel
July 13	N/A	Steve & Marg Lamont	Marg Lamont	Brian Wilker	Linda Weitzel
July 20	Darlene Illman & Fritz Steigmeier	Tim & Susan Iredale	Mary-Lou Drown	Fritz Steigmeier	Andrew Ehgoetz
July 27	N/A	Paul & Janet Jeffery	Liz Bomasuit	Fritz Steigmeier	Andrew Ehgoetz
Aug 3	Sister Anne Keffer & Linda Springer	Gerald & Isabel Cook	Melissa Tuer	Steve Lamont	Nancy White
Aug 10	N/A	Robert & Bev Keutsch	Bob Gladding	Steve Lamont	Nancy White
Aug 17	Sister Jean Widmeyer & Wayne Young	Fred & Deb Kindler	Kurt Gough	Ed Illman	June Junner
Aug 24	N/A	Jeanette Lamb	Linda Springer	Ed Illman	June Junner
Aug 31	N/A	Wayne & Linda Faulhafer	Stephen Fischer	Wayne Hinz	Audrey Miller

FROM YOUR TREASURER...

As the summer holiday season fast approaches, we find we are looking at a deficit in our Current fund. Please keep in mind that the ministry and the day to day operations at Zion continue, uninterrupted, over the summer months and we need your continued support.

We do have a monthly “pre-authorized offering” program which is currently being used by many of our members; perhaps it might be of interest to you as well. Simply call the church office for more information.

Thank You and God Bless



ZION GARAGE SALE
Zion is holding its annual

Garage Sale

Friday, July 11 at 12 noon

Contributions of books, glassware,
jewelry, dishes, tools, toys, games, etc. would be gratefully
accepted.

Last day for donations is
Monday, July 7, 12 noon.
Please call church office 271-8527
any weekday morning for more info.

All proceeds of the sale will be to our
Seniors Group.
Thank You to all who have donated
and helped out with the sale!!!