

A publication for the family of Zion Lutheran Church, 202 Erie St., Stratford, ON N5A 2M8

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## PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL

*"O Canada, our home and native land."*

At the beginning of our weekly Rotary Club meetings, I am often called upon to lead the club in the singing of "O Canada" (and it is often noted that it is the one person in the club who isn't a Canadian citizen who's leading the singing of the Canadian national anthem!). "O Canada" has become such a beloved feature of our nation that it may be surprising to note that it wasn't officially proclaimed the national anthem of Canada until July 1, 1980 ("God Save the Queen" had been the more widely-sung anthem up until that time). The anthem was written by Robert Stanley Weir in 1908 to mark the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Quebec City. It was published in November of that year with an arrangement of the music by Alfred Grant-Schafer. In *The Common School Book of Vocal Music* (1913), the original line "true patriot love thou dost in us command" was changed to "true patriot love in all thy sons command," the version that is sung to this day (even as some changes are being proposed). As Canada celebrates the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Confederation this year, people across the country will be joining their voices together in singing of how "with glowing hearts we see thee rise, the true north strong and free" and pledge ourselves to "stand on guard for thee."



While Canada may not be our "native land," it is the country that Susan and I call home, and so we will be joining with our friends and neighbours on July 1 in celebrating the birthday of Canada and offering prayers that "God keep our land glorious and free." Our prayers for this nation are in keeping with the original intent of the anthem's composer, who wrote additional verses that are not frequently sung but which call upon God to bless all the people who call Canada home:

- "Ruler Supreme, who hearest humble prayer, hold our dominion within thy loving care. Help us to find, O God, in thee, a lasting rich reward, as waiting for the better day, we

ever stand on guard."

As we join with Canadians across the country in celebrating our nation's birth on this Canada Day, as Christians we are also taught by St. Paul to *"be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God."* (Romans 13:1). Martin Luther interpreted this to mean that *"Christians should be subject to the governing authorities and be ready to do every good work, not that they shall in this way be justified, since they already are righteous through faith, but that in the liberty of the Spirit they shall by so doing serve others and the authorities themselves and obey their will freely and out of love."* (*The Freedom of a Christian*, 1520). This does not mean that Christians should accept whatever decisions governments make without question, nor does it mean that governments have absolute authority in their decision-making processes; the proper function of secular government is to be God's servants in promoting the good and punishing the evil. When any government *"claims for itself the kind of devotion proper only to God and demands of its subjects that they perform evil rather than good ... that government no longer functions as a servant of God and is therefore no longer to be obeyed as such."* (Paul Achtemeier).

As we celebrate Canada's birthday on July 1, we join with people across the country in praying that God will bless this nation that is home to people from many lands who give thanks that we live in a land that is "the true north strong and free." We pray that God will guide those who lead our nation; that God will bless people throughout the land with the gifts of peace and freedom; and that God will use us as servants who seek to be faithful to fulfilling our call to be *"true to our God, true to our native land"* (ELW Hymn 841).

- "O Lord, we gather together in your presence this Canada Day ... Make us, who come from many different backgrounds and countries, a united people – one in purpose and vision. Give our government a spirit of wisdom and compassion that there may be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, lead us to thanksgiving, and when times are troubled, lead us to a deepening trust in you. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." – Trinity Anglican Church, Barrie, Ontario.

May *"God keep our land glorious and free"* on this Canada Day and for generations to come who will call this nation home!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Jeff Laustsen



## VICAR'S DEVOTIONAL

Well, it's been just over a month at Zion, and I'm already starting to feel at home. I usually find the most challenging part of joining a new community is the process of trying to learn people's names; trying to figure out how each person fits into the community; and trying to remember who is connected with who. In addition to these challenges, there is always that looming question of how I myself, will fit into the group, and whether or not people will like me, or even accept me as I am. Oh, the joyful insecurities of wanting to belong!

Church communities however, are a bit different. Of course, there are still names to learn, and dynamics to understand, but the context is unique. The difference is that in Christ's Church, I already know that every person I meet here, is a called and beloved disciple of Jesus. That tells me a lot already. I know that each person has been bestowed with gifts for their own calling and ministry within the Church. That tells me that my future is inseparably connected with yours. And I know that despite my own quirks and shortcomings, I am welcome, I am loved, and I have a home in the Body of Christ.

St. Paul teaches:

"Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it". (1 Cor.12:14-27)

I give thanks, for all the people and parts of this congregation. Thank you for reminding me, that where ever I go, I have a home in the Body of Christ.

Grace and Peace to you,  
Vicar Jason

**+ IN MEMORIAM +**  
Dorothy Mueller, May 25

**+BAPTISMS+**  
Aamin Asher Martin, May 28



We are currently seeking new volunteers to join our very dedicated Zion Meals on Wheels team. Through 'One Care,' Zion's team delivers meals to clients four times a year. This wonderful service helps individuals to remain in their own home. Clients are most appreciative of our help. If you

would like more information, please contact me at 519-271-3187. P.S. Zion was unable to meet our commitment to this community service in June. **We are currently short of volunteers, due to unforeseen circumstances. PLEASE, help us with this much needed volunteer service. If you can help out just one or two times a year that would be greatly appreciated by our clients and our co-ordinator Heather Wickenheiser. PLEASE give her a call today. Thank you!**

Heather Wickenheiser  
Co-Ordinator Zion Meals On Wheels



**HIGHLIGHTS FROM CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL**  
The two grease inceptors in the kitchen will be installed in the next couple of weeks. Quotes are being obtained for the fire suppression system which will be installed during the summer months.

The drainage work relating to the driveway and front courtyard have been completed and during some recent heavy rains, improvement was already noted. The Property Committee will continue to monitor the drainage issues.

## JULY AND AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

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

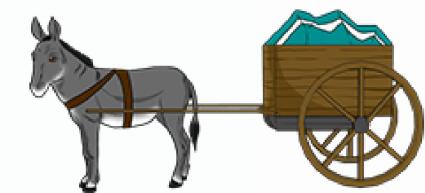
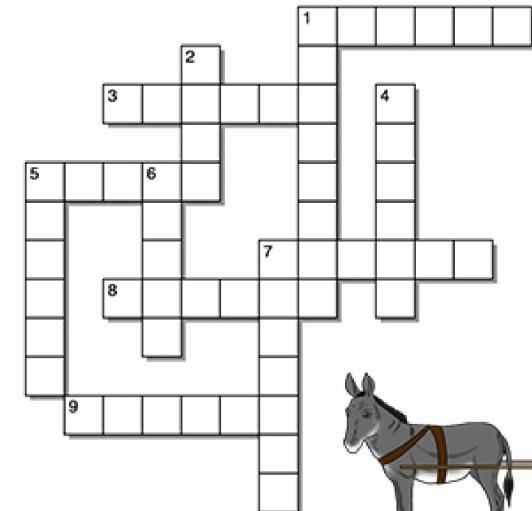
Date	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Readers	Usher Captains	Counting Captains
July 2	Sister Jean Widmeyer & Liz Bomasuit	Darrell & Judy Remecker	Liz Bomasuit	Darrell Remecker	Liz Bomasuit
July 9	N/A	Glen & Fern Schaefer	Anne Cooper	Brian Wilker	Alison Johnston
July 16	Barb Higgins & Wayne Young	Peter & Dianne Hiller	Mary-Lou Drown	Brian Wilker	Alison Johnston
July 23	N/A	Bruce & Beth Sippel	Sister Jean Widmeyer	Fritz Steigmeier	Ellen Wolfe
July 30	N/A	Allan & Lorraine Skowby	Stephen Fischer	Fritz Steigmeier	Ellen Wolfe
Aug 6	Stephen Fischer & Judith Hammond	Klaus & Linda Springer	Kurt Gough	Steve Lamont	Lynnette McLeod
Aug 13	N/A	Jim & Judy Stanley	Dianne Hiller	Steve Lamont	Lynnette McLeod
Aug 20	N/A	Fritz Steigmeier	Ed Illman	Ed Illman	Paul Hansen
Aug 27	Barb Higgins & Darlene Illman	Bill & Marilyn Sylvester	Susan Iredale	Ed Illman	Paul Hansen



## Bible Pathway Adventures

CROSSWORD

### JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS



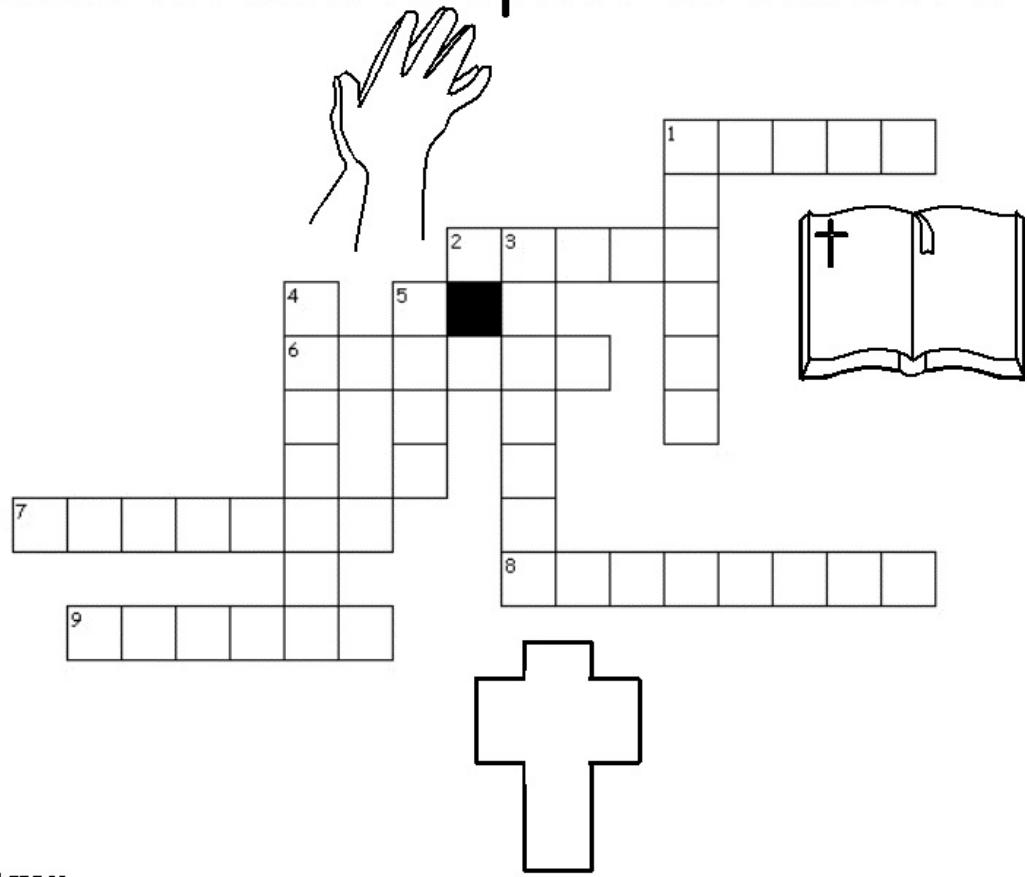
#### ACROSS

- 1) Dan and Naphtali were Jacob's sons from which woman? (Gen 46:23-25)
- 3) Joseph had \_\_\_\_\_ brothers.
- 5) Which brother suggested they sell Joseph to the traders? (Gen 37:26)
- 7) Name of the brother who Joseph put in prison. (Gen 42: 23-24)
- 8) Name of the brother who wanted to save Joseph. (Gen 37:21)
- 9) Joseph and his family lived in this land. (Gen 37:1)

#### DOWN

- 1) Name of Joseph's younger brother.
- 2) Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun were Jacob's sons from which wife? (Gen 46:15)
- 4) Name of Joseph and Benjamin's mother. (Gen 46:19)
- 5) Jacob's favorite son. (Gen 37:3)
- 6) The name of Joseph's brother starting with the letter A. (Gen 46:17)
- 7) How many members of Jacob's family lived in Egypt? (Gen 46:27)

# Church and Respect Crossword



## Answers:

Across: 1. Learn  
2. Dress  
6. Praise  
7. Worship  
8. Teachers  
9. People

Down: 1. Listen  
3. Respect  
4. Special  
5. Walk

## Across

1. At church we meet with others to worship and also to study or \_\_\_\_ about God.
2. The way we \_\_\_\_ can show respect on the outside of us.
6. When we \_\_\_\_ God we are telling him how much appreciate and love him.
7. When we sing and pray to God this is the way we do this for God.
8. These people care about you and spend time preparing a lesson for you to learn.
9. The church isn't about where we meet but about the \_\_\_\_ we meet with there.

## Down

1. It's important to do this to hear what the people at church are trying to teach you.
3. Treating others the way we would like to be treated can be called this.
4. Church is a \_\_\_\_ place to worship God together no matter where it is.
5. Instead of running and being loud it's better if you \_\_\_\_ and speak nicely to others.