

A publication for the family of Zion Lutheran Church

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## PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL

***“Let the wise also hear and gain in learning, and the discerning acquire skill ...” – Proverbs 1:5.***

In January 2012, I did something that I swore for decades would never happen: I returned to school. After a twenty-five year hiatus, I found myself back in the classroom as I began my studies in the Doctor of Ministry program at Virginia Theological Seminary, a school of the Episcopal (Anglican) Church. The first question many people asked was “Why?” Why return to school after being away for so many years? Why go back to lectures, assigned readings, and papers at a time in life when many people (including pastors) are able to ease back and enjoy their lives after years of hard work? Why would someone my age go back to the classroom with students who are young enough to be my children?

The answer I gave at the time was that I needed to challenge myself to grow both in knowledge and in my pastoral ministry. It is very easy for a pastor after several years of experience to “coast,” to rely on old methods and practices that are tried and true. The

problem with this is that it is very easy to become stale, to cease to be effective as a preacher and teacher, and to get into a rut that can have dangerous consequences for both myself and the congregation I serve. The program at Virginia was one that appealed to me because it is geared for parish pastors (you have to be in full-time ministry to be accepted into the program) and all of the readings and assignments are focused on strengthening one’s ministry. My first two years were challenging and inspiring, opening me to new understandings of pastoral practice and gathering with pastors of many different Christian traditions who shared my passion for growing in knowledge and acquiring new skills to remain relevant and effective congregational pastors.

When I accepted the call to become pastor here at Zion, I took a year’s leave of absence from VTS; and during my first year here, I wondered if it would be possible to resume my work in this program. With the encouragement and support of our Council, Mutual Ministry Committee, congregational members, friends – and especially Susan – I will be returning

to Alexandria, Virginia this month to begin the third year of the program. It will be three weeks of classes, seminars, sharing case studies, and discussing my project thesis proposal for the next major part of the program: the doctoral thesis. My readings, the papers I am writing, and the preparations I am making for my return to the classroom confirm that this is a good decision and one that will greatly benefit my ministry at Zion and will hopefully inspire all of us to consider what it means for us to serve our Lord together in this time and place.

So while I’ll be away for three weeks this summer, it won’t exactly be a “vacation” in the usual sense; but it will be a time of renewal, reinvigoration, and refreshment that I know will bless me to return to Stratford inspired in my service among my fellow servants of God here at Zion. I’ll share more about my weeks in Virginia when I return in July; in the meantime, pray that the Lord will use this program to bless all of us in the ministry we share as God’s people, called to worship together, learn together, and reach out to all with the love that is ours in our great Teacher, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Jeff Laustsen



## SENIORS BIRTHDAY PARTY!

Calling all 85 year old and plus members! On June 16 at 2 PM is Zion’s Birthday Party. Come join us for fellowship, food and entertainment. A phone call will be made to everyone who is invited. Hope to see you there!



## ZION TABLE FOR SENIORS

**Zion Table For Seniors:** This beloved ministry which promotes fun, food, and friendship takes on a decidedly different “flavour” as our program year comes to a close. We gather on Tuesday, June 23 for a BBQ, here at Zion. **Please note: We will be doing this Seniors Table differently. For our entertainment, we will be having a penny sale, \$5.00 for 20 tickets.** We start at 10:45 AM so come and have some fun, first. Lunch to follow. **(For those who just want lunch, please come at 12 noon).** Luncheon cost is \$12 per person. Please let Doris Bartlett (519-271-9622) or Beryl Horst (519-276-3501) know by Tuesday, June 16 by noon at the latest, so we can reserve your spot.

## WOMEN OF FAITH NEWS

**June 1:**

**June 25:**

**Board meeting at 7 PM**

**Young’s cottage at 5:30 PM followed by play at Huron County**

Playhouse



Living & Learning Kits - 35 kits were sent to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to everyone who donated these kits. The children also thank you.

ZION GARAGE SALE

Zion Church is holding a garage sale on Friday, July 10, beginning at 12 noon. All the proceeds of this sale will be donated to our congregational ministry for our Seniors Group. The contributions we are looking for are books, glassware, jewelry, dishes, tools, electrical appliances, sports equipment, toys, games, etc. The convener is Terry Faulhafer who can be reached at our church office 519-271-8527 any weekday morning. Last day for donations, is Monday, July 6. She has a place to store items and will also arrange pick up, if needed. Thank you for your support of this great cause!



FRIENDSHIP MEAL MINISTRY



Please note: The Friendship Meal, at Zion, will resume in September. This gives our volunteers a well deserved rest. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding this ministry, please direct them to Sister Jean Widmeyer at [srjw@bell.net](mailto:srjw@bell.net) or 519-273-1810. She'd love to hear from you.



FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT  
as of April 30, 2015

**Current Fund**  
Total Income from all sources is up 2.98% over last year but is only at 23.8% of Budget (to meet budgeted expenses to April 30, 2015, it should be at 33.33%).  
Total Expenses are at 32.16% of Budget  
The Deficit in the Current Fund as at April 30, 2015 is (\$23,095.47).



Landon Christopher James & Nova  
Alison Louise Pickering, children of  
Kyle & Emily on May 30.



Doris Montgomery, May 11

JUNE 2015 VOLUNTEERS

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

Date	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Readers	Usher Captains	Counting Captains
June 7	Liz Bomasuit & Judith Hammond	Mike & Liz Bomasuit	Andrew Famme	Brian Wilker	Kurt Gough
June 14	N/A	Peter & Dianne Hiller	Mindy Gough	Brian Wilker	Kurt Gough
June 21	Loralee McNaughton & Verne Hammer	Mike & Wendy Holman	Tristan Hartfiel	Fritz Steigmeier	Linda Weitzel
June 28	N/A	Ed & Darlene Illman	Madison Hendricks	Fritz Steigmeier	Linda Weitzel



HOW CAN I HELP THE CHURCH SAVE MONEY?

You can help by signing up for the email version of ZONEWS. Just send an email to [zionlc@golden.net](mailto:zionlc@golden.net) and include your email address. It will help save on mailing costs.