

ZIONNEWS

MARCH 2014

A publication for the family of Zion Lutheran Church
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FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

A few years ago Donna and I visited Egypt and Greece. We saw pyramids and tombs in Egypt. We sailed down the Nile from Luxor to Aswan. And who knows? Perhaps we even passed the place on the Nile where the servant of Pharaoh's daughter found Moses in the reed boat among the bulrushes.

We were fascinated by the sights and sounds of Cairo, a city of mosques and minarets. In Cairo we spent a few hours in the Christian quarter of the city. Egyptian Christians, much in the minority, are called Coptic Christians. They are one of the most ancient of Christian sects, and in their Christian memory they have a rich tradition concerning the activities of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Egypt where the Holy Family went to hide when the Wise Men told them of Herod's plan to kill Jesus. Donna and I visited an ancient building in Cairo where, as the Egyptian Christians tell us, the Holy Family lived for a time during their sojourn in Egypt. In our western tradition the Gospel of St. Matthew simply tells us that the Holy Family escaped to Egypt and returned to Judea after Herod's death – just a couple of verses.

In Athens, we visited the Acropolis, which means the "high city." From the Acropolis we looked down upon the Hill of Mars where Paul preached the Good News to the Athenians. We traveled by bus to Delphi where the Oracle used her powers to predict the future to such historical figures as Alexander the Great. On another trip to Greece we visited Corinth and stood on the bema (stage) from which Paul spoke to the Corinthians.

In this Lenten season, as we prepare ourselves to experience Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, I keep thinking of Egypt. In the time of the pharaohs, the whole of Egyptian society revolved around religion. We call the form of government in Egypt at that time a theocracy, which means "rule of god." The pharaohs themselves were thought of as gods, and their funeral preparations all had to do with a firm belief in resurrection. But before resurrection, the Egyptians believed that there had to be a final judgement. The heart of every person would be placed on a scale with the feather of justice (Ma'at), and, if the heart weighed more than the feather, the individual being judged was sinful and would not experience resurrection. If the



individual's heart was lighter than the feather, then that person would be raised to new life.

Interesting, isn't it, that "heavy-hearted" in ancient Egypt meant "sinful," and, conversely, "light-hearted" meant "free of sin." In the Egyptian process of final judgment, the person who was "light of heart" had to have followed some rules very much like our Ten Commandments. Of course, the Egyptian sense of resurrection was much more materialistic than ours; the Egyptians felt that they had to preserve their bodies (mummification) and that they had to take all of their favourite things to their tombs. That's why archeologists have found all kinds of treasure and the remainder of food stuffs in the pharaoh's tombs. But, differences aside, isn't it amazing how universal God's promise of resurrection and eternal life really is in world religions.

Like the Egyptians, we Christians believe in a bodily resurrection, but there is a more spiritual side to our Christian belief. We shall be raised bodily no matter what happens to our bodies after death, and our resurrection body will be different from our "birth bodies." We believe too, that we shall not need anything from this world in God's Kingdom. And best of all, we believe that we shall all die "light-hearted" because of the grace God has promised to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Light-heartedness is indeed the promise of Easter!

In Christ,
Pastor Dale

CALL ACCEPTED

February 11, 2014

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is with great joy and profound thanksgiving that I accept the call of the congregation of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church to serve as your pastor. I will begin my ministry among you on May 1, 2014.



I am so honored and humbled by your gracious invitation to serve among you, and I am deeply grateful to Bishop Pryse, Franklin Famme and the members of the Call Committee, Rob Leifso and the members of the Church Council, and everyone who has been so gracious and welcoming to us during these weeks of discernment. Above all, I give thanks and praise to God for the privilege of serving as a pastor, and for his new call to serve along with my sisters and brothers in Christ in Zion Lutheran Church.

Susan and I are looking forward to moving to Stratford in late April and beginning this new chapter of our life and ministry. Please keep us in your prayers as we bid farewell to our congregation here in Rockville Centre and as we move into our new home. We know that God will abide with us and bless us throughout these coming weeks as God guides us into your presence so that together we may *“proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”* (1 Peter 2:9).

May God bless us as we begin our ministry together as sisters and brothers in Christ at Zion Lutheran Church!

Yours in Christ,
The Rev. Jeffrey P. Laustsen



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. This year Ash Wednesday will be observed on Wednesday, March 5. A worship service that includes Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes will be held at 7:30 PM. At that time Christians will be marked with ashes imposed in the form of a cross. They will hear the words, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return.

On Ash Wednesday our Lenten discipline will begin. Christians are called to a discipline of prayer, fasting, and the giving of gifts for the benefit of the poor.

Please be present on Ash Wednesday as we begin the journey to the cross and empty tomb of our Lord Jesus.



WEDNESDAY EVENING WORSHIP

On Wednesday evenings of Lent the parish will gather to sing and pray Holden Evening Prayer. Worship begins at 7:30 PM. Please join us in this Lenten discipline.



SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK

Sunday of The Passion/Palm Sunday: Palm Sunday, April 12: 10 AM Holy Communion; Distribution of Palms; Reading of the Passion - Matthew.

Maundy Thursday: Maundy Thursday, April 17: 6 PM: Potluck Supper; 7:30 PM

Worship Service with Holy Communion; Footwashing; Stripping of the Altar.

Good Friday: Good Friday, April 18: 10 AM Liturgy of Good Friday; Reading of the Passion according to John; Prayers of Good Friday.

Easter Sunday, Resurrection of our Lord: Easter Sunday, April 20: 10 AM Holy Communion. Sunday School is on holiday on Easter morning, so teachers and children can worship with their family.



CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS 2014

For this year, the following responsibilities have been assigned to Church Council members by election and appointment. They are: Chairperson: Bill Hoffard; Vice-Chairperson: Kurt Gough; Secretary: Audrey Miller; Treasurer: Marg Lamont; Finance: Audrey Miller, Andrew Ehgoetz; Property: Paul Hansen, Wendy Holman; Worship & Music: June Wilson-Junner, Deb Kindler, Nancy White; Congregational Life: Kurt Gough, Rob Illman, Linda Weitzel, Brian Gropp.

Feel free to contact them with concerns or questions, if they arise. In the meantime, please pray for these brothers and sisters in Christ. May the Holy Spirit guide them as they undertake their ministry of leadership, insight, and oversight.



BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will be offered at noon at Zion on the Thursdays of Lent alternately by Pastor Dale and Sister Jean. The study is called, “How Lutherans Interpret the Bible.” This is a study developed by Mark Allan Powell, a teacher at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Ohio. It is part of the Book of Faith Initiative. Topics include the Word of God, What Lutherans say about the Bible, Interpreting the Bible in Context, Determining Right From Wrong and the Many Meanings of the Bible.

Interested in these topics? You are welcome to join us at noon on March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 4 and 10. Please come to the parlour and bring your brown bag lunch. Coffee provided.



CHOIR WORKSHOP

A Warm Invitation: The Zion Choir would like to invite you to join us on Sunday, March 30th for an afternoon of inspiration, music, friendship and

fun at Zion at 3 PM.

The Choir will be hosting a workshop lead by Paul Coates, local music teacher and choir leader. It will be an afternoon full of unexpected treasures, and will lead into a potluck supper, provided by the Choir. Please come and enjoy the experience with us, and stay for supper.

A sign-up sheet will be at the back of the church, just to help with planning. All are welcome.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: MARCH 7

This year's World Day of Prayer Service takes place on Friday, March 7, at 11 AM, at Immaculate Conception Church, 70 Well Street. This year's program is written by the women of Egypt around the theme "Streams In The Desert." This is a community service so please know all are welcome. Women, and, of course, men too. Luncheon to follow.

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday of March. The movement aims to bring together women and men, of various races, cultures and traditions, in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.



ZION WOMEN OF FAITH

March 3: Board meeting at 7 PM

March 26: WOF monthly meeting at 7:30 PM

WOF are currently looking for volunteers for the flower committee. Please let Linda Springer know if you can help out. We need somebody to do flowers in September.

As mentioned before we are doing the Learning and Living Kit for Lutheran World Relief again this year. We are asking for whole kits this time. There will be copies at the back of the church for the items needed to complete a whole kit. Everyone is invited to participate.

A box at the back of the church will be available for you to drop off your kits. The kits will be shipped in May.

Linda Springer (WOF President)



Community Dinner

Please call Sister Jean Widmeyer (519-273-6810).

FRIENDSHIP MEAL

Our Friendship Meal continues to serve people in need in our community. We are now serving around 100 people a month which unfortunately indicates that things are difficult for some people. Our next Friendship Meal is Friday, March 28 at 5 PM. Volunteers are needed to prepare, cook, serve, and clean-up. That could mean you and you are welcome to help out. Indeed, we need you! Questions?



ZION TABLE FOR SENIORS

Our next gathering of Zion Table For Seniors, our ministry which promotes fun, food, and friendship, takes place on Tuesday, March 25 at 12 noon. Please let Doris Bartlett (519-271-9622) or Phyllis Jeffery (519-271-3668) know by noon, Tuesday, March 18 if you can attend. Lunch cost is only \$12. African Need of the Month: **Razors**

Our after dinner entertainment will be by a musical medley trio with piano, guitar and fiddle.



EASTER FLOWERS

As is our custom, at Zion, donations will be accepted so the Women of Faith group can purchase flowers and decorate the church for our Easter celebrations. Please write "Easter Flowers" and your name on a separate envelope and place it on the offering plate or bring it to the church office any weekday morning. Donations will be accepted up to Palm Sunday, April 13. Thank you kindly!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

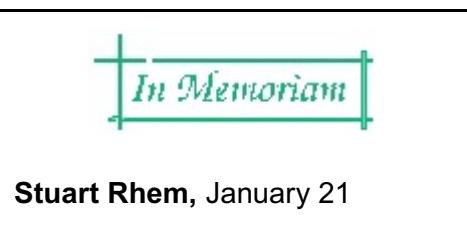
Wow, what a great bake sale! Thank you to everyone for their part in making our bake sale very successful, from our students who did an awesome job by making the signs and assisting with the sale itself, to those who showed off their baking talents in providing us with many yummy treats. Also, to the members of the congregation and guests who were very generous in their purchases. With everyone's efforts we raised \$323.26 which is up from last year's amount of \$249.05 for the Sunshine Foundation.

On March 30th look for the children taking an active part in the service.

MARCH 2014 VOLUNTEERS

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

Date	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Readers	Usher Captains	Counting Captains
Mar 2	Marilyn Sylvester & David Bennewitz	Brad & Sherry Beatty	Fritz Steigmeier	Darrell Renecker	Audrey Miller
Mar 9	N/A	Scott & Janice Beirness	Liz Bomasuit	Darrell Renecker	Audrey Miller
Mar 16	Liz Bomasuit & Barb Higgins	Steve & Marg Lamont	Andrew Famme	Brian Wilker	Rob Illman
Mar 23	N/A	Don & Connie Campbell	Hannah Bush	Brian Wilker	Rob Illman
Mar 30	N/A	Brian & Sharyl Coe	Brian Wilker	Fritz Steigmeier	Brian Gropp



ZION CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD

For your interest and, where appropriate, your response, we are happy to share the following items which have recently come into our church office. Please note:

1. **Free Income Tax Clinic:** An income tax clinic for low income persons and couples will be offered by local accounting companies on Tuesday, March 18. To participate in the clinic, income restrictions at \$16,000 or less for singles and \$26,000 or less for couples. Appointments must be made in advance. To register call Hazel Sneddon in the Social Services Department at 519-271-3773 ext. 256, Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM.
2. **Lenten Lunches:** Wednesday, March 5, with Fr. David Butler of St. Joseph's/Immaculate Conception RCC; Wednesday, March 12, with Rev. Elaine Clark-Siberry of Greenwood Court; Wednesday, March 19, with Rev. Pirie Mitchell of Central United; Wednesday, March 26 with Rev. Michelle Down of St. John's United; Wednesday, April 2 with Pastor Chad MacLaren of Bethel Pentecostal; Wednesday, April 9 with Rev. Daniel Bowyer of St. Paul's Anglican. Cost is \$8 for soup, sandwiches, veggies, dessert & beverages. Location is Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church, 50 Well St. Theme is "Superheroes Of My Faith." Each luncheon begins at 12 Noon and will last one hour.
3. **An Evening Of Hope:** In support of the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem with Dr. Tawfiq Nasser, CEO of Augusta Victoria Hospital will be held on Saturday, March 15. Reception at 6:30 PM, Dinner at 7 PM at the Crowne Plaza Kitchener-Waterloo, 105 King Street East, Kitchener. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased by contacting the CLWR Eastern Regional Office at 519-725-8777.
4. **Women's Day:** Stratford and Area Women All Together Women's Day on Saturday, April 5, from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM at the Festival Inn. "Rejoice In Hope," with keynote speaker Michelle Sim, Pastor, Singer and Comedian; and Gospel recording artist, Celeste Zugec. Advance tickets: \$30; after March 21: \$35. Lunch and nutrition breaks included. Only 200 tickets will be sold and are available by calling: 519-571-4764 or 519-271-1917. We are excited to once again offer an uplifting and encouraging day for 200 women in our area.