

ZIONNEWS

MAY 2014

A publication for the family of Zion Lutheran Church
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FROM PASTOR JEFF

As Susan and I pour through closets, dresser drawers, and boxes to decide what we will move with us to Stratford and what we will give away or discard, we came upon a set of programs from one of our many visits to the Stratford Festival. It was a reminder of the many times we traveled to Stratford to enjoy the theatre, the restaurants, the hospitality of the people, and the beauty of the city. Little did we know at the time, of course, that one day we would be calling Stratford our home, and that I would be called to serve our Lord Jesus Christ among the people of Zion Lutheran Church! As we go through the challenges of preparing for our move, we are filled with joy and excitement as we begin this new chapter of our lives in this wonderful place.



We first traveled to Stratford in the summer of 1984, the first year that Susan and I were married. We met while I was a student at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia; Susan is a native of the Philadelphia area and was working at the time as faculty secretary. We sang together in the Seminary Choir, and it was through this shared love of music and very similar senses of humour that we came to know one another. We were married on January 7, 1984 at the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields in Philadelphia, about six months after I was ordained. We

have lived in four homes: in the parsonages at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Linden, NJ, Joy Lutheran Church in Waretown, NJ, and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Rockville Centre, NY; and in our own home while I was serving as pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Niagara Falls, Ontario. We are now very excited as we look forward to moving into our new home in Stratford as we become a part of the community of God's people who gather at Zion to worship and serve our Lord.

While each of our previous trips to Stratford were delightful, we knew that they were only for a few days and that we would be leaving to return to the place that we called home at the time. This trip to Stratford will be quite different; God willing, our time together will last for many years, and the Lord will bless us as we gather around his Holy Word, share his Holy Supper, pray for one another, serve one another, and live together in the fellowship that binds our hearts and minds together in Christian love. We are so thankful that God has called us to make Stratford our new home, and we look forward to sharing this home with you!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jeff Laustsen

P.S. On Sunday, May 4, our new minister, Pastor Jeff Laustsen will have his first Sunday

with us. After the service, at coffee hour, we will have a welcoming reception for all to meet and greet Pastor Jeff and Susan. Come on down and say hello!

FAREWELL FROM PASTOR DALE

Dear Members of Zion:

It has been a blessing and a pleasure to have spent these past 6 ½ months with you.



I have enjoyed working with Sister Jean, Lynne, Franklin, Marco and Terry in ministering to the congregation. I thank you very much for your invitation to be part of your worship family. Leading worship, teaching senior confirmation, participating in Bible study, sharing meals, and visiting (not to mention driving through blizzards) have kept me busy and out of trouble, as Donna reminds me.

I wish you and Pastor Jeff all of God's blessings in your ministry together.

I shall see you all on Confirmation Sunday.

May you continue to collaborate with God in making the world a better place.

Blessings,
Pastor Dale

FROM SISTER JEAN

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the Gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."
(Phil.1:3-6)



With profound gratitude I thank you for the opportunity to have served at Zion Lutheran Church for the past eight months. It has been a joy to participate in worship, to visit members of the congregation at home and in the hospital, to teach young people in confirmation, and to have been part of the rhythm of our parish life. Thank you for your prayers and support, as we have together ministered to God's people at Zion and in our community.

For the past months I have served as Interim Diaconal Minister at Zion. It is now time to commit this ministry to Pastor Laustsen. Pastor Laustsen will become pastor of Zion on May 1. I pray that Zion and Pastor Laustsen will together discern God's vision for ministry in this place.

On Sunday, April 27, the congregation will observe a Rite of Farewell and Godspeed for Pastor Finch and me. Unfortunately, I cannot be present on that Sunday. I plan to be in Chicago for meetings associated with the Deaconess Community. Please wish me farewell and Godspeed in absentia.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve at Zion.

Your servant in Christ,
Sr. Jean Widmeyer



PRAISE APPEAL SUNDAY, MAY 11

An invitation has come from the Bishop's office to participate in this year's Praise Appeal. This was once an annual project of the ELW. The Praise Appeal raises funds for the various projects and programs of the ELCIC. This year May 11, Mother's Day, has been designated as Praise Appeal Sunday, but you may donate to the Appeal at any time. Special envelopes will be available.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School year is coming to a close. The last day of this year's program, will be Mother's Day, May 11, so please plan to have your child attend so they can thank their teachers and wish their classmates a happy summer. Of course, this year wouldn't have been possible without the dedicated staff and the parents who ensured their children were present.

ZION WOMEN OF FAITH NEWS

May - NO Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 28 - 7:30 PM is our monthly meeting. All ladies are welcome to join this meeting.



WOF are currently looking for volunteers for the flower committee. Please let Linda Springer know if you can help out. 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. Also needed are slightly used or new pillow cases. A box at the back of the church will be available for you to drop off your kits and pillow cases. The kits will be shipped in the 3rd week of May.

On June 25, at 8 PM we will be going to the Huron County Playhouse to see the play "Look No Hands" (comedy). If you would like tickets, please call Joanne Young at 519-271-3225.

Questions? Contact Linda Springer at 519-273-2093 or klspenger@rogers.com



Meal program.

MAY CONCERT AT ZION

New Music Concert will be held on Saturday, May 24, at 7:30 PM. Our own organist/pianist Marco Burak joined by Michel Allard, Michael Dobinson and guest Martha Hill Duncan present new, (mostly piano) compositions on the theme: "Keys...musical keys, keyed instruments, keys to the car, keys to enlightenment?" Free-will donation with proceeds going to Zion's Friendship



Our Friendship Meal for people in need in our community takes place on Friday, May 30 at 5 PM. It is good to contribute to the life of Stratford's community in this way. You are welcome to help us prepare at 1 PM or serve or clean up from 4:30 PM and on. Your gift of time and service would be a blessing. Questions? Contact Sister Jean Widmeyer (519-273-6810).



85+ BIRTHDAY PARTY

Once again, in what is a beloved tradition, at Zion, we honour our members who turn 85 years or older in 2014 with a birthday party on Tuesday, June 3. A wonderful way to celebrate those members of our church family who have been blessed with a long life. There will be cake, special music and good fellowship. All the fun starts at 2 PM. For more information, call Mary-Lou Drown at 519-273-2268 or Jan Bennewitz at 519-271-6073.



CONFIRMATION DAY

This year the people of Zion Church will celebrate three of our young people affirming their faith in God, Jesus, and the Church through the Rite of Confirmation. It all takes place on the Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 25 at 10 AM. Our confirmants this year are: **Olivia Bauwens, Amy Chandler, and Andrew Famme**. We thank God for these young people. May they be enlightened with the gifts of the Spirit and nourished in the community of faith.

P.S. Guests on Confirmation Day will be the Rev. Dale Finch, who was our Interim Pastor who taught them in their final year and Pastor Karen Kuhnert who taught these confirmants in their first year.



ZION TABLE FOR SENIORS

Our May gathering of Zion Table For Seniors, our ministry which promotes fun, food, and friendship takes place on Tuesday, May 27 at 12 noon. Please let Doris Bartlett (519-271-9622) or Phyllis Jeffery (519-271-3668) know by Tuesday, May 20 if you can attend. Lunch cost is only \$12. African need of the month: **Nail Clippers**

THANK YOU LETTER!!

Dear Zion's Table Seniors:



The Mission Depot Volunteers would like to extend a great big "Thank You" to our Zion's Table For Seniors for your generous contributions to our African mission needs. Simple, everyday items which we take for granted can greatly improve the lives of countless women, men and children in developing countries. Through your collection of these items we have been able to send much needed and appreciated supplies on global humanitarian and medical missions to communities, hospitals and schools in Africa and other developing countries.

The Mission Depot Volunteers

THANK YOUS ARE IN ORDER



A special word of thanks to all those who contributed to our Easter celebration by donating towards the purchase of Easter and spring flowers for the church. They are: **Ken & Mary Helen Dale, Bill & Ruth Lindner, Jean Weir, Carl & Gwen Marklevitz, Paul & Norma Hansen, Janis Auster, Elsie Dahm, Tim & Darlene Gropp, Don & Eva Wagner, Brian & Barb Gropp, Judith Hammond, Ruth Illmann, Elfrieda Zimmermann, Noreen Wilker, Doreen Graul, Ingrid Vollmer, Verne & Joyce Hammer, Wayne Faulhafer family, Olive Siemon, Wayne & Joanne Young, Ellen Wolfe & Bruce Mitchell, Bob & Heather Wickenheiser, Doris Chown, Richard & Anne Graul, Brian & Pauline Schade.**

P.S. A special thank you to Marten and Dianne Mann for doing the arranging and decorating. Much appreciated!



**Ryker Floyd James Henderson-Wilson,
son of Eric & Jody on April 27**



**Neil Mustard & Marilyn Hauser on
April 5**

MAY 2014 VOLUNTEERS

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

Date	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Readers	Usher Captains	Counting Captains
May 4	Stephen Fischer & Linda Weitzel	Ron & Deb Deichert	Marilyn Wells	Ed Illman	Paul Hansen
May 11	N/A	Rudy & Bea Deighton	Maria Doherty	Wayne Hinz	Paul Hansen
May 18	N/A	Tessa Deighton	Linda Weitzel	Wayne Hinz	Bill Hoffard
May 25	Fritz Steigemier & Judith Hammond	Mervyn & Joyce Dietz	Andrew Famme	Jerry Terhaerdt	N/A