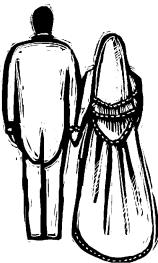


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## PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL

*"I've looked at life from both sides now"* – Joni Mitchell

For many years, I have approached worship from the “side” of the presiding minister, the one called to lead both Sunday worship as well as special worship gatherings such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals. In the coming weeks, I will be a participant in three marriage services; but while I'll be on my familiar side at two of these weddings (including the marriage of Pastor Albert Romkema and his fiancée Anne), in early November I'll be in the unique position of being on the “other side” when Susan and I attend the wedding of Christa Laustsen (my late cousin Perry's daughter) and her fiancé Kevin O'Brien in Cranbury, New Jersey. It isn't often that I have the opportunity to sit with the congregation at a wedding or any other worship service, so it gives me a perspective on what it's like to be on the “other side” of the many worship services where I am a leader. It also brings up a question: what is my role when I am in the congregation? I have a clear sense of who I am and what I am called to do when I'm leading worship – but how am I to participate in worship when I'm on the “other side”?

Our most public expression of our identity as the Church of Jesus Christ comes when we gather together in worship. Our Lutheran confession of faith, the *Augsburg Confession*, defines the Church as “*the assembly of all believers among whom the gospel is purely preached and the holy sacraments are administered according to the gospel.*” While there are many occasions in which Christians assemble for worship, our regular worship gathering is on Sunday because it is “*the day of Christ's resurrection and of the appearances to the disciples by the crucified and risen Christ ... [Therefore] Sunday is the principal festival day of Christians.*” (*The Use of the Means of Grace*, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). We gather as the assembly of God's people in worship on Sunday because it was “*on this day [that our Saviour Jesus Christ] overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.*” (ELW

Holy Communion). We gather together in worship because of our baptismal identity which called us together into being the Body of Christ.

- “Jesus teaches that we are not sufficient in and of ourselves. We need one another to complete our basic identity as members of the body of Christ. There are many things we can do alone, but becoming Christ's body is not one of them.” – Lorraine S. Brugh and Gordon W. Lathrop, *The Sunday Assembly*.

No matter what “side” we may be on when we assemble for worship, each of us plays a crucial role in the worship life of the congregation. There is, of course, the place of the presiding minister, the one called by the Church to proclaim God's Word and preside at the Sacraments. There are musicians who lead the assembly in song, lifting up our voices to God in joy and thanksgiving. There are the lectors, ushers, greeters, acolytes, and communion assistants who provide critical leadership in the liturgy, as well as those who prepare the communion table and care for the paraments and worship furnishings. And there is the critical role that is played by each person who is assembled in our worship gatherings; for none of us is a mere spectator in worship, but all of us participate in lifting our voices with one voice in song and in prayer, proclaiming together the Creeds that bind us together as people of faith, supporting each other in sharing the peace of God, and being present with our sisters and brothers in Christ. No matter what “side” we may on, each of us has an important place in the worship life of the assembly of believers that is the Church of Jesus Christ in worship.

When I take my place in the assembly that will gather for Christa and Kevin's wedding, I will not be assuming my usual role in a marriage service; but that doesn't mean that I'll be there as a mere spectator passively watching what takes place in the front of the sanctuary. In our marriage service, the place of the congregation is clear: as the bride and groom promise to be faithful to each other as long as they both shall live, those who have gathered to witness these promises are also challenged to “*uphold and care for [the bride and groom] in their life together.*” Even though I won't be on my usual “side” as the presiding minister, I will join with the assembly that day in promising to be a constant supporter of this couple as they begin their life together, praying that God will “*use us to support [them] in their lives together [and] give us such a sense of your constant love that we may employ all our strength in a life of praise of you.*”

Whatever “side” each of us may find ourselves on Sunday morning, each of us has an important role to play when we assemble as God's people for worship. May all sides here at Zion continue to join together so that we might make a joyful noise unto the Lord and serve the Lord with gladness!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Jeff Laustsen

## VICAR'S DEVOTIONAL

Anyone who has ever lost a loved one knows that remembrance isn't just something that happens on a single day. Our memories of those people, whom we've loved and long so dearly to see again, are often a part of our daily lives. So why is it that we set November 11<sup>th</sup> aside as Remembrance Day? It is of course a historical day because in the 11<sup>th</sup> month, on the 11<sup>th</sup> day, at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour in 1918 the First World War officially came to an end. Since then, it has become the day in which we choose to remember together as a community the great cost of war, and to honour those who offered up their lives in hope of a better future for their families; their friends; and their countrymen.

And though Remembrance Day will always be a day inseparably tied to politics and national expressions of patriotism, those who have died and continue to die upon the battlefields of our own making, beseech us to consider how we might honour their sacrifice in ways that move beyond wreaths, monuments, and the glorification of war. Ways that move us towards forgiveness, dialogue, and a vision of lasting peace.



There is a stained-glass memorial window above the altar in the sanctuary here at Zion Lutheran Church. And within it lays an image of the crucified Christ, with His eyes cast up to heaven, and his face bemoaning with patient suffering the violence of his own time and ours. And beneath this image is an inlaid reference to the First Epistle of John which reads, "We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for one another" (1 Jn. 3:16).

And certainly, we believe this to be true, that it is indeed right to lay down our lives for one another. But as beneficiaries to these immeasurable acts of love, and heirs to the history and horrors of modern warfare, we've also come to know that the great hope which arises from all war, is the hope for peace. Let us then consider what it must mean to lay down our lives for peace instead of war.

And yet, can such a vision hold our gaze long enough to face the challenges of our own time, and to make the sacrifices needed to ensure that the building blocks of peace are available for those who must come after us? Are we willing to speak out against injustice, to pitch in and do our part, to ration, to share, to struggle, to focus on our similarities instead of our differences, to lay down our lives if needs be for the hope of a sustainable and peaceful world?

This Remembrance Day, as we seek to honour those who fought, struggled, and died in the War to End all Wars, and all the wars we've waged since then, let us hold up their stories not only as bygone acts of heroism from the time of a world at war, but also as stories of love in action to inspire our own time, and our own struggle for a world at work for peace.

The Peace of Christ be with us always.  
Vicar Jason

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL



The Bridgebuilder interviews with Pastor Riitta Hepomaki have been taking place over the past few weeks and opportunities to talk with Pastor Hepomaki can still be arranged by contacting her. The Education Event took place on Saturday, October 14, 2017. Pastor Hepomaki will be providing a report to the congregation.

The final kitchen renovations are almost complete. The grease interceptors have been installed and are functioning. Preparation work has been commenced for the fire suppression system. A partial payment has been submitted to the manufacturer and it is anticipated that delivery and installation can be completed and appropriate inspections made, sometime during the first three weeks of November. In the meantime, the dishwasher and the stoves are both functional and useable for any upcoming events.

The urinal in the boys' washroom in the Sunday School wing has been lowered, completing the washroom renovations.

The Property Committee have been monitoring the drainage improvements made in the courtyard and driveway and advise that both have worked well during the heavy rains we experienced over the last couple of months.

Congregational Council accepted the proposal from BDO LLP, Chartered Accountants, to complete year end review financial statements for the operating funds of Zion and to provide an audit of the Endowment Fund and prepare audited year end financial statements for the Endowment Fund. The total cost is reduced as Mervyn Dietz, now retired from BDO, will prepare many of the preliminary statements on a volunteer basis.

A task force will be established to review our music program and plan our search for a new choir

director as Lynne Hopcraft will be leaving us as of December 31, 2017.

**+ BAPTISMS +**

**Austin Gary John Berry**, son of Ryan & Sara on October 22.

**+ WEDDINGS +**

**Nathan West & Jennifer Temple**, on November 18



### ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

On Sunday, November 5, our parish, together with Christians around the world celebrates the Festival of All Saints. A time to celebrate the triumph of the Lord of Life Jesus Christ over the powers of death, the day is traditionally the time Christians remember those by name who have died since the last All Saints' Day. Indeed it is a good time to remember all our loved ones who have died and to praise our Lord for his victory over death and the grave. Come and worship!



### ZION TABLE FOR SENIORS

Zion Table For Seniors, a beloved ministry at Zion promoting fun, food, and friendship, will be held on Tuesday, November 28 at 12 noon. Please let Doris Bartlett (519-271-9622) or Rita Mueller (519-271-6539) know by Tuesday, November 21 if you can attend. Lunch cost is only \$12. A deal by any name! Our guest speaker will be our Vicar Jason Ashby.

P.S. **Sign up date for the Seniors' Christmas Dinner is by Monday, December 5, 10 AM. The Christmas Dinner will be held on Tuesday, December 12 at 12 noon.**



**YOU ARE INVITED!** To a Composers Concert on Saturday, November 4 at 4 PM. Come join Marco Burak and friends Michel Allard, and Michael Dobinson as they present a concert of new music, mostly for piano. Free-will offering, with proceeds going to Zion's Friendship Meal Program.

### CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

The Congregational Life Committee would like to thank everyone who supported the Sausage and Sauerkraut Lunch on October 29. Also, a very big thanks to those helped prepare and serve the lunch.



**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT** - Mark your calendar now, for Friday, January 19, 2018. We will show a family movie, full of music and dancing and starring "ONE OF OUR OWN." Watch the December newsletter for additional information.



### ZION WOMEN OF FAITH

Monthly Meeting on **Wednesday, November 22 at 7:30 PM.**

Shut-in baskets will be packed on Saturday, December 2 at 9 AM. Please have cookie donations at the church by 9 AM. A cookie sign up sheet will be on the table at the back of the church during November. We thank you, along with our shut-ins who enjoy the homemade cookies.

**Eternity for Today** - Would you like to receive this devotional booklet at home? Call Linda Springer 519-273-2093, if you would like to subscribe to this very inspiring devotional booklet.

Joanne Young, WOF President

## NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

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

Date	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Readers	Usher Captains	Counting Captains
Nov 5	Fritz Steigmeier & Stephen Fischer	Gerald & Isabel Cook	Fritz Steigmeier	Brian Wilker	Stephanie Sousa
Nov 12	N/A	Tom & Joanne Cosstick	Marilyn Sylvester	Fritz Steigmeier	Stephanie Sousa
Nov 19	N/A	Ron & Debbie Deichert	Sister Jean Widmeyer	Fritz Steigmeier	Audrey Miller
Nov 26	Judith Hammond & David Bennewitz	Jim & Cathy Schellenberger	Linda Weitzel	Steve Lamont	Audrey Miller

### Books of the Bible Puzzle



Unscramble the name of each book of the Bible and write it correctly in the blank. Then write the letter from each numbered position in the corresponding blank at the bottom of the page. You'll spell a phrase that's used to describe the word of God.

We've done the first one for you as an example.

1. UTRH \_\_\_\_\_ (3)  
 2. TWAMHET \_\_\_\_\_ (5)  
 3. BOPERRSV \_\_\_\_\_ (5)  
 4. SUBNEMR \_\_\_\_\_ (7)  
 5. WRESHBE \_\_\_\_\_ (6)  
 6. USAJHO \_\_\_\_\_ (2)  
 7. MORASN \_\_\_\_\_ (1)  
 8. GEJDSU \_\_\_\_\_ (3)  
 9. STREEH \_\_\_\_\_ (3)  
 10. HMOLIPEN \_\_\_\_\_ (2)  
 11. LINEDA \_\_\_\_\_ (5)  
 12. SEESING \_\_\_\_\_ (5)  
 13. SHEEPISAN \_\_\_\_\_ (2)  
 14. CLAIMHA \_\_\_\_\_ (7)  
 15. HARMEEJI \_\_\_\_\_ (3)  
 16. AGHAIG \_\_\_\_\_ (6)  
 17. SNAGILATA \_\_\_\_\_ (5)

The Bible is also known as the

T 1 2 3    4 5 6 7 8    of 9 10 11    12 13 14 15 16 17



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