

# ZIONEWS

## NOVEMBER 2011



A publication for the family of Zion Lutheran Church  
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### PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL

#### "GOD'S ANGRY PEOPLE"

Over these last few Sundays, the biblical hero Moses who led God's people out of Egypt in the Bible account of the Exodus, has been the focus of our Old Testament readings in the appointed Sunday lectionary. I've been reminded that Moses had a temper. He killed an Egyptian whom he saw mistreating a Hebrew slave. He smashed the tablets of the Law that God had given him, and in the wilderness he struck a rock because he was angry with the people. David, another Old Testament hero, was also an angry man – angry at the prophet Nathan, at his sons, at his enemies.



Just as anger was a part of these people's lives, it is part of ours. The emotions shown by God – delight in us, joy, sadness, grief, compassion, anger, and all the others – are designed into us as well, because we are made in God's image. To deny these emotions is unhealthy and limiting.

Yet many of us have difficulty with anger – in opposite ways. I know I do. Some of us express our anger too strongly and too readily. Others of us hide our anger, even denying that we feel it. These two opposite behaviours may arise from a common cause: experiencing destructive patterns of dealing with anger.

Let me illustrate with a story of a man I know. He describes himself as a recovering rage-aholic, by the work of God's grace in his life. Before he gave up his rages, his family's life revolved around trying to keep him happy and calm, much as the life of a family distorted by alcoholism revolves around the behaviour of the alcoholic. He tells about formerly screaming at and threatening his wife and children. They lived in fear of his outbursts and tried (always unsuccessfully) to avoid saying or doing anything that might set him off. This man grew up in a home where his father had controlled everyone by inducing fear, and he carried that destructive pattern into his family's life.

Those who witness angry outbursts may come to fear anger – other's anger and their own. Anger may seem like an uncontrollable monster that could overwhelm us if we allow it out – so we keep it under emotional lock and key. We may keep it so well contained, in fact, that we may be unaware it exists. Have you ever asked, "Are you angry?" and received a

response of, "No, I'm fine" from someone whose body language made it clear in some other way that they were angry? Many people bury their anger and deny it expression because they are trying to be "good Christians."

We seem to think that deeply spiritual people do not become angry. The Bible does not teach this. Moses is a great hero and David described as "a man after the Lord's own heart" (1 Samuel 13:14). Their anger did not disqualify them from participating in God's work. Feeling anger is not wrong. In fact, the Bible directs us to admit and deal with our anger. When we are at odds with a brother or sister, we are to go and be reconciled (Matthew 5:21-24). But scripture also tell us to be slow to anger, as God is slow to anger, and always to be careful to show love.

The issue with anger and any other emotion is how we treat others as we express our feelings. Ephesians tells us to let go of our anger promptly, not letting the sun go down on it (4:26) – in other words to deal with today's hurts today and not to nurse grudges. But this does not mean that we are free to rage at one another or mistreat one another. Matthew 5 says that we are not to insult others or call them names. We can express our anger in ways that frighten others and limit their lives, or we can "speak the truth in love" (4:15), admitting truthfully what we feel but doing so with care not to belittle another. Ephesians tells us in another place that our words should always "minister grace" to our hearers (4:29). Harsh, demeaning words do not "minister grace" to our hearers.

Training ourselves to deal lovingly with others even when we are angry requires self-control. Self-control is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in all believers. Of course, fruit takes time to grow. If we are addicted to rage or any other negative expression of emotion, we may not want to change. If that is the case, we begin where we are, asking God to help us become willing to be shaped by the Holy Spirit within us.

Our emotions are a part of who we are. To be fully human is to feel all of the emotions God has placed within us and to learn to express those emotions in ways that bring life and growth to us and to others.

Something to think about.

God's peace be with you,

Rev. Douglas Reble  
Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church

## VICAR'S DEVOTIONAL

*Thus says the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker:*

*Will you question me about my children, or command me concerning the work of my hands? I made the earth, and created humankind upon it; it was my hands that stretched out the heavens, and I commanded all their host.*

**Isaiah 45:11-12**



Learn  
&  
Grow

As I write this, my mind is on the adult education sessions I will be leading. The first session begins tonight. I have chosen to spend six weeks studying Islam, and more than one person has asked me, "Why Muslims?" What is a Christian church doing studying a different faith? This has caused me to reflect on the same question. Why Islam? I certainly could have picked an easier topic, after all I know very little about Muslims.

Yet I feel compelled to explore this topic further. I sense a call to uncover several of the misunderstandings surrounding Islam. Since the events of September 11, 2001, many live in fear of Muslims. It is easy to be afraid of the things that we do not understand, to fear those who are different from us.

Cyrus, the founder of the Persian Empire is the only non-Israelite in the entire Old Testament to be recognized as one of God's anointed. In the verse above, Isaiah points out that, God created all humankind and works through Cyrus, and that Israel should not question God's way of working in the world.

Perhaps, we like Israel, are being called to recognize God at work in our Muslim sisters and brothers. Cyrus went on to release the nation of Israel from its exile. Proof that God works through all. This need not surprise us, after all didn't God create us all?

Blessings,  
Vicar Steve

## ALL SAINTS' WORSHIP



ALL SAINTS' DAY

On Sunday, November 6, 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. Our All Saints' liturgy will be celebrated at both the 9 AM and 11 AM service. Come and worship!

## WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING



The new website for Zion Church is up and running and can be found at [www.zionstratford.com](http://www.zionstratford.com) and of course, it is just waiting for you to have a look. A way to keep in touch with what's happening in parish life and so much more, you just may want to pass it on to a relative, friend, or neighbour who wants to revisit their connection to the church.

A warm thank you to Joanne Wallace, Steve Hoffard, Mindy Gough and David Frier who took the lead in bringing [www.zionstratford.com](http://www.zionstratford.com) to birth. Their gift of time and ministry is much appreciated.

P.S. And, by the way, if you see something on the website which you don't understand or see something which should be there and isn't, contact Steve Hoffard at [steve.hoffard@gmail.com](mailto:steve.hoffard@gmail.com) who'd love to hear from you.

## HANDBELL CHOIR NEEDS YOU!



Over the summer, our handbells have been tuned up and shined up and they are ready to ring God's praises, once again. What we need are people willing to ring them whether you've done it before or not, for you will be trained.

Practices begin on Tuesday, November 1 from 6:30 PM to 8 PM under the capable leadership of Paul Whittaker. If you have any questions for Paul you can contact him at 519-271-0470 or email at [paulwhittaker@rogers.com](mailto:paulwhittaker@rogers.com)

Let the heavens rejoice!

## NOVEMBER CONCERTS AT ZION



In November, there will be two opportunities to revel in the gift of music which God has blessed us with. Two different dates and two different musical experiences. Please note what's happening, tell your friends, come to one or come to both. All are welcome. The concerts:

**Saturday, November 12:** Since 2009, founding composers Michel Allard, Michael Dobinson, Michelle Wells, and our own Marco Burak have combined their skills as composers, performers, and presenters from MMMM's home base in Stratford. Their intention was to perform or workshop works by themselves, and invite composers, to

explore the width and plumb the depths of new music's varied sounds, styles, aesthetics and methods. Join us, this day, at Zion Church, for the second concert of their third season. Composers Marco Burak, Michel Allard, and Michael Dobinson will present a varied program of new music including works for piano, voice, flute, and electronics. For this concert, MMMM is joined by Paul Allard, Andrea Barstad and Lynne Hopcraft. Admission is by donation with net proceeds going to our Friendship Meal ministry at Zion. The concert begins at 4 PM.

**Sunday, November 20:** This afternoon, at Zion, we will be serenaded by a trio of choirs: our own Zion Senior Choir, the Teutonia Choir, and the Cantonia Choir of London. This too is a concert with no admission charge but a free will offering will be received and shared evenly between Canadian Lutheran World Relief and Optimism Place our local women's shelter in Stratford. The concert begins at 2:30 PM.

FRIENDSHIP MEAL NEWS



Our Friendship Meal ministry continues to serve the people of our community who are in need. Of course, given these difficult economic times the need increases. Our next Friendship Meal is Friday, November 25. Thank you "ministers" of Zion for your continuous support and help which is a great blessing. Questions? Call our coordinators Ingrid Fraser (519-271-4382) or Pastor Robert Hutchison (519-271-5808). They'd love to hear from you.

P.S. Due to the number of community Christmas dinners that are held in and around Stratford in December, we are going to have no Friendship Meal in December. We'll give our volunteers a well-deserved rest but we'll be back in January.



MOM'S GROUP AT ZION

Have you ever wondered about coupon trains and would like to learn more. Join us on Monday, November 7 from 10 AM - 11:30 AM. We will discuss coupon trains/coupon exchange and help save money (maybe time) with food preparation. If you have any coupons you don't need, please bring them to the meeting. Thanks.

We will meet in the board room and the children can play in the nursery next door. If you would like to join us, please call Shirley Bonn at 519-271-1631 to register.



CHURCH COUNCIL RESOLUTION

At a meeting of the Church Council of Zion Lutheran Church held on Wednesday, September 21, the following motion was passed by a secret ballot, 10 yes, 1 no. Please note:

**"In light of Zion's history of welcoming all people, in Christian love, it is moved that we affirm the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada's Social Statement on Human Sexuality (2011) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada's policies which bear on Christian unity, marriage, and ordination (2011) and that we invite our pastor to accord the same pastoral ministry, including marriage where appropriate to all without regard to sexual orientation."**

If you need further clarification as to what this means, you are invited to talk to any Church Council member or more specifically, our chairperson David Frier at 519-271-3233 or [justemaildavid@rogers.com](mailto:justemaildavid@rogers.com) or Pastor Doug.



THANK YOU ZION!

For all the caring help, prayers, cards, good wishes, visits during my surgery and recovery, many, many, thanks. I didn't know how powerfully one could feel love of those who care. Lisa is also very appreciative to you who stood with her during this time. God keep you too.

Pastor Robert Hutchison



ZION TABLE FOR SENIORS

Our next gathering of Zion Table For Seniors, our ministry which promotes fun, food, and friendship takes place on Tuesday, November 15 at 12 noon. Please let Doris Bartlett (519-271-9622) or Phyllis Jeffery (519-271-3668) know by Thursday, November 10 if you can attend. Lunch cost is only \$10.

Our after dinner speaker is Captain Lillian Kluka whose claim to fame is she was the first woman who captained a freighter on the Great Lakes. She has an interesting story to tell so come on out.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL SNIPITS

Preparations have begun for this year's Sunday School Christmas program. Please note for your planning purposes that the kids will practice, at the church, on Saturday, December 17 from 9 AM to 11 AM. The program itself will be Sunday, December 18 at 9 AM.

Your educational team,  
Jan and Mary-Lou

## WOMEN OF FAITH NEWS

Please note what is happening with our Women of Faith group, at Zion, over the coming weeks:

**Monday, November 7:** Executive meeting at 7 PM.

**Tuesday, November 22:** Gleaner Circle meets at 2 PM.

**Wednesday, November 23:** Mary Martha Circle meets at 7:30 PM.

**Saturday, December 3:** Our WOF meets Saturday morning to pack the baskets for our shut-ins.

**Sunday, December 4:** The WOF Christmas dinner for members, friends, spouses, and partners will be held at 4 PM. More details to follow.

Questions? Contact Mary-Lou Drown at 519-273-2268 or [drown\\_ml@yahoo.ca](mailto:drown_ml@yahoo.ca)



**Eleanor Pauli**, September 12  
**Erika Roeske**, September 20  
**Manfred Finke**, September 29  
**Eva Riehl**, October 5  
**Allen Neeb**, October 6  
**Albert Lewis**, October 18



**Kelsey Paige Brubacher**, daughter of Alexander & Cynthia on October 16.  
**Nicholas Robert Gerard Hansen**, son of Jeremy & Kathryn on October 23  
**Lily Ann Ehgoetz**, daughter of Andrew & Lyndsey on October 30.

## NOVEMBER 2011 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 Captain	Counting Captain
Nov. 6	9 Mike Bondi & Stephen Fischer 11 Janet Ahrens & Nancy White	9 Brad & Sherri Beatty 11 Wayne & Barb Higgins	9 Mindy Gough 11 Nancy Schaff	9 Jerry Terhaerd 11 Irvin Riehl	Steve Arand
Nov. 13	N/A	9 Scott & Janice Beirness 11 Connor Hendricks	9 Marg Lamont 11 Linda Springer	9 Jerry Terhaerd 11 Irvin Riehl	Kathy Schellenberger
Nov. 20	9 Wayne Hinz & Ed Illman 11 Mindy Gough & Judith Hammond	9 Don & Connie Campbell 11 Mike & Wendy Holman	9 Wayne Hinz 11 Fritz Steigmeier	9 Tom Cosstick 11 Mike Bomasuit	Kathy Schellenberger
Nov. 27	N/A	9 Gerald & Isabel Cook 11 Caseyn Eckhardt	9 Kurt Gough 11 Curtis Weidner	9 Tom Cosstick 11 Mike Bomasuit	Brian Stever

## ZION CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

	Current	Benevolence
Monthly Requirements	\$27,419.25	\$4,504.66
September Income	\$23,371.00	\$3,400.00
September Expenses	\$22,116.78	\$3,400.00

**CURRENT FUND DEFICIT (as of September 30, 2011): \$33,038.64**



## STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

So often we think of our offering as something to cover the needs of the moment. We have a budget. Did we give enough to cover our budget? If we do, then we call that good stewardship.



But there is also a stewardship of readiness. There are some things you can anticipate, and some things you cannot anticipate. When a major disaster strikes, are we prepared so that we can give freely? Have we prepared our own lives, so that we can set out to help, or to support those who are helping? If an opportunity comes for a special ministry, are we ready? Or do we have to struggle in order to raise funds before the opportunity closes?

And we're not even talking about what happens if the heater breaks down!

There are things we cannot imagine – but God already knows about them!

As you give, remember that you are not only preparing for the moment, but for all moments!

## CALL TO SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Over the past couple of years, National Bishop has been encouraging a call for spiritual renewal and deeper discipleship within our church, which includes regular attendance at worship, daily prayer and scripture reading, involvement in a program of study, regular service in the community (not just the congregation), regular and proportional giving similar to the understanding of the tithe found in scripture, and commitment to sharing the good news with those around us, beginning with our family and friends. A simplified list of this call to deeper discipleship includes: Worship, Pray, Study, Serve, Give, Read, and Tell.

This month, we focus on the word “Worship!” Remember, don’t overdo it! It’s just like starting a physical exercise program. Start with one or two new practices and make them a habit before you take the next step.

## WORSHIP

**We are called to regular attendance at public and communal worship. Consider ways that you can increase your participation in regular worship. The following are a few ideas to get you started.**

☐ **Commit to attending worship at least once a month. More often if possible!**

☐ **Deepen your participation – sing in the choir, pre-read the lessons, assist as a reader or with communion, greeting, or the offering. You can also get involved by participating on your congregation’s worship committee.**

☐ **Add a mid-week service to your regular pattern of worship.**

☐ **Attend another church to experience the breadth of Christian worship.**

☐ **Attend a global music workshop to experience new ways to praise God.**

☐ **Attend a local Tazie service.**

☐ **Attend a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service. ([councilofchurches.ca/en/Our\\_Faith/week-of-prayer.cfm](http://councilofchurches.ca/en/Our_Faith/week-of-prayer.cfm)).**

☐ **Attend a World Day of Prayer Service.**

☐ **Attend a Remembrance Day Service. ([Wicc.org/programsevents/index.html](http://Wicc.org/programsevents/index.html))**

☐ **Attend a vigil service for justice or peace (ie. Dec. 6 memorial, peacewalk).**

☐ **Attend Lenten services.**

☐ **Ask yourself what it is that you enjoy most about worship?**

☐ **Ask your family, friends, community what they enjoyed most about a worship service you all attended together.**

☐ **Talk with family or friends over coffee or lunch following worship about what you felt, learned, sensed, missed, shared in worship.**

☐ **Read the descriptions in Evangelical Lutheran Worship about why we worship as we do, what it means, including the introduction, pages 6-9, The Church Year and Calendar, pages 13-15.**

☐ **Ponder why people go to church. ([elcic.ca/Witness/Why-People-Go-to-Church/default.cfm](http://elcic.ca/Witness/Why-People-Go-to-Church/default.cfm)).**

☐ **Work with others to enhance some aspect of worship in your congregation: visual art and expression, movement, children’s experiences, other sensory expressions.**

☐ **Find an opportunity for interfaith worship.**

☐ **Check out the worship suggestions on the Eastern Synod’s website ([easternsynod.org/ministries/worship/](http://easternsynod.org/ministries/worship/)).**



## ZION CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD

The following items have come into our church office in recent days. We share them with you for your interest and possible response.

1. **Wellspring Stratford Program:** The medical issues surrounding a diagnosis of cancer are complicated enough. But people often have difficulty finding the emotional, psychological, and practical support they need so urgently. Wellspring provides a wide range of cancer support programs, and services, at no charge, to meet the emotional, social, and psychological and informational needs of people living with cancer and those who care for them. Wellspring programs can help with stress and symptom management, fear and isolation, communication, education

and information, access to other resources. To contact the Wellspring Stratford Program contact [www.wellspringstratford.ca](http://www.wellspringstratford.ca) or 519-271-2232.

2. **Dialogue On Aboriginal Spirituality:** Waterloo Lutheran Seminary is hosting a Dialogue on Aboriginal Spirituality on Monday, November 7 at 9 AM. An Aboriginal Christian leader and traditional Aboriginal Elder dialogue on the role of religion and spirituality in their world views . Music will also be performed by the Good Hearted Women's Drum Group. Free and open to the public. For more information contact Dorinda Kruger Allen at 519-884-0710 x3421 or [dkrugerallen@wlu.ca](mailto:dkrugerallen@wlu.ca)
3. **Ringling and Singing:** The Alleluia Bell Ringers and the Followers Quartet celebrate the coming Advent season with a concert at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Milverton on Wednesday, November 16 at 7:30 PM. Admission is by free will offering.

## MISSION IN THE WORLD UPDATE

### Dear friends *In Mission for Others* through Global Mission:

On behalf of all those who are involved in the ELCIC's Global Mission (GM) ministry, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks and appreciation for your ongoing support. In 2010, designated giving to global mission exceeded over \$180,000 through the generous support of numerous congregations and individuals throughout the ELCIC.

In 2009, ELCIC GM entered into a formal partnership agreement with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Global Mission. Shared oversight of the companion synod programs, access for ELCIC members to the ELCA global service, including the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM), and further recruitment and oversight for overseas staff are coordinated through this agreement.

Through ELCIC GM, we remained committed to the full administration, funding and supervision of the following three ELCIC mission areas.

- ★ El Salvador – Rev. Brian Rude
- ★ Peru – Rev. Fran Schmidt in Lima and Rev. Yoli Zavaleta in the Amazon Mission
- ★ Argentina, Patagonia Mission – Rev. Gustavo Gomez and Rev. Sergio Utz

We would like to take this opportunity to give thanks to Long-Term Missionary Lori Endress for her many years of dedicated service. Lori served at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand from 1991 to 2001 and as a teacher at the Payap University in Chang Mai,

Thailand from 2001 to 2010. In July 2011, Lori Endress returned to Canada and she is currently on medical leave. Thank you to those congregations and individuals who supported Lori in prayers, support and through your designated giving. If you have supported this area previously, we would like to ask that you please consider continuing your financial support to enable the ELCIC GM to be *In Mission for Others* in the world through ministry in the other existing program areas.

Your financial gifts to ELCIC GM make a difference in the world in the following ways:

In El Salvador, Rev. Brian Rude brings the hope of the gospel to those in prison. I visited Santa Anna Prison with Rev. Brian in May 2011 and was inspired by observing the groups Brian facilitated with gang members. These young men, many in prison for long terms, were hungry to hear the words of hope that Brian brought. Your financial support for the ministry in El Salvador is vital to continue the bringing of hope to those who are desperate to hear it.

The Peruvian Lutheran Church (ILEP) is a young church of only eighteen years. They have approximately four hundred and forty members in thirteen churches. ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson and I met with President Armando Capcha and the ILEP National Church Council in November of 2010. It was refreshing to hear them speak about the strong social justice initiatives in their strategic plan and their strong awareness that the relationship between the ELCIC GM and ILEP is not built on need but on discerning what God is up to and how we together can support God's work in Peru.

Under the supervision of ILEP, Rev. Fran serves as a part-time pastor at San Juan Camino de Esperanza, and she began serving as interim pastor to the congregation of Emmaus at the beginning of May 2011. Rev. Fran still fulfills some of the original requirements of her call with regards to teaching music and liturgy, but as ILEP continues to grow and change so have their needs.

Up in Iquitos, the Northern region of Peru, I visited with Rev. Yoli Zavaleta, Amazon Mission. In 2008, ELCIC GM agreed to a proposal from ILEP to continue the work of Rev. Katharine Bergbusch through the financial support of a local ILEP pastor in the ministry at the mission congregation of Fiel es Dios (God is Faithful). Iquitos is only accessible by boat or air and it is a delightful region to visit. The small congregation of Fiel es Dios celebrated a baptism and confirmation on the Sunday morning I attended. Their generosity, despite scarcity, was humbling. Your financial contribution goes a long way to support Rev. Yoli and the Fiel es Dios congregation.

In the Patagonia Mission in Argentina, Rev. Sergio Utz and Rev. Gustavo Gomez, faithfully serve local mission congregations. Since 2002, the ELCIC GM shares a joint mission with the United Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELU) in Southern Argentina in supporting these two pastors. Your continued funds support Rev. Sergio in Esperanza del Sur (Hope of the South) congregation in Esquel and Cruz del Sur (Southern Cross) congregation in Bariloche and works with Mapuche aboriginals at Cushamen. Rev. Gustavo is Pastor at San Juan Bautista congregation in Comodoro Rivadavia and oversees the congregation's daycare.

Unfortunately, the reality is that over the past few years both general and designated support for ELCIC GM has declined (down 29% in the last 5 years), making it difficult to continue our commitments to these important ministries. Your financial gifts are vital if these ministry areas are to continue!

Thank you for your past support that has enabled this rich work to be undertaken, as well as for your continued support and future engagement *In Mission for Others* in the world through your financial support of ELCIC GM.

Rev. Carla Blakley  
Assistant to the Bishop, Global Mission  
(306)789-0265 or [cblakley@elcic.ca](mailto:cblakley@elcic.ca)