

A publication for the family of Zion Lutheran Church, 202 Erie St., Stratford, ON N5A 2M8

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PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL

"Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth" – Psalm 86:11.

During my school days at Stony Brook School, a bus would be waiting outside of the school to take my Roman Catholic classmates over to St. Joseph's Church after school for what they called "catechism classes." As one of the few Protestant kids in my neighbourhood, I assumed that "catechism" was something that only Roman Catholics studied (we had Sunday school, we didn't have to go to St. Peter's on a weekday afternoon). But when I entered Grade Seven, I discovered that Lutherans also have a catechism; along with generations of Lutheran young people, our Confirmation classes featured a study of Luther's *Small Catechism*, which is still the central text used by many Lutheran congregations in their Confirmation programs. While many other churches (including our Roman Catholic sisters and brothers) continue to use their catechisms in teaching, we cherish Luther's work for its simple yet profound answers to the most basic question for us: *"What does this mean?"*



Catechism

During our "Lutherans: Past, Present and Future" adult study classes this past spring, several of our participants inquired about a class in the *Small Catechism* for adults. Many of us studied it during our Confirmation days, and still others who were not raised in the Lutheran Church have not been exposed to this important work. As a pastor who (you have probably noticed) quotes frequently from the *Small Catechism* in sermons, it is my delight to announce that I will be teaching a six week class on Luther's Small Catechism for Adults, which will begin on Monday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m. and

continue through Monday, November 2 (we will not meet on Thanksgiving Day, October 12). In our first session, we will look into the background of the *Small Catechism* and what led Luther to write the document. We will then focus on the Catechism's three "chief parts": The Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. Our later sessions will include a study of the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, and we will conclude with considering how the *Small Catechism* continues to remain relevant in the Lutheran Church of the 21st Century.

So no matter if you memorized the *Small Catechism* (in its original German or in an English translation) during your Confirmation years, or if you studied another catechism in the church of your youth, or if you have no idea what a "catechism" is, come and join us as we discuss Luther's work and ask ourselves "what does this mean" for us as God's people today. I look forward to sharing this wonderful time of learning and discovery with you!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jeff Laustsen

P.S. – Our Thursday Noon Bible Study will resume on Thursday, October 1.



RALLY SUNDAY & PIG ROAST

The tradition of a pig roast on Rally Sunday, continues! The Congregational Life Committee invites you and your family to join us for our annual pig roast on Sunday, September 13. Enjoy delicious pork and fellowship, as we celebrate the "new year" of Sunday School and church life. A free will offering will be taken to cover the costs.



INSTALLATION OF FRIENDSHIP MEAL STAFF

The Friendship Meal is a ministry of Zion. We do this in obedience to Christ's command to love our brothers and sisters. The Friendship Meal staff will be installed during the service, on Sunday, September 20.

ZION CHOIR NEWS



The Zion Choir rehearsals start on Thursday, September 10, from 7:30 PM - 9 PM. All ages are welcome. Questions? Contact Lynne Hopcraft, our choir director, at hopcrafttutoring@yahoo.com or 519-274-3120. She'd love to hear from you.

ZION TABLE FOR SENIORS



Zion Table For Seniors, a beloved ministry at Zion promoting fun, food, and friendship, returns on Tuesday, September 22 at 12 noon. Please let Doris Bartlett (519-271-9622) or Beryl Horst (519-276-3501) know by Tuesday, September 15 if you can attend. Lunch cost is only \$12. A deal by any name!

Our special after-dinner guest to kick off the program year will be a "Sing Along" with Bob Seebach. All are welcome!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



On September 13, we start an exciting new year of Sunday School. I'm your new superintendent, Mindy Gough, and I'm eager to meet our new Sunday School kids and to see all the beloved familiar faces back again. Parents are asked to attend a brief but important registration meeting at 11:15 AM in the upstairs wing of the Sunday School on Sunday, September 13. Absolutely everybody is welcome!

As you know, our children are a precious resource in our congregation at Zion. If you'd like to support our Sunday School in any way, please contact me at 519-275-3770. Maybe you're only available once in a while? That's o.k. – we'd love to have you join us. You're not interested in teaching but you're a great cook or love making crafts? Please come share your talents with us! Sunday School can only survive if loving adults and teens share a little of their time.

Please keep our Sunday School joyfully in your prayers this year,
Mindy Gough, Sunday School Superintendent

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will resume meeting every Monday in the Parlour, starting Monday, September 14 from 2-4 PM.

Come join us for knitting, crocheting, friendship or learning how to knit. We gladly accept any donations of wool. These lap blankets and shawls will be donated to patients at home, in hospitals or nursing homes.

You are also invited to take a lap blanket for a loved one in need of comfort. All are welcome! For more information, please contact Gerda (Gerri) Bornath at 519-513-5400.

ZION WOMEN OF FAITH

Hard to believe summer is soon over. Hope everyone had a good summer.

Mark your calendar with these dates.

Dates to Remember:

Board Meeting: To Be Announced

Monthly Meeting, Wednesday, September 23 at 7:30 PM: Kathy Schellenberger & Anne Gaul

We have several positions that need to be served in our church, they are as follows:



Funeral Luncheon Convenor or Convenors
Ladies to help on the Flower Committee

We are also looking for ladies to fill 2 board positions:

President

Secretary

PLEASE LOOK AT THESE POSITIONS. Maybe God is talking to you now.

Remember, we are here to serve! Not to be served. Praying God speaks to you NOW. Please call Linda Springer (WOF President) at 519-273-2093 for more information.

PHOTO DIRECTORY CONTINUES



Have you made your appointment yet??? The Photo Directory continues on **September 22 - 26**. Call Terry at the church office 519-271-8527, any morning to make your appointment. Photo Services Inc., will provide a FREE pictorial directory to every family in the directory. Also this year, you will receive a FREE \$20 voucher towards any portraits you wish to purchase. Get to know your fellow members by a picture to go with the name. Thank you!

FRIENDSHIP MEAL

Zion will host the first of its Friendship Meals for 2015-2016 on Friday, September 25 at 5 PM. Friendship Meals are a ministry of Zion, where we invite people from around Stratford who are in need of a nourishing meal and fellowship.



Friendship Meals are a serving arm of the church, where we carry out the ministry of loving service to/with our brothers and sisters. Hosting a Friendship Meal requires the time and skills of many people. Are you able to peel potatoes? Are you able to set tables and clear them after the guests eat? Are you able to wash dishes? Are you able to visit with our guests? Are you able to take food to a table? The tasks are all important for the serving of a meal.

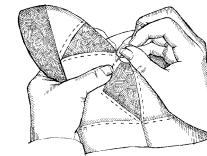
Serving a Friendship Meal normally takes several hours. We begin work at 1 PM and finish up around 7 PM. What if you can't come for the whole time? You are invited to contribute whatever time you can to the meal.

If you would like to help with this ministry, please call Sister Jean Widmeyer or call her at 273-6810. Or you can show up on September 25. All assistance is appreciated.

COOKIES NEEDED

Cookies are needed for the Friendship Meal on Friday, September 25. The planning group is asking members of Zion to donate cookies. Each baker is asked to bake 2 dozen cookies. Please do not use nuts in the cookies because of allergy issues. A sign up sheet is at the back of the church. Please bring the cookies to the church by Friday afternoon. We will also pick up the cookies if transportation is an issue.

ZION QUILTERS



QUILTING GROUP

Another beloved group at Zion, affectionately known as the "Quilting Queens," are our quilters who meet on Wednesday mornings from 9 AM to 1:30 PM in our Parlour. Quilting, once a lost art, has become fashionable again. It is a craft enhancing the beauty in God's creation. Our quilting group always welcomes new members, be you experienced or a novice wanting to learn the art of quilting or doing tied quilts for CLWR and for local needs. If you can't stay all morning, not to worry. A couple of hours is just fine. Your presence is what is appreciated. Quilting begins on Wednesday, September 30. Please call Verlie Sippel at 519-271-9107 for information, or if you have a quilt you would like quilted.

NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR

ZION MEALS ON WHEELS



We are currently seeking new volunteers to join our very dedicated Zion Meals on Wheels team. Through 'One Care,' Zion's team delivers meals to clients four times a year. This wonderful service helps individuals to remain in their own home. Clients are most appreciative of our help. If you would like more information, please contact me at 519-271-3187.

Heather Wickenheiser
Co-Ordinator Zion Meals On Wheels



WLS WOMEN’S AUXILIARY

The Women’s Auxiliary of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary will be holding their Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 26 at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Waterloo from 9:30 AM to 4 PM. The guest speaker is Rev. Bruce Schenk, Director of International Institute for Restorative Practices - Canada. The cost for the event is \$20 which includes registration and lunch. For more information, please contact Helen Weber at 519-885-6094. Come out and enjoy a wonderful day of uplifting music, worship and fellowship. Meet the new Seminarians and see the beautiful quilts. Choose an afternoon workshop - TBA

Saturday, September 26 - The Women’s Auxiliary of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary’s annual meeting will be held at St. John’s Church starting at 9:30 AM. Contact Mildred Knackstedt 519-662-3739 for more information or if you are planning to attend.



Weddings

Chad Keller & Lindsay Gropp on June 13.
Matthew Webster & Julie Wilson on July 18.
Nicolas Schreuders & Jodi Luckhardt on August 15.



Jeremy Wickenheiser, May 27
Doris MacDermid , June 17



Adam Ross Richter, son of
Nicholas & Nicole on June 7.

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

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

DATE	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	GREETERS	READERS	USHER CAPTAINS	COUNTING CAPTAINS
Sept 6	Stephen Fischer & Verne Hammer	Paul & Norma Hansen	Doug Peterman	Jerry Terhaerd	Gerald Cook
Sept 13	N/A	Steve & Marg Lamont	Nancy White	Tom Cosstick	Brian Gropp
Sept 20	Rob Leifso & Judith Hammond	Andrew & Lyndsey Ehgoetz	Bruce Sippel	Tom Cosstick	Brian Gropp
Sept 27	N/A	Rev. Robert & Lisa Hutchison	Teddy Gough	Darrell Renecker	June Junner