

ZIONEWS

JULY & AUGUST 2012

A publication for the family of Zion Lutheran Church
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PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL "TAKING TIME"

Do you remember the days when the correspondence you received came in the form of a letter, handwritten or typed, but sent by mail? That is what is often called snail mail, today, a real envelope and a real stamp delivered by a real person from Canada Post.

There is something appealing about that scenario, at least to me. The correspondence often indicates a thoughtful and measured response. There was time to consider, ponder, and reflect.

In contrast, we now live in an age of instant and constant communication. We allow ourselves to be available at all times and places. We are expected to reply to questions as soon as the question is received, rarely given time for measured thought. Electronic devices begin to define our identity. People feel lost when they cannot be plugged in. We are unsure of what to do next. It is as if we have lost the ability to be by ourselves and to give thanks for times by ourselves. We are so often "doing" that we neglect the "being."

Eventually, we find that we have given others tremendous power over us. We enable others to interrupt us, whether at work or home. Others dictate how and when we shall work even when we should be enjoying leisure and renewal. Don't misunderstand me. I am grateful that we have the technology we do. There are times when it is vital that I can reach others and be reached. However, I do question our society's willingness to give up our boundaries.



Do we think so highly of ourselves that we must be available at a moment's notice to the beck and call of any and all? Conversely, do we think so little of ourselves that we fail to guard a most basic part of God's intention for us? After all, one of the gifts of creation is what happened on the seventh day – God rested. There, in the genesis of our life, we not only see the sacredness of life itself but, we also observe how God builds Sabbath into the very fabric of the created order.

Further into the biblical narrative, we observe another radical departure from the ways of

the world. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, imagine the Israelites' surprise and delight when they are informed that they get to have one day off per week. Again, God knows how much we need a time to focus on our relationship with God, with others, with creation, and with self. We have ample time for work and busyness throughout the rest of the week, but God knows that we also need to be renewed and restored. Or do we think we can place ourselves above God when we insist on ignoring our weekly and yearly Sabbath rest?

Something to think about as I'm sitting watching a Lake Huron sunset.

God's Peace, Happy Summer,

Rev. Douglas Reble
Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church

STEVE HOFFARD ORDAINED



On Friday evening, July 6 at 7:30 PM at St. John's Lutheran Church, 22 Willow St., in Waterloo, Steve Hoffard, a beloved member and servant of Zion Church will be ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament in our Eastern Synod of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Steve has been called to be the pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Kingston. Also ordained will be our beloved former vicar, Bruce Thompson, called to be the pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Brockville and Ralph Weigold called to be the pastor of a two-point parish in rural New Brunswick.

All are welcome at this festive service. The music will be joyous and our hearts filled as we send Steve, Bruce, and Ralph off to a life of ministry and service as pastors in our church.

P.S. If you are not able to be with us at the ordination service, Pastor Steve Hoffard will be preaching, at Zion, on Sunday, July 8 at our regular 10 AM service. He will also be presiding at Holy Communion – for the very first time!

ZION GARAGE SALE



Zion Church is holding a garage sale on Friday, August 3, beginning at 12 noon. We're telling you now so you can think of us when you are doing your spring cleaning. All the proceeds of this sale will be to our congregational ministries for Seniors and the Friendship Meal. The contributions we are looking for are books, glassware, jewelry, dishes, tools, electrical appliances, sports equipment, toys, games, etc. The convener is Terry Faulhafer who can be reached at our church office 519-271-8527 any weekday morning. Last day for donations, is Monday, July 30. She has a place to store items and will also arrange pick up, if needed. Thank you!



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

Though Zion's Sunday School is on summer break that doesn't stop people from preparing for the upcoming year which begins in September. Plans are already well underway and there will be lots of new events and activities to look forward to, not to mention some curriculum changes to meet our needs.

Of course, we need some new teachers to join the ones who are remaining especially ones to teach the 3-5 year olds. The curriculum and activities look great and you may want to sign on. A wonderful way to put your love for God and God's children together and a great way to say thanks for all of God's blessings.

To say "yes" to teaching or for more information before you say yes, our Sunday School co-ordinators would love to hear from you. Please contact Mitzi Podann at mitzianddoug@sympatico.ca or 519-662-4856 or Tina Small at kerbysmall@yahoo.ca or 519-273-3860.



SUMMER WOMEN OF FAITH ACTIVITY

Mark Monday, August 20, in your calendar, as all ladies are welcome to come together at 10AM to make dresses out of pillow cases for girls in need all over the world. Please bring sewing machines with you as well as pillow cases. If you can't make it, donations of pillow cases and trimmings (lace, etc.) would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Beryl Horst at 519-271-9898.

FRIENDSHIP MEAL MINISTRY



COMMUNITY DINNER

Thank you to all who serve in this ministry of care and compassion. As you know we continue to serve, in the summer, for people in our community in need. Friday, July 27 and Friday, August 24 are our summer dates. You can help, by preparing, serving, or cleaning up. It is a joyful experience to serve in this way. If you wish more information, please contact one of our co-ordinators Ingrid Fraser (519-271-4382) or Pastor Robert Hutchison (519-271-5808).

P.S. First time volunteers are always welcome and needed too, especially in the summer when people are on holidays!



ZION SLO-PITCH TEAM

Summer is here and so is baseball. Friday, August 31 to Monday, September 3 (Labour Day Weekend) is the annual Brian Sippel Charity CO-ED Slowpitch Tournament in support of the Canadian Cancer Society. Brian, of course, a former member of Zion, the son of Carl and Ethel. It is a very relaxed, fun, and non-competitive weekend. Cost will be around \$20 a person and participants must be 18 years and older.

Rob Illman, a member of Zion, is, once again, looking to put together a team with members from our congregation. Please contact Rob at 519-273-3924 or email at rillman@rogers.com to say yes.

P.S. Pastor Doug said yes to Rob, last year, and is saying yes again. He had a great time and especially liked the mix of young and not so young (him!) on the team. Join him in saying yes!



Audrey Nieberlein, June 2



Charlotte Susan Springall, on June 1
Tasmin Bao & Rhee Lee Park, sons
of Chad & Lorraine on June 24.



Dean Lane & Kimberly Sippel, July 7
 Garrett Bessey & Karen McLeod, July 21
 James Stanley & Judy Laliberte, Aug 11
 Shawn Michel & Alison Skowby, Aug 11
 Michael Hay & Karen Deleplanque, Aug 17
 Jason Sippel & Michelle Ferreira, Aug 18
 Dave Hanley & Cathy Kelly, Aug 25

ZION CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
Monthly Requirements	\$28,000.00	\$4,600.00
May Income	\$20,136.35	\$4,595.00
May Expenses	\$25,537.31	\$4,595.00

CURRENT FUND DEFICIT (as of May 31, 2012): \$28,985.15

Zion Church is a large congregation that needs the support of everyone to meet the commitments we approved in our budget. Summer is now upon us and when people are away, the offerings also tend to take a vacation. As you can see, we have a deficit in our current fund which is for our day-to-day expenses. We need your help. We encourage everyone to give out of their blessings so we can make up the shortfall!

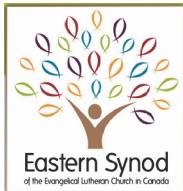
If you are traveling, over the holidays, simply forward your offering envelope (cheques only, don't mail cash) to our church office. Zion Lutheran Church, 202 Erie St., Stratford, ON N5A 2M8. You may also drop your envelope off any weekday morning. The best way, for sure, is to bring them, along with yourself to our 10 AM worship service.

P.S. Of course, another option to ensure your financial commitments to God's church are met through the POP program (Pre-Authorized Offering Program). To sign up please contact Terry at the church office and she'll get you started. A wonderful easy way to share your blessings with others.

JULY AND AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers assist with our Sunday morning worship services. Listed below are those who serve at 10 AM in July and August as a reminder and as a thank you for serving.

Date	Communion Assistant	Greeters	Readers	Usher Captains	Counting Captains
July 1	N/A	Jerry//Marion Ney	Marg Lamont	Darrell Renecker	Audrey Miller
July 8	Wayne Hinz Fritz Steigmeier	Wayne/Joanne Young	Wayne Young	Mike Bomasuit	Audrey Miller
July 15	N/A	Jacob VanScheyndel	Joanne Wallace	Steve Lamont	Rob Illman
July 22	N/A	Fritz Steigmeier	Marilyn Wells	Fritz Steigmeier	Rob Illman
July 29	N/A	Steve/Marg Lamont	Janine Pearson	Ed Illman	Cathy McCord
Aug 5	N/A	Doug/Jean Wagner	Brian Wilker	Brian Wilker	Cathy McCord
Aug 12	N/A	Bruce/Beth Sippel	Millie Rhem	Wayne Hinz	Joanne Wallace
Aug 19	Ed Illman Marilyn Sylvester	Bill/Marilyn Sylvester	Maria Doherty	Irvin Riehl	Joanne Wallace
Aug 26	N/A	Hailey Illman/Torri-Lynn Wilson	Bruce Sippel	Jerry Terhaerdt	Bruce Sippel



EASTERN SYNOD NEWS

From July 5-7, at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, our Eastern Synod of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, meets in Assembly around the theme of "Covenant People: In Mission For Others." Zion will be represented by Bill Hoffard and Pastor Doug. Of course, the ministry of our Eastern Synod is supported by our benevolence offerings. With the coming Eastern Synod Assembly this seems like a good time to share the mission story of our Eastern Synod for 2012.

Our Eastern Synod vision statement boldly proclaims: We are a **Church in Mission for Others**.

We will:

- practice *Spirited Discipleship*;**
- welcome *Diversity*;**
- demonstrate *Compassionate Justice*;**
- establish a *Focused Framework*;**
- develop *Effective Partnerships*.**

Our Synod's budget, approved by delegates to the biennial assemblies, tells the story of our mission. The majority of our synodical income is freely contributed by you – members and congregations – as your benevolence offering to support the ministries of the wider church.

In 2012, as partners in the synodical expression of our church, we will spend budgeted dollars on ministries aligned with our vision. Here is how your benevolence offerings will help us live out our calling to be a **Church in Mission for Others**. We encourage you, as an individual and as a congregation, to give generously to these ministries over the coming year.

Vibrant Local Ministries – \$660,000 (27%)

- ❖ Plant and nurture new mission congregations, such as St. David's Anglican/Lutheran Church in Orillia, ON
- ❖ Help congregations find pastors well matched to the needs of their ministry context
- ❖ Encourage community outreach through Compassionate Justice Grants to congregations like South Dundas Lutheran Parish in Williamsburg, ON, in partnership with the Dundas County Food Bank
- ❖ Underwrite networks of the eight conferences and deans
- ❖ Assist congregations to develop financial resources through generous giving
- ❖ Provide materials and workshops in ministries such as worship, led by Debbie Lou

Ludolph, Director of Worship Ministries

- ❖ Facilitate creative campus ministries in Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, and Waterloo

Effective Mission Partnerships – \$570,000 (23%)

- ❖ Walk in solidarity with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana for mutual learning
- ❖ Contribute to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada – which coordinates global mission, ecumenical efforts and ministry rosters – itself in partnership with

- ★ Canadian Lutheran World Relief
- ★ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- ★ Anglican Church in Canada
- ★ Kairos: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
- ★ and other ecumenical partners

Capable Leaders – \$1,000,000 (40%)

- ❖ Support Waterloo Lutheran Seminary's theological formation of lay ordained leaders
- ❖ Sustain outdoor ministry and leadership development for children, youth and adults at Camp Mush-a-Mush in Nova Scotia, Lutherlyn Camp and Conference Centre in Eastern Ontario, and Edgewood Camp and Conference Centre in southern Ontario
- ❖ Create opportunities for youth and young adults to grow in Spirited Discipleship, at events such as the 2012 Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth gathering in Saskatoon, SK
- ❖ Nurture and guide candidates through the process leading to ordained and diaconal ministry
- ❖ Underwrite health benefits for retired pastors
- ❖ Facilitate networks of chaplains in prisons, hospitals and the military
- ❖ Foster continuing education for lay and clergy leaders through Luther Hostel

Focused Framework – \$260,000 (10%)

- ❖ Promote Lutheran presence and identity
- ❖ Communicate with members and the general public via the Synod website and Eastern Synod Lutheran newspaper
- ❖ Govern the synod through Synod Council, standing committees and task forces
- ❖ Ensure efficient Synod office administration
- ❖ Convene representative Synod Assemblies and conference meetings
- ❖ Generate financial resources from benevolence offerings, planned gifts and prudent investment of funds

Thank you for your support of our partnership in mission.