

ZIONNEWS

OCTOBER 2012

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

Phone: 519-271-8527 Fax: 519-271-8536



e-mail: zionlc@golden.net

PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL "GRATITUDE"

"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:57)

It was a stormy autumn night in 1860 with the waters of Lake Michigan churning up rough waves. Edward Spencer was walking along the shoreline and saw the tragedy happen.

A crowded steamboat, the Lady Elgin, was rammed by a freighter loaded with lumber. Within minutes 393 passengers were thrashing in the water as the steamboat broke up and sank a mile offshore.

Very few boats were available, so Spencer plunged in and swam toward the survivors. In seventeen desperate trips he managed to save seventeen persons. Even then 279 others died.

The young man was acclaimed as a national hero, but he never recovered from the emotional shock of seeing so many die. Unable to resume his university studies, he was admitted to an institution. He kept asking, "Did I do my best?"

A few years later Spencer, who never fully recovered emotionally and psychologically was contacted by the editor of a Chicago newspaper. The alert journalist had uncovered some old files of the original story and wondered about a follow-up on the now forgotten hero.

A reporter was sent to interview Spencer on his birthday. What was the most vivid memory of that fateful night?



Spencer sadly replied that not one of the seventeen persons he had saved ever returned to thank him.

Gratitude. Sometimes it is so neglected.

Ten lepers approached Jesus with their tales of woe and pleas for healing. They were tired

of being outcasts and separated from society. Their hopes were high when Jesus sent them to be examined by the priests who had medical authority to pronounce them clean if they were indeed healed. But the trip would have to be an exercise of faith in trusting Jesus to work a miracle after they left him. While they stood yet in his presence, no change was evident in their bodies. Nevertheless, in faith they left on a momentous mission and discovered happily their miracle of healing along the way.

Nine lepers rejoiced and proceeded on their journey. Only one "turned back, praising God with a loud voice." Only one thanked Jesus, and he was a Samaritan. The foreigner whose religious training was considered second-class to that of God's chosen people gave a first-class demonstration of gratitude.

The fact that he returned alone without the other nine was not lost on Jesus. More in sadness than in anger our Lord asked, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?"

One out of ten is not a good response rate. Neither is zero out of seventeen, as in Spencer's tragic case. Where are the others? Where are we?

As a national holiday Thanksgiving rolls around with precise annual regularity. It's time to stop complaining, to praise, and to count our blessings. For one day a year we practice the grace of gratitude.

Perhaps here is a better idea. We could designate one annual event on our national and personal agenda to complain, grumble, and close our eyes on all our blessings from God and people. Then the other 364 days we could live as a thankful people of God "always and for everything, giving thanks to God in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 5:20).

Possible. Probably not. But something to think about.

In gratitude,

Rev. Douglas Reble
Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church



THANKSGIVING AT ZION

Thanksgiving Sunday is October 7 and, as is custom, it will be a wonderful worship celebration as we gather in gratitude around Word and Sacrament. What better way to mark Thanksgiving than by turning our hearts to God with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

As in other years, we would like to enhance our celebration by asking for donations to help in the church decorations which are traditional at Thanksgiving. Can you help? We are looking for home canning, apples, squash, pumpkins, potted fall flowers, hay bales, corn and corn stalks, table cloths, wooden baskets, or anything you think may be appropriate. The food stuffs brought will be used for our Friendship Meal ministry.

Please bring your decorations to the church by Friday morning, October 5 at the latest. You may leave them in the boardroom or bring them to the office. If you have any questions, please direct them to Mike Bomasuit (519-272-0254 or 519-271-8527). You may even offer to help him decorate. Thanks Mike for your help and thank you everyone for all your gifts.

P.S. Our special Thanksgiving offering envelope will support the Zion Current Fund for the work it does in our congregation, Canadian Lutheran World Relief for the work it does on our behalf around the world and the United Way which assists social agencies in our community who offer front line help in so many ways. Your love offerings are much appreciated.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: OCTOBER 21



As many of you are aware, for the last two years the Church Painting Task Force has been meeting and discerning how to deal with the restorations, both plastering and painting, that are needed in the church sanctuary at Zion. At the September meeting of Zion's Church Council, their recommendation was received and after much discussion, Church Council is now presenting their recommendation to the congregation for your approval. To this end, please note:

Zion Lutheran Church will hold a special congregational meeting to be held immediately following the 10 AM worship service on Sunday, October 21. All confirmed members of Zion Church have voice and vote and are requested to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the recommendations that will be coming to you, and to approve the financing of the project. For this project to proceed a 2/3 majority will be required with voting by secret ballot.

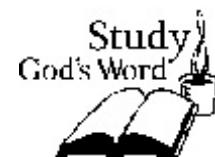
To help you in your own discernment and prayerful reflection, we share the following with you:

1. The proposal involves change to the current sanctuary. Though most of the beautiful symbols and artwork will remain, some features will be eliminated and

some enhanced. The enhancements will lift up two of the beautiful qualities of our sanctuary which is the wood and stained glass.

2. The sanctuary's current design has been in existence for 60 years. Though it was touched up and repainted in the 1980's, the design was done in the 1950's. Before that, the walls and ceilings were plain.
3. It is an expensive project thus we need the support of the congregation for it to proceed. The cost is \$140,000.
4. A major project of this undertaking means the church sanctuary will not be in use in the summer of 2013 should the congregation approve the recommendations. It is our hope to conduct Sunday worship services in our Fellowship Hall. Weddings and funerals will have to be held off site.
5. To help you in your decision making, the Church Painting Task Force and Church Council will hold an open house on Sunday, October 14 after church, Monday October 15 from 7-9 PM and Tuesday, October 16 from 2-4 PM in our Church Parlour. The purpose of the open house is to allow members of the congregation to see the changes up close and to ask any and all questions that they might have. Members of the Task Force and Church Council will be present.

May God bless our congregation with wisdom as we decide how best to proceed. Change is never easy. But neither should it be avoided. We love the church God has blessed us with at Zion. We also need to take care of it.



THURSDAY NOON BIBLE STUDY

Thursday noon Bible Study begins Thursday, October 18. *Witness to the World* is the theme of studies from the book of Acts. Thursday Noon Bible Study is open to everyone. Bring a lunch. We supply coffee and tea and enjoy an hour together from 12 noon to 1 PM, exploring the Scriptures. Pastor Robert Hutchison, Leader

LIVING THE QUESTIONS: ADULT STUDY GROUP

Continuation of the second part of LIVING THE QUESTIONS begun by Vicar Steve Hoffard last spring will provide the format for the studies, Monday evenings from 7:30 PM to 9 PM.

Reclaiming the World is the title of this section

Dates

Mon., Oct. 22 - Restoring Relationships
Mon., Oct 29 - The Prophetic Jesus
Mon., Nov. 5 - Evil, Suffering And A God Of Love
Mon., Nov. 12 - The Myth Of Redemptive Violence
Mon., Nov. 19 - Practicing Resurrection
Mon., Nov. 26 - Debunking The Rapture
Mon., Dec. 3 - Reclaiming The World



The DVD resource enables us to "interact with one another in exploring the best of today's theological thought," and "together explore what's next for Christianity."

Leader in the absence of a vicar - Pastor Robert Hutchison

NOTE: Since I will be away until October 15, please let Terry know if you intend to come so I can have materials ready.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

At the request of our church insurance provider, the first pews in our balcony in our sanctuary cannot be used until our guardrails are in accordance with the Ontario Building Code. For purposes of liability, we have no choice but to comply with the regulations which now require a minimum height of 42 inches. Currently they are 38 inches high. Our Property Committee and Church Council are arranging for the necessary work to be done, work which will require the approval of the city Building Department and may need the services of an engineer. Thank you for your understanding.



NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

For a number of years our nursery, during worship services, has been open but unsupervised. It has been a place for parents to take children who may need a quiet break, a diaper change, that sort of thing. Since Sunday School is for children age 3 years old and up, it is designed for our younger children. With the going to one service, on Sunday mornings, it is felt by some that there is a need to return to a supervised nursery. To meet that need, we need people to volunteer. Ideally two people per Sunday, with one being an adult and the other a teen. This would also qualify as student service hours toward your high school

diploma. If you feel led to say "yes," please contact our church office. Thank you.

P.S. So you can still "hear" the service, a speaker is located in the nursery.



FALL CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, October 20 has been chosen as our fall clean-up day for the outside of our Zion Church property. From 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM, our Property Committee is asking Zion members to lend a hand doing outside yard work. Putting the flower gardens to bed for the winter, raking, etc., will be the order of the day. Many hands make light work so plan to come out. **We need YOU!**

P.S. Please bring rakes, shovels, trimmers, etc., if you have them.

P.P.S. Rain delay date is Saturday, October 27.



BEREAVED ADULT GROUP AT ZION

A Bereaved Adults' Group will be held, at Zion, on Wednesday evenings from 7 PM to 8:30 PM beginning Wednesday, October 17. This group is intended for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one within the last two years. The group is designed to run once a week for six evenings. To register or to ask questions, please call Facilitator Bill James-Abra at 519-275-2187.



FRIENDSHIP MEAL NEWS

In August, Zion ministry volunteers served almost 100 people at our Friendship Meal. It is a joy to serve the community of Stratford in this way and carry out our Lord's call to service. The October meal takes place on Friday, October 26. Those who wish to help prepare, usually gather around 1 PM and those who wish to serve and clean up, gather at 4:30 PM or just after. You are welcome to join in this ministry. New volunteers are needed and welcome. For more information, call Ingrid Fraser at 519-271-4382 or Pastor Robert Hutchison at 519-271-5808.



ZION TABLE FOR SENIORS

Our next gathering of Zion Table For Seniors, our ministry which promotes fun, food, and friendship, takes place on Tuesday, October 23 at 12 noon. Please let Doris Bartlett (519-271-9622) or Phyllis Jeffery (519-271-3668) know by Thursday, October 16 if you can attend. Lunch cost is only \$10.

Our after dinner guest is Maureen Carroll who will speak on the "Home Boys," the children who came to Canada from Great Britain in wartime. Should be interesting. All are welcome.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF 2012-2013

Listed below are the members of Zion Church who have volunteered their gifts of time and talent to serve in our Sunday School as leaders, teachers, or helpers. God bless them. Their work is a vital investment in the future. Let us support them with our prayers and as they ask. Our staff:



Co-ordinators: Mitzi Podann and Tina Small; Music: Franklin Famme; Teachers: Hillary and Kiersten Steven (age 3 & 4); Janet Chandler (Kindergarten), Mindy Gough & Paula McNaughton (Grade 1 & 2), Catherine Patterson (Grade 3 & 4), Ashley Aarts (Grade 5 & 6). Helpers: Hannah Bush, Teddy Gough, Lydia Mueller, Sarah Hartfiel, Lindsay Ross, Darren Robinson, Valerie Robinson.



WOMEN OF FAITH NEWS

Our Women of Faith group, at Zion, will be full of activities during the month of October, activities to which all women of our congregation are welcome. Here's what's happening:

Monday, October 1: The WOF Board meets at 7 PM.

Tuesday, October 9: The Gleaner Circle of the WOF meet at 2 PM.

Saturday, October 20: "Change Her World" is the theme as WOF groups from the London Conference gather at St. Pauls Lutheran Church, Moserville at 9 AM. The cost is \$10 which includes lunch. To register, contact Joyce McKertcher (519-595-4483) or Joan Fink (519-595-4580) by October 8.

Wednesday, October 24: The Mary Martha Circle of the WOF meet at 7:30 PM.

We are in need of several people to help us with the work of the church.

- We are currently looking for ladies to help in flower arranging. This job is a one

month a year job working with another person.

- We are also looking for ladies who are willing to be convenors for funeral luncheons. (We desperately need help in this area).

You do not have to be a member of WOF to volunteer. Please pray carefully and say yes in doing either of these tasks.

Roll call for Learning and Living Kit: Item this month - 10 unsharpened pencils with erasers. There is a box at the back of the church you can drop off your items for those who would like to help in our ongoing project.

For more information about any of these events, please contact Linda Springer at klspingr@rogers.com or 519-273-2093.

OCTOBER 2012 VOLUNTEERS

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

Date	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Readers	Usher Captain	Counting Captain
Oct. 7	Wayne Young & Pastor Karen	Brad & Sherri Beatty	Mary-Lou Drown	Steve Lamont	N/A
Oct. 14	N/A	Gerry & Janet Ahrens	Marilyn Sylvester	Ed Illman	Sherry Malcho
Oct. 21	Janet Ahrens & Rob Leifso	Wayne & Dianne Yundt	Bill Sylvester	Ed Illman	Sherry Malcho
Oct. 28	N/A	Mike & Liz Bomasuit	Jake Hemstock	Wayne Hinz	Steve Arand



Alexander Niestrawski & Maureen Collinson on October 13
William Golder & Nicole Pautler on October 20



Martha Weeks on July 26
John Wilker on August 19
Orval Diehl on September 19

ZION CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>
Monthly Requirements	\$28,000.00	\$4,600.00
August Income	\$17,087.85	\$2,747.35
August Expenses	\$20,262.25	\$2,747.35

CURRENT FUND DEFICIT (as of August 31, 2012): \$38,280.03

A STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

For some of us the movie version of The Wizard of Oz is so familiar we can quote it as easily as the Bible – or should we shamefacedly say, more easily! Anyway, there's a scene towards the end when the cowardly lion announces he's going to do something brave – he will enter the witch's castle to save Dorothy. Nothing will stop him, neither the witch nor the guards. He does have one final request for his friends, "Talk me out of it!"


Jesus is pretty clear in this week's Gospel passage from Mark, where he speaks with a rich young man and then with his disciples. The rich young man wants to know what he should do to inherit eternal life. When Jesus answers by quoting from the Ten Commandments, the young man replies that he does all that. Jesus then tells him to sell all he has, give it to the poor, and follow. The rich young man walks sadly away. Jesus goes on to tell his disciples that it is easier for a camel to get through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God.

This is a challenging passage, and our response tends to be, "Talk me out of it!" Some say the command to sell all we have was just for that rich young man. Some say there was a gate into Jerusalem so narrow that traders had to take some of the bags off their donkeys so they could enter the city, and so Jesus meant the rich should give some, but not all, of

their wealth to the church (not to the poor, mind you!).

Now the fact is that Jesus is often very funny (though we who are so solemn don't always get the joke), and the image of a camel squeezing through the eye of a needle probably got a laugh – and heads nodding in response. But the challenge is real. Instead of saying, "Talk me out of it!" why not imagine what it would be like, since nothing is impossible with God, to do this. Imagine what it would mean if all our resources were dedicated to the work of God. Imagine what it would mean for our spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being if we truly lived in the Kingdom of God.

Something to think about!

CLWR NEWS BRIEFS

The material aid donation from Zion Church has recently arrived at the Canadian Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Winnipeg and CLWR expresses their appreciation for our support of the WE CARE program. With every kit, quilt, and medical supply, together we are making a real difference in the lives of those in need. Presently CLWR is working towards completing shipments to Kenya, El Salvador, and Mauritania that will help men, women, and children living in challenging circumstances.



At this time CLWR is requesting funds to help refugees from Sudan and Somalia and to help those affected by the food crisis in the African Sahel. Your support will go to provide basic services, including food, water, and shelter, as well as for projects that include well drilling, education, and social support for children.

To give you may give through our congregation or by going to www.clwr.org

ZION CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD

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



1. **Young Adults In Global Mission:** A 2012 graduate from the Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon, Jane Gingrich, has accepted a position with Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) to serve as a short-term missionary to Madagascar for one year. Jane will be working at the Lutheran seminary in Madagascar teaching English. She will also work at the local "Women's Empowerment Centre" teaching women to raise animals, grow food, and lead Bible studies. Support of her work

through prayer is appreciated. For those who also wish to support Jane financially, cheques may be made out to "Ascension Lutheran Church" and sent to: YAGM Madagascar, 1805 Silver King Road, Nelson, B.C., V1L 5T4

2. **Harvest Dinner in Milverton:** St. Peter's Lutheran Church is holding their annual harvest dinner at the Perth East Recreation Complex on Tuesday, October 16 from 5 PM to 7 PM. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children age 6-12, ages 5 and under free. For tickets or more information contact Joan at 519-595-4952 or Dianne at 519-595-4158.
3. **Volunteer Companion Program of the Alzheimer Society of Perth County:** The Alzheimer Society is proud to announce that their Volunteer Companion Program is coming soon. This may be for you if you want to help improve the quality of life for a person with Alzheimer's Disease or related dementia. If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Companion or learning more, please call Pamela Balfour of the Alzheimer Society at 519-271-1910.
4. **Dr. Herbert Driscoll Lecture:** Internationally known speaker, Dr. Herbert Driscoll is coming to Central United Church, Stratford on Saturday, October 27 from 10 AM to 3 PM. His topic is "Early Christians Of The 21st Century," a conversation about what spirituality means in our personal lives and in our worshipping communities. The cost is \$20 which includes lunch. For tickets, contact Brenda Vivian at 519-272-2177.
5. **Hoofbeats To Heartbeats:** The Thistletown Equestrian Centre presents "Hoofbeats to Heartbeats," an equine support for grieving teens. It has been shown that horses help teens cope with grief. Horse riding skills are not required for this program. This afternoon program takes place on Sunday, October 14. Kids and teens grieve differently than adults do. Some will talk. Some won't. This is a different but proven way to receive support. To register call Cathy at 519-271-6143. Highly trained facilitators and horse people will be present.