

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

"Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in your children the gift of your Holy Spirit" – Affirmation of Baptism, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

One of the most popular places in our church building is the corridor that runs between the church offices and the sanctuary. It's lined with photographs of every Confirmation class from 1926 – 2014, with plenty of space for upcoming classes (I've been pointing out the space where our current classes' pictures will one day be hung, preparing them for the day when they too are immortalized on this wall). I will often see people stopping to find their class picture or that of their parents or even grandparents, often sharing with their children stories of their classmates, the pastor who confirmed them, and other details of this most important day of their lives. It's a reminder to us of the central place that Confirmation still holds in our lives as Lutherans.



As we prepare to celebrate Confirmation with seven of our young people and their families this month, it's important for all of us to reflect on the meaning of this rite in our lives – not only on that day years ago when we celebrated this occasion, but as a guide to the manner in which we live as Christians every day. Interestingly, you won't find a service named "Confirmation" in our worship book; the service is found in the section that includes services related to Holy Baptism. As our parents and godparents brought most of us to the waters of baptism as infants and promised to raise us in the Christian faith, Confirmation is the Affirmation of Baptism in which young

people confess their faith and promise to be responsible for living according to the faith into which they were baptized. As they stand before their families as well as their church family, they promise to abide by the expectations that our Lord places before each person who through Baptism is reborn a child of God and made a member of the Church which is the Body of Christ:

- "You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to living among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?"

As each confirmand responds *"I do, and I ask God to help and guide me,"* we pray that God will bless them with the gift of the Holy Spirit that will *"confirm their faith, guide their life, empower them in their serving, give them patience in suffering, and bring them to everlasting life."*

As we join with this year's Confirmation class in celebrating this special day which will soon be immortalized on the corridor wall, we are reminded that we too are called to join with them in affirming our faith and supporting our sisters and brothers in their Christian lives. Each of us who witness their confirmation promises are also challenged to *"support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ,"* continuing to serve as role models that will guide them in their continuing formation as children of God. We are also challenged to be faithful in our own lives as God's people: to be faithful in hearing the word and partaking of the Lord's Supper, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in our daily lives, serving all people as our Lord Jesus Christ served others, and always striving for justice and peace. As our young people publicly confirm their faith, all of us are called to remember the day of our Confirmation and the promises that continue to guide us and challenge us every day as people who through baptism were called together to be the Church, the embodiment of Christ's loving presence in the world.

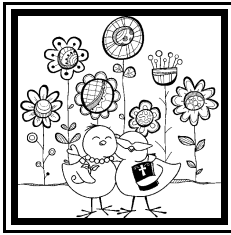
On the day of my Confirmation, my home congregation (which sadly closed in 2009) gave me a prayer book that includes this prayer in remembrance of the promises I made on that warm June afternoon:

- "Grant, I pray Thee, that I may ever remember the promises I made on the day of my confirmation. Let the truths of the Holy Scriptures with the message of forgiveness and peace be my guide throughout all the days of my life. Protect me against the poison of impurity, wickedness, and unbelief. Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Keep me faithful unto death, that I may receive the crown of eternal life. Do this for Jesus' sake. Amen."

As we prepare to put a new class picture on our corridor walls, let us all remember the day in which we affirmed our baptismal promises, and commit ourselves to live out these promises each day so that the light of Christ which strengthens and confirms our faith *"may shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jeff Laustsen

ZION WOMEN OF FAITH NEWS



May - NO Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 27 - 7:30 PM is our monthly meeting. All ladies are welcome to join this meeting.

Last day for the Learning and Living Kit is May 5, 2015. I plan on shipping them that week. Thanks to those who already gave.

Tickets for the June play on June 25 are \$40.00. See or call Joanne Young if interested in going.

Questions? Contact Linda Springer at 519-273-2093 or klspringer@rogers.com

FRIENDSHIP MEAL



Community Meal

273-6810).

Our Friendship Meal for people in need in our community takes place on Friday, May 29 at 5 PM. It is good to contribute to the life of Stratford's community in this way. You are welcome to help us prepare at 1 PM or serve or clean up from 4:30 PM and on. Your gift of time and service would be a blessing. Questions? Contact Sister Jean Widmeyer (519-

85+ BIRTHDAY PARTY

Are you turning 85 this year? If so, you are invited to Zion's 85 and older Birthday Party. Mark your calendar for June 16 at 2 PM. More information to follow in June's newsletter. Hope to see you there!



CONFIRMATION DAY

On Pentecost Sunday, May 24, seven of our young people will be affirming their baptismal promises as they celebrate the day of their Confirmation: **Paul Bennett, Richard Brubacher, Dylan Hall, Shauna Koehler, Danielle Steed, Georg Walch and Anik Watson.**



May God bless each of them with the gift of the Holy Spirit: ***"The spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD."*** (Isaiah 11:2).



ZION TABLE FOR SENIORS

Our May gathering of Zion Table For Seniors, our ministry which promotes fun, food, and friendship takes place on Tuesday, May 26 at 12 noon. Please let Doris Bartlett (519-271-9622) or Beryl Horst (519-276-3501) know by Tuesday, May 19 if you can attend. Lunch cost is only \$12. The "Brocksden School Museum" story told by Gloria Hutchison.

THANK YOUS ARE IN ORDER



A special word of thanks to all those who contributed to our Easter celebration by donating towards the purchase of Easter and spring flowers for the church. They are: **Ingrid Vollmer, Rudy & Bea Deighton, Elsie Dahm, Rita Mueller, Mary Helen Dale, Judith Hammond, Richard & Anne Gaul, Ruth Illmann, Elfrieda Zimmermann, Noreen Wilker, Bob & Heather Wickenheiser, Brian & Barb Gropp, Tim & Darlene Gropp, Bea Huras, Brian & Pauline Schade, Bill & Irene Ehgoetz, Verne &**

Joyce Hammer, Elizabeth Wachsmann, Bruce & Sharon Fetter, Wayne & Joanne Young, Ellen Wolf, Wayne Faulhafer family.



Weddings

Jeffrey Cade & Krista Vessie on April 11.

Baptisms

Jack Robert Bradley Boersen, son of Joshua & Erin on May 3.

MMMM CONCERT



Mark your calendars! On Saturday, June 6th, at 8 PM, at Zion, MMMMComposers in concert presents "Rhyme, Rhythm, and Song" with special guests, the women's choir "She Sings!" from Kingston, directed by Martha Hill Duncan. The choir will present a program featuring new compositions by MMMMComposers Michel Allard, Marco Burak, Michael Dobinson, and Michelle Wells, along with our own Doug Peterman. The

evening will be rounded out with a sparkling array of show tunes and upbeat sacred songs. Admission is by donation, with proceeds going to the Friendship Meal Program. Please tell your friends let's give our guest choir a full house!



SUNDAY SCHOOL SNIPITS

Another successful year has almost come to an end and at this time we would like to thank our dedicated teachers and helpers for their part in making it the success it was. We would also like to remind parents that the final morning of Sunday School will be May 31. There will not be scheduled classes on this Sunday but an end of the year celebration.

MAY 2015 VOLUNTEERS

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

Date	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Readers	Usher Captains	Counting Captains
May 3	Darlene Illman & Wayne Young	Wayne & Linda Faulhafer	Liz Bomasuit	Jerry Terhaardt	Bill Hoffard
May10	N/A	John & Luke Fischer	Hanna Bush	Tom Cosstick	Bill Hoffard
May 17	N/A	Verne Hammer	Anne Cooper	Tom Cosstick	Liz Forrest
May 24	Sister Jean Widmeyer & Sister Anne Keffer	Grade 7 Confirmation Class	N/A	Darrell Renecker	N/A
May 31	N/A	Willi & AnneMarie Hausleitner	Stephen Fischer	Darrell Renecker	Liz Forrest