

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

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PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL

"According to apostolic usage you are now to be entrusted with the office of Word and Sacrament in the one holy catholic Church by the laying on of hands and by prayer." – Ordination Service, Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

There are three days that hold a special meaning in my life that I celebrate every year:

- My birthday on March 11.
- Our wedding anniversary on January 7.
- My ordination anniversary on June 15.



As we prepare to host the Eastern Synod Ordination Service on Friday, June 2 (which will include the ordination of our former vicar Albert Romkema), I am also preparing to celebrate the 34th anniversary of the day when Bishop Herluf Jensen of the New Jersey Synod laid his hands on my head and ordained me as a pastor. I was privileged to celebrate my ordination in my home congregation, St. Peter's Lutheran Church in North Plainfield, New Jersey. It was the congregation that my family had called home since 1924, the church in which I was baptized, confirmed, and taught about the love of God that is ours in our Lord Jesus Christ. The congregation that had nurtured me in the faith now gathered around me as I was set apart to proclaim this same love of God in my role as an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament.

My ordination anniversary is a special day for me, but it is not one that is my exclusive possession. It is a day in which I reflect on God's call that I felt at an early age, that call that is still at the center of my work as a pastor. It is a day when I give thanks for my family, pastors, Sunday School teachers, university and seminary professors, mentors, and all of the people who have supported and guided me over the years. It is a day when I remember the great trust and responsibility that was placed upon my shoulders when the stole that I wear every Sunday was first placed upon my

shoulders, which serves as a weekly reminder to me that my service as a pastor is for the purpose of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, and never for my own sake. My ordination anniversary is a day of celebration, of reflection, and of praying that as God has blessed and guided me throughout these many years in which I have served as a pastor that God will continue to give me the strength and wisdom to continue to serve as a faithful pastor for as long as God wills.

It is a tremendous honor and privilege for a congregation to be asked to host an ordination service, and I would encourage all of you to attend this worship celebration. You will be inspired by the presence of our Bishop, Michael Pryse; by the music of our choir; by the words of the ordination service; and by the joy that each of the three ordinands will experience on this day. As June 15 will always be a special day for me, June 2 will become a day of celebration and remembrance for Hilla, Albert, and Ronnie. May we join in this celebration as we give thanks and praise to God for calling these new pastors to proclaim God's word *"so that your church may be gathered for praise and strengthened for service."*

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jeff Laustsen

VICAR'S DEVOTIONAL

Brothers and Sisters of Zion Lutheran Church, Grace and Peace to you.



I thank you for your ministry of teaching, and I am grateful for the hospitality you have shown by welcoming our family into your community. My wife Cristina and I moved from Oakville to Kitchener in 2013 with our children Jackson (16), Bianca (9), and Daniel (6). We came with the primary intention of studying at the local universities. Cristina had hoped to prepare for a second career in the field of science, while I planned to explore my peculiar interest in Lutheran Theology. With time however, these interests evolved and grew in unexpected ways.

Prior to our move, Cristina had worked in the production department of a publishing firm which specialized in issues related to labour law in Canada. She later made the decision to stay home with our children until the youngest was old enough to attend junior kindergarten. During those same years, I worked in a variety of settings as a Registered Nurse. When we arrived in Waterloo Region, my initial intention was to work full-time at Cambridge Memorial Hospital (CMH) while taking the occasional course at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary (WLS) as a part-time interest. That interest however, quickly grew into a passion, which eventually sounded into a calling. So, in 2015 I left my

full-time position at CMH and enrolled in the Master of Divinity program at WLS. Cristina is also currently a full-time student, enrolled in the Bachelor of Education program at Wilfrid Laurier University. We both anticipate graduating in the Spring of 2018.

Since the time of our arrival in Kitchener, our home congregation has been St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church. Though we have been active in a variety of church ministries, we both share a common interest in learning ministries; endeavouring to nurture Christian faith, identity, and community. As we enter this next stage of our journey together, we give thanks to God for the invitation to walk with you; to grow with you; and to be with you in Christ.

Your co-worker in the Gospel,
Jason Ashby



MMMM COMPOSERS IN CONCERT

MMMM Composers in concert will be held here at Zion, on Saturday, June 3 at 4:30 PM. Michel Allard, Marco Burak and Michael Dobinson present a concert of new compositions, as well as music by Arvo Part, and Gerhard Krapf. Donations accepted will go to our Friendship Meal here at Zion. Thank

you!

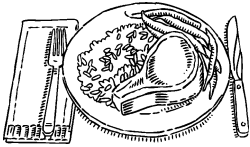


SENIORS’ BIRTHDAY PARTY!

Calling all 85 year old and plus members! On June 7th at 2 PM is Zion’s Birthday Party. Come join us for fellowship, food and entertainment. A phone call will be made to everyone who is invited. Hope to see you there!

Verne Hammer, May 13

ZION TABLE FOR SENIORS



Zion Table For Seniors: There will be no Zion Table in June. We gather on Tuesday, September, 26, here at Zion. Luncheon cost is \$12 per person. Please let Doris Bartlett (519-271-9622) or Rita Mueller (519-271-6539) know by Tuesday, September 18 by noon at the latest, so we can reserve your spot. Come and have some fun, fellowship and good food. All are

welcome!

ZION GARAGE SALE



Zion Church is holding a garage sale on Friday, July 7th, beginning at 12 noon. All the proceeds of this sale will be donated to our congregational ministry for our Seniors’ Group and our Quilting/Knitter Group (to purchase new lights for the parlour). 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 3rd . She has a place to store items and will also arrange pick up, if needed.

Thank you for your support of these great causes!

FRIENDSHIP MEAL MINISTRY



Please note: The Friendship Meal, at Zion, will resume in September. This gives our volunteers a well deserved rest. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding this ministry, please direct them to Sister Jean Widmeyer at srjw@bell.net or 519-273-1810. She’d love to hear from you!

ZION WOMEN OF FAITH

June 5: Board meeting at 7 PM
June 28: 5:30 PM Dinner at Young’s Cottage; 7:30 PM Grand Bend Theatre “Sister Act”



On Wednesday, JUNE 28, we will be going to Grand Bend Theatre to see “All Shook Up” at 7:30 PM. Cost is \$40 per person. Dinner at Wayne and Joanne Young’s cottage from 5:30 - 6 PM. For tickets call Joanne Young 519-271-3225 or Ellen Wolfe 519-749-5341.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

At our May Congregational Council meeting we welcomed our new intern, Vicar Jason Ashby, and look forward to working with him during his term with us.



Following the direction received from the Congregation at the Special Congregational meeting held on May 7, 2017, quotes are being received for the two grease interceptors and the fire suppression system for the kitchen. The work will be completed as soon as possible. Some donations towards the project have already been received and more will be required to meet the \$11,000.00 commitment that is required from personal donations and fundraising.

Congregational Council has obtained three quotes for completion of drainage work related to improving water drainage from the driveway and improving water drainage away from the wall in the front courtyard area. The quotes were reviewed by the Property Committee and Congregational Council. The quotes from Mike Holman have been accepted and the work in those two areas will be done as soon as possible this summer. Funds for these two maintenance projects are available from the building reserve fund.

A request has been received from the Accessibility Advisory Committee regarding the installation of an automated lift. Congregational Council discussed the request and are reviewing what procedures might be necessary to proceed.

JUNE VOLUNTEERS

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

Date	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Readers	Usher Captains	Counting Captains
June 4	Ed Illman & David Bennewitz	Steve & Marg Lamont	Nancy White	Jerry Terhaerd	Stephanie Sousa
June 11	N/A	Marten & Dianne Mann	Sister Jean Widmeyer	Tom Cosstick	Audrey Miller
June 18	Linda Weitzel & Fritz Steigmeier	Audrey Miller	Brian Wilker	Tom Cosstick	Audrey Miller
June 25	N/A	John & Luke Fischer	Mindy Gough	Darrell Renecker	Liz Bomasuit