

## PASTOR'S DEVOTIONAL

*"Open the gates, so that the righteous nation that keep faith may enter in." – Isaiah 26:2.*

My best summer job during my student years was working as a security guard at Lockheed Electronics in Watchung, New Jersey. The plant was a five-minute drive from our family home, and since I mostly worked indoors, I was able to work long hours without breaking a sweat. But while the job wasn't physically demanding, it did require knowledge of many security regulations and which persons were permitted to enter certain areas of the factory. Because many of Lockheed's contracts were with the US Department of Defense, I needed security clearance before I began work and had to adhere to very strict government protocols every day. On most days, the most important part of my job was determining who was allowed access, and who would be denied access to the building.

My work at Lockheed ended when I entered the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in September 1979, and I quickly discovered that there were many differences between working for a government contractor and preparing to serve as a pastor in the Lutheran Church. Not only were the purposes and goals of the two organizations very different, but the issue of access was also radically dissimilar. While my job at Lockheed was to restrict access to only those persons with the

proper clearance and permission, my task as a pastor was to make certain that all were welcome in the house of the Lord, that there would be nothing that would deny a person access to the liberating Word of God which is for all people. As the tearing of the Temple curtain at the moment of Jesus' death signaled that access to the presence of the Lord would no longer be restricted, so also was my work as a pastor to ensure that all would be welcome in the Church which is the place in which God dwells among all God's people.



Yet over the years of my pastoral ministry, I have discovered that we have often failed in our call to ensure that all persons have access to the good news of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Many of our church buildings were constructed with many obstacles that prevent persons from coming

into God's presence in worship. Many churches have chosen to put rules and regulations in place that serve as obstacles to who can be admitted to the worshipping community or the table of the Lord. Many denominations have created language that is understandable only by insiders, serving again to restrict access to those who are not a part of the "in crowd." While churches may believe that they are welcoming communities, in many of their words and actions they have in fact become as restrictive as to who is allowed access as was the Lockheed plant.

On Sunday, June 2, we will be observing Accessibility Sunday. It is an opportunity for us to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord on the Seventh Sunday of Easter as we also consider how we might be more faithful to our Saviour's call to be witnesses to all people, making certain that all have access to the one who is *"the Word of eternal life."* (John 6:68). We will be welcoming the choir from Woodland Towers, a residence where many of our congregational members call home. We will also be lifting up the work of our Accessibility Advisory Committee as they endeavor to make our gathering places accessible and welcoming to all persons. We seek to continue to raise awareness on this and every Sunday of our need to make the Holy Word of God accessible to all people so that we might *"worship and serve God, the source of hope and joy; celebrate and serve one another, rejoice in our diversity; transform and serve the world, until we become a community which reflects God's oneness and peace."* (*That All May Worship: An Interfaith Welcome to People with Disabilities*, Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition).

My task as a security guard was to restrict access, while my calling as a pastor is to make God's liberating Word accessible to all. May all of us who have been blessed by the Good News of Jesus Christ work to remove all barriers and obstacles, so that all may know that there is a place for them in the house and at the table of the Lord.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Jeff Laustsen

P.S. – Thank you to everyone for your prayers, cards, and words of support during my recent illness. It was one of the most difficult experiences of my life, especially since it came during Holy Week and Easter. I am thankful for the faithful ministry of Vicar Jonah Bruce who stepped in and organized worship during this busy week in the church year, and for all our worship leaders who made certain that the worship life of our congregation continued in my absence. As I continue to regain my strength, I give thanks for the medical staff in the Emergency Department at Stratford General Hospital, for my doctors and nurses in the Stratford Family Health Team, and for everyone who has been caring for me during my illness and recovery. I have learned firsthand that indeed *"the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."* (James 5:16).

# VICAR’S DEVOTIONAL

“For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”  
Psalm 100:5

“Amazing Grace” will always be my most cherished hymn. I often find great comfort in the stanza which reads “Twas grace that brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home.” Each of us walk our own unique journey through life; a road that is filled with twists, turns, bumps, and uncertainties. Despite the uniqueness of our journeys however, the promise of Christ is that none of us walk a single step alone. In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus offers that hope and assurance in saying: “remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). As Christian believers we are united in the hope and promise of God’s amazing grace; a grace that has “brought us safe thus far and a grace that will lead us home” into the everlasting presence of Almighty God.



When the journey of life gets difficult and it feels as though God has perhaps forgotten or overlooked my circumstances, I often stop myself, take a breath, and remember the wonderful gift of grace that has brought each of us this far. In doing this, I find renewed hope that God’s grace will once again be more than sufficient for me. The promise given to Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:9 also holds true for us: “My grace is sufficient for you.”

Whatever the summer months hold, wherever the journey of life takes each of us, I pray that we will find strength and comfort in God’s wonderful promise of grace. A grace that offers healing, restoration, and hope amidst uncertainty. A grace that allows us to look both presently and in hindsight with the faith, confidence, and assurance to say that God is good – God is good indeed!

Grace is with you,  
Vicar Jonah

**+ BAPTISMS +**  
**Lydia Pauline Ann Schade**, daughter  
of Robert & Jennifer on April 28.

**+ Confirmands 2019 +**  
**Ethan David Arand**  
**Nicolas Ryan Brubacher**  
**Kaitlyn Elizabeth Famme**  
**Hayden Robert Illman**  
**Cole William McGavin**  
**Adam Gerald Small**  
**Keegan Ross Sousa**  
**Erica Claire Weller**

# FROM THE DESK OF MR. PAUL!

Believe-Dream  
Believe in the Dream  
You are the Dream of Possibilities!

Thank You to everyone who has opened their hearts and minds to share their joy of life and music with the Zion Church Family.

The Music Team at Zion passionately continues to invite everyone and anyone to consider coming out and making music with the Choir or with the Sunday School Choir. You, as Church Members, are always welcome to invite friends and neighbours to consider singing and celebrating here at Zion. All are Welcome.



If you play an instrument, please feel safe and welcome to reach out and say hello. Your imagination is your limitation. May we continue to Find A Kinder Way to be, to be who we are as we explore the idea of seeing, speaking and singing through the seed of “Grace”.

Thank You All For Being YOU!  
Mr. Paul

*“Listen to Gossip, You Become the Gossip!”*



# SENIORS’ BIRTHDAY PARTY!

Calling all 85 year old and plus members! On June 5<sup>th</sup> 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!

# ZION GARAGE SALE



Zion Church is holding its annual garage sale on Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 12 noon. All the proceeds of this sale will be donated to our congregational ministry for our Zion Seniors’ Group. The contributions we are looking for are books, glassware, jewelry, dishes, tools, electrical appliances, sports equipment, toys, games, etc. The convener is Sheila Wittig who can be reached at 519-271-3413. Last day for donations, is Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for your donations. Your support is greatly appreciated!



## SHOPPING CARD PROGRAM

Are you a person who purchases groceries or gas?

The majority of us do – food is a necessity.

What if I told you that you could help generate financial support for the church simply by purchasing the groceries and/or gas that you buy on a regular basis – with no extra cost to you!

Under the guidance of the congregational council, Zion is launching a gift card program in partnership with FundScrip, Canada’s most popular fundraising campaign. This program is designed to help churches and other non-profit organizations generate extra income simply ordering shopping cards on a regular basis.

### How does it work?

**Step 1:** Figure out your weekly grocery/gas budget and the retailers where you most frequently purchase these items.

**Step 2:** Order gift cards from the church in the amounts that you would regularly spend on groceries/gas. This can be done following the morning worship service or by dropping into the church. Orders can be placed using cash or cheque (payable to Zion). Orders will be submitted Sunday afternoons at 2 PM and gift cards will be available for pick up the following Sunday morning.

**Step 3:** Smile each time that you use your gift cards to purchase gas/groceries, knowing that with no extra cost to you, you helped generate income for Zion.

**Shopping cards never expire and can be used multiple times until the balance is gone.** Retailers treat them as cash and they can be used in addition to cards that collect points, such as: Triangle, Air Miles, and PC points.

### Here is an example:

**Step 1:** John examines his budget and realizes that his family spends \$400/month on groceries and \$100/month on gas. His family regularly shops at Zehrs but makes a few monthly purchases at Sobeys. They purchase all of their gas at Shell. When his family divides these costs into a weekly budget, they spend approximately \$75/week at Zehrs, \$25/week at Sobeys and \$25/week at Shell.

**Step 2:** Knowing this information, John places an order for a \$75 gift card for Zehrs, a \$25 gift card for Sobeys, and a \$25 gift card for Shell. He writes a cheque to Zion in the

**Step 3:**

amount of \$125 and eagerly awaits the arrival of his gift cards the following week. John picks up his gift cards at the back of the church the following Sunday and uses them to pay for the groceries and gas that he normally purchases. Satisfied with this simplistic way to generate extra income for the church, John begins purchasing gift cards every week and is amazed to learn that at the end of the year, he alone has generated over \$200 for the church.

### PARTICIPATING CARD LIST

#### Retailers

Canadian Tire  
Home Depot  
Home Hardware  
Mark’s Work Warehouse  
Winners/Homesense/Marshalls  
Rona  
Staples  
Toys R Us  
The Source  
Sport Check  
Shoppers Drug Mart  
Walmart  
Giant Tiger  
American Eagle  
Rexall  
Best Buy  
Children’s Place  
Dollarama

#### Grocery Stores

Zehrs/No Frills/Superstore  
Sobeys/Foodland/IGA/Freshco  
Food Basics  
M & M

#### Miscellaneous

Sephora  
Scholar’s Choice  
Roots  
Pet Smart  
Le Chateau  
Bath & Body Works  
Cineplex  
Landmark Cinema  
David’s Tea  
Footlocker  
Gap/Banana Republic/Old Navy  
Stokes  
Itunes  
Colonel Popcorn  
Laura Secord  
Le Chateau

#### Gas Stations

Esso/Mobil  
Petro-Canada  
Shell

#### Hotels

Best Western  
Fairmont

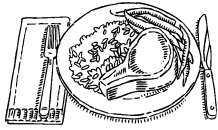
#### Restaurants

A & W  
Boston Pizza  
Subway  
Tim Horton’s  
Wendy’s  
Red Lobster  
Jack Astor’s  
Starbucks  
St. Hubert  
The Keg  
KFC/Taco Bell/Pizza Hut

#### (The Ultimate Card)

D’arcy McGee’s/Eastside Mario’s/  
Fionn MacCool’s/Harvey’s/Kelsey’s/  
Milestones/Montanas/Swiss Chalet/New York Fries

## ZION TABLE FOR SENIORS



Tuesday, June 25, is the date for our last **Zion Table For Seniors** dinner and program for the season.

Once again, we will have the opportunity to hear a fantastic speaker. Rev. Iona Grover, a retired United Church Pastor from St. Marys, who recently retired from her former career and also from writing a weekly column for the St. Marys newspaper called “Street Level Faith,” for the past 5 years, will be with us. A common theme with her is, “When is it time to let go?” As the writer of Ecclesiastes says it so well, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. A time to keep and a time to throw away.” She advocates when one door closes, another one opens. Do plan on coming to hear Pastor Grover’s message. I can assure you, you won’t be disappointed. Call Doris Bartlett (519-271-9622) or Rita Mueller (519-271-6539) know by **Tuesday, June 18 at the latest**. Cost for the dinner and program is only \$12.00.

**PLEASE NOTE: As of September 1, Mary-Lou Drown 519-273-2268, Linda Hicks 519-271-6073 and Jan Bennewitz 519-271-6073 are taking over for Doris Bartlett and Rita Mueller. Thank you to Doris & Rita for your service. And welcome to Mary-Lou, Linda, and Jan for helping us to continue bringing lunch and entertainment to our seniors.**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Sunday School is winding down. The last day for Sunday School is June 9. We are looking for people who would be willing to go on a supply list to teach Sunday School when we have a teacher call in sick. If you would like more information, please call Paula at 519-273-2174 (evenings).

Sunday School Coordinator  
Paula McNaughton

## 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](mailto:srjw@bell.net) or 519-273-1810. She’d love to hear from you!

## ZION WOMEN OF FAITH



Our tickets to “Thoroughly Modern Millie” have sold out! This is just a reminder for those with tickets, we will meet in Grand Bend at Young’s Cottage at any time after 4:00 pm on Thursday June 20<sup>th</sup>; dinner at 5:30 pm, then off to the show!

We are very happy to have participated in some of the **“More Than a Roof Campaign”** activities. We’ve enjoyed working with other groups in our walk toward a common goal!

In the words of my grandmother, “Many hands make light work”! We look forward to continuing our work with everyone as we get nearer and nearer our goal!

The Women of Faith do not meet during July and August. Although our mission and goals do not end. We continue with our current projects and look forward to our first general meeting September 25<sup>th</sup>.



### Summer Sunday Service

June 9 – 10:00 a.m. at Upper Queen’s Park Bandshell and Pavilion

**Lunch of Hamburgers and Hotdogs will be served.**

**There will be a potluck dessert table, so please bring your favorite dessert! Cold drinks will be provided.**

**There will be a “Pie in the Face” auction and a “Pie Baking Contest” following the Service in support of our “More Than A Roof” fundraising campaign.**

**Sign up sheet at the back of the sanctuary.**

# 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 2	David Bennewitz & Barb Higgins	Jim & Kathy Schellenberger	Linda Springer	Wayne Yundt	Lynnette McLeod
June 9	N/A	Bob & Heather Wichenheiser	Stephen Fischer	Wayne Yundt	N/A
June 16	Stephen Fischer & Liz Bomasuit	Al & Lorraine Skowby	Linda Weitzel	Jerry Terhaerd	Tim Iredale
June 23	N/A	Klaus & Linda Springer	Fritz Steigmeier	Jerry Terhaerd	Tim Iredale
June 30	N/A	Jim & Judy Stanley	Susan Iredale	Tom Cosstick	Kevin Tuer

## “MORE THAN A ROOF”

### Campaign

#### Fundraising Events For June

#### All Proceeds for “More Than A Roof”

Continuing **Every Sunday**, why not pick up your Gift Cards. We all need groceries, gas, and other necessities, or use as a gift. Just sign up for a gift card, and pick it up next week. No extra cost for you but a great no-cost fundraiser for the church.

**“Father’s Day Cookie Gram”** – You will have the opportunity to purchase a “Cookie Gram” to send to a special father or man in our congregation. The recipient will receive a Father’s Day Cookie Gram in addition to a personalized note. Cookie Grams can be delivered anonymously or as a signed Father’s Day Gift. Cookie Grams will be available for pick up June 16.

**Sunday, June 9 & 23** – These Sunday’s are designated for our Sunday School children to collect your campaign envelopes. Look for the children before the service, they will be standing with our greeters. **Reminder:** that **June 30** is **“Spare Change Sunday.”**

**Church Picnic will be held Sunday, June 9** at Upper Queen’s Park Bandshell & Pavilion at 10 AM. Lunch of hamburgers and hotdogs, and cold drinks will be served. There will be a potluck dessert table. In support of the roof campaign will be a “Pie Baking Contest” and a “Pie In The Face” auction. A sign up sheet is at the back of the church.

**Saturday, June 15 – “Dinner/Theatre”** will be held for those holding tickets. This event will also mark the end of the “Silent Auction.” **“Silent Auction”** items can be found in the foyer off the courtyard.

**Saturday, June 29 at 9 AM:** The Property Committee is hosting a **“Car Wash & BBQ.”** Come on down to the church for a BBQ and why not get your car cleaned at the same time.