

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



*"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."* – Matthew 5:16

Among the many faithful, dedicated Christians I have been privileged to serve with during my many years of ordained ministry was Gordon. Gordon was not a person you might notice even if you were a faithful member of his congregation; he shunned the spotlight, rarely speaking in meetings or leading public worship. Gordon was a person whose ministry happened behind the scenes, out of sight of most people in the church and community. Gordon was usually the first person in the building on Sunday mornings; he would make certain that the lights were on, and the heat was working, would check that all the doors were opened, and would prepare the coffee for fellowship time after worship. There were mornings when I did not even know he was in the building until he stopped by and wished me a good morning as I was preparing my worship notes. Few people noticed Gordon or the many tasks he performed on Sundays, but without him the worship life of the congregation would have been far more challenging.

Over my time in the community, I would run into Gordon continuing his faithful, behind the scenes ministry in many places. One day, I met him at the hospital where he had driven a neighbour for a medical appointment. Gordon and his wife delivered Meals on Wheels daily, and he would often take people shopping or help them care for their homes and lawns. When I would thank Gordon for his faithfulness and many acts of kindness, he would simply reply, "I'm just doing what Jesus wants me to do, and for God to get all the glory."

This month, the church remembers a saint who in many ways exemplified Gordon's approach to living his baptismal life out of the limelight so that God was given all the glory. On May 14, we remember Matthias the Apostle, one of the most obscure saints of the early church.

The only place where he appears in the New Testament is in the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, where he is one of two candidates to take the place of Judas Iscariot among the twelve disciples as they await the empowerment of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost:

- “So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us – one of these must become a witness with us to the resurrection.’ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.’ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was added to the eleven apostles.” – Acts 1:21-26.

This is the first and last time we hear of Matthias in the Bible. While his fellow apostles – especially Peter, John, and Paul – play a prominent role in the story of the apostolic mission of the church, nothing is said of Matthias or his ministry. Some traditions outside of Scripture say that Matthias planted the faith around Cappadocia and around the Caspian Sea; other traditions state that he preached the Gospel in Judea and Aethiopia and was crucified; there is even a marker in modern-day Georgia that claims that Matthias is buried at that site. But in truth, it does not matter whether or not we know what happened to Matthias or the details of his ministry; we do know that he was one of the many faithful Christians who played an indispensable role in the spread of the Gospel to the ends of the earth, one of the many disciples of Christ whose names have been lost in history but played a part in passing down the liberating Word of God so that we might have this blessed hope that gives us strength and confidence in the most difficult circumstances we may encounter. We may not remember their names or know their stories, but they were among the faithful who shared the light of Christ during their lives so that we might have this blessed hope to share with those we are called among to live and serve.

I lost contact with Gordon after I moved on from that call. Chances are that Gordon has died, and his name and legacy may well have been forgotten; but his life was a living testimony to what it means to shine the light of Christ before others not for one’s own self-aggrandizement but so that when others see the good works we do in Christ’s name, they may give glory not to us but to the Lord whose light shines before us and gives us the promise of strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. As we remember St. Matthias, the “apostle of the unknown saints,” may we give thanks to God for faithful disciples like Gordon, and may we strive to serve so that we do not call attention to ourselves but to the one who died and rose again so that we might live in the promise of a blessed life today even as we look to the promise

of the life that is to come. May we – like the unknown saints then and now – strive in all our words and deeds to live by the motto *Soli Deo Gloria* – “*To God alone be the glory!*”

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Jeff Laustsen

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE “APRIL” CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING



### **Council Highlights**

The April 17, 2024 Congregational Council Meeting was held in-person in the Parlour & via Zoom.

The Future Directions Town Hall Gathering has been organized for Saturday, May 4, 2024. The Task Force will review the results from the Town Hall Gathering and make a recommendation to the

Visioning Committee and the Visioing Committee will then make a recommendation to Congregational Council. It is hoped that as many people as possible will be able to participate in this important discussion on May 4.

Pastor Adam Snook, assistant to Bishop Pryse, will be joining us on Sunday May 5. He will preach and bring greetings from the Eastern Synod. The Congregational Life Committee are hosting a coffee hour following worship.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee are making arrangements currently with a local cab company, namely, 519-272-2222 to assist those members who might need transportation to our weekly church services.

Donations/offerings, can continue to be completed via our Church website, including additional options for QR Code and E-Transfer, in addition to the PAR program, mailing cheques or dropping off donations either at the Church office weekday mornings or in the locked mailbox at your convenience.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



A reminder to all that we are a nut-free Sunday School. We have a student in our Sunday School who is allergic to nuts.

Please remember that Sunday School ends at 11:15 A.M. We ask that parents/guardians wait until that time before coming for your children.

The children will be singing in church on Sunday, May 12, 2024 during the 10:00 A.M. service.

## **The last day of Sunday School is Mother's Day May 12.**

In order to organize classes and arrange for teachers, we are reaching out to all parents wishing to enroll their child(ren) in the Sunday School program. If you could please email me the child(ren)'s name(s), current grade(s) as of September, 2024, and whether or not they would be participating in Sunday School to Paula at [pauley.mcnaughton@hotmail.com](mailto:pauley.mcnaughton@hotmail.com).

**Please note that any child turning four (4) years of age in 2024 is eligible to start Sunday School in September, 2024.**

Once we have our students registered, we will be in a better position to arrange our classes.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your assistance and co-operation!

Paula McNaughton  
Sunday School Coordinator

## **CUPPA CANDLES**



**ROTARY HOSPICE** has a volunteer who makes lightly scented candles using tea cups and saucers which hold the wax. They are looking for donations of tea cups and saucers to use in the making of these candles. If you are house cleaning, downsizing or cleaning out your china cabinet and have some that you can donate they would be greatly appreciated. For drop offs: Rotary Hospice is staffed 24/7 so teacups and saucers can be dropped off anytime. Their address is 80 Greenwood Drive. They are located behind Greenwood Court (you have to pull in their driveway at 90 Greenwood and follow it all the way around back to find them). Ring the intercom at the front door and leave the teacups and

saucers with reception.

The **CUPPA CANDLES** are for sale at reception but they are also incorporated into their “*Care Bundles*”. A “*Care Bundle*” is given to family after their loved one has died, as they are leaving the hospice. The bundle also includes information from their social workers on grief and bereavement and resources to support this next step of their journey.

**Rotary Hospice** is very grateful for any donations you may be able to offer.

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## **A LITTLE BIT OF ZION HISTORY**



The following article appeared in the Sunday, October 29, 2000 bulletin. Some of you may remember this taking place, while newer members to our congregation will not be aware of this history.

The present pipe organ was dedicated on Reformation Sunday, October 29, 2000. Guest Speaker on this day was Pastor Susan Johnson, Assistant to Bishop Pryse of the Eastern Synod.

The Director of Music at the time, namely, Ian Sadler was very involved with the acquisition of the pipe organ and we are indebted to Ian for all his involvement and expertise in bringing this project to a successful conclusion.



### INTRODUCING OUR PIPE ORGAN

The organ is a 32 stop, 3 manual, 1954 Casavant pipe organ, opus 2219. This instrument was custom built for the chapel of the Franciscan Fathers of the Noviciate of Holy Name in Lafayette, New Jersey. In 1979 the order was dissolved and the complex was sold to the Sunrise House Foundation where people could come for drug and alcohol rehabilitation. In the fall of 1999 the organ was advertised for sale and was purchased for Zion Lutheran Church in Stratford. The firm of Dodington and Dodington Pipe Organ Services Inc., district representatives for Casavant Frère took responsibility for the removal, transportation and installation here in Zion. The facade from a previous Karn pipe organ is connected to the Casavant organ. These pipes face the sanctuary on the right side. The Organ chamber has been enlarged to twice the size of the original space to accommodate the pipes and mechanisms. The organ has 32 stops, 39 ranks, and 2,391 pipes.

The people primarily responsible for the installation work include: Ross Dodington, Jim Dodington, Mark James, George Veltman, and Linda Dodington. We thank them for all their hard work, patience, understanding and care during the construction period.





# Spring

BUDS  
DAFFODILS  
FLOWERS  
GRASS  
RAIN

RAINBOW  
SEEDS  
SPRING  
TULIPS  
UMBRELLA

G	F	S	Q	O	I	I	S	L	S	U	R
E	D	U	R	Y	G	N	D	M	B	K	V
B	T	A	P	T	I	Q	E	K	D	I	F
S	K	N	F	A	G	H	E	H	P	B	C
P	T	D	R	F	B	W	S	Q	P	R	J
I	S	R	E	W	O	L	F	D	T	L	S
L	F	H	Z	F	G	D	S	A	N	U	M
U	X	U	U	F	R	R	I	D	J	T	Z
T	H	C	U	Z	A	J	A	L	U	T	V
U	M	B	R	E	L	L	A	S	S	B	M
B	N	S	M	G	N	I	R	P	S	M	K
R	A	I	N	B	O	W	D	J	A	C	P

## **MOTHER'S DAY IS SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024**

*Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.*

*Proverbs 31:28-31*

Below is a special Mother's Day prayer for your mother. You can use this prayer as a special blessing to her and mothers everywhere!

**Prayer:** Lord, I pray for my mother today on this special day of honor towards her. Thank you for her life, and for the blessing she has been in my life. Bless her and the family she loves so much! Thank you for the wonderful example of love and service she has displayed in her life. Today, I rise and call her blessed. May you continue to bless her and fill her heart with joy and love. Thank you for the impact she has had in my life and in my family. Today, may she experience the rich blessings of your goodness and faithfulness to her. In Jesus name, Amen.

And, let us not forget our Grandmothers:

### **A Prayer for Grandmothers**

Heavenly Presence, on this Mother's Day, we lift up our hearts in gratitude for the grandmothers who have enriched our lives with wisdom, love, and grace. Bless them with joy and health, and wrap them in Your loving embrace. Amen.



# EASY MAY TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. How many months come before May in the year?
2. How many days are there in May?
3. What season is May part of in the Northern Hemisphere?
4. What holiday is celebrated around the world on the 1st of May?
5. What is someone's star sign if they're born on the 2nd of May?
6. Every May, thousands of tourists visit the Keukenhof gardens in the Netherlands to see colourful fields of what kind of flower?
7. What holiday is celebrated on the second Sunday in May?
8. What country celebrates Cinco de Mayo on the 5th of May?
9. Which American city would you travel to if you were invited to the Met Gala on the first Monday of May?
10. Complete the saying: 'April showers bring May...'

## ANSWERS:

- |           |             |                 |               |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Four   | 2) 31       | 3) Spring       | 4) Labour Day |
| 5) Taurus | 6) Tulips   | 7) Mother's Day |               |
| 8) Mexico | 9) New York | 10) Flowers     |               |





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	Greeters	Readers	Usher Captains	Altar Guild	Counting Captains
May 5	Gerry & Janet Ahrens	Linda Faulhafer	Tom Cosstick	Irene Ehgoetz	NO COUNTERS
May 12	Wayne & Linda Faulhafer	Glenn Rittinger	Darrell Renecker	Ellen Wolfe	Cheryl Cade
May 19	Audrey Miller & Mervyn Dietz	Mary-Lou Drown	Brian Coe	Carmen Beck	Janet Chandler
May 26	Gerald & Isabel Cook	Carmen Beck	Jerry Terhaerd	Sister Jean Widmeyer	Janet Chandler

“THANK YOU” to our Volunteers for giving of your time!  
Worship would not be the same without you!!

