

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



“The saying is sure: whoever aspires to the office of bishop desires a noble task.” – 1 Timothy 3:1.

As the early church continued its apostolic mission of being witnesses to the gospel of Jesus Christ and proclaiming this good news *“to the ends of the earth”* (Acts 1:8), it became clear that there was a need for organization so that the church’s mission might continue from generation to generation. This need for church order led to the establishment of offices of ministry within the church, including bishops, presbyters (pastors), and deacons. Each of these offices was established *“to equip the saints for ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.”* (Ephesians 4:12-13). While all Christians are called in baptism to serve as ministers of our Lord and Saviour in their daily lives, the church continues to set persons apart for these offices so that the gospel might continue to be faithfully proclaimed and the mission that our Lord Jesus Christ entrusted to the church might continue until the day when our Saviour returns.

While Lutherans in North America only recently began to refer to our synodical leaders as “bishops,” the title is most appropriate for those who are called to provide the ministry of oversight (the word “bishop” literally means “overseer”) to the congregations and ministries of our synods and national churches. Since 1998, our Eastern Synod has been blessed by the episcopal ministry of Bishop Michael Pryse, who has been faithful to his call to *“guide, encourage, and support the ministers and congregations of this synod in its ministries”* (ELW Installation of a Bishop). Bishop Pryse has played a critical role in both of my calls to serve congregations of the Eastern Synod; as assistant to Bishop William Huras, he supervised my call to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Niagara Falls in 1996, and after being away from the synod as I served a congregation on Long Island, New York it was Bishop Pryse who contacted me about the possibility of returning to the Eastern Synod to serve here at Zion. Bishop Pryse

has been a constant source of support and encouragement to me and so many people in the Eastern Synod, and I will always be thankful for the privilege of serving with him.

This year, Bishop Pryse will be concluding his twenty-six years of service as our bishop. At the Eastern Synod Assembly that will meet on June 20-22 in Toronto, we will be electing a new bishop to lead us into the next chapter of our life together as a synod. While the election will involve both lay and clergy delegates from across the synod in keeping with our Lutheran tradition of electing synodical leaders, this year the synod has begun a new process of identifying nominees who are being presented as candidates for the office of bishop. Four nominees have been identified in this process: Pastor Carla Blakley, Pastor Katherine Gohm, Pastor Jennifer Hoover, and Pastor Adam Snook. Our synod constitution also makes allowance for nominees to be entered into the voting process on the first ballot, so it is possible that other candidates will become a part of the election process. The assembly will also be electing a new synod vice-chairperson, secretary, and treasurer, as well as members of the Synod Council and delegates to the 2025 ELCIC National Convention. It promises to be a most important assembly as we discern who will become the person to serve as our bishop, providing oversight and guidance as we face the challenges of being the church of Jesus Christ in the coming years.

Information about each of these nominees can be found on our synod website: www.easternsynod.org. May we pray for the delegates to the assembly (Gerald Cook and I will be representing Zion at this gathering) that God may continue to provide us with leaders who will be faithful to Christ's call to *"be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* (Acts 1:8).

- *"Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving Christ's mission in the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you will send us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."* – Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jeff Laustsen

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE "MAY" CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

The May 15, 2024 Congregational Council Meeting was held in-person in the Parlour.



The first draft proof of the Photo Directory has been received and reviewed. There will be another draft proof and then the Directory will be ready for printing.

The Town Hall Meeting was held on Saturday, May 4. The Future Directions Task Force will begin the final phase of their work in producing a report and recommendations.

We will have two special guests with us in June. Sara Kuntz from the Stratford Connection Centre will be with us on Sunday, June 23rd and Pastor Elaine Clark-Siberry from L'Arche Stratford on Sunday, June 30th.

Pastor Jeff and Gerald Cook will be attending the Eastern Synod Assembly as delegates of Zion on Thursday, June 20-Saturday, June 22. A major item on the agenda is the election of our new bishop along with Synod Executive, Synod Council and delegates to the 2025 National Convention.

The Coffee Hour on Sunday, April 21 and Sunday, May 5 were well attended. The Congregational Life Committee is asking for more volunteers so that more Sundays can be added.

The Bandshell and Pavilion in Upper Queens Park have been booked for September 8 for the annual picnic in the park and Rally Sunday.

Arrangements have been made to clean up the paved parking lot and to repaint the signs and parking spots.

Screens will be installed on two windows in the Fellowship Hall.

Congregational Council, as part of the open discussion portion of the agenda prepared a list of suggestions for returning programs and new programs.

Fundraising ideas were also suggested.

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.

WOMEN OF FAITH MEETING

When: Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Where: Demetres Restaurant

Time: 11:30 A.M.

Please contact
Darlene Ilman
519-271-0996

ALL ladies of Zion Church
are welcome !



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School is currently on a break until September.



In order to organize classes and arrange for teachers when Sunday School resumes in September, we are reaching out to all parents/grandparents wishing to enroll their child(ren)/grandchild(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.

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

FATHER'S DAY IS SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024

God took the **strength** of a mountain, the **majesty** of a tree, the **warmth** of a summer sun, the **calm** of a quiet sea, the **generous** soul of nature, the **comforting** arm of night, the **wisdom** of the ages, the **power** of the eagle's flight, the **joy** of a morning in spring, the **faith** of a mustard seed, the **patience** of eternity, the **depth** of a family need, then God combined these qualities, when there was nothing more to add, He knew His masterpiece was complete, and so, He called it ... **Dad**.

Author Unknown

A Prayer for Fathers

F IS FOR FAITH

Help Dad to put his full trust in you, O LORD. Give him an unshakeable faith in Your Word. Strengthen his desire to read it, memorize it, and order his life according to Your precepts. Remind of Your promise to work all things together for good for those who love You and are called according to Your purpose. Keep him faithful, alert, and standing firm. Psalm 25:2; Psalm 100:97-100; Romans 8:28; 1 Corinthians 16:13

A IS FOR ATTENTION

God, help Dad focus his attention on what truly matters. Teach him prioritize, to number his days, and to invest his time wisely. Guard him against harmful or ungodly distractions. Give him eyes to see with an eternal perspective. Fix his mind fixed on what's true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, excellent, commendable and praiseworthy. Hebrews 3:1; Psalm 90:12; 121:7; Colossians 3:1-3; Philippians 4:8

T IS FOR TESTIMONY

Make Dad a man of integrity. Keep him mindful of the fact that others are watching, particularly the children you've entrusted to his care. Give him a good name and grant him the wisdom, discernment, and understanding he'll need to lead his family well. May everything he does bring honor to You and point others to Jesus. Prov. 28:18; Psalm 119:1-2; Hebrews 12:1; Prov. 2:6; 22:1; 1 Corinthians 10:31

H IS FOR HEALTH

LORD, keep Dad in good health. Make his bones and muscles strong. Preserve his strength and vitality. Grant him good sleep and give him the rest he needs. Help him make good choices in areas that affect his health and either protect him against sickness and disease or give him grace to endure physical afflictions in a way that glorifies You. 3 John 1:2; Prov. 3:1-8; Is. 40:29-41; Ps. 127:2; 2 Cor. 12:8-10

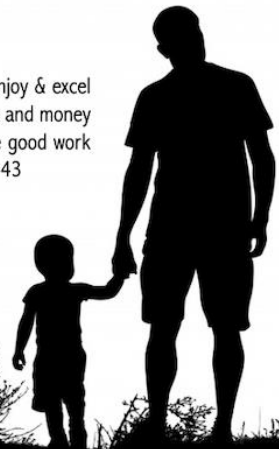
E IS FOR EMPLOYMENT

God, give Dad meaningful work to do and a sense of purpose. Help him enjoy & excel at his job. Make him a wise steward of the gifts, skills, talents, opportunities and money you've entrusted to him. May others be supportive and appreciative of the good work he does. Psalm 90:17; Ecclesiastes 5:18-19; Proverbs 22:29; Luke 12:42-43

R IS FOR RELATIONSHIPS

Bless Dad's relationships, LORD. Fortify his family ties. Provide friends who uplift & encourage him. Help him get along with colleagues and coworkers. Most of all, strengthen his relationship to You. Give him a love for Jesus that spills out on everyone he meets. Psalm 128:1-4; Prov. 17:17;

Mark 12:30-31



A Heavenly Father's Day Prayer

Our Father in Heaven, I thank You for loving me, cherishing and forgiving me, and welcoming me with open arms into Your Kingdom. Oh, what would I do without You, my God? You've given me life and opened my eyes to so many blessings that I've sometimes taken for granted. You've given me hope and a future that I do not deserve. And You've promised me eternal life with You in heaven that I cannot comprehend. For all these, I am so grateful. Help me to live my life only for You and to become your hands and feet for all the days on earth. In Jesus' name, Amen.



THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME

Recently a member of our Congregation returned a copy of a songbook “With One Voice” and these lyrics were typed on a piece of paper that I noticed in the front of the book. I thought they were so beautiful that I would share them with you. Below the lyrics is a link to hear a version of the song sung by Jim Reeves together with some information about the song. Enjoy!

This World Is Not My Home

This world is not my home I'm just a-passing through
My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore
Oh Lord, you know I have no friend like you
If heaven's not my home then Lord, what will I do?
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore
I have a loving mother just up in Gloryland
And I don't expect to stop until I shake her hand
She's waiting now for me in heaven's open door
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore
Oh Lord, you know I have no friend like you
If heaven's not my home then Lord, what will I do?
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore
Just over in Gloryland we'll live eternally
The saints on every hand are shouting victory
Their songs of sweetest praise drift back from heaven's shore
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore
Oh Lord, you know I have no friend like you
If heaven's not my home then Lord, what will I do?
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door
And I can't feel at home in this world any more

[https://youtu.be/ fIly2AtV4U?si=i5aeAMmwPUyQwjGY](https://youtu.be/fIly2AtV4U?si=i5aeAMmwPUyQwjGY)

The Meaning Behind The Song: “This World Is Not My Home” by Jim Reeves

By: [Frank Young](#)

The song “This World Is Not My Home” was written in the early 1900s by Albert Brumley, a prominent American gospel music composer. It was later popularized by country music legend Jim Reeves in the 1960s. The song speaks of the Christian belief in the afterlife and the belief that this world is only a temporary home. It talks about a longing for a better place and a desire to reunite with loved ones who have passed away.

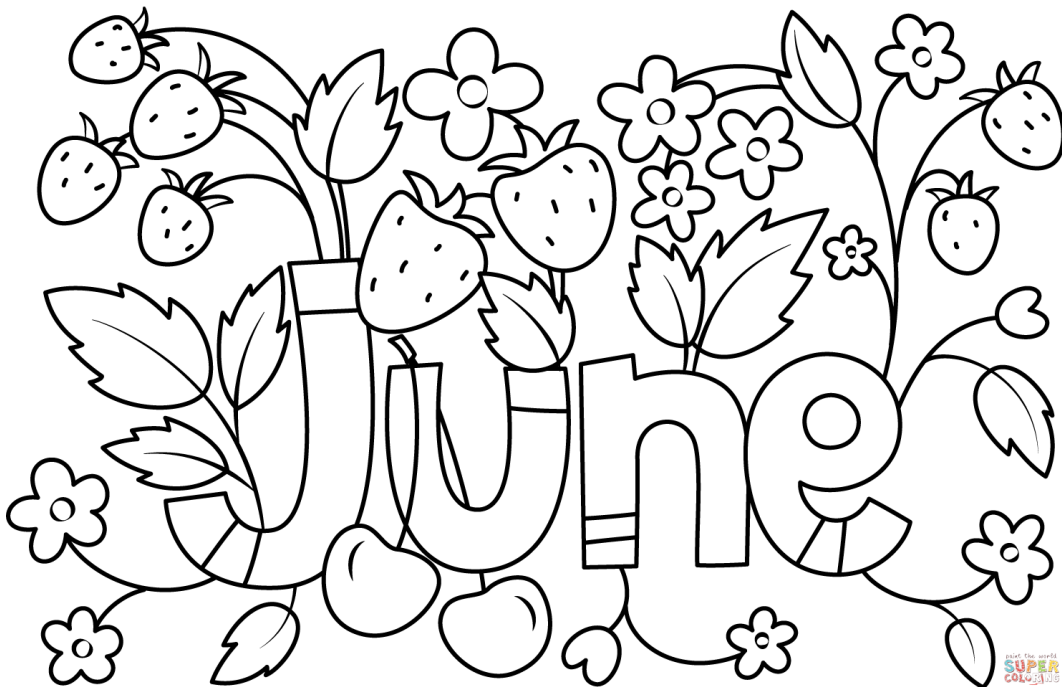
The opening line of the song says, “This world is not my home, I’m just a-passing through,” which sets the tone for the rest of the lyrics. The song talks about a longing for a better place and a desire to reunite with loved ones who have passed away. It also speaks of the hardships of life and the hope for a better future.

Reeves’ version of the song has a classic country feel with its smooth vocals and simple instrumentation. It became a hit for Reeves and remains a favorite among fans of both country and gospel music. The message of the song has also resonated with many listeners over the years, offering comfort and encouragement during difficult times and remains relevant today.

The message of the song is to offer comfort and encouragement during difficult times by reminding listeners that this world is not their permanent home and a better future awaits them.

About The Author - [Frank Young](#)

Frank Young is a frequent contributor to OldTimeMusic. [OldTimeMusic](#), your go-to source for music insights since 1998. We’re a passionate community of music enthusiasts and talented instrument players, sharing the meanings and emotions behind songs, highlighting the best tracks and albums in music history, as well as providing the latest music news and instrument tips.





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	Greeters	Readers	Usher Captains	Altar Guild	Counting Captains
June 2	Tom & Joanne Cosstick	Isabel Cook	Tom Cosstick	Shirley Whittaker	Irene Ehgoetz
June 9	Robert & Beverley Keutsch	Fritz Steigmeier	Darrell Renecker	Irene Ehgoetz	Mary-Lou Drown
June 16	Ellen Wolfe Carmen Beck	Aline Kouhi-Klemencic	Brian Coe	Ellen Wolfe	Mary-Lou Drown
June 23	Bob & Marilyn Wells	Murray Scholl	Jerry Terhaardt	Carmen Beck	NO COUNTERS
June 30	Jim & Judy Stanley	Marilyn Wells	Tom Cosstick	Sister Jean Widmeyer	Bill Hoffard

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

