

The Guiding Light

Celebrating God As We Serve Others August 2020



**The Monthly Newsletter of
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
454 Miller Street
Pembroke, ON K8A 5Z4
Phone: 613-732-8792
E-Mail: zionoffice@nrtco.net
Fax: 613-732-1650**

Pastor Stephen's Contact Information

Home: 613-631-0658

E-Mail:

stephenscheidt81@gmail.com

From Our Pastor

As you read this newsletter, our parish council and some of our committees will be reviewing guidelines from Public health, our governments, and the Eastern Synod, and making plans for our Church as we come out of closure in September. Our life together will look, feel and even sound different than it did before. For a time we may still have to delay some activities that we dearly loved and are so much a part of the life of our parish. Others will simply require a modified approach and some creativity. We are faithful and resilient and we will adapt to the new normal.

I am thankful for all who have worked so diligently these last few months to see that our recorded worship is shared with as many as possible, and in printed form for any without internet access. You might be surprised at how many have been involved in this ongoing project and how creative and resourceful they have been as well.

I have been in our parish for nine months now, half of that time during the Covid restrictions – a rather unusual start for my parish ministry here with situations I never would have dreamed possible in normal parish work. My greatest regret is that we cannot celebrate, in

our Church, the lives of our faithful beloved ones who have died, although we have done our best to say farewell to them at the graveside, while commending them to God's care and celebrating the faith that gives us such great hope.

At the time of my writing this note, my visits at the hospital are restricted to palliative visits, though, recently, I may visit you in the hospital if you request a pastoral visit. However, I will be the only visitor you will be allowed that day in hospital and family will not be able to visit that day, which would prove difficult for many.

I look forward to seeing many of you again in September as we once again begin gathering for worship at Zion. Until then, I welcome your phone calls and emails, and pray for the time when we can gather again.

Yours, in faith and hope,

Pastor Stephen

When Will We Be Worshiping Together Again?

Last month I advised the members that we will not be holding in-person services until September 1st, at the earliest. This was the advice of Bishop Pryce and as your council we agreed. The safety of our members comes first.

A synod task force has been created to help us to prepare for holding our in-person services. There are so very many things to consider and have in place. We need to make sure we are complying with our government directives as well.

We are presently at what is called the Red stage. No in-person worship, weddings or funerals. Very limited pastoral care and visits. Small meetings allowed (our taping of our worship services or council meetings). The church building remains closed to the public.

We will be advising when we are able to move to the Amber stage. At this stage we will have in-person worship. Masks will be required, Holy Communion with bread only, no singing or sharing of the peace.

This stage will also include many changes such as posting of signs regarding self-assessment, handwashing and wearing of masks, physical distancing and limited number of members in the sanctuary at one time, movement into and

and out of our spaces ie: 1 door in 1 door out, additional cleaning and disinfecting the areas used, no worship books or other materials in the pews, no coffee hour and many more.

The council will be meeting to discuss these items with our Worship and Music committee so that we can be prepared to open safely.

The last stage is Green. We will then be back to our old normal with a few changes still in place.

So, when will that be? We do not have a firm date but it will remain after September 1st.

I felt it was important to let you know that we are continually looking to the future. A day when we will be back together. A day we are all longing for.

Susan Dupuis, Church Council Chairperson

We Are Excited!

On Sunday May 10th we posted our first on-line service. These can be accessed through our church website, our church Facebook page or our church webpage on YouTube. On average we have had 140 views of our weekly services (each view may have more than 1 person watching). This is great! Reaching out is so important right now when we are not able to be together. We also produce 11 DVDs that are dropped off to member's homes. Our method of taping is very creative. We use a personally owned iPad as well as the DVD recorder in the balcony. We project the words of the hymns on the wall and then tape them. We only have the microphone on the iPad so the sound may be a little weak at times. We have had a few technical issues as we bump along but all in all we are able to create something that is not too bad from a technical stand point. The messages we received are always wonderful.

We have decided that we will continue to tape and post on line, create the DVDs for delivery and be on Cogeco as well once we are able to be back together again. We can't, however, continue taping using the equipment we presently have. With the new equipment we will be able to edit, add, and delete. We won't have to tape the words being projected onto the wall but have them inserted properly.

We have reached out for quotations on upgrading our present video equipment. Once these are in and we have had time to make a decision on what will best suit

our needs we will be having it installed. It will then take 1 videographer instead of the “group” that now makes this happen.

This equipment will come at a cost. We are opening an account for the upgrade of our video equipment for all who feel this is something that they would like to support.

This is an important part of our ministry. If a member is unable to attend worship on a Sunday morning, they will still be able to participate by viewing the taped service. If you are a Cogeco customer you will be able to find us on your TV on Sunday mornings. Our past members who now live out of town can join us for a Sunday morning service. Imagine if someone happened to be looking for a new church family and finds us on-line. They can get to know us a little before taking the brave step to join us in person. Or maybe someone sees our service on line or on the TV and it brings comfort to them. You no longer have to be in the building to hear Gods’ word.

We received a note from Waveny Kenney. Here is what she said.

“Just a note to say thanks for your Sunday services on line. I have no Lutheran church where I live so I worship in an Anglican church. To see my home church and all the familiar faces helping with the services is a blessing to me. I especially appreciate the hymns projected on the wall which allows me to join in the service. Again, many thanks, Waveny Kenney

Pastor Stephen and Jan Scheidt received a phone call on July 12th from Lyna Kiviste from New Westminster, British Columbia. She said she appreciated Pastor Stephen’s homily, was happy to see the inside of the church, and that we had a good organist. Jan also received an email from a former ELW member who commented that she enjoyed having the words projected on the wall so she could sing along and participate in the service.

We are excited! Due to Covid-19 we have been pulled into the present and are now showing the world outside of our doors who we are.

We are excited! Just knowing that we will be able to complete this ministry with less work involved has us filled with new ideas.

We are excited! Knowing that we are reaching out to so many more people, both near and far.

We are excited! We will continue to tape and post on line, create the DVDs for delivery and be on Cogeco as well. This equipment will allow us to do all of

these things. We would also be able to edit, add and delete. It really is taking us into the present.

Your support is greatly appreciated. We will keep you updated through our newsletter – the Guiding Light and weekly bulletins. We plan to have this new equipment set up as soon as possible (hopefully by September 1st), when we hope we can open our doors again.

Submitted by Susan Dupuis

A DONATION has been made towards upgrading the video equipment by Larry & Gayle Seegmiller in thankfulness to God for 50 years of marriage which they celebrated on July 11th. *“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” Galatians 5:22b-23a*

Submissions by Wayne Kirk

A tip of the hat and kudos to the educators, family and friends who created a virtual graduation experience for our young men and women who are continuing on the road to higher education. Although I graduated high school in centennial year 1967, I will always remember walking across the stage at my high school to receive my diploma in front of friends and family. The realization now that they were the most important and memorable years of my life. Probably once every decade I review my five year books and all the comments and signatures recorded inside. Also looking at my pictures of how handsome I thought I once was. Not just the graduation, but attending the high school prom with the music from the sixties, dressed to the nines and dancing our hearts out with friends and loved ones. Unfortunately our future generation of exuberant, intelligent and future leaders did not get to enjoy the experience of this once in a lifetime opportunity. I am aware though that they made the best of a difficult time. Hopefully as the years quickly pass they will recall those special moments, as I still do. Be vigilant in continuing the pursuit of your happiness no matter where the Lord leads you. It's all worthwhile and you will reap the rewards of your efforts. From the class of “67” a true boomer. Keep your faith as it will certainly assist you on your journey.

Religion in the time of COVID-19

Although members may have read this article published in the Observer last week many may have not. Throughout time most societies have had their individual beliefs about religion. Naturally all individuals beliefs about religion have been embedded with the habitual religious curriculum with the belief theirs is the proper choice to worship. Mine is the Christian Lutheran chapter of this perpetual book. Two years ago at the age of seventy, I totally lost my faith due to personal reasons and discontinued attending church. Fortunately four weeks before this terrible pandemic, the Lord decided to give me a much needed new injection of faith. Upon re-entering my church my rear had not touched the pew when I was approached to assist in serving communion during service. Before service ended I was once again convinced to become a worship assistant and for the first time join the men's choir. Everyone was so welcoming and happy to see me return. Unfortunately I am now awaiting an end to this pandemic to fulfill these tasks. It can't come soon enough. My hope for all believers no matter what religion that you can once again renew your religious activities. To those fighting on the front lines in the trenches of our own Canadian Flanders Field's God bless you all. To those who have given the ultimate sacrifice through illness or vocation. "At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

A Story of Thanksgiving – Submitted by Mona Zadow

Two people are better than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

This has spoken to me often in every part of my life. In my relationship with God, with my family, with my friends and my church family. All of these people have made my life so full and each day a blessing.

I remember vividly in the months after my husband Milt died, how many people would reach out to touch my hand as I went up to receive communion. Or at coffee hour, someone would walk by and touch my shoulder. Most times no words were spoken, but their touch and their eyes would say "I'm here and I care about you."

Those times were special and always filled me with a sense of peace.

There have been other times of just plain fun, helping at the Oktoberfest dinner or attending other celebrations that have taken place in the parish hall, birthdays, anniversaries and special events for our Pastors.

Family, that's how Zion feels to me and that is my hope for all who worship here.

Thank you God for this precious family. Show us how to care for each other.

From Your Treasurer,

Zion's Income and Expenses as of July 19,2020

The weekly amount of \$5,352.26 is needed to cover our budgeted costs. Of this weekly amount \$4,590.38 comes from PAR and regular offerings and \$761.88 comes from hall rent, house rentals, solar panels and other revenue.

Offerings	93,883.39
Missions and Outreach	1,671.51
Other Donations	4,343.00
Solar Income	7,365.16
Other Earned Income	7,563.24
Fundraised for general use	0.00
Total Income to July, 19	114,826.30
Benevolence Expense	8000.00
Directed Gifts Expense	1,489.51
Committees Expense	1,147.75
Utilities Expense	12,226.30
Church Insurance	16,784.82
Property Maintenance	6,012.26
Other Operating Expense	13,185.75
Net Payroll after CEWS	29,834.48
Benefits Expense	21,659.24
Expense Total to July 19	110,340.11
Net Total for 2020	4,486.19
Previous Surplus/Deficit	7,000.68
Net Equity to July, 19,2020	11,486.87

To all that attend Zion,

I hope this edition of the Guiding Light finds you in good health. These are challenging times with Covid-19 health regulations affecting our regular way of life including closing the church. I pray that things will get back to normal soon. Our offerings are down over \$26,000.00. Our net total is being helped by lower operating expenses and the government subsidy programs. The CERB and CEWS relief program have been successfully implemented. We have received \$14,219.50 from the Canadian Employment Wage Subsidy program to date. This has been applied to the payroll line. We have set up e-transfer to the church's office e-mail zionoffice@nrtco.net for online donations. You can still mail your cheque or arrange to drop off at the office. Pre Authorized Remittance (PAR) is another way to give weekly whether you're away or here. Contact the church office at 613-732-8792.

Thank you for your continuing support. May God bless you and keep you safe,

August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <i>Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.</i> <i>Psalm 34:8</i>
2 Pentecost 9 Read Matthew 14:13-21	3 <i>Worry is like a rocking chair: it gives you something to do but never gets you anywhere.</i>	4 <i>Today I will not stress over things I cannot control</i>	5 Read Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28	6 <i>Today to calm stress-draw a picture of your favourite place</i>	7 Read Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b	8 <i>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God. Romans 8:28a</i>
9 Pentecost 10 Read Matthew 14:22-33	10 <i>Not all storms come to disrupt your life, some come to clear your path.</i>	11 <i>Stop focusing on how stressed you are, & remember how blessed you are.</i>	12 Read Genesis 45:1-15	13 <i>Today to calm stress-make a home-cooked meal.</i>	14 Read Psalm 133	15 <i>Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1</i>
16 Pentecost 11 Read Matthew 15:10-28	17 <i>Accept what is, let go of what was, and have faith in what will be.</i>	18 <i>None are so empty as those who are full of themselves.</i>	19 Read Exodus 1:8-2:10	20 <i>Today to calm stress-put on some lotion.</i>	21 Read Psalm 124	22 <i>Come to me, all you that are weary & are carrying heavy burdens & I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28</i>
23/30 Pentecost 12/13 Read Matthew 16:13-20 & 16:21-28	24/31 <i>I never lose. I either win or learn. – Nelson Mandela</i>	25 <i>It's ok to not be busy</i>	26 Read Exodus 3:1-15	27 <i>Today to calm stress-call up someone you love</i>	28 Read Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26; 45b	29 <i>The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. Lamentations 3:22a</i>