

Bulletin for Sunday, November 7, 2021 For Distribution – All Saints Sunday

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Litany of Remembering

L Ever living God, this day revives in us memories of loved ones who are no longer with us. What happiness we shared when they walked among us. What joy we shared when, loving and being loved, we lived our lives together.

C **Their memory is a blessing forever.**

L Months or years may have passed, and still we feel near to them. Our hearts yearn for them. Though the bitter grief has softened, a sense of loss abides, for the place where they once stood is empty now. The links of life are broken but the links of love and longing cannot break.

C **Their souls are linked with ours forever.**

L We see them now with the eye of memory, their faults forgiven, their virtues grown larger. So does goodness live and weakness fade from sight. We remember them with gratitude and bless their names.

C **Their memory is a blessing forever.**

L And we remember as well the members who but yesterday were part of this congregation and community. To all who cared for us and laboured for the good of all people, we give thanks. May we prove worthy of carrying on the tradition of our faith, for now the task is ours.

C **Their souls are linked with ours forever.**

L We give thanks that now they live and reign with you. As a great cloud of witnesses, they surround us with their blessings, and offer you hymns of praise and thanksgiving.

C **They are alive forever more.**

Naming/Bell Tolling:

WESLEY JOHN WEICHENTHAL † November 2, 2020

ARNOLD HOFFMAN † November 5, 2020

IRENE HELENE MILLER † November 11, 2020

LEONA RUBY HEIN † January 9, 2021

MURRAY LUBITZ † January 20, 2021

JOYCE EDNA SCHEUNEMAN † January 30, 2021

WILLIAM HAROLD HAMPEL † March 12, 2021

LESLIE HAROLD HEIN † May 25, 2021

MILDRED EDITH JEAN FARMER † May 26, 2021

MARION ELSIE HAMMEL † May 26, 2021

CONRAD ALFRED PLATH † May 30, 2021

MYRTLE ELLA LANTHIER † June 5, 2021

AUDREY GOLDBERG † August 20, 2021

VERLA ANNE HANDKE † August 22, 2021

ANN ELIZABETH MACKINNON † September 26, 2021

DELMA DOROTHEA CAIN † October 17, 2021

L We hear the names of the beloved ones who have this year, through Holy Baptism, become members of the Body of Christ, the Church, and fellow saints of God.

At Font – Naming of the Recently Baptized

HUXLEY EDWARD SLAUGHTER

November 28, 2020

HUXLEY LILLIAN LANGE

December 19, 2020

JAY ERICASSON DELOUGHERY

April 3, 2021

BRYNLEE MAE WIELAND-BOURGEOIS

July 25, 2021

HANNA LYN HOWARTH

August 8, 2021

Readings

Isaiah 25:6-9

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Word of God, word of Life! **Thanks be to God!**

Psalms 24

¹The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world and those who dwell therein.

²For the LORD has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

³Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD, and who may stand in God's holy place?

⁴Those of innocent hands and purity of heart, who do not swear on God's being, nor do they pledge by what is false.

⁵They shall receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of their salvation.

⁶Such is the generation of those who seek you, O LORD, of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O everlasting doors, that

the King of glory may come in.

⁸Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O everlasting doors, that the King of glory may come in.

¹⁰Who is this King of glory? Truly, the LORD of hosts is the King of glory.

Revelation 21:1-6a

¹I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." ⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ^{6a}Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."

Word of God, word of Life! **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel: John 11:32-44

The Holy Gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four

days.”⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon – All Saints B

Zion, Pembroke

Nov. 7, 2021

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in Your sight O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer. Amen

One common theme in our Readings is God’s promise that death is not permanent. Each Reading describes a time when there will be no more death. In our Gospel Reading, Jesus raised Lazarus from death back to life. That was a very real sign of God’s promise.

Some time later, on the first Easter morning, Jesus rose from the grave. His resurrection defeated the powers of sin and death. Sin and death are still with us, but their time is limited. One day Jesus will return; everyone will be raised from their graves; Jesus will gather all who have lived by faith in Him and take them with him to their eternal home where there will be no death, no crying, no pain, no sorrow; there will be eternal joy and celebration in God’s presence and in the company of all of God’s children.

We look forward to that day, and we carry that promise with us during our days here on earth. It is a comforting promise on this day when we remember and honour the saints of Zion; they are cherished loved ones. We miss them; we mourn their deaths; yet we cling to God’s promise that we can see them again on that great day when Jesus returns; we will be reunited with them, and never be separated from them again. We will be together with them for all eternity.

Let's turn back to our Gospel Reading, where Mary says to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." If our Reading included the whole story of the death of Lazarus, we would have heard Martha make the same statement earlier. And we would have learned that when Jesus received a message from Mary and Martha that Lazarus was sick, he waited 2 days before he went to their home in Bethany. During that 2 day delay, Lazarus died.

I hear a question behind Mary's and Martha's statement: "Lord, why did you stay away so long? Why didn't you come earlier and keep our brother from dying?"

I can't see into the hearts or minds of Mary and Martha, but I suspect that the answer Jesus gave to their question is not what they were looking for. Jesus' first answer was, "Your brother will live again." Martha understood that to refer to the day when everyone would be raised from their graves. Later, at the tomb, Jesus said to Martha: "If you believe, you will see the glory of God."

I suspect that all of us have had a time when we wondered why God allowed a certain situation to happen, such as "why did my loved one have to suffer so long with cancer, or dementia or some other terminal illness?"

If I can push that question a bit farther, I suspect that the heart of that question is really, "why does God allow good people to suffer?" We would like God to reward us for trying to be a good person: going to church, spending time in prayer, donating to the church, the local Food Bank and organizations like CLWR, and so on.

We think that those who do those things should be spared from having to suffer; God should leave them alone. Then, the other half of that question is, "Why doesn't God punish only the wicked: the people who don't believe in Him, who live only for themselves and their own wants, murderers, criminals, and so on?" They are the ones who deserve to suffer.

There are verses in the Psalms that say that God blesses the righteous and punishes the wicked. The righteous are those who obey God laws and

commands, they live in a covenant relationship with God, they live by faith in God. The wicked are those who do not obey God's laws, are not in a covenant relationship with God and have no faith in God.

Jesus didn't directly answer Mary's and Martha's "why" question; and we may not see a direct answer to our "why" questions. However, some of Jesus' teachings give a hint. Jesus refers to 2 levels of reward or blessing for those who live by faith, and 2 levels of punishment for unbelievers. One level is the life to come: those who live by faith in Jesus receive eternal salvation through their faith; those without faith receive eternal condemnation.

The other level is seen in Jesus' words, "those who want to save their life will lose it, but those who lose their life for my sake will find it." That refers to this life as well as our future eternal life. Those who live by faith in Jesus will receive and experience life that is real life, abundant life.

If you look at the life of Jesus, and of the Apostle Paul, abundant life is not a life of ease and comfort; it may include much suffering. Jesus was 100% focused on fulfilling the will of his Heavenly Father, and he accomplished that to the point of willingly dying on the cross for our salvation.

St. Paul was focused on living by the Spirit, following and obeying the Holy Spirit. God used him to bring Gentiles to faith in Jesus, and to establish churches in many places. Yet, God allowed Paul to be beaten, arrested and put in prison.

This shows that those who live by faith in God are blessed, rewarded if you prefer that word, and that those who do not live by faith in God will be punished. But they are not necessarily the reward or punishment we have in mind.

God tends not to answer our "why" questions. He is not accountable to us for why He does what He does. We are accountable to Him and He expects us to trust Him, trust that He loves us and wants what is best for us.

It may help to remember God's word in Isaiah, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8, 9)

God knows and wants what is best for us; that is where He is always leading us and working in us. Sometimes we think we know what is best, and how things should go, but that is a deception. We see only a small part of the big picture that God sees.

God asks us to trust Him. He knows and wants what is best for us, and as we trust and obey Him, he works out and leads us to what is best – a life that is both abundant and eternal. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

We give you thanks for social ministries of the church around the world and for every ministry that heals, lifts up, and empowers those who are poor, oppressed, abused, abandoned, or ignored. Build up your ministries and prosper all works of mercy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We praise you for the bounty of creation and a world of abundance. Protect the earth from all who would devour its resources. Create and strengthen sustainable communities who honor your creation with loving care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for leaders who seek peace for all nations and lead efforts toward greater justice. Accompany all who suffer the wounds of war, with veterans who carry battle scars from the past, and all who promote peace today. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We praise you for plentiful harvests and generous hearts. Send needed resources and caring neighbors to all those in need. We pray for refugees, orphans, widows, those unemployed, those suffering abuse, and all who are in need. Restore to health all who are sick in any way, especially, Florence,

Jason, Richard, Stanley, Heather, Vince, Aileen, Joan, Mae, Harvey, Kaitlyn, Dorian, Ryan. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We praise you for missionaries who share your love in new communities and bring compassion for all, (*especially for John Christian Frederick Heyer, Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, Ludwig Nommensen whom we commemorate today*). Continue to raise up missionaries for lives of service in your name. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for the saints of this congregation who have inspired, challenged, loved, and taught us. Comfort all who grieve and lead us by their example until you gather us in your heavenly home. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

News & Announcements

Please Pray for Those Who are Ill, in Hospital, or Requested Special

Prayers: Florence Felske, Jason Godin, Richard Hubert, Stanley Kubiseskie, Heather Miller, Vince Rabishaw, Aileen Roesler, Joan Schimmens, Mae Schizkoske, Harvey Schruder, Kaitlyn Vaillancourt, Dorian Verch, Ryan.

A DONATION has been made towards the General Fund by the family of Stanley Crigger who passed away on April 22, 2015. *“Remember O Lord your compassion and love for they are everlasting.” Psalm 25:1*

A DONATION has been made to Camp Lutherlyn campaign by Ruth Crigger in memory of a dear husband Stanley Crigger who passed away on April 22, 2015. *“Be joyful in God all you lands and sing glory to his name.” Psalm 66:1*

RETURN TO FULL HOLY COMMUNION

We have returned to full Holy Communion with Bread and Wine. We will only be using the individual cups. The ushers will direct you forward in the middle. Maintain social distancing. You will receive the bread from Pastor Scott and a cup will be given to you by the assisting minister. After drinking the wine you can return your empty cup to the side wall at the front and return to your seat. Masks must be worn but obviously moved to consume the bread and wine. Please remember to social distance.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A reminder to everyone that we will be holding a congregational meeting on Sunday November 21st immediately following the worship service to discuss the selling of our rental property on Miller Street. Please plan to attend this important meeting. Susan Dupuis Church Council Chairperson

SECOND WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP

Join us beginning at confirmation age for fun and fellowship.

Council Retreat on November 13th.

ELCIC BIBLE BOOK CLUB- November 18, 2021

Please join us for a study on the book of Deuteronomy. Please try and read as much as you can but don't worry if you haven't read it all.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HAS BEGUN AGAIN!

The Sunday School Classes are back in! Just show up. No need to register. Friends are welcome.

OFFICE HOURS

There has been a slight change to the office hours. The church office will now be open on Mondays from 9am until 2pm, Wednesday and Thursdays from 9am until 12 noon. This change is on a trial period to help accommodate those who cannot make it into the office in the mornings.

GARAGE SALE UPDATE

Thank you to everybody for all your donated treasures for the garage sale held on October 16th. We had another very successful year. Zion is a very generous congregation. We are so blessed. Together we raised \$2,649.25. 50% will be donated to the Robbie Dean Center and the other 50% will be donated to the Bernadette McCann House. Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who came out and donated their time to organize, clean, and price some items every day, the week preceding the garage sale. It is quite an organizational feat to bring order to the first day of chaos. Our volunteers have a flare for displaying and making things look pleasing... well, as best as we can in the space we have. It is a great team working together and having fun too. We enjoyed a tasty lunch on the day of the garage sale, all the volunteers brought in something to share. Thank you to the volunteers who came in near the end of the sale to pack everything up and sweep the floor to get things back to normal. It is a relief to have people with fresh energy to help. The leftover items were donated to Value Village and Mission Thrift Store. Some books were dropped off at Heritage Manor. It is amazing what we can accomplish when we work together. Not only did we raise money to help those in need, we tidied up our homes by decluttering which in turn helped people who could use those things we no longer used. Our Garage Sale is good stewardship of resources. Thanks be to God!

SERVICE BROADCAST ON COGECO

Cogeco Community Channel is now broadcasting Zion's services at 9:00 a.m. and 12:30pm (if it is not on at 12:30, it will be on at 1:30pm) on Sunday mornings a week later.

COFFEE HOUR RETURNS

We are finally able to hold coffee hour in the parish hall following our worship services. We invite all members who have had 2 covid vaccinations. This rule has been put in place by the Ontario Government anytime that an event takes place where masks are being removed. We ask that you continue to wear your mask until you are seated at a table. We are looking forward to seeing the smiling faces and hear the chatter of voices as we re-connect.

ST JOSEPH FOOD BANK UPDATE

St. Joseph's food bank could use your help! We are currently serving 80 – 100 families per week. Because of COVID restrictions and closures of places during this time, our donations were very low and our shelves pretty empty. Just some ideas for things we give in their food order.

1. Soup
2. Box of cereal
3. Pasta and Sauce
4. Canned Veggies
5. Juice
6. Peanut Butter
7. Canned Fruit
8. Coffee (instant or perked), Tea Bags
9. Sugar

We also make up school packs for children so they will have something to eat while there. This includes drinking boxes, puddings, granola bags (nut free), tins of flakes ham, snacks like Bear Paws. Also we need Ensure bottles or smaller plastic bottles (no glass) or vitamin bottles for dividing detergent and dishwashing liquid into smaller amounts so that everyone who needs these products will get some. Donations can be deposited in the box at the top of the stairs. Thank you for your support. We appreciate even the smallest donation. God Bless! – Debbie Sitkiewicz

ZLW NEWS

1. The ZLW are collecting school supplies for children who may not have what they need. Simply bring them in and put them in the foodbank box - HB Pencils, Large glue sticks, Coloured pencil crayons. Pens (blue or black ink). White glue. Highlighter pens. Geometry set. Waxed crayons Washable markers Metric ruler Erasers 3-ringed lined paper. Also, the ZLW are again gathering donations for the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Please consider giving. The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement for justice, peace, and reconciliation led *by* Christian women *for* women and girls all over the world.

CAMP LUTHERLYN 100 X 100 IN 100 CAMPAIGN

As previewed at the AGM, now that the Comfort Station is complete the team at Camp Lutherlyn is turning its attention to the next Legacy Project. Hoffman Beach is a beautiful underused area and an important part of the camp's sustainable future. We are looking for 100 people to contribute \$100 in the next 100 days! Help us reach our goal. Your donation can be provided in one of four ways. You will receive a charitable tax receipt for the full amount. As we have been able to weather the pandemic, this year's fundraising campaign will go to Legacy Funds. We look forward to telling members, partners and friends of Camp Lutherlyn more in the months to come. Thank you for your contributions and the Camp Lutherlyn team looks forward to engaging you on future use and programming at Hoffman. - Robert Tremblay, Secretary, Camp Lutherlyn

SPECIAL VISITOR NOVEMBER 28TH – BISHOP MICHAEL PRYSE

The Bishop will be joining us for the first week of Advent.

This Week at Zion – November 8 - 14

Mon	1pm	Social Ministry Committee Mtg.
Tues	7pm	Council Mtg.
	7pm	Narcotics Anonymous
Wed	10:30am	Mid Week Holy Communion
	6:15pm	SWYG (<i>Second Wednesday Youth Group</i>)
	7pm	Men's Choir Practice
Thurs	7pm	Mixed Choir Practice
	7pm	Music Healing Vets
Saturday		Council Retreat
Sunday	10am	Worship Service with Holy Communion