



GUIDING LIGHT

Celebrating God as We Serve Others October 2020

From Our Pastor

Last year we had fifteen youth in our two-year confirmation program and six youth will be confirmed this month, having completed their second year. We will delay starting a junior group this year, with a combined grade 7 and 8 group starting next Autumn.

We spend more time in confirmation focusing on Biblical interpretation (not just biblical literacy) than classes may have in the past, as our youth need more skill than most of us did, especially with the growth of fundamentalism, childish biblical literalism, and misplaced evangelical fervour and ignorance, which has replaced a belief in Christ, the Living Word of God, with an idolatry of the Bible, which distorts the true gift and beauty of scripture. As Luther told us, the Bible is the manger that holds the Christ for us.

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Mon., Wed., Thurs.
9am – 12 noon

Confirmation now focuses more on the key concepts on Lutheran Christianity, going beyond the scope of the Small Catechism. We should be able to express what we believe as Lutheran Christians and have the language and the general knowledge to do so with confidence. This is one of the main goals of confirmation instruction in the 21st century.

We rejoice that we will be able to celebrate the confirmation of our youth this month even in the midst of the Covid restrictions. Our joy in Christ's presence will be more than enough to make our celebration complete.

Pastor Stephen

Confirmation Celebration at Zion

On Sunday, October 25 (The Festival of the Reformation) at 11 A.M., we will celebrate the Confirmation of six youth who have completed our two-year confirmation program. That Sunday, there will also be a Reformation Day Holy Communion celebration at 9 A.M.. Having two times to worship that Sunday should allow us to have space for everyone as we live with the current restrictions on gathering size. If you do not plan to attend at 11 A.M, please consider coming to worship at 9 A.M that Sunday.





Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
454 Miller Street
Pembroke, Ontario

Church Council Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2020



Present: Chair Susan Dupuis, Vice Chair Ellen Vandersleen.

Members: Pastor Stephen Scheidt, Rick Gerundin, Diane Leeder, Denise Schizkoske, Gerry Vandersleen (treasurer), Diana Wegner, Patricia Wegner.

Secretary: Karen Gauthier.

Excused: Jill Kellough, Scott Lange, Wilmer Verch.

Absent:

Opening: The meeting was opened at 7:05pm by Susan Dupuis. Opening devotions were given by Rick Gerundin. As this month marks the beginning of a new council year, Susan Dupuis asked 3 times if there were any other nominations for chair of the council. No other nominations were presented. Susan Dupuis was nominated by Ellen Vandersleen as Council Chair for the coming year. The nomination was seconded by Denise Schizkoske. Susan then asked 3 times if there were any nominations for the position of Vice Chair. No other nominations were presented. Rick Gerundin nominated Ellen Vandersleen for the position of Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded by Patti Wegner.

Agenda: The agenda was reviewed. Additions: social ministry, endowment.

Motion to approve agenda: Diana Wegner.

Seconded: Ellen Vandersleen.

Minutes: The previous council meeting minutes of February 11, 2020 were reviewed.

Motion to approve minutes: Rick Gerundin.

Seconded: Denise Schizkoske.

Introduction of new council member: Susan introduced new council member Denise Schizkoske. Conflict of interest and confidentiality agreements were handed out to council members. Agreements were signed and witnessed by council members in attendance.

Finance Report: Treasurer Gerry Vandersleen brought attention to the following items from the comparative income statement and balance statement:

- Total assets are up compared to this time last year.
- General reserve fund is doing well; these funds can be used for any purpose in the church; rental property fund is up.
- Stained glass funds can be used for exterior maintenance related to stained glass.
- Grand piano fund is down as a down payment has been made. The piano should be arriving soon.
- Regular offerings, memorial fund and Parish Hall income are all up compared to the previous year.
- Global hunger fund is down; food bank fund is up and funds have been sent to the food bank.
- Property maintenance fund is down due to last year's boiler repairs.
- At present, the Church's net income is a better position than this time last year.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Stephen Scheidt gave the Pastors Report as follows: After the first Night Prayer, I have redesigned the liturgy to make it easier to follow and have reduced the times of silent prayer from 3 to 1. Also, gentle and peaceful music will lead us into a time of silence for reflection and prayer, which has always been a part of Night Prayer. The Sharing of the Peace, which is tradition in Evening Prayer, has been replaced by an Evening Sending Hymn.

I presided and planned, or help plan, the funerals for Donald Boland, Mary Brown, and Diane Leith. The date for the Confirmation Eucharist is set for May 24 at 10 AM. We should look at procuring gifts. My suggestion: order the Bibles they are presently using as a gift...They are quite suitable for adults. Cost would be around \$200.

We had a quiz in the Senior confirmation group to see what they were retaining, and what needed further study, and they did very well...it turns out they were listening after all. I continue to encourage the confirmands involvement (together with their families) in the life of the parish. We should note that half of the first-year students help, almost every Sunday, in Sunday school and are greatly appreciated. This, unfortunately, means they are not worshipping on Sunday.

Bible study is progressing well and we have had some interesting discussions. There will not be a Bible study on March 16 due to the Bishop's visit with area pastors.

I will be on vacation all of the month of July. We may wish to begin planning for 'pastoral coverage' for funerals, and also for our Sunday celebrations. While we do have Weddings, all five will be on months other than July.

I hosted the area pastor's gathering in February at Zion, which is held monthly in different locations. Presided at the Eucharists in Supples' Landing and Heritage Manor and will preside later this month at Riverview Heights.

Met with the pastoral care committee. Discussed the sharing of communion with homebound parishoners who request it. Some only want the pastor to do this, others are open to receiving from the pastoral care committee, who would take the Sacrament to them from our Sunday celebration. For many Lutherans, this is a fairly new practice, as is accepting the Holy Communion from Anglican priests at our shared Eucharist at nursing homes and lodges.

I am starting to look at past celebrations in Holy Week and Easter and have started planning. I tend to use a bit more music and less text in celebrations that I plan, so you may notice some minor changed from past celebrations. Children, and their families, will be involved in the processions on both Palm Sunday, with palms, and Easter Sunday, with the return of the joyous alleluias. Are we certain that we want a celebration at 7 am with a two-hour breakfast period to the 10 am celebration? Would 8 am be better? Easter Sunday services were discussed by Susan...Susan will send out an email to council members regarding the Easter breakfast.

Correspondence:A thank you note was received from Blaine Sack for the Christmas bonus.

Committee Reports:

- **Property-** the property committee met on March 2. Committee meeting highlights include:boiler maintenance/monitoring is ongoing. Ceiling repairs and replacement are now complete. Members will remove snow on March 3. Snow stops will be instaled and eaves trough repaired as weather permits. Rental properties: the gas furnace was replaced at the 422 Miller Street; the Munro Street apartment requires basement clean up from water entry. Other business: solar panels, quotes for railing extensions on the outside front steps, for a railing on the ramp on the east side, and for refinishing of the Parish Hall floor will be obtained, a short railing will be installed on the steps to the lecturne.
- **Social ministry-** Ellen reported that a group of 4 raised over \$1 000 on the Coldest Night of the Year walk. Thank you notes were received for the meals sent out to the soup kitchen.

- **Endowment-** Gerry reported that there were 3 spoiled endowment ballots despite the instructions provided. Gerry suggested that changing/simplifying the constitution may make the ballots easier to complete. Audit costs came into question so this may have to be addressed in the constitution as well. These concerns will be addressed amongst the endowment committee members.

Ongoing Business:

- Recommended changes to Parish Hall Agreement were discussed by Susan. Susan is recommending changes to the wording of the committee members (reflected as 'pastor, council chair and secretary' as opposed to individual names) and the wording around the events which the facilities can be used for which a fee is required. Susan is also suggesting that no set fee be charged for sanctuary rental (concerts or cultural events) if approved by committee and council, but rather that a donation/gift be suggested. Other changes suggested include: removing the time stipulation on Saturday use as there are no Saturday services; under rental regulations, changing the wording of rental regulation #7 to indicate that intoxicating substances may be permitted in the building *with council approval* and changing the wording on rental regulation #20 about the requirement of a fee if not using a caterer for funeral lunches (removes the stipulation that food cannot be prepared outside of the church and brought in for the funeral and changes the fee to a suggestion of a gift as able). Council discussion.
- Letter to shut in members: Susan read a letter which will be sent out to our shut-in members with updates on church life, an introduction of Pastor Stephen and his wife Jan, a welcome to come back to services, and a discussion on envelopes.
- Grant workshop- Susan reviewed the info on a grant writing workshop on May 2 in Ottawa given by the Eastern Synod. Susan was encouraging members to attend. One congregational member's name was mentioned. Susan will put in the bulletin and the Guiding Light. Susan reminded members of the Saturday, May 30th council workshop.
- Locking of doors during the service- at present, the doors are locked at the start of the service. There was a council discussion on whether this should be continued or not. Members were in agreement that the doors should not be locked as it not very welcoming.
- Sharing of the peace- Discussed among council members... agreed that sharing of the peace comes down to personal preference.
- Church directory- Susan has received another package for a church directory. Discussion on when this might be a good idea. This is not going to be a priority for this year but could be a possibility next year.
- Discussion on setting up tables for coffee hour- those who are able and available to help should be prepared to assist in setting up tables as required.
- Discussion on Wednesday evening services during the summer- services will be kept to Sunday services only (low attendance, warmth of the church in the evening during the summer were raised as concerns).

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion to adjourn: Denise Schizkoske.

Seconded: Patti Wegner.

The next Church Council Meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Devotions will be given by: Susan Dupuis.

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
454 Miller Street
Pembroke, Ontario**

**Church Council Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2020**

Present: Chair Susan Dupuis.

Members: Pastor Stephen Scheidt, Jill Kellough, Patricia Wegner, Denise Schizkoske, Wilmer Verch

Excused: Ellen Vandersleen, Rick Gerundin, Scott Lange, Diana Wegner, Diane Leeder, Karen Gauthier

Guests: Gayle Seegmiller, Blaine Sack, Debbie Wegner (all from Worship and Music), Gerry Vandersleen, Treasurer

Opening: The meeting was opened at 10:05 am by Susan Dupuis with prayer.

Our main concern at today's meeting is to discuss the re-opening of the church for in-person services. 2 reports will be given before that discussion begins.

Finance Report: Gerry advised us that he is still completing a weekly deposit for offerings that we receive by mail or that are dropped off at the office. The Government assistance that we are receiving due to the Covid-19 virus is helping to keep us out of the deep red. We are receiving a return of 75% of the salaries for the Pastor and Jean. Our contract workers are presently on the CERB program. The Kitchen fund will be used to pay for the repairs to the kitchen refrigerator at a cost of approximately \$1500. Our total revenue is approximately \$15,000 less than at this time last year. We agreed that our benevolence donation will be made. Committee and utilities expenses are also down. The church insurance has increased greatly this year. Gerry has reached out to another insurance provider for an estimate. Considering the situation that we are in at the present time we feel we are doing ok financially.

Pastors Report:

Report covers early February to June 26, 2020

Graveside Burials for Ellen Gore, Arnold Kruschenske, Burnell Kathen and Willis Rutz.

Palliative pastoral visits at the hospital. Regular hospital visits are not allowed.

Spring internments completed. A few interments will be held later for parishioners who chose cremation and are waiting for restrictions to be lifted or eased.

Prep work for recording of worship celebrations and printing weekly paper copies of our celebrations to people without internet. The delivered paper copies reach over 70 families and has sparked some interesting conversations. Thanks to all who help with preparations and delivery.

All 5 Weddings scheduled for this year have been transferred to next year.
The Confirmation Eucharist will be held on Reformation Sunday, Oct 25.

I am taking my vacation over June and July, working half-time over those two months. I have two remaining weeks, which I will take later in the year, mostly after Christmas.

Re-opening for in-person worship discussion:

A communication was received for the synod office regarding the re-opening for in-person worship. The following is a summary of the discussion:

Concerns voiced.

The majority of our congregation are older and high risk.

30% of our capacity is approx. 100 people, however that would reduce greatly due to social distancing.

Would everyone be required to wear a mask.

When singing there is a greater spread from our mouths. Would we be able to sing?

Could we have communion?

We would need to have a record of all who attend in case of an outbreak.

We would need to remove all books and materials from the pews.

We should be having people enter through one door and exit from another.

All areas would have to be sanitized after the service.

People will now be travelling from other areas increasing the chances of exposure. (we have seen an increase in trailers and motor homes already)

Do we need to screen members when they enter (verbal list of questions)?

How do we manage the # that are allowed to enter the building?

Many are not comfortable with entering into group settings.

Our summer attendance numbers are normally smaller, would there be even less now.

There would be so much preparation to make sure everyone stays safe.

Safety is not just for our seniors but also our volunteers and other members.

Are we prepared for a possible 2nd wave?

Do we want to open and then find out in a short time that we need to close again?

Bishop Michael strongly recommends that our synod's congregations not contemplate initiating in-person worship within our church buildings until the beginning of September.

A Task Force on the Resumption of In-Person Worship will be providing a preparatory checklist by July 1 and a more comprehensive resource by August 1.

Positives at present.

Our on line services are receiving an average of 100 views per week.

11 members are receiving DVD's of our services.

70 members are receiving written copies of the service.

The council members present (with agreement from the guests) that the following motion be put forward.

"We so move that the church remain closed to in person services until September 1st, 2020. At that time, we will be reviewing this matter again."

I (Susan Dupuis) will be forwarding this motion in a separate email for voting purposes.

Once the votes are received we will communicate this information on our webpage, Facebook page, as an announcement on our taped services and other formats.

We also held a discussion regarding weddings and funerals as the Government has just announced that these occasions can be held with restrictions in place. The following is the summary of those discussions:

Discussion and concerns:

They could be held in the parish hall making social distancing easier.
We would need to provide hand sanitizer and record those in attendance.
We would need designated in and out doors.
Complete service would have to be printed, no worship books.
Someone would need to control the number of people coming in.
The hall and washrooms would need sanitizing (chairs etc.)
There would likely be people attending who are not from our area.

We are putting both the Pastor and Blaine at additional risk.

The council members present (with the agreement of our guests) propose the following motion.

We so move that the church remain closed for in-person funerals until September 1, 2020, at which time the matter will be reviewed again.

I (Susan Dupuis) will be sending this motion out in a separate email for voting purposes.

The meeting ended with the Lords Prayer at approximately 11:30

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
454 Miller Street
Pembroke, Ontario**

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of Church Council
and Worship and Music Committee**

July 31, 2020

Present: Chair Susan Dupuis, Pastor Stephen Scheidt, Jill Kellough, Diane Leeder, Denise Schizcoske, Ellen Vandersleen, Wilmer Verch, Patricia Wegner.

Other: Koit Rull, Gayle Seegmiller, Penny Stalkie, Debbie Wegner.

Secretary: Karen Gauthier.

Other: Shawn Benke

Absent: Rick Gerundin, Scott Lange, Diana Wegner.

Opening: The meeting was opened at 6:35pm by Susan Dupuis.

Upgrade to sound/recording system: Susan provided an update on the various methods employed in getting services taped and out to congregational members since the beginning of the pandemic. Shawn Behnke of Combetek Multimedia was asked to look at the Church's present set up and make recommendations for equipment which would make the taping of services easier and more seamless. Two quotes were obtained from Shawn on media equipment. Shawn discussed a little about his background (since 1992) in the multimedia business; now he is more involved in live streaming of events/meetings. Has been active in helping many local councils live stream their

meetings. Shawn feels that the Church's present computer will be able to handle live streaming of services and feels that the installation of the suggested equipment would be easy to do. Shawn discussed the cameras in detail: cell phones require an operator, suggested cameras have the ability for one person to do multiple things. Two cameras would cut down on the live editing of the service as the service is edited as it's recorded. Shawn indicated that the learning curve is small and the camera cost is down \$250 since the quote was sent. Quality of the cameras is relatively standard, the difference is in the capability. The Church's computer is hard-wired to the internet and as long as our internet provider can provide 10Mb upload speed, things will be good. Cheaper camera is a fixed camera but can have 4 different views within the fixed position (fixed box, 100 degrees, zoom capability but not as good). More expensive camera (has zoom capability) is on a motor which actually moves the camera to capture more of the picture. Cameras have 180 degrees of recording ability. Shawn recommends 2 cameras to ensure a more appealing visual picture; with 2 cameras, editing happens while service is being taped.

Questions: Susan mentioned that 2 cameras would provide a more seamless recording and would cut down on editing time afterwards and that Easy Worship is presently used to project the service on the walls. Easy Worship needs to continue as worship books will not be used anytime soon; Shawn mentioned that this can be done (and will look more professional) if the soft wear is lined up with the computer. Susan discussed projectors: Shawn mentioned that projectors are expensive so many facilities are moving to big screen TV's; projectors are limited in brightness depending on time of day, and the cost of bulbs throughout the year can be high. Large sized print is important for those with visual impairments so not sure if there is a TV that large. Sound system is good to go as is. Two computer monitors will be required to allow more things to happen at once. We will need to continue to burn DVD's for those members who don't have access to the internet (present DVD player is good). Shawn is willing to set up a how to manual and provide training as well. Warranty- standard electronic warranty (one year; certain cameras have 3-5 year warranties). Life expectancy of cameras should be 10-15 years, audio is 20-25 years. Cameras would be used sparingly so long-term use for the church is anticipated.

Discussion: Susan indicated that services will be offered online regardless of a pandemic or not. This offers more people access to our church services should they be unable to attend. If this is a temporary measure, maybe go with the cheaper of the 2 quotes. Providing our services on-line is intended as a long-term measure.

A request for special offerings was placed in the Guiding Light for the upgrade of AV equipment; a gift has already been received for this purpose. Multiple quotes were sought but only Combetek responded to the request. It was suggested that maybe we should go with the quote with the higher capability cameras as we may regret not doing so in a few years.

Council agrees that we pursue the quote with the better equipment/cameras.

Susan prepared a motion which reads: "We so move that we purchase the Configuration #2: Electronic PTZ Cameras & Video Switcher at the cost of \$9 554.15 as per the quotation provided by Combetek Multimedia". Motion forwarded by: Ellen Vandersleen. Seconded by: Jill Kellough. Carried unanimously by council.

Reopening Business:

Background: Council voted no to funerals and weddings when the initial okay to do so was granted. It was strongly recommended by Synod not to reopen until the fall to give congregations time to prepare adequately.

At present, Jean is working from home and comes into the office to check for mail. The church building remains closed to the public. Only access at present is the Legal Clinic (one person once/week as needed).

The Eastern Synod Task Force has a staged approach to reopening and we are currently in red stage.

Synod has prepared a document titled, "Checklist for the Safe Resumption of In-Person Worship" which outlines preparations which are required in order to re-open churches and worship safely. This check list was reviewed by members present, and tasks divided accordingly. A copy of the completed list will be filed with the minutes of this meeting.

Future church services will look like this: masks mandatory, no singing, communion-only bread, no wine, choirs and singing are discouraged (soloists ok), no sharing of the peace, no coffee hour, public health sanitation must be followed, physical distancing with physical distance markers, hand sanitizing stations on entry and exit, contact tracing.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next in-person council meeting: Tuesday September 8th at 7 pm.

W & M - Meeting Minutes - Tuesday, September 1, 2020
Celebrating God As We Serve Others

Present: Pastor Stephen, Gayle Seegmiller, Blaine Sack, Koit Rull, Carol Boldt, Debbie Wegner, Emma Rabishaw, Joan Lehman

Regrets: Scott Lange

Welcome and Opening Devotions: Gayle welcomed everyone and Debbie opened the meeting with a prayer. Pastor Stephen also offered a prayer.

Approval of Agenda: Approved

Approval of Previous Month's Minutes: Completed online

Committee Reports:**Pastor Stephen's report:**

- Our worship recordings and printed worship materials have been well received, thanks to the dedicated work of so many people. In many ways, all of that was just as much about outreach as it was about worship, and about reconnecting with people on the fringes of our parish's life. It was an impressive group effort!
- There will be 2 celebrations on October 25th.
 - The 9:00 a.m. service will focus on Reformation music and readings and will be for all who may not know the confirmands well.
 - The 11:00 a.m service will be a confirmation service of 6 youth who will have completed their studies.
- Since our monthly midweek Eucharist can no longer be held in the lounge because of social distancing, it will be moved to the Place of Worship. It will include much of the same music and hymns, with Blaine as the accompanist, readings and homily as the previous Sunday, but with a simplified liturgy. Communion will be served in the pews, with a pew separating worshippers to facilitate communion.
- Pastor Stephen and Blaine met to discuss the possibility of vocalists and soloists at our

Sunday celebrations. They will be providing some of what the choir provided in our celebrations, in addition to singing some responses in our liturgy.

- We may wish to have 2 celebrations for Thanksgiving Sunday, as previous attendance suggests we may not be able to accommodate all who come to worship that Sunday.
- Wine, consecrated in our Sunday celebrations, will be reserved and taken to home bound or isolated parishioners. Communion will be offered only through the bread and not the wine in our community celebrations.
- Pastor Stephen will wear a mask while sharing the sacrament.

Blaine's Report:

- Since congregational singing is not permitted during worship services, vocalists and soloists will be asked to participate in the Sunday celebrations. Blaine will reach out to see who is comfortable singing either by themselves or in small groups
- The piano in the Parish Hall will be moved by September 13 and the piano in the church will be moved to the Parish Hall. Tuning will be done once things return to normal.
- Due to Covid restrictions, the organ was not tuned in the spring. Blaine will arrange tuning within the next 2 months.
- As per the agreement, the grand piano will be tuned for free once Blaine can make arrangements.
- Blaine attended the Summer Institute of Church Music Conference virtually. This was done over 3 days (cost \$50.00) with approximately 75 people attending.
- Students and parents have approached Blaine to resume piano teaching. Gayle will notify council for their approval before lessons begin again.

Miscellaneous:**Protocols for the Re-opening of the church for Sunday service:**

- The doors will be locked until all volunteers are in place.
- Two people will be at the door.
- The greeter will be in the regular place and help direct and ensure a smooth flow.
- Jean Rutz will prepare a list with names of regular attendees so they can easily be checked off as they arrive. Other people will be added when necessary. The list will be used to contact people, if needed.
- There will be no bulletins. Instead, bulletin information will be projected.
- The 2nd and 3rd pews on the far left will be roped off to allow for wheelchairs at the front.
- We will need 2 confirmed ushers for every service. Please follow their directions for seating so physical distancing can be maintained. Ushers may join their families once everyone is seated.
- A basket will be placed on the baptismal shelf for the offering.
- Announcements will be projected and Pastor Stephen will draw attention to the highlights.
- Pastor Stephen will serve communion in the pews so people will not need to move.
- Sharing the peace will be spoken only.
- Since congregational singing is not permitted, words to hymns will not be projected.
- All cushions will be bagged and removed from the pews. People are allowed to bring their

own cushions and take them home after the service.

- Only 2 people will be allowed in the elevator at a time.
- Carol Boldt volunteered to look after Altar Care.
- The Parish Hall and kitchen are out of bounds.

Monthly Quiet Communion:

- Gayle will ask the council to approve the restart of monthly quiet communion starting on Wednesday, September 16, 2020.

Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms:

- Gayle will speak with Susan Dupuis to get direction from council regarding weddings, funerals and baptisms.

Training Day:

- To practice opening protocols, there will be a training day for ushers, greeters and worship assistants before the first service. The date for this training is Friday, September 11th @ 9:30 a.m.

Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

Zion's Community Garden

I would like to thank everyone involved in the Community Garden, the planters, gardeners, the waterers and the harvesters. Due to all these people I have packaged up around 70 plus bags of beans to give out to the food bank. Fresh produce was met with smiles and many thanks. I felt honoured to give them out on behalf of my church. Now just a little side mention of things we need at the food bank. Right now we can use plastic grocery bags, clean ensure or small drink containers with lids and milk bags (outside bags). Thank you for supporting St. Joseph's Food Bank.

Thank you for your continued help with Carefor. Even though I cannot go in I am not allowed to bring items in. Right now I am packing up parcels for individual people. I have been making up about four bags a week with their name on it and things each one may need. I drop them off at the entrance and they are delivered from there. This is something close to my heart as I have gotten to know so many people.

Any items pertaining to these organizations can be put in a box at the top of the stairs. Thank you members of Zion for your kindness!

Debbie Sitkiewicz

Notes and News

Golden Age News

The executive and a few members discussed what should happen with our Golden Age Group. We decided with the Covid 19 and the decrease in our members attending, we will no longer have our group. We do not know how long Covid 19 is going to continue. The money that was in the account, we made a donation to the up grading the cameras in the church so we will be able to get our services on Cogeco. Our members will not be forgotten. I will be calling you and sending cards. Take care and keep well.

Cheryl Sack

Food Bank News

With fall approaching, it means the beginning of the fall food drive for the St. Joseph's Food Bank. We thank you for your donations in the past and ask for your continuing support so that we are able to serve the people in need of food.

We have received a request from the food bank for 2 specific items. They are in need of the milk bags (the outer bag that holds the 3 small bags) and small bottles, such as the ensure bottles. They use these for liquids such as dish soap. Please wash these before bringing them in. These items can be placed in the basket at the top of the stairs. Thanks to everyone for helping.

Baptisms

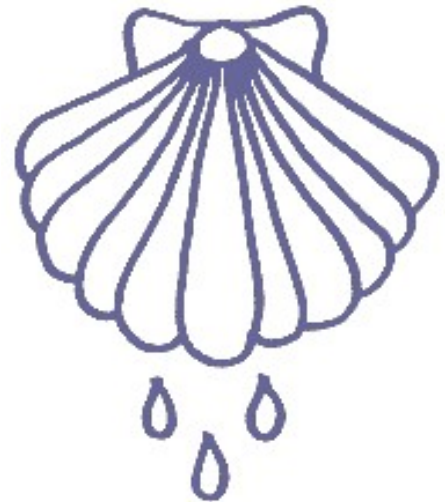
Name: Cody Keith Cormier

Date of Birth: November 25, 2019

Date of Baptism: September 6, 2020

Parents: Lori Weichenthal & Danial Cormier

Sponsors: Deborah Bard, Molly Reid, Kirk Weichenthal





September 2020 - Genesis

OPENING PRAYER

Creator of all, as we gather to start our Bible Book Club, be with us. Open your scripture to us. Open our hearts and our ears to listen to you and each other. May these stories of our ancestors of faith remind us that even though we are saints and sinners that you call us to follow you. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

- Genesis is made up of a lot of stories. Which story did you like best? Why?
- Which story did you like least? Why?
- What surprised you in reading this book, and why did it surprise you?
- What questions might you have after reading Genesis?
- What other books did this remind you of? (Doesn't have to be a book from the Bible)
- Which character in the book did you like best? Why?
- Which character did you like least? Why?
- Share a favorite quote from the book. Why did this quote stand out? What does it mean for your faith?
- What feelings did this book evoke for you? Why?
- If you got the chance to ask God one question related to this book, what would it be? Why?

CLOSING PRAYER

God of Abraham and Sarah, we give you thanks for the witness of your faithful actions throughout history. We thank you that you continue to speak to us and invite us to serve you. We thank you for this time of conversation that it may bless us in the days ahead. See us safely home and watch over us until we meet again. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Living our **FAITH**
PRAY READ WORSHIP LOVE

At the ELCIC national conference in the summer of 2019 ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson introduced a program to help us to strive for a deeper discipleship as we live out our baptismal covenants.

“God is calling us into this deeper relationship-a call to living out our baptismal covenants”

Over the 4 years of this program, we will take a closer look at each of the following four areas.

2019-2020 PRAY

2020-2021 READ: We are called to daily reading of the Bible. There are many ways to include reading the Bible into your daily life.

2021-2022 WORSHIP: We are called to regular personal devotions. Consider ways that you can increase your worship life.

2022-2023 LOVE: We are called to live generous lives. Love includes community and service. Love encompasses all. *And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love (1 Corinthians 13:13)*

At Zion we had a number of situations on the go and did not properly introduce this program. We are starting at the 2nd year of the program which will focus on Read. I am including some resource material that will help to get us started. This information is available on the ELCIC website.



Genesis 1:3

GENESIS

Background File

Moses has traditionally been considered the author of Genesis, which is part of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. For about five hundred years, since the Reformation, the question of who wrote Genesis has been seen to be more complex. Genesis is now usually understood to have been written and compiled over the course of more than five centuries, being completed shortly after the Babylonian exile (587–538 B.C.E.), when many of the Jewish people returned to their homeland of Judah and rebuilt Jerusalem and the temple.

What's the Story?

The book of Genesis is divided into two primary sections: Genesis 1–11 portrays the beginnings of the world, including creation, the fall into sin, and the flood and its aftermath. Genesis 12–50 tells the story of Israel's ancestors and is especially concerned to speak of God's promises to this family. The book may be outlined as follows:

The Primeval Story (Gen 1:1–11:26). God, with the help of various agents, creates the world. Human sin intrudes on the creation, with social and cosmic effects. God promises a new world order.

The Story of Abraham and Sarah (Gen 11:27–25:18). God calls Abraham and makes promises to him and his descendants through both Hagar and Sarah, though it is only through his son Isaac that the covenant is established.

The Story of Jacob, Leah, and Rachel (Gen 25:19–36:43). God renews the promises to Jacob/Israel, whose twelve sons become the tribes of Israel.

The Story of Jacob's Sons, Especially Joseph (Gen 37:1–50:26). The development of Jacob's family is seen mainly through the prism of the story of Joseph.

The scholarly effort to reconstruct the history that lies behind the book of Genesis has had mixed results, because the materials have been edited over many centuries and because these chapters are more story than historical account. Especially regarding Genesis 1–11, we cannot determine its

specific historical background with any confidence. As for Genesis 12–50, it is reasonable to claim that the stories carry authentic memories of Israel's ancient history prior to the Exodus from Egypt (about 2000–1500 B.C.E.). Yet, because these stories come from so long ago, it is difficult to verify the extent to which the stories of the women and men of Genesis reflect actual historical figures and events.

What's the Message?

Genesis is the first "chapter" of the Bible. Like the first chapter of any book, the placement of Genesis at the beginning is important for understanding both Genesis and the Bible as a whole.

The Bible begins, not with the chosen people (Israel), but with the entire creation. It provides the reader with a universal frame of reference. Through it we can interpret everything that follows. God's purposes—at work among the people of Israel and in Jesus Christ—have to do with all of God's good creation. "For God so loved the world..." (see John 3:16).

Genesis continues with a sad story that has tragic effects. God created a good world with no sin and evil. Human beings did not trust God, and this sin disrupted the life of God's good world. Relationships at every level fell apart: between human beings and God, among human beings, and between human beings and other creatures, including land and animals. Sin and evil are now powerful forces at work in the life of the world. Even so, God continues to shower blessings at every turn.

Genesis continues with a divine strategy to save a world broken by sin and evil. To this end, God chooses the family of Abraham and Sarah. Their task is stated clearly in Genesis 12:3: "in you all the families of the earth [listed in Gen 10] shall be blessed." God chooses one family as a means to save all families. Initially, God makes an exclusive move (choosing one family) to achieve an inclusive end: salvation of the entire creation, both human and nonhuman.

Genesis focuses on God's promises. After the flood God promises never to judge the world like this again. This promise is the foundation for God's later promises to the chosen family: blessing, descendants, a great name and nation, and a land to call their own. These promises, repeated throughout Genesis, begin to be fulfilled in this family's growth.

Genesis focuses on families. This interest in family life begins with Cain and Abel but centers on the families of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Leah/Rachel, and their children. But these stories do not present families in ideal terms. The chosen family is dysfunctional! Yet God chooses to work in and through them, with all their flaws and weaknesses, on behalf of God's purposes for the world. Readers from every generation can recognize themselves in these families.

Genesis has an interest in the outsider, on families not chosen. Genesis often portrays the chosen family in relationships with outsiders (Egyptians, Canaanites, Philistines, Aramaeans), especially in view of its call to be a blessing to all families. Sometimes the chosen fulfill their responsibilities in exceptional ways; at other times they alienate the outsider and frustrate God's purposes. These stories help readers think carefully about how they are relating to the outsiders in our communities.

CLWR's "We Care" Kits for Children Cancelled

We have just heard from our Dean of the Ottawa St. Lawrence Conference Area Bruce Thompson that due to the COVID Pandemic the learning kits will not be able to be shipped due to excessive cost and difficulty in shipping this year.

If you have already purchased items for the kits, we would still welcome your donations. We have made arrangement to give the school supplies to children in need in our own community. The toothbrushes, toothpaste and soap, etc. will be packaged along with other items for the residents of Carefor at Christmas.

You may bring you donations into the church and we will collect them in the big yellow bag but the supplies will be used locally.

We shall keep you updated when we receive more information.

Thank you for your understanding.

Ellen Vandersleen

Chair Social Ministry Committee

Zion Lutheran Women

*Please join us for a
Presentation by Jan Scheidt*

*“Thanks Living”
On*

***Wed. October 7, 2020
At 2:00 pm (new time)***

***COVID guidelines in place
With wearing a mask and social distancing set-up***

Notes From The Treasurer

Zion's Income and Expenses as of September 15, 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	\$126,915.69
Missions and Outreach	\$1,705.51
Other Donations	\$4,468.00
Solar Income	\$10,352.78
Other Earned Income	\$9,383.03
Fundraised for general use	\$0.00
Total Income to Sept.15	\$152,825.01
Benevolence Expense	\$10,000.00
Directed Gifts Expense	\$1,523.51
Committees Expense	\$1,189.24
Utilities Expense	\$15,020.66
Church Insurance	\$16,784.82
Property Maintenance	\$7,217.69
Other Operating Expense	\$15,423.07
Net Payroll after CEWS	\$41,587.00
Benefits Expense	\$28,416.97
Expense Total to Sept.15	\$138,149.58
Net Total for 2020	\$14,675.43
Previous Surplus/Deficit	\$7,000.68
Net Equity to Sept.15,2020	\$21,676.11



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. It's great to attend church again with our friends and family. Our offerings are down over \$26,000.00. Our net total is being helped by over \$45,000.00 in less operating expenses and the government subsidy programs. The CERB relief program has been discontinued as of September 15th due to the church now being open. We have not qualified for any CEWS relief last month and likely won't going forward. This had been applied to the payroll line. We are behind on benevolence and I will send in our commitment as our finances allow. 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,

Your treasurer, Gerry Vandersleen

Article From Wayne Kirk

This article was published in the Ottawa Sun in July, but I think the membership will relate to it's content. Isolation May be Beneficial. When the power goes off in my home the same question goes through my mind, after about twenty minutes of silence. What must it have been like to live as a family before all of this modern technology such as T.V. Netflix, cell phones, computers, electronic games and solidarity through headphones and ear listening devices. This pandemic may not of regressed us to sitting around the radio as a family waiting for the next episode of "The Shadow" to air it's daily plot, but it certainly has created a family closeness due to isolation, that has not been prevalent for decades. Or to change the mood, the nightly readings from the scriptures as a family. My how the personalities of youngsters may change through this new experience of no choice closeness with siblings and parents. Go to your room has an all together different meaning than a few months ago. Chores and tasks which most times were able to be ignored or fall into the procrastination pit are now willingly being completed, if just for something to do. Time spent in close proximity, really getting to know each other and seeing how interesting the people they live with are. A much more responsible and respectful younger generation will eventually emerge from this crisis with what I feel will be a more positive contribution to society. It must be tough for most to comprehend, but I'm sure they will escape unscathed. Participation, communication and co-operation may create the much needed lasting bonding among siblings and parents. (All we can do is hope and pray). Can't forget your laugh for the day. While golfing on number five hole by the water at my beloved Island Brae, a golfing partner asked me if I thought his forty foot putt would break towards the water. My reply was of course stupid you're on an island. Each spring when the weather gets warm enough to sit on my back deck with my coffee awaiting the early morning sunrise, I recall this poem I wrote 17 years ago. "My Favorite Time." My favorite time is morning, when the sky begins to light. The singing birds and all God's creatures, bid adieu to the darkness of night. The sounds of peace and silence permeate the morning air, refreshed and reassured with rest, God's wonders are offered to share. A quality of tranquility very seldom to be found. The earliness of the morning and the silence of God's sounds. The slowly drifting clouds move through the downlit sky. Say hello to my favorite time, and bid the darkness goodbye.

October 2020 Volunteers

Worship Assistants

Oct 4 – Debbie Wegner
Oct 11 – Sandra Sell
Oct 18 – Michael Lange
Oct 25 – Brenda Dole

Sexton

Oct 4 – David Lehman
Oct 11 – Koit Rull
Oct 18 – Don Boldt
Oct 25 – 9am – Diane Hammel
 - 11am – Koit Rull

Counters

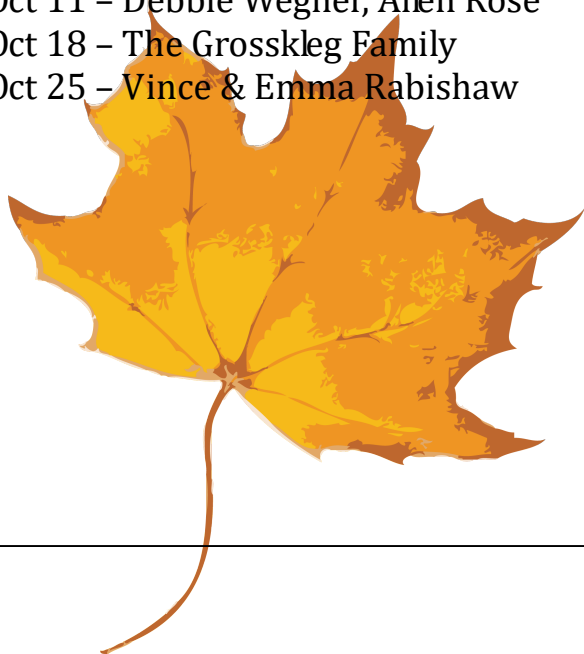
Oct 4 – Kathy Godin, Kathy Hoffman,
Christine Booth
Oct 11/18 – Gayle & Larry Seegmiller, Des
Schrie
Oct 25 – Lisa Campitelli, Karen Gauthier,
David Lehman

Guides

Oct 4 – Pamela Duplessis, Sonya Grife
Oct 11 – Debbie Wegner, Allen Rose
Oct 18 – The Grosskleg Family
Oct 25 – Vince & Emma Rabishaw



Be Thankful!!





October 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Read Matthew 21:33-46	2 Read Psalm 80:7-15	3 4pm Holy Baptism
4 Pentecost 18 10am Holy Communion 11:30am Confirmation Class (Group A)	5 Read Deuteronomy 8:7-18	6 10am Ipad/Tablet Course 7pm Worship & Music Cte. Mtg.	7 2pm ZLW Mtg. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6- 15	8 9:30 Lutheran Ministerial Mtg. in Arnprior <i>"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, His love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:34</i>	9 Read Psalm 65	10 Read Luke 17:11-19
11 10am Holy Communion	12 Thanksgiving Day Read Isaiah 45:1-7	13 10am Ipad/Tablet Course 7pm Council Mtg	14 10:30am Mid Week Holy Communion Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	15 <i>"Gratitude turns what we have into enough"</i> Guiding Light Deadline	16 Read Psalm 96:1-13	17 Read Matthew 22:15-22
18 Pentecost 20 10am Holy Communion 11:30am Confirmation Class (Group B)	19 Read Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18	20 10am Ipad/Tablet Course	21 Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	22 <i>"Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them is the true measure of our Thanksgiving"</i>	23 Read Psalm 1	24 Read Matthew 22:34-46
25 Reformation Sunday 9am Holy Communion 11am Confirmation	26 Read Revelation 7:9-17	27 10am Ipad/Tablet Course Deadline for Submission of Committee Budgets	28 Read 1 John 3:1-3	29 <i>"Sincerely giving thanks not only helps us recognize our blessings, but it also unlocks the doors of heaven."</i>	30 Read Psalm 34:1-10, 22	31 Read Matthew 5:1-12