

THE GUIDING LIGHT

MARCH 2025

Celebrating God as We Serve Others



Monthly Newsletter
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
454 Miller Street
Pembroke, ON
K8A 5Z4

Phone: 613-732-8792
Fax: 613-732-1650
E-Mail: zionoffice@nrtco.net

Pastor Scott Schellenberger
Cell: 705-313-0333
E-Mail: sschellenberger@hotmail.com

Pastor Sue Nevile
Cell: 905-441-3283
E-Mail: suebird98@hotmail.com

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Every Sunday 10:00 am Worship & Sunday school
Third Sunday 10:00 am Living Stones Worship
Third Wednesday 10:30 am Mid-week Worship

All Sunday morning services are available on Cogeco TV on Sunday mornings as well as our YouTube page and after the service on the Facebook page. YouTube (live streamed), Zion Lutheran Pembroke Facebook, Zion Lutheran Church Pembroke, Cogeco: community channel and broadcasts of previous week's service.

From the Pastor's Pen

We are entering the season of Lent. During lent we are encouraged to pray, fast, and give alms.

Why should we pray, fast, and give alms?

Ultimately, the reason we pray, fast, and give alms is because it has been proven over time that these three activities bring about a radical transformation in the practice of our Christian faith and unity with Jesus.

Why does praying, fasting, and almsgiving work?

The answer to this question can be found in Jesus' description of the greatest commandment. "...one of them tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:35-39) The whole faith (represented by the law and the prophets) depends on loving god with our whole heart and loving our neighbor as ourselves.

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving direct us toward the three objects of the command. Prayer directs us toward a greater love of God. Fasting leads to self-mastery that allows us to love ourselves in the right manner while also being able to uphold the rights of others even at personal cost. Almsgiving is the direct expression of the love of neighbor in which we are united to him, truly loving our neighbor in the manner in which we love ourselves.



From the Pastor's Pen (cont'd)

Practical advice for making the most out of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving this Lent.

Each practice has great individual benefit, but directing all three practices toward a common end this Lent will yield the greatest benefit. Here are some 5 practical tips:

1) Consider fasting from some form of noise or media this Lent.

We are so uncomfortable with silence. We run from our thoughts, seek distraction, and fill our lives with technology to avoid it. However, we will never learn to pray unless we learn to tolerate silence. This Lent, consider giving up radio in the car, playing on your phone, surfing the web, or turning off the tv for a specified time each day. Take it as an opportunity to embrace silence. Then commit yourself to some small act of prayer each day to witness the benefit.

2) Fast for someone particular each day

Offering your sacrifice for a specific person will bring new meaning to your Lenten fast. It will also remind you to pray for that person. You can offer your fast for anyone, but I suggest your spouse, children, or perhaps a relative. Offering your fast for someone specific allows the practice of fasting to positively influence both you and a loved one. You will truly be loving your neighbor as yourself.

3) Let your fast financially support your almsgiving.

So often we give up items that are treats. Perhaps, it is a weekly cup of coffee from Starbucks or an evening of entertainment. This Lent, take the savings from these practices and put them in a jar. Then at Easter, donate the contents of the jar to the poor through the church, charities, a local soup kitchen, or giving directly to the homeless.

4) When you give alms, do not judge the intention of the recipient.

Often times, it is easy for me to judge the people to which I am giving. We should give freely trusting that God will recognize the intention of our gift apart from the outcome.

5) Consider adding in addition to subtracting.

So often we only think of what we are giving up during Lent, but the addition of spiritual practices can also be valuable. This Lent consider adding a devotional practice to your daily life. There are many possibilities. This Lent make the most of your prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to live your Christian faith in a radically new way.

How are you practicing these Lenten disciplines this year?

Pastor Scott

From Your Treasurer

Zion's Income and Expenses as of Feb.18,2025.

The weekly amount of \$6,106.00 is needed to cover our budgeted costs. Of this weekly amount approx. \$4,539.00 comes from e-transfers, PAR and regular offerings and \$1,567.00 comes from hall rent, office admin. fees, interest, general reserve, house rentals, solar panels and other revenue.

Offerings	20,905.74
Missions and Outreach	177.00
Other Donations	535.00
Solar Income	912.29
Other Earned Income	2,420.34
Fundraised for general use	0.00
Total Income to Feb.18	24,950.37
Benevolence Expense	0.00
Directed Gifts Expense	0.00
Committees Expense	0.00
Utilities Expense	4,239.86
Church Insurance	0.00
Property Maintenance	2,309.15
Other Operating Expense	5,997.39
Net Payroll	14,281.43
Benefits Expense	3,398.92
Expense Total to Feb.18	30,226.75
Net as of Feb.18,2025	(-5,276.38)

To all that attend Zion,

AS YOUR TREASURER I WOULD ASK THAT YOU SUPPORT THE GENERAL FUND.

Our offerings have had an increase, but so have our expenses. Please help to reduce our deficit.

All of us in this congregation are helping and working together in faith. We have been rewarded with the riches of a good life here. Your generosity helps us continue our call to serve as a Christian. We are a family here, helping each other and our community. Thank you, Pastor Scott and Pastor Sue, for leading us.

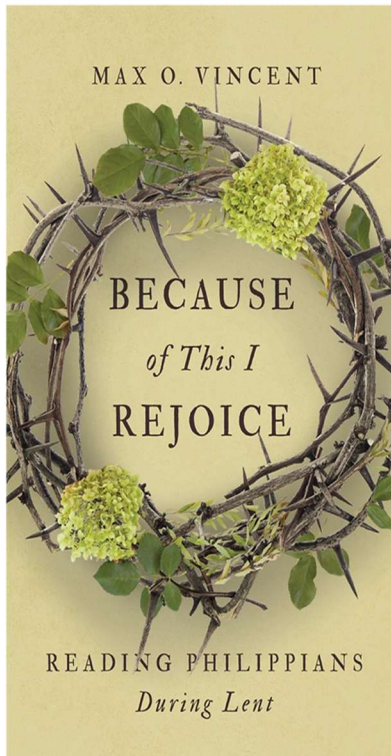
If you cannot attend, we have set up e-transfer to the church's office e-mail

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

Your treasurer, Gerry Vandersleen

Lenten Book Study

Because of This I Rejoice



For too long Lent has been thought of as a season of self-sacrifice and discipline that sounds to many Christians like a list of spiritual chores. Lenten disciplines become the spiritual equivalent of New Year's resolutions to lose weight, be healthier, or practice better money management.

Because of This I Rejoice is a 6-week study of Philippians that explores what Paul teaches about joyfully practicing spiritual disciplines. The intent of these disciplines is to help us focus less on ourselves and more on God. This Lenten study invites us to engage in the same spiritual practices as a way to grow closer to God and allow joy to flow through our lives.

When: Every Thursday night at 7:00 pm.

It begins Thursday, February 27th, the Thursday before Ash Wednesday and runs for 6 weeks.

The cost of the book is \$20.

If you are interested in participating please speak with Pastor Scott or email: sschellenberger@hotmail.com.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner



Shrove Tuesday Dinner
Tuesday March 4 2025
5:00pm.

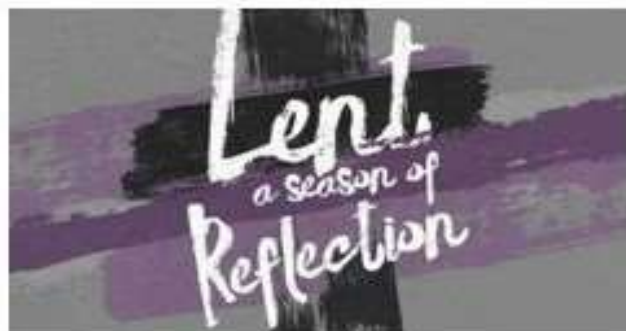
Please join us for a gathering to celebrate "Fat Tuesday". This is a day we feast together before beginning the Lenten fast.



Ash Wednesday Service
Imposition of Ashes
Wednesday March 5 2025
7:00pm.



Soup and Sandwich Dinners
Wednesday nights during Lent
beginning March 12 2025
5:30pm.



Lenten Midweek Services
Wednesdays 6:30pm |
from March 12 to April 16 2025.

Morning Social Gatherings



Are you looking to spend some time having coffee, tea and goodies while sharing conversation with others?

Come to our bi-weekly fellowship hours:

Wednesday March 12 and 27 at 10:00 am

You need not be a member of Zion. Everyone is welcome.

Soup and Sandwich Luncheon



Sunday March 23 2025

Following worship

Please join us.

Hosted by: Your Social Ministry Committee

MARCH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

LENTEN BOOK STUDY: “Because of This I Rejoice”

“Because of This I Rejoice” is a 6-week study of Philippians that explores what Paul teaches about joyfully practicing spiritual disciplines. This Lenten study invites us to engage in the same spiritual practices as a way to grow closer to God and allow joy to flow through our lives. **Beginning Thursday February 27th at 7:00 pm**, the Thursday before Ash Wednesday, and runs every **Thursday night at 7:00 pm for 6 weeks**. The cost of the book is \$20. If you are interested in participating, please speak with Pastor Scott or email at sschellenberger@hotmail.com.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER Tuesday March 4th at 5:00 pm.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE Imposition of Ashes on **Wednesday March 5th at 7:00 pm**

RETIREMENT HOME SERVICES Marianhill Worship on **Thursday March 6th at 11:00 am.**

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025 The World Day of Prayer 2025 is on **Friday March 7th 2025, 2:00pm**, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 280 Lourdesview Drive, Pembroke. Guest speaker is Father Ryan Holly. Service is written by the Women of Cook Islands. Ecumenical Worship Service theme is “I Made You Wonderful” Psalm 139:1-18.

WORSHIP & MUSIC Worship and Music will be meeting on **Monday March 10th at 7:00 pm.**

COUNCIL MEETING The next Council Meeting will be on **Tuesday March 11th at 7:00 pm.**

LENTEN SERVICES AND SOUP AND SANDWICH Please join us on **Wednesday March 12, 19, 26 and April 2, 9, 16 at 5:30 pm** for Soup & Sandwich and The Lenten Service at **6:30 pm.**

MORNING SOCIAL Join us on **Wednesday March 12th at 10:00 am** and **Wednesday March 26th at 10:00 am** in the Parish Hall. Come on out for fun and fellowship.

SENIORS EXERCISE CLASSES Join us every **Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 1:00 pm** in the Parish Hall. Be Sure to Bring a Friend!

HOME COMMUNIONS and HOME VISITS

Do you or do you know someone who may be interested in receiving Holy Communion or a visit from the Pastor? Some people may not be on our pastoral care list but cannot get to church. Please contact the church office at 613-732-8792 or email the Pastor at sschellenberger@hotmail.com.

PULSE MINISTRY



Pulse Ministry consists of three different programs. Every generation is invited to worship and to Messy Church: Messy Church, Youth Group, and worship. The worship Service is called "Living Stones".

Messy Church is another alternative, in addition to Sunday School (not in place of), that is held in the evening once a month. It includes Food, Crafts, Games, Faith Talk, and Fun! It is for all individuals young and old. The next event is Monday March 3rd 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm.



PULSE YOUTH GROUP Activities to be announced.



The next "**Living Stones**" worship service is on **Sunday March 16th at 10:00 am.** *The regular Holy Communion Services in the sanctuary will happen as well.* The Living Stones service is an intergenerational service. It is in the gym and is led by a praise team. If you have musical gifts you would like to share, please contact Pastor Scott or Pastor Sue. Please bring a canned good to support the food bank.

Wednesday Morning Communion Service

Join us for an intimate worship service on **Wednesday April 9th 10:30 am** as we prepare for Easter. The service is shorter than Sunday mornings accommodating the needs of seniors.



Sunday April 13 – Palm Sunday -10 am

Thursday April 17 – Maundy Thursday 7 pm

Friday April 18 – Good Friday 10 am

Sunday April 20 – Easter 8 am and 10 am

If you know of anyone in hospital, in need of a visit or are recently deceased, please inform the church 613 732-8792 or Pastor Scott 705 313-0333.

W & M Meeting Minutes - Monday, February 10, 2025

Celebrating God As We Serve Others

Present: Pastor Scott, Blaine Sack, Gayle Seegmiller, Ellen Vandersleen, Diane Hammel

Regrets: Koit Rull, Sandra Graham, Lorraine MacKenzie, Cheryl Sack, Lisa Campitelli, Joan Lehman

Welcome and Opening Devotions: Gayle welcomed everyone. Pastor Scott opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Agenda: Technology and Offerings were added.

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes: Approved online

Committee Reports:

Pastor Scott:

- Funerals in February - Aileen Roesler and Lillian Michel
- Baptisms - February 9th - Charlie Cassista - daughter of Brittany Schwantz and Zach Cassista
- Living Stones Service - February 16th
- Meeting with the recorders will happen sometime at the end of February or the beginning of March.

Upcoming:

- Lent begins on March 5th with Ash Wednesday
- Wednesday Night Services will happen weekly at 6:30 p.m.
- Soup and Sandwiches beforehand at 5:30 p.m.

Easter Services:

- Maundy Thursday - April 17th at 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday - April 18th at 10:00 a.m.
- Easter Morning - April 20th at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
- Midweek Wednesday Morning Service at 10:30 a.m. will happen in April close to Easter.
- The gentlemen from the Living Stones Band and Pastor Sue have volunteered to help at the senior's homes since the passing of Lillian Michel who faithfully played at all of these services.
- I would like to include a slide at the beginning of the service that goes up when I come out to begin the service and the prelude is playing. It should read: **Quiet is appreciated as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.** Diane Hammel will look after this slide.
- Lastly, I want to make a note of the fact there were 101 services held at Zion, and seniors homes. Ninety of them were led by me.

Blaine Sack: Church Musician

- Low humidity in the winter causes the sanctuary to be very dry, affecting both the organ and the grand piano and causing them to go out of tune more quickly. A tuning for both will be scheduled for sometime in March.
- Every effort will be made to play the grand piano on the stage in the parish hall during soup and sandwich lunches, potlucks and other special events.
- The liturgy will change for the season of Lent.
- Hymn sings will continue before the start of worship services on the last Sunday of the month. The next ones will be February 23rd and March 30th. New songs and hymns from “All Creation Sings” will continue to be introduced during these sing-alongs.
- Sung psalms have been well received and will continue. The next ones are scheduled for February 23rd and March 9th.
- During Lent for the midweek evening services there may be special music by guest musicians or singers as well as the mixed and men’s choirs.

Miscellaneous:**Technology:**

- On the Sunday of the power outage there was damage to one of the power bars upstairs. It has been replaced.

Offerings:

- Once again it has come to our attention that visitors do not know where to leave their offerings. There was a discussion re options but since so many members of the committee were absent it was decided that this will be discussed at our March meeting. Until then, there will be a notice put in the bulletin re the offering plates at both entrances to the church. Pastor Scott said he would look after this.

The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Next Meeting:

- Monday, March 10th, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.

MARCH VOLUNTEERS

Worship Assistants

March 2 – Susan Dupuis
March 9 – Wayne Kirk
March 16 – Paul Merredew
March 23 – Michael Lange
March 30 – Lorraine MacKenzie

Sexton

March 2 – David Lehman
March 9 – Koit Rull
March 16 – Tyler Smith
March 23 – Don Boldt
March 30 – Hunter Denney

Counters

March 2 – Lisa Campitelli, Karen Gauthier,
David Lehman
March 9 – Lisa Campitelli, Karen Gauthier,
David Lehman
March 16 – Jean & Kevin Rutz, Gerry Vandersleen
March 30 – Jean & Kevin Rutz, Gerry Vandersleen
March 23 – Diane Hammel, Wilmer Verch,
Pamela Duplessis

Ushers

March 2 – Peter & Patti Wegner
March 9 – Amanda Campbell & Ryan Parcher
March 16 – Stan & Debbie Sitkiewicz
March 23 – Kevin & Jean Rutz
March 30 – Allen Rose & Cheryl Sack

Altar Care

March 2 – Sandra Graham
March 9 – Maria Denney
March 16 – Wendy Schutt
March 23 – Kathy Godin
March 30 – Don Boldt

Projector Operators

March 2 – Gerry Vandersleen
March 9 – Ellen Vandersleen
March 16 – Zachary Phannenhour
March 23 – Rick Gerundin
March 30 – Philip Vandersleen

Video Recorders

March 2 – Ellen Vandersleen
March 9 – Ryan Schmidt
March 16 – Ty Phannenhour
March 23 – Korbin Smith
March 30 – Ty Phannenhour

Sound Operators

March 2 – Gerry Vandersleen
March 9 – Noah Schmidt
March 16 – Todd Phannenhour
March 23 – Brian Smith
March 30 – Todd Phannenhour

Coffee Hour

March 2 – Debbie & Stan Sitkiewicz
March 9 – Jill & Al Kellough
March 16 – Kathy Hoffman & Susan
Dupuis
March 23 – Denise & Barry Schizkoske
March 30 – Justine Mutlow & Michael
Laabs

MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10 am Worship Service with Holy Communion	3 8:30 am Pickle Ball 1 pm Exercise Class 5:30 am Messy Church 7 pm Pickle Ball 7 pm Healing Vets	4 9:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm Mixed Choir 5 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner	5 1 pm Exercise Class 2:30 pm ZLW 7 pm Men's Choir 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service Imposition of Ashes	6 9:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm Lenten Book Study 7 pm Healing Vets	7 1 pm Exercise Class	8
9 10 am Worship Service with Holy Communion	10 8:30 am Pickle Ball 1 pm Exercise Class 7 pm Pickle Ball 7 pm Healing Vets 7 pm Worship & Music Mtg	11 9:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Tai Chi 7 pm Mixed Choir 7 pm Council Mtg.	12 10 am Morning Social 1 pm Exercise Class 5:30 pm Soup & Sandwich 6:30 pm Lenten Service 7 pm Men's Choir	13 9:30 am Tai Chi Service 7 pm Lenten Book Study 7 pm Healing Vets	14 1 pm Exercise Class	15
16 10 am Worship Service with Holy Communion & Living Stones Service	17 8:30 am Pickle Ball 1 pm Exercise Class 7 pm Pickle Ball 7 pm Healing Vets	18 9:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Tai Chi 7 pm Mixed Choir	19 1 pm Exercise Class 5:30 pm Soup & Sandwich 6:30 pm Lenten Service 7 pm Men's Choir	20 9:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm Lenten Book Study 7 pm Healing Vets	21 1 pm Exercise Class GUIDING LIGHT DEADLINE	22
23 10 am Worship Service with Holy Communion Soup & Sandwich following Worship Service	24 8:30 am Pickle Ball 1 pm Exercise Class 7 pm Pickle Ball 7 pm Healing Vets	25 9:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Tai Chi 7 pm Mixed Choir	26 10 am Morning Social 1 pm Exercise Class 5:30 pm Soup & Sandwich 6:30 pm Lenten Service 7 pm Men's Choir	27 9:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm Lenten Book Study 7 pm Healing Vets	28 1 pm Exercise Class 6:30 pm Pulse Youth Group	29
30 10 am Worship Service with Holy Communion	31 8:30 am Pickle Ball 1 pm Exercise Class 7 pm Pickle Ball 7 pm Healing Vets	April 1 10:30 am Miramichi Lodge Worship Service	2 1 pm Exercise Class 5:30 pm Soup & Sandwich 6:30 pm Lenten Service	3 9:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm Lenten Book Study 7 pm Healing Vets	4 1 pm Exercise Class	5

HOLY WEEK: **PALM SUNDAY April 13 @ 10 am**
GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 18 @ 10 am

MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 17 @ 7 pm
EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 20 @ 8am & 10 am