

THE GUIDING LIGHT

OCTOBER 2026

Celebrating God as We Serve Others



Monthly Newsletter

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Every Sunday 10:00 am Worship & Sunday school

Third Sunday 10:00 am Blended Worship

Second Sunday 10:00 am Sunday School

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 Desk

Lutheran Irony

Lutherans have a well-deserved reputation for being skeptical. We have a tendency to avoid getting caught up in the enthusiasm of the moment and therefore approach change with some hesitancy. Some would say we are just naturally shy and reserved, but I think the most likely explanation is that we have a good sense of "Lutheran irony".

"Lutheran irony" is the basic understanding that no matter how good something may seem to be, there is probably something messed up somewhere. As the German proverb puts it (and remember most of our Lutheran forefathers were German): "Wie mans macht ist falsch." Roughly translated this means: "Whatever people do, it turns out lousy."

Martin Luther, you will remember, was one of the great pessimists of all time. According to Luther, sin corrupted everything. Nothing we could do would escape this basic fact. Even when we tried our best, our most noble efforts would be turned by sin and corrupted into something bad.



From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

“Whatever people do; it turns out lousy.” Think, for example, of the Pharisees. They were good people. They wanted to do the right thing. They devoted their lives to righteousness. Yet, it was this very quality that was finally their greatest sin. It was their very devotion to religion and to God that made them see Jesus as the enemy of all that they thought was good.

This is “Lutheran irony.” It is Lutheran irony that it is precisely when we are most confident about being right that we are in the greatest danger of being wrong. It is when we feel strongest in faith, when we are most committed, when we are feeling most “religious,” that sin lies closest at hand.

Incidentally, this is why piety can be the deepest form of idolatry. Piety says that what is most important is my religious feeling or my acts of religious devotion. Piety needs to be reminded that sin can (and usually does) corrupt everything about us, even (and especially) our piety. This is why Luther said that we always need to appreciate the truth that by ourselves we are all “weak in faith, cold in love, faint in hope.”

But that truth is also another twist of Lutheran irony. Fortunately for us, Jesus died for the weak, the cold and the faint. Fortunately for us, it not our righteousness that matters, but God’s grace for sinners. That is why God is sometimes closest to us when we seem to have fallen the lowest.

The ultimate twist in Lutheran irony is the realization that our efforts to do what is right never really mattered in the first place. It was (and is) always and forever Christ’s work alone that counts!

Happy Reformation Day, Oct. 31, as we celebrate the meaning of “Lutheran Irony”.

Pastor Scott



Happy Thanksgiving
Monday October 12 2026



October is Pastor Appreciation Month



Pastor Appreciation Month is celebrated October 2026, recognizing the hard work and dedication of pastors. This month is dedicated to showing gratitude and support for pastoral leaders, with many churches extending their celebrations throughout October. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) recognizes the contributions of its pastors and encourages community support during this time.

WE joyfully give thanks to God for Pastor Scott and Pastor Sue, who faithfully shepherd our congregation with the word and sacrament. We celebrate their dedication, compassion, and spiritual guidance, and we pray for continued strength and blessing in their ministry.



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

454 Miller St • Pembroke • 613 732-8792

Messy CHURCH



Food



Crafts



Story



Games



Fun

FREE!

Join us for Messy Church
on the first Monday of each month,
beginning at 5:30 pm with a meal.

Our next Messy Church
Monday, October 5th 2026
at 5:30 pm

Come enjoy an evening filled with
food, crafts, stories, games, and fun!



**Everyone is welcome —
and bring a friend!**



ZION LUTHERAN WOMEN

Faith & Life Program

**Wednesday, October 7
at 2:30 p.m.**

Theme:
“Blessing Basket”

**Program Leader:
Sandra Graham**




*An afternoon of
fellowship, faith,
and sharing.*

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church *Morning Social*

 Come and spend some time having
coffee, tea and goodies while sharing
conversations with others. 

 Come to our bi-weekly
fellowship hours: 
**Wednesday October 14th and 28th 2026
at 10:00 am**



 You need not be a member of Zion -

everyone is welcome! 



Camp Lutherlyn



FALL CLEAN-UP

Saturday, October 17th 2026
9:00 am

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Fall Clean-Up at Camp Lutherlyn.

Come out and lend a hand as we prepare the camp for the winter months.

It is a wonderful opportunity to work together, enjoy fellowship, and help care for this special ministry.

Lunch will be provided.

Volunteers are needed and all helping hands are greatly appreciated!



Please email info@lutherlyncamp.ca -
We'd love to know how many volunteers will be coming!



Reformation Service



Sunday October 18, 2026
Rankin Community Centre
3:00 pm

Rev. Matthew Brown - Incumbent
Parish of the Valley
Guest Preacher

Dinner 5:00 pm

Dinner Tickets \$35.00 (Children under 6 years eat free!)

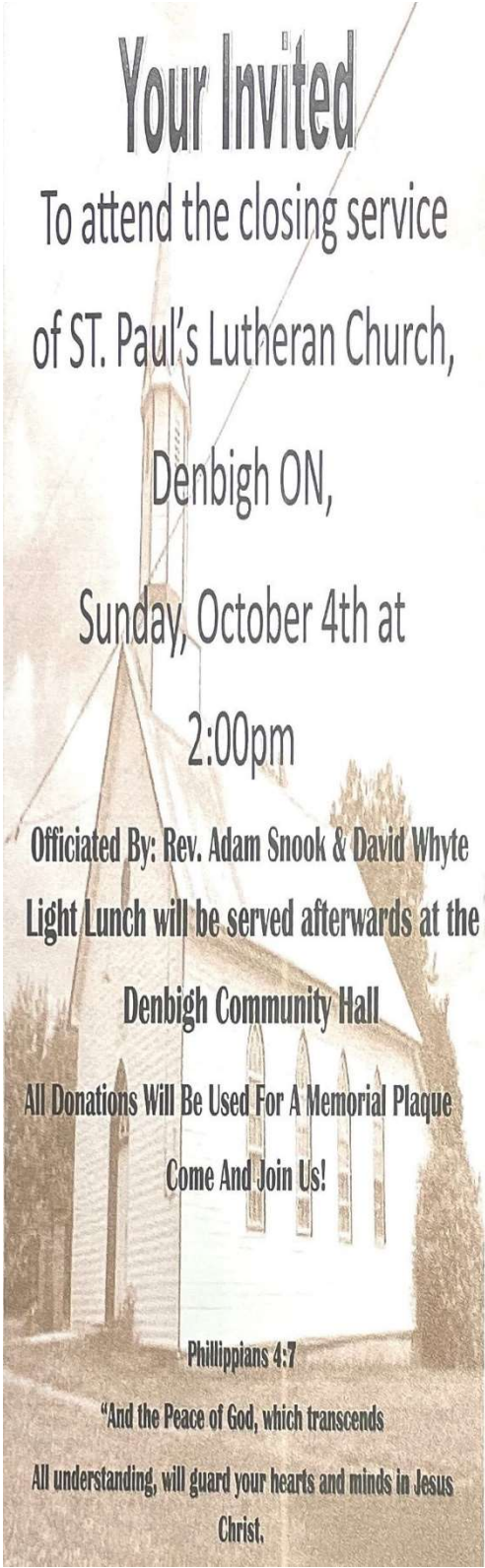
Smoked Pork Loin with all the trimmings

Available from your Pastor or at your church until October 4, 2026

Come Worship and Connect with your
Ottawa Valley Lutheran and Anglican Families

Organized by
The Ottawa Valley Ministry Team
Eastern Synod of the ELCIC





Your Invited
To attend the closing service
of ST. Paul's Lutheran Church,
Denbigh ON,
Sunday, October 4th at
2:00pm

Officiated By: Rev. Adam Snook & David Whyte
Light Lunch will be served afterwards at the
Denbigh Community Hall

All Donations Will Be Used For A Memorial Plaque
Come And Join Us!

Philippians 4:7

"And the Peace of God, which transcends
All understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Jesus
Christ."

OCTOBER SCHEDULE

THANKSGIVING Altar Care is looking for fruits and produce for the front of the sanctuary for Thanksgiving. Donations can be dropped off at the church no later than **Thursday, October 8th.**

MESSY CHURCH Please join us for Messy Church on **Monday October 5th at 5:30 pm.** for Food, Crafts, Stories, Games, Fun – FREE! All ages welcome, bring a friend!

ZION LUTHERAN WOMEN Please join the Zion Lutheran Women on **Wednesday October 7th at 2:30 pm** for a presentation by Sandra Graham on "Blessing Basket". All are Welcome!

WORSHIP & MUSIC Worship and Music will meet on **Monday October 18th at 7:00 pm.**

COUNCIL MEETING Next council meeting on **Tuesday October 13th at 7:00 pm.**

MORNING SOCIAL Join us for our Morning Social on **Wednesday October 14th at 10:00 am and Wednesday October 28th at 10:00 am.** in the Parish Hall. Come on out for fun and fellowship.

RETIREMENT HOME SERVICES Supplies Landing Worship Service will be on **Thursday October 15th at 10:00 am.**

CAMP LUTHERLYN FALL CLEAN-UP

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Fall Clean-Up at Camp Lutherlyn on **Saturday, October 17th, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.** Come out and lend a hand as we prepare the camp for the winter months. Lunch will be provided. Volunteers are needed, and all helping hands are greatly appreciated! Please email info@lutherlyncamp.ca — we'd love to know how many volunteers will be coming!

SENIORS EXERCISE CLASSES Please 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.

OCTOBER HAPPENINGS

Zion Thrift

Everyone is welcome! We are accepting donations of fall and winter clothing. **Thanks to all who came out to our grand opening!** It was a great day with around 70 people coming through. We are in need of pant/skirt hangars and small safety pins if you have any to spare. You will find 2 designated drop-offs for any donations: At the Thrift Shop area just outside the door in the hallway into the shop and one in the closet of the "free stuff" area. We kindly ask that any and all donations are left there. See you at the thrift! Hours are: **Wednesdays & Thursdays: 1:00–3:00 pm** and the **third Friday of each month: 6:00–8:00 pm.**



Choir Practices

Choir practices, barring any changes, will be: Men's choir practice on **Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm**, and Mixed choir practice on **Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.**

Morning Social

Join us for our Morning Socials on **Wednesday, October 14th at 10:00 am** and **Wednesday October 28th at 10:00 am** in the Parish Hall! Come on out for fun and fellowship. Pull up a chair, grab a coffee (or tea) and a snack, and enjoy the company! Bring a friend!



PULSE MINISTRY

Messy Church

Messy Church is a program that runs the first Monday of every month 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. We gather for a meal at 5:30 pm and conclude at 7:30 pm., just in time to hop into bed when you get home! There will be delicious food, snacks, games, and so much more. This year try bringing a friend, because all are welcome. Messy Church will be on **Monday October 5th at 5:30 pm.**



Sunday School

Sunday School will be held the second Sunday of every month during regular worship at **10:00 am**. Sunday School will be on will be on **Sunday October 11th, Sunday November 8th, and Sunday December 13th.** All children are welcome!

Living Stones Worship Service

The Living Stones Worship service is a service that is interactive and led by members of the congregation who play guitar and sing. It happens in the gym on the **3rd Sunday of the month at 10:00 am**. Invite a friend to join you. The next Living Stones service will be on **Sunday October 18th at 10:00 am.**



Council Meeting Minutes 09/08/2026

The Meeting was called to order.

Present: Patty Wegner, Kathy Godin, Susan Dupuis, Hunter Denney, Jamie McKinnon, Brent Wolfgram, Pastor Sue, Pastor Scott, Tyler Smith, Gerry Vandersleen

Absent: Tiffany Freeman

1. Agenda approved. Motion Moved - Brent, Second – Hunter, CARRIED.

2. Approval of minutes of last meeting – Moved – Kathy, Second – Jamie, CARRIED

3. Business arising from minutes - NONE

4. Correspondence - Steven Boland

- Proposal to use the parish hall on Christmas Day from 11- 3 to serve a Christmas meal to a couple hundred people in need. The group running the meal would cover all expenses and has already had many local groups offering donations and volunteers. The church is only seeking compensation for the required cleaning to pay Kevin.
- Council voted and approved.

5. Reports

A: Pastor Report

Pastor Scott

- Confirmation class starts on the third week of September. No numbers were finalized at the time of the meeting.

Pastor Sue

- Zion Thrift is reopening on Wednesday, September 16th, and will be running the same hours as before the summer break. It will also be open September 20th after service to allow more church members/guests to stop in and check it out.
- Messy Church is also continuing in the third week of September.
- There will be a Blended Living Stones service on September 20th.

B. Treasurer's report

- Gordon Brandstadt bequeathed over \$8000 to the church from his estate.
- Levels of income similar to last year, but offering totals decreased.
- The Parking lot and entryway project cost total came in a lot lower than others had quoted.

6. Committee Reports

A: Property - NONE
B: Worship and Music - NONE C: Social Ministry - NONE
D: Pulse Ministry – NONE E: Learning – NONE
F: Pastoral Care – NONE G: Mutual Ministry – NONE H: Cemetery Board - NONE I: Personnel - NONE

7. Old Business

- New photos will be taken, and contact information will be updated on our website next month for council.
- Voted and approved to purchase gift cards in the value of \$250 each for Dan Duplessis and Shane Lehman to thank them for their tremendous efforts on the Entryway project.
-

8. New Business

- Discussion surrounding how we can use the church's rooms and spaces for event rentals to generate more income for the church.

Next meeting date: October 13th

Motion to Adjourn. Moved - Kathy Second Hunter. CARRIED.

W & M Meeting Minutes - Monday, September 14, 2026 Celebrating God As We Serve Others

Present: Pastor Scott, Blaine Sack, Gayle Seegmiller, Diane Hammel, Lorraine MacKenzie, Koit Rull, Sandra Graham, Ellen Vandersleen, Joan Lehman

Regrets: Cheryl Sack

Welcome and Opening Devotions: Gayle welcomed everyone back after the summer break and asked Pastor Scott to open the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Agenda: Addition of Altar Care and Technology.

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes: Approved online

Committee Reports:

Pastor Scott:

- Confirmation for 7 youth will be on Reformation Sunday.
- Blaine and Pastor Scott will meet soon to get organized for the fall.
- There will be a Blended Service on Sunday, September 20th.
- Pastor Scott will speak with Music Healing Vets about participating in the Remembrance Day service.

- **Blaine Sack: Church Musician**

INSTRUMENTS:

- The organ and grand piano in the church will be tuned before Thanksgiving. Blaine will be present when the tuners come so he can address any concerns.

WORSHIP SERVICES:

- (1) Liturgy/Service Music:
 - We will be using Setting 4 up until Thanksgiving.
- (2) Hymn Sings:
 - The next hymn sing will be on September 27th.

CHOIRS/GUEST MUSICIANS:

- The choirs have resumed practices. The mixed choir will sing on September 20th and the men's choir will sing on September 27th.

OTHER:

- Blaine will place a note of thanks in the bulletin and a brief summary in the Guiding Light describing his time attending the Summer Institute of Church Music (SICM). He expressed his appreciation for having the cost for this learning opportunity covered by the committee.

Miscellaneous:

Confirmation:

- Pastor Scott shared that many first year confirmands will not be returning this fall. He expressed his disappointment since teaching confirmation is a part of his ministry that he really enjoys.
- Several parents wish to teach their children at home. Pastor Scott is agreeable since these parents are educated in their faith.
- Pastor Scott has not yet decided on how he will proceed with those who would be starting confirmation classes this fall.

Waterfront Service:

- This year the waterfront service was cancelled due to inclement weather. We were not charged for cancelling. Moving forward, payment will be required whether or not the service is held.

Thanksgiving:

- Gayle will place a notice in the bulletin on September 27th requesting donations of vegetables, flowers etc. to decorate the altar for Thanksgiving.

Altar Care:

- Sandra informed the committee that she will be retiring as altar care convenor as of December 31st. We thank Sandra for her dedication and service! If anyone is interested in filling this position, please speak to Sandra or Gayle.

Technology:

- Diane shared that the issues with the internet connection have been fixed. She also mentioned that the hubs should not be moved.
- If there is a problem connecting to the internet during Sunday morning, the volunteers should keep recording the service and it can be uploaded to youtube at the end of the service.
- Susan Dupuis contacted Pastor Scott to let him know that Cogeco will not be broadcasting our service on Sunday, September 20th.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting:

- Monday, October 19, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

Worship Assistants

Oct 4: Lorraine MacKenzie
Oct 11: Paul Merredew
Oct 18: Elizabeth Graham
Oct 25: Ellen Vandersleen

Sexton

Oct 4: Hunter Denney
Oct 11: Karen Gauthier
Oct 18: Diane Hammel
Oct 25: David Lehman

Counters

Oct 4: Susan Dupuis, Kevin & Jean Rutz
Oct 11: Diane Hammel, Pamela Duplessis,
Wilmer Verch
Oct 18: Diane Hammel, Pamela Duplessis,
Wilmer Verch
Oct 25: Doug & Pauline Malliff, Sandra Graham

Ushers

Oct 4: Allen Rose, Cheryl Sack
Oct 11: Kevin Rutz, Ryan Parcher
Oct 18: Pamela Duplessis, Cindy Thrasher
Oct 25: Stan & Debbie Sitkiewicz

Coffee Hour

Oct 4: Steve & Evelyn Boland
Oct 11: Kathy Hoffman, Susan Dupuis
Oct 18: Denise & Barry Schizkoske
Oct 25:

Altar Care

Oct 4: Diane Rull
Oct 11: Jean Rutz
Oct 18: Sandra Graham
Oct 25: Cheryl Sack

Projector Operators

Oct 4: Gerry Vandersleen
Oct 11: Diane Hammel
Oct 18: Sherri Phannenhour
Oct 25: Ellen Vandersleen

Video Recorders

Oct 4: Ellen Vandersleen
Oct 11: Ryan Schmidt
Oct 18: Zac Phannenhour
Oct 25: Korbin Smith

Sound Operators

Oct 4: Gerry Vandersleen
Oct 11: Noah Schmidt
Oct 18: Todd Phannenhour
Oct 25: Brian Smith

OCTOBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7 pm Music Healing Vets	2 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 9:30 am Home School Group	3
4 10 am Worship Service & Holy Communion	5 8 am & 6 pm Pickle Ball 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 5:30 pm Messy Church 7 pm Music Healing Vets	6 9:30 am & 6:30 pm Tai Chi 7 pm Men's Choir	7 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 2:30 pm ZLW 7 pm Mixed Choir	8 9:30 am & 6:30 pm Tai Chi 10 am Clergy Mtg. 7 pm Music Healing Vets	9 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 9:30 am Home School Group	10
11 10 am Worship Service with Holy Communion & Sunday School Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Day	12 8 am & 6 pm Pickle Ball 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 7 pm Music Healing Vets 	13 9:30 am & 6:30 pm Tai Chi 7 pm Men's Choir 7 pm Council Meeting	14 10 am Morning Social 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 7 pm Mixed Choir	15 9:30 am & 6:30 pm Tai Chi 2 pm Supples Landing Service 7 pm Music Healing Vets	16 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 9:30 am Home School Group 	17 9 am Camp Lutherlyn Fall Clean-Up
18 10 am Worship Service with Holy Communion & Living Stones Service	19 8 am & 6 pm Pickle Ball 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 7 pm Worship & Music Meeting 7 pm Music Healing Vets	20 9:30 am & 6:30 pm Tai Chi 7 pm Men's Choir	21 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 7 pm Mixed Choir	22 9:30 am & 6:30 pm Tai Chi 7 pm Camp Lutherlyn Mtg. 7 pm Music Healing Vets	23 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 9:30 am Home School Group	24
25 10 am Worship Service with Holy Communion Reformation/ Confirmation Sunday	26 9:30 am & 6 pm Pickle Ball 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 7 pm Music Healing Vets	27 9:30 am & 6:30 pm Tai Chi 7 pm Men's Choir	28 10 am Morning Social 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 7 pm Mixed Choir	29 9:30 am & 6:30 pm Tai Chi 7 pm Music Healing Vets	30 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 9:30 am Home School Group	31 Halloween 

Sunday November 1 – All Saints Sunday