

The Mountaineer

A Publication of Mount Zion Lutheran Church

Volume 5 No. 9 October 2009

After all this time:

Confirmation still is a *really big deal!*

- by Pastor Tanya Ramer

History: In 1529, Martin Luther produced a writing called the Small Catechism, which he wrote for parents to use to instruct their children on the five foundational teachings of the church: The Apostles Creed, the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism, and Holy Communion. As important, Luther invited parents to *participate* in the sharing of faith with their children by using the book as a way to begin conversation. It wasn't until the 1900's that churches decided that they should 'take over' the teaching of Luther's Small Catechism to young adults.

Present Day at Mount Zion: In the life of our congregation, we (the teachers of confirmation) take this instruction very seriously, mostly because we are passionate about sharing our faith, and dialoguing with today's youth about the relevance of faith and its practical implications, and about the relevance of church.

Mount Zion's formal confirmation teaching ministry occurs over a two-year period. The 2009/2010 year will focus specifically on Luther's Small Catechism; while the 2010/2011 year will focus on Old & New Testament & Church History. This year we are preparing for a large class of confirmands: we have nine senior confirmands and potentially nine junior confirmands entering the program. It's a big year and a big class. And yes, it is a big deal for everyone involved.

Each year we look for fresh ways to approach confirmation: we try to be flexible; to provide youth with new opportunities to participate in worship; to engage in fellowship activities within

emphasis.

This year, it is the hope of those who participate in the



confirmation

ministry to engage our church family and the wider world more with what we learn and who we are. So, who participates in this confirmation ministry?

Youth - (some who choose to be there and others who would rather be home in bed). When we come together in confirmation, we are inviting our youth to affirm their faith, that same faith their parents promised to nurture at their baptisms. We are asking our youth to be responsible for the choices they make on their faith journey and in the wider world.

Parents - we, as confirmation instructors and youth, cannot make this time of education and fellowship meaningful *without* the support of parents. This means far more than just bringing young people to class.

This year we are inviting parents (and sibling and grandparents too!) to engage their son or daughter in what we discuss in class. Basically, we are asking parents to continue on the conversations we start, but in their homes (just as Martin Luther intended when he originally wrote the Small Catechism). We'll even help those conversations along by providing a take home sheet for parents/families to explore.

Continued on Page 5

What is the Lutheran Church Cantata?

Director of Music Scott Knarr gives us a little history about our Lutheran musical heritage

Cantata from the Italian *cantare* “to sing”. A musical work for voices and instruments in several movements, often beginning with an instrumental movement followed by a chorus sung by the choir, recitative and aria movements sung by soloists, and ending with a chorale which is sung by the congregation.

Chorale An early hymn of the Lutheran church sung by the congregation. Some chorales were based on Gregorian Chant, others were based on German hymns or even secular songs.

Chorale Prelude An organ composition which is based on a chorale melody. This was initially used to introduce the chorale tune to the congregation for singing, but gradually became more elaborate and eventually it became a separate form.

Cantor The historical meaning of this word is the one who leads the people's song. At Mount Zion this role is normally ascribed to the Director of Music. Sometimes we use this term to identify solo singers who are singing on behalf of the congregation.

Not too surprisingly, our Lutheran musical heritage begins with Martin Luther. The well-known chorale “A Mighty Fortress” ELW 504 was written – both the text and the melody – by Luther himself. In Luther's day the organ might have intoned the first line, but the chorale would have been sung in unison by the congregation without the use of the organ, while the choir might sing alternate stanzas in harmony. These chorales written soon after the beginning of the Reformation were extremely influential. Gradually an association developed between particular chorales and specific celebrations in the church year which gave rise to a cycle of hymns that reflected the principal theme of a Sunday or celebration. This thematic association lives on as part of our current liturgy in the “Hymn of the Day”. In addition to Martin Luther, other major influences included Paul Gerhardt, Philip Nicolai and Johann Crueger. Other hymns in *Evangelical*

Lutheran Worship from this era include “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” ELW 241, “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth” ELW 340, “Awake, My Heart, with Gladness” ELW 378, “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” ELW 308.

Johann Walter (1496-1570) was the first Cantor of the Lutheran church, and its first composer. Walter edited the first Protestant hymnal *Geystliches gesangk buchleyn* (1524) in collaboration with Luther. He wrote much music for his choirs in Torgau and Dresden based on the chorales of the day. One work which survives from this collection is the Advent chorale “Saviour of the Nations, Come” ELW 263. Throughout the 17th century composers continued to develop chorale harmonizations and set psalms to music as well as creating other liturgical music for congregation, choir, organ and instruments.

The most well-known Lutheran composer, Johann Sebastian Bach, became Cantor of the St. Thomas School in 1723. Along with his 4 hours of daily duties as music and latin teacher at the school, he was also in charge of music for St. Thomas and St. Nicholas churches and 2 other Leipzig city churches, presenting (and often composing) a cantata with orchestra each Sunday, alternating between the 2 main churches. 58 canatas were required each year - cantatas were not required in Lent, but required for weekday festivals such as All Saints and Ascension - and its thought that Bach composed 5 year-cycles, or well over 300 works. Approximately 200 cantatas have survived and are available today. It was Pastor Erdmann Neumeister (1671-1756) who formalized the development of the cantata by writing a cycle of texts for each Sunday and feast day in the church calendar. Bach used many of Neumeister's texts for his weekly composition and the two gentlemen were friends. The importance of art music within the context of worship differentiated the Lutheran tradition from the Calvinist movement which severely limited the place of music to the unaccompanied singing of metrical psalms.

The cantata was 20 to 25 minutes in length and would typically begin with an instrumental movement called a *sinfonia*, followed by a chorus sung by the choir. Then a series of recitative (imitating the reciting of text) and aria (borrowed from the operatic style popularized in Italy) movements would follow by various soloists. The final chorale was normally sung by the congregation and would have been related to what we know as the Hymn of the Day.



Normally the first section of the cantata occurs between the reading of the Gospel and the Sermon, with the second part beginning after the Sermon. The text would be a combination of quoted scripture from the Gospel, and a poetic commentary on the text.

While early chorales were sung in unison by the congregation, Bach was a master of harmonizing these melodies in new and creative ways. Several examples of harmonized chorales we sing in the course of the liturgical year are “Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying” ELW 436, “O Sacred Head” ELW 351 and “O Bread of Life” ELW 480. These harmonized chorales would form the concluding section to the cantata. Often the congregation would sing the first stanza in unison, the choir would respond with the next stanza using a new harmonization, and then the organ might even play an ornamented stanza while the congregation and choir meditate on the text. This is referred to as singing the chorale in alternation.

As a living testament to the value of placing these works in the context of Christian worship, the St. Thomas Church, Leipzig (www.thomaskirche.org) continues to present a Cantata (Motet) each Saturday afternoon. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

in New York City (www.bachvespersnyc.org) also has a Bach Vespers service where Cantatas are presented each Sunday evening from Reformation Sunday through to the Fourth Sunday of Easter (with a midwinter break). Here in Kitchener-Waterloo, Dr. Kenneth Hull, Chair of the Music Department at Conrad Greble University College has created the Spiritus Ensemble which will present Bach Cantatas at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church in Kitchener. October 4 at 4 pm they will sing Cantata No. 78 "*Jesu der du meine Seele*" in the context of Evening Prayer. The next scheduled Canata is November 22 for Cantata No. 140 "*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*". They also plan to sing in Keffer Chapel of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary in the new year.

Together in Worship

Sunday, October 4 **PENTECOST 18**
Rev. Krister Ulmanis, Presiding
Rev. Tanya Ramer, Preaching

Holy Communion 8:45 am
Confirmation 9:50 am
Holy Communion & SCS 10:45 am

Sunday, October 11 **PENTECOST 19**
 THANKSGIVING
Rev. Krister Ulmanis, Celebrant

Holy Communion 8:45 am
NO Confirmation
Holy Communion & SCS 10:45 am

Sunday, October 18 **PENTECOST 20**
Rev. Krister Ulmanis., Presiding
Rev. Tanya Ramer, Preaching

Holy Communion 8:45 am
No Confirmation
Holy Communion 10:45 am

Sunday, October 25 **REFORMATION**
Rev. Tanya Ramer, Preaching
Rev. Krister Ulmanis, Preaching

Holy Communion 8:45 am
Confirmation 9:50 am
Affirmation & Holy Baptism 10:45 am

We Care Bags

Mount Zion will again participate in the “We Care Bag” project this fall. We Care Bags will be distributed in the Narthax beginning on Sunday, October 25. This will be the fourth year that we have participated in this project with great success every year! Last year we requested 50 of the bags

from Canadian Lutheran World Relief. Due to our great successes, we “upped” our request to 55 bags for this year. Packing instructions for each kit will be included with the bags when you pick them up. If for some reason you are unable to complete your kit, please return the bag as the Church is charged \$5.00 for any unfilled bags that are not returned to CLWR. Please limit your generosity only to the items requested for each kit, and remember to include \$5.00 (on the outside of your bag) to assist with shipping costs.

We ask that you return your kit to the Church by Sunday, November 29. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Patrick (519) 404-1895.

Church Council Update

Another busy fall is underway. Council is delighted to have Pastor Krister with us as we plan the rest of the year.

At the September council meeting Co-Pastors Krister and Tanya explained how they are dividing their duties. Pastor Krister will relate to the Service, Witness and Health Council. Pastor Tanya will relate to Finance, Stewardship and Property. Both pastors will be involved with Church Council, Mutual Ministry, Worship, Learning and the Planning Task Group.

A subcommittee of council is currently working on a Pandemic Plan for the congregation as requested by our synod. Along with future plans to make changes to our worship practices, educational segments are planned for the next several Sunday mornings.

Current members of church council are:
Chris Kosumovic, Karen Gastmeier, Jeremy Van Hemmen, Adam Ramer, Marg Tupling, Helga Juergensen, Julie Joza, Ed Riegert, Betty Schelter
Dave Heldman, Loa Zilles, Kirk Swanson

All Church council members can be contacted through the contact page of the website, www.mzlc.ca

FOOD BANK



Thanksgiving Food Drive

Last year, the Food Bank of Waterloo Region distributed 3,000,000 (yes, 3 million) pounds of emergency food in this region. There are over

63,000 people in this region living below the poverty line. Forty-five (45%) percent of the emergency food recipients were children under the age of 18, 21% of adult food recipients were employed, 14% of the adult recipients were disabled, and 3% of the recipients were seniors. These people need our help! Mount Zion will be participating in the annual fall food drive during October. We will be collecting nonperishable items and/or money for the Food Bank of Waterloo Region beginning Sunday, October 4 through Sunday, October 25, 2009. Please place your nonperishable items in the Food Bank Boxes in the Narthax. If you would like to include a donation in your offering envelope, please indicate your contribution under the "other" column on your envelope. For every dollar donated, the Food Bank is able to purchase \$8 worth of goods through bulk/leverage buying. Please open your hearts to this worthy cause.

Caring Connections

Betty Behm, Parish Nurse

Why is it that we tend to relive or revisit certain events and circumstances in our lives? As human beings we are drawn to reflect and seek meaning just as we need food and drink.

Reflection is the art of deliberately slowing down our habitual processes of interpreting our lives to take a closer look at the experience and at our frameworks for interpretation. This takes courage because it makes us vulnerable in two ways: We re-experience the incident with all its raw emotion, fear, anger, hurt, joy, and/or sadness. We open our interpretive framework to revision so that all our most dearly held beliefs, biases,

convictions and ways of responding to life may be called into question

As we nurture our spiritual growth we are called upon to employ this same careful reflective process as we study and interpret scripture to discern what it is that God wants us to accomplish in our daily lives. Thanksgiving Day - October 12. This is the perfect time to reflect on all that God provides for us and the implications that holds for service toward others.

www.mzlc.ca

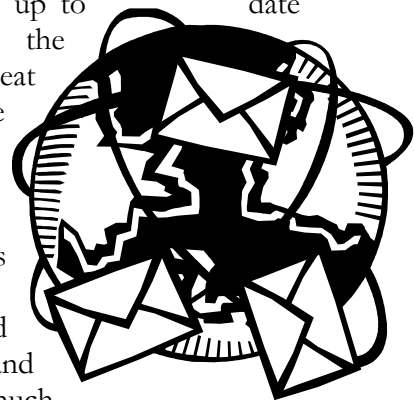
Our Website is Operational

Through the combined effort of many members of our congregation the *new* Mount Zion website is now operational. The address is www.mzlc.ca Try it out, you will be amazed.

There may be a few bugs that we haven't noticed and if so send a note to the church office via the "contact Us" page on the site.

The objectives as set out by the committee were: to keep members/vistors up to date on happenings in the congregation (see the neat calendar we have included), and an opportunity to celebrate through words and pictures, significant events in the life of Mount Zion. Your committee has tried to make it interesting and dynamic. There will be much more material added in the coming months including pictures, documents, meeting notes and so on. Have we succeeded? We won't know until we hear from you, so ideas, comments or material are most welcome.

Special thanks goes to Dwyne Patrick who first conceived of the website and was instrumental in getting version one up and running. Other members who contributed time and a great deal of effort were Karen Gastmeier, Tim Ehrlich, Jim Widdecombe, Scott Knarr, Paul Norris-Lue, Pastor Tanya, and Dennis Eaton



Confirmation is still a big deal

Continued from page 1

Mount Zion Congregation –

We, the entire family of Mount Zion, are also a part, an important part, of the confirmation ministry here. Thirteen years ago, when these ‘new’ parents brought their children to the baptismal font and made promises on behalf of their children, they asked the rest of us to participate with them on the journey. It went something like this, “*People of God, do you promise to support Nicholas, Sam, Abby, Jessica, Mackenzie, AJ, Kendra, Nicholas, Dawn, Ryan, Ashley, Taylor, Landon, Hayden, Josh, Erin, Daniel and Brittany and pray for them in their new life in Christ?*” To which we responded, “*We Do.*”



When we promised to support them, this is what we promised:

“to live with them among God’s faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that they may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Holy Baptism, p.228)

It’s a tall order, but it is our ministry together, something we help each other with. Confirmation is NOT about pastors “engaging the youth”. Rather, it is about this entire wonderful family of God at Mount Zion being engaged - with the youth and each other. It’s about our church family members actively participating in God’s reign together, regardless of age, regardless of experience.

Our shared challenge this year, as we begin not just another – but a new - year of confirmation, is to engage one another in this place. To get to know one another and to share in Christ’s ministry together.

In a recent Sunday morning children’s message, I asked the children how many people in the congregation they could name. And I posed the same question to the congregation. Now, I raise the question again: how many of the confirmands listed above do you know, have you had a conversation with, have you welcomed in this place?

God is at work in this place, and in the world, God is always inviting us to join in this work, learning, and fellowship....together. And that is what truly makes confirmation still a very big deal! *(This year’s confirmation leadership/ teaching team includes Pastor Tanya, Pastor Krister and Matt Ramer)*

Supporting our Ministry

AS AT: Aug 31, 2009

<u>CURRENT</u>	2009	2008
Income	161,382	175,146
Expense	176,033	157,089
Balance	-14,651	18,057

<u>BENEVOLENCE</u>		
Synod	23,120	24,040
Global Hunger	4,340	5,050
Open Sesame	8,740	8,610
Other	15,886	10,430

<u>CAPITAL</u>		
Income	9,350	10,007
Expense	22,257	1,616
Mortgage Income	10,667	11,228
Mortgage Interest	321	870

Want to meet our national bishop?

Want to learn more about the ongoing struggle in Israel and Palestine?

Want to have a great dinner in the company of like-minded Lutherans?

You'll have an opportunity to hear ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson talk about our church's role in the Middle East on November 14 of this year. Bishop Johnson will be the speaker at the annual Bishops' Company dinner at Dundee Golf and Country Club, 1801 Queen Street North, New Dundee (on Regional Road 12).

The title of Johnson's presentation is "A Bishop's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land". In January 2009, more than 40 Lutheran bishops from the U.S. and Canada visited Jordan, Israel and the West Bank. Using photos from the trip, Bishop Susan will describe her encounters with leaders and ordinary people on all sides of the issues that divide the region.

A limited number of tickets are available for this event at a cost of \$42.

This includes a three-course dinner and Bishop Johnson's presentation.

Tickets must be purchased from Connie Davison at the Eastern Synod office, (519) 743-1461 or cdavison@elcic.ca by October 30.

Women of Mount Zion

BOOK STUDY
Wednesday, November 4,
7:15 pm

"The Memory Keeper's Daughter"
By Kim Edwards

Books are available in the narthex
Cost - \$16.75

Wendy Patrick will
be leading the discussion

The Mountaineer

Mount Zion Lutheran Church
29 Westmount Road, South Waterloo, On N2L 2K4
Phone/Fax (519) 886-5820 e-mail: mtzion@mzlc.ca
www.mzlc.ca

Pastors: Rev. Rev. Tanya Ramer., Rev. Krister Ulmanis
Editorial Committee: Dennis Eaton, Karen Gastmeier, Jim Widdecombe, Tim Ehrlich

Please send your comments, ideas and updates to
gastmeier@rogers.com

Deadline for November issue
October 15, 2009