



Our Mission

We are a welcoming, caring community, called by Christ, and enabled by the Spirit, to share God's love by living our faith.



Driving past the church one morning, member Gerry Roeder snapped this picture of Pastors Tanya and Krister changing the lettering on Mount Zion's sign on Westmount Road. It turns out that four hands are required to do the task.

You can read more about plans for a new sign on page 3 in the Annual Meeting coverage and in council notes on page 5.

Leap Year AGM decisions require leap - in faith and member giving

by Jim Widdecombe

A 15% increase in member giving will be needed to support the 2012 budget approved at Mount Zion's annual congregational meeting on February 5.

And while members agreed with the main hold-the-line-on-costs budget recommended by Church Council, they did not accept a proposed freeze on wages. Instead, they passed an amendment to provide a two per cent cost of living increase to all staff. The action added \$4,266 to the current account portion of the budget to raise it to \$344,661 for 2012.

Earlier, in a thorough review of 2011 income and expenses, and of the 2012 budget proposal, Finance Committee Chair Richard Brubacher expressed his amazement at how the congregation responded in December of 2011 to wipe out a looming \$30,000 deficit –and end the year with a \$3,000 surplus.

While thanking members for their dedication and response, he noted that increased regular giving throughout the year could have eliminated the financial squeeze much earlier.

A chart of monthly income versus disbursements in 2011 showed there were only two months, November and December, when money coming in exceeded expenses. Richard said a great deal of stress could be removed from everyone – from Council members, staff and committee members – if they could count on money being there each month to meet expenses. He encouraged regular use of envelopes or PAR giving to avoid the type of year-end crunch that seemed to be in the making right up until the closing days of 2011.

Living with the likelihood of a hefty deficit also influenced Council's 2012 planning and budget preparation. Congregational President David Heldman said Council members wrestled long and hard to come up with a budget that would hold the line on expenses while supporting essential ministry and programs. Well before year end results were known, Councillors had also reviewed their personal giving – and committed to individual increases of up to 15 percent. *Continued on page 2*

Leap Year AGM *Continued from Page 1*

In his written report to the Congregation (**page 29 in 2011 Annual Reports**) Richard Brubacher acknowledged 2011 was a transitional year, during whose closing months Mount Zion's ministry team was returned to full strength.

...increased giving (of about \$5 per week for each giving unit) would enable the congregation to focus on the challenges it faces

"In 2012," he wrote "we face continuing challenges that will require us to be vigilant in our financial life in supporting our chosen ministry model (i.e. two co-pastors). Our budget for 2012 as proposed

contains no growth in expenditures other than the impact of the full complement of ministry staff for the full year." Despite this, his report said, "we will require increased support of approximately \$45,000 more than 2011. This increase represents approximately 15% growth, and will challenge each of us."

Both the Finance Chair and the Council President urged all Mount Zion members to commit to increased levels of giving – in the order of 15 per cent – and to regular provision of those funds throughout the year. Such increased giving (of about \$5 per week for each giving unit) would enable the congregation to focus on the challenges it faces to renew its growth through outreach and ministry.

For more financial details, and for information on the scope of Mount Zion's ministry, programs and services, visit our website www.mzlc.ca and go to the *Documents of Interest* tab where you can find full text of our **2011 Annual Reports**. For other Annual Meeting Highlights, see President Heldman's review which follows in this *Mountaineer* issue.

Thoughts about Mount Zion's February 5 Annual General Meeting

from David Heldman, Congregational President, 2010-2011

During this year's AGM, Mount Zion members made a commitment to continue – and grow – our congregation's ministry in 2012. Part of that commitment involves significant increases in personal giving (you can read about that on Page One of this newsletter).

The other vital part of that commitment is the ongoing involvement of members in the day to day work of this church. You can read about that in the 2011 activities and the 2012 plans described in the published **Annual Report**, distributed prior to the Annual Meeting. The AGM is over, but this a handy publication to keep around, because through the committee, council and staff reports, you can see what this congregation is all about, and what we're up to. (You can see the report online at www.mzlc.ca under the *Documents* tab. Or call the church office for a print copy.)

I'm pleased to report attendance at our Annual Meetings is growing: it was 128 (including proxies) this year, compared to 114 in 2011, but I'd like to see it keep growing. There are still a lot of members who miss this once a year meeting where our church family reviews important information and makes some vital decisions.

As I conclude my term as your president, I'd like to share my view of some of the highlights from this year's meeting and from the Annual Report:

Money matters are important

You can read about budget decisions elsewhere, but I want to touch on a proposed money action that was *not* taken by the congregation. It involved our youth and their thoughtful gift of \$1,000 to help pay down our deficit at the end of 2011. Their action was very much appreciated – and people said so. But

some said they also felt a little embarrassed about our youth coming to the church's rescue. Some felt the money should be returned because we ended up with a surplus.

A motion was made to return the donation with thanks, but it was defeated after some members expressed concern that the return of the gift might be misinterpreted – might be seen as lack of appreciation and might give offence to the givers. One of the young people at the meeting said the youth were not looking for the money to be returned. She emphasized the gift was made because “we want to be a part of down here (in the church) – not just up there (upstairs)”

Discussion that resulted from this action was important because, as I saw it, their point was taken. Our young people *are* part of our congregation and we want to include them. It was also voiced that we should do more to help youth ministry than just support fundraisers. (Surprise: support for youth ministry is not even included in our regular budget.) Obvious food for thought and follow up as we consider priorities!

Speaking of priorities

As I mentioned at the Annual Meeting, our – Congregation and Council's – pressing and immediate priorities are to decide what actions we will take to increase effective outreach and witness activities that will help us grow our membership. That is the future for a thriving ministry!

A word about rental properties

There were some questions and brief discussion about our two rental properties – about their condition, value and quality as an investment. I was able to advise a committee will be investigating these questions this year.

Many other topics of concern and interest are addressed throughout the reports from committees

and staff. I encourage you to read them all, but start with these:

Reports of our Co-Pastors

There is so much here as **Pastor Tanya** and **Pastor Krister** talk about their efforts, priorities and plans for ministry with us. To mention just three items: be sure to read their individual comments about mission, Pastor Tanya's take on Lifelong Learning, and Pastor Krister's encouragement and cautions about overcoming some of the “waves” in front of us. All thought-provoking, to say the least.

Worship Ministry

Lots to be excited about here as pastors, music director, choir and musicians continue their efforts “to provide a meaningful scripturally based Lutheran worship experience” for members and visitors. Plans are also afoot to further investigate the incorporation of a digital projection system into our Sunday worship, and to complete the investigation of a new digital exterior signboard along Westmount Road. *(Council approved the purchase at their January meeting. The cost will be subsidized by a synod grant. More details to come)*



Service Ministry

Goals and objectives here will continue encouraging congregational support of community agencies that work to alleviate poverty and human needs. A very active and multi-faceted part of our ministry that challenges each of us to participate.

Witness Ministry

Read about this new committee's plans to provide fellowship opportunities to members and the community at large. The committee draws our attention to their view that an “expanded narthex project” adjacent to the worship area should be

undertaken to provide appropriate space for fellowship opportunities.

Stewardship

The 2012 goals and objectives of this recently re-established committee are ambitious, as they seek ways to bring members together and share Mount Zion's vision for "the challenges and opportunities for ministry that lie ahead." Enthusiastic volunteers are welcome. See how you can participate!

There's so much more that I haven't even touched on, but *The Mountaineer* didn't give me the space to repeat the whole **Annual Report!** So I do encourage you to read it, again, or for the first time. There's so much positive happening, that it's catchy.

Just ask your Church Council members who were acclaimed and installed on February 5: *Tim Ehrlich, Judi Harris, Richard Heimbecker, Dorothy Hobson, Coralee Jyrkama, Gilles Lamothe, David Murison, Shawn Rogers, Rita Schaus, Kirk Swanson, Anne Woolner, and yours truly.*

We ask you for your prayerful support, and look forward to your ongoing involvement in Mount Zion's ministry.

New on Church Council

by Gerry Roeder

Service on Church Council can be anything from challenging and rewarding, to frustrating, educational and enjoyable. It's probably a bit of all of those, and we thank those who accept the opportunity to offer their talents in Council service.

This year, we have three new Council members beginning three-year terms in this important decision-making role. They are:

Richard Heimbecker

Richard and his wife Gloria lived in Orangeville and attended a Presbyterian Church during their early years. Richard then retired and they moved to Fenelon Falls where they joined a United Church. Richard served on the Board or Council at both of these parishes, so you can see he likes to get involved. As time marched on, their children suggested they move back home to Orangeville. They didn't find anything suitable there, but did in Waterloo's Luther Village, where they are living today. They decided to join our Church as it was minutes from where they lived, plus they were familiar with Mount Zion because their daughter Jenny (Baker) is a member, and they had attended confirmation celebrations here for their grandchildren. Both Richard and Gloria feel we have a wonderful church; they have been made to feel welcome here, and they really enjoy and appreciate our pastors. (Gloria also enjoys singing in the choir.) Richard recently underwent an operation which has made his mobility difficult, but he is recovering nicely. He volunteered to join Council when he recognized there was a need for people to serve. We're glad he did, and welcome the wealth of experience he brings with him.

Rita Schaus

Until 1960 when she moved to Kitchener, Rita attended a United Church in Toronto. Her in-laws were Lutheran and were attending St John's in Waterloo. Living in Kitchener, she decided to try a church closer to home. A new congregation, St. Luke's, was just starting up, and she joined prior to the existing building being built. She remained there for 17 years and served on Church Council during that time. When Rita and husband, Arnie, moved to Waterloo, they decided to join Mount Zion. They found they liked the people, and felt welcome as soon as they arrived. For many years, Arnie and Rita spent their winters in Florida, and because of those absences, Rita didn't feel she could commit to serve on Council. When their winter travel plans changed

recently, she offered to join our Council. (Arnie sings in the choir). Rita says she takes a special interest in wanting to know how the Church operates, and what's involved in helping to make our congregation continue to grow. Great, Rita!

Anne Woolner

Anne is well known as a long serving member of our congregation. She's the daughter of charter members Rhoda and Charlie Ernst, was confirmed at Mount Zion, and was very active in Luther League as a youth. She has always been an outstanding volunteer. Anne has taught Sunday School; organized and ran our Vacation Bible School for many summers; sang in the choir, was involved as our youth co-ordinator, and served previously on Church Council. In her professional life, she is a music and special education teacher at a country school in the Milverton area. Anne volunteered to join Council again, because she would like to have a better understanding and voice in some of the decisions that are being made. Thanks for stepping up again, Anne.

Council team

Our three new Councillors, plus Kirk Swanson (who just completed a Council term, but agreed to serve another three years!), join Tim Ehrlich, Judi Harris, David Heldman, Dorothy Hobson, Coralee Jyrkama, Gilles Lamothe, David Murison and Shawn Rogers, to form our 2012 elected leadership team. We wish them well, and thank them for the interest and talents they bring to the Council table.

A vote of thanks goes to retiring Councillors Julie Joza, Helga Juergensen and Marg Tupling, who have completed their terms of office. Their dedication and service have been much appreciated. A special thank you also to David Heldman, for his caring leadership during a very busy two years as Congregational President. Dave continues his service this year as a Councillor.

Council Notes



Although this is old news, it is worthwhile noting that the meeting finalizing the proposed 2012 budget was the longest and most difficult meeting in many years.

- Council approved the proposal from Worship and Music recommending the replacement of our current sign which was in poor condition and increasingly difficult to change with a digital sign. The funding for this will come out of the capital budget as well as a contribution from the Synod.
- Council received a report from the Caring Conversations 7 seminar held at Mount Zion in the fall and suggested that it would be a good idea to remind the congregation of the Church's position and encourage dialogue to continue. The pastors expressed a reluctance to proceed without clear support from the congregation.

Milestone Celebrations



During the fall of 2011, two members of our congregation successfully completed academic degrees.

Jackie Nunns completed her MA in Theology: Christian Studies with a focus on Adult Education in the ELCIC from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

Matthew Ramer completed his PhD in Molecular Biology from the University of Waterloo.

Congratulations too to **Anne Lowe** and **James & Linda Schneider** for becoming grandparents.



Caring Connections

By Betty Behm R.N. BScN., Parish Nurse

The focus for the month of March is kidney health. Your kidneys are important because they do three essential things:

Kidneys regulate water necessary for the body to work properly. One of the important jobs of the kidneys is to remove excess water from the body or to retain water when the body needs more. **Kidneys remove wastes** keeping many of the substances in the blood and body fluid at the correct level for the body to function properly. When the kidneys are working properly, excess minerals, such as sodium and potassium, are excreted from the body in the urine. The kidneys also help to regulate the levels of other minerals, such as calcium and phosphate, which are important for the formation of bone.

Kidneys produce hormones, important chemical messengers which circulate in the bloodstream and regulate some body functions such as blood pressure, the making of red blood cells, and the uptake of calcium from the intestine.

There is no single cause of chronic kidney disease. Some forms of the disease may be inherited, while others are acquired.

The two most common causes are **diabetes** and **high blood pressure**. Others are glomerulonephritis (nephritis), polycystic kidney disease, urinary tract obstruction, reflux nephropathy, and drug- or medication-induced kidney problems. Bacteria such as E. coli and bacterial infections, such as strep throat, are other culprits.

What can you do to prevent kidney disease?

Get your blood pressure checked regularly to ensure you are within a healthy range. Remember, early detection and treatment can prevent more significant health concerns. If you are diabetic make every effort to maintain a healthy blood sugar level through diet and medication.

Be very careful about taking non-prescription medications, particularly painkillers. It is wise to discuss all over-the-counter medications with a doctor or pharmacist before they are taken. Certain other medications, toxins, pesticides and illegal drugs (such as heroin and cocaine) can also cause kidney damage. Your doctor can explain the problems associated with long-term use or abuse of these substances.

Cookbook Project

The Mount Zion Cook book is well underway and we are still accepting those delicious recipes. We would especially like to share vegetarian and heart healthy recipes. Please submit your recipes via e-mail to

schaushaus@yahoo.ca

Handwritten recipes can be dropped in Nurse Betty's mailbox.

And don't forget to enter the contest to Name the Cookbook.



You may win a free copy. The deadline for submission is March 31

\$\$\$\$ Thanks a Million \$\$\$\$

A message from your Stewardship Committee

The old phrase “Thanks a million!” doesn’t usually have anything to do with money. It’s simply an emphatic way to say “Thanks!” many, many (a million!) times over for a special deed or amazing service rendered.

However, the truth of the matter is that Mount Zion’s members did put a lot of money into our congregation’s bank account in the last month of



2011. So much was given, in fact, that a looming deficit of \$30,000 was replaced by a surplus of \$3,137 in our current account. Amazing! And now we want to say “thank you, thank you, Thank You! Thanks a million!”

The financial support of Mount Zion’s members during this past year has enabled us to provide ministries and programs for our growth in faith and service, and to maintain our building and other properties. But more than this, our offerings have resulted in wonderful support for our church-wide endeavours, and community agencies who are offering help to those whose way in life is hard.

During 2011 we

- Received excellent care, guidance and uplifting worship experiences from our pastors, Tanya and Krister
- Benefitted from the nurture, support and knowledge of our Parish Nurse, Betty
- Had our spirits lifted and our hearts warmed through the musical offerings of our Music Director, Scott
- Experienced wonderful, warm welcomes to Mount Zion – and lots of printed material – thanks to our secretary, Muriel
- Enjoyed worshipping and meeting in a church building kept clean by our custodian, Theresa

- Were able to participate in Bible studies and other learning opportunities for children, youth and adults
- Paid all the bills for light, heat, water, insurance, etc.

Also, because of our financial support, we

- Provided early learning opportunities for children with special needs through *Open Sesame*
- Assisted various community agencies: *House of Friendship, Food Bank of Waterloo Region, SHOW (Supportive Housing of Waterloo), Trinity Village, Trek4Kids, Marillac Place, Anselma House, Habitat for Humanity* and *Out of the Cold* ministries at St. John’s and St. Matthew’s.
- Offered assistance and hope to suffering people around the world through *Canadian Lutheran World Relief*
- Worked together with other Lutheran congregations to provide for our synodical summer camps, *Waterloo Lutheran Seminary*, campus ministry, our *Eastern Synod Lutheran*, mission congregations and many other ministries through our benevolence offerings
- Gave food vouchers to hungry persons knocking at the church door

All of these actions were made possible because of the money our members put in offering envelopes from week to week – or had deducted from their bank accounts through Pre-Authorized Giving (which we call PAR.)

And so it is that this great big THANK YOU! is well deserved.

And now, it’s 2012, and we know there are new financial challenges ahead. Please join us to meet them by continuing your support of the wonderful ministries for which Mount Zion is known!

Members of your Mount Zion Stewardship Committee are: Tim Ehrlich, Judi Harris, Richard Heimbecker, Gerry Roeder, Mel Schmidt and Joan Schweitzer

Adopt a Cause action

Reaching out to Mary's Place and now Pride Stables too!

It was October of 2011 when our Service Committee talked about adopting four community agencies to be the focus of congregational support during 2012. Committee members came up with 18 recommendations which they narrowed to four – each of which would become a Mount Zion 'Adopt a Cause' in a different quarter of 2012. For the first quarter, Mary's Place residence/shelter in Kitchener is receiving our attention.

Committee member **Margaret Murison** tells how we've been doing:



Think for a moment about the things we use daily. We need sheets, blankets, and pillows on a bed. In the bathroom we use soap, shampoo, towels, shaving cream, and makeup. We eat our meals using dishes, mugs and cutlery. We clean our homes with brooms, dustpans and mops. Perhaps we need to travel by bus. These are among the *Wish List* necessities sought and appreciated at Mary's Place.

We launched our appeal for support on January 1, and the response from the congregation has been overwhelming. By January 25, Ann Crossman and I were able to deliver our first shipment of items to Mary's Place. We dropped off dishes, cutlery, pillows, bedding, pyjamas, slippers, toiletries and toys and activities for children. Gift cards were also included, and were really appreciated.

We were also told how pleased they were to receive pillows. That struck home. Everyone likes to have a pillow of their own. I can well understand this, as I keep meaning to replace my own well-worn pillow, but keep putting it off. It's like having an old friend to rest my head on.

It is hard to imagine what it would be like to have to leave one's home and start again with nothing – not even a pillow. I believe we who are blessed with a

steady income and the security of a home, have a responsibility to help provide assistance and comfort to families in much less fortunate positions. Through our *Adopt a Cause* outreach, we have a practical opportunity to do just that.

Our focus on Mary's Place runs until the end of March - and I see the pile of goods in our narthex is growing again. That means I can look forward to making more trips to Mary's Place to drop off more of our Mount Zion family's generous support to this wonderful community agency. So please do keep me – and other Service Committee members - running!

On the table below the *Adopt a Cause* banner in the narthex, is a box where you can deposit *Wish List* items you may want to contribute to Mary's Place (copies of the *Wish List* are available on the table). Financial gifts can also be made through your regular church envelope simply by putting the words "Mary's Place" on the "Other" line. Thank you for your caring assistance.

Pride Stables



While Margaret and her crew are finishing up the work of Mary's Place, Shawn Rogers and other members of the Service Committee are readying themselves for the committee's second quarter venture...the support of Pride Stables. The Central Ontario Developmental Riding Program (C.O.D.R.P.)/Pride Stables offers therapeutic horseback riding lessons to over 340 riders with disabilities from Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and surrounding areas. During the summer months, Camp Pride, an eight- week integrated day camp, is in full operation with close to 200 children. During each lesson, riders learn the basics of riding a horse, depending on their abilities. Over the next three months, Mount Zion members will be hearing more about how we can support their work.

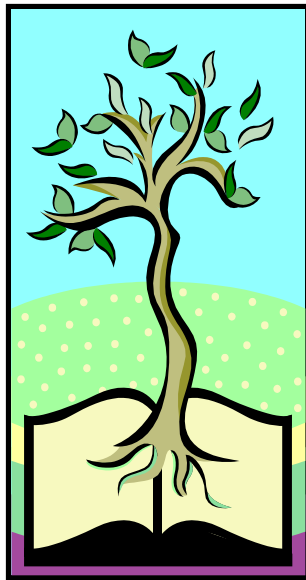
Reflections on

Life Long Learning & Lent

By Pastor Tanya

For many years here at Mount Zion, when the season of Lent is near, the outside church sign has been changed to read *Lent means Spring*. A simplistic definition, but one that holds much richness.

The season of Lent consists of a 40- day journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday (excluding Sundays, which are in Lent but not of Lent – meaning the 40 days run from Monday-Saturday). It is the time of year when new growth springs forth in our world, and this image ties in beautifully with the church. During the season of Lent, we are invited to open ourselves up to the new life Jesus, the Christ, offers us through his life, death, and resurrection.



This year, we are using many of our gathering times (worship & learning), to grow into this gift of living faith:

During our worship, will be focusing on the journey Jesus makes to the cross, and the continuation of his teaching and ministry.

Our Life Long Learning event will follow Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesday evenings at 7:15pm (February 29 – April 4) and focus on **Who Is This Jesus?** (see to the right)

Our journey through Lent reminds us to make space in our lives to think about our relationship with God, through Life Long learning, and the ways in which we are responding to God's love and care for us, through worship and outreach.

Who Is This Jesus?

During his life and death, Jesus' followers tried to make sense of who he was using images and characters from the Hebrew bible. We have taken many of these descriptions into our liturgies and hymns, perhaps without really understanding what they mean.

On Wednesday evenings during Lent we will meet after Holden Evening Prayer to explore various portrayals of Jesus in scripture and worship, for example, Jesus as prophet or Jesus as Sophia. After learning what the image might have meant to the early Christians, participants will have a chance to ask who Jesus is to them.

Session 1 - Jesus as a Prophet

Session 2 - Jesus as Elijah

Session 3 - Jesus as the Messiah

Session 4 - Jesus as Sophia (Wisdom)

Session 5 - Jesus as the Suffering Servant

Session 6 - Jesus as High Priest, Sacrifice and Passover Lamb

Please bring a Bible.

Contact Jackie Nunns at jackienunns@sympatico.ca for more information.

Confirmation Information

Confirmation Camp forms (registration & health) are due **March 25** to Pastor Tanya

There will be **NO** Confirmation class on Thursday, March 15, as this is the School March Break. Please note, however, that there is still class on March 11th.

Youth Programming

March 2 – Games night at the Church – bring your favourite game and a friend

March 24 – John Penteker - Roast Beef Dinner Fundraiser (to raise funds for Confirmation Camp 2012/National Youth Gathering)

March 25 – VET application forms for Confirmation Camp are due to Pastor Tanya

Worship main course in lively breakfast discussion

by Gerry Roeder

Every other Saturday, a dozen or so men from Mount Zion gather at a local eatery for fellowship, discussion, and breakfast. Recently, “worship” was the main topic on the discussion menu, and as can be imagined, it generated some lively conversation on everything from liturgy, prayer, sermons and hymns, to communion and readings.

Liturgy, the form in which we worship, is clearly a distinguishing feature of the Lutheran church. While over the years incremental updates have been made to the words and music, it was clear from our discussion that some still found the wording “old fashioned”, and perhaps irrelevant. And others wondered whether parts of it really reflected our present day understanding of our faith. As a counterpoint, we were reminded that much of the liturgy is now sung. Lyrically, it is most pleasant, and most of us would be lost without it.

If the liturgy is not the big “draw” for some, then what is it that attracts one to church every Sunday? Here we had a variety of responses. Some mentioned the importance of the sermon, when it is timely, relevant and well-delivered. Others found communion much more worshipful, and for others the music sets both the scene and the mood. Each of us seemed to have a favourite part of the service, and we certainly didn’t want it to be lost in some type of renewal.

Everyone has all-time favourite hymns, learned from childhood, and no matter what the wording version used, these hymns still belong in the “most loved category”. Hymns written in the last half of the twentieth century were seen by a few as much more relevant, uplifting and worshipful than singing about “what a wretch am I”. Whatever one’s persuasion, music seems to be very important in our expression of and devotion to our faith. It was mentioned

though, that a few of our hymns have far too many verses.

All agreed that our sense of community might even be the most important reason for gathering together. Promoting that sense of community is a bit of a conundrum when members come from such a

wide area of the Twin Cities. Yet Paul in his letter to the Corinthians emphasizes the importance of community and, “being of one body”. How to do that in the 21st century is a puzzle.

While the order of service has a reason, as explained by Pastor Tanya in her Sunday “liturgyl bites”, it was recounted how, in a large community church, the offering or tithes were collected immediately after the *first* hymn. In jest, someone said this was in case the sermon was not very good!

The Old Testament lesson came in for quite a bit of critiquing. No one seemed to know why it was included - when read with no context, seemingly with no relation to the other readings, and rarely included anywhere in the sermon. The exception is when a lector does begin by providing a clear context for the reading.

Richard Crossman, a retired seminary principal dean and professor, explained that the Old Testament lesson is part of the set lessons read worldwide every Sunday, but noted it is not uncommon for Lutheran churches to omit this first lesson, probably for the reasons expressed by the group.

Lutherans in general use two creeds, the Apostles’ and the Nicene. Here again members differed on their acceptance of some of the elements in these. Some still recite the words without thinking, some are fully accepting of all the statements, and



somewhat surprisingly, there were a few who refused to recite one or the other or both, demonstrating the variance of beliefs one would probably find in any congregation.

Other factors such as the time of worship were mentioned, as was the restrictive size of our narthex, which received recurring mention as a hindrance to our efforts to build community.

The delight of these breakfasts is that everyone comes with a different perspective on their faith, everything is discussable, no one is ever offended, and the opportunity to try out new ideas is accepted by all. For those who would like to join us for breakfast: you are most welcome to come and see if our discussion topics meet your interests. (You can also suggest topics.) Or if you would like to see upcoming topics, they can be e-mailed to you every other week. Just leave your name and e-mail address at the church office. We'd like to hear from you!

The Men's Breakfast will meet March 11th and 24th. and April 14th and 28th. If you are interested in joining this group, please speak with Gerry Roeder (gerryroeder@hotmail.com).



Letter to the Editor

I appreciate the "Liturgy Bites" that Pastor Tanya has recently introduced to our Sunday morning worship services. They are a good mini refresher course of my confirmation studies. These reminders of "why we do, what we do" enriches my worship experience.

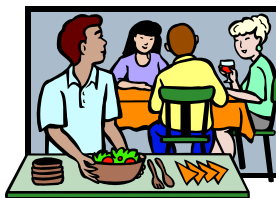
Susan Brubacher

Mount Zion Women's Annual Retreat

Our 27th Annual Retreat will be held in Cedar Lodge, at Camp Edgewood, Fri. April 20th - Sun. April 22nd. We are looking forward to having Pastor Joanna Miller, from Zion Phillipsburg, as our leader, as we explore the theme "Treasured". Our registration fee remains at \$85. and deadline for registration is April 9th. Registration forms will be available on the bulletin board. Remember to register early as many women from other congregations will be attending as well. Once again we will have access to a limited number of beds at poolside so if this is your preference please contact Carol Ziegler at 886-6675. If you have any questions about this week-end you may also speak to Pat Edwards or Pam Buchan. Come and give yourself a "Gift of Time"...."Time for Spiritual Renewal"....."Time for Laughter"....and time for smelling spring in the air at Camp Edgewood.

Roast Beef Dinner Fundraiser

Join us on Saturday March 24th at 5 p.m. for our Annual Roast Beef Dinner Fundraiser. Once again, we have John Penteker amazing us in the kitchen



with his delectable roast beef. This fundraiser is organized by the youth at Mount Zion and there is a sign up sheet in the narthex if you are able to join us. Money raised will help our youth participate in Confirmation Camp 2012 and/or the National youth Gathering in Saskatoon this coming August. FaithLife Financial will be matching these funds up to \$500. Come out for a great evening of fellowship & fantastic food.

Spencer-Barche & Synod Scholarships Applications available

These funds are available for the school year 2012-2013. The purpose is to encourage, through financial support, Christian young people enrolling in post-secondary educational institutions. This support is designed to enable them to pursue a vocation in society as Christian men and women.



Submission deadline is May 14th, 2012

Applications can be found at <http://www.easternsynod.org/story/2012-01-18-synod-scholarshipspencer-barche-application-available> or speak with Pastor Tanya

Together in Worship



Sunday, February 26

1st SUNDAY IN LENT

Holy Communion 8:45 a.m.

Confirmation Class 9:50 a.m.

Sunday Church School 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion 10:45 a.m.

Readings:

Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

Wednesday, February 29

MID WEEK WORSHIP

Holden Evening Prayer 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, March 4

2nd SUNDAY IN LENT

Holy Communion 8:45 a.m.

Confirmation Class 9:50 a.m.

Sunday Church School 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion 10:45 a.m.

Readings:

17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

Wednesday, March 7

MID WEEK WORSHIP

Holden Evening Prayer 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, March 11

3rd SUNDAY IN LENT

Holy Communion 8:45 a.m.

Confirmation Class 9:50 a.m.

NO Sunday Church School

Holy Communion 10:45 a.m.

Readings:

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-33

Wednesday, March 14

MID WEEK WORSHIP

Holden Evening Prayer 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, March 18

4th SUNDAY IN LENT

Holy Communion 8:45 a.m.

NO Confirmation Class

NO Sunday Church School

Holy Communion 10:45 a.m.

Readings:

Numbers 21:4-9;

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

Wednesday, March 21

MID WEEK WORSHIP

Holden Evening Prayer 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, March 25

5th SUNDAY IN LENT

Holy Communion 8:45 a.m.

Confirmation Class 9:50 a.m.

Sunday Church School 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion 10:45 a.m.

Readings:

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Wednesday, March 28

MID WEEK WORSHIP

Holden Evening Prayer 7:15 p.m.

Funerals

Owena Rennie entered life eternal on January 20, 2012. A celebration of her life will take place on January 28, 2012

Marion Schmidt entered life eternal on February 3, 2012. A celebration of her life took place on February 7, 2012

The nursery is looking for more volunteers to assist on Sunday morning during worship. If you are able to share your gifts with our children, please speak to Donna Harris (Coordinator)

The Mountaineer is a publication of Mount Zion Lutheran Church

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Deadline for April Issue:

March 15, 2012

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