



## 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.*



## Put Yourself in the Picture

Those of us who work on *The Mountaineer* are very excited. Because of a lease of an updated photo copier in the office, we are now able to successfully print pictures. Problem is, we don't have any. Please help us out, by sending photos of your events and celebrations and we will print for all to see. Send the photos along with a caption telling us who is who, to [gastmeier@rogers.com](mailto:gastmeier@rogers.com) Let's not have anymore pictures with no people in them.

## Congregation and Co-Pastors: re-committed to common mission

by Pastors Tanya and Krister

*Church Council recently revisited and reaffirmed commitment to the visionary goals set out in the Strategic Directions adopted by Mount Zion in 2004. Those goals remain an ongoing challenge for all members of our congregation.*

*They are so important that they were front and centre when Pastors Tanya Ramer and Krister Ulmanis sat down this summer to review and discuss how to move forward with their co-pastor ministry among us.*

*The pastors used the Strategic Directions to focus on the needs and dreams of the congregation – and on how they can use their ministry gifts, talents and experience to help translate that vision of mission into hands-on ministry.*

*Their Co-Pastor Portfolios were discussed with Mutual Ministry Committee, then reviewed and approved by Church Council. The article that follows was prepared by the pastors for the reference of all Mount Zion's members. The information shared illustrates a unity of commitment to a common mission.*

*- Jim Widdecombe, Mutual Ministry Committee*

**Strategic Direction #1 – Congregational Development - *This congregation will cultivate faithful participants and leaders to share in the life and mission of this community.*** This initiative will encourage the recruitment and training of new leaders, and nurture the involvement of youth and succession planning of youth leaders.

What does this mean for your pastors? Of course both of us will be working closely with other members of Mount Zion's ministry team (Parish Nurse Betty Behm, Music Director Scott Knarr and Secretary Muriel Tillich) and with committee members. Pastor Krister will be working particularly with Health Council, and with the Service, Stewardship, Finance, and Witness Committees. For Pastor Tanya, it will mean working closely with the Learning Ministries in the congregation (Nursery, Sunday Church School, Confirmation, Youth Group, and Adult Learning) and with Property Committee. She will also serve as liaison with the Staff Support Committee. Both pastors will work closely with Church Council and Mutual Ministry Committee, and will assist ad hoc committees where necessary. Both will also be carving out time to assist with publications (e.g. worship guides and *Mountaineer*)

In relating to staff and the various committees, we pastors seek to support the congregation in its work and mission, and in development of necessary leadership for the present time and the future. ***Continued on Page 2***

Strategic Direction #2 – **Worship** - ***This congregation will be inclusive, multi-faceted, and multi-generational in our worship and music.*** In liturgy, dance, drama, music, and service styles, we will seek to affirm our Lutheran identity and tradition while remaining open to new needs and opportunities.

As worship is the anchor ministry for our congregation, and the centre for which new and current members alike gather, the pastors will work diligently at crafting worship services in conjunction with our Music Director, and with the Worship & Music Committee. Guidance will also be given to the Altar Guild.

Significant time and effort will be dedicated to preparing sermons, choosing hymns, providing pastoral care for baptisms, weddings, and funerals. We will also continue efforts to recruit and train new worship volunteers.

Strategic Direction #3 – **Outreach** - ***This congregation will communicate and demonstrate our “Mission Statement” to our neighbours and our congregation.*** In all areas of ministry, we will strive to articulate a clear identity by responding to the needs of our congregation and the wider community, toward whom we are called in mission.

Responding to the needs of congregation and society has always been of great importance to the Church. To that end, we pastors, as well as Mount Zion’s Parish Nurse, will continue to visit our homebound members and those who are admitted to hospitals; those we ask for pastoral visitation, as well as new members to the congregation. Supporting congregational outreach efforts to potential new members will be an ongoing priority.

We will also keep regular contact with other congregations and agencies in the community, looking for possible opportunities to minister to our society. We will stay informed about opportunities in the Seminary, K-W Conference and Synod, and pass along important information to the congregation as it becomes available.

Strategic Direction #4 – **Stewardship** - ***This congregation will develop and implement a strategy that will help our members to grow in their understanding and exercise of Christian stewardship.*** This initiative will nurture support of the church’s mission through the commitment of time, talents and treasures.

Mount Zion now has an established Stewardship Committee, dedicated to nurturing time, talents, and

treasures in the congregation. We pastors will support this vital ministry by giving spiritual direction in sermons, education and newsletter articles. We will also give ongoing attention to updating and keeping parish records relevant.

Strategic Direction #5 - – **Property Development** - ***This congregation will manage our physical resources in a manner that all property use and development will be mission driven, and that strives to provide a facility that offers a welcoming space which fosters fellowship and enables growth.*** Priority will be given to the redevelopment of narthex, office, worship and storage space. (The congregation’s Space Planning Task Group completed initial investigation and plans for this in 2010.) We will work with the congregation to vision boldly as to how to use the land and buildings we have at our disposal to further God’s vision of outreach to the community. To dream is to envision the Kingdom of God here and now. Let us be bold in all we do in this place, that it may seek to bring God closer to people, and people closer to God.

We pastors look forward to serving together - as co-pastors - and to working – co-operatively - with fellow members of this congregation in furthering the ministry of Christ in the world. May God’s blessings be with Mount Zion’s members in all our endeavors in His Name.

Sincerely,

Pastor Tanya and Pastor Krister

## Hospital Visitation

Please help the Mount Zion pastoral team provide an effective Hospital Visitation Ministry. If you, or someone you know, are admitted to the hospital remember to let the Church know (519.886.5820) so a visit can be made.

With new privacy laws in place there is no way for the pastors to know who is in hospital unless someone connected to the patient lets us know. Thank you.

# A reflection on surviving – and flourishing

*From David Heldman, Congregational President*

*Survival, Existence, Being, Subsistence, Persistence:* five different words with some similar shades of meaning. *Survival* is the one that stands out for me. Just think of all it represents.

When I stand in my yard, I can count or identify all the living things that are “surviving.” Grass, flowers, trees, shrubs, all plant life (even weeds!), and they all need rain and sunshine if they are to live (survive).

Then there are those pesky flies, ants, spiders, bees and other insects that scurry out of my way. So too will the birds and little animals who run to their homes to protect themselves and their young.



Everything I see in my yard that has the means to survive – but not on its own. Nature (God, to me) has provided a system for all living creatures, plant or animal, to pursue life.

For whatever reason, all of the above gets me thinking about Mount Zion.

I invite you to try that too; to think about our place of worship, ask your own questions and draw your own conclusions about how it will live its life in the days and years ahead.

Our Church is structured with two Pastors, 12 Council Members, five Support Staff, 25 Working Committees, and several hundred active members and families. Nature, it would seem, has equipped us well to pursue our mission to serve our congregation and community.

However, even with all of this support and these resources, we have experienced a reduction in members, lower worship and Sunday School attendance, and dare I say, sometimes a less than burning commitment to our Church’s needs and mission.

What is the solution?

First, much as I am taken with that word “survival”, I don’t think that’s enough for Mount Zion. That’s because we don’t want to just exist – we want to flourish. And

personally, I’m convinced we’ve got the ministry team and the core membership to do just that. Working together, relying on each other, we can grow and flourish. That begins with little things, like expressing appreciation often:

To our Pastors, to our Music Director, to our Parish Nurse, to our Secretary;

To the people of all ages – from the pews - who participate and help regularly with Sunday service and our many church activities; to fulfill our mission.

To our Committees that work so hard to carry out our wishes and expectations

(Think of it as standing in that yard and appreciating all the wonderful gifts of God that are right there.)

Flourishing also means expressing your own commitment:

When asked to serve on Council,

When asked to lend your talents to a Committee,

When asked to help with Worship,

When asked to volunteer with Sunday School, Open Sesame or other service and learning endeavors.

(Remember how all God’s creatures in that yard are committed to providing for their young and their families)

Flourishing also requires spreading the word:

Expressing your stewardship;

Expressing the spiritual uplifting that comes in Worship;

Telling about the worthy works we are doing in the community;

Encouraging others to take advantage of the learning opportunities we offer in our Church;

Inviting others to join us here – for everything our church family offers;

Expressing the fulfillment you experience from being a member of Mount Zion.

(Remember how all plant life shows its true beauty when in full bloom – when it flourishes!)

I’m having second thoughts about that survival word. After all, for 50 plus years Mount Zion congregation has done much more than survive. So for today’s world, “flourishing” is really a much better word to get attached to, and a better goal for us to pursue.



# Mount Zion's Service to Others *A Look at our Service Committee*

By Ann Crossman

**The Service Committee** is the committee in the church which does most of its work in the **community** and in the **world**. It is responsible for guiding our Mount Zion members to be a congregation **In Mission for Others**. The last sentence in Mount Zion's Mission Statement is "**To share God's love by living our faith**". What better way to do these two things than to do God's work outside the walls of Mount Zion. The members of the committee as well as most congregational members believe that God's work is done by not only by coming to Church on Sunday morning and meeting the needs of Mount Zion, but in helping people in our local community and in places all over the world.

The Terms of Reference of the Service committee is, "**To work with congregational members to promote justice, and reconciliation, meet human need and alleviate suffering.**"

The Service Committee strives to achieve this by asking our church members to care and to show their caring by helping others. Many people in the congregation do not realize the amount of **Ministry in Society** we do. However in the Eastern Synod and in the community, we are recognized as one of the most active congregations in this work. A few years ago, a church asked Synod Office for help in starting a Service Committee and was told to contact Mount Zion, because of the "understanding of service to others" demonstrated by Mount Zion People.

The committee encourages and offers opportunities for members of Mount Zion to support various agencies already helped by the committee. The following paragraphs will give examples of these programs of the Service Committee. They also urge everyone to find other opportunities in the community outside the church initiatives in which they can serve. Many Mount Zion members serve in many capacities.

The whole congregation physically serves in many ways such as **The Potato Blitz, Stuff A Truck, We Care Bags, The Food Drives**. However, we also serve when we contribute funds to the many agencies and projects that

help people in need. Following are some of the things to which Mount Zion members contribute their time and money.

A portion of Mount Zion's benevolence offerings is used for programs in this community. Each year, \$1500 is given from our benevolence fund to three community organizations chosen by the Service Committee. In the last few years, we have given money to St. John's Lutheran Church and St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the **Out Of The Cold** programs, to **SHOW** (Supportive Housing of Waterloo), to **Mary's Place**, to **Anselma House** and to **Marallac Place**.

Many other local projects have been helped by Mount Zion's members. When **Habitat for Humanity** started in K-W, Mount Zion became a "covenant church" and later helped with the Lutheran build in Kitchener. Each year we serve lunch and snacks at a Habitat build. Mount Zion became one of the 11 original churches with a board member on **SHOW** (Supportive Housing of Waterloo), and has helped with many projects for this endeavour. The Service Committee also has a board member on **The House of Friendship** and had members participate in the "Trek for Kids." **Open Sesame Headstart Preschool** for special needs children has been praised by the Region of Waterloo, Kid's Ability, and Family and Children's Services for over 40 years. Mount Zion has helped many **Refugees** in the past and is currently helping a refugee from Eritrea to come to Canada. We have also made contributions to **The Food Bank of Waterloo Region** and continually ask for money to be given for **Food Vouchers** that the pastors give when people come to the church looking for help. The **Community Gardens** provide space to both members and community people. Space is also provided for the **Chinese Elders Program** and other community organizations.

We give benevolence money to the **Eastern Synod** for programs such as **Campus Ministry, Church Camps, The Seminary, and Administration**.

Part of the benevolence money also goes to the **Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada**. Mount Zion members have also been very generous in the help given to **Canadian Lutheran World Relief**, which supports national and international assistance programs. This



helps in areas devastated by **hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes**— most recently in Haiti and Japan. Many members of Mount Zion have participated in the CLWR initiative called **We Care Bags** each year. These are sent to needy people all over the world. There is a CLWR program named **Compassionate Justice Initiatives** which helps local programs. Open Sesame has received \$2000 from this project this year.

The Service Committee is grateful for the very generous congregational response to our many invitations to be in **In Mission for Others**, and we believe that congregational members do live the last sentence of our mission statement, **to share God’s love by living our faith**. There are always more opportunities to help. We welcome any new members of the committee and also any ideas that you have concerning new ways we can minister. If you have not had that opportunity, more will be coming where you can lend a hand. There is no end to human need here at home and around the world, so when we hear of another appeal, let’s continue to remind one another to never grow weary of helping others!

**More from the Service Committee**

The Service Committee invites you to attend the **House of Friendship Fundraising Dinner on October 28th**. The guest speaker this year is Jane Roy, Co-Executive Director of the London Food Bank. Entertainment will be provided by Mike Erb. The dinner takes place at St. Loius Catholic Church, 53 Allen St. East, Waterloo. Tickets are \$50 per person and can be obtained from Margaret Murison.

**Food Bank Of Waterloo Region** There are over thousands of people in this region living below the poverty line. These people need our help! Mount Zion will be participating in the annual fall food drive during September/October. We will be collecting nonperishable items and/or money for the Food Bank of Waterloo Region beginning Sunday, September 25, through Sunday, October 30, 2010. Please place your nonperishable items in the Food Bank Boxes in the Narthex.

If you would like to make a cash 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. Need continues to outstrip available resources in the face of the continued uncertainty in the economy. Please open your hearts to this worthy cause.



**Caring Connections**

By Betty Behm, Parish Nurse

**Walk to Bethlehem**

The Walk to Bethlehem has begun. For the next ten weeks as a congregation we will walk the distance from Mount Zion to Bethlehem which is approximately 20,320 kilometers. Count your steps or convert your activity into the appropriate distance. Report your total activity each week to our coordinator, Virginia Slack. If you forget to report one week, just bring it the following week. It’s not too late to participate. All are welcome to join us on this journey.

**Goals of the Walk**

- To promote healthy exercise
- To encourage prayerful focus
- To encourage one another



**Super Singles** meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month for fun and fellowship following the second service. You can meet them in the Narthex to carpool to a local restaurant for brunch/lunch.

**Prayer Station** during communion on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Bring your concerns and cares regarding others so we might prayer for you. Scripture tells us that when two or three are gathered together God hears their pleas.

**Friendly Visitors** Our group of visitors is in need of additional members. Can you spare a couple of hours a month to visit one or two of our homebound members. No special skill is required, just a listening ear and a desire to serve the Lord. Please see one of the pastors or nurse Betty if you are interested in this ministry.

**Soup-er Sunday!**

Thank you to all who contributed time and energy to help make Soup-er Sunday successful and fun-filled. A total of \$226 was collected with contributions going to the K-W Alzheimer’s Society and toward the annual maintenance of our defibrillator.

## Supporting our Ministry

Year to Date as of August 31, 2011 –

AT: August, 2011

<u>CURRENT</u>	2011	2010
Income	162,378	180,327
Expense	183,103	222,992
Balance	-20,725	-42,665

### BENEVOLENCE

Synod	24,098	26,455
CLWR	8,259	4,217
Open Sesame	5,440	8,425
Other	18,140	18,741
Total	55,937	57,838

### CAPITAL

Income	7,866	8,615
Expense	1,962	9,845

What does this mean?

- January current account deficit was \$ 2,057.00
- February current account deficit was \$ 2,571.00
- March current account deficit was \$ 5,219.00
- April current account deficit was \$ 2,040.00  
(including Easter offering)
- May current account deficit was \$ 856.28
- June current account deficit was \$ 2,339.94
- July current account deficit was \$ 166.29
- August current account deficit was \$ 5,726.45
- The Total Income for the year we approved at the Annual General Meeting was \$292,906.00. To meet this income target we need an income of \$24,408.83/month (\$292,906.00 divided by 12).
- In order to meet our budget approved at the Annual Meeting the income we *should have* reached as of August 31 is \$195,270.64. We are \$32,892.64 SHORT of our target!!!
- *Please note that as of August 1 we have been paying Pr. Tanya half time salary and as of September 1 it will be a full salary and benefits. Please adjust your giving accordingly.*

## Learning ...a lifelong activity at Mount Zion



**Nursery** The nursery is available for children under the age of 3. It provides care for your child and it provides opportunities for learning about the Bible and Faith through Colouring Sheets and story time.



**Sunday School** Please note that in October, Sunday School returns to its Fall schedule time of **10:30am**. This allows for our children to participate in the important learning of Bible Stories and then gives them the opportunity to rejoin their families for Holy Communion in worship. Are you full of good ideas? Do you love sharing your Faith? Sunday School is looking for people who are interested in sharing their love for God with our children at Mount Zion. If you could teach, even one Sunday a term, we would love to have you join our team. Please speak to Rosalind Marshall if you are able to assist with this important ministry.

### **Confirmation Information**

Please see your confirmation hand out for a schedule of meeting times for the month of October.

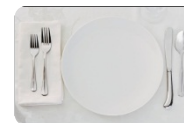


gathering and upcoming events.

### **Youth Programming**

Due to a late meeting in September, please watch the Sunday Morning Worship guide for a date and time of our next

### **Men's Breakfast**



The dates for the Men's Breakfast will be October 1, October 15, October 29, November 13, November 26, December 10. If you are interested in joining this group, please speak with Gerry Roeder.

## Women's Group –



This fall you are invited to read and discuss with others the book, "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett. This best-selling novel is set in the early 1960's in Jackson, Mississippi. Stockett captures the struggle for black civil rights through the story of a naïve young white woman who decides to write a book about the experiences of local black maids, known as "the help", and the black women who dare to tell their stories. Deeply moving, and filled with humour and hope, "The Help" is a story about the painful lines that are drawn around people's lives, and how people summon the courage to cross them.

Books will be available for purchase on Sunday mornings Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> (cost \$16.50) On Wednesday, Nov 16 at 7:15 pm, we will gather to discuss this wonderful book. All are welcome.

## LifeLong Learning – Fall 2011



Join us October & November for 2 opportunities for continued education at Mount Zion. In October we will be holding the Wednesday evening (7-8:30 pm) and Thursday afternoon (2-3:30 pm) focusing on the topic: **The Nature of Evil.**

We will discuss:

*October 19/20 - Session 1 - What is Evil? What does the Lord's Prayer mean when it says 'Deliver us from evil?'*

*October 26/27 - Session 2 - Evil in the Bible – Romans 7:15-25a and other Biblical references*

*November 2/3 – Session 3 – little 'd' devil vs. big 'D' Devil – A Lutheran Understanding*

*November 9/10 - Session 4 - Does God will evil and suffering in the world and in our lives?/ Do Lutherans believe that humans are born evil or choose to do evil?*

During the Season of Advent, join us after mid-week Holden evening worship on Wednesday evenings, when we will focus on Prayer with Jackie Nunns.

## Church Council Notes *from Tim Ehrlich*

- Muriel Tillich has served our congregation faithfully as Church Secretary for 20 years and was recognized at a service in September.
- Our mission statement is undergoing reflection by Council. We are asking: Is it understood? Is it still appropriate? How are we living it out as a community of believers?
- All committees have been charged with beginning their budget preparations for next year!
- Upcoming business items for Council will include follow up to the congregation's decision concerning Pastor Krister's call, and determination of Mount Zion's response to motions passed at this summer's ELCIC national convention. Motions approved related to unity of the Church, same-sex blessing, and sexuality of pastors.



## Retell, Reclaim, Rejoice

A massed choir made up from members all across the synod are rehearsing. The orchestra is tuning up. Big screens are being installed all in readiness for a synod-wide gathering on **October 23, 2011 at 2 p.m.** All that is needed now is you. Your participation in congregational song and prayer will be a vital part of this unique and inspiring celebration marking the conclusion of our Synod and Seminary anniversary year of *Remembering for the Future*. The massed choir, accompanied by a 15 piece orchestra, will present Bach's 80<sup>th</sup> Cantata based on the Reformation hymn, *A Mighty Fortress*. Bishop Michael Pryse will lead us in a time of reflection on our hopes for the future using short video clips filmed at this summer's national convention. Please plan to join us **Sunday, October 23, 2:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 49 Queen St. North, Kitchener, ON.** Admission is free. If you can't join us at 2 p.m. on October 23, this special celebration will be taped for broadcast on CKCO TV on Reformation Sunday. More information is available at [www.lutheransynodseminary.com](http://www.lutheransynodseminary.com)



## In Worship Together

Sunday, October 2

### **PENTECOST 16**

Holy Communion 8:45 am  
 Confirmation Class 9:50 am  
 Sunday Church School 10:30 am  
 Holy Communion 10:45 am

#### **Readings:**

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20, Psalm 19  
 Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew  
 21:33-46

Sunday, October 9

### **THANKSGIVING**

Holy Communion 8:45 am  
**No Sunday School Or Confirmation**  
 Holy Communion 10:45 am

#### **Readings:**

Deuteronomy 8:7-18, Psalm 65  
 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Luke 17:11-19

Sunday, October 16

### **PENTECOST 18**

Holy Communion 8:45 am  
 Confirmation Class 9:50 am  
 Sunday Church School 10:30 am  
 Holy Communion 10:45 am

#### **Readings:**

Exodus 33:12-23, Psalm 99  
 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew  
 22:15-22

Sunday, October 23

### **PENTECOST 19**

Holy Communion 8:45 am  
 Confirmation Class **No Class**  
 Sunday Church School 10:30 am  
 Holy Communion 10:45 am

#### **Readings:**

Deuteronomy 34:1-12, Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8,  
 Matthew 22:34-46

Sunday, October 31

### **REFORMATION SUNDAY**

Holy Communion 8:45 am  
 Confirmation Class 9:50 am  
 Sunday Church School 10:30 am  
 Holy Communion 10:45 am

#### **Readings:**

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 46  
 Romans 3:19-28, John 8:31-36

#### **Baptisms:**

**Sophia Bell**, daughter of Michelle (Frey) and Craig Bell will be baptized on October 16, 2011.

**Funerals:** A celebration of life was held for **Ingrid Schreiber** on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

**Weddings:** **Carleigh Tillich** and **Rick Lauzon** will be married on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 at Whistle Bear Golf and Country Club.

**Prayer/Healing Station**  
**occurs** on the third Sunday of the month

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Please send your comments,  
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