



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



Holy Week

Passion/Palm Sunday
March 25 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service
March 29 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday
March 30 10:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday
April 1 10:00 a.m.

St. Patrick's Day, the greenest of festivals

By Tim Ehrlich

March 17, St. Patrick's Day is that greenest of festival days when everyone becomes a little Irish for a day. With all the hoopla focused on celebration, mostly liquid, it would be fair to ask, "What does it have to do with Christianity?" Well, perhaps more than you imagine. It is indeed a Christian festival day known as the feast of St. Patrick and is observed by the Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion, the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Lutheran Church.

St. Patrick's Day as we know is celebrated on March 17 which is the traditional date of the death of this foremost patron saint of Ireland. It commemorates St. Patrick himself and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland. Moreover, it has come to celebrate the heritage and culture of Ireland in general. Some congregations, particularly in Ireland, observe the day with a worship service. It is a public holiday in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland as well as a holiday for provincial employees in Newfoundland and Labrador.

What we know about St. Patrick seems to come from the *Declaration* which was written by Patrick himself. It is suggested that he was born Patricius in Roman Britain in the fourth century into a wealthy family. His father was a deacon and his grandfather a Christian priest. When he was sixteen, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken as a slave to Gaelic Ireland which was mainly pagan and spent six years there working as a shepherd where he "came to know God." The account says Patrick was told by God to flee to the coast where a ship would take him home. Once he found his way home



he immediately entered the priesthood. He returned to Ireland and began converting the pagans to Christianity. One of the popular legends about St. Patrick is that he drove the snakes out of Ireland. In fact, there were never any snakes

on Ireland. The story is an allegory for his efforts at converting thousands of pagans to the faith.

One of the most widely recognized symbols is, of course, the shamrock. St. Patrick is said to have used the three-leaved shamrock to explain the Holy



Trinity to the pagans. Three is a significant number and one of the most important deities in Irish druid mythology is the Morrigan which has three aspects – Badb, Macha and Nemain. This probably made the notion of

three-in-one easier to grasp. The wearing of the green clearly has a link to the shamrock but green has been associated with Ireland since about the 1640's when it was informally adopted by the Irish Catholic Confederation whose flag was emblazoned with a green harp.

Historically, the Lenten restrictions on eating and drinking alcohol were lifted for the day which likely explains much of the revelry surrounding the celebration. One of the popular customs was the “drowning or wetting” of the shamrock whereby one would drop a shamrock into the beverage of choice and down it shamrock and all or, instead, saving the shamrock and tossing it over the shoulder for good luck. By the way, the Irish do not drink green beer and think we're quite daft for doing so. Over the years the religious aspect of the Feast of St. Patrick has diminished but the cultural significance is stronger than ever. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in more countries than any other national festival which suggests that there are Irish almost everywhere.

Here are a few interesting facts:

- ♣ Leprechauns have nothing to do with St. Patrick. They are simply a mischievous character from Celtic folklore.
- ♣ Chris Hadfield, on the International Space Station dressed up in green and sang “Danny Boy” on St. Patrick's Day.
- ♣ Montreal has the oldest and longest running St. Patrick's Day parade in North America and the city flag has a shamrock in the lower right quadrant.

- ♣ The Toronto Maple Leafs were known as the Toronto St. Patrick's from 1919 to 1927 and you can occasionally see them streaking down the ice in their green throwback jerseys.
- ♣ In Chicago on March 17th, the river running through downtown is dyed green.



Mount Zion Café

Now Serving Lunch

March 14 and 28.
from 10 am,
with lunch at 11:30 am – 12 noon.

Bring a friend or meet a new friend. Transportation will be available to those who need a ride. Please call the church office with a request for a ride.



The Mountaineer is a publication of Mount Zion Lutheran Church, 29 Westmount Road, Waterloo. Editorial Committee: Dennis Eaton, Pauline Finch, Tim Ehrlich, Dave Heldman, Pastor Phillip Mathai, Karen Gastmeier. The Mountaineer is published nine times per year, **The Mountaineer is not published in January, July or Aug.**

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Holy Week

Worship Schedule

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Mount Zion partners with Lutherans & Anglicans for Mid Week Lenten Services

In keeping with our intention to establish relationships with other congregations, Church Council approved Worship and Music's recommendation that we partner with *Christ Lutheran, St. Columba and All Saints Anglican* to hold joint Mid-Week Lenten Services. The worship and speakers series will explore Truth and Reconciliation and Indigenous spirituality. Each Wednesday begins with worship at 7:30 pm. March 14th begins with a soup dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Mar 7 Christ Lutheran 445 Anndale Rd
Special guest speaker Rev. Tom Patterson, Bridge Builder

Mar 14 Mount Zion 29 Westmount Rd S
Special guest speaker Rev Rosalyn Elm, Priest in Charge Parish of Six Nations
Soup dinner 6:30 p.m.

Mar 21 Christ Lutheran 44 Anndale Rd
Special guest speaker Scott Knarr, Music for the Spirit, Six Nations of the Grand River.

Mount Zion Women's Retreat

Carol Ziegler



The Retreat Committee and this year's leader, Pastor Annette Smith of St. Mark's Kitchener are excited about the plans for our Retreat Week-end - April 20 - 22nd. The theme this year is "Life Among the Believers".

We will meet at Hidden Acres Camp and Retreat Centre, just west of New Hamburg, and our registration fee will be \$95.

Mark your calendars now and watch the bulletin board for registration forms.



Newcomer Family Update

Esperance, Shinga and their family are expecting a new baby in March. We, the post-Ecumenical Welcoming

Partnership group, are planning a potluck dinner and celebration to welcome the new baby into our midst!

When: Saturday April 21, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Where: Mount Zion Lutheran Church

Details: More details (what to bring, how to contribute to a gift, who to contact for more information etc) will be shared by April 1.

Faith and the Ontario Election

Sponsored by the Centre for Public Ethics at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary



Join us to consider some of the issues and to discuss how faith groups can mobilize to effect positive change in this

election and beyond. Speaker, Robert Fisher is a veteran Queen's Park Journalist and a familiar voice to CBC Radio listeners. He will share his thoughts on issues of interest to faith groups in the upcoming provincial election.

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Mount Zion Lutheran Church

Admission is free, but you must register at seminary@wlu.ca

Two Rivers Ministry Area: Why? And What For?

Pastor David Malina, Pastor Christ Lutheran Waterloo and Dean of the Two Rivers Ministry Area



Those of us living in the Waterloo region, and who've stayed with the church over the past twenty years or more, will no doubt affirm the seismic changes – technologically, institutionally, socially, religiously – not only in Canadian society generally, but also within our church culture in the “old” KW Conference of the Eastern Synod-ELCIC. The Church has been marginalized, moved from a previous, more established and dominant position in society, at its peak in the 1950s-1970s, to a more diminished, lean, and peripheral entity.

In order to adjust to these shifting realities, about four years ago our Synod undertook the task of reorganizing its “Conference” boundaries, to better balance the number of congregations into more natural and obvious geographical settings within the territory of the Eastern Synod. What resulted were “Ministry Areas” (MA). Ours is the “Two Rivers” MA, as it reflects the constellation of congregations in proximity to each other near the confluence of the Conestoga and Grand Rivers. We number eleven churches, from St. Peter’s Linwood to the west, and Faith Fergus to the northeast, to St. John’s Waterloo at its most southern point. Two Rivers MA includes “Thirdspace,” an emergent outreach congregation operating out of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

Each MA has a Dean and leadership team appointed by the Bishop, which are three-year term, voluntary positions. In addition to myself as Dean, Barbara Finn (St. James Elmira), Robyn Gromeder (St. Matthews Conestogo), Mary Thompson (Mount Zion Waterloo) and Deacon Scott Knarr (Mount Zion Waterloo) serve generously and effectively on the team. Heartfelt thanks to all of them who serve so enthusiastically and wisely.

A major purpose of the work of the team, and by extension, our collective MA, is to help excite the imaginations of all of our members for mission and ministry work that is happening, and can happen, beyond the walls of our own local congregations. The Ministry Area is by no means the only vehicle for such a purpose. Our personal involvements – church and otherwise – which help do this for us, are many. But it is one such vehicle.

The boundaries of the Ministry Area are not meant to be fixed in a way that prohibits churches working with other churches or associations in other Ministry Areas. Indeed, we’re aware of churches within Two Rivers MA which are deeply involved with other Eastern Synod churches in the Grand River and Nith Valley Ministry Areas nearby. That’s perfectly alright! And to be encouraged! The more partnerships between churches and colleagues that can happen, in a natural and organic way, the better! The MA is meant to help encourage such partner-making endeavours, wherever and whenever!

The Ministry Team is constantly updated and building upon a contact list (phone and email), so as many key members and Pastors are able to get the monthly “Wading in the Water” TRMA newsletter, as well as other notifications and reminders as they come up. Please contact me if you have an update with your email or phone number.

It’s good to gather regularly with other Lutherans in our Ministry Area churches, to share information, support each other, and learn about interesting and meaningful issues and ministry opportunities happening in the area, and beyond. In the past year, we’ve learned more about First Nations peoples, Roman Catholics on the occasion of the 500 year anniversary of the Reformation, and the challenges to peace-making in Jerusalem. The Two Rivers MA has been a major sponsor and supporter (through the receiving of Synod Mission Grants) of the work of Deacon Scott Knarr with the Six Nations people, and as

he's endeavoured to build bridges of understanding and relationship between members of Two Rivers, the wider Eastern Synod, and First Nations peoples. Upcoming in April, we will have an opportunity to learn more about Islam, it's people and faith, with a visit to the Waterloo Masjid on Erb Street.

These Two Rivers gatherings help us see a large world God loves. In my view, anything we can do to expand our hearts, minds and worldviews, and prompt us to mission and ministry, both within and beyond our local congregations, is worthwhile work.

As Dean, I also operate as an extension of the Bishop's office, performing installations and exit interviews at times of congregational and pastoral transitions. In this way, my presence is a visual reminder of the wider church of the Eastern Synod – ELCIC. We do not live and worship in private bubbles, but are part of a wider network of people of faith, seeking to follow the way of Jesus, and supporting each other along the way.

Please call or email me anytime if you want to talk further. Pr. David Malina, 519-885-4050
dmalinachurch@gmail.com

Blessings on your continued ministry!

Pancake Supper Thankyou



Photo: Pauline Finch

Thank you to everyone who flipped pancakes, cut fruit, washed dishes, served food and set up and take down tables. Thanks also to all who came out to eat, share fellowship and support our fundraising efforts for the National Youth Conference in Thunder Bay this summer. The youth would like to thank members for their \$500 of donations and FaithLife for their generous grant of \$300. *Anne Woolner*

Mount Zion's Adopt-A-Cause for February and March



In support of Marillac Place we are looking for the following donations:

Fresh fruit and vegetables (no canned goods)
bring to church on Sundays, in February and March

Grocery gift cards to lighten their grocery budget
(consider buying through Open Sesame,

Gift cards (Walmart, Shopper's Drug Mart, Old Navy, Tim Horton's for their 'Praise with a Raise' Program

Household Items

Paper towels, Toilet paper, Dish soap

Blue Diaper Genie Refills

Twin Sheets for the beds

Fitted Crib sheets

Towels, Face clothes

Liquid body soap

Cash Donations greatly appreciated

- To support their 'Room Refresh' project (10 bedrooms)

Consider Volunteering for Bingo



A fun afternoon - you sell the tickets and call out winning numbers. It is a great support to Marillac Place as valuable and needed part of their fundraising income. BINGO income pays a good portions of the hydro, water and gas bills. They would greatly value it if we could volunteer as it has been one Board member and her family keeping it going.

Bingos are bi-weekly from 2:15 to 6:00 p.m. at the K-W Gaming Centre in the Krug St. Plaza.

Please Contact: Contact: Kelly Walberg
519-572-0722

admin@marillacplace.ca

Around Mount Zion

Pancakes, Chinese New Year's, a new HVAC system and light fixture replacement, lots of light fixtures. It all happened here last month.



Property guys Kurt Swanson and Art Schelter supervise the installation of replacement light fixtures in the upstairs classrooms and the offices. Every florescent fixture is now been replaced with a energy efficient LED fixture.

Many thanks to Art Schelter who has been chair of the property committee longer than we can all remember, recently resigned as chair but he promises that he will still be around and available to help out as needed. Kirk Swanson replaces him as chair.



Thanks to Dennis Eaton, Pauline Finch, Bill Gastmeier and Pastor Philip for this month's photos



Musician Bao-Qieng Moon plays an ancient Chinese classical zither called the Zheng, which typically has 21-25 strummed and plucked strings the Red Maple Chinese New Year's celebration.



Mel and Maureen Schmidt:

Half-a-century of geography, numbers and dedication



Mel's roots are in the West Monkton area, where his grandfather farmed and his parents grew up, but the family moved to Waterloo where they raised six children (Mel was number 4) and attended St. John's Lutheran Church.

Shortly after Mel's confirmation, the Schmidt's moved again, this time to Stratford to live with their maternal grandparents. Mel attended Stratford Collegiate and after graduation returned to Waterloo and began what would be a long and varied career with Mutual Life of Canada (now Sun Life).

After two years with the company's Waterloo head office, he worked at branches in Regina, Ottawa and Fort William (now Thunder Bay), where he met Maureen ... at church of course. After their June 1968 marriage at Zion Lutheran in that city, they moved to Waterloo and Mel spent the rest of his career back at the Mutual Life head office specializing in taxes, investments, banking, etc. He retired in 1993 after 40 years.

Maureen's family originated in Saskatchewan, but her parents moved to Fort William before she was born and the family attended Zion Lutheran Church there. In May 1951, when Maureen was just 4½ her father, a CNR fireman, was tragically killed in a head-on collision with another train. He was only 27, and left behind a wife of 24, Maureen, and her brother Clifford, just 1½. It was a terrible situation for a young mother to be

in, but after a time she remarried and the family grew by two more children, brothers David and Douglas.

After high school, Maureen took a hairdressing course in Regina, then returned to Fort William to work. Although Zion Lutheran was a small congregation, she remembers it being "almost a second home" to her. When Mel chose Zion on his arrival in 1965, "the church members encouraged us to get together." They did, but then Mel was offered a promotion back at head office in Waterloo.

That provided the perfect opportunity for Mel to cement the relationship – "I proposed to Maureen and she accepted." In the summer of 1968 they were married at Zion, then moved to Waterloo.

From then until 1984, Maureen was a stay-at-home mom. Her working life began a new chapter that year when Rhoda Ernst recommended her for a job as framer and shipper at the studio and gallery of renowned Waterloo artist Peter Etril Snyder. She took the opportunity and remained with the Snyder enterprise for nearly 19 years, also working alongside with Helen Dubrick and Joyce Heldman.

The Schmidt's have been blessed with three children (all confirmed at Mount Zion) and four grandchildren. Robert lives in Waterloo; Michael, wife Stephanie and children Katie and Ben live in Surrey, BC; daughter Laurie and husband Chad live in Kitchener with children Cole and Carly.

Although Mel grew up as a member of St. John's Lutheran, he and Maureen decided as newlyweds in 1968 to join Mount Zion "because we felt more comfortable in a smaller congregation."

After visiting for a few weeks and being made to feel very welcome, Mel (perhaps with a professional eye to the story that numbers can tell?) asked Pastor Norm Lange for a copy of the congregation's most recent annual report. He recalls Pastor Lange commenting that "it was the first time he was ever asked that!"

Liking what the report contained and how they felt about Mount Zion's atmosphere, they formally joined. So this coming June (2018) the Schmidt's will

simultaneously mark a double 50th anniversary – marriage and of membership.

Both Mel and Maureen have been continuously active for their entire half-century at Mount Zion. When the Open Sesame head start pre-school was founded, Maureen took on various tasks, including caring for children of the volunteer teachers' assistants and helping the school's first full-time teacher, Susan White. She has also served on a variety of committees, including Lutheran Church Women (LCW), funeral group, altar guild, nursery, etc.

Mel has served multiple terms on Church Council, was Financial Secretary for a number of years, Treasurer, and member of several committees (notably Stewardship). He remains active as an Usher captain; he and Maureen also enjoy being Greeters.

When not involved in Mount Zion activities, Mel and Maureen have enjoyed travelling, especially cruises; bowling; reading; and getting together with family and friends. Individually, Mel has been a recreational golfer, while Maureen is more into crafts and sewing.

As an aging congregation, the Schmidt's feel we need to reach out to younger families. "Our church has a lot to offer, but we don't know how we might communicate that to the community."

Both are most impressed by the dedication of Mount Zion members and feel that the strength of committees and projects such as the Health Council, Open Sesame, Funeral guild, Property, and Worship and Music are at the core of the congregation's success and stability.

Mel notes that "we have been blessed with strong leadership from our pastors in the past and now with Pastor Philip and Deacon Scott Knarr. Scott's dedication and talent have greatly enhanced our music programs."



*More
Pancake
Supper
Photos*



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Welcome to new Church Council Members

Mount Zion's 2018 Church Council was elected and installed at our Annual General Meeting held February 11.

Members of the 2018 Council

Newly elected Ginny Ehrlich and Betty Behm will join Stephanie Von Schilling, David Murrison, Pauline Finch, Alfred Durichen, and Karen Gastmeier as members of council. Richard Brubacher will continue in his positions of Treasurer and Chair of Finance Committee. Elections for executive will be held at their first meeting.

The meeting was short with little discussion, however, members were delighted to learn that they finished the year with a small surplus of \$792 and that benevolence support remained high with \$86,050 contributed to 19 organizations.

They also learned of an undesignated gift of \$30,000 which has been put into a contingency fund. A budget carrying a deficit of \$21,711 was passed.



A note from Finance

Our financial status for the first month in 2018 reflects a surplus of \$1,538 in the “**Ministry & Mission (current) Account**” compared with a budgeted deficit of \$847. The favourable deviation of \$2,385 was due to higher income accounting for \$4,309 offset by higher expenses accounting for \$1,924.

	Actual	Budget	Better/ Worse
Total Receipts	\$28,644	\$24,335	\$4,309
Total Disbursements	27, 106	25, 182	(1,924)
Deficit	\$1, 538	(\$ 847)	\$2, 385

Comments:

- Member regular envelope contributions were \$1,595 better than plan for the month
- Facility and parking income was \$342 higher
- Other income was higher by \$2,372 due to earlier than planned Grant of \$2,500 for Café which was budgeted in a future month
- Disbursements were \$1,924 worse due to high snow removal costs and boiler repairs

Your support of **Benevolence** to the Synod and other designated causes totalled \$13,060. Included in this are grants of \$7,000 for Open Sesame, and \$3,544 for Six Nations/TRMA Partnership. Regular benevolence totalled \$2,142 which was remitted to Synod. Donations to other causes was \$374.

Bridges VBS **Coming July 9 to 13, 2018**

9 am to 4 pm

Mount Zion Lutheran Church, Waterloo

Our theme, Rolling River Rampage, invites us to "Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God!"



Bridges VBS is an area-wide, Vacation Bible School with ELCIC churches participating from around Waterloo Region

Registration will be open to all children ages 5-11 (by Dec. 31, 2018)

Cost is \$100 per child for the week including all lunches, snacks and a t-shirt.

Youth completing grade 6 and up are welcome to join the fun as helpers and volunteers!

Registration opens March 1, 2018

Watch for details coming soon on facebook or at bridgesvbs.weebly.com

You can be part of this event! Area congregations are invited to help out by volunteering or donating supplies.

For more information check out bridgesvbs.weebly.com or email Heidi Van Schaik at bridgesvbs@gmail.com

Our program is run entirely by volunteers like you!



*When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you. (Isaiah 43:2)*

Financial Update – 12 months ended January 31, 2018

Richard Brubacher – Treasurer & Chair, Finance Committee

The summaries below reflect the actual cash flows for the twelve months ending January 31, 2018 and the position of our bank accounts. Comparative data is displayed for our budget commitment and the prior year.

Ministry & Mission (Current) Account - Cash Flow Basis

	1 Month - 2018		Comments re: Differences to plan	1 Month
	Actual	Budget		Last Year
Cash Inflow				
Receipts from Members	14,979	13,384	- better than plan \$1,595	15,705
Receipts from Facility Rentals & Parking	12,846	12,404		6,648
Rental income reserved to Capital	(1,900)	(1,800)		-
Other Receipts - (Plate, Endow. Int., grant)	2,719	347	- incl. \$2,500 Café grant	117
Deficit Reduction Response	-	-		250
Total inflow	28,644	24,335		22,720
Cash Outflow				
Disbursements - Staff & operating costs	27,106	25,182		22,649
Total outflow	27,106	25,182		22,649
Net Cash (Outflow)/inflow	1,538	(847)	- \$2,385 better than Budget Plan	71
Cash balance (overdraft)	18,525	18,886		6,672

Benevolence Accounts - Cash Flow Basis

	Actual	Budget		Last Year
Cash Inflow				
Receipts from Members - General Benev.	2,142	2,000		2,318
Receipts for designated appeals	10,918	-	- Incl. Grants \$10,654	3,772
Total inflow	13,060	2,000		6,090
Cash Outflow				
Payments to Synod	2,142	2,000		2,318
Payments to other designated appeals	10,918	-		3,772
Total outflow	13,060	2,000		6,090

Capital Accounts - Cash Flow Basis



	Actual	Budget		Last Year
Cash Inflow:				
Receipts from Members	577	520		459
Transfers from Ministry & Mission acct	1,900	1,800	- Rental income reserved from MM acct.	-
Total inflow	2,477	2,320		459
Cash Outflow				
Capital Expenditures	-	-		-
Total outflow	-	-		-
Net Cash (Outflow)/Inflow	2,477	2,320		459
Cash Balances	50,725	50,586		34,566

Rental Property Account - Cash Flow Basis

	Actual	Budget		Last Year
Cash Inflow:				
Rental Income from Tenants	2,780	2,780		3,960
Transfers from Capital Account	-	-		-
Total inflow	2,780	2,780		3,960
Cash Outflow				
Current Expenditures - Properties	1,355	1,124		938
Capital Improvements to Properties	-	-		-
Total outflow	1,355	1,124		938
Net Cash (Outflow)/Inflow	1,425	1,656		3,022
Cash Balances (overdraft)	(3,710)	(3,478)		(22,044)



March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
S				1 7:30 pm Choir Practice at St Matthews, Kitchener	2 S	3
4 10 am Communion Service.	5 7:30 pm Service Committee	6 7:30 pm Mid week Lenten Service Christ Lutheran 445 Anndale Rd	7 7:30 pm Mid week Lenten Service Christ Lutheran 445 Anndale Rd	8 7:30 pm Choir Practice	9 5:00 pm Student Dinner.	10 
11  Daylight Savings Time begins 9:15 Choir Practice 10am Communion	12	13	14 10:00 am MZ Café 6:30 pm Soup Supper 7:30 pm Mid week Lenten Services Mount Zion	15 7:30 pm Choir Practice	16	17
18 10 am Communion Service	19 7:00 pm Faith & Ontario Election	20 7:30 pm Mid week Lenten Services Christ Lutheran 44 Anndale Rd	21 7:30 pm Mid week Lenten Services Christ Lutheran 44 Anndale Rd	22 7:30 pm Choir Practice	23 5:00 pm Student Dinner	24
25 10 am Palm/Passion Sunday Service	26	27	28 10 am Mount Zion Café	29 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service (no choir practice)	30 9:15 am Choir Practice 10 am Good Friday Service 11:30 Choir Practice	EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 1 9:00 am Choir Practice 10 am Easter Service

