



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



Our thanks to God
we give

Our thanks to God
we give

Our thanks to God
we give

To God our
thanks we give.

Thanksgiving Reflections,

With Help from Pastor Martin

By Pauline Finch

"We all pass over it; we hear it and recite it, but we neither see nor think about what the words command us to do. For if we believed it with our whole heart, we would act accordingly..." ~ Martin Luther (from the Great Catechism, 1529)

What on earth was Pastor Martin referring to in such disappointed terms? And what, if anything, could he tell us about being thankful in 2017?

I've learned that some of Martin Luther's most compelling words about Thanksgiving weren't written for a specific occasion when our church year embraces a very relevant secular holiday.

In fact, the quotation above belongs to a much longer passage in which he explains the short opening sentence (called an "article") of the Apostles' Creed – *"I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth."*

Creator is the operative word here, rather than parent, judge, ruler, or authority figure. Those are all useful divine attributes too; but for Luther, God's creative act, once begun (whether scientifically or magically doesn't matter) simply never stopped.

Creation was ongoing in the turbulent world of 1529 where local famines, epidemics and wars were ever-present, and continues in our media-obsessed 21st century where one human or natural catastrophe after another seems to be the global "new normal." Really, not much is different, except perhaps in scale.

Luther was well aware of social evils, injustices and natural disasters in his own world, yet he could also praise and celebrate creation in all its wonder, beauty, dangers and messiness, as nothing less than a miracle-in-progress. And because humanity is right in the middle of everything, he also understood that the preoccupations of daily living can easily cause us to "pass over it."

So what he offers in his exploration of the Apostles' Creed is not an abstract academic treatise, or a cranky rebuke for our lack of mindfulness (and he could do both memorably well!), but instead a passionate reminder that the



Martin Luther and His Family
by 19th-century German artist Gustav
Spengener.

only authentic response to God's ongoing creative presence is to live our lives as a continual act of thanksgiving.

How does one even begin to tackle such an all-encompassing belief statement? In mulling over Luther's approach to the opening of the Apostles' Creed, it seems to me that he did a very faithful and humble thing by starting with the basics – those enduring elements of faith that don't depend on a seminary education to really mean something. And they all add up to thanksgiving.

Right from the start he affirms that God *"constantly sustains my body, soul, and life ... all my senses, my reason and understanding ... my food and drink, clothing, nourishment, spouse and children, servants, house and farm, etc."*

He goes on to enumerate how weather and the elements allow us to grow food, raise animals, catch fish, build shelters, sustain communities. It's his way of saying "everything" and he's only dealt with one word – *Creator*.

No wonder Luther expresses concern that we, then and now, seem to gloss over the first words of Christianity's most-recited creed, especially the Creator part.

History is full of complex and inconclusive theological debate over other creedal articles, such as the implications of virgin birth; where Jesus "descended"

after physically dying; what God's "right hand" really means as a power-seat; what judgment of "the living and the dead" means; who the "communion of saints" includes; what kind of "body" is resurrected; and of course, what "life everlasting" might hold in store.

Ironically, the article we most need to stop and celebrate in the Apostles' Creed carries the lightest baggage of all. We believe first and foremost that God is "Creator of heaven and earth." Does it get any better than that? Luther would say an emphatic *No!*

He writes: *"For this reason we ought daily to practice this article, impress it upon our minds, and remember it in everything we see and in every blessing that comes our way."*

I think he was saying that Thanksgiving is not something to be done from time to time and checked off a list, but a chosen lifestyle – one that makes as much sense today as it did in 1529.

**Commemorating
THE REFORMATION AND ALL
SAINTS**



featuring the choirs of
Mount Zion Lutheran Church
St. John's Lutheran Church
Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church

THE REQUIEM
by Gabriel Faure

Featuring
FULL HOUSE BRASS QUINTET
&
REID SPENCER, BASS SOLOIST

Friday, Nov. 3, 2017 8 pm
Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church
Lourdes Street, Waterloo

Freewill Offering



- Oct 1 11:15 am Defibrillator Review
- Oct 2 1:30 pm Exercise Class
- Oct 5 1:30 pm Exercise Class
- Oct 9 Thanksgiving
- Oct. 10 7:30 am WLS Leadership Breakfast
- Oct. 10 7 pm Mindfulness Meditation
- Oct. 11 10 am-1 pm Mount Zion Café
- Oct. 12 1:30 pm Exercise Class
- Oct 16 1:30 pm Exercise Class
- Oct. 17: 2 pm Book Study
- Oct 20: 6 pm Family Friday Supper
- Oct. 21 9:30 am – 1 pm. WLS Women's Auxiliary Annual Meeting, St. John's Lutheran
- Oct 21 2:30 pm Lutheran Roman Catholic Commemoration of 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, St. Peter's Lutheran
- Oct 23 1:30 pm Exercise Class
- Oct 24 1:30 pm Mindfulness Meditation
- Oct 25 10 am-1 pm Mount Zion Café
- Oct 26 1:30 pm Exercise Class
- Oct 30 1:30 pm Exercise Class
- Nov. 3 8 pm The Requiem by Gabriel Faure
Our Lady of Lourdes (see ad)
- Nov 9 2 pm Hymn Sing



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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Back issues of The Mountaineer can be found at www.mzlc.ca

The Mountaineer is available either by print or by email. Please email the office if you wish to change your delivery method.
mtzion@mzlc.ca

Reflections on Confirmation Camp

By Graydon Harris



Mount Zion Confirmation campers take a break together, This year the camp was held at Camp Kintail on Lake Huron, Pictured from left to right are Lauren Harris, Graydon Harris, Isaac Jyrkama, Aiden Boyd, Shelby Rampl

Photos: P. Mathai

When I was asked to write something about my experiences from camp this year and over the past six years I honestly didn't know what to write, not one specific thing came to mind. Trying to find one or even just two things to describe camp is pretty much impossible in my opinion.

Confirmation camp has meant a lot to many, people over the past few years (maybe more than a few) and



it holds a special place in most of our hearts.

I've heard confirmation camp described as many things, such as home or family or the best week of

your whole summer vacation. But when you ask former camper they will say that community that is formed in that one special week did make it feel like home.



Everyone agrees that they have learned something about themselves and have grown as a person because of the experience.

They also agree that it is a safe place to be who you really are, no matter who that might be. After my many years at camp I can say that this is most definitely true. I have seen so many people have some of the best times of their lives because they were



Campers gather on the shores of Lake Huron during closing worship

comfortable being who they are without any worry or concern about how they'll be accepted.

So over the past six years that I've gone to camp I can say that those things, the feelings of home, family and



the opportunity to be yourself is what made the camp a memorable experience for me.

In my opinion, the memories and feelings are what brings everyone together during that week that we gather together, and that community that is formed is one of the most special things about camp. It is something that everyone enjoys and some of us are lucky enough to experience it for several years.

For me that time spent at camp was six years, six really good years. Unfortunately, I will not be going back

again next year but everything I have learned and experienced about myself, about others and about God are things I won't soon forget.

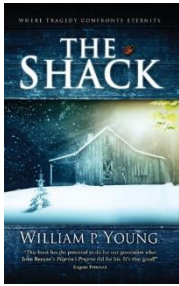
These special memories are much like most of the friends that I made over those years, they'll be with me for a long, long time and that is really why camp is important.



Join in the fun
at the
Family Friday Supper
October 20
6:00 pm

See Pastor Philip for more details

BOOK STUDY



Health Council will sponsor a book discussion of *The Shack* by William P. Young on Tuesday, October 17, at 2:00 pm. There are copies at the library and various book stores. Marg Tupling has a copy to lend. Call her at 519-745-6355 to arrange to borrow the book.

A brief description from the cover of the book may help you with your decision to join us.

In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant THE SHACK wrestles with the timeless question: "Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?" The answers Mack gets will astound you and perhaps transform you as much as it did him.

Please sign up on the sheet on the Narthex Bulletin board so we know how many to expect.



Mount Zion Café *Now Serving Lunch*

Oct 11 • Oct 25 • Nov 8
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. (519 886 5820)

Come and Join Us in a Joint Service

THE LUTHERAN – ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMEMORATION OF THE **500th Anniversary of the Reformation**



with

Rev. Dr. Michael Pryse
Bishop, Eastern Synod Evangelical
Lutheran Church in Canada

and

The Most Rev. Douglas Crosby
Bishop, Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

Saturday, October 21, 2017 @ 2:30 pm
@ St Peter's Lutheran Church, 49 Queen St. N, Kitchener, Ontario

Newcomer update

Lori Hansen St. Stephen Lutheran Church

It's been over a year since Shinga, Esperance and their five children dropped into our lives and our official responsibilities are completed. The members of the EWP are happy about where the family sits in "Month 13" and beyond. Shinga has found full time employment and Esperance has also started part time work. With the Child tax benefit and other incentives, the family is financially self supporting. Young Blaise started Kindergarten and Yves started high school and all of the children seem to have settled well in school. They are managing their busy lives in Canada. They say they are relieved of worry here. They don't worry about being hungry, or sick or safe.

It has been a year of joy and challenges with many people of each of our congregations stepping up when needed to help out. The committee is very thankful for the gifts of time, talents and, indeed, money provided by the congregations. We raised around \$40,000 and have spent most of it supporting the family for the first 12 months, as we have struggled to get approval for the Child Tax Benefit. What remains will be given to the family to help pay their travel loan from the Canadian government which started at \$10,000.

We are winding up and no longer accepting donations.

The committee is left with warm memories filled with laughter and the friendships created with each other and with this charming family. We hope for the continuation of these personal relationships and also the willingness of our congregations to work together in future ecumenical projects.



There's lots more reading and photos on Mount Zion Facebook page.....just click this Facebook logo or use the address <https://www.facebook.com/groups/165042693557044/> lots of interesting reading and pictures....

Mount Zion's Compassionate Community

*"If you want others to be happy,
practice compassion. If you want to
be happy, practice compassion."*

Dalai Lama

Sounds simple enough but how do we at Mount. Zion put this quote into practice. One tangible way is through our Service Committee initiatives. The individual actions we take are combined to create a greater impact, yet our personal emotional response is still private.

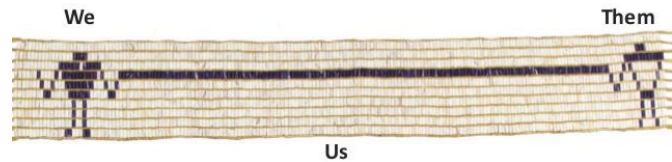
How are we called to action? Some opportunities this Fall include:

- supporting *Open Sesame*,
- donating to the *Food Bank*,
- filling *We Care Bags* and
- donating items for the *Mitten Tree*.

Stronger Together

exploring common bonds of friendship

by Deacon Scott Knarr



We were seated together on long wooden benches, facing one another, with a small fire in the centre. The wooden framed structure soared above our heads as the bright morning sun burst through the opening in the roof. We listened to a young man as he told stories



*Marg Tupling and Joan Brunger enter the replica 17th century longhouse on Six Nations of the Grand River Territory
Photo: P Finch*

of his people, sharing with us how Haudenosaunee families lived in community many centuries ago. More than a living enactment of an historical moment, The Longhouse at Kayanase became a meeting place where the spiritual traditions of Indigenous and Christian could stand side by side: hospitality and respect, friendship and peace.

It may be challenging for us to remember today, but three hundred years ago the Haudenosaunee and Lutheran emigrants from the Palatinate in Germany lived side by side along the Mohawk River in the New York Colony. In the 19th century, the newer arrivals along the Grand River from Alsace and Pennsylvania settled alongside Mohawks and others of the Six Nations who had been granted land by Governor Frederick Haldimand. We know of stories where local Indigenous people and newcomers cooperated and shared food to get through those first harsh winters. In this century, it seems that many have forgotten how to

be good neighbours and how to draw strength from our differences.

The Friendship Wampum Belt reminds us that we are tied together by a shared history and a shared land along the banks of the Grand River and across Turtle Island (North America). The Silver Covenant Chain which binds us together is shown with an Indigenous person on one end, and a European settler on the other. The Stronger Together project seeks to bring these peoples closer together in friendship and learning about one another's cultures. We dare to hope and to imagine a brighter future together.

Becoming a Resident of Reserve Number 40

Building relationships is difficult to do from a distance. The week of August 14-18, 2017 several members of Mount Zion and others in the Haldimand Tract spent time on Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. A significant feature of this event was that instead of just visiting for the day, many of us stayed at the Bear's Inn and for a short time became residents of Reserve Number 40. Staying on the reserve was a unique



Indigenous Knowledge Keeper Rick Hill gives context and teaching about traditional longhouse practices and how this cultural knowledge continues to be relevant for the Six Nations community today. Photo P Finch

opportunity which shifts perspective and understandings. On the Wednesday morning we gathered at 7 am for a Sunrise Ceremony. The cool of the morning and the crackling of the fire mingled with the song of the birds as we named each segment of creation and recognized how each works together for the common good. The strength of our circle was in its diversity of faith tradition, age, background and life skills.

We were on Six Nations of the Grand River Territory by invitation. The Indigenous Knowledge Keeper of the Six Nations Polytechnic, Rick Hill had invited the planning group from an earlier conference in November 2015 to gather young adults together for a cultural exchange. His vision was that young people, who were just beginning their careers, could get to know one another and through their common bonds of



Thursday participants move out onto the land to explore plants and hear about their use as medicines.

friendship be encouraged to make significant decisions about how they would live out their career and

livelihood to make a positive difference and bridge the distance between mainstream Canadian society and Indigenous communities.

Stronger Together Project

Stronger Together core group participants came from Mennonite and Lutheran churches in Kitchener-Waterloo as well as Six Nations people, some of whom were Traditional and others Christian. Day participants included Anglicans from Toronto, Hamilton and Ohsweken. This diverse group is known as the Haldimand Tract Ecumenical Partnership. We were privileged to attract the participation of faculty from Conrad Grebel University College and Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. We had financial support from the Anglican Diocese of Toronto and the Anglican Diocese of Niagara. Primary funding was from the ELCIC/Eastern Synod and Mennonite Church Canada as well as Six Nations Polytechnic. Each of these stakeholders was necessary for the success of the program.

In addition to the core group which stayed on reserve, we also welcomed day participants to join us when they were available – for one, two or three days. This gave an opportunity to take in specific speakers and events that touched on subjects of particular interest. Tuesday was about law and governance, including a speaker who highlighted the challenges around child welfare and the care of Indigenous children today. Wednesday we visited the Mohawk Chapel, the Woodland Cultural Centre museum and a virtual tour of the Mohawk Institute residential school. There was a conversation around education and curriculum development which pointed to the need for more work in the area of partnerships. In each case participants met people with whom they could follow up to explore deeper knowledge in their subject area.

The Medicine Walk

This hunger for knowledge became very apparent on Thursday when people gathered to learn about creation. The medicine walk was a highlight for some as they sought Indigenous traditions and knowledge around plants. Our guides for the day explained that

Continued on next page

Stronger Together Cont'd



Young adult participants prepare the fire for our morning in the longhouse.

Photo: J Winterfeld

many things from wildflowers to maple syrup can be considered a medicine, and that we simply have to look around us with new eyes and an open heart to see what Creator has placed in our path.

What is reconciliation?

What is reconciliation? It is spending time getting to know our neighbour. It is taking the time to listen and

understand a worldview that does not place ultimate value on the market economy, the latest gadget, and progress at the expense of Mother Earth.

Reconciliation is the renewing of the Covenant Chain of Friendship and polishing it so that the silver shines brightly. It is respecting the traditions and languages of the First Peoples who live, hunt and still build longhouses today in this region. Reconciliation is coming together to live in respect and harmony, seeking justice and making space for relationships to grow.

Let us return once again to the image of gathered community in the longhouse. As the fire keeper places a new log the smoke wafts up towards the opening in the roof, the fire crackles and the storyteller pauses. In this moment, we experience authentic community- not in the *doing* of tasks, but in the *being* community together.

A note from Finance

Our financial status for the first eight months in 2017 reflects a deficit of \$12,571 in the “Ministry & Mission (current) Account”. For this period of time, results are favourable to plan due to some unbudgeted one-time items. Overall, net receipts are \$10,782 better, and disbursements are \$4,829 below plan resulting in a favourable variance of \$15,611.

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Better/(Worse)</u>
Total receipts	\$170,982	\$154,200	\$ 16,782
Rentals reserved to capital	<u>(6,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,000)</u>
Net Receipts	\$164,982	\$154,200	\$ 10,782
Total Disbursements	<u>177,553</u>	<u>182,382</u>	<u>4,829</u>
Deficit	(12,571)	(28,182)	15,611

Comments:

- Member regular envelope contributions were \$3,630 below plan
- Deficit reduction response was \$1,070 higher
- Facility and parking income was \$4,716 higher
- Endowment fund income of \$4,815 was applied to Ministry & Mission account
- Grants of \$2,500 from Synod in support of Mt Zion Café were received
- Disbursements were below plan by \$4,829
- Food Truck Tuesday profit sharing was \$970

Your support of Synod Benevolence and other designated needs including our Adopt A Causes was \$55,868 which compares to \$60,826 in the prior year. Included are \$11,500 in grants designated to Open Sesame of \$9,000 and \$2,500 to Refugee support.

Our Mission Endowment Fund received a \$25,000 boost with the generous donation from the estate of long time member Edwin Buder. With this donation, our Endowment Fund now totals \$114,643.

Council Update

Karen Gastmeier



Facilitator Karen Bjerland compiles a list of our “Learnings”

Late BreakingCharting our Course 2017

Just this week, 31 members of Mount Zion met for a potluck and a time of sharing our thoughts for the future. Guest facilitator Karen Bjerland walked us through our previous goals and accomplishments to understand what we learned from our experience in order that we could move forward to defining new possibilities. Those possibilities will be discussed in the November issue of the Mountaineer. I want to thank those of you that attended for your insights and your time. The results of these annual gatherings informs council’s work for the next year and beyond.



September, the real New Year!

It’s September, the days are getting shorter and while I know the calendar says that the new year starts Jan 1, but for me, the real beginning of the year is the day after Labour Day. It’s when the kids go back to school, its when schedules are made, its when plans for Christmas are made (and all the birthdays in between). It is sad to say goodbye to our loosely scheduled days of summer, but it is also a time when I welcome the new challenges of the real New Year...the day after Labour Day.

It is also true here at Mount Zion where we have started off the new year with a bang. New this year is bi-weekly exercise classes for seniors, the Mount Zion Café is back serving goodies and lunch, Open Sesame welcomed a new group of students. All of these programs reach out into the community and are a great example of our church’s charge to be in Mission for Others.

A hymn sing and a book discussion are planned for this fall. Mindful meditation continues. Pastor Philip’s Family Friday Night Dinners are back. There is no shortage of things to do here.



The choir is extra busy too, they will join the choirs of Our Lady of Lourdes and St John’s Lutheran to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation by singing together *The Requiem* by Gabriel Faure. Joining the voices will be Full House Brass Quintet and Reid Spencer as bass soloist. This unlikely joining of choirs is a direct result from the Lutheran and Roman Catholic dialogues that happened last spring here and at our Lady of Lourdes.

Financial Update – 8 months ended August 31, 2017

By Richard Brubacher – Treasurer & Chair, Finance Committee

The summaries below reflect the actual cash flows for the eight months ending August 31, 2017, 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

	8 Months - 2017		Comments re: Differences to plan	8 Months
	Actual	Budget		Last Year
Cash Inflow				
Receipts from Members	128,268	131,898	- worse than plan (\$3,630)	127,535
Receipts from Facility Rentals & Parking	32,216	21,500		21,535
Rental income reserved to Capital	(6,000)	-		-
Other Receipts - (Plate, Endow. Int., grant)	9,428	802	- incl. \$4,815 Endow. Int., \$2,500 grant	2,639
Deficit Reduction Response	1,070	-		510
Total inflow	164,982	154,200		152,219
Cash Outflow				
Disbursements - Staff & operating costs	177,553	182,382		175,322
Total outflow	177,553	182,382		175,322
Net Cash (Outflow)/inflow	(12,571)	(28,182)		(23,103)
Cash balance (overdraft)	13,965	(20,109)		8,577

Benevolence Accounts - Cash Flow Basis

	Actual	Budget		Last Year
Cash Inflow				
Receipts from Members - General Benev.	16,715	20,600		19,668
Receipts for designated appeals	39,153	-	- Incl. SynodGrants \$9,500	41,158
Total inflow	55,868	20,600		60,826
Cash Outflow				
Payments to Synod	15,215	19,425		19,668
Payments to other designated appeals	40,653	1,175		41,158
Total outflow	55,868	20,600		60,826

Capital Accounts - Cash Flow Basis

	Actual	Budget		Last Year
Cash Inflow:				
Receipts from Members	8,859	6,278		8,214
Transfers from Ministry & Mission acct	6,000	-	- Rental income reserved from MM acct.	-
Total inflow	14,859	6,278		8,214
Cash Outflow				
Capital Expenditures	7,491	7,200		12,964
Total outflow	7,491	7,200		12,964
Net Cash (Outflow)/Inflow	7,368	(922)		(4,750)
Cash Balances	41,475	33,185		44,125

Rental Property Account - Cash Flow Basis

	Actual	Budget		Last Year
Cash Inflow:				
Rental Income from Tenants	23,570	17,100	Increase due to delinquent rent paid &	13,456
Transfers from Capital Account	-	-	now up to date (budget assumed not)	-
Total inflow	23,570	17,100		13,456
Cash Outflow				
Current Expenditures - Properties	9,206	11,385		9,857
Capital Improvements to Properties	-	10,745	upgrades deferred	224
Total outflow	9,206	22,130		10,081
Net Cash (Outflow)/Inflow	14,364	(5,030)		3,375
Cash Balances (overdraft)	(10,702)	(30,095)		(34,656)