



"Its from our church... we've been called up for active duty."

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

8795 Keele Street, Box 576
Maple, Ontario L6A 1S5

www.zionmaple.ca

Phone: (905) 669-9842

Email: zion.maple@gmail.com

Pastor Linda Douglas

Phone: (905) 417-0519

Email: lkdouglas@sympatico.ca

Therefore, if anyone
is in Christ, he is a
new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17



THE HERALD – JUNE 2016

*We are a congregation that strives to be an inviting, faithful, and growing presence
in our community and in our world, with a passion for living and spreading the love of Jesus Christ
by using our spiritual and material gifts in the service of all God's people*

June 5	10:00 am	WORSHIP	Treasure in Clay Jars
June 12	10:00 am	WORSHIP	Walk by Faith and not Sight
June 13	7:00 pm	COUNCIL	
June 19	10:00 am	WORSHIP	Reconciliation
June 26	10:00 am	WORSHIP	Generosity
July 3	10:00 am	WORSHIP	Job 1:1-22
July 10	10:00 am 11:00 am	WORSHIP PICNIC, BBQ	Job 3:1-10; 4:1-9; 7:11-21
July 17	10:00 am	WORSHIP	Job 14:7-15; 19:23-27
July 24	10:00 am	WORSHIP	Job 31:35-37; 38:1-11
July 31	10:00 am	WORSHIP	Job 38:25-27; 41:1-8; 42:1-6
Aug 7	10:00 am	WORSHIP	Job 42:7-17

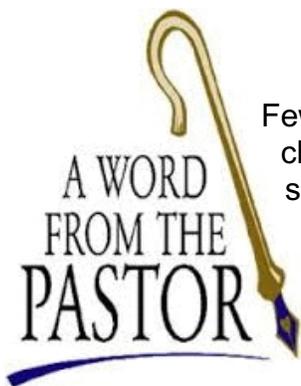
The next 4 weeks will focus on the Lord's Prayer

2016 Zion Council

Nick Beck (Chair) Wayne McCracken (Vice Chair)
Mickford Durgana Ginette McCracken Alethia McIntosh Ed Strath

Non-Council Positions

Ingrid Beck (Treasurer) Brian Cartwright (Recording Secretary)



Few sayings strike more fear into or evoke more apologies out of 21st century church goers than the present: I'm spiritual, not religious. We hear it from skeptical family members, from tweed-jacketed professors, from latte-slurping millennials, and many other misguided souls.

After all, is not Jesus the end of religion? Isn't religion for people who are afraid of going to hell while spirituality is for people who have been there? Don't we want to walk by the Spirit? When people tell us they are spiritual-not-religious (S-N-R), doesn't that mean we need to change our churches to fill that gap and meet that need? Doesn't the whole S-N-R expression suggest that our family members, professors and millennials yearn for the liberating truth of Spirit-fuelled faith rather than the shackles of man-made religion?

It seems this modern phraseology and modern urges are prime territory for Acts 17, ("So Paul, standing before the Council, addressed them as follows: 'Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious, for as I was walking along I saw your many altars. And one of them and this inscription on it - *To an Unknown god*. You have been worshipping him without knowing who he is, and now I wish to tell you about him.'"), understand the culture, more U2 songs in church please!, relational evangelism.

But now we know that the spiritual-not-religious line is a canard at best, a pile of bunk at worst. Consider what someone — whether connected to church or not — is really saying when they claim that they are spiritual-not-religious:

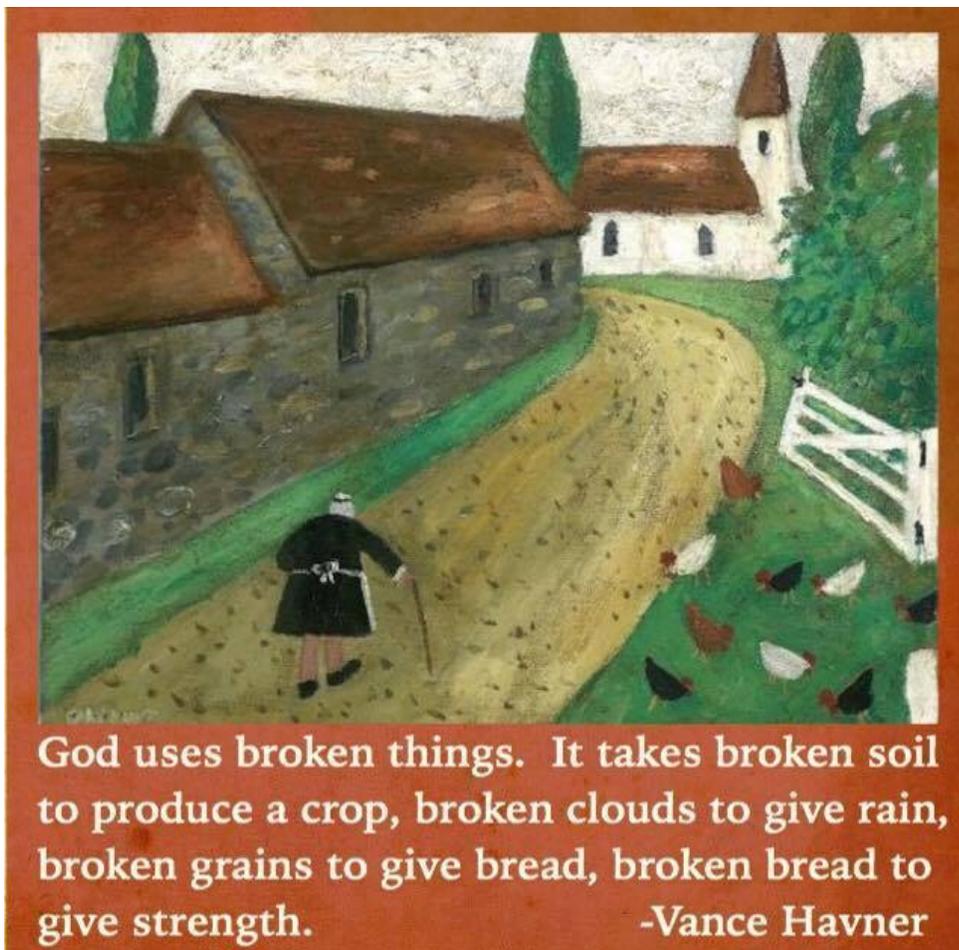
- ⊗ I'm in this alone.
- ⊗ I have a connection with God/Divinity that is unique to me.
- ⊗ I will not be bound by rules that I find inconvenient or unappealing.
- ⊗ My knowledge of sacred text will be limited to: "Don't judge me!" (That IS in the bible, isn't it?)
- ⊗ I am unwilling to submit myself to the idea that there is a community of people who have wisdom, strength and hope that I need to make life work.
- ⊗ I don't have to hang around with hypocrites.
- ⊗ Newer is better and younger is smarter.
- ⊗ Best of all, I can make God into my image and thus never have to wrestle with the implications of what it means that I am made in His.
- ⊗ My highest responsibility is to be true to me.

That entire list — as well as the premises behind it — is antithetical to New Testament faith and to the historic Christian religion. Yes, religion. Where does the word religion comes from? - from the same root word as ligament. And what do ligaments do? Ligaments are connective tissue linking bone to bone. Ligaments purposely link one part of the body with another part of the body. Ligaments are the ultimate antidote to body isolation; they instead call out: "You can't do this thing alone! We're in it together." And that's what religion offers that mere spirituality never can. When we say without apology that we are religious, we are saying:

- ⊗ I'm connected to a community without which I would make a mess of my life.

- ⊗ That community is a gift to me and gifted by me, and I am accountable to it.
- ⊗ I'm connected to history. I didn't invent this Jesus story. Who would ever dream something like that up? No, I inherited his story. I am accountable not only to the story itself but to all those generations who passed it on until it landed in my lap.
- ⊗ I'm connected to all those hypocrites in my community and in my history. Thank God. Because there's always room for one more.
- ⊗ My community and my history mediate my direct connection with God. He breaks through on occasion in moments of splendid solitude, but I hear his word best in our patterned routines of gathering, praising, lamenting, loving and serving.
- ⊗ My highest responsibility is to be true to my calling as a follower of the One who acted decisively in history. Being true to that calling may or may not result in personal satisfaction.
- ⊗ I recognize that my religion consists of habits and practices that are not always convenient or even interesting ... but they are always necessary.

I suppose what it means is this: It is only when I am sufficiently religious that I can be authentically spiritual.



God uses broken things. It takes broken soil to produce a crop, broken clouds to give rain, broken grains to give bread, broken bread to give strength.

-Vance Havner

Synod and National Church

Special Appeal: Fort McMurray Wildfire Relief



The [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada \(ELCIC\)](#), through its partnership with [Canadian Lutheran World Relief \(CLWR\)](#), issued an appeal for prayers and financial support for all those suffering loss due to the wildfires striking northern Alberta and the city of Fort McMurray in particular.

ZION COUNCIL VOTED TO SEND \$500 TO CLWR AS PART OF OUR OUTREACH

Reformation 2017 Themes and Goals

The [ELCIC](#) has marked out 2015-2017 to commemorate the [500th Anniversary of the Reformation \(2017\)](#). We have adopted themes and goals. The overall theme is *Liberated by God's Grace* with three sub-themes: (1) *Salvation - Not for Sale*; (2) *Human Beings - Not for Sale*; and (3) *Creation - Not for Sale*.

Take the Reformation Challenge!

ELCIC members are encouraged to give expression to being "Liberated by God's Grace" through the ELCIC Reformation Challenge. Our goals are to:

- Sponsor 500 refugees to Canada * Provide 500 scholarships for ELCJHL schools**
- Plant 500,000 trees * Give \$500,000 to the LWF Endowment Fund**

To date ELCIC members have made the following commitments to the Reformation. Let us know your commitment by telling us what you, your congregation, your family and your community pledge to do.

