

# ZION HERALD – SUMMER 2017

*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 God's people*



## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## Summer Schedule

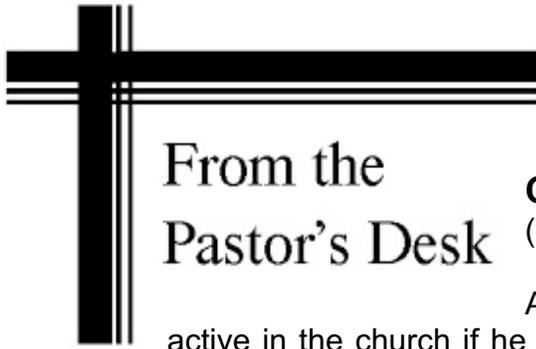
Jun 11	10:00 am	Worship	Psalm 100	Jul 23	10:00 am	Worship	Ephes. 2
<b>Jun 18</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Psalm 13</b>	<b>Jul 30</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Ephes. 4</b>
Jun 25	10:00 am	Worship	Psalm 23	Aug 06	10:00 am	Worship	Ephes. 6
<b>Jun 26</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Council</b>		<b>Aug 13</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Rev. 4</b>
Jul 02	10:00 am	Worship	Psalm 30	Aug 20	10:00 am	Worship	Rev. 5
<b>Jul 09</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Psalm 150</b>	<b>Aug 27</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Rev. 6</b>
Jul 16	10:00 am	Worship	Ephes. 1	Sep 03	10:00 am	Worship	Rev. 21

### 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)



## From the Pastor's Desk

### **Five Reasons Church Members Attend Church Less Frequently** - by Thomas Rainer (Theologian, Author, Educator)

About 20 years ago, a church member was considered active in the church if he or she attended three times a week. Today, a church member is considered active in the church if he or she attends three times a month.

Something is wrong with this picture. For 2,000 years, the local church, as messy as it is, has been God's place for believers to gather, worship, minister and be accountable to one another.

And every time I write something about church membership and attendance, I inevitably hear cries of "legalism" or "the church is not a building" or "the church is a messed up institution." But the local church, the messy local church, is what God has used as His primary instrument to make disciples. But commitment is waning among many church members. Why?

1. **We are minimizing the importance of the local church.** When we do, we are less likely to attend. A few drops of rain may keep many folks from attending church, but it won't stop them from sitting three hours in the downpour watching their favourite football team.
2. **We worship the idols of activities.** Many members will replace a day in their church with a day at kids' soccer or softball games or sleeping off the hangover of the previous day's activities.
3. **We take a lot of vacations from church.** I am not anti-vacation. But 20 years or so ago, we would make certain we attended a church where we were taking a vacation. Today, many members take a vacation from church.
4. **We do not have high expectations of our members.** Any purposeful organization expects and gets much of it members, whether it's a sports team or a civic organization. It is ironic that most churches do not come close to being a high expectation church.
5. **We make infrequent attendees leaders in our churches.** When we do, we are making a clear statement that even the leaders of the church do not have to be committed to the place they supposedly lead.

I heard a leader of an organization tell the members he did not want them if they were not fully committed. They could not be AWOL if they wanted to be a part of the group. He expected full commitment. He is a high school football coach. And all the team members follow that high expectation of commitment.

If we truly expect to make a difference in our communities and our families, members of local churches need to have at least the same level of commitment as members of sports teams. After all, the mission of each local church is far more important. At least it should be.

## **HONOUR YOUR FATHER**

Father's Day is a secular holiday with religious roots. It all started in 1909 when Sonora Smart Dodd heard a Mother's Day sermon at Central Methodist Episcopal Church in Spokane, Washington. Since Dodd and her siblings were raised by their father after their mother's passing, Sonora was motivated to honor all fathers with a special day. She suggested her idea to local religious leaders and word spread throughout the city. On June 19, 1910, many churches in Spokane celebrated the first Father's Day with sermons praising male parenting skills. As more towns heard the story, the observance of Father's Day spread throughout the nation. In 1972, Richard Nixon officially established Father's Day as a national holiday.

### **The impact of fatherlessness**

For many, Father's Day is a day of celebration when children honor their fathers by giving gifts and spending time together. However, some may consider Father's Day to be a less joyous occasion if their fathers are absent from their lives or have a negative impact on their families. According to the U.S. National Center for Fathering, more than twenty million children live in a home without the physical presence of a father. Millions more have fathers that are present physically but absent emotionally. Studies show that children without fathers are more likely to become involved in drug and alcohol abuse, drop out of school and suffer from health and emotional problems. Fathers are meant to provide strength and support for their families, so when a father figure is nonexistent, children and teenagers are affected.

### **Everybody makes mistakes**

Whether absent or present, all fathers are imperfect and make mistakes from time to time. God commands children to honour their parents, despite their flaws and shortcomings. God also calls us to respect our parents and those in authority over us, even if we disagree with them sometimes. In a relationship based on mutual respect and forgiveness, parents and children can live in harmony as God desires while also honoring the Heavenly Father.

## OLIVE BRANCH UPDATE

As we have learned to expect, the Olive Branch is buzzing with activity.



The Akiba! Nufaika!! Community Cooperative Banking Program helps women save their money for the bigger, life-changing and life-saving expenses that arise. They save money, receive loans and annually are returned their savings plus dividends accrued by their bank.

These larger sums of money allow them to pay school fees for their children, farm without taking out loans, build their homes, pay off medical bills, start new businesses, expand their existing businesses and support their families.

This week Lucy, our Financial Autonomy Manager, opened a new bank in the community of Mwashota. This program is so successful. Almost 3000, primarily vulnerable women, are connecting to the opportunity to become financial autonomous and secure.



Vaccines are one of the most cost-effective and lasting health investments, playing a vital role in reducing child mortality. While Tanzania has high coverage in several routine immunizations, discrepancies exist in terms of geographic location, socioeconomic status, and mother's level of education. Faced with a lack of electricity and inadequate roads in many regions, transporting supplies under continuous cold storage to Tanzania's mostly rural population is a persistent challenge. Sector-wide obstacles, such as a lack of trained health staff and financing, also limit the

ability to supervise, monitor, and fund immunization efforts." ~ (USAID)

The Olive Branch for Children is working with the Mbarali District government and their fantastic nurses to ensure mothers, infants and children in extremely remote settings receive the life-saving care they need. The Olive Branch for Children operates Mobile Health Camps in remote communities. Over 300 children have received vaccines over the last three days. That means, 300 infants and children are now protected from the following diseases: Polio; Measles; Neonatal Tetanus; Diphtheria; Pertusis; Tuberculosis; Hepatitis B.



Nearly half of all deaths in children under 5 are attributable to malnutrition. This translates into the unnecessary loss of about 3 million young lives a year. Malnutrition puts children at greater risk of dying from common infections, increases the frequency and severity of such infections, and contributes to delayed recovery. In addition, the interaction between malnutrition and infection can create a potentially lethal cycle of worsening illness and deteriorating nutritional status. Poor nutrition in the first 1,000 days of a child's life can also lead to stunted growth, which is irreversible and associated with impaired cognitive ability and reduced school and work performance." ~ (UNICEF)

"Plumpy'Nut is used as a treatment for emergency malnutrition cases. It supports rapid weight gain derived from broad nutrient intake which can alleviate a starving child from impending illness or death.[5] The product is easy for children to eat because it dispenses readily from a durable, tear-open package. The fortified peanut butter-like paste contains fats, dietary fiber, carbohydrates, proteins (as essential macronutrients), vitamins and minerals (as essential micronutrients). Peanut butter is also an excellent source of vitamin E and B vitamins."

Our very own Edina Chungu, trained by the Baylor Paediatric facility in Mbeya, is an expert in childhood malnutrition and the use of Ready to Use Therapeutic Foods. She is currently in the remote communities we serve with our Mobile Health Camp Team launching our 'Better Health! Better Start!' campaign combating malnutrition in children under five.

During the Mobile Health Camp in the community of Mbwawa yesterday, 6 children under the age of 5 were diagnosed with malnutrition and provided with Plumpy'Nut. Our Home Based Care Providers for the community, as well as our Mobile Health Camp Team and Edina will continue to follow up and make sure the children in the 'Better Health! Better Start!' program receive the care they need.

ference Centre  
& Conference Centre



**EDGEWOOD CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTRE**

**IS HOLDING A GARAGE/RUMMAGE SALE**

**9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**SATURDAY JUNE 24**

**ALMOST EVERYTHING WILL BE AVAILABLE**

**COME EARLY FOR BEST SELECTION**