

ZION HERALD – SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 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

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



Fall Schedule

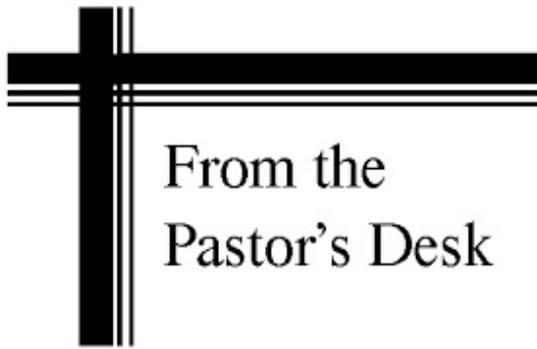
Sep 24	10:00 am	Worship	Genesis 1:1-2:4	Creation by the word
Oct 1	10:00 am	Worship	Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14	Binding of Isaac
Oct 8	10:00 am	Worship	Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17	Jacob's dream
Oct 15	10:00 am	Worship	1 Samuel 3:1-21	God Calls Samuel
Oct 22	10:00 am	Worship	1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14	God Calls David
Oct 29	10:00 am	Worship	1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13	Solomon's Temple
Nov 5	10:00 am	Worship	1 Kings 19:1-18	God Speaks to Elijah
Nov 12	10:00 am	Worship	Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15; 21-24	Amos: Justice Rolls Down

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

Idolatry is a horrible, dangerous thing. Sadly, far too many Christians are so very guilty of it. You can see it in the way they complain on social media, in the way they comment on the news of the day; in the defeatist, alarmist language that they use as to describe the world. You see it in the way they furrow their brows, and throw up their hands, and slam their pulpits. It shows-up in the lazy stereotypes and the religious rhetoric that flows so easily in church lobby coffee chats and extremist blog rants.

It's as if everything has now become an imminent threat: Muslims, Atheists, Gays, The President, inner city criminals, Hollywood, illegal immigrants, The Government, school hallways. The world outside the church building is broadly painted as a vile, immoral war zone, with "God's people" hopelessly outnumbered and outgunned.

Parroting the politicized talk show hosts and re-posting the latest terrible news stories, they perpetuate the now comfortable, largely White Evangelical Christian narrative of impending destruction, and they make it clear at every opportunity: The whole damn sky is falling!

Though they loudly, repeatedly and confidently proclaim Christ as Lord, in reality they no longer practice faith in a God that has any real power, any true control and inherent God-ness. They seem to have little more than a neutered figurehead Deity, who doesn't seem to be able to handle much at all anymore.

He's lost his Old Testament swagger. Dig just beneath the sunny "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Bible covers, and the shouted "God's judgment is coming" bullhorn warnings, and you can see that the Emperor is buck naked.

For far too many Christians, all that flowery, blustery spiritual talk is a loud paper tiger dressed-up as religion. The truth is, Fear has become their false God, one they worship with complete and undying devotion. The symptoms of Fear Idolatry are pretty easy to spot.

When you're not sure that God is there or that He'll really come through, you start to spend most of your time defending Him in absentia. You become a self-appointed Crusader of Truth, whose mission is to do the holy work of policing the world (just in case God can't or won't). You spend a lot of time calling out evil, forecasting disaster and predicting damnation.

When Fear is your God, you start majoring in Exterior Sin Management. You slowly yet ultimately turn all of your attention to the things in other people that you're certain really tick God off, and you make it your sacred business to modify their behaviour in the name of Jesus. When your God isn't big enough, you'll try to do in others what you've decided He wants, instead of actually trusting Him to do it Himself.

I really feel for Christians whose Jesus seems so integral to personal salvation in the afterlife, and so useless for the life we live now. He may be able to save souls, but He's apparently freaked-out by a Muslim prayer breakfast or gay marriage vote or school prayer policy. Is that really God? Is that Divinity?

Is that the One about Whom the psalmist wrote: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands (Psalm 19:1)? Is that the God who spoke the world into being, and calmed the seas, and healed the blind, and raised the dead? I invite you to pray for so many of our brothers and sisters in Christ, to stop worshipping the false idol of Fear. I invite you to pray that they recapture a God Who is worthy; not just of defending and quoting, but trusting.

I invite you to pray for the rest, joy and humility that comes from putting faith in something greater than ourselves and in the things we fear. Every day, even with the mystery that grows on my journey, my security grows too. I know how big my God is. Do you?

SPECIAL EVENTS

RC/Lutheran Prayer Service

September 30 at 2:00 pm
St. Ansgar Lutheran Church
(*Bring your Catholic friends*)

Camp Edgewood Farewell Celebration
(Events start at 3:00 pm - sharing
memories, hikes, songs, worship campfire)

October 1 at 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Food: Potluck
BYOE (bring your own everything)
RSVP if coming

Bishops' Company for Mission
Lutherfest 500
Guest Speaker Michael Coren

October 14 at 6:00 pm, Dinner at 6:30
Holiday Inn, Kitchener
Tickets \$50

Women's Auxiliary of Waterloo
Seminary (Women of Reformation)
(\$22 includes lunch)

October 21 at 9:30 am to 1:00 pm
St. John's Lutheran Church
22 Willow Street, Waterloo

Reformation Service
(*Celebrating 500th Anniversary*)

October 29 at 2:00 pm
St. James Anglican Cathedral

OLIVE BRANCH UPDATE

Benki Yetu is the Savings and Loan program established by The Olive Branch for Children for youths in Mbeya. Youths buy shares, receive loans, business education and support. They learn to save money, gain access to capital to start businesses and expand existing businesses. They gain valuable financial awareness in a supportive and loving environment.



Feby is a member of Benki Yetu.

"Benki Yetu has really helped me. I have learned how to save money. Money in my pocket is money spent. But, by saving my money I plan to open my own business when we get our shares and dividends next week."

Oliva Mwaseba is an RCH nurse for The Olive Branch for Children's Mobile Health Clinic. She performs multiple important jobs, such as vaccinating babies and children and identifying if a child is suffering from malnutrition. She is kind and supportive to the people who visit her. She understands the struggle people in remote communities are dealing with, and is glad to be able to help. She feels the work The Olive Branch for Children does is making a positive impact on the lives of people in remote villages.



"Before The Olive Branch for Children introduced the Mobile Health Clinic to the remote communities it serves, the mortality rate was far higher. I have witnessed so much pain, suffering, and death. This service is invaluable. It is helping prevent the transmission of HIV and lives are being saved. The infant mortality rate has decreased dramatically because of this service as more and more children are being vaccinated and mothers are being educated about how to prevent malnutrition."

"One of the most heart-breaking yet common tragedies I have seen over the years is women dying during child birth because they did not make it to the hospital on time. The distance to a hospital from a community like Lyangunda is way too far without support from someone. The Mobile Health Clinic makes women aware of the stage of pregnancy they are at so they can prepare weeks in advance for when they should make the long journey to the hospital. The Olive Branch also provides emergency transport if necessary. Lives have been saved because of this help. As a mother myself, it makes me happy to know more women will not die during child birth, and will get to enjoy that moment of looking into their new-born baby's eyes."