



## THE HERALD – APRIL 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 all God' s people

Apr 02	10:00 am	WORSHIP - LENT 5	(Zacchaeus)
<b>Apr 09</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>WORSHIP - PALM SUNDAY (Triumphal Entry)</b>	
		<b>INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL</b>	
Apr 14	10:00 am	GOOD FRIDAY	(Last Supper and Crucifixion)
<b>Apr 16</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>EASTER</b>	<b>(Empty Tomb)</b>
		<b>PRESENTATION &amp; LUNCH WITH DEBORAH, PUTIYEI AND SERIANNE</b>	
Apr 23	10:00 am	WORSHIP - EASTER 2	Emmaus Road
<b>Apr 30</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>WORSHIP - EASTER 3</b>	<b>Stephen' s Witness</b>
May 07	10:00 am	WORSHIP - EASTER 4	Ethioian Comes to Believe
<b>May 14</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>WORSHIP - EASTER 5</b>	<b>Council at Jerusalem</b>

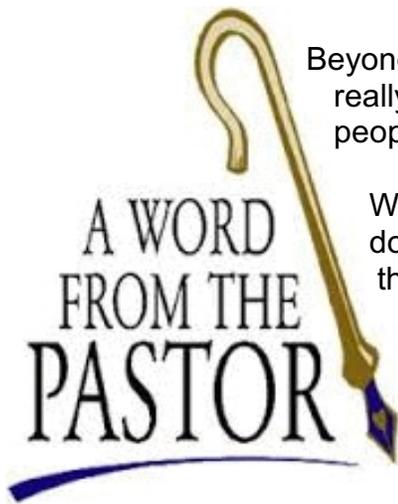
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### 2016 Zion Council

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)



Beyond the realm of churches, religious blogs, and bible colleges, nobody really cares about theology. What does matter is the way you treat other people.

Within Christendom, we're often taught the exact opposite: that doctrines, traditions, theologies, and distinct beliefs are the only things that do matter. It's what separates churches, denominations, theologians, and those who are "saved" and "unsaved."

Historically, Christians have been tempted to categorize the Bible into numerous sets of beliefs that are either inspired or heretical, good or bad, right or wrong — with no room for doubt or questioning or uncertainty.

It's easy to get caught up in theorizing about God, but within our everyday lives reality is what matters most to the people around us. Theorizing only becomes important once it becomes relevant and practical and applicable to our lives.

When I'm sick, and you bring me a meal, I don't care whether you're a Calvinist or Arminian.

When I'm poor, and you give me some food and money, I don't care if you're pre-millennial or post-millennial.

When I'm in the hospital, and you send me a get-well basket, I don't care what your church denomination is.

When you visit my grandparents in the nursing home, I don't care what style of worship music you listen to.

When you're kind enough to shovel my parent's driveway, I don't care what translation of the Bible you read.

When you give my friend a lift when their car breaks down, I don't care if you're Baptist or Catholic.

When you help my grandmother carry a heavy load of groceries, I don't care what you believe about evolution.

When you protect my kids from getting hit by a car when they're running across the street, I don't care who your favourite theologian is.

When you're celebrating my birthday with me, I don't care about your views related to baptism.

When you grieve alongside me during the death of a family member, I don't care if you tithe or not.

When you love me in deep and meaningful and authentic ways — nothing else really matters.

But when you idolize belief systems and turn theology into an agenda, it poisons the very idea of selfless love. The gospel message turns into propaganda, friends turn into customers, and your relationship with God turns into a religion.

You may have the most intellectually sound theology, but if it's not delivered with love, respect, and kindness — it's worthless.

The practical application of your love is just as important as the theology behind it. Our faith is evidenced by how we treat others. Does the reality of your life reflect the theory behind your spiritual beliefs?

We should never give up on theology, academic study, or the pursuit of understanding God, the Bible, and the history and traditions of the church, but these things should inspire us to emulate Christ — to selflessly, sacrificially, and holistically love others. Theology should reinforce our motivation for doing things to make the world a better place — not serve as platforms to berate, criticize, and attack others.

But too often, we're guilty of failing to practically apply our beliefs in tangible ways that actually help others. In the end, this is what matters most to the world around us: that we simply love as Christ loved.

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## **OLIVE BRANCH NEWS**

Deborah, Putiyei, and Serianne have arrived. They joined us for worship March 26 and will be back with us on Easter. Please try to join us as we catch up with all the activity that has taken place at the Olive Branch over the past year.

On April 7, the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala will take place. We only have three more days to purchase tickets which can be done online or by contacting Ginette or Pastor Linda.

### **ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**Pastor Linda Douglas**

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**Email: [lkdouglas@sympatico.ca](mailto:lkdouglas@sympatico.ca)**



The Olive Branch for Children

**12th ANNUAL GALA**  
**FUNDRAISING DINNER & DANCE!!**  
**FRIDAY APRIL 7th, 2016**  
**OPEN BAR ♥ ENTERTAINMENT ♥ SILENT AUCTION**  
**RAFFLE PRIZES ♥ DOOR PRIZES**

Rectangular Snip  
Bellvue Manor, 8083 Jane Street, Vaughan  
Doors open at 6:00 p. m. Dinner at 7:30 p. m.

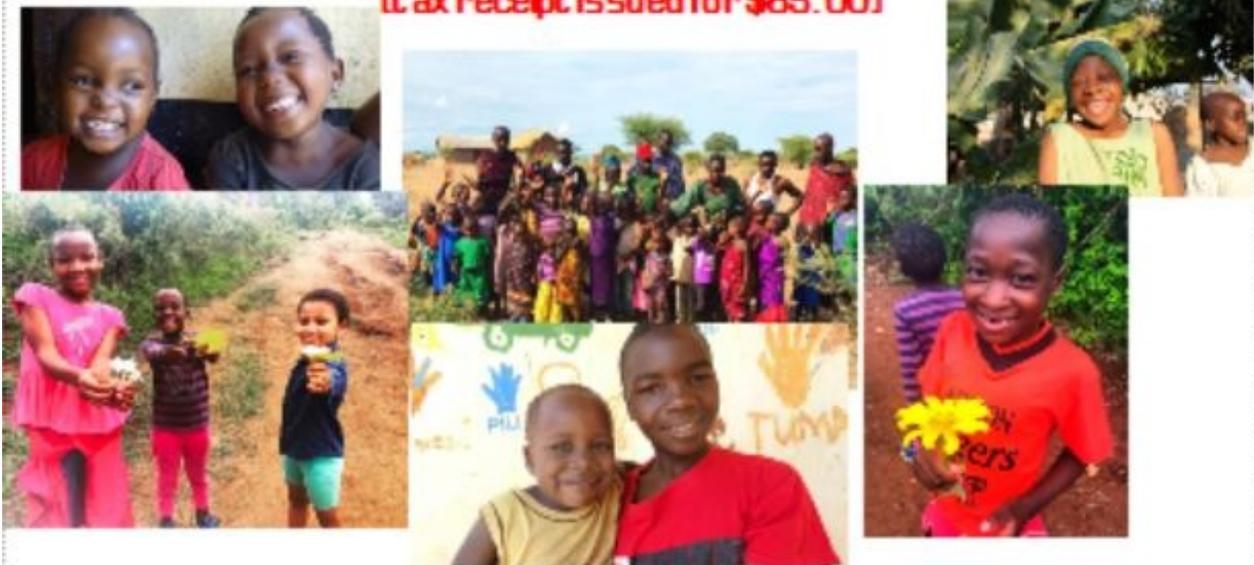
**BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW**

**\$125.00 each** – can be purchased from a Committee Member or

online at: [www.theolivebranchforchildren.org](http://www.theolivebranchforchildren.org)

Go to the [events page](#), and fill in the appropriate fields

**(tax receipt issued for \$65.00)**



What a wonderful opportunity to be a part of this amazing outreach opportunity – to save the lives of so many children – provide them with a home, medical care, education, and boundless amounts of love.

*Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person.*

*(Mother Teresa of Calcutta)*