***The Messenger***

***A newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church ~ Ottawa Lake, MI***

***March 2020***

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***Lenten Services***

Our Lenten Services have begun. Please plan to join us for our midweek service.

Suppers will be served at 6:15 p.m. and Service will be at 7:00 p.m.

Services will be March 4, 11, 18, 25 April 1

Our theme this year will be: *“The Message of Christ through the Book of Galatians”*

***Lutheran Men ~Monthly Breakfast***

On  March 14, 2020, we will have our Lutheran Men Monthly breakfast. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. We will have a hot breakfast, devotion, and a Bible study. **Please come and feel free to invite a friend or neighbor.** It would be great to see you there!

***Zion Lutheran Elders***

We will have our monthly meeting after church on March 8, 2020.

 ***Zion Lutheran Church Council***

We will have our monthly Church Council Meeting after church on February 16, 2020.

**Zion Church Choir**

If you love singing, please join our church choir. They meet after church in the choir room.

***Our handbell choir meets on Saturdays at***

***3:00 p.m. Please***

***They would love to have you join them.***

***Women of Zion***

There will be no meeting during the month of March.

**Mark Your Calendars**

March 8, 2020

***Movie Night***

We will have a Movie Night on March 27, 2020. We will meet at 6:30 for a light supper and then will watch a movie. If you don’t drive at night, pastor will be happy to pick you up so that you can attend. The movie that we will watch is called, “Courageous.” If you have not seen this movie, it will be one that you don’t want to miss.

***Here is a little information about Courageous***

Sheriff's deputy Adam Mitchell (Alex Kendrick) endures a terrible personal tragedy that causes him to question what is really important to him. Taking comfort in his religion, Adam vows to become a better parent to his teenage son (Rusty Martin), and convinces his friends on the force to sign a pledge that they will all strive to become better Christians and better parents. Unfortunately, one of the men's moral compass appears to be broken when it comes to earning fast money.

**ZION Lutheran Church**

**LCMC ~ Lutheran congregations in mission for Christ**

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**Pastor ∙ Jeffrey Geske**

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**Secretary ~ Sandy brady**

**(419) 410-9380**

**skwiles2000@gmail.com**

**custodian and organist~ Joseph extejt**

**For Your Information**

The following members give of their time to the leadership of this congregation. Please keep them in your prayers. If you have any questions, comments, or offers of help, please contact them.

**Chairman:** Dwight Gilliland

**Secretary:** Connie Sieler

**Treasurer:** Dennis Reitzel

**Financial:** Ron Clark

**Elders:** Ron Vincent and Lee Edignton

**Deacons:** Ben Schmidt

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**LCMC ~ WHO WE ARE**

**Free in Christ + Accountable to One Another + Rooted in Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions + Committed to the Great Commission**

**Prayers Are Important**

If you have an occasion to request a prayer, please call the church office. If you would like your request to be on our prayer chain, please call Sandy Brady (419) 410-9380 or Pastor Jeff at the church or on his cell phone (785)340-5635.

**Please Inform the Church Office. . .**

\*when a member of your family is ill or hospitalized or if they are discharged or moved to another facility.

\*when your address changes.

******\*when a new baby arrives.

\*when a family member marries or leaves home for college, or military

\*when planning a wedding to be conducted at Zion.

\*when a new family moves into your neighborhood.

\*when you are planning to be out of town.

\*when a brother or sister in Christ needs a visit from Pastor.

**EASTER LILIES**

Please watch the weekly bulletin for information about our donating an Easter Lillie for remembering your loved ones or for blessings received. For more information, please note upcoming bulletins or speak to Sandy Brady or Shirley Clark.

***From the desk of Pastor Geske….***

**Sharing the Love and Forgiveness of Jesus!**

 Greetings to you in the name of Christ! Our mission is to be about sharing the love and forgiveness of Jesus. Evangelism is certainly the work of the pastor, but it is also the work and mission of every member. We are to live and share the Savior, Jesus Christ. As your pastor, I look forward to receiving those names of friends and neighbors with whom you have shared the Savior’s message. I am a resource to help you share the message of your Savior, but all of us are called to share, witness, and tell others how our congregation is seeking to bring people to know Christ as Lord and Savior. It is the responsibility of all of us. Just think about how more people would come to know Jesus and how our church would have more people if more of us intentionally shared the Savior’s message and intentionally invited people to join us in worship at Zion.

Some questions for us might be: Are we reaching and inviting our communities and neighbors to come and worship and grow with us? Secondly, what are you doing to share the mission and ministry of the church. If you want to see our church grow, I encourage you to take these questions seriously. Evangelism is not simply the pastor’s responsibility. I am called to encourage and equip. In my life, I, too, seek those opportunities to share our Savior and the ministry of our church. I, too, seek those opportunities to invite people. And if all of us did that, what an amazing difference we would see! Just think of the areas where we lack at Zion. In what ways can we address them? What are we personally will to do to address them?

We have a great and exciting task ahead of us. I am excited about what God is going to do in the years ahead and pray that we can be committed to growing together in God’s Word and to be strengthened together as the body of Christ. As we think about what is ahead for our congregation, two Bible verses that we will hear much more say, “For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15 NIV)

May God bless you and excite you to be intentional in prayer and in sharing your faith as you seek to sharing the love and forgiveness of Jesus!

In Christ,

Pastor Jeffrey D. Geske

**Sunday Morning Bible Class**

*Please come and join our interesting study of the Word of God!*

**Join Us as we reflect on some of the amazing hymns that we sing on Sunday morning.**

**We will explore the rich treasures of encourgament and teaching found in the Church’s hymns.**

**SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT**

**The Five-Finger Prayer**

This is so neat. I had never heard this before...This is beautiful - and it
is surely worth making the 5-finger prayer a part of our lives.

1. Your thumb is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those
closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved
ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."

2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach,
instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They
need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep
them in your prayers.

3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders.
Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and
administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion.
They need God's guidance.

4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact
that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It
should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain.
They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

5. And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all which is
where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible
says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should
remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other
four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you
will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

**Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV)**

**Newsletter Article – MARCH 2020**

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God’s grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus’ work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God’s Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn’t just remind us of the sufficiency of God’s spiritual gifts, the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God, those that pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

The easiest example of this is fasting. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. You have, though, learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above in order to do it.

There is another example of this. It is alms-giving. This is an increase in giving to the church and its mission during this time. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying “no” to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you’ve learned just how powerful your flesh is in leading you instead of you leading it. You’ve learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

“But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and[a] we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.” (1 Tim 6:6–10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.

 *(--From the LCMS website)*

**WE BELIEVE, TEACH, AND CONFESS**

***From Luther’s Small Catechism***

***BAPTISM***

**III. The Power of Baptism**

**Third**

*How can water do such great things?*

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God’s word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus chapter three:

“He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.” [**Titus 3:5–8**]

Bringing Christ to the Nations and

the Nations to the Church

"The Lutheran Hour," which began in 1930, is now heard on more than 1,300 radio stations around the world. "The Lutheran Hour," hosted by Dr. Rev. Michael Zeigler, is the world's oldest continually-broadcast Gospel radio program. This weekly half-hour program proclaims the message of Jesus Christ to all people and serves as a bridge, linking them to the Church. Listen to the Lutheran Hour on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. at FM 99.5 KAWZ or AM 1560 WWYC or anytime at [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)

**MARCH 2020**

March 1
**"Singled-Out but Not Alone"**
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Something needs to be done and it falls to you to do it. You might feel alone-but you're not alone.
(Exodus 3-4)

March 8
**"Upon Further Review"**
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
God's forgiving love for us in Christ cancels the continuous playback of our regrets.
(Exodus 5)

March 15
**"Gracious Confiscation"**
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Exodus 7-8)

March 22
**"They Bloom Later"**
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Exodus 9)

March 29
**"Reckless, Raging Fury"**
Guest Speaker: Pastor Ryan Tinetti
(Exodus 10)

**THRIVENT NEWS . . .**

If you would like more information about Thrivent, its products, or its fraternal functions, please contact our area representative Greg Durivage in Maumee, OH at (419)-740-4193.

If you are a Thrivent Member, please consider using a Thrivent Action Team to support our ministry here at Zion..

**What is a Thrivent Action Team?** **Thrivent Action Teams** make it easy to live generously. **Thrivent** provides promotional resources and seed money to jump-start your fundraiser, educational event or service project. Your **team** provides the people power to bring it to life.

***It’s Time!!! Direct Your Choice Dollars!***

If you’re a Thrivent Financial member, you may be eligible to participate in Thrivent Choice® and recommend where some of Thrivent Financial’s 2020 charitable outreach funds go. The deadline to direct Choice Dollars® is March 31!

Here’s what to do:

1. Call 1-800-THRIVENT  or visit the Thrivent Financial website to find out if you have Dollars you are eligible to direct.
2. To direct Choice Dollars® to Zion Lutheran Church. you can do so online or over the phone – but you must direct Choice Dollars® by **March 31st!**

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**Food Bank~**

**Thank you for your generous help** with our Food Bank. If you have any question or would like to help in any way, please contact Rick Keck at (734) 854-4710. The Food Bank serves families and individuals on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

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***Home Visits*** *Please sign up for Pastor Jeff to visit you. Over the next several months, Pastor Jeff will be making home visits to get to know our members better. Please be open for a home visit and sign up at church.*

***BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES***

We would like to wish Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to the following individuals who are celebrating this March. If you are not listed or you know someone not listed, please contact Sandy Brady or Pastor Jeff.

14 Bill Brady

16 Larry Blum

23 Karen Vollmer

25 Jim Desko

*(Please consider sending Jim Desko a card for his 90th Birthday ~ His address is 10748 Rodesiler Hwy. OL, MI)*

**We wish he following couples a very Happy Anniversary!**

**We are not aware of any anniversaries for March, if you are celebrating, please let us know.**

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**Flowers on the Altar** ~ If you would like to place flowers, please sign up in the hallway by the restrooms.

There are no flowers on the altar for March because of Lent.

**Community Rewards Program**

Do you shop at Kroger? If you do, you can sign up for their Community Rewards Program and Kroger will give back to Zion money every quarter. Go on Kroger's website and sign up under Community Rewards. If you need help or don't have an email address, check with Pastor Jeff. *(Our code is NC512)*

**A Little Humor**

At Sunday School they were learning how God created everything, including human beings. Johnny was especially intent when the teacher told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.       Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, "Johnny, what is the matter?"   Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

A funeral service is being held in a church for a woman who has just passed away. At the end of the service, the pallbearers carrying the casket accidentally bump into a wall jarring the casket. They hear a faint moan. They open the casket and find that the women is actually alive. She lives for 10 more years and then dies. A ceremony is again held at the same church and at the end the pallbearers are again carrying the casket out. As they are walking, the husband calls out, "Watch out for the wall!"