***The Messenger***

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

***April 2020***

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***Celebrate the Death and Resurrection of our***

***Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!***

***April 5 – Palm Sunday ~ Celebrating the Triumphant Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.***

***April 8 – Maundy Thursday ~ 7:00 p.m. with Communion ~ Celebrating the Institution of the Lord’s Supper and the new command Jesus gave to love one another.***

***April 9 – Good Friday ~ 7:00 p.m.  ~ Remembering the suffering and death of Jesus for our sin and our salvation.***

***April 12 – Easter Sunday ~ Celebrating the Triumphant Resurrection of Jesus!***

***Sunrise Service ~ 7:00 a.m.***

***Easter Breakfast ~ 8:15 a.m.***

***Bible Class ~ 9:00 a.m.***

***Celebration Sunrise Service ~ 10:00 a.m.***

***Lutheran Men ~Monthly Breakfast***

On  April 11, 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 on April 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

***Zion Lutheran Church Council***

We will have our monthly Church Council Meeting after church on April 19, 2020.

**Zion Church Choir**

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

***A picture containing drawing

Description automatically generatedOur handbell choir meets on Saturdays at 3:00 p.m.***

***Please join them.***

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

***They will meet on April 4 and 11 and play in church on Easter***

***Movie Night***

We will have a Movie Night on April 24, 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, “God’s Not Dead.” If you have not seen this movie, it will be one that you don’t want to miss.

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

College philosophy professor Mr. Radisson's curriculum is challenged by his new student, Josh, who believes **God** exists. Freshman university student Josh Wheaton attends a philosophy class, where Professor Radisson requires all students to submit a signed statement staying "**God** is **dead**" and never existed.

**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.

**A close up of a sign

Description automatically generatedZION Lutheran Church**

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

8307 Memorial Hwy. Ottawa Lake, MI 49267 ·

(734) 856-2921

**Pastor ∙ Jeffrey Geske**

(785) 340-5635

[**zlcolmpastor@gmail.com**](mailto:zlcolmpastor@gmail.com)

[**www.zionlutheranottawalakemi.com**](http://www.zionlutheranottawalakemi.com)

**Secretary ~ Sandy brady**

**(419) 410-9380**

[**skwiles2000@gmail.com**](mailto: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.

***A blue and white sign

Description automatically generated***\*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.

A close up of a flag

Description automatically generated**Easter Lillies** ~ **Donate an Easter Lilies in Memory of a Loved One**

We will purchase the Lilies the week of Easter and use them on Easter Sunday. After the Easter service you are welcome to take one home with you. Please consider a gift of $15 a piece for each plant. The names will appear in the bulletin on Easter morning. Forms are available on the counter in the Narthex/Lobby.

***From the desk of Pastor Geske….***

**The Power of the Resurrection**

Greetings to you in the name of Christ! During the month of April, we will once again celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. We believe that Christ’s death and resurrection give us the certainty of forgiveness of our sin and the promise of eternal life. In the world in which we live, too many people don’t know or don’t understand the power of the resurrection for their life. Unfortunately, too many want nothing to do with the resurrection, but Jesus clearly tells us, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6 NIV) As I stop to think about the power of the resurrection, I am reminded of this story, “In a cemetery in Hanover, Germany, is a grave on which were placed huge slabs of granite and marble cemented together and fastened with heavy steel clasps. It belongs to a woman who did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. Yet strangely, she directed in her will that her grave be made so secure that if there were a resurrection, it could not reach her. On the marker were inscribed these words: ‘This burial place must never be opened.’ In time, a seed, covered over by the stones, began to grow. Slowly it pushed its way through the soil and out from beneath them. As the trunk enlarged, the great slabs were gradually shifted so that the steel clasps were wrenched from their sockets. A tiny seed had become a tree that had pushed aside the stones.” (--Bible Illustrator)

Isn’t it amazing how one little thing can have such a dynamic life force? The power of the resurrection may seem small in that it was an event occurring about 2000 years ago, but in that event is the tremendous power of God's Word. The above story continued by sharing the point that God’s Word will someday call to life the bodies of all who are in their graves. He will also bring back every person drowned at sea, cremated, or destroyed in some other way. We continue to do ministry in an environment that is hostile to the message of the cross, but we remember that the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us it is salvation. Nothing could deter the resurrection long ago and nothing can deter Christ’s coming again. As you celebrate the resurrection, may you be reminded again of God’s incredible love for you now and each day of your life. Know with certainty that the glorious resurrection is coming. May God find you faithful at His coming and may God use the gifts that He has given you to share again the resurrection message of Jesus Christ through your life. God equips, strengthens, and sends you through His Word and through His Church. May you be ever so faithful in your attendance and participation in His House. I pray that you have a blessed Easter!

In Christ,

Pastor Jeffrey D. Geske

“I rejoiced with those who said to me,  
    ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’” (Psalm 122:1 NIV)

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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 speak with him about what might work well with you.*

**Sunday Morning Bible Class**

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

**A picture containing book, text

Description automatically generatedJoin 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.**

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**SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT**

Do You Remember the movie “The Passion of the Christ”? I love these words about that movie that said, “**The R Rating of the Passion of The Christ**

The "R" of course is because of the violence, the gore. In movie terms "R" stands for RESTRICTED, but in his movie "R" stands for: RELEVANT, for REALISTIC, for it REALLY happened for a REASON because we were REBELIOUS we needed a REDEEMER, we needed to be RECONCILED, we needed to be RECOVERED, we needed to be REGENERATED. Jesus needed to be REJECTED so that we could have a RELATIONSHIP not just a RELIGION. The "R" is to REMIND us to REMEMBER what Jesus did to REMOVE our sin to RENDER Satan powerless, to RESCUE us from eternity in hell. The "R" rating is to show that Jesus was RESPONSIBLE for giving you REST. As a RESULT of his death Jesus RETIRED your debt. The "R" rating means that some will be REPULSED, some will REFUSE to believe, some will be RELUCTANT, some will think you are RIDICULOUS in believing that a death was REQUIRED. The "R" rating means that the RESULT of sin has been REVERSED and now through faith in Christ your REWARD is eternity and you are now RIGHTEOUS before God because you have RECEIVED him as the RULER of your soul. What a REVOLUTIONARY and RADICAL solution to REDEEM mankind. (--Tim Stevenson, Senior Pastor of Horizon Community Church in Galt, CA.)

**Newsletter Article – MARCH 2020**

On the topic of stewardship, one of the most common questions a person might ask is *not* whether a Christian should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Of course, Christians should give to their church.

The most common question: “How much should I give?” But what they really mean is this: “Should Christians give a tithe of their income to their local congregation?” So, let’s look at why you should or should not tithe.

Following are some reasons often offered for why Christians *shouldn’t* give a tithe to their church.

Some say you shouldn’t tithe because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. Lacking that command, there is no “Thus saith the Lord” and no “should” for giving a tithe to your congregation.

Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these, together with treasures (money), add up to more than a tithe.

Still others say they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church.

And there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of fear. If they tithe, they are afraid their gift will be misused, and they are afraid they won’t have enough to get the things they use, want, or need.

Following are some reasons for why Christians *should* give a tithe to their church.

Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to give a tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to tithe and did. On top of this, St. Paul often describes the giving Christians are to do in similar terms as a tithe: a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of their income (1 Cor. 6:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? The reason for the Old Testament tithe was to support the full ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry.

What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther put in the *Small Catechism*’s Table of Duties to cover what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question about something entirely different. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? There, is after all, no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest we have, and it states simply for Christians to not neglect gathering together. Even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments. It is the goal.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? I’d expect that conversation would be something like this: “I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and to receive His gifts in the Word and the Sacraments. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.”

This same conversation is how we should approach the topic of the tithe. It’s not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, the church is ecstatic that you’re giving when you’re giving in all these ways – time, talents, and treasures.

*(--From the LCMS website)*

**WE BELIEVE, TEACH, AND CONFESS**

***From Luther’s Small Catechism***

***BAPTISM***

**IV. What Baptism Indicates**

**Fourth**

*What does such baptizing with water indicate?*

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

*Where is this written?*

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” [**Rom. 6:4**]

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**

April 5  
**"There's Still Time"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
People can be unreceptive to God's love because they are very bad-or because they think they are very good.  
(Exodus 11-12)

April 12  
**"You Haven't Lost Me"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
(Exodus 14)

April 19  
**"The Great Pursuit"**  
Guest Speaker: Pastor Ryan Tinetti  
(Exodus 15)

April 26  
**"Rescue, Test, Rest"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
(Exodus 16)

**A close up of a logo

Description automatically generatedTHRIVENT 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..

A close up of a sign

Description automatically generated**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.

***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.

10 Karen Keck

14 Drew Baumgartner

21 Alan Ahleman

23 Darrell Gilliland

30 Joseph Extejt

**A drawing of a cartoon character

Description automatically generatedWe wish the following couples a very Happy Anniversary!**

**20 - Roger and Toni Smith**

**27- Hubert and Barbara Holtz**

**28 ~ Larry and Brenda Blum**

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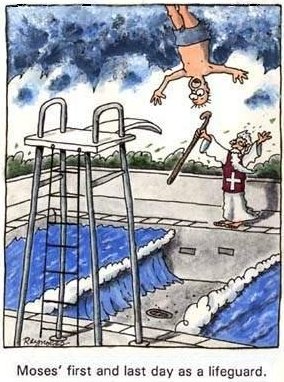
**Flowers on the Altar** ~ If you would like to place flowers, please sign up in the hallway by the restrooms.

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**



**A pastor I know** has a standard liturgy for funerals. To personalize each service, he uses the Find and Replace command on his computer to replace the name of the deceased from the previous funeral with the new name.  
      The next morning, the funeral was going smoothly until the Apostle's Creed. "Jesus Christ," the congregation read from the program, "born of the Virgin Edna..."

<https://www.swapmeetdave.com/Humor/Religious.htm>

