***The Messenger***

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

***June 2020***

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***Happy Father’s Day***

***to all of our***

***Fathers and Grandfathers!***

***Join Us for Worship Again!***

*On May 30-31, we began public worship in our sanctuary. We will continue to do so while practicing social distancing. Please wear a mask and gloves if you wish to do so.*

***Please join us on Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. or on Sunday at 10:00 a.m.***

*A New Sunday Morning Bible Study*

*On June 7, we will begin having a Bible study. We will begin to watch a video called, “That the World Might Know.” I will be selecting one of them in this series. Learn more about this series in the Bible Class section of this bulletin.*

***Please plan to join us at 9:00 a.m.***

*We will put more tables together to be able to practice social distancing.*

***Lutheran Men ~Monthly Breakfast (--I will be making breakfast ~ come if you are comfortable)***

On  June 13, 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 Thursday June 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

***Zion Lutheran Church Council***

We will have our monthly Church Council Meeting after church on June 21, 2020.

**THANK YOU! Again, a sincere thank you to all of our Zion Lutheran family for your support for our ministry during this difficult time with COVID 19. Your love and support are so appreciated! ~ Pastor Jeff and the Zion Lutheran Church Council**

**A close up of a sign

Description automatically generatedZION Lutheran Church**

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

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**Pastor ∙ Jeffrey Geske**

(785) 340-5635

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**Secretary ~ Sandy brady**

**(419) 410-9380**

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**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 picture containing woman, ball, game, racket

Description automatically generated** **Congratulations to all area Graduates ~**

**May God bless your new adventures.**

***From the desk of Pastor Geske….***

**Thank, Praise, Serve and Obey**

Greetings to you in the name of Christ! Summer is upon us and so are all of the joys of summer and all of the activities that pull on our time. I pray that you have an enjoyable and fun summer. As you are enjoying all of the activities and time outdoors, I would like to encourage you to take time to worship our God who is the giver of all things. I love how Martin Luther reminds us in the Meaning of the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed that everything we have and are is a gift from our God and so it is our duty to do four things. Do you recall what these are? Martin Luther said, “All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to **thank and praise, serve and obey Him**.”

These four things are central to what we do in worship. First and foremost, we gather to hear God’s Word of love and forgiveness for us. We also thank, praise, serve, and obey Him as we worship through our confessions, through our songs, through our offering. Worship is a time to hear and interact in a special way with our Heavenly Father and other brothers and sisters in Christ. This summer, I encourage you not to forget about worship but to be like David when he said, “I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD.’” (Psalm 122:1 NIV)

I think it is good for families to talk about why they do what they do. Why do we worship and why should we worship every Sunday? The answer is Jesus and all He has done for us! Yes, we are called to remember the Sabbath Day. We are called to hear, learn, and meditate on God’s Word. In our catechism, we are encouraged by a question that asks, “What do the Scriptures teach about our life in the church?” The answer states, “They teach that A. we should seek always to be and remain members of the invisible church, Christ’s body, by sincere faith in Christ, our Savior; B. we should be faithful to that visible church, or denomination, which professes and teaches all of the Bible’s doctrine purely and administers the sacraments according to Christ’s institution; C. we should avoid false teachers, false churches, and all organizations that promote a religion that is contrary to God’s Word; D. we should maintain and extend God’s church by telling others about Jesus Christ, by personal service, and by prayer and financial support.” (--LSC Q. 179) Consider the many Bible passages listed in the answer to this question, like John 15:5; Acts 2:42; John 8:31-32; 2 Timothy 4:3; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 2:9 and 1 Peter 3:15.

My prayer is that God would so motivate and encourage us to be mightily about His work in this corner of His kingdom. God’s blessings to you as you worship and as you enjoy this summer of fun. I look forward to seeing you in our Father’s house each week as we begin to worship together again with COVID getting past us!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jeffrey Geske

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

**Sunday Morning Bible Class**

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

*That The World May Know Series*

### A picture containing book, text Description automatically generatedTake your group on a trip to ancient times, places, and customs with trusted Bible scholar **Ray Vander Laan** as your fun and engaging tour guide. Filmed in Israel, Egypt, Turkey, and Greece, these powerful videos explore what it meant to follow Jesus in the first century—and what it means to follow him today. Each of the 16 volumes provides visually stunning video sessions as well as an easy-to-follow discovery guide that illuminates Jesus’ teachings and helps participants understand the context in which He lived and preached. Join renowned teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan as he guides you through the lands of the Bible. In each lesson, Vander Laan illuminates the historical, geographical, and cultural context of the sacred Scriptures. Filmed on location in the Middle East, the That the World May Know ® film series will transform your understanding of God and challenge you to be a true follower of Jesus.

**Newsletter Article – June 2020**

The sin of the world is paid for. God’s Law has been kept perfectly on our behalf. The prophecies have all been fulfilled. Jesus Christ has finished it all! And that, dear Christians, should fill us with complete confidence in our salvation. Since Jesus has finished all these things in His self-sacrifice, we can be fully certain our sins are forgiven, and we have everlasting life!

St. Paul wrote: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” (Rom. 12:1)

We hear the same teaching in 1 Peter. “As you come to him, a living stone, rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves, like living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 2:4-5)

It’s the very thing Malachi foretold of the Lord, that He would come and purify His priestly people, that they may offer to Him an offering in righteousness. (Mal. 3:3)

So, what does this mean? In view of God’s mercies – that is, because Jesus sacrificed Himself to make us pure, giving His entire self into death – Paul said that we are to sacrifice ourselves entirely to God, offering Him our whole lives. For our Savior did not give Himself for us in part. So, we do not give back to Him in part.

We don’t offer ourselves to God just on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, for example. Rather, we give Him our whole selves, all the time. We understand that offering ourselves to God as living sacrifices involves the giving of our time. It requires us to be faithful stewards of the time He has given us. Yes, it means we devote to our Savior all our time. Otherwise we are not sacrificing our whole lives.

You see, God both teaches us, and has graciously qualified us, to present ourselves to Him as living sacrifices – to live as His holy priests, who offer Him acceptable sacrifices through Jesus Christ, all day, every day, in our various callings.

In the passages from Romans and 1 Peter, we hear several examples of Christian self-sacrifice: serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy, living peaceably with others, submitting to governing authorities and those over us in the workplace, wives submitting to husbands, husbands honoring wives, showing compassion, and suffering patiently in doing good.

In all these things, and in all our other everyday activities, we sacrifice ourselves by using our time, not just for our own benefit, but also and especially for the well-being of others. Work time, school time, exercise time, study time, mealtime, chore time, recreation and relaxation time, even sleep time – it’s all God’s gift to us to use for purposes that please and honor Him.

This challenges us to think about the way we spend our time, how we utilize our talents, and the way we spend our treasures. Whatever it is I’m doing, am I doing it “for the Lord”? (Col. 3:23) Am I presenting God a living sacrifice? Am I conducting myself as a holy priest, whose sacrifice is acceptable to God?

Because our Lord sacrificed Himself wholly for us, we offer ourselves wholly to Him as living sacrifices. This is following Jesus in self-sacrifice. By His saving mercy, yes, our sacrifice is acceptable to God. For the sake of Jesus’ finished work, God is pleased with us.

*(--From the LCMS website)*

**WE BELIEVE, TEACH, AND CONFESS**

***From Luther’s Small Catechism ~ The Office of the Keys***

*What is the Office of the Keys?*

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

*Where is this written?*

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” **[John 20:22–23]**

*What do you believe according to these words?*

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

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)

**June 2020**

June 7  
**"An Undeserved Salute"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
"Blessing is a condition that's true even if you're not completely conscious of it or even if you don't fully appreciate it. Only God can bless in this sense. Jesus, sitting in God's spot on the mountain, speaks for God as the Son of God and He blesses."  
(Matthew 5:1-16)

June 14  
**"What You're Getting Into"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Many of us know what it's like to try out for a team, for a role in a play, or first chair in the band. We might have been chosen first. We might have been chosen last. We might not have been chosen at all. We might have been cut. So, how does God choose His team?  
(Matthew 5:17-20)

June 21  
**"Powered by Touch"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
New Series Sermon on the Mount  
(Matthew 5:21-32)

June 28  
**"TBD"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
New Series Sermon on the Mount  
(Matthew 5)

**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.

**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.

**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)*

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

***BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES***

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

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**13 Dwight Gilliland**

**16 Connie Sieler**

**17 Eric Baumgartner**

**25 David Vaughan**

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

**19 ~ Ron and Shiela Vincent**

**25 ~ Brian and Jean Gilliland**

**Those Funny Lutherans 😊**

The following list was compiled by a 20th century Lutheran who, observing other Lutherans, wrote down exactly what he saw or heard:  
  
1. Lutherans believe in prayer,but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.  
  
2. Lutherans like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.  
  
3. Lutherans believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there.  
  
4. Lutherans usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.  
  
5. Lutherans believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.  
  
6. Lutherans feel that applauding for their children's choirs would make the kids too proud and conceited.  
  
7. Lutherans think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.  
  
8. Lutherans drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament..  
  
9. Some Lutherans still believe that an ELCA bride and an LC-MS groom make for a mixed marriage. (For those of you who are not Lutherans, ELCA is Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and LC-MS is Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, two different divisions of the same Protestant religion. And when and where I grew up in Minnesota , intermarriage between the two was about as popular as Lutherans and Catholics marrying.)  
  
10. Lutherans feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.  
  
11. Lutherans are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at church.  
  
12. Lutherans think that Garrison Keillor stories are totally factual.  
  
13. Lutherans still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season and think that peas in a tuna noodle casserole add a little too much color.  
  
14. Lutherans believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.  
  
And finally, you know you're a Lutheran when:  
  
\*It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service;  
  
\*You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can;  
  
\*Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee;  
  
\*The communion cabinet is open to all, but the coffee cabinet is locked up tight;  
  
\*When you watch a 'Star Wars' movie and they say, 'May the Force be with you', you respond, 'and also with you';  
\*And lastly, it takes 15 minutes to say, 'Good-bye'.