***The Messenger***

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

***October 2020***

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***WORSHIP WITH US EACH WEEK!***

***Join us for worship on Saturday afternoon***

***at 4:00 p.m. and Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m.***

***Sunday Morning Bible Study***

*We are studying the book of Philippians.*

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

***Lutheran Men ~Monthly Breakfast***

On October 10, 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 October 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m..

***Zion Lutheran Church Council***

We will have our monthly Church Council Meeting after church on October 18, 2020.

**Zion Church Choir**

If you love singing, please join our church choir. They meet after church in the choir room. For more information, please speak with Joseph Extejt.

***A picture containing drawing

Description automatically generatedOur handbell choir meets on Saturdays at***

***3:00 p.m. They are preparing for Reformation Sunday on October 25. They would love to have you join them.***

***Women of Zion***

There will be a meeting on October 26, 2020 at 2 p.m. We will have a meeting and a Bible study. All Women are invited and encouraged to attend

***Movie Night***

We will have a

Movie Night on October 24, 2020. We will meet at 6:30 for a light supper and then will watch a movie. The movie that we will watch is called, “Luther.” If you have not seen this movie, it will be one that you don’t want to miss.

A picture containing food

Description automatically generated***Here is a little information about “Luther.”***

Luther is a 2003 American-German epic historical drama film loosely based on the life of **Martin Luther** starring Joseph Fiennes. It was an independent film partially funded by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The film covers Luther's life from his becoming a monk in 1505 to the Diet of Augsburg in 1530.

**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**

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**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 close up of text on a black background

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.

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***From the desk of Pastor Geske….***

Greetings in the name of Christ! This month, we celebrate the 503rd anniversary of the Reformation. It was on October 31, 1517 that Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses to begin a theological discussion. God used Martin Luther to renew again the great truth that we are saved by grace, not by our works. God’s amazing grace is that He has saved us from sin, death, and the devil. Just think about those words of Paul, where he wrote, “This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” (Romans 3:22-24 NIV) And a few verses later, we read, “For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.” (Romans 3:28 NIV) It is central to us that God has freely saved us by the life, death, and resurrection our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In defining who we are as the Lutheran Church—One Lutheran denomination had this to say on their website. “**Grace alone** ~ God loves the people of the world, even though they are sinful, rebel against Him and do not deserve His love. He sent Jesus, His Son, to love the unlovable and save the ungodly. **Faith alone ~** By His suffering and death as the substitute for all people of all time, Jesus purchased and won forgiveness and eternal life for them. Those who hear this Good News and believe it have the eternal life that it offers. God creates faith in Christ and gives people forgiveness through Him. **Scripture alone** ~ The [Bible](http://www.lcms.org/graphics/assets/media/LCMS/wa_bible1.pdf) is God's inerrant and infallible Word, in which He reveals His Law and His [Gospel](http://www.lcms.org/graphics/assets/media/LCMS/wa_gospel.pdf) of salvation in Jesus Christ. It is the sole rule and norm for Christian doctrine.” (--LCMS Website)

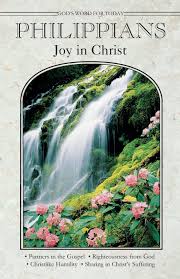
I believe there understanding is our understanding of God’s work through grace alone, faith alone, and Scripture alone. We strive as Lutheran Christians to help the world understand our need for forgiveness and the love and forgiveness that God gives in and through Jesus Christ alone. The world needs our witness therefore we need to be prepared to give a reason for our faith. It is good to be in worship, in Bible study, in prayer, and in fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ. Our community needs what God is offering through Zion Lutheran Church. I pray that you would join me in inviting family, friends, and neighbors to join us in what God is doing through our ministry at Zion.

In Christ,

Pastor. Jeffrey Geske

**Sunday Morning Bible Class**

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

*God’s Word of Today ~ Study of Philippians*

Each study in the *God’s Word for Today* series provides an in-depth exploration of a book of the Bible. Each session includes:

* background information on the book of the Bible, its author, audience, occasion, and purpose;
* learning experiences that promote exciting and challenging discussions;
* notes for leaders that answer questions, suggest a learning process, and provide additional information;
* discussion starters that help participants apply God’s Word to their daily lives.

(6 sessions)

In this epistle, Paul characterizes the Christian life in this way: joy no matter what the circumstances; an eagerness to suffer for Christ; humility that follows Christ in putting others first; trust in Christ alone for righteousness.

**Newsletter Article – October 2020**

*(--From the LCMS website)*

We celebrate the Reformation at the end of each October. The Reformation began on All Saints’ Eve in 1517, which was when Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. So, let’s hear from Luther himself on the topic of giving and stewardship.

In the Small Catechism under the Table of Duties, Martin Luther gives specific Bible passages to help Christians know their duty in their various vocations as members of their family, society at large, and in God’s family, the Church. Under the heading “What Hearers Owe Their Pastors,” Luther lists five passages from the Bible, three of which have to do with giving to your local congregation. They are these:

* “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.” (1 Cor. 9:14)
* “Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” (Gal. 6:6–7)
* “The elders [presbyters, i.e., pastors] who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, ‘Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,’ and ‘The worker deserves his wages.’ ” (1 Tim. 5:17–18)

Luther comments on these passages in his 1535 Lectures on Galatians. He wrote:

“When Paul says ‘all good things,’ this is not to be taken to mean that everyone should share all his possessions with his preacher. No, it means that he should provide for him liberally, giving him as much as is needed to support his life in comfort. … The apostle is so serious in advocating this topic of support for preachers that he adds a threat to his denunciation and exhortation, saying: ‘God is not mocked.’ … All this pertains to the topic of support for ministers. I do not like to interpret such passages; for they seem to commend us, as in fact they do. In addition, it gives the appearance of greed if one emphasizes these things diligently to one’s hearers. Nevertheless, people should be taught also about this matter, in order that they may know that they owe both respect and support to their preachers. Christ teaches the same thing in Luke 10:7: ‘Eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages’; and Paul says elsewhere (1 Cor. 9:13–14): ‘Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the Gospel should get their living by the Gospel.’ It is important for us who are in the ministry to know this, so that we do not have a bad conscience about accepting for our work wages … it happens when those who proclaim the glory of God and faithfully instruct the youth derive their livelihood from them. It is impossible that one man should be devoted to household duties day and night for his support and at the same time pay attention to the study of Sacred Scripture, as the teaching ministry requires. Since God has commanded and instituted this, we should know that we may with a good conscience enjoy what is provided for the comfortable support of our lives from church properties to enable us to devote ourselves to our office.” (LW 27:125–126)

**WE BELIEVE, TEACH, AND CONFESS**

***From Luther’s Small Catechism ~ The Sacrament of the Altar***

**IV. How to Receive This Sacrament Worthily**

*Who receives this sacrament worthily?*

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “for you” require all hearts to believe.

***BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES***

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

***October***

***1 ~ Patti Vaughan***

***2 ~ Ron Clark***

***7 ~ Jean Frank***

***8 ~ Susan Gaylord***

***16 ~ Karen Schmidt***

***21 ~ Nick Baumgartner***

***30 ~ Sandy Brady***

***October***

***2 ~ Dwight and MaryJo Gilliland***

***17~ Ray and Karen Schmidt***

**Flowers on the Altar** ~ If you would like to place flowers, please sign up in the hallway by the restroom. The cost is $30.00

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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.

**COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 20, 2020**

**Member Present:** Pastor Jeff, Dwight Gillilland, Connie Sieler, Lee Edington, Ron Vincent, Ron Clark and Dennis Reitzel. Absent: Ben Schmidt

Meeting was called to order by Dwight Gilliland and Pastor Jeff open with a prayer.

Motion made by Ron Vincent and 2nd by Lee Edington to accept minutes from August minutes .

**Pastor Report:** Visiting with shut-ins at home, hospitals and in assisted living. Pastor requested that Council approves a bulk rate for mailing of brochures for the holiday. Council approved.

**Treasurer Report:** Zion bills are all paid and bank balance with Zion books. Connie Sieler made motion to accept treasurer report and 2nd Ron Vincent. Carried.

**Old Business:** Ramp will be closed for a couple of weeks while the posts are replaced and set.

**New Business**: Parking lot is resealed but they still have a couple of holes to repair before we pay them. Looks great!

**Elders:** Home visits will assume in October.

Ron Vincent made motion to adjourn and 2nd by Ron Clark. Carried Adjourned at 11:15.

Respectfully submitted

Connie Sieler, Secretary

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)

**October 2020**

October 4  
**"Victory in Defeat"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
The thing about God is, He's winning-even when it doesn't look like He's winning. Maybe, especially when it doesn't look like He's winning. Dr. Michael Zeigler begins a series of messages based on the book of Daniel that tells how God uses history as a vehicle to bring about His eternal kingdom.  
(Daniel: 1)

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**"Unscaled Heights of Empathy"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
A king's dream, a mysterious statue with feet of clay, an unearthly rock that grows to fill all the earth, and God's empathy for a weeping world, embodied in Christ-it's all part of Dr. Michael Zeigler's message, this week.  
(Daniel 2)

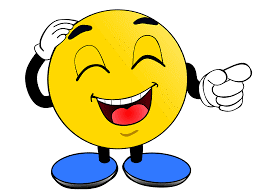
October 18  
**"What I'm Looking For"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
(Daniel 3)

October 25  
**"No Boasting, Just Belonging"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
(Romans 3 :19-31)

***Sign of the Cross*** In the Small Catechism **A close up of a sign

Description automatically generated**Luther encouraged that the sign of the cross be made each morning and evening as a reminder of one's baptism. The cross is signed by touching the fingers first to the forehead, then to the heart, then to one shoulder and finally to the other. Appropriate points in the Divine Service to make the sign of the cross include the Invocation, Absolution, conclusion of the

Creed, upon reception of Holy Communion, and the Benediction.



**A LITTLE HUMOR**

The Dead Mule ~ Pastor went to his church office on Monday morning and discovered a dead mule in the church yard. He telephoned the police. Since there did not appear to be any foul play, the police referred the Pastor to the Health Department.  
     
      They explained, "Since there was no health threat you'll need to call the Sanitation Department."  
        
      When the pastor called the Sanitation Department, the Manager of the Sanitation Department said, "I can't pick up that dead mule without authorization from the mayor."  
        
      The Pastor was not at all too eager to call the mayor, who possessed a very bad temper and was always extremely unpleasant and hard to deal with, but, eventually, the Pastor called the mayor anyway.  
        
      The mayor did not disappoint the Pastor. The mayor immediately began to rant and rave. After his continued rant at the pastor, the mayor finally said, "Why did you call me any way? Isn't your job to bury the dead?"  
        
      The pastor paused for a brief prayer and asked the Lord to direct his response. The lord led the pastor to the words he was seeking, "Yes, Mayor, it IS my job to bury the dead, BUT I always like to notify the next of kin first!"

**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 close up of a logo

Description automatically generated 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 or Ken Huner at 734-869-2122

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