***The Messenger***

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

***November 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.***

*****We will celebrate All Saints Sunday ~ November 1st. We will remember those that passed away in the past year.***

***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 November 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 on Thursday November 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m..

 ***Zion Lutheran Church Council***

We will have our monthly Church Council meeting after church on November 15, 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.

***Our 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 November 23, 2020 at 2 p.m. We will have a meeting and a Bible study.

**Stewardship Pledge Sunday**

We will have Pledge Sunday on Sunday, November 22. The pledge forms will be handed out on November 1st and be presented on Pledge Sunday. ***The pledges will be presented in a sealed envelope with your name on it. No one will read it or see except you. It will be returned next November.***

*Throughout the year we will pray for those that made pledges.*



**Thanksgiving Eve Service**

Join us for worship on Wednesday*,* ***November 25, 2020*** at 7:00 p.m. This worship service will have celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

**ZION Lutheran Church**

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

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(734) 856-2921

**Pastor ∙ Jeffrey Geske**

(785) 340-5635

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

**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.

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***From the desk of Pastor Geske….***

 Years ago I learned a saying about attitude. It said, “Attitude check! Praise the Lord! And all God’s groovy people said, ‘Amen!’ and the devil said, ‘Bummer, dude!’” This make me think about my life and whether or not I am praising the Lord. I recall a Bible study at conference that was about attitude. In this Bible study the leader told us to draw a triangle on our paper. He then told us to write the words skill, knowledge, and attitude along the three sides of the triangle. We talked about how our work as pastors is to help God’s people grow in their skills of sharing Christ. We are called as pastors to help God’s people come to a better understanding of who Christ is and what He has done for us through His death and resurrection. Skills and knowledge in our faith are important for communicating and witnessing for Christ. Often, I have shared those words with you from Peter, “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,” (1 Peter 3:15 NIV) Setting apart Christ as Lord is learning and growing in a relationship with Christ. But attitude is the key!

 In the Bible study mentioned above, we discussed how a lot of attitudes are set by the young age of five. Attitude is defined as a way of thinking, acting, or feeling and the feeling, manner, or behavior of a person toward a situation or cause. What attitudes do you have that shape how you look at life? As Christians, our attitudes are not to be shaped by the world but by God. St. Paul wrote, “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!” (Philippians 2:5-8 NIV)

 Is your attitude the same as that of Christ Jesus? Does His love, forgiveness, and salvation shape who you are and how you live? The attitude of the world seems to be to look out for number one, to do those things that you enjoy whether they are right or wrong. According to the world, it does not matter what God thinks, as long as you are happy. We must remember that we are here only for a time and eternity is waiting. Our attitude should be that of a servant, seeking to follow and live for Christ. Unfortunately, we too often have the attitude that our way is the only way, and we seek to have our own agenda over God’s agenda and will for our lives. As your pastor, I want each of us to have an attitude of joy and service. We are to be like David when he wrote, “I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD.’” (Psalm 122:1 NIV) Rejoicing, serving, and proclaiming the love and forgiveness in Christ. What a joy it is to see when God’s house is filled! How sad it is to see when there is a lack of interest, involvement, and joy when it comes to Sunday School, Bible study, congregational leadership, or service in the kingdom. Our attitude should be that of Christ Jesus. Yes, I know and I understand the enormous number of things that everyone has to do, but we must never lose sight of the importance of the mission that God is giving us to do as His people, His church. In your life, reflect on your attitude, your willingness or reluctance, and pray that God would lead you to have the joy that comes from Him.

 This attitude of joy and service comes from growing in our relationship with God. It comes from our growing through personal study of God’s Word and worship and growing together as the family of God. As you celebrate Thanksgiving this month, thank God for your blessings, and pray that you may have an attitude of joy in your service to Him. I pray that you will be faithful in attendance in His house and that you would be about your Heavenly Father’s business as you serve Him with joy!

In Christ,

Pastor Jeffrey D. Geske

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES**

**November 29** First Sunday in Advent

**December 2, 9, 16** Advent Meal and Service

**December 12** CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL with the Cookie Walk

**December 20** Pastor’s Christmas Open House (2-5 p.m.)

**December 24** Christmas Eve Services with Communion and Candlelight at 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

**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 – November 2020**

*(--From the LCMS website)*

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son’s blood, His death for our sins, and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water – combined with His Word, promise, and Name – the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And, being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity, and everything that is His – righteousness, peace, eternal life belongs also to us. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God’s holy Word, as a sacrifice.

Thus, all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him. We eat to nourish our bodies. We share with our family, neighbors, fellow Christians, the poor, and even our enemies as holy things given by the holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and they bring blessings upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom.

Thus, we place all that we have into God’s hands, and He never fails to remember us. He pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing, and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but, giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for the celebrations of Thanksgiving, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God’s providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all – even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

**WE BELIEVE, TEACH, AND CONFESS**

***From Luther’s Small Catechism ~ The Lord’s Prayer***

**The Introduction**

Our Father who art in heaven.

*Our Father in heaven.*

*What does this mean?* With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may

***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.

***November***

*1 Hunter Gilliland*

*******6 Jean Gilliland*

*10 Cheri Hand*

*11 Duane Holtz*

*28 Granger Vaughan*

*29 Elizabeth Vesey*

*30 Connor Vaughan*

*30 Jacob Vaughan*

*31 Alex Vaughan*

***November***

*11 Norman and Bev Gregory*

*11 Lee and Barb Edington*

*14 ~ Dennis and Amy Reitzel*

 **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

**CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 18, 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 Ron Clark to accept minutes from September minutes .

**Pastor Report:** Visiting with shut-ins at home, hospitals and in assisted living. Pastor will be going to Grand Rapids to see Jean Frank. Brochure will be mailed on November 18th, with news of Zion and schedule for Holidays.

**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.

**Elders:** Home visits are at a stand still due to Covid. Zion has a need for younger families.

**Old Business:** Ramp should be finish by November, bigger project than expected.

**New Business:** Motion made by Lee E. and 2nd by Ron C. to allow $400 for ramp repair. Lee pointed out that some bricks are losing their mortar and Ron V will look into filling the cracks. December 6th will be the congregational meeting after services.

Ron Clark made motion to adjourn and 2nd by Ron Clark. Carried Adjourned at 11:40.

Respectfully submitted

Connie Sieler, Secretary

***All Saints Day ~***An ancient observance on November 1 that originally commemorated the martyrs of the church (those who had died for the faith). It has since been expanded to include all who die in the faith. Because all who belong to Christ are saints, the festival also rightly emphasizes our unity with all believers, both living and dead.

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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.

*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)

**November 2020**

November 1
**"Some People Never change?"**
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Some people never change. Most people do. With God, all people can.
(Daniel 4)

November 8
**"Tied into the Same Lifeline"**
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Humble pie is on the menu at an ill-fated feast.
(Daniel 5)

November 15
**"Bigger"**
Guest Speaker: Pastor Gerard Bolling
(Daniel 6)

November 22
**"Politics in Perspective"**
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Daniel 7:1-14)

November 29
**"Magnum Opus"**
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Daniel 8:27)

**SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT**

**Some Things to Remember at Thanksgiving**

 A great deal has been written about the virtue of forgetting old grudges, prejudices, unpleasant experiences, and heart-aches. We also need to be reminded of some of the blessing of remembering. Remembering can be good spiritual exercise. At Thanksgiving we need to:

Remember **our sins** that we might confess them to God.

Remember **our weaknesses** that we may receive strength.

Remember **our humanity**  that we might stop trying to be God.

Remember **God’s mercies** that we might be merciful to others.

Remember **our joys** that we might be joyful.

Remember **God’s greatness** that we might be humble.

Remember **our poverty** that we might share our prosperity.

Remember **God’s forgiveness**  that we might forgive others.

Remember **our needs**  that we might serve the needs of others.

Remember **JESUS CHRIST** that we might grow to be more like Him.

**A LITTLE HUMOR**

little boy wanted 100 dollars badly and prayed for two weeks but nothing happened. Then he decided to write a letter to the Lord requesting the money. When the postal authorities received the letter addressed to the Lord, they decided to send it to the President

      The President was so impressed, touched, and amused that he instructed his secretary to send the little boy a 10 dollar bill. The President thought this would appear to be a lot of money to a little boy.

      The little boy was delighted with the money and sat down to write a thank-you note to the Lord, which read:

      Dear Lord, Thank you very much for sending me the money. However, I noticed that for some reason you had to send it through Washington, and as usual, they deducted 90%. Love, Tommy

nun who works for a local home health care agency was out making her rounds when she ran out of gas. As luck would have it there was a station just down the street. She walked to the station to borrow a can with enough gas to start the car and drive to the station for a fill up.

      The attendant regretfully told her that the only can he owned had just been loaned out, but if she would care to wait he was sure it would be back shortly.

      Since the nun was on the way to see a patient she decided not to wait and walked back to her car. After looking through her car for something to carry to the station to fill with gas, she spotted a bedpan she was taking to the patient. Always resourceful, she carried it to the station, filled it with gasoline, and carried it back to her car.

      As she was pouring the gas into the tank of her car two men walked by. One of them turned to the other and said: "Now that is what I call faith!"

**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)*

** 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



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