***The Messenger***

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

***April 2021***

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

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

***March 28 – Palm Sunday ~ Celebrating the Triumphant Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.***

***April 1 – 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 2 – Good Friday ~ 7:00 p.m.  ~ Remembering the suffering and death of Jesus for our sin and our salvation.***

***April 4– 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 17, 2021, we will have our Lutheran Men’s 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 Church Council***

We will have our monthly Church Council Meeting after church on April 18, 2021.

***Women of Zion***

Women of Zion will have their next monthly meeting on April 26th at 2:00 p.m.

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

***Join us for worship on Saturday at 4:00 p.m. and***

***Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m.***



***Praying for COVID to END!!***

*Please kindly wear a mask in the building when you are not at a pew. Thank you! Communion servers will be wearing masks for the protection of all.*

***Sunday Morning Bible Study***

*We are studying the book of Romans.*

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

**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.

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***HANDBELL CHOIR ~*** Come!  Join us!  Come ring in our bell choir!  Rehearsals will begin Saturday, April 3, at 3:00 P.M. in a room next to the music room.  We will rehearse through the month of April and May 1 and 8, and play during worship on Mother’s Day, May 9. Hope to see you.  The more the merrier!

**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 do not have an email address, check with Pastor Jeff. *(Our code is NC512)*

**Steps for Linking your Kroger card to help our ministry ~**

**1, Sign into your account at** [**www.kroger.com**](http://www.kroger.com) **or create an account.**

**2. Click on the NAME.**

**3. Scroll down to MY ACCOUNT and Click on it,**

**4. Scroll down to COMMUNITY REWARDS. Click on COMMUNITY REWARDS.**

**5. Enter Zion Lutheran Church Ottawa Lake MI (NC512)**

***Pastor Geske will be Out of Town from April 6-12***

**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

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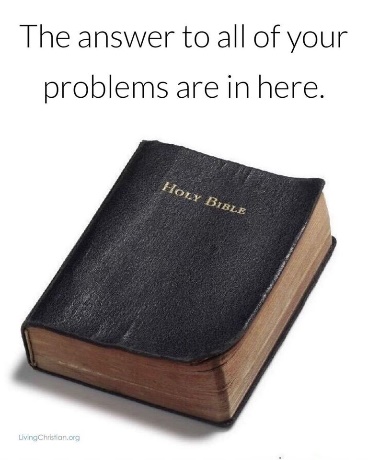
**Secretary ~ Sandy brady**

**(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:** Ron Vincent

**Secretary:** Connie Sieler

**Treasurer:** Dennis Reitzel

**Financial:** Ron Clark

**Elders:** Lee Edignton

**Deacons:** Dwight Gilliland

**Committees:**

Trust Fund: Connie Sieler, Alan Ahleman, Delores Ostrander, Sandy Brady,

and Gilbert Olrich

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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.

***A blue and white sign

Description automatically generated***\*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.

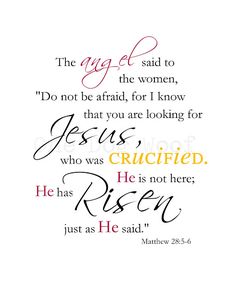
\*when you are planning to be out of town.

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

***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

**Sunday Morning Bible Class**

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

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

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.

(13 sessions)

Romans summarizes well both a quarter century of Paul’s missionary preaching and teaching, and the essential emphases of his evangelical theology.

**Newsletter Article – April 2021**

*****(--From the LCMS website)*

Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. His atoning sacrifice is the first fruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father, so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him. He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood.

As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word. By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what he says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For “without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Prov. 3:9-10). How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in His generosity? By giving generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support your family, your society, and your church. And His promise is that, in so doing, you will never lack.

A common counterpoint is: “But that’s from the Old Testament!” Our Lord Jesus Himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents: “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance” (Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Luke 16:10–13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:19–21).

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel – the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings. It’s no quid pro quo. It’s all from God’s grace and His fatherly divine goodness and mercy. But those Bible passages do in fact say what they say! It’s not the Old Testament’s problem. It’s ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offerings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need” (Mal. 3:10).

And so, while we don’t give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. As St. Paul wrote in Rom. 8:32: “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”

**WE BELIEVE, TEACH, AND CONFESS**

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

**The Fifth Petition**

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

*What does this mean?* We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

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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 AM 1560 WWYC or anytime at [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)

**April 2021**

April 7  
**"A Place to Belong"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
(Mark 11: 1-26)

April 14  
**"All Bets Are Off"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
(Mark 12: 13-34)

April 21  
**"TBD"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
(Mark)

April 28  
**"TBD"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
(Mark)

***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.



***April Birthdays***

10 Karen Keck

14 Drew Baumgartner

14 Jacob Schmidt

21 Alan Ahleman

***April Anniversaries***

*20 Roger and Toni Smith*

*27 Hubert and Barbara Holtz*

*28 Larry and Brenda Blum*

**Flowers on the Altar** ~ If you would like to place flowers, please sign up in the hallway by the restroom. The cost is $25.00 Please consider signing up for sometime this year.

**Women of Zion Meeting Minutes from January 25, 2021**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sandy Brady, Shirley Clark, Mary Jo Price, Connie Sieler, JoAnn VanSteenkiste, Karen Vollmer, and Pastor Jeff Geske

**OFFERING GATHERED:** $25.00

The meeting was called to order by President Sandy Brady.

JoAnn VanSteenkiste read the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes were approved.

Connie Sieler gave the Treasurers Report.

New Business: A discussion was held regarding the funds that were raised by the Cookie Walk and Christmas Festival. Shirley Clark asked the group to donate $200.00 to the Lutheran House of Mercy. Pastor Jeff asked for a $50.00 donation to Lutheran Hour Ministries to be included in the Noisy Kettle Sunday that will be held on February 28, 2021 during the worship service. Sandy Brady asked for a donation to be made to the “Smile Corporation.” This organization helps people with a cleft palate. The group gave $200.00 to this organization. The group also discussed and gave $100.00 to Heifer International which helps to end hunger around the world. The group also agreed to donate $100 to the Mom’s House in Toledo that helps low income and single moms.

A Bible Study was held on the book of Ruth.

Sandy Brady noted that we receive a $250.00 Thrivent Action Team for expenses for our Cookie Walk and Christmas Festival.

Our next meeting will be held on April 26, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. All Women of Zion are invited and encouraged to attend.

Connie Sieler made a motion to adjourned and it was seconded by Sandy Brady.

Respectfully Submitted.

JoAnn VanSteenkiste

**COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 21, 2021**

**Members Present:** Pastor Jeff, Ron Vincent, Connie Sieler, Sheila Vincent, Ron Clark, Dwight Gilliland and Dennis Reitzel.

Absent: Lee Edington

Meeting was called to order by Ron Vincent @11:15 and Pastor Jeff open with a prayer.

Minutes were read from the March 7th meeting and Ron Clark made a motion to approve minutes 2nd by Dwight. Motion carried

**Pastor Report:** Pastor gave an update on Lent services and bible study. Wednesday services are going well. Newsletter items are due on 23rd. Pastor will be on vacation the following Easter and Ron V., Dwight and Lee will cover services on April 11th. Pastor will get out Easter services signs and will put up around Ottawa Lake and if anyone wants one for their yard, contact Pastor. Pastor is now working 20 hours per week at Kroger’s.

**President:** Ron went to bank and sign signature card to be a signer on Zion bank account. Ron asked Ron Clark about the IRS payments and penalties and Ron Clark is meeting with IRS in Detroit on March 22nd hopefully to get matters straighten out. We have proof of all our payments that IRS said they didn’t receive.

**Treasurer:** Dennis passed out report on monthly income and expenses. Discussion was held and Dennis also brought up having LCMC Ministry Works do Zion payroll at a cost of $535.20/year. Dennis made a motion to have payroll done outside and Connie 2nd . Motion Carried

Elder:

Deacon:

**Building:** The ramp needs to have the sides enclosed per State of Michigan. Ron V. and Dwight are looking for ways to do this. The ceiling tiles in the basement that were used in fellowship hall needs to be replaced. We have a “on demand water heater” donated by Gail Vaughan. Per the health department temperature on rinse cycle has to be 167 degrees and this heater goes to 130 degrees. Installation of heater was table at this time.

**Trust Fund:** Connie reported that another stock has been sold and monies received. All selling of shares has been invested in CD’s at Metamora Bank. There is still 48 shares that need to be sold and Connie is working with broker on this. A Board of Resolution has to be presented to stock company. Motion made by Connie to: “ That we, as the board members of the church, wish to sell our 48 shares of Common Stock in ChoicePoint, Inc., and have the proceeds of said sale mailed to the address of record as listed above. It is further resolved that we give Connie Sieler and Alan Ahleman full authority to act on behalf of the church in this capacity.” Motion 2nd by Dwight. Motion Carried.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:** According to constitution an officer can’t hold two offices, so Ron Vincent can’t be President and Elder. At this time we need an Elder and Deacon, if anyone is interested please contact a council member. Connie also can’t do the audit because of constitution, so if anyone is interested please contact a council member.

Connie made a motion to adjourn 2nd by Ron Clark at 12:15. Carried

Closed with Lord’s Prayer

Connie Sieler