***The Messenger***

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

***May 2021***

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***Happy Mother’s Day***

***to all of our***

***Mothers and Grandmothers!***

***Lutheran Men ~Monthly Breakfast***

On May 8, 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.**



***Zion Lutheran Church Council***

We will have our monthly Church Council Meeting after church on May 16, 2021.

***Zion Lutheran Elders***

We will have our monthly meeting on May 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

***Women of Zion***

Women of Zion will have their next monthly meeting on May 24th at 2:00 p.m.

*** 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!  We will rehearse through the first two Saturdays of May 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)*

**Food Bank~ Thank you for your generous help** with our Food Bank. If you have any questions 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.

**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)**

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to all who helped make our Easter Celebrations so special!

Thank you to those of you who provided special music;

Thank you for the wonderful Easter breakfast.

Thank you also to all who purchased Easter Lillies in memory or in honor of loved ones.

**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)

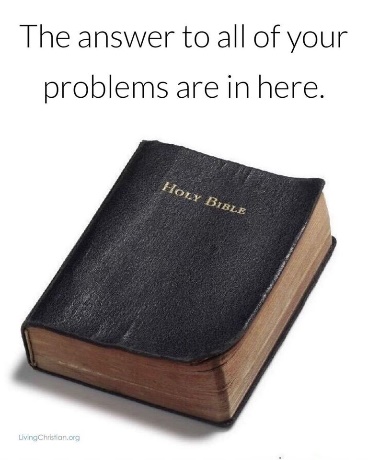
**Secretary ~ Sandy brady**

**(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:** 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.

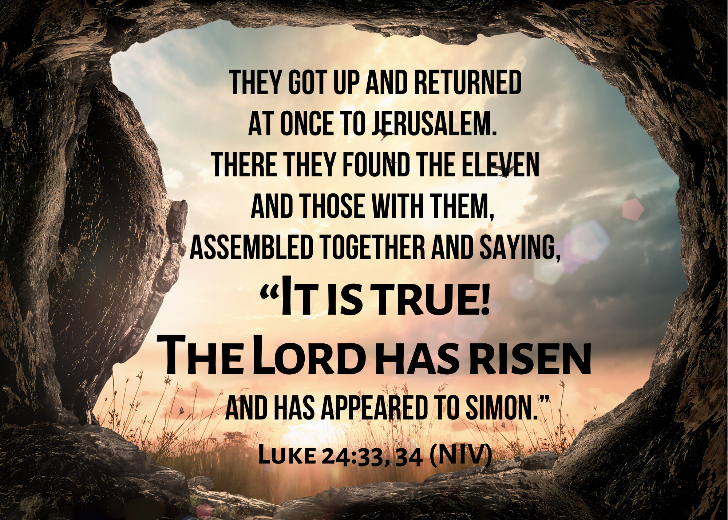
\*when a new family moves into your neighborhood.

\*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….***

**God’s Easter People**

 As God’s Easter people who are Saved By Grace, we have a bold proclamation to declare to the world that Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. At the heart of our ministry together of sharing the love of Jesus is to bring people to know Christ through our teaching, reaching, and sharing that the message is true that Christ is Risen! Alleluia! One of the most powerful accounts in God’s Word that brings home for us the message of our faith is when Jesus walked on the road to Emmaus with two men. These men discussed all that had happened and they even invited Jesus to eat with them in one of their homes. It was there that He revealed Himself to them. Then Luke wrote, “They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, ‘It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.’” (Luke 24:33-34 NIV)

This is the message that we have for our world today. Our generation, our world, our friends, our neighbors, and our family need to hear the message that it is true that Jesus Christ rose from the dead to give us the victory over sin, death, and the devil. God uses us to invite those we know and love to share with us in receiving God’s forgiveness and eternal life. We have an exciting opportunity to reach our community and world with the love of Jesus Christ. I love these words that said, “The critical issue is transformational change from country club congregations led by fearful country club managers and an ethos preserving church body *into missional congregations with apostolic leadership in walking together as a band of missionaries committed to connect people to Jesus in a spiritually hungry world.”(Unknown)*

Our world is filled with spiritually hungry people. God calls us to reach out with His love and bring people to know and believe in Jesus Christ. He blesses us to sow His Word in our lives as we intentionally seek to bring others to know Christ. Consider in the next month who you can share the love of the Savior with and who you can invite to grow with you through the ministry of Zion Lutheran Church. I look forward to seeing you worshipping and growing in God’s house. Indeed, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Yours 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 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, it’s 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.

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Pastor would love to offer some adult instruction classes to individuals that may not be confirmed and are now in high school or older. He would love to have this class with anyone that would be interested. The class lasts for four sessions and is done on an individual basis. Classes can be held at the church, the parsonage, or your home. If you know of any one like a child or grandchild that this could be a blessing for them, please let us set something up with them. If you would love to go through this class for a refresher, please let him know what might work well for you and your schedule.

**Newsletter Article – May 2021**

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

St. Paul teaches us: “Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches” (Gal. 6:6). And again, he says: “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” (1 Cor. 9:13–14). In other words, ministers of the Gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them.

And this is how the church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not just *that* we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: “In the same way …”

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving by individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices. We’re to support the Gospel ministry “in the same way.” But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites?

Moses records this: “You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always” (Deut. 14:22–23). The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry “in the same way?” If it does, ask yourself: Is the church’s job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites’ job in the Old Testament? Back then, there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham. In Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations, and there are churches and ministries all around the world! How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God’s revelation, the fullness of His salvation, and the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do. For we have received Christ, God’s own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism. He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of His Son – our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way – and in response to His fatherly divine goodness and mercy – we gladly give to those who proclaim to us “the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.” For once we were not a people, but now we are God’s people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9–10).

**WE BELIEVE, TEACH, AND CONFESS**

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

**The Sixth Petition**

***And lead us not into temptation.***

*What does this mean?* God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

*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)

**May 2021**

May 2  
**"Laughed At"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Speaking out against the prevailing culture might prompt ridicule but it could also produce repentance.  
(Jonah 3)

May 9  
**"Seriously?"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
A preacher who gets upset when people take his message seriously--that's the story of Jonah.  
(Jonah 1-4)

May 16  
**"Gain a Heart of Wisdom"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Pentecost  
(Psalm 90:12)

May 23  
**"TBD"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Ephesians Series

May 30  
**"TBD"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Trinity

***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.

*May Birthdays*

**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.

1 Fred VanSteenkiste

1 Steve Vaughan

9 Brian Gilliland

14 Joann Koester

19 Julie Edington

28 Marilyn Bexten

******

***May Anniversaries***

**16 ~ Fred and Joann VanSteenkiste**

**18 ~ Bill and Sandy Brady**

**19 ~ Ron and Shirley Clark**

**20 ~ Eric and Sandy Baumgartner**

**Church Council Meeting Minutes~ April 18, 2021**

Members Present: Pastor Jeff, Ron Vincent, Sheila Vincent, Ron Clark, Dwight Gilliland, Lee Edington, and Dennis Reitzel. Member Absent: Connie Sieler Guest: Roger Smith

Meeting was called to order by Ron Vincent at 11:25 am and Pastor Jeff opened with prayer. Ron Clark moved with support from Lee Edington to dispense with the reading of last month’s meeting. All members supported; motion passed. Dennis Reitzel moved with support from Lee Edington approve the minutes as written. All members supported; motion passed.

Roger Smith requested that Council permits him to hold an Alcoholic Anonymous meeting at the church on Sunday evenings at 7:00 pm. He would provide his own coffee and cups. He would like to do his first meeting in June. Ron Clark moved with support from Lee Edington to permit Roger to sponsor the meeting at the church hall.

Dennis Reitzel presented the financial report. He also noted the income is up but we are still not hitting the average budget number. Dennis also shared that the Payroll Service Company has started doing the payroll and that the $500.00 annual fee is deducted at a percentage each month.

Old Business:

1. Ron Vincent shared that Al Ahleman was looking into material for the ramp guardrails.

New Business:

1. Ron Clark noted he was concerned about the lack of maintenance on the air conditioning units. Sheila Vincent moved with support from Ron Clark to have Thompson Heating take a look at the units and provide a proposal. All members supported; motion passed.
2. Ron Clark noted the parsonage garage doors were rotting. Dennis Reitzel moved with support from Lee Edington to look into bids for replacement. All members supported; motion passed.
3. Ron Vincent shared that the sound system sounds like it is in a tunnel and he proposed a new headset for Pastor. Pastor suggested a good headset was expensive and offered to talk to a sound company to look at options.
4. Dwight Gilliland mentioned the dishwasher was not working. Ron Clark suggested to contain the local Hobart representative to take a look at it.

Sheila Vincent moved to adjourn with support from Dwight Gilliland. All members supported; motion passed. Council closed with the Lord’s prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Dwight Gilliland

**A LITTLE HUMOR FOR THE HEART**

1. We are grateful for the help of those who cleaned up the grounds around the church building and the rector.
2. A worm welcome to all who have come today.
3. Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Nelson’s sermons.
4. During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.
5. Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
6. The ushers will come forward and take our ties and offerings.
7. The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the sin of Reverend and Mrs. Julius Belzer.
8. The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare’s Hamlet in the church basement on Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
9. Don’t let worry kill you off – let the church help.
10. Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person(s) you want remembered.
11. Let us join David and Lisa in the celebration of their wedding and bring their happiness to a conclusion.