***The Messenger***

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

***September 2021***

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***Sunday School Starting this September***

We are planning to have a Sunday School this Fall beginning on September 12 for children from K-8. If you would like to help in anyway, please speak to Pastor Jeff or Sandy Brady.

***Lutheran Men ~Monthly Breakfast***

On September 11, 2021, 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.**

***Zion Lutheran Elders***

We will have our monthly meeting on September 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m..

***Zion Lutheran Church Council***

We will have our monthly Church Council Meeting after church on September 19, 2021.

***Women of Zion***

There will be a meeting on September 27, 2021 at 2 p.m. We will have a meeting and a Bible study on the book of Revelations. All Women are invited and encouraged to attend

***Movie Night***

We will have a Movie Night on September 24, 2021. We will meet at 6:30 for a light supper and then will watch a movie. The movie that we will watch is called, “Facing the Giants.” If you have not seen this movie, it will be one that you don’t want to miss.

***Here is a little information about FACING THE GIANTS***

***A picture containing text, person, sport, crowd

Description automatically generated***FACING THE GIANTS is an entertaining high school football movie with a strong evangelistic thrust. Coach Grant at Shiloh Christian Academy has reached the low point in his life. The football team keeps losing year after year, his car keeps stalling, his house smells from a rat that died somewhere, and he is impotent, so his wife cannot have the baby she wants. The fathers want to get rid of him. One man, however, prays for the students and gives Grant the wise message that he needs to bloom where he’s planted. After prayer, Grant realizes that the importance of the football team is not winning the game but serving God. With this revelation, he rebuilds the team, revival breaks out in the school, and miracles start to happen.

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

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

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

***Sunday Morning Bible Study***

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

**Zion Church Choir**

Zion's choir is led by Joseph Extegt. All are welcome to join in. Practice is usually held after Sunday worship service. They will be practicing again starting September 19. They meet in the choir room in the basement. For more information, please speak with Joseph Extejt.

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***HANDBELL CHOIR ~*** It is time to make a joyful noise to the Lord.   Come join the bell choir.  We will practice on Saturdays at 3:00 P.M. for 45 minutes beginning September 11.  Don’t know how?  Happy to teach you.  Come join the fun!  Let’s make music together! For more information, please speak to Karen Vollmer.

**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)**



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Description automatically generated**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.

**To Join our Text alerts visit: Text the message @jgesk to the number 81010. If you’re having trouble with 81010, try texting @jgesk to (517) 682-0429. This is a free service ~ You are only charged if your cellphone charges per text**

**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)

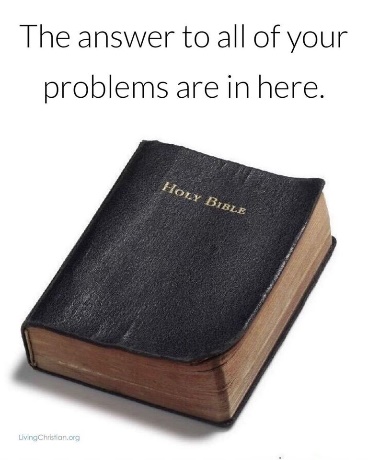
**Secretary ~ Sandy brady**

**(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

**Recording Secretary:** Sheila Vincent

**Elders:** Lee Edington

**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.

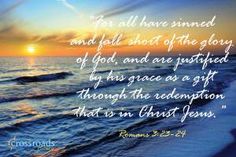
\*when a brother or sister in Christ needs a visit from Pastor.

***From the desk of Pastor Geske….***

**Saved by Grace!**

Greetings in the name of Christ! Our mission is to know Jesus and make Him known. We do this as we share the love of Jesus through our work together as the body of Christ at Zion and through our individual lives as we encourage others. We want the world to know and understand that we are not saved by our works, we are saved by Jesus Christ alone and what He has for us through His death and resurrection. Paul makes it clear when he wrote, “**8**For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9**not by works, so that no one can boast. “(Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV)

The Lutheran Church came out of the Roman Catholic. Martin Luther and the other theologians of his day were very concerned about the emphasis of work to be saved. Luther wrote about this in the 95 theses. When given the opportunity to state what the Luther reformers believed, they wrote and presented their confession in the city of Augsburg. In the Augsburg Confession they wrote in the fourth article and stated these words about justification, “1] Also they teach that men cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works, but are freely justified for 2] Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor, and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake, who, by His death, has made satisfaction for our sins. 3] This faith God imputes for righteousness in His sight. Rom. 3 and 4.” (--Augsburg Confession IV)

As I have been sharing words from a document that I believe is a solid Lutheran understanding. I like these words about the teaching about justification. They said, “**Of Justification:** 17. Holy Scripture sums up all its teachings regarding the love of God to the world of sinners, regarding the salvation wrought by Christ, and regarding faith in Christ as the only way to obtain salvation, in the article of justification. Scripture teaches that God has already declared the whole world to be righteous in Christ, Rom. 5:19; 2 Cor. 5:18-21; Rom. 4:25; that therefore not for the sake of their good works, but without the works of the Law, by grace, for Christ's sake, He justifies, that is, accounts as righteous, all those who believe, accept, and rely on, the fact that for Christ's sake their sins are forgiven. Thus the Holy Ghost testifies through St. Paul: "There is no difference; for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus," Rom. 3:23, 24. And again: "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the Law," Rom. 3:28.

18. Through this doctrine alone Christ is given the honor due Him, namely, that through His holy life and innocent suffering and death He is our Savior. And through this doctrine alone can poor sinners have the abiding comfort that God is assuredly gracious to them. We reject as apostasy from the Christian religion all doctrines whereby man's own works and merit are mingled into the article of justification before God. For the Christian religion is the faith that we have forgiveness of sins and salvation through faith in Christ Jesus, Acts 10:43.

19. We reject as apostasy from the Christian religion not only the doctrine of the Unitarians, who promise the grace of God to men on the basis of their moral efforts; not only the gross work-doctrine of the papists, who expressly teach that good works are necessary to obtain justification; but also the doctrine of the synergists, who indeed use the terminology of the Christian Church and say that man is justified "by faith," "by faith alone," but again mix human works into the article of justification by ascribing to man a co-operation with God in the kindling of faith and thus stray into papistic territory.” (--Brief Summary)

We believe in the love and forgiveness of God, and we rejoice in all that is ours in Christ. We know that heaven is our home. Until we are home, God wants the world to know who He is and what He has done for us. He uses us and our time, talents, and treasures to be used to His glory to extend His kingdom. Again, our motivation is always that we get to do good works to the glory of God out of thanksgiving for His forgiveness and salvation and because of this great truth that we are saved by grace through the justification by faith given by God.

***May we boldly live our faith, rejoicing in Jesus and sharing the hope and the joy that is ours in our Savior Jesus!***

In Christ,  
Pastor Jeff Geske

**Sunday Morning Bible Class**

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

A picture containing text

Description automatically generated*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.

 **Adult Instruction Class**

Pastor Jeff teaches this class on a one-on-one 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.

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.

**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.

**Newsletter Article – September 2021**

*(--From the LCMS website)*

At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote:

“Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, ‘Daddy, give me sixpence to buy you a birthday present.’ Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child’s present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is sixpence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (128–129).”

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers – stewards – acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (Deut. 8:17–18) but also all that we are in this life (1 Cor. 6:20).

The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability. For the Lord said, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more” (Luke 12:48b). And from this comes blessing and reward: “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master” (Matt. 25:21).

We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God’s fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands. On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours – not as stewards but as sons (Gal. 4:1–7). Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.

**WE BELIEVE, TEACH, AND CONFESS**

***From Luther’s Small Catechism ~***

**4. What is the key to the correct understanding of the Bible?**

Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, is the heart and center of the Scripture and therefore the key to its true meaning.

17 **John 5:39** These are the Scriptures that testify about Me.

18 **Acts 10:43** All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.

19 **John 1:18** No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made Him known.

20 **2 Tim. 3:15** From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

*Bible narrative:* Jesus revealed Himself as the center of Scripture **(Luke 24:13–27).**



Please join us in celebrating the retirement of **Pastor David Hendricks**.

Together, let’s honor and celebrate

Pastor Dave’s 34 years in ministry.

**Sunday, September 26th, 2021**

**Church Service**

**9 a.m.**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

220 Cedar St.

Pemberville, OH  43450

**Retirement Celebration**

**1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Simpson Banquet Room

1291 Conneaut Ave.

Bowling Green, OH. 43402

**Questions?**

Please contact Jessica Pickles (863) 633-9516 or

Alison Roberts (734) 506-8396 or [pickles.events@gmail.com](mailto:pickles.events@gmail.com)

**Can’t make it but would love to send a card?**

Please mail to:

 Pastor David Hendricks

c/o Bethlehem Lutheran Church

P.O.Box 344

Pemberville, OH  43450

***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.

**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 some time this year.

***September Birthdays***

***A picture containing aircraft

Description automatically generated10 Loretta VanDyke***

***18 Kay Stewart***

***19 Shirley Clark***

***20 Debbie Johnson***

***23 Bob Hardesty***

***23 Nancy Johnson***

***26 Barbara Swope***

***29 Jon Dellabona***

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

**18 ~ Gene and Karen Weimer**

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

**September 2021**

September 5  
**"Living, Mighty, Active Faith"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
An elephant is a living, mighty, active thing. So is the faith of Jesus.  
(Isaiah 35:4-7)

September 12  
**"Who is my Neighbor?"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
We can't build a more hopeful neighborhood if we don't know who our neighbors are and we go out of our way to avoid them.  
(Luke 10:25-37)

September 19  
**"Scrapped Gifts"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
(James 1)

September 26  
**"Seeking the Welfare of the Neighborhood"**  
Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge  
(Jeremiah 29)