***The Messenger***

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

***March 2021***

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A picture containing text, decorated, painted

Description automatically generated*Witnesses to Christ: People from His Passion*

John tells us why he wrote his Gospel: “Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:30–31). Life! When we believe that Jesus is the Christ, God gives us life—abundant life, forgiven life, and eternal life.

Historically, the Fourth Gospel is likened to an eagle—an image that suggests John soars to heights of glory and grandeur. That’s because the evangelist paints a stunning portrait of Jesus, who is the bread of life, the resurrection and the life, and the way, the truth, and the life. Life in Jesus. That’s God’s gift to you!

This Lent, our life in Christ will be strengthened as we hear the witness of those in John’s Gospel who journeyed to the cross. Along the way, we’ll meet villains, such as Barabbas and Pontius Pilate, as well as sinners, such as Peter (who denied Jesus three times), Mary Magdalene (who was possessed by seven demons), and Judas Iscariot (who betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver).

Please join us for worship as we hear the witness of these people in John’s Gospel:

March 2 ~ Ash Wednesday: John the Baptist, John 1:29–34

March 9 ~ Midweek of Lent 1: Mary, the Sister of Lazarus and Martha, John 12:1–11

March 16 ~ Midweek of Lent 2: Malchus, John 18:1–11

March 23~ Midweek of Lent 3: Peter, John 18:12–27

March 30 ~ Midweek of Lent 4: Barabbas, John 18:33–40

April 6 ~ Midweek of Lent 5: Pontius Pilate, John 19:1–16

April 14 ~ Maundy (Holy) Thursday: Judas Iscariot, John 13:21–30

April 15 ~ Good Friday: John, the Gospel Writer, John 19:25–37

April 17 ~ Easter Sunrise Service: Nicodemus, John 19:38–42

The Resurrection of Our Lord: Mary Magdalene, John 20:1–18

*Please Join Us each week for our Lenten Journey!*

*There will be a supper served at 6:15 p.m.*

***Lutheran Men ~Monthly Breakfast***

A picture containing text, food, snack food

Description automatically generatedOn March 12, 2022, 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 March 20, 2022.

***Noisy Kettle Sunday***

On March 27, we will have a Noisy Kettle Sunday for Lutheran Hour Ministries. This exciting ministry has long sought to live out their mission which is: “To bring Christ to the nations and the nations to the church.” Please consider a gift for this ministry and learn more about them by talking to pastor or visiting [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org).

Thank you for support of this exciting ministry.

***Women of Zion***

Women of Zion will have their next monthly meeting on March 28th at 2:00 p.m.

**Join Us for Movie Night ~** We will have our next movie night on March 25, 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, “Indivisible.” If you have not seen this movie, it will be one that you don’t want to miss.

***Here is a little information about Indivisible***

****** Fresh out of the seminary and basic training, Army chaplain Darren Turner receives orders to deploy to Iraq, leaving his wife behind to care for their three young children. The harsh realities of war soon take their toll on Turner and his battalion, making it hard to stay connected to his beloved family. When Darren finally comes home, the Turners must decide if they're willing to face one more battle -- the fight to save their marriage.

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

***Join us for worship on Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m.***

***Our Saturday Contemporary Service will resume on March 12, 2022***

**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 practicing for Lent and Easter. They would love to have you join them. For more information, please speak to Karen Vollmer.

**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:** Brian Gilliland

**Financial:** Sandy Bondy

**Elders:** Ron Clark and Lee Edignton

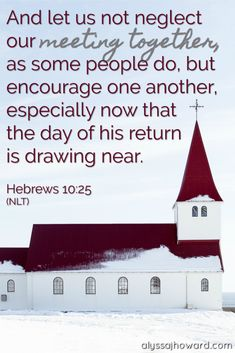
**Deacons:** Dwight Gilliland and Jim Hredzak

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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.

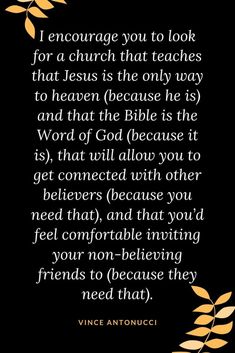
\*when you are planning to be out of town.

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

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***From the desk of Pastor Geske….***

Greetings in the name of Christ! Praise the Lord that spring is almost here! It is wonderful to see the daffodils growing by our house. After this winter, it is neat to see signs of warmer days. Each day we live, we continue to see how our gracious God is at work among us. I marvel at the ministry that God is doing among us and I look forward to seeing what God will do in the years ahead. I ask you to join me in praying that God will mightily bless us to be a blessing in His kingdom. As I see God at work, I also believe that the devil, the world and our sinful flesh are also at work in God’s church, seeking to keep us from loving God and loving one another. Paul exhorts to continue to do good to each other as he wrote, “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” (Galatians 6:10 NIV)

As God’s people, we gather together to worship, to grow, to be strengthened, and to be sent as God’s people serving Him. For me, I believe that God has given me the mission to be about building relationships that lead people to Christ. It is my prayer as your pastor and your brother in Christ to help you to continue to grow rich in God’s Word and rich in His love. Some Bible verses that reflect who I believe God has called me to be are those words of 1 Thessalonians, there Paul wrote, “For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 NIV)

My prayer for us is that we would seek to encourage and to build each other up. Indeed the devil, the world, and our own sinful nature seek for us to work against each other. In these days, the world wants us to focus on me, myself, and I rather than living what true JOY is, that is putting Jesus first, then Others, and finally Yourself. There is nothing new under the sun. God is calling us as His children, His family to be about loving each other and working together to the glory of God. As you make the Lenten journey, I ask that you would be reminded of how much God loves you and that He sent His Son to be our Savior and Lord. I pray that you would be excited about how God is at work through our ministry together. Each week, I look forward to seeing you in God’s house, growing in His Word and growing in service to Him. God’s blessings!

*In Christ,*

*Rev. Jeffrey Geske*

**Sunday Morning Bible Class**

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

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

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Description automatically generatedEach study in the *God’s Word for Today* series provides an in-depth exploration of a book of the Bible.

Each session includes:

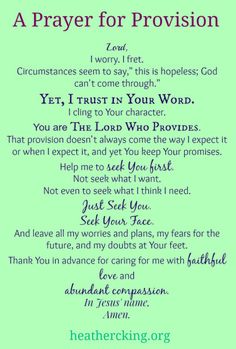
* background information on the book of the Bible, it’s author, audience, occasion, and purpose;
* learning experiences that promote exciting and challenging discussions;
* notes for leaders that answer questions, suggest a learning process, and provide additional information;
* discussion starters that 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.

**Newsletter Article – March 2022**

*(--From the LCMS website)*

**God’s Providential Care**

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God’s providential care. We understand that we’re not islands unto ourselves, that we could not exist without those who have gone before us and are alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know that God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers of all sorts so that we can eat. But more than that God created and gave us all the things that those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things, properties for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste and their nutritional value, we would not exist.

He gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments. Again, he gave us all things that go into making those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties that can be utilized for that purpose. Without God creating and instilling those healing properties into those things, and without God creating the ability within man to find this out and press it into service of our medical needs, we would not enjoy the kind of health we do now.

But there’s more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands: “Then Moses said to the people of Israel, ‘See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.’ ” (Exodus 35:30–34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands. And attached to those hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds in order to make those arms and hands move to accomplish the work set before us. And He has given us reason and senses. That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes as well as the accomplishments of others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us … us. So that everything we have AND everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God’s provision for our spiritual well-being. That He sent His son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. That He delivers that justification through the Means of Grace (Baptism, preaching, the Word of God, and the Lord’s Supper). And to give you those Means of Grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Again, this could be expanded and expounded upon. So that literally everything that we have and everything that we are – in this life and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about – giving thanks for God’s provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts. It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn’t stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God’s gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church. “For all this is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him” (*Luther’s Small Catechism*, 16).

So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gift – for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not in word only but also in deed.

***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.

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**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 coming year.

***March Birthdays***

******14 Bill Brady

16 Larry Blum

18 Barbara Holtz

23 Karen Vollmer

24 Jim Hredzak

******

***March Anniversaries***

8 Rory and Cheri Hand

16 Russell and Sheri Bieber

19 Bob and Carol Decator

****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.

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.

***It’ Time!!! Direct Your Choice Dollars!***

A close up of a logo

Description generated with high confidenceIf you’re a Thrivent Financial member, you may be eligible to participate in Thrivent Choice® and recommend where some of Thrivent Financial’s 2021 charitable outreach funds go. The deadline to direct Choice Dollars® is March 31!

Here’s what to do:

1. Call 1-800-THRIVENT  or visit the Thrivent Financial website to find out if you have Dollars you are eligible to direct.
2. To direct Choice Dollars® to Zion Lutheran Church. you can do so online or over the phone – but you must direct Choice Dollars® by March 31st!

**A picture containing text, clipart

Description automatically generatedTHRIVENT 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.

Logo

Description automatically generatedOur Church Directory is Online!

View our church directory online or via the FREE mobile app today. To view the directory online, go to **members.InstantChurchDirectory.com** and follow the prompts under “Sign In” to “Create a login now.” Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.  You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

Need help or have questions? Please contact Pastor Jeff.

Logo, company name

Description automatically generated**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)**

Graphical user interface, text, application, chat or text message

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**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**

*Logo

Description automatically generated****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)

**Church Council Minutes from February 20, 2022**

Member Present:  Pastor Jeff, Ron Vincent, Connie Sieler, Sheila Vincent, Ron Clark, Dwight Gilliland, Sandy Bondy, James Hredzak  and Lee Edington. Guest: Sandy Brady

Meeting was called to order by Ron Vincent @11:20. Pastor Jeff opened with a prayer.

Motion by Ron C. to dispense with reading of November minutes, 2nd by Lee.  Carried

Motion to accept November minutes made by Ron C. and  2nd by James.  Motion Carried

Pastor:  Lent will be starting next week, with Ash Wednesday services at 7:00pm.  The following Wednesday services will start with a light supper @6:15 and services at 7:00pm.  Please sign up if you can furnish soup, sandwiches etc.  Calendar is on table in fellowship hall to sign up on.  Pastor would like to do a noisy Sunday on last Sunday in March for Lutheran Hour Ministry.  Council approved.  Motion made by Connie and 2nd by Dwight to have a noisy Sunday on the months with five Sundays and give to special intentions.  Carried  If you have or know of someone who needs Pastor to visit or call, please let Pastor know.

President:  John Castell did the plowing of the parking lot last week, completely voluntary.  Council approved giving John a gift card for his services.  If was definitely a team effort to clear ramp, parking lot etc. Thanks to John, Pastor, James and Ron.

Treasurer/Financial: Sandy reported that all bills are paid up to date.  Brian gave an update on finances and reports for the month of February.

Elders:  Ron reported that the fire extinguishers have all been inspected and are up to date.  The projector that Zion used for services needs a new bulb and updates.  This would be almost the cost of the original projector.  Ron and Shirley Clark purchased a new projector for Zion.  Council express thanks and appreciation from Zion congregation.

Secretary:  Zion has five CD’s coming due in March 2022 and it was recommended to roll over all but one $10,000.00 to be put on a special line item in General Account and can’t be used without Council approval.  Motion made by Connie and 2nd by Ron C to not roll-over one $10,000 CD. Carried  Connie handed out list of Council members information (phone numbers, etc.) and a list of their terms.

New Business: Staff Support Committee- Roger Smith (advisor to Pastor), Mary Jo Gilliland and Ron Vincent.  If anyone has concerns or suggestions, please contact one of these members. Brian Gilliland and Ron Clark have the combination and key to safe.  The upkeep and any problems with building will now be up to the Deacons to address.

Brian  made a motion to adjourn 2nd by Dwight  at 12:49.  Carried

Closed with Lord’s Prayer

Connie Sieler

Secretary

Diagram

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