***The Messenger***

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

***July 2022***

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***Join Us for Worship!***

*Our worship on July 2-3 will be patriotic services with praise to God for the blessings of our country.*

***Sunday Morning Bible Study***

*We have begun to watch a video called, “That the World Might Know.” Learn more about this series in the Bible Class section of this newsletter.*

***There will be no Bible class on July 3. Please plan to join us at 9:00 a.m. on July 10th.***

***Lutheran Men ~Monthly Breakfast***

A picture containing text, food, snack food

Description automatically generatedOn July 9, 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!

***Noisy Kettle Sunday ~ Gideon’s International***

*On July 31, we will have a door offering for the ministry of the Gideon’s as they seek to share the word of God to the ends of the earth.*

***Church Picnic ~ Mark Your Calendar***

*Church Picnic will be on August 13 beginning at 5:30 p.m.. Roger and Toni Smith have invited us to come to their home for the church picnic.*

***A picture containing text, clipart

Description automatically generated WORSHIP WITH US EACH WEEK!***

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

***Our Contemporary Service is on Saturday at 4:00 p.m.***

*A picture containing drawing

Description automatically generated***Zion Church Choir and our**

**Handbell Choir**

Our choirs will resume in the Fall.

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**A close up of a sign

Description automatically generatedZION 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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**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

***A blue and white sign

Description automatically generated*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.

***From the desk of Pastor Geske….***

As we seek to share the love and forgiveness of Jesus, do we share Jesus with those who may not look like us or act like us? Our world needs Jesus. As the beautiful song says, “Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world!” Jesus loves all people and He sends us to help this world know His love and forgiveness.

****I came across this prayer that said, “Heavenly Father, Help me remember that the jerk who cut me off in traffic last night is a single mother who worked nine hours that day and was rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry and spend a few precious moments with her children. Bring to my mind often that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't make change correctly at McDonalds is a worried 19-year-old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for next semester. Remind me, Lord, that the scary looking bum, begging for money in the same spot every day (who really ought to get a job!) is a slave to addictions that I can only imagine in my worst nightmare. Cause me to reflect that the old couple, walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment, knowing that, based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together. Heavenly Father, remind me each day that, of all the gifts you give me, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those I hold dear. Open my heart not just to those who are close to me, but to all humanity. Let me be slow in judgment and quick with forgiveness and patience and empathy and love. Amen.”

Can you relate to this prayer? Have you ever had those same thoughts? Sometimes we see people in our community and in our world who maybe are not like us, but our Savior wants us to reach them and teach the unconditional love and forgiveness of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Our world needs Jesus and God is using and blessing us to share Christ to this community and to our world. Yes, we can and we should share Jesus through our words and actions and also through prayer.

Remember those words of Jesus to Zacchaeus, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” (Luke 19:10 NIV) We witness in thanksgiving to Jesus for what He has done for us and His love for us. May God bless us to witness and to share Jesus with our friends and those we are comfortable with, and also with others!

In Christ,  
Pastor Jeff Geske

**Sunday Morning Bible Class**

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

***During the summer, we will be watching videos from this amazing series***

*That The World May Know Series*

### A picture containing book, text Description automatically generatedTake your group on a trip to ancient times, places, and customs with trusted Bible scholar **Ray Vander Laan** as your fun and engaging tour guide. Filmed in Israel, Egypt, Turkey, and Greece, these powerful videos explore what it meant to follow Jesus in the first century—and what it means to follow him today. Each of the 16 volumes provides visually stunning video sessions as well as an easy-to-follow discovery guide that illuminates Jesus’ teachings and helps participants understand the context in which He lived and preached. Join renowned teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan as he guides you through the lands of the Bible. In each lesson, Vander Laan illuminates the historical, geographical, and cultural context of the sacred Scriptures. Filmed on location in the Middle East, the That the World May Know ® film series will transform your understanding of God and challenge you to be a true follower of Jesus.

**Newsletter Article – July 2022**

*(--From the LCMS website)*

**New Testament Standard Giving**

Whenever the topic of stewardship and giving comes up, the conversation inevitably turns to the question: “How much should I give?” Answers will vary because the motive behind such questions vary also.

Sometimes the motive behind asking this question is for self-justification. Even though as Lutherans, we know that we are not saved by our works but by grace through faith because of Jesus’ substitutionary atonement. Yet the natural religion of fallen man is to earn God’s favor by what we do.

Take for example the response of our Lord to the rich young ruler who asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus first tells him to keep the commandments. The rich young ruler responds by indicating that all this he has kept from his youth. But Jesus tells him that he lacks one thing: He must sell all that he has and give it to the poor and then follow him. This rich, young ruler went away sad because he was quite wealthy and could not part with his possessions.

Here we see that those who seek to justify themselves by their giving will hear a response that intensifies the duty that God places upon them. Indeed, they will hear a response that makes it impossible to win God’s favor by their works.

But to those who genuinely desire to know what their duty is, as Christians, in the arena of giving, we look to the Bible for our answer. We believe that the Bible is the Word of God. And we know that the Word of God has been “breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

So, we begin to answer the question, “What should I give?” with the question, “What does the Bible say about how much we should give and to whom?”

The Old Testament is explicit. The expectation is that the people of God would give a tithe, that is 10 percent, of the first fruits of their labor to support the full-time ministry of the Levites. This is what the Lord gave Moses to teach the people:

“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. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household. And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.

“At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.” (Deuteronomy 14:22–29)

This principle of tithing is carried over into the New Testament, though not explicitly by calling it a tithe. St. Paul teaches the Church at Corinth this: We are to give to the church regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (1 Cor. 16:1–2; Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23). And all of this is because the “Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living by the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14), just as the Levites did.

This our New Testament standard. Since Christ became poor for us in order to make us rich in Him – blessing us with the riches of heaven – so we also have been so blessed to follow the example of our Lord and Savior and give of ourselves and the work of our hands to bless others with the same.

If we have been lax in this, let us – like our Lord, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and scorned its shame – likewise begin to work toward this goal of regular giving of a generous proportion of the first fruits of God’s giving to us. And let us do so not begrudgingly, but for the joy set before us—with a spirit of eagerness, cheerfulness, and love—to share the blessings of God with those placed into our care.

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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.

***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.

***July Birthdays***

***1 Roger Smith***

***6 Sandy Baumgartner***

***8 Ben Schmidt***

***12 Barb Edington***

***13 Pastor Jeff Geske***

***15 Dennis Reitzel***

***15 Charlie Stewart***

***27 Mary Jo Price***

***27 Rick Keck***

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***July Anniversaries***

**28 Rick and Karen Keck**

****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.

**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.

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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, 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)**

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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)

**July 2022**

July 3   
**"Play the Sunset"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
We can't negotiate our value with God; however, God regards us as infinitely valuable.  
(Ecclesiastes 2:25)

July 10  
**"Power to Enjoy"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Jesus is not a free pass to heaven; Jesus is the Reason why we want to be in heaven, the Source of joy in every place.  
(Ecclesiastes 5:19 )

July 17  
**"18 Hours in the Ocean "**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Voltaire said, "Life is a shipwreck." The Bible gives us a rescue beacon.  
(Ecclesiastes 9:10)

July 24 and July 31  
**"TBD"**  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JUNE 12, 2022**

Meeting was called to order by Connie Sieler @11:10 and Pastor Jeff open with a prayer.

Minutes from December 12th meeting were attached to agenda.  Moment to review by congregation  and Sandy Brady and 2nd by Ron Clark.  Carried

**Treasurer:**  Brian gave report on bank balance .  Questions and answer period and motion made to accept Brian’s report by Ron and 2nd by Al Ahleman.    Carried

**Financial Secretary:**  Sandy Bondy gave an update on status of financials for Zion.

**Pastor:**  Pastor’s report is attached to Agenda:  Pastor pointed out the hi-lites of report.

**Secretary:** Connie Sieler reported that the Trust Fund CD’s are all due in 2023.

**Women of Zion:**  Sandy reported that the women are studying the Book of Revelation.  There won’t be any meetings for June, July and August.

**New Business:**

1.    Mary Jo Price volunteered to be Recording Secretary.  Motion made by Sandy Brady and 2nd by Ron Clark.  Carried.

2.    Zion still needs someone to perform and Audit for Year 2021.  Please see a council member if you can perform this.

3.    A discussion was held on the safety and security of the church during services.  The front doors will be locked at the start of services.  Council will discuss this further at the next meeting.

Motion made by Dwight Gilliland  to adjourn and 2nd by Brian Gilliland.  Carried

Adjourned at 11:30.

Adjourned with Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully Submitted

Connie Sieler

Secretary

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We would like to extend our appreciation to Sheila Vincent for serving as our Recording Secretary for the past several years.

*Thank you Sheila!*