***The Messenger***

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

***November 2022***

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**Thanksgiving Eve Service**

Join us for worship on Wednesday*,* ***November 23, 2022*** at 7:00 p.m. This worship service will have celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

**Advent Services**

Our Advent services will begin on November 30 and continue on December 7,14. We will begin with a meal at 6:15 p.m. and our worship will be at 7:00 p.m.



Our theme this year is: What Child Is This? Here is some information about our theme: The angel answers the question this way in the presence of the shepherds: “a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11). The hymnwriter answers it this way: “This, this is Christ the King” (LSB 370:1). They both want to leave us with no doubt regarding the identity of this Child.

Every component of this series reflects on the Scriptures and the beloved hymn to proclaim the story of the little human Child who is also fully God, who took on human flesh so that “Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you” (st. 2). He is the Lord in human flesh, our Savior, the joyous answer to the question What Child Is This?

***Lutheran Men ~Monthly Breakfast***

We will not have our Lutheran Men’s Monthly breakfast.

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 ***Zion Lutheran Church Council***

We will have our monthly Church Council Meeting after church on November 20, 2022.

***Women of Zion***

We will have a meeting on November 28, 2022 at 2 p.m. We will have a meeting and will continue our Bible study on the book of Revelation.

All Women are invited and encouraged to attend

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**Christmas Festival and Cookie Walk ~** The Women of Zion will host their annual event on December 10th from 9-1 p.m. We would love to have you help with this event. Please make baskets and cookies for the Cookie Walk.

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

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

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

**ZION 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**

[**www.zionlutheranottawalakemi.com**](http://www.zionlutheranottawalakemi.com)

**Secretary ~ Sandy brady**

**(419) 410-9380**

**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

**Recording:** MaryJo Price

**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….***

**What’s the Focus?**

 Greetings to you in the name of Christ! In many churches November is either a time to have a Stewardship Sunday or to have a mission festival. Certainly, both of these are very appropriate for this time of the year when we celebrate Thanksgiving and realize that the earthly harvest is being completed. So, in thanksgiving to God, we celebrate the blessings that He has given us and focus on how we can be a blessing to others. It is also a time for a mission festival as we focus on the end of the church year and the second coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Yes, it is time to celebrate the blessings God has given us and to recall how the heavenly harvest is still in progress. I love those words of the hymn, “Hark the Voice of Jesus Calling” that say, “Who will go and work today? Fields are white and harvests waiting, Who will bear the sheaves away?” (LW 318) That beautiful hymn speaks of the harvest of souls that will continue until Christ comes again. Until He comes, we are to be about bringing people to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Through our lives, there is something that we can do. That something is to tell the Good News of Jesus and His love and forgiveness for all.

 As we reflect on our lives, what is our focus? Is it to live for ourselves and to be keepers of an aquarium, or is to be using our gifts and the opportunities God gives us to share the truth and knowledge about what God alone has done to give us forgiveness and eternal life through the death and resurrection of Jesus? As the Holy Spirit uses us the church to share the love of Christ, we are to be about populating heaven and de-populating hell. This is all about how God is at work through our lives sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. St. Paul said it so well when he wrote, “It was **He who gave** some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, **to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith** and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-13 NIV)

 As we go through this month celebrating the end of the church year, focusing on mission and ministry, may each of us reflect on how God has abundantly blessed us. May we pray that God would challenge us and renew us to be faithful stewards of His gifts and to use a portion of what He has given us to extend His love through our offerings of time, talents, and treasures. May His church, our congregation, be about boldly reaching out and sharing the love of Jesus.

 As we continue to reach out with Christ’s love and forgiveness, may this blessing written by Paul be yours, “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (2 Corinthians 13:14 NIV) May God be with us as we are in His house, being about His business as we are sharing His love with our world.

In Christ,

Pastor Jeffrey D. Geske

**Sunday Morning Bible Class**

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

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) Paul’s letter to the Ephesians is about the church and about the fellowship of believers who make up the church. It is about us, for by faith we are the church in our time and place. We, by God’s grace, are part of God’s family – a family united in Christ and sustained by the Holy Spirit.

**Zion Church Choir**

 For more information, please speak with Joseph Extejt.

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***HANDBELL CHOIR ~*** Come join us in the fall. We meet on Saturdays at 3:00 p.m.

For more information, please speak to Karen Vollmer.

**Newsletter Article – November 2022**

*(--From the LCMS website)*

**What Makes for a Cheerful Giver?**

St. Paul wrote to Church of Christ in Corinth: “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7). *God loves a cheerful giver.* But who is a cheerful giver?

Abel was. By faith, he gave the firstborn of his flock, and it was acceptable in God’s sight. Abraham was. By faith, he prepared cakes and a tender choice calf for God and entertained angels unaware. So also, were David and Solomon. By faith, David would not make a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing, so he paid Araunah his due. By faith, Solomon built a house for God, where his name would dwell and thereby where He would dwell to be Israel’s God and they, His people.

What more shall we say? For time would fail us to tell of all those who gave not simply for the joy of giving but for the joy of knowing the One to whom they gave.

So also, our Lord, who for the joy set before Him, gave everything – yes, even His life – enduring the cross and scorning its shame. He gave to the shedding of His blood, willingly and resolutely setting His face toward Jerusalem to die for the life of the world. Though He was rich in every way, He became poor, so that by His poverty, we might be rich beyond measure.

So then, let us like Abel and Abraham, like David and Solomon, and even like our Lord Jesus Christ, give cheerfully to God for the work of His kingdom in our midst. Like them, let us decide in our heart for the joy set before us. It’s the joy of knowing the One to whom we give is the One who gives us all good things.

Our 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.

****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.

**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**

***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.

***November Birthdays***

***1 ~ Carol Decator***

***3 ~ Sam Schmidt***

***5 ~Art Gaynier***

***9 ~ Delores Ostrander***

***10 ~ Joel Castell***

***11 ~ Dick Vorbau***

***12 ~ Carol Alexander***

***22 ~ Hubert Holtz***

***26 ~ Pam Sorenson***

 ***29 ~ Candy Gorr***

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

***11 ~ Lee and Barb Edington***

***14~ Dennis and Amy Reitzel***

**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)**

**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.

**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.

*****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)

**November 2022**

**November 6**
**"Barefoot Saints"**
Guest Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy](https://www.lutheranhour.org/speakerbio.asp?id=26)
Moses heard God speak to him from a burning bush. Where do we hear Him?
(Exodus 3:1-6 (7-15))

**November 13**
**"Still Holding On"**
Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](https://www.lhm.org/about/zeigler-bio.asp)
God's judgment clears the way for God's new creation, in Christ.
(Luke 21:28)

**November 20**
**"Where It All Comes Together"**
Guest Speaker: [Rev. Dr. John Nunes](https://www.lutheranhour.org/speakerbio.asp?id=21)
We see division and discord all around us, but there is one place where it all comes together—the fullness of God in the person of Jesus Christ.
(Colossians 1:19-20)

**November 27**
**"Freshly Fallen Snow"**
Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](https://www.lhm.org/about/zeigler-bio.asp)
Dr. Michael Zeigler talks about fresh snow and fresh starts.
(Isaiah 2:1-5)

COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

Member Present:  Pastor Jeff,  Ron Vincent, Connie Sieler, Ron Clark, Dwight Gilliland, Sandy Bondy, and Lee Edington.

Absent:  Jim Hredzak and Mary Jo Price.

Meeting called to order by Ron Vincent @11:23.  Pastor opened with a prayer.

Motion made by Dwight and 2nd by Ron C to dispense with reading of minutes.  Carried

Motion made by Dwight and 2nd by Lee to approve May’s minutes.  Carried

Pastor:  Visited the sick and shut-ins.  LCMC annual meeting will be held October 2nd thru October 6th, Pastor is attending.  Bible classes on Wednesday is having great attendances.  Pastor has been here three years and would like an increase of salary to meet the level of a full time Pastor.  Salary should be in compliance with LCMC salaries guidelines.

President:  We need someone to volunteer to do audit for Year 2021.  Please contact council member if interested.  Brian was asked to have a 2023 budget prepared for October meeting so council can work on it and get ready for congregation.  Congregational meeting will be held December 11, 2022.

Treasurer/Financial: Treasurer went over income and expenses to previous month.  Sandy reported that a new program will be used for reporting individuals contributions, “ Power Church Program”.

Motion made by Connie to approve Treasurer’s report, 2nd by Dwight.  Carried

Elders:  Elders had their monthly meeting with Pastor and discussed salaries of employees.

Building:  The ramp is being painted by Jim Hredzak and Bob Decator.

Secretary: Preparing for Pig Roast and help is needed.

Old Business:

•    Custodian job description is a work in progress.

•    Facility Security is still being developed.  Need criteria for training.  Council will have this develop by Congregational Meeting in December to present to congregation.

New Business:

•    Pastor will be on vacation November 14th thru 19th.

•    There will be a Thanksgiving Eve service.

•    German Dinner October 15th, please sign up on worksheet in fellowship hall to help.

•    Budget Preparations, Brian will have budget ready for discussion at October meeting.

•    Nominating committee is needed, please contact council member if you would like to be on it Openings this year are Secretary position and Recording Secretary.

•    Carpet will be cleaned by Stanley Steemer on September 28th.  This includes two small rooms (entry), two sets of stairs, basement area, pantry room and altar and front entrance.  The cost is $1182 for this project.

Motion made by Connie and 2nd by Ron Clark to accept carpet cleaning bid.  Carried

Lee made a motion to adjourn 2nd by Sandy  at 12:45.  Carried

Closed with Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully Submitted

Connie Sieler

Secretary

COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 23, 2022

Member Present:  Pastor Jeff,  Ron Vincent, Connie Sieler, Ron Clark, Dwight Gilliland, Sandy Bondy, Jim Hredzak, Mary Jo Price and Lee Edington.  Pastor left meeting at 11:40.

Absent:

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

Motion made by Dwight and 2nd by Ron C to dispense with reading of minutes.  Carried

Motion made by Sandy and 2nd by Lee to approve September’s minutes.  Carried

Pastor:  Bible classes on Wednesday, usually seven in attendance.  Sunday attendance is around forty and would like to see it in the fifties. Pastor will be on vacation November 12th through the 18th.  Ron, Dwight and Lee will cover services on the 13th.

President:  We need someone to volunteer to do audit for Year 2021 and 2022.  Please contact council member if interested.  Audit needs to be accomplished as soon as possible.

Treasurer: Treasurer went over income and expenses to previous month.  In process of receiving a quote from a new copier company.  Brian will finalize and present to council next Sunday to get this expense into budget report for 2023.  Motion made by Dwight and 2nd by Lee to accept Treasurer report.  Carried

Elders:  Ron and Lee reported that all cameras are operating, and doors are locked at the beginning of services.  All plumbing issued have been taken care of and everything is in working order.

Deacons:  Tree by dumpster is dead and needs to be taken care of.  Jim is organizing the removal of tree, with the help of members of congregation.  If there aren’t enough volunteers, Jim will get quotes on the removal of tree.  REMINDER all Fire doors must be kept shut.

Secretary:  Term expires in December, if anyone is interested in Secretary position, please contact a council member.  Recording secretary position also expires and Mary Jo has said she will be honored to fill this position.

Old Business:

•    Ramp can be removed from old business.  Jim & Bob did a wonderful job and the ramp looks great.  Thanks all involved in completing this job.

•    Pastor will be on vacation November 12th through 18th.

New Business:

•    Budget Preparations, Brian handed out budget to council members. This was discussed and will be finalize at November meeting to present to congregation in December.

Connie made a motion to adjourn 2nd by Lee at 12:50.  Carried

Closed with Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully Submitted

Connie Sieler