***The Messenger***

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

***May 2023***

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**ZION Lutheran Church**

**LCMC ~ Lutheran congregations in mission for Christ**

**Mailing Address** - P.O. Box 75, Ottawa Lake, MI 49267

Located at 8307 Memorial Hwy. Ottawa Lake, MI 49267

(734) 856-2921

**Pastor ∙ Vacant**

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

**Church Secretary** ~ Brenda Blum 419-343-3381 bcc220@aol.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:** MaryJo Gilliland

**Treasurer:** Brian Gilliland

**Financial Secretary:** Sandy Bondy

**Recording Secretary:** MaryJo Price

**Elders:** Ron Clark and Lee Edignton

**Deacons:** Dwight Gilliland, Jim Hredzak, and Roger Smith

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

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

***Our Saturday Contemporary Service will resume after we have a pastor.***

**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 has postponed practice for now. If you are interested***

***in joining please see Karen Vollmer. They practice on Saturdays.***

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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.

**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.

***A blue and white sign

Description automatically generated***\*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.

**\***when there is a death of a member

**Newsletter Article – May 2023**

*(--From the LCMS website)*

**Follow Him in Generosity**

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job is already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the taber-nacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

**Council Meeting**

**April 16, 2023**

Members Present: Ron Vincent, Mary Jo Gilliland, Lee Edington, Dwight Gilliland, Jim

Hredzak, Sandy Bondy, Roger Smith, Mary Jo Price, Ron Clark

Absent: Brian Gilliland

Guests: Nicholas Baumgartner

The meeting was called to order by Ron Vincent and opened with prayer.

Motion made by Jim Hredzak and 2nd by Dwight to dispense with reading of February minutes.

Carried

Motion made by Jim and 2nd by Dwight to approve February minutes as written. Carried.

**Pastors Report**: Pastor Lois Clark is available as an interim pastor. Dwight suggested that

Pastor Lois be considered a supply pastor versus an interim pastor. She will be providing

service only and not doing the visitation to our shut ins.

Roger Smith is filling two roles; Deacon and Elder. As Elder he has been visiting the shut-in

and will continue to visit and provide communion and prayer. All members agreed.

**Reports**

Presidents Report – Ron Vincent provided the above pastors report and also a reminder that

Pastor Yvette will be the last Call Committee Candidate to visit on April 23.

**Treasurer:** Brian Gilliland – Absent, no report

**Financial**: Sandy Bondy – No report

**Recording:** Mary Jo Price – everything up to date.

**Elder:** Lee, Ron C, and Roger: – Ron reported that the new sound system was installed and

working, with exception to

some additional tweaking needed on microphones and camera. Nick still needs to identify the

microphones so he can effectively monitor the sound from the back, as well as training for those

wearing the microphones so they do not turn them off and forget to turn them back on. Nick

needs additional instructions on the camera operation from Richard, the

installer. Ron Vincent requested that Richard come in when Nick is available for in-person

instruction. Great job to both Nick and Ron Clark for their support of this project.

**Elder Continued:** Roger Smith continues to visit our shut-ins. He has visited and

Provided communion and prayer to Marilyn Bexten, JoAnne Koester, Fred and JoAnne

VanSteenkiste. He asked if he should be visiting Patti Vaughan and was provided Cheri Hand’s

phone number to inquire. Thank you, Roger!

**Deacon:** Dwight, Jim, and Roger: Parsonage Porch ceiling will be started on Wednesday, April

19. Dwight removed the carpet from the steps near the handicap ramp. The stairs still need

concrete repair, and the contractor commits to looking at them in the next week.

**Secretary:** Mary Jo G. – assisting Jim, Dwight, and Roger with contractor calls and appointments. Will assist Brenda as needed.

**Old Business:**

Sunday School Rooms - Shiela and Mary Jo G. checked out the Sunday school rooms and found many missing ceiling tiles, deep cleaning needed, and new curtains needed. All furniture in these rooms (fabric couches, chairs) must be removed.

**New Business:**

The council discussed having background checks run on all pastoral candidates. Ron Clark will run these.

Having no other business to discuss, Ron Clark motioned to adjourn, Jim H. 2nd.

Carried.

Meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Jo Gilliland

Secretary

**Women of Zion**

Women of Zion meeting was held on April 24, 2023.

The meeting was opened with prayer.

**Secretary's report**—Connie read the minutes from March and they were accepted.

**Treasurers report**: Balance on hand: $4980.68

**New Business:** No new business.

**Old Business:** The Ladies Tea was held on April 22, 2023. It was well attended and fun had by all.

The ladies got to find out who their Secret Sister was. Names will be drawn Sunday, April 30th for the next year. It’s not too late to join for the Secret Sister, forms are in the fellowship hall. Fill it out and give to Sandy Brady.

We will resume our meetings and Bible Study on September 25th.

Meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m. and we continued with our Bible study on Revelations.

Respectfully Submitted:

Brenda Blum

***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.

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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.

***May Birthdays***

*8 Olivia Castell*

*9 Brian Gilliland*

*14 JoAnn Koester*

*16 Fred VanSteenkiste*

*19 Julie Edington*

*28 Marilyn Bexten*

***May Anniversaries***

*16 Fred & Joann VanSteenkiste*

*18 Bill & Sandy Brady*

*20 Eric & Sandy Baumgartner*

*If we miss your birthday or anniversary*

*and would like to see it in the newsletter please give the information to Brenda Blum.*

*Please fill out the form that is located next to the flower chart and give to Brenda Blum. Your check can be made out to Zion and note in the memo on your check it is for flowers.*

****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.

**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 Sandy Brady.

**Euchre**

Do you like to play Euchre? Join the group on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m.

Logo, company name

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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. ***This is free money for the church*, *at no cost to you*.** ***If you need help see Brenda.*** Go on Kroger's website and sign up under Community Rewards. *(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)

**MAY 2023**

**May 7  
"Sojourn"**Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](https://www.lhm.org/about/zeigler-bio.asp)  
Prosperity preachers promise health, wealth, and happines--but that's not what Christians should expect.  
(1 Peter 2:11-12)

**May 14  
"Reason to Hope"**Lutheran Hour Speaker:

**May 21**"Responses to Suffering"  
Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](https://www.lhm.org/about/zeigler-bio.asp)  
Why does God allow suffering? The answer cannot be that God is indifferent or detached from our pain.(1 Peter 4:12)

**May 28 "A Timely Invitation"** Guest Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Hector Hoppe](https://www.lutheranhour.org/speakerbio.asp?id=181)

(John 7:37-39)