***The Messenger***

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

***November 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)

 **Administrative assistant** ~ 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:** Dwight Gilliland

**Secretary:** MaryJo Gilliland

**Treasurer:** Brian Gilliland

**Financial Secretary:** Sandy Bondy

**Recording Secretary:** Brenda Blum

**Elders:** Ron Clark and Lee Edignton

**Deacons:** Jim Hredzak

***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.***

***Our handbell choir began practicing on Saturday September 9 at 4:00 p.m. in the bell room downstairs. They meet every Saturday at 4. If you’ve wanted to play, maybe just curious, come and try it out. The more, the merrier, the easier, the ringier. Praise God with a joyful sound. Please see Karen Vollmer if you have any questions.***

**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 immediate need for prayer, please call Mary Jo Price (419) 283-9687. If you would like to join the Prayer Chain group, you can contact Mary Jo. Thank you, Mary Jo, for taking over this most important job.

If you would like to be in the bulletin for our prayer list, please call Brenda Blum at 419-343-3381.

**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.

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

***Newsletter Article – November 2023***

*(--From the LCMS website)*

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son’s blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we man-age them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God’s Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God’s hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God’s providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

**Council – October 22 Meeting**

1. **Opening Prayer**: Pastor or Council President (in absence of Pastor) Pastor Lois opened with prayer as our visitor.
	1. Pastor Lois informed us that she has not put her name in for the call yet as she cannot be a 7-day per week pastor. She has a ministry for the elderly in her home area. 2. Two hours back and forth is a very long drive for her. She would love to be our pastor, but will never be available on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday. With winter coming, she is concerned about the drive and feels she could come the night before. She could be our spiritual leader if we choose.
2. **Review of Minutes:**

Waive of minutes motion by Jim and seconded by Sandy. All agree, carried.

1. **Pastor’s Report**: None
2. **Reports**:
	1. President – Dwight Gilliland (term expires December 2023) No report.
	2. Treasurer – Brian Gilliland (term expires December 2024) Brian distributed a report for review. Starting with the balance sheet and covering the balance and available cost. Larry asked the question as to what happened to the stock in Equifax. Brenda feels there was around $47,000. Consolidated income was covered and year to date of offering given. The yearly budget comparison sheet is pending final decision of what will be paid to pastor coming in. Utilities has increased due to the annual fees for water / sewer. Lee approved and Jim seconded. Having no changes or comments, all agreed; Carried

Brian also mentioned that he would like to cut down on the expenses that are reimbursed to members who purchase items and then turn in receipts. Brenda does not feel comfortable leaving the church debit card in the safe. Too many people have keys to the office. Dwight wants a budget to get the door lock changed out. Larry will get the cost and will change out the cylinders. He will provide the cost to council.

* 1. Financial – Sandy Bondy (term expires December 2023). Sandy provided a document identifying that the structure of the payments is going well. No late fees
	2. Recording – Brenda Blum (term expires December 2024) the program is working well. Cannot go back in time but has what is necessary for the congregational meeting.
	3. Elder – Lee Edington and Ron Clark (both terms expire December 24) no report. Short one Elder.
	4. Deacon / Trustee - Dwight Gilliland (2023) and Jim Hredzak (2024) – no report
	5. Secretary – Mary Jo Gilliland (term expires 2025) - *Have checks been sent to Pastor Marc Lapointe for expenses and Pastor Ron Winslow for visitations? No other report*
	6. Trust Committee – Connie Sieler (women of Zion report also) Mary Jo will ask Connie for a Trust Committee report and a Women of Zion report for the December Congregational meeting.
	7. *The quilt committee and the food panty need to submit their report showing any funds needed or donations that have been made.*
1. **Old Business**
	1. Continued search for contractor for parsonage repairs, as well as the church stairs.
2. **New Business**

Motion to adjourn by Brenda, seconded by Ron Clark, Carried.

Submitted: Mary Jo Gilliland – Council Secretary

**Call Committee –** Call Committee is meeting weekly and working hard to find a pastor for Zion. The congregation will have a vote on November 5 after service for either Pastor Terry Wimmer, CB Wade or neither. Pastor Marc Lapointe found another position.

**Women of Zion –** October 23, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 1:00p.m. Attending were Sandy Brady, JoAnn VanSteenkiste, Shirley Clark, Connie Sieler, Karen Vollmer, and Mary Jo Price.

**Treasurer Report:** Connie Sieler gave the Treasurers report. Our bank account balance is $7323.51. Offering was $22.00. Shirley Clark made a motion to accept the treasurer report and it was seconded by Sandy Brady and it carried.

**Secretary Report:** JoAnn VanSteenkiste read the minutes of the last meeting. Connie Sieler made a motion to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Sandy Brady and it carried.

**Old Business:** The German Pork dinner made $2200.00. This was split between the Women of Zion and the Food Pantry, The Women of Zion also made $228 on the 50/50 Raffles.

**New Business:** Connie Sieler asked how the group felt about having a Harvest Dinner. We decided on November 12. We will ask the members to bring a dish to pass.

-Karen Vollmer reported that we had 14 tables sold for our Christmas Festival/Cookie Walk.

- People can bring cookies from 3-5 on the Friday before or before 8am on Saturday December 9th. We also need baskets for prizes.

-Connie Sieler asked about money to replace some utensils in the kitchen. Sandy Brady made a motion to that we do that and Mary Jo Price seconded it and it carried.

-We plan on decorating the church for Christmas after the service on December 10th.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnn VanSteenkiste

**The WOZ need a President to lead the group. If you are interested you can contact one of the current officers in the group, Connie Sieler, Treasurer, JoAnn VanSteenkiste, Secretary. You can also let Brenda Blum know.**

**Zion Quilters –** Zion’s quilting ministry has begun!! One quilt has been finisher and two are partially complete. All piecing and quilting will be completed by machine, there is a job for everyone! We will meet every other Saturday at 9:30 am in the downstairs fellowship hall and our next meeting will be November 4th. You don’t have to be a “quilter” to join us! ***We are in need of cotton material to make the quilts. We will take donations of the cotton material and/or gift cards from either JoAnn Fabrics, Walmart or Hobby Lobby to purchase material and supplies. Any questions please contact Brenda Blum.***

**Readers/Assistants for October**

November 5 – Dwight Gilliland

November 12 – Dick Vollmer

November 19 – Jim Hredzak

****November 26 – Karen Vollmer

**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 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 Brenda Blum.

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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 Decatur*

*3 Sam Schmidt*

*5 Art Gaynier*

*9 Dolores Ostrander*

*11 Dick Vorbau*

*22 Hubert Holtz*

*29 Candy Gorr*

***November Anniversaries***

*11 Lee and Barbara Edington*

*14 Dennis and Amy Reitzel*

*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 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.

**Euchre**

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

**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. ***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**

***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

November 2023

November 5
**"Times of Mourning, Times of Blessing"**
Guest Speaker: [Rev. Dr. John Nunes](https://www.lutheranhour.org/speakerbio.asp?id=21)
We will all go through times of mourning, but we don't all necessarily face it the same way.
(Matthew 5:4)

November 12
**"Again and Again and Again"**
Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](https://www.lhm.org/about/zeigler-bio.asp)
Hearing many stories only once is not as good as hearing the same story many times. Hear again God's story of love, grace, and forgiveness.
(Matthew 18:1-4)

November 19
**"Until that Day"**
Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook
No one knows when Christ will return. Until that day, we live in certain uncertainty.
(1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)

November 26
**"Loving Mercy"**
Guest Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy](https://www.lutheranhour.org/speakerbio.asp?id=26)
(Matthew 25:34-40)