**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 27, 2020**

**\*If you are joining us in person, please tune your radio to 1620 AM**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRELUDE**

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father,

and of the ☩ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.** **Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song“Come, Ye Disconsolate” ELW 607**



**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray together.

**God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**First Reading**    **Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

### A reading from Ezekiel.

1The word of the Lord came to me: 2What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? 3As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. 4Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.  
  25Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? 26When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. 27Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. 28Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. 29Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?  
  30Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. 31Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? 32For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Psalm 25:1-9**

1To | you, O Lord,  
  I lift | up my soul.  
 2**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,**  
  **nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**  
 3Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
  rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.  
 4**Show me your | ways, O Lord,**  
  **and teach | me your paths.**   
 5Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
  for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.  
 6**Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love,**  
  **for they are from | everlasting.**  
 7Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
  remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O Lord.  
 8**You are gracious and up- | right, O Lord;**  
  **therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**  
 9You lead the low- | ly in justice  
  and teach the low- | ly your way.

**Second Reading**  **Philippians 2:1-13**

A reading from Philippians.

1If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, 2make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. 5Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
 6who, though he was in the form of God,  
  did not regard equality with God  
  as something to be exploited,  
 7but emptied himself,  
  taking the form of a slave,  
  being born in human likeness.  
 And being found in human form,  
  8he humbled himself  
  and became obedient to the point of death—  
  even death on a cross.  
  
 9Therefore God also highly exalted him  
  and gave him the name  
  that is above every name,  
 10so that at the name of Jesus  
  every knee should bend,  
  in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
 11and every tongue should confess  
  that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
  to the glory of God the Father.  
  
  12Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** **Matthew 21:23-32**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

23When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” 24Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. 25Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ 26But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” 27So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.  
  28“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ 29He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. 30The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. 31Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese “Welcome the Children”**

**Hymn of the Day “O Master, Let Me Walk with You” ELW 818**



**Prayers of Intercession**

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. We pray especially for Spruce Lutheran Church and Rev. Leslie Nye. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses you as Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions, change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Our lives are yours, O God. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Turn this congregation away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community; make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Thank you for those who have gone into the kingdom ahead of us—tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering & Offering Prayer**

Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**HOLY BAPTISM**

Child:  Layne

**PRESENTATION**

In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

We present Layne to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

In Christian love you have presented Layne for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring him to the services of God’s house, and teach him the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As he grows in years, you should place in his hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for his instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, he may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

**I do.**

**THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here to be baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

**I do.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\***

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen**

**BAPTISM**

Layne, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

**Amen**

Layne, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen**

*A lighted candle may be given to each of the baptized (to the sponsor of a young child) by a representative of the congregation who says:*

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the father and mother of this child. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their child. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their child the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**WELCOME**

Through Baptism God has made this new brother a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

**We welcome you into the Lord’s family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God.**

**Thanksgiving at the Table**

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Lord’s Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

**COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is given and shed for you. You may receive your communion elements.

**Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**Blessing**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement

grant you to live in harmony with one another,

in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,

so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending SonG “Savior, Again to Your Dear Name” ELW 534**



**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**PLAYGROUND DEDICATION**

If you are able, please join us after the service to dedicate the playground.

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

With thanks for all God’s blessings and his love for all people. Our Bishops, Craig Satterlee Elizabeth Eaton, and the congregations of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod. **Spruce Lutheran Church in Sparta and Rev. Leslie Nye.**

Prayers for our friends, pray especially especially for the people out west who are affected by the wildfires, Annie Orr, Buffy Meyers, Vera Wilson, Dana Traub, Laura Lynch-Halliburton, Bishop Satterlee, Lisa Hetchler, Terry Speese, Janine Kaufman, Brian Smith, Cort Zylstra, Jerry Southgate, Mark Willard, Vi Aho, and Chris and Charles Farlee. All those members of Zion’s family traveling; all those homebound or in frail health; all those suffering with quiet, unknown needs or worries.

For those who serve on our behalf: public safety, utility workers, medical personnel, military personnel. For those who might be forgotten.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **THANK YOU!** Thank you to all of the people who have volunteered to be traffic assistants during this time of having church services in the parking lot. You have been very gracious in helping to make the service run smoothly and your help is greatly appreciated.  Also, we have a couple of people that are passing out bulletins and communion kits. Thank you as well.
* The church has purchased two benches for the playground area, which can be  
  engraved with a dedication or a memorial in the name of a loved one or  
  family name.  Each bench has the availability of three (3) engravings,  
  which will have an inlay the color of the playground.   The cost per  
  dedication is $228.50 and is on a first come basis.  If you would like  
  more information or are interested in purchasing a dedication, please  
  contact Karen Heise.
* Elder Change. At the September meeting council excepted with regret the resignation of Claudia Alderink-Smith as an elder. Jolene Griffin was appointed to fill the elder vacancy until the election at the January 2021 annual meeting. We thank Claudia for her wonderful service the past nearly 4 years. We thank Jolene for her willingness to step forward.
* Zion will have a Thrivent Action Team project for the month of October.  Jolen Griffin and Carol Engle will be the leaders of this project.  We are asking for donations of pajamas, socks and underwear for kids.  We will take all donated items to Manna's Market for distribution. You may also give a monetary donation.  We will have a display table in the Fellowship Hall. We will have several sizes of free red t-shirts available.  Carol has been granted $250.00 from Thrivent to purchase some of the items requested.
  + Counters Needed.  We are in need of a few more people to serve as volunteer counters for Sunday Offerings.  If you are willing to serve in this role, please let Martha or Karen know.  Thank you.