**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, July 18, 2021**

**\*If you are listening in your car, please tune your radio to FM 87.7\***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRELUDE**

**Gathering**

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

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity,

☩ one God,

who creates, redeems, and sustains us

and all of creation.

**Amen.**

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

To you, O God,

**all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior.**

**Amen.**

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of ☩ Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song“Thy Holy Wings” ELW 613**

 

**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.

**O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**First Reading**    **Jeremiah 23:1-6**

A reading from Jeremiah.

1Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. 2Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. 3Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. 4I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

  5The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 6In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Psalm 23**

 1The Lord**|** is my shepherd;
  I shall not **|** be in want.
 2**The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures**
  **and leads me be- | side still waters.**
 3You restore my **|** soul, O Lord,
  and guide me along right pathways **|** for your name’s sake.
 4**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;**
  **for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**
 5You prepare a table before me in the presence **|** of my enemies;
  you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is **|** running over.
 6**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,**
  **and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.**

**Second Reading**  **Ephesians 2:11-22**

A reading from Ephesians.

11Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—12remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. 15He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, 16and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. 17So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; 18for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, 20built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. 21In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; 22in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

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

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

**Gospel** **Mark 6:30-34, 53-56**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

30The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. 31He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. 32And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. 33Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. 34As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

  53When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. 54When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, 55and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. 56And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**Hymn of the Day “Shepherd Me, O God” ELW 780**



**cREED**

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

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.\***

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

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

\*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

**prayers of Intercession**

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Tend your church, O God. Encourage bishops, pastors, and deacons in their proclamation of the gospel. Raise up new leaders and encourage those pursuing a call to ministry. Embolden all the baptized to embody your love and justice. We pray especially for Peace Lutheran Church and Rev. Megan Crouch. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Restore your creation, O God. Sustain croplands and pastures and safeguard all farm animals and livestock. Preserve lakes, rivers, and streams that offer refreshment. Revive lands recovering from natural disasters and protect coastlands threatened by rising oceans. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Reconcile the nations, O God. Break down the dividing walls that make us strangers to one another and unite us as one human family. Equip leaders to deal wisely with conflict and guide diplomats who seek peaceful solutions. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Heal your people, O God. Look with compassion on immigrants, exiles, and all who are afraid or feel lost. Give rest to those who are weary, comfort to those who are grieving, and recovery to those who are ill. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nourish this congregation, O God. Prepare a table where we receive food for our hungering spirits. Renew our commitment to provide for one another and revitalize our ministries of feeding and nurturing hungry neighbors. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You lead us home, O God. We give thanks for all who have died, now citizens with the saints. As you have received them into your heavenly home, so welcome all of us to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering & Offering song**



**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray. Gracious God, you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**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**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

**COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in His grace.

**Sending**

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

**Blessing**

The holy Three, the holy One increase your hope,

strengthen your faith, deepen your love, and ☩ grant you peace.

**Amen.**

**Sending SonG “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” ELW 789**



**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SERVED TODAY:**

**Presider: Pastor Becky Ebb Speese**

**Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Elder: Paul Meade**

**Trustee: Mike Johnson**

**Offering Counters: Jerry Engle & Carlotta Willard**

**Safety Person: Jerry Engle**

**Save the Date.  Plan to Attend**:

* August 22 - Zion's 165 Birthday Party
* September 4 - Woodland Labor Day Games.  Workers needed

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **Praise in the Park** will be held July 24 at the Lake Odessa Park from 6-8 PM. This is a music filled evening with praise teams and individuals from our Lakewood area churches sharing their talents in praise. Zion will be leading some of the hymns, so singers are needed to attend. Please bring your lawn chairs and join us for some joyful music (and free ice cream treats).
* **Sunday School:** Two teachers are needed; one for 1-5 grade, one for the high school students. Please prayerfully consider helping us with Zion's youth. Sunday School will resume on September 12 with an outside welcome event! If you have kids or grandkids who attend, please email their names and grade levels to Jolene at jogriffin1110@hotmail.com so we will know who will be in each classroom.
* **Attention Youth:** There will be an event for you following worship on August 1. There will be a mini-olympics and food (Possibly a pizza party) as well as information about the 2022 National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. It will be time to register for that soon, so we need to start making plans for fundraising over the next year. More details to come.
* **Ladies Bible Study:** The Charity Circle will resume meeting on the third Tuesday of each month starting July 20 at 1 PM. They will continue to use the Bible Study in the Gather magazine from the Women of the ELCA. Any new women are welcome to join!
* **Coffee Fellowship:** We're excited to bring back Coffee Fellowship! Council will continue to review the protocols and will provide guidance on what can be served. Please review the proposed Coffee Fellowship schedule that is placed in the Narthex. This is based off the schedule from a few years ago, with a few updates. If you would like to volunteer for the summer months, please add your name to the sheet. If you have any concerns with the month you are listed, please make the sheet or see Jolene. Thank you!
* **Greeters:** It is good news that we are at a point where we can resume having a greeter inside the church. At this time, we plan to have one greeter who will be located in the Narthex area. Watch for the list of greeters in the June newsletter. If you are unable to serve as a greeter on your assigned day, please trade with someone on the schedule to ensure we have a greeter each Sunday.
* **The Board of Education and Youth** needs a few more people to help plan Christian education for our children, youth, and adults as we look to resume Christian education in the fall. Please consider volunteering to help with this important work of the church. See Pastor Becky or Jolene Griffin to volunteer or for more information.
* **Boards and Committees:** Council is encouraging boards and committees to resume meeting and working on plans for their respective areas. Council is also encouraging all boards and committees to designate a contact person for Council to reach out to when needed. When meeting, remember that social distancing and mask requirements are still place.