**ZION’S MESSENGER**

**August 2021 + Zion Lutheran Church + 269-367-4817**

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Each summer, it seems that time goes faster. No sooner than school got out, it seems that school is starting again as we collect school supplies for our blessing of the backpacks on Aug. 22! And it’s hard to believe that our kids will be back in school by then!

We are having a very active summer at Zion and being busy does seem to make time go faster. The outdoor coffee fellowship times have been wonderful. Its good to see more people returning to worship and I look forward to seeing more of you in time.

August brings a time of celebration. Terry and I will celebrate our 35th wedding anniversary in August! It doesn’t seem possible that so many years have passed for us and all of the places that life has taken us. We will enjoy celebrating in Ludington for another vacation week.

The big event for Zion is our 165th anniversary! We will be having a special outdoor service (weather permitting) on August 22 along with the blessing of backpacks for our children and youth. It would be great if you would share your memories of your time (s) at Zion over the years. Following the service, we will enjoy a picnic lunch provided by Tommie’s food truck with games for the kids and an old- fashioned hymn sing.

Anniversaries are wonderful events to celebrate. It is a time to look back over our collective history to see from where we have come. But they are also a time to look forward, to envision what future God has in store for us. Just as our personal lives do not remain the same as time and events bring many changes to us, life in the church does not remain the same. Its easy to look back and lament that we don’t have the packed church that we used to have. Its easy to want the church to stay the same or go back to a period in time when the church was in a heyday. In all churches, life is not the same as it once was. But that doesn’t mean that this point in time is not important or that our church is not as active. I saw Zion weather the pandemic in a best way possible. We looked for ways to remain active in the community. We learned new ways of being the church by learning new technology to bring our services to more people. We have a lot to give as a light in this community. 165 is a big anniversary! It shows that the people of Zion have been faithful over so many years and decades. I am encouraged that this will continue to be the case as we keep moving forward. There is certainly a need in our community for Zion’s presence. As we celebrate this milestone, as we do fondly share memories, let us also look to the future and envision how Zion can remain active and engaged in God’s work in our community with hope that the next generation will be celebrating a 200th anniversary!

And I am also excited that Zion will be participating in the Woodland Homecoming celebration again this year with our wonderful float (from the Lake Odessa parade) a game and coloring event in the park and the outdoor worship service with the Woodland United Methodist Church. A great way to bring an end to this fast summer and get ready for a new season of fall.

Blessings in all of your celebrating for the rest of this summer!

Pastor Becky +

**TABLE SHOWERS**

The ZLCW is planning on setting up Table Showers for both Ashley Griffin and Kayla Cole in the near future.  Look for their lists of needed items on each of their tables,  The tables will be left up until Sunday, September 26th.

**ART IN THE PARK**

**LAKE ODESSA, AUGUST 7**

Zion is sponsoring a Break Station at Art in the Park on August 7th. We’ll be in booth #80 with water and snacks to share. We’ll also have coloring kits for kids to pick up or color while they are there to enter our first ever Zion coloring contest. Prizes are backpacks, school/art supplies and other goodies. There is a sign-up sheet to work at the booth in the Narthex. People are needed to work at the booth from 9-4.  We’re looking for help with one-hour shifts, primarily from Noon-4.  If you need more information, please talk to Martha.

**BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS**

**AUGUST 8**

If you have knitted or crocheted a prayer shawl, please bring it to the church. Prayer shawls will be blessed during worship on August 8th  We’re looking for a new place to store the prayer as we would like them to be available for anyone to take to someone they know could use one.  If you have any ideas of where we could move the prayer shawl ministry, please talk with Pastor or Martha.

**CHURCH PICNIC**

**WOODLAND, AUGUST 15**

The Fellowship Committee will be hosting our Church Picnic at the Harold Classic Memorial Park, August 15th following worship.  Please bring a picnic for your own family; drinks will be furnished. White Elephant Bingo will follow the mealtime.  A fun dig will be held for the children.

Please bring a "White Elephant" gift for the bingo. Come and have a relaxing and fun afternoon.  Any questions, please ask a Fellowship Committee member.

**ZION’S 165TH YEAR CELEBRATION**

**AUGUST 22**

Our 165th Birthday celebration is quickly approaching!  We hope everyone will plan to attend this special service, lunch and fellowship time.  A catered picnic lunch will be provided following worship service.  A food truck will be on site to provide a great picnic style lunch for everyone. We need to have a good estimate of how many will attend so we be sure to have enough food so we need everyone to let us know they are coming and how many lunches are needed.  There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you may call the church (leave a message) or send an email.  Invite your family and friends to come to this special day too!  We are planning games for the kids, an old-fashioned hymn sing, and exhibits in the church after worship.

If you help us get ready for the 165th celebration, please contact Martha Yoder.  We are looking for help creating the various the displays in the church and getting the church ready for this special day.

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

**AUGUST 22**

Also on August 22nd we will have our first Blessing of the Backpacks to give our kids a special blessing as they start the new school year as well as some school supplies to help them along.  We are collecting school items and there are copies of a list with needed items in the fellowship hall.  In addition to the items on the list, there is a need for mechanical pencils and boxes of tissue for classrooms.

**WOODLAND HOMECOMING CELEBRATION**

**SEPTEMBER 4**

A parade and games…What could be a better way to spend Labor Day weekend!  We will have both in Woodland.  Zion will have the mini-float in the parade and is sponsoring games for kids.  Together with Woodland United Methodist Church, we will have three fun games available during the afternoon at no cost for those playing.  For the small children, there is a frog bean bag toss.  Can you get the bean bag in the frog’s mouth?  For bigger kids, there is a ring toss to try to catch the “Happy Quacker.”  For kids of all ages, there is a pig race, where you select a pig and watch is go down the track to see which pig gets to the finish line first.  For all games, we have prizes for the winner and runner up prizes for everyone playing.  We need helpers to run the games!  There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or call Martha Yoder to sign up for a time.

**CHURCH CLEANERS NEEDED FOR SEPTEMBER**

Volunteers are needed to clean during the month of September.  We are so thankful to Dawn Brodbeck who has been volunteering to clean the church for more than a year.  She is not able to clean during September.  A sign-up sheet for September is in the Narthex.  In addition, we will be going back to our schedule of volunteer s to clean the church soon.  A copy of the previous list will be placed in the Narthex.  Please review the cleaning assignments and note any changes.  Thank you for helping us keep Zion clean and safe!

**SUNDAYS IN AUGUST**

**August 1- In Sanctuary & Drive-in, Communion**

Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese

Elder: Dan Utterback

Trustee: Jerry Engle

Safety Person: Ken Heise

Offering Counters: Mary Makley, Martha Yoder

**August 8- In Sanctuary & Drive-in, Communion**

Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese

Elder: Paul Meade

Trustee: Mike Johnson

Safety Person: Dan Zylstra

Offering Counters: Diane Griffin, Carlotta Willard

**August 15- In Sanctuary & Drive-in,**

**No Communion**

Claude Smith

Elder: Jolene Griffin

Trustee: Dan Zylstra

Safety Person: Jerry Engle

Offering Counters: Jerry Engle, Carlotta Willard

**August 22- Outdoor Service, Communion**

Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese

Elder: Dan Utterback

Trustee: Jerry Engle

Safety Person: Diane Griffin

Offering Counters: Doug Mackenzie, Mike Johnson

**August 30- In Sanctuary & Drive-in, Communion**

Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese

Elder: Paul Meade

Trustee: Mike Johnson

Safety Person: Ken Heise

Offering Counters: Mary Makley, Martha Yoder