**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 29, 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“This Is My Father’s World” ELW 824**

 

**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 our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**First Reading**    **Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9**

A reading from Deuteronomy.

1So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. 2You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.
  6You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” 7For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? 8And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?
  9But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Psalm 15**

 1Lord, who may dwell in your **|** tabernacle?
  Who may abide upon your **|** holy hill?
 2**Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,**
  **who speak the truth | from their heart;**
 3they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil **|** to their friends;
  they do not cast discredit up- **|** on a neighbor.
 4**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the Lord.**
  **They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.**
 5They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- **|** gainst the innocent.
  Those who do these things shall never be **|** overthrown.

**Second Reading**  **James 1:17-27**

A reading from James.

17Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.
  19You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. 21Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.
  22But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. 23For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; 24for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. 25But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.
  26If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. 27Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], 2they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. 3(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; 4and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) 5So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” 6He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,
 ‘This people honors me with their lips,
  but their hearts are far from me;
 7in vain do they worship me,
  teaching human precepts as doctrines.’
8You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”
  14Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: 15there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”
  21For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, 22adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. 23All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**Hymn of the Day “Oh That the Lord Would Guide My Ways” ELW 722**



**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**

Made children and heirs of God’s promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church, that it is a safe haven for all who seek your presence. Fill it with pastors, deacons, and leaders who echo your expansive and generous welcome. We pray especially for St. Luke’s Lutheran Church and Rev. David Blank. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the whole of creation, that plants and animals have the habitat and resources to thrive and flourish. Inspire us to protect threatened habitats and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for individuals in positions of authority. Raise up wise and discerning leaders in federal, state, and local governments and guide them to seek the benefit of every person. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need.Support and encourage those who are unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing poverty. Bring food, shelter, clothes, and stability for daily life. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, especially those beginning a new school year. Empower teachers and school administrators. Guide students in their learning and development. Accompany parents, foster parents, and caregivers who provide encouragement and love. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful departed who showed us how to honor God with our heart. Inspire us by their example and renew our faith, trusting that we will be united with them in glory. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; 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 “For the Beauty of the Earth” ELW 879**



**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 Spesee**

**Musician: Dorothy Shaffer**

**Elder: Paul Meade**

**Trustee: Mike Johnson**

**Offering Counters: Mary Makley and Martha Yoder**

**Safety Person: Ken Heise**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **Personal Care Kits:** Zion received another Action Team grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to make Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Carol Engle is the team leader of this project and will use the $250 grant to purchase some of the supplies needed to assemble kits.  A table in the Fellowship Hall will be set up for anyone wishing to donate item.  Items needed:  Adult Size Toothbrushes, Large Nail Clippers with an Attached File, Sturdy, Large Toothed Combs, Bars of Soap, and Monetary donations to help cover the cost of shipping the kits. The Charity Circle Bible Study ladies will be the Action Team for this project and assemble the kits at their September Circle meeting.  The kits will be blessed during our worship service on October 10th, then will be packed and sent to the warehouse in Maryland, then sent overseas.  Thank you to all who contribute and help with this special project and to Thrivent for giving Zion this grant.
* **Table Showers:** The ZLCW has Table Showers for both Ashley Griffin and Kayla Cole. Look for their lists of needed items on each of their tables, The tables will be left up until Sunday, September 26th.
* **Sunday School:** Two Sunday School teachers are needed; one for 1-5 grade and the other 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 have a list of everyone and know who will be in each classroom.
* **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 volunteers to clean the church soon.  A copy of the previous list is in the Narthex.  Please review the cleaning assignments and note any changes.  Thank you for helping us keep Zion clean and safe!

**This week at Zion:**

* Board of Evangelism, Tuesday, August 31 at 6:30 PM
* Men’s Breakfast, Wednesday, September 1 at 8:00 AM
* CHURCH IN THE PARK ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5. No service at Zion.

**Save the Date.  Plan to Attend**:

* September 4 - Woodland Labor Day Games. Workers needed