**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, August 8, 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“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly” ELW 461**

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**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.

**Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**First Reading**    **1 Kings 19:4-8**

A reading from 1 Kings.

4[Elijah] went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: “It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.”5Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, “Get up and eat.” 6He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. 7The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, “Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.” 8He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Psalm 34:1-8**

1I will bless the Lord**|** at all times;  
  the praise of God shall ever be **|** in my mouth.  
 2**I will glory | in the Lord;**  
  **let the lowly hear | and rejoice.**  
 3Proclaim with me the greatness **|** of the Lord;  
  let us exalt God’s **|** name together.  
 4**I sought the Lord, who | answered me**  
  **and delivered me from | all my terrors.**   
 5Look upon the Lord**|** and be radiant,  
  and let not your faces **|** be ashamed.  
 6**I called in my affliction, and | the Lord heard me**  
  **and saved me from | all my troubles.**  
 7The angel of the Lord encamps around those who **|** fear the Lord  
  and de- **|** livers them.  
 8**Taste and see that the | Lord is good;**  
  **happy are they who take ref- | uge in God!**

**Second Reading**  **Ephesians 4:25-5:2**

A reading from Ephesians.

25So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. 26Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27and do not make room for the devil. 28Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. 29Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. 30And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. 31Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, 32and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. 5:1Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, 2and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to 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** **John 6:35, 41-51**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

35Jesus said to [the crowd,] “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. 41Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” 42They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” 43Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. 44No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. 45It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. 46Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. 47Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. 48I am the bread of life. 49Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Becky Ebb Speese**

**Hymn of the Day “O Living Bread from Heaven” ELW 542**

Calendar

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**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.*

For the church of Christ in all its diverse forms. For mission developers, new mission starts, and all communities of faith exploring new models of ministry for the sake of the gospel. For congregations facing difficult decisions about their future. We pray especially for Immanuel Lutheran Church and Rev. Charles Foerster. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For the health and well-being of creation. For shade trees that provide refuge from the hot summer sun. For lakes, rivers, and oceans contaminated by pollution and all who lack clean water. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For those called to positions of authority in our legal system, we pray. For judges, lawyers, law clerks, and court employees who ensure the fair administration of justice. For corrections officers and prison chaplains, that they would deal mercifully with those who are incarcerated. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For all who cry out to you in their affliction. For exiles, refugees, and others who face long and difficult journeys, uncertain about the future. For all who mourn the death of a loved one. For all who are sick. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For this assembly gathered around your table, we pray. For those among us who bake bread and prepare the vessels for our communion celebration. For those who bring the food from this table to those who are homebound or hospitalized. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For those who have been raised to eternal life, we give thanks. With all the saints we praise you for the bread of life that keeps us in your love forever. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

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.**

**BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS**

**Sending SonG “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” ELW 674**

Diagram

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**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: Martha Yoder**

**Elder: Paul Meade**

**Trustee: Mike Johnson**

**Offering Counters: Diane Griffin and Carlotta Willard**

**Safety Person: Dan Zylstra**

**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. **Immanuel Lutheran Church in Grand Ledge and Rev. Charles Foerster.**

Prayers for our friends, especially for Eric Anderson, the family of Ron Enz, the family of Yvonne Bracy, Ann Marie Bump, Keith Mackenzie, Darlene Durkee Smith, Braylen Crandall, Pam Swiler, Cindy Utterback, Mary Smith, Ron Campbell and his family, Patty Olmstead, Laura Lynch-Halliburton, Lisa Hetchler, Janine Kaufman, Brian Smith, Cort Zylstra, Jerry Southgate, 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.

**Save the Date.  Plan to Attend**:

* August 15- Church Picnic
* August 22 - Zion's 165 Birthday Party
* September 4 - Woodland Labor Day Games. Workers needed

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **Pastor Kathy Smith** will be on call while Pastor Becky is out of town this week. Her contact number is 616-293-7576
* **T-able 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.
* **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](mailto:jogriffin1110@hotmail.com) so we have a list of everyone and know who will be in each classroom.
* **Church Picnic:** The Fellowship Committee will host our church picnic at the Harold Classic Memorial Park on 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, fun afternoon. Any questions, please ask a Fellowship Committee member.
* **Zion’s 165th Year Celebration:** August 22nd. Our 165th Birthday celebration is quickly approaching! Please let us know if you will be able to attend. Zion is providing lunch. 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. 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!
* **Can you help?** If you help us get ready for the 165th celebration, please stay after service today for a short discussion. We are looking for help creating various displays in the church and other ideas for making this day special.
* **Blessing of the Backpacks**: 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. This will happen during worship service. There are copies of a list with needed items in the fellowship hall.  In addition to the items on the list, Buffy has indicated that mechanical pencils and boxes of tissue for classrooms are also needed.
* **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!