**ZION’S MESSENGER**

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

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We are mission partners! Our council was given the opportunity to become mission partners with a congregation in our synod that is under redevelopment to become involved in needed mission in its neighborhood. We were given a list of congregations and chose one that is closest to us geographically. The council voted back in the spring to enter into a partnership with Trinity Lutheran Church in Battle Creek and Pastor Kjersten Sullivan. It was felt that Battle Creek is close enough to Zion, that we could become involved in some of the ministries that Trinity is doing in a changing community with many needs. Trinity was at one time, a very large congregation in Battle Creek. Over time, the neighborhood and demographics have changed and it is now in an urban part of Battle Creek with many needs. Trinity has committed to working with the people in the neighborhood but needs the support of other congregations to be able to do this well. We will provide financial support as well as hopefully enter into a relationship where people from Zion may go to Battle Creek to assist with mission projects.

Because of the pandemic, it has taken time to for Pastor Sullivan and I to set up a pulpit exchange to get this mission partnership started. We finally have a date to do a pulpit exchange! On **Sunday, October 24**, Pastor Sullivan will come to Zion to preach, preside and share some of what Trinity is doing in the neighborhood. I will go to Trinity to preach and preside and get to know the people in that congregation. If anyone would like to join me on this Sunday, I would welcome that!

I am excited about this opportunity to work with another congregation in our synod and to become mission partners with Trinity. As this venture gets rolled out, I am hopeful that this relationship will be a blessing for the people of Trinity and the people of the neighborhood around Trinty and that this will be a blessing for Zion as well as we will be reaching out in a new and different way.

I am confident that you will give Pastor Sullivan a warm, Zion welcome on that Sunday and I look forward to meeting some of the people at Trinity.

Other things are coming our way this fall as we find new and creative ways to reach out to our community. You will see more information about upcoming events in this newsletter but I would like to draw your attention to two of them. We did this event two years ago and I am excited to do it again. On Sunday, Oct. 10, we will have a blessing of pets at 2:00 pm. I hope that the weather will be favorable to be in the parking lot that day but we will move to the gathering room in case of rain. Bring your pets of all kinds to be blessed. You are asked to keep your pets leashed or in carriers.

Over the course of the pandemic, we lost a number of our Zion family to death and were unable to have funeral services at Zion. Some were done at graveside but the congregation was not able to grieve and have closure with our loved ones and their families. On **Sunday, Nov. 7,** there will be a congregational memorial service to remember these loved ones all together. Time is yet to be determined. We will be remembering Chuck Bursley, Betty Hynes, Mark Willard, Irene Ames, Dana Troub and Jerry Southgate. This service will be different from a usual funeral service and I would like to involve our church members to take part in doing readings, sharing memories and special music (vocal and/or instrumental). Please let me know of your interest in taking part in this service soon so that we can begin planning.

Happy fall as we see the leaves changing and the harvest at hand!

Pastor Becky+

**ZION CARES**

Supporting and caring for one another is important to all of us at Zion.  We are forming a new group, Zion Cares, to reach out to members to see if we can be of support and help.  The goal is to show love and concern to one another in times of need.  The group will reach out to members placed on the prayer chain or by referral to offer help and assistance.  There will also be a coordinator so if someone has a need, they know who they can call for help.  Some examples of assistance this group will provide include running an errand such as picking up a prescription, groceries, or other items, a ride to a medical appointment, help with a need at a home, etc.   We are looking for people who are willing to be part of the Zion Cares team.  If you can help as someone to provide any of these services or to serve as the coordinator to receive the calls and coordinate our response, please contact Martha Yoder or Pastor Becky.

**COLORING CONTEST**

Congratulations to the winners of Zion’s first coloring contest!  All of the artwork is on display in the Fellowship Hall.  Please take a look and congratulate the winners.

Ages 3 and under:  Lloyd Poole

Ages 4,5,6:

1st:  Azalea Esquivel

2nd:  Andi Hokanson

3rd:  Brinley Poole

Honorable Mention:

Emerysn Poole

DeKlan Phenix

Ages 7,8,9:

1st:  (tie)  Lexi Griffin and Kole Hokanson

3rd:  Blake Frizzell

Honorable Mention:  Millie Phenix

Ages 10 and over:

1st:  Lauren Baty

2nd:  Allison Frizzell

Thank you to all the kids for sharing their talents and art with us.  They did a great job!

**ZION CHRISTMAS TREE FARM**

Donations of trees, ornaments, lights and décor are still needed for the upcoming first ever Zion Christmas Tree Farm.   The Christmas Tree Farm will be open during the Christmas Around Town after Thanksgiving.  It is a free event to give these items to those who cannot afford holiday decorations.  We are reaching out to a number of local organizations and businesses to help us spread the word with a goal of finding a new home for all the donated gifts.  Thank you to all who have donated so far.  We can still use more items, especially artificial trees of any height.

The event will be held November 26, 10 am- 4pm and November 27, 10 am – 1 pm.  We will be serving hot chocolate, coffee, water and cookies.  We will also  need donations of cookies.

For more information, contact Jolene Griffin, Martha Yoder, or Ruth Hindman.

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SUNDAY OCTOBER 10**

Lutheran World Relief Sunday will be October 10th.  Thank you to Thrivent Financial for giving us a $250.00 grant to purchase some of the items needed for the kits.  Thank you also to all who donated items needed or cash to help with the shipping costs.  Thank you to the ladies of the Charity Circle who were our action team and helped assemble some of the kits.  Each kit included a towel, 2 bars of soap, a toothbrush and a nail clipper.  Tubes of toothpaste are handed out when the kits are given out.  The personal care kits we assembled will be displayed in our sanctuary.  On October 20th Jerry and Carol Engle will deliver the 68 kits to a truck at a Lutheran School in Wyoming.  We will also help the First Lutheran Church of Charlotte by delivering their quilts that day too.  Zion is blessed to be able to help others in need.

**REFORMATION DAY**

**HALLOWEEN OCTOBER 31**

Wear red for Reformation Day on October 31st!  In addition, there will be a Halloween themed coffee hour with fun for the kids.

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

 Coffee Fellowship to Resume

We're excited to welcome back a Zion favorite, coffee fellowship! The schedule was reviewed and the congregation's changes were made to this updated schedule. If you have any concerns, please see a member of the Fellowship Committee.

 Council has decided that individual snacks can be provided. Or, food can be served by those hosting coffee fellowship. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide guidance as needed.

**ALL SAINTS DAY**

**NOVEMBER 7**

Mark your calendar for a special memorial service for all our members who have passed away since the start of the pandemic.  This special service will be held with remembrances of those we love from our Zion family.  Plans are still being finalized and this may be during the regular service or a special service in the afternoon.  Watch for more details as final plans are made.  In addition, during morning worship service there will be a memorial for members who have passed away during the past year and an opportunity to recognize other loved one who passed away during the past year.

**VETERAN’S RECEPTION**

Seeking all veterans!  We are planning a special recognition for all veterans during worship on November 14th.  Your service and sacrifice is greatly appreciated and we want to lift you up in thanks.  Please let the church office or Martha Yoder know that you are a veteran.  We want to be sure that everyone is included!

**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE NOVEMBER 24, 7PM**

Zion will host the annual community Thanksgiving service.  Mark your calendar and plan to attend.  We are looking for those willing to provide special music for the service.  We are also in need of people willing to provide refreshments following the service.  Please contact Pastor Becky if you can help with this special service.

**SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER**

**October 3- In Sanctuary & Drive-in, Communion**

Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese

Elder: Paul Meade

Trustee: Dan Zylstra

Safety Person: Ken Heise

Offering Counters: Diane Griffin & Carlotta Willard

**October 10 In Sanctuary & Drive-in, Communion**

Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese

Elder: Jolene Griffin

Trustee: Jerry Engle

Safety Person: Dan Zylstra

Offering Counters: Jerry Engle, Carlotta Willard

**October 17- In Sanctuary & Drive-in, Communion**

Pastor Mike Kemper

Elder: Dan Utterback

Trustee: Mike Johnson

Safety Person: Jerry Engle

Offering Counters: Doug Mackenzie, Mike Johnson

**October 24- - In Sanctuary & Drive-in, Communion (Pulpit Exchange)**

Pastor Kjersten Sullivan

Elder: Jolene Griffin

Trustee: Dan Zylstra

Safety Person: Diane Griffin

Offering Counters: Mary Makley, Martha Yoder

**October 31 - In Sanctuary & Drive-in, Communion WEAR RED!**

Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese

Elder: Dan Utterback

Trustee: Jerry Engle

Safety Person: Ken Heise

Offering Counters: Diane Griffin & Carlotta Willard