**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 19, 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 Are Welcome” ELW 641**

A sheet of music

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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.

**O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**First Reading**    **Jeremiah 11:18-20**

A reading from Jeremiah.

18It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew;  
  then you showed me their evil deeds.  
 19But I was like a gentle lamb  
  led to the slaughter.  
 And I did not know it was against me  
  that they devised schemes, saying,  
 “Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,  
  let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
  so that his name will no longer be remembered!”  
 20But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously,  
  who try the heart and the mind,  
 let me see your retribution upon them,  
  for to you I have committed my cause.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Psalm 54**

1Save me, O God, **|** by your name;  
  in your might, de- **|** fend my cause.  
 2**Hear my | prayer, O God;**  
  **give ear to the words | of my mouth.**  
 3For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have **|** sought my life,  
  those who have no re- **|** gard for God.  
 4**Behold, God | is my helper;**  
  **it is the Lord who sus- | tains my life.**   
 5Render evil to those who **|** spy on me;  
  in your faithful- **|** ness, destroy them.  
 6**I will offer you a | freewill sacrifice**  
  **and praise your name, O Lord, for | it is good.**  
 7For you have rescued me from **|** every trouble,  
  and my eye looks down **|** on my enemies.

**Second Reading**  **James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a**

A reading from James.

13Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. 14But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. 15Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. 16For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. 17But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. 18And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.4:  
  
  1Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? 2You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. 7Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8aDraw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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 9:30-37**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

30[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;31for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” 32But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.  
  33Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” 34But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. 35He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” 36Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 37“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**Hymn of the Day “There’s a Wildness in God’s Mercy” ELW 588**

Diagram, schematic

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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**

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

*A brief silence.*

God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. We pray especially for St. Paul Lutheran Church and Rev. Betsy Kamphuis. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today (especially). Shine your grace on all your saints. 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**

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**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 “Children of the Heavenly Father” ELW 781**

A picture containing 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: Dan Utterback**

**Trustee: Jerry Engle**

**Offering Counters: Doug Mackenzie & Mike Johnson**

**Safety Person: Jerry Engle**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **The Charity Circle** will be meeting this coming Tuesday, Sept. 21st at 1:00 pm.  For the first 1/2 hour, we will be doing a Thrivent Action Team event assembling 30 Personal Care Kits for LWR.  Then we will have our Bible Study that is in the Gather magazine.  Thank you to all who donated items for the kits and to Thrivent Financial for giving Zion a $250.00 grant to purchase some of the needed items.  Zion will have the LWR Sunday on Oct. 10th and the kits will be taken to the Grand Rapids area on Oct. 20th to be shipped to the Maryland warehouse and then overseas.
* **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.
* **Church Cleaners Needed for the end of September:** Volunteers are needed to clean during the month of September.  A sign-up sheet 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!

**This week at Zion:**

* Pastor Becky on vacation through Monday, 9/27
* Women’s Bible Study Tuesday, September 21, 1 PM
* Men’s Breakfast Wednesday, September 22, 8 AM