**ZION’S MESSENGER**

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

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I look outside as I write this today to finally see the beauty of fall! I was beginning to wonder if we would see the leaves turn color at all this year, but it is starting to happen! Late but welcomed.

In this article, I will look backward a bit and forward. I thought that our first pulpit exchange with Pastor Kjersten Sullivan at Trinity, Battle Creek was a success as we enter into mission partnership with this congregation. We received a warm welcome at Trinity on the 24th. I realized that this is the first time that I have worshipped at a different congregation in person in over two years! I have worshipped online on my Sundays off. So it was interesting to see what another church is doing with innovative worship in this continued pandemic time and fun to meet new people. I am certain that Pastor Kjersten had an equally enjoyable time being with us at Zion. And I look forward to finding ways that we can partner with Trinity as they work in mission in a neighborhood in great need. And the people at Trinity are excited about this as well.

Looking forward, we will be doing something new to Zion on **November 7 at 2:00 pm.** We lost 6 of our brothers and sisters to the church eternal during 2020 and 2021 and were unable to have funeral services at Zion for them. Having funerals is a time to bring closure and comfort to family members as well as to the church family. We missed this opportunity for these people and families. Though a corporate memorial service is new to Zion, it is something that I

led on a regular basis at the hospitals and nursing homes and retirement communities where I worked for many years. These were held to remember the patients and residents who died over a period of time. These services meant a lot to the families, the staff and other residents who knew and loved these people. I have developed a service similar to the ones that I did so many times. We will worship, sing and remember together as a congregation and with the families of these loved ones. The people who will be remembered at this service are **Chuck Bursley, Betty Hynes, Mark Willard, Irene Ames, Dana Traub and Jerry Southgate.** November 7 is also designated in the church year as All Saint’s Sunday (moved from All Saint’s Day, which is Nov. 1). On this day we remember all of our loved ones who have entered into eternal life. We will name those who have died since All Saint’s Day last year as well as those we all want to remember, during the morning worship service. November 7 will be a very special day of remembrance of the saints we love who are in heaven and to remember that we live as God’s saints in our lives of faith on earth.

On Sunday, Nov. 14, we will be honoring our veterans during the church service. Please let Pastor Becky or Martha Yoder if you are a veteran so that you will be honored!

November is also the month where we celebrate Thanksgiving. I am sorry to have to report that the community Thanksgiving Eve service will be done virtually this year. Our ministerial association felt that things are still quite uncertain in regard to gathering safely indoors for a service. Watch our church Facebook pages and the Lake Odessa Community page for the virtual you tube service that we are preparing. Even so, we can all find things to be thankful for and find ways to celebrate this blessed holiday.

Pastor Becky +

**ZION CARES**

 Our new Zion Cares group is up and running with four members so far. Caroline Brecheisen, Ken and Karen Heise, and Martha Yoder have said yes to being part of this group to help support and care for one another. The goal is to show love and concern to one another in times of need.

 To date, Zion Cares has reached out to four members and provided assistance to three families. Some examples of assistance this group can provide is running an errand like picking up a prescription, groceries, or other items, a ride to a medical appointment, help with a need at a home, etc.

 We would welcome more members being willing to be part of this team. If you can help 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.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH BATTLE CREEK**

 On October 24th we had the opportunity to meet Pastor Kjersten Sullivan from our mission partner Trinity Lutheran Church, Battle Creek. Pastor Kjersten told us about the community coop that is operated out of Trinity to help support people in the community. Dan Utterback suggested that we take up a collection of items that would be useful to those in the coop. In checking with Pastor Kjersten, she indicated the greatest need at this time is for items that are not covered by food benefits such as household cleaners, shampoo and conditioner, toiletries of any kind, paper products, etc. If you would like to contribute items, please bring them to the church by November 21st. All of the items collected will be taken to Trinity for the co-op.

 Pastor Kjersten said a collection of household items would be incredibly helpful! She thanked Zion for its hospitality and said that she is looking forward to continuing in our partnership.

**ALL SAINTS DAY**

**NOVEMBER 7, 2PM**

 A memorial service for all our members who have passed away since the start of the pandemic will be held November 7 at 2:00 pm. This service will include remembrances from members, readings, and special music. There will be fellowship time following the service.

 In addition, during morning worship service there will a remembrance for members who have passed away during the past year and an opportunity to recognize other loved one who passed away this past year.

**VETERAN’S RECOGNITION**

**NOVEMBER 14**

 Zion will honor its Veterans on Sunday November 14th during worship service. There will also be a special coffee fellowship in their honor hosted by Paul and Kim Meade and Norma Smith. Please plan to participate in this special Sunday.

**THANKOFFERING**

**NOVEMBER 21**

 The ZlCW will be holding our annual Thankoffering Service on Sunday, November 21, 2021.  We will have a casual service led by several women of our congregation along with a skit for our sermon.  Look for Thankoffering envelopes to in your mailboxes for offering to help with the mission of the Women of ELCA. If you are interested in participating as a reader or other part in the service, please contact Buffy Meyers.

**COMMUNITY**

**THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

**NOVEMBER 24**

 The community Thanksgiving Service has been changed to a virtual service. Watch for more information in the bulletin.

**ZION CHRISTMAS TREE FARM**

**NOVEMBER 26 & 27**

 Our first Zion Christmas Tree Farm Free Store will be held on November 26 and 27. We have been sharing flyers about the event in locations in Woodland and Lake Odessa. We hope this event will help people in the community have a happy and blessed Christmas. We need help on the days of the event and with providing cookies for those who visit our “store.” There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please sign up if you can help!

 Donations of trees, ornaments, lights and décor are still welcome.

 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.

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

**THANK YOU!**

 Thank you for all the birthday cards for my 75th birthday! It was so nice to get so many greetings. Thank you all for caring.

 ~ Mary Makley

**NOMINATIONS**

 The nominations committee will begin work soon to fill positions on Council and Boards for 2022. Please consider your talents and time and consider where you might serve during the coming year. This year’s nominations committee is Lisa Krikke, Ken Heise, Buffy Meyers, and Jill Plummer with assistance from Martha Yoder.

**LAKEWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL CHRISTMAS BASKET PROJECT**

 Mary Smith has applied and received an Action Grant from Thrivent Financial to purchase the **children's gifts and a limited number of hats, socks and mittens for children**. You may **contribute any size hats, warm winter mittens/gloves and socks. Also needed is cash to purchase meat certificates and food. You may add cash to your offering envelope and the office will get it to the Lakewood Community Council. There will be a box in the Fellowship Hall at Zion in which to put your gifts.** Especially needed are water-resistant mittens/gloves. We will take Zion's contributions to Central United Methodist Church Wednesday, December 8 before noon.

Volunteers are needed to help package, wrap, and deliver basket. It is not expected that the number of volunteers will be limited, but feel free to call ahead. Central UM Church, where we pack our boxes currently recommends wearing masks. We have not made a decision about masks at this point, so please plan to come prepared to wear one if requested. Delivery volunteers will leave the packages on doorsteps and not enter homes whenever possible.

Here is the Christmas Basket schedule:

* Sunday, December 5, Zion's Action Team will meet to wrap the gifts.

The Sunday School folks will be asked to help with this.

* Tuesday, December 7,

7 pm to 9 pm (This is tentative, please call ahead.)

* Wednesday, December 8,

9 am to 2:30 pm (Distribute food into boxes.)

* Thursday, December 9,

9 am to 2:30 pm (Pack boxes and gift bags)

* Friday, December 10

9 am to noon. (Wrap boxes and transfer gifts. This is tentative. Please call ahead.)

* Saturday, December 11

9 a.m. to noon. Deliver boxes to families.

**SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER**

**November 7- In Sanctuary & Drive-in, Communion**

Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese

Elder: Paul Meade

Trustee: Mike Johnson

Safety Person: Dan Zylstra

Offering Counters: Jerry Engle, Carlotta Willard

**November 14 In Sanctuary & Drive-in, Communion**

Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese

Elder: Jolene Griffin

Trustee: Dan Zylstra

Safety Person: Jerry Engle

Offering Counters: Doug Mackenzie, Mike Johnson

**November 21- Women’s Thankoffering**

ZLCW Women

Elder: Dan Utterback

Trustee: Jerry Engle

Safety Person: Diane Griffin

Offering Counters: Mary Makley, Martha Yoder

**November 28- - In Sanctuary & Drive-in, Communion**

Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese

Elder: Paul Meade

Trustee: Mike Johnson

Safety Person: Ken Heise

Offering Counters: Diane Griffin & Carlotta Willard