**ZION’S MESSENGER**

**June 2022 + Zion Lutheran Church + 269-367-4817**

**Pastor Becky Emergency Phone: 616-265-2862**

**Email Address:** **pastorbecky@zionwoodland.org**

Spring arrived quite late this year but it is a joy to see so many things in full bloom now. Blooming and growing things are reminders of new life that happens every year, no matter what the winters are like. The Easter season concluded at the end of May and we begin June by celebrating Pentecost. Then we enter what is commonly known as the long, green season. Our paraments at church change colors from white for Easter to red for Pentecost and then to green for the season of Pentecost which will last until Advent.

The color green is used for this season because it is a color that represents new life and growth. All through this season in nature, we will see things grow, there is lots of green in the grass, on the trees and as the new crops begin to grow. As the season ends, we will see the fruits of new life with the harvest.

Green also represents new life in the church and in our lives of faith. On Pentecost, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples and to the many people who were in Jerusalem for the Holy festival of Pentecost in the Jewish tradition as well. This was a festival of harvest and through the coming of the Holy Spirit, the early Christian church was born.

Throughout the centuries, the Holy Spirit has been present in the life of the church as it grew and changed and many different denominations were formed following the Reformation. No matter what was going on in the world in the life of the church throughout history, the Holy Spirit

has been there and continues to be with us to guide us and give us power to spread the Gospel. We are living in a very challenging time in our world right now. It is easy to get discouraged by war, by violence, by mass shootings, by the continued pandemic that does not seem to want to subside very much, by much political division and unrest. The promise that Jesus gave his disciples about the gift of the Holy Spirit, was that they would have a comforter, that they would be empowered to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth. The Holy Spirit is still a fulfillment of this promise to us today. We very much need a comforter. We continue to need empowerment to keep spreading the message of Jesus love throughout our community and our world.

The Spirit is with us today to bring us growth in our faith and new life.

Many things will be happening at and through Zion this month to bring growth in faith to our children and youth through confirmation camp at Zion, through a day of VBS, through an end of school celebration. And through our presence in the Lake Odessa parade, we will bring the message of Jesus love in this community. As we continue to support Lutheran World Relief, we support the people of Ukraine and people who are suffering from many things throughout our world and in our country. The Spirit is at work among us always!

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Pastor Becky +

**CHRIST IN OUR HOME &**

**THE LUTHERAN**

There is a sign-up sheet for Christ in Our Home and The Lutheran in the narthex. If you would like to continue receiving either of these publications, please sign up on the sheet or email Tara directly at office@zionwoodland.org.

**CELEBRATION FOR END OF SCHOOL YEAR/BEGINNING OF SUMMER**

Join us Sunday, June 12 for a dual celebration for the beginning of summer and the end of the school year! We will have a potluck. Please bring a dish to pass; drinks will be provided. Games will be organized for the youth and adults are encouraged to bring board games. See a member of the Board of Education with any questions.

**SECOND TIME AROUND SALE**

The Second Time Around Sale will be held Thursday, June 9th from 9-6 and Friday, June 10th from 9-5. Workers are needed for both days. Donations for the sale can be brought anytime before then and stored in the first Sunday school classroom on the west side. There will also be a silent auction and a bake sale. Sign up sheets coming soon!

**SUMMER SERVICE**

**TIME CHANGE**

June 19 will mark the beginning of our summer worship times, so service will start at 9:30 AM that Sunday, lasting through Labor Day.

**VISION COMMITTEE**

The vision committee will meet after church on June 5.

**THANK YOU, BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP**

Council would like to send a shout out of thanks to the Board of Fellowship for all that has been done to create great fellowship times at Zion.  The Board of Fellowship did an outstanding job in organizing and hosting soup suppers for the Lenten Service.  There was lots of great soup and fellowship every week and it was much appreciated.  The Board also hosted the Ester Breakfast which was very well attended.  There was a wonderful variety of food and everyone enjoyed both the food and the time of fellowship before worship service.  The Board has also restarted fellowship twice a month on the second and fourth Sundays and is encouraging people to bring games or activities on the fourth Sundays.  After a long period without fellowship, it is so good to have this time together again.  Thank you Board of Fellowship for all that you have done this year.  It is recognized and appreciated.

**LAKE ODESSA PARADE: JUNE 22**

Zion will have a float in the Lake Odessa Parade.  We need people to help make the float, ride the float, walk to carry the banners and hand out candy.  Come be part of this fun evening!  See Martha Yoder or any member of the Board of Evangelism for more information.

**HAY DAY VBS: JUNE 30**

We are excited that registration is open for our one day VBS on June 30th.  VBS is open to pre-school through those completing 6th grade this year.  This year’s farm-themed program, Hay Day, explores the unending love and friendship Jesus offers.  The message that Jesus will always love us, and his friendship lasts forever will be shared throughout the afternoon.  The special one-day VBS will begin with lunch and end with a family dinner and fun time.  In between kids will enjoy music, games, stories, and crafts rotating through the stations twice throughout the afternoon.  Please register your kids and encourage them to bring a friend.  We also need workers in all areas.  For more information, see Martha Yoder, Karen Heise, Pastor Becky or any member of the Board of Education.  The schedule for VBS is:

11:30-12:30 – Registration and Lunch

12:30 – 5:00 – VBS

5:00 - ?            - Family Meal and Fun Time

We hope to see you at VBS!

**ZION SUPPPORT FOR**

**THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE**

Council voted to designate all donations to Lutheran World Relief during March, April, and May to the church’s efforts to provide food and medicine to the people of Ukraine.  Through May 15, Zion has contributed $4,450 with two more Sundays of giving.  Thanks to everyone for their generosity in helping the church in their relief efforts in Ukraine.

**Sunday School Opening**

June 5: Martha Yoder

June 12: Dan Utterback

**SUNDAYS IN JUNE**

**June 5- In Sanctuary & Drive-in, Communion,**

Pastor Michael Anton

Elder: Jolene Griffin

Trustee: Jerry Engle

Safety Person: Jerry Engle

Offering Counters: Doug Mackenzie & Mike Johnson

**June 12 In Sanctuary & Drive-in, Communion, Coffee Fellowship**

Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese

Elder: Dan Utterback

Trustee: Mike Johnson

Safety Person: Diane Griffin

Offering Counters: Mary Makley, Martha Yoder

**June 19- 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

**June 29- In Sanctuary & Drive-in, No Communion, Coffee Fellowship**

Presider: Buffy Meyers

Elder: Jolene Griffin

Trustee: Jerry Engle

Safety Person: Dan Zylstra

Offering Counters: Jerry Engle & Carlotta Willard