**ZION’S MESSENGER**

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

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There’s an old song I remember singing that starts out with these words, “It’s harvest time in the country”. I don’t remember the rest, but the tune has been an ear worm for me as I drive around and see it is certainly the start of harvest time in Michigan. This is such a beautiful time of year and the trees are starting to show their beautiful fall colors as well.

We are fortunate to live in Michigan. Yes, we get the occasional tornado, windstorms, and flooding. But compared to many other parts of the country, we are not faced with the terrible destruction of wildfires that are happening again this year in the west, we have not had the terrible flooding that has happened in other parts of the south and as two hurricanes have come this season, we do not have to deal with those. But so many people have been devastated by these events. We pray for Puerto Rico and the eastern provinces of Canada as Fiona has caused terrible destruction in its passing. And now, as I write this, Ian is coming across Cuba and headed into Florida and will leave more destruction in its wake. Many other places in our world are also dealing with drought and flooding and of course war. It is now 6 months into the war in Ukraine. I am very happy to see that the Ukrainian troops have been able to regain parts of their country, but will we see an end to this war anytime soon? This is something that I pray for every day.

It is easy to be here in Michigan and watch the beauty of fall around us but I hope that we continually pray for those whose lives have been destroyed in so many ways around our world. Even here, people are faced with homelessness and difficulty paying for the essentials of life with the continued increases in food and gas costs.

As the body of Christ, we are interconnected throughout our world. When one part of our body suffers, our whole body suffers. There are times we may wonder, what can we do to help? Prayer is wonderful but it doesn’t always feel like enough. Locally, we can reach out to support those who struggle by supporting the agencies that work to provide for people’s needs. We have Manna’s Market and Feed the Need very close by. There are other programs in surrounding communities that we can support through volunteerism, and making donations, both monetarily and with needed food and clothing items. Zion is very good about being a congregation that gives so generously.

I have lifted up two agencies in our Lutheran Church over this year, Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. Both are great programs that through our financial donations, these agencies work on our behalf in the world and in our country to provide much needed resources to our brothers and sisters in Christ. We recently finished the collection of health kits to go to Lutheran World Relief and we heard about how much they are needed and appreciated by the recipients through Lutheran World Relief.

We are the body of Christ. Let us remember that when we are doing well, there are others in our body who are suffering through disasters and war. As we pray for them, let us not forget to tangibly support them by supporting these agencies.

In this harvest time in the country, let us always give thanks to God for all that God provides and see ourselves as being the means that God provides to our brothers and sisters in need in this country and around the world.

Pastor Becky +

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF DAY**

Lutheran World Relief Day - Zion will have the blessing of the Personal Care Kits for LWR on Sunday, October 9th during our worship service.  Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project. We received many needed items and many cash donations for me to purchase other items needed.  We also received monetary donations to help with the cost of shipping the kits. Thank you also to Thrivent Financial for giving us a grant of $250.00 to help buy some of the supplies needed.  Our confirmation students, Pastor Becky and Claude Smith were my Action Team helping to assemble some of the kits the week of their confirmation camp.  We have completed 84 kits this year to send overseas.  Last year we had 55.  On October 19th, Jerry and I will take the kits and a few quilts from First Lutheran Church in Charlotte to a Lutheran High School parking lot in Wyoming.  They have helpers that load the boxes of quilts and kits from all the churches in the west Michigan area into semi-trucks. They are then taken to a warehouse in Maryland and then sent overseas.   Once again, thank you to all who contributed to this cause.  In 2021, LWT sent quilts and kits to 19 countries.

**FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUCK**

Join us for food, fellowship and games on Sunday, October 30. There’s also not a few months with 5 Sundays so let’s do what we at Zion do best, share a meal. Please bring a dish to pass and board or card game to play. Drinks and tableware will be provided. Please see a member of the Fellowship Committee for any questions.

**WOODLAND HOMECOMING FUN!**

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Woodland Homecoming Celebration a great weekend!  Zion had a float in the parade that took first place in the church division.  We had lots of people to ride the float and also people to pass out goody bags to children.  Zion hosted free games for kids during the afternoon. There was a cow milking contest and pig races.  All the kids who played had a great time and our thanks to everyone who volunteered to work on such a hot, muggy afternoon.  On Sunday, Zion helped host the first Ken Makley Memorial Car show by donating items and selling root beer floats.  The floats were sold for $2 with the proceeds going to the Woodland Athletic Association for kids programs.  In all $250 was donated as a result of this project and we went through seven large tubs of ice cream and 12 two liter bottles of root beer!   Again, a huge thank you to everyone who helped make this happen.

**EVENING BOOK/BIBLE STUDY**

 Women of Zion: please let Pastor Becky know if you are interested in resuming the evening book/Bible study. We finished the series last spring so now is the chance to start a new study. Your input is needed to decide on a book or topic

**DIRECTORY**

A new directory with updated information will be handed out this month. Please make sure your current information is correct in the previous one. If not, send your updated info to Tara at [office@zionwoodland.org](mailto:office@zionwoodland.org) or put it in her church mailbox. Thank you.

**LIVING LUTHERAN**

The Living Lutheran updates have been made and changes should be effective starting the month of October. However, the Living Lutheran has been behind in their issues and we are just now receiving September’s. Changes may not be effective until next month due to the printing delay.

**SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER**

**October 2- In Sanctuary Communion**

Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese

Elder: Dan Utterback

Trustee: Mike Johnson

Safety Person: Jerry Engle

Offering Counters: Doug Mackenzie & Mike Johnson

**October 9- In Sanctuary Communion**

Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese

Acolyte: Kole Hokanson

Elder: Paul Meade

Trustee: Dan Zylstra

Safety Person: Diane Griffin

Offering Counters: Mary Makley & Martha Yoder

**October 16- In Sanctuary Communion,**

Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese

Acolyte: Lexi Griffin

Elder: Jolene Griffin

Trustee: Jerry Engle

Safety Person: Ken Heise

Offering Counters: Diane Griffin & Carlotta Willard

**October 23 In Sanctuary Communion,**

Pastor Marcia Schultz

Acolyte: Anna Zylstra

Elder: Dan Utterback

Trustee: Mike Johnson

Safety Person: Dan Zylstra

Offering Counters: Jerry Engle & Carlotta Willard

**October 30 In Sanctuary Communion,**

Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese

Acolyte: Levi Griffin

Elder: Paul Meade

Trustee: Dan Zylstra

Safety Person: Jerry Engle

Offering Counters: Doug Mackenzie & Mike Johnson