**ZION’S MESSENGER**

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

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Just like that, in the blink of an eye, this summer has come to an end. For me, it seems like summer just began. I guess that it is true, that the older we get, the faster time goes!

I sometimes feel like September is more like a new year than January. We take breaks from many things in the summer, like school. We take a break from Sunday School in the summer also, though this year, we again had VBS for a day and a couple of days of confirmation “camp” at Zion. Many of us took vacations and had opportunities to get away to the beach or to the woods or to visit family and friends in other places.

And September comes and its time for things to start back up. Kids are back in school. We will resume Sunday School on Sept. 11 with a special day outdoors, weather permitting, to sing and hear a Bible story and enjoy treats on the church lawn. Our service time returns to 10:30. September does bring with it a new year for many things.

Perhaps, this new year may bring new opportunities for each of you as well. If you have been away from church for a time, now would be a wonderful time to see you return. Sunday School teachers are still needed for the elementary age children. If you might see this as something you would enjoy doing, that would be very much appreciated.

The Bible Buddy program that connects adults with our children and youth is being renewed. Some have come forward, wanting to take part in this for the first time. If you have been a buddy to youth who have graduated and would like to buddy a new student, that would be great. Please let me know! If you wish to keep your current Bible Buddy, that would be great as well and again, please let me know.

There are some fun things coming up for us in the fall. On Sunday, October 2, the ministerial association is hosting an event at the Lake Odessa fairgrounds, called the Parable of the Horse. This begins at 1:00 pm. A man will be gentling an unbroke horse while teaching us from the Bible on the theme of “Hope in A Hopeless World”. This sounds fascinating to me and I hope that many of you will come to this event and invite friends. This is open to the whole community.

A Blessing of the Pets will be planned for October. Date and more details to come.

We will once again be having a family bonfire and hayride at the home of Claude and Mary Smith on Saturday, Oct. 29 so mark your calendars for this event.

More events will likely be coming as we enter into this new season of the church!

As always, keep this verse in your hearts and minds, “The Joy of the Lord is My Strength” Nehemiah 8:10!

Pastor Becky +

**SERVICE TIME CHANGE**

Starting September 11, Zion will be switching back to the 10:30 AM start time.

**PERSONAL CARE KITS**

**FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our LWR Personal Care Kits collection.  We received toothbrushes, bars of soap and nail clippers with attached files. We were also given cash donations to purchase items needed and help with the cost of shipping the kit overseas. Thrivent Financial provided us with a $250.00 grant to purchase items for the kits too.  Towels and combs were purchased with the grant donation. Zion will have the LWR Kits Sunday on October 9th.  Later that week our kits will be packed and on October 19th taken to the Lutheran High School parking lot in Wyoming, MI.  A team of volunteers will load them, along with quilts and kits from many other churches, into semi-trucks. They are then taken to Maryland to a warehouse and shipped overseas. Thank you to our confirmation students, Pastor Becky and Claude for being the Action Team for this project. Again, thank you to all who have contributed money or items for this yearly project. On the internet, it showed that many kits have already been sent to help the people of Ukraine. In 2021 LWR sent items to 19 countries.

**AIR/HEAT UNITY PROJECT**

**UPDATE AND THANKD YOU!**

Two new air/heat units approved by the congregation have been installed in the sanctuary. Last Sunday the sanctuary was very comfortable thanks to these new units! Our sincere thanks to Mike Johnson, Jerry Engle and Paul Meade for all their work to ensure that this project was completed.

**BACK ENTRY PROJECT**

**UPDATE AND THANK YOU!**

The project approved by the congregation to add new siding, soffits and facia to the back (west) entry has been competed and it looks beautiful! If you haven’t had a chance to see the finished back of the church, make it a point to take a look! The siding is dark brown and the doors have been painted to match. It looks fresh and new! The church purchased the material and Ken and Karen Heise donated the labor to make it happen. A huge, heart-felt “Thank you” to Ken and Karen Heise and the Heise Farm crew for sharing their time and expertise to complete this project! It looks amazing!

**ACTION TO ADDRESS WATER PROBLEMS INSIDE THE CHURCH**

After the last major rain a few weeks ago, it became apparent that immediate action was needed to address several areas where there was serious water leakage into the church. Action was taken to have a plumber evaluate the problem on the front (east side) of the church. It was discovered that the clay drainage tiles that the eaves empty into were completely blocked by tree roots in spots and broken and misaligned in others. The trustees and Paul Meade worked with the plumber and Randy Geiger to address the issue. This included the necessity of removing all the trees and shrubs along the front of the church. Work on this project is continuing around the church to be sure that we have a clear drainage system that will move water away from the building. Paul Meade is leading our trustees and others who are performing much of the work themselves. Our thanks to all of them for their quick action and hard work to address this serious problem.

**ART IN THE PARK UPDATE**

The Zion booth at Art in the Park on August 6th was a popular spot and very busy on an extremely hot and humid Saturday. We distributed 700 bottles of water, more than 400 snacks, and 200 bubble wands. People were incredibly grateful for water and snacks on such a hot day. The Lake Odessa Police officer on duty commended Zion for being there, providing water and said that all day he was directing people to our booth when they asked where to get a drink.

Zion held a backpack and school supply give away at our booth. Drawings were held every half-hour for nine backpacks and five bags of school supplies. The winners were very appreciative. Several parents commented on how expensive it was to get kids ready for school and it really helped to have the items they won.

Thank you to everyone who helped the evening before taking all the water, coolers, ice, snacks, and many supplies from the church to the park and set up. Thank you to everyone who worked at the booth throughout the day and to those who stayed to help clean up and take items back to the church. Our water ministry at Art in the Park is very labor intensive but it was greatly appreciated! “…I was thirsty, and you gave me drink…” Matthew 25:35

**WOMEN’S MORNING COFFEE TIME**

Is there any interest in establishing a once-a-month morning coffee for women? This would include a short devotion, time of sharing, prayer, and fellowship. The day and time will be determined based on what works best for those who wish to participate. If you are interested in this kind of women’s fellowship time during the coming fall and winter, please let Martha Yoder know.

**EVENING WOMEN’S**

**BOOK/BILBE STUDY**

Calling all women who would like to be a part of an evening study. The group that had been meeting finished the series on “Sensible Shoes”, so it is time to start something new. As we had been meeting on the 4th Wed. of the month, please come on Wed. Sept. 28 at 6:30 pm for a planning meeting. It would be good to meet in person for this meeting for discussion about what you would like to study. Please let Pastor Becky know if you are interested or if you are not able to attend this meeting but would like to take part.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY**

Sunday School Rally Sundaywill be Sunday, September 11th for both our children's and adult classes.  Sunday School will include some special activities outside for the kiddos at its normal time.  Following worship, there will be a Welcome Back Potluck.  Please sign up for the potluck on the list in the narthex

**DIRECTORY**

A new directory with updated information will be handed out in October. Please make sure your current information is correct in the previous one. If not, send your updated info to Tara at 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. If anyone does not receive theirs, please let Tara know.

**SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER**

**September 4, Church in the Park**

**September 11- In Sanctuary & Drive-in, Communion**

Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese

Elder: Dan Utterback

Trustee: Mike Johnson

Safety Person: Diane Griffin

Offering Counters: Mary Makley & Martha Yoder

**September 18- 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

**September 25 In Sanctuary & Drive-in, Communion,**

Pastor Michael Anton

Elder: Jolene Griffin

Trustee: Jerry Engle

Safety Person: Dan Zylstra

Offering Counters: Jerry Engle & Carlotta Willard