**ZION’S MESSENGER**

**October 2023 + Zion Lutheran Church + 269-367-4817**

**President, Paul Meade, Emergency Phone: 616-340-7305**

**THANK YOU, ZION**

Zion recently received a beautiful thank you card from a family that received backpacks and school supplies. Inside the card were letters from four children. Their mother wrote a prayer for Zion, “Jesus thank you for filling their hearts with joy and kindness so the families in need could receive these backpacks and the one thing I want is for you, Jesus, to keep filling their hearts with joy and kindness. Amen. God Bless You.”

The children’s notes included,

“Thank you so much for the purple backpack. I love it so much – just as much as God and you…”

“…This is a thank you letter for the backpacks you nice people gave me and my siblings. I am very grateful you gave us these backpacks so are my siblings…”

“Thank you so much for a backpack for school…You guys did so much for me…Thank you so much.”

“Dear Zion Lutheran: …Thank you for what you are doing for families that don’t have the money. What you do is a good deed.”

The thank you card and letters are on the white board in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to read their full messages. This was truly “God’s Work, Our Hands.” Once again, many thanks to everyone who made this possible.

**TRUSTEE UPDATE**

Sealed bids for the old lawnmower were received and opened prior to the September Council meeting. The winning bid was $535 which has been paid and the lawnmower has been picked up. Thank you to everyone who submitted a bid.

Painting projects have been completed and the painter, Don Whitford, did a wonderful job. We are currently working with Don to obtain bids for additional painting and some maintenance projects around the church.

Zion received a check from Brotherhood Mutual for the hailstorm damage. Included was replacing the metal roof on the church, the parsonage roof, and the roof on the bell tower. We have contracted with Dutch Brothers who installed the metal roof to replace that roof. McKeough Brothers installed the existing roof on the parsonage, and they will be replacing the roof on the parsonage and bell tower. We are continuing to evaluate and plan for other items included in the damage report.

Zion has entered into a contract with Orkin Pest Control to provide services for the church and parsonage to address mice, ants, and spiders. The first service was provided on September 29th and services will be provided each month to ensure we have a pest-free environment.

**CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The Call Committee continues to meet and research candidates from the synod. Please pray for wisdom and patience for the Call Committee and the congregation.

**FREE CHRISTMAS TREE FARM & MARKET—NOVEMBER 17 & 18**

This year we are moving the Free Christmas Tree Farm and Market up to the week before Thanksgiving to allow our members the Thanksgiving weekend to be with their families. We will be looking for help to bring all the very generous donations we have received this year from the storage areas to the fellowship hall after church on November 12th. We have been blessed this year with a tremendous amount of donated items! It will be a huge blessing to people in the community. Look for sign-up sheets and more information in the bulletins in the coming weeks.

**CHAIRPERSON NEEDED—**

**FREE CHRISTMAS TREE FARM & MARKET**

We are looking for someone who would like to serve as the chairperson of the Free Christmas Tree Farm and Market. The primary responsibilities during the year are to respond to inquiries about donations, ensure that donations are moved from the entry area to the storage area, and working with the Board of Evangelism to create and distribute promotional information about this free event. If your heart is moving toward helping with this well- received and appreciated mission, please talk with Martha Yoder. If we do not find a chairperson to take leadership of this project, we will not continue this mission.

**THANK YOU TO LAURA KRIKKE**

A very heartfelt thank you to Laura Krikke for designing, planting, and maintaining the large planters at the front church entrance and in front of the church sign. The planters are beautiful and appreciated by everyone who walks into the church or drives by. Thank you, Laura, for sharing your talents with Zion.

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF DAY**

Zion will have the blessing of the personal care kits on Sunday, October 8th during our worship service. Thank you to everyone who has helped with this project by donating items or money to help with the cost of shipping the kits. Each kit costs $2.65 to ship with a tube of toothpaste being handed out with each kit. We also want to thank Thrivent Financial for the $250.00 grant that helped us purchase some items needed to make the kits. We have 86 kits to send this year. On Wednesday, October 18th, the kits will be taken to the West Michigan Lutheran High School in Wyoming. They will be loaded onto a semi-truck with quilts and kits from all over West Michigan. They will then be taken to a warehouse in Maryland and sent overseas. In 2022 quilts and kits were distributed in 19 countries. Zion is blessed to be able to share with others in need.

**THANK YOU!!**

Thank you all so much for all your prayers, phone calls and cards during my recent illness and surgery. I am so thankful for everyone and glad to report that I am feeling much better. Your prayers were my blessing and very much appreciated.

~ Caroline Brecheisen

**HALLOWEEN FELLOWSHIP**

**OCTOBER 29th**

Please join us on October 29th for a special Halloween Fellowship!  We are inviting families to sponsor a table!  Decorate the table and give out a treat, have a craft or some other special activity.  This will be a fun fellowship for all ages!  Watch for more details in the bulletin in coming weeks.

**SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER**

**October 1- In Sanctuary No Communion** Claude Smith

Acolyte: Lexi Griffin

Elder: Dan Utterback

Trustee: Mike Johnson

Offering Counters: Doug Mackenzie & Mike Johnson

**October 8-In Sanctuary, Communion**

Pastor Frank Rothfuss

Acolyte:

Elder: Buffy Meyers

Trustee: Martha Yoder

Offering Counters: Mary Makley & Martha Yoder

**October 15- In Sanctuary**

Acolyte: Levi Griffin

Elder: Jolene Griffin

Trustee: Jerry Engle

Offering Counters: Diane Griffin & Carlotta Willard

**October 22-In Sanctuary, Communion**

Pastor Jim Couser

Acolyte: Kole Hokanson

Elder: Dan Utterback

Trustee: Mike Johnson

Offering Counters: Jerry Engle

& Carlotta Willard

**October 29-In Sanctuary**

Acolyte: Lexi Griffin

Elder: Buffy Meyers

Trustee: Martha Yoder

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