**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Thankoffering Sunday, November 19, 2023**

**\*If you are listening in your car, please tune your radio to FM 87.7\***



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the triune + God, who pours out love, justice, and mercy in abundance.

**Amen.**

Joined by water to Christ and to creation, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

For all gifts of water,

**we give you thanks, O God.**

For rivers and lakes, for streams and oceans, for healing rains and clean water to drink:

**we give you thanks, O God.**

For Miriam’s song of liberation on the far bank of the sea,

For Isaiah’s invitation to “come and drink, without money and without price,”

For Jesus’s baptism and commissioning in the waters of the Jordan,

For the Samaritan woman, revived by living water,

For your holy river that waters the tree of life:

**we give you thanks, O God.**

For the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,

For baptismal waters,

For the cleansing of our hearts,

For the refreshment of our spirits,

For waves of mercy,

For justice, rolling like rivers:

**we give you thanks, O God.**

Blessing, honor, and glory be to you, O God,

and eternal gratitude for all your good gifts.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song“Oh God, Our Help in Ages Past” ELW 632**



**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

**God of abundance,**

**We give thanks every time we remember your goodness. Teach us to respond to your love with faithfulness and generosity. Keep us mindful of your blessings, and especially the blessing of wholeness and salvation that you offer us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our savior.**

**Amen.**

**First Reading  Judges 4:1-7**

A reading from Judges.

1The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. 2So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. 3Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.  
 4At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. 5She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. 6She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, ‘Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. 7I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.’ ”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Psalm 123**

1To you I lift **|** up my eyes,  
  to you enthroned **|** in the heavens.  
 2**As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a**

**maid to the hand | of her mistress,**  
  **so our eyes look to you, O Lord our God, until you show | us your mercy.**  
 3Have mercy upon us, O **|** Lord, have mercy,  
  for we have had more than enough **|** of contempt,  
 4**too much of the scorn of the in- | dolent rich,**  
  **and of the derision | of the proud.**

**Second Reading 1Thessalonians 5:1-11**

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

1Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; 7for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**



**Gospel  Matthew 25:14-30**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. 19After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ 21His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 22And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ 23His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 24Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ 26But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SPEAKER  Chloe Makley on her missionary work in Thailand**

**Hymn of the Day“Lord of Light” ELW 688**



**CREED**

**Joining with the church in all times and places, let us affirm our faith.**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

**Prayers of Intercession**

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

With gratitude to God, we remember in prayer our church, our neighbors, and our world. O God, we remember your church across the world. We pray especially for Bread of Life Lutheran Church in Hudsonville. Let your good news be known through many and diverse forms of worship and service. Encourage your faithful people to generosity in all things. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We remember the bounty of creation. In this harvest season, grant us and all creatures sufficient food and water. Heal the earth where it faces drought, flood, fire, and storms. Bless us with the gifts and inclination necessary to participate in the healing of the earth. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We remember the nations of the world and their leaders. Transform the hearts of governments and authorities that compassion and grace overflow from their leadership. Empower us toward acts of charity and advocacy for those who are poor, neglected, threatened by violence, or forced from their homelands. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We remember the struggles of our neighbors. Grant hope and healing to all who are sick, afraid, in pain, or facing transitions. We pray especially for all those affected by gun violence, Ukraine, Sudan, Turkey, Syria, and the Middle East. Bless and protect all who serve as caregivers, health care providers, and social workers. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We remember all ministries of this church, and especially Women of the ELCA. Through these organizations, inspire faith, equip leaders, and accomplish works of service and justice. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We remember those who have died (*especially…*). May the memory of the saints encourage us to follow their example of thankfulness and generosity. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all that for which we pray, trusting in your mercy, given for us and for all, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering & OFFERING SONG**

The joy of the Lord is my strength,

The joy of the Lord is my strength,

The joy of the Lord is my strength,

The joy of the Lord is my strength.

**Offering Prayer**

Gracious God,

We give thanks each time we remember you and your blessings. Receive what we have offered now: our gifts, our time, and our whole selves. Bless our thankofferings and the work of Women of the ELCA that these offerings make possible. Make us good and faithful stewards of your gifts, that all people know the bounty of your love. We pray in the name of Christ,

**Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

**Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**Blessing**

God has filled the hungry and thirsty with good things:

**Let us give thanks to God, for God’s mercy endures forever!**

God has done wonderful works for all people:

**Let us rejoice in God’s steadfast love!**

God has looked upon us with grace and favor:

**Let us remember God’s mercy!**

God has put into our hearts a song of thanksgiving and freedom:

**Let us join our voices in singing our praise!**

The God of abundance,

Creator, + Redeemer, and Spirit,

bless you and keep you,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending SonG “I Want to Walk as Child of the Light” ELW 815**



**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Live with gratitude.

**Thanks be to God**

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**Thank you to all who served in worship today!**

**Speaker: Chloe Makley**

**Musician: Jayne Flanigan**

**Acolyte: Lexi Griffin**

**Elder: Buffy Meyers**

**Trustee: Martha Yoder**

**Offering Counters: Jerry Engle & Carlotta Willard**

**Safety Person:**

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

With thanks for all God’s blessings and his love for all people. Our Bishops, Craig Satterlee Elizabeth Eaton, and the congregations of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod. **Bread of Life Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids**

Prayers for our friends, for all who are sick or hospitalized and for all health care workers who care for them. We pray especially for all those affected by gun violence, Ukraine, Sudan, Turkey, Syria, and the Middle East. All those members of Zion’s family traveling; all those homebound or in frail health; all those suffering with quiet, unknown needs or worries.

For those who serve on our behalf: public safety, utility workers, medical personnel, military personnel. For those who might be forgotten.

**This week at Zion:**

* Community Thanksgiving service, 6 PM tonight at Zion
* Charity Circle, 1 PM Tuesday, November 21
* **Bulletin deadline, 8 PM Tuesday, November 21** (Secretary in office Wednesday)
* Men’s Coffee, 8 AM Wednesday, November 22

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **Door Locking Policy:** Our door locking policy relies on having a volunteer(s) each Sunday to serve as the Safety Person of the Day. On Sundays where no one has volunteered, if someone arrives at church and is willing to be the Safety Person of the Day, we will follow the door locking policy. If no one steps forward to serve as the Safety Person of the Day, the doors will not be locked as there will be no one to monitor the church cell phone and let late arrivals into the church. Please consider volunteering for this important duty
* **Poinsettias:**  Sign up sheets are out for poinsettias. $14.95 each, no bows, choice of color. In honor of or memory of loved ones. Please sign up by Nov. 26. Contact Mary Makley with any questions.
* **Coffee Fellowship:** Sunday, December 3 after church will be a potluck and Advent fellowship time activities. Please sign up if you want to do activities so we can have enough craft products.
* **Refrigerator:** The Zion Lutheran Church Women want to let everyone know that we have purchased a new commercial refrigerator.  It was purchased from D. L. Walker, Inc. in Lansing.  Two men delivered it on Tuesday, November 7th.  The cost was $2,990.00 plus $50.00 to remove the blue protective film for a total cost of $3,040.00.  A special thank you to Dawn and Phil Brodbeck for their generous donation of $1,000.00 given in memory of Dawn's parents, Robert and Phyllis Baes.  Also, thank you to the men involved with removing our old refrigerator from our church and hauling it to Hastings to be recycled.
* **Sock Collection:** The Lakewood Community Council has let us know they are in need of socks for the Christmas baskets. Socks are needed for all ages but especially for adults. There will be a collection set up soon for donations. Please help us provide new socks for those in need this Christmas. If you have questions, please talk with Janine Frizzell or any member of evangelism. Thank you!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED**

* **Church Musician Opening**: We have an opening for the position of church musician for two Sundays a month starting in January 2024. The musician would play liturgy and hymns for our Sunday worship services. If you are aware of anyone who may be interested in sharing their musical gifts with Zion, please contact Buffy Meyers. It is a paid position.
* **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.

**LAKEWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL CHRISTMAS PROJECT 2023**

Here is information about the annual Christmas Basket project, sponsored by the Lakewood Community Council. Some suggestions for how to help:

* Pray for this ministry
* Send monetary contributions to cover meat certificates and other purchases
* Send contributions of any size hat, warm winter mittens/gloves, and socks
* Children’s gifts for 14 children

A Thrivent Action Grant has been granted for $250 and will be used to purchase the children’s gifts and some socks, hats, and gloves/mittens.

The schedule is as follows:

* Sunday, November 26: Sunday School Thrivent action meets to wrap gifts.
* Thursday, November 30 at noon: Physical donations should be delivered to Central United Methodist Church in Lake Odessa.
* Tuesday, December 12 from 9 AM-noon: receive and organize food from Feeding America. Set up tables and make up boxes.
* Wednesday, December 13 from 9 AM-noon: Distribute food into boxes.

\*If needed, 6 PM-9 PM: Finish packing food into boxes.

* Thursday, December 14 from 9 AM-noon: Pack letters, meat certificates, seal boxes, number boxes, and tape information to side of boxes.
* Friday, December 15 from 9 AM-noon: Match up gift bags with boxes, sort boxes into communities, set up for distribution.
* Saturday, December 16 from 9 AM-noon: Deliver boxes to families.

Questions should be directed to Claude Smith.