**ZION’S MESSENGER**

**May 2024 + Zion Lutheran Church + 269-367-4817**

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

**GRADUATE RECOGNITTION SUNDAY, MAY 12th**

On May 12th we will recognize or 2024 graduates! There will be a breakfast fellowship at 9:15 am followed by worship at 10:30. There will not be Sunday school that day so everyone can enjoy the fellowship time. We have three graduates to honor this year:

***Laura Krikke*** is graduating from Michigan State University on April 27th with a Bachelor’s Degree in Agricultural Business Management. She continues to love her flowers and the greenhouse setting but is considering other job opportunities too. Laura is the daughter of Tom and Lisa Krikke. Congratulations Laura. We wish Laura great success and happiness.

***Emil Paul Meyers*** is graduating from Lakewood High School with Academic Excellence (GPA 4.12). Emil is the son of Buffy and Duane Meyers. He plans on attending Lansing Community College in the Electrical Apprentice Program. His extra-curricular activities include Varsity Tennis (9,10), Varsity Cross Country (9,10), JV Golf (9), Track (10), and National Honor Society (11,12). Emil serves on the Board of Parish Education, Building and Grounds, and records Zion’s weekly worship service. Emil has worked for Evans Electric for 2 years this month. His hobbies include fishing, working on his truck, video games, and hunting. His Open House is Saturday, July13th from 3pm to 6pm at Zion. Congratulations Emil. We wish Emil success in his studies and great happiness.

***Lilly Pepper (Griffin)*** is graduating from Hastings High School in May. Lilly spent her high school years being involved in Agriculture classes, FFA, working on her school’s yearbook and playing tennis all four years. She has spent the last couple years working in retail but plans to attend a community college or Grand Valley State University for telecommunications or criminal justice. She would love to work for a 911 dispatch center. Lilly is the daughter of Ashley and Jason Griffin and Blake Pepper. Lilly’s Open House is Sunday, May 26th, at the Griffin’s home, 1206 E. Brogan, Hastings. Congratulations Lilly! We wish Lilly success in her future studies and much happiness.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**“CAMP FIRELIGHT”**

Zion and Central UMC in Lake Odessa are teaming up to provide a great VBS experience this year. VBS will be held Monday, June 17 and Tuesday, June 18. A family dinner will be provided from 5:00 to 5:30 with VBS 5:30 to 7:30 pm each day. In addition, there will be a kick-off on Sunday, June 16th from 5:30-7:00 with time to register and pick up t-shirt. There will be ice cream sundaes, games, a make and take craft and prizes. Registration is available on-line. Check Zion’s webpage for the link. We need lots of volunteers too! There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex. Please consider how you can help make this time special for our kids and kids from the community.

**VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION SUNDAY**

Council designated April 21st as Volunteer Recognition Sunday. This recognition was for all members in recognition that in a church the size of Zion, it takes everyone’s active involvement to make things work! There is also a container and notes in the Narthex where you can write a thank you to a specific individual, board or group of individuals. The container and note sheets will be left up until May 12th, then the notes will be put in people’s mailboxes. Everyone is encouraged to take a moment to write a note of thanks to someone who has touched them this past year. Worship on April 21st included a special litany and prayer to bless our work at Zion that was led by Pastor Kemper. If you were not able to be here, you can listen to the service on Facebook, read the litany and prayer in the bulletin on the website or if you would like a print copy, let Martha know.

**BACKPACKS AND SUPPLIES FOR LAKEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS (LPS)**

This year Zion has teamed with LPS to provide backpacks, trapper keepers, and tissue needed at the early child center, elementary, middle and high schools. We have purchased 20 trapper keepers for the middle school and 20 backpacks have been donated for the elementary school. We need 10 larger backpacks for the high school and 25 small backpacks for the early child center. In addition, they indicated that lack of Kleenex is a huge problem at the elementary school so watch for a tissue drive coming soon! The backpacks and trapper keepers are given to students who come to school without them and their families cannot provide them for the student. If you would like to help with this mission, you can make a donation through the offering or see any member of the Board of Evangelism. We are working to provide as much of this request to the school as possible prior to this school year ending so they know what they have for next school year. Thank you for considering this important local need. Second Time Around Sale

**SECOND TIME AROUND SALE**

We are collecting gently used items for the ZLCW Second Time Around Sale. The sale is going to be later in the summer than we have had it in the past, but we are going to have our sale. We will communicate more in the next few weeks.

**CHURCH SECRETARY AND TREASURER**

We are looking for someone to fill our secretary position here at Zion. Good computer skills and organization are a must. If you are interested in more details, see Paul or Buffy.

Karen Heise is looking for someone who would like to job shadow her the next few months with the intention of becoming our treasurer. If you are interested, please contact Karen, Paul, or Buffy. We are grateful for Karen’s year of dedication to this job.

**WORSHIP BULLETIN CHANGE**

Beginning May 19th there will be a change to the bulletin. We will no longer print the hymns in the bulletin but will return to using the red hymnals. There will be a small number of large print bulletins with the hymns for those who need larger print.



**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all who donated candy, coins, or little items for the Board of Parish Education Easter Egg Hunt. Thank you to our high school youth, John B. and Emil (also some adults who pitched in) for filling the eggs and Mary M. and Buffy for hiding the eggs during Easter service.

Thank you to Dawn Brodbeck for outdoing her decorating of the Fellowship Hall for Easter/Spring. The decorations look like they came out of a Country Living Magazine.

Thank you to everyone who donated breakfast casseroles, baked goods, juice, milk, etc. for the Easter Breakfast. A big thank you to everyone who helped setup or did clean up!

**COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT THANK YOU!**

The Community Easter Egg Hunt was postponed to Saturday, April 6th due to inclement weather. Zion was present to provide games and prizes to the kids. It was a fun time! Thank you to the team of Paul Meade, Ruth Hindman and Martha Yoder for running the games. Emil Meyers was there too working in the pavilion on behalf of the National Honors Society. Good Job Emil!

**CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The Call Committee has interviewed a candidate recently over Zoom. We are in communication to set up a second interview. Please pray for the congregation to find a “good match” for a shepherd for our congregation. Look for more updates.

**TRUSTEE UPDATE**

Work to replace the metal roof on the church due to hail damage is complete. The bell tower roof and the parsonage roof have also been replaced. Documentation for these repairs and the siding replacement at the parsonage have been sent to the insurance company,

A shed for storing the lawnmower has been ordered. It will be located on the west side of the church in the grassy area. A concrete pad is being added to place the shed on.

A contractor has been hired to make a number of repairs and paint at the parsonage.

If you have questions, please see any of the trustees or Paul.

**SERVING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

* Mary Makley
* Judy Fisher
* Karen & Ken Heise

**SPECIALS**

**Anniversaries**

24-Mark & Brenda Bite

27-Jason & Michele Makley

**Baptisms**

01-Aiden Hokanson

09-Norma Smith

12-Joyce Heise

16-Penny Dahms

16-Taryn Willard

23-Keaton McLaughlin

**Birthdays**

04-Laura Krikke

10-Brenda Bite

11-Kevin Brodbeck

12-Karen Heise

16-Mary Smith

19-Claudia S. Alderink

22-Ashley Griffin

26-Michael Johnson

26-Rebecca Plummer

**SUNDAYS IN MAY**

**May 5- In Sanctuary, Communion**

Pastor Jim Morgan

Acolyte: Lexie Griffin

Elder: Buffy Meyers

Trustee: Martha Yoder

Offering Counters: Paul Meade

& Carlotta Willard

**May 12-In Sanctuary, Communion**

Pastor Jim Morgan

Acolyte: Levi Griffin

Elder: Naomi Wilson

Trustee: Tom Krikke

Offering Counters: Doug Mackenzie & Mike Johnson

**May 19- In Sanctuary, Communion**

Pastor Jim Morgan

Acolyte: Kole Hokanson

Elder: Dan Utterback

Trustee: Mike Johnson

Offering Counters: Mary Makley & Martha Yoder

**May 26 In Sanctuary, Communion**

Acolyte: Lexie Griffin

Elder: Dan Utterback

Trustee: Mike Johnson

Offering Counters: Diane Griffin & Carlotta Willard