**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 5, 2024**

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



**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENSS

*Remain seated or kneel for prayer.* ***All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.***

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness.

Let us thank God for the gift of baptism.

**We thank God for the gift of baptism, which *affirms* our faith,**

**washes us clean with God’s love and forgiveness,**

***welcomes* us into the vast community of siblings in Christ,**

**and grants us a new life of service and sharing the gospel**

**wherever we go.**

**To you be given honor and praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord**

**in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.**

**Amen.** (*ELCA Prayer Ventures*)

***Please stand if you are able.***

**Gathering Song“Come, We That Love the Lord” HYMN # 625**



### 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 together.*

**O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated

**First Reading  Acts 10:44-48**

A reading from Acts.

44While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 45The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, 46for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 47“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” 48So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM Psalm 98

1Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done **|** marvelous things,  
  whose right hand and holy arm have **|** won the victory.  
 2**O Lord, you have made | known your victory,**  
  **you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**  
 3You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the **|** house of Israel;  
  all the ends of the earth have seen the victory **|** of our God.  
 4**Shout with joy to the Lord, | all you lands;**  
  **lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.**

5Sing to the Lord **|** with the harp,  
  with the harp and the **|** voice of song.  
 6**With trumpets and the sound | of the horn**  
  **shout with joy before the | king, the Lord.**  
 7Let the sea roar, and **|** all that fills it,  
  the world and those who **|** dwell therein.  
 8**Let the rivers | clap their hands,**  
  **and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to | judge the earth.**  
 9The Lord will judge the **|** world with righteousness  
  and the peo- **|** ples with equity.

**Second Reading 1 John 5:1-6**

A reading from 1 John.

1Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. 2By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, 4for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. 5Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?  
  
 6This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand if you are able.*

**GOSPEL Acclamation**



**Gospel  John 15:9-17**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 9“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. 11I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.  
 12“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S MOMENT**

**Sermon  Pastor Jim Morgan**

**Hymn of the Day“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” HYMN # 708**



**CREED**

Joining with 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

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. We pray especially for Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos and Rev. Bruce Thorsen. We also pray for the Synod Assembly as well as Bishop Craig Satterlee and Vice President, Ms. Sandra Schlesinger. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. We pray especially for all those affected by gun violence, Ukraine, Sudan, Turkey, Syria, and the Middle East. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us. At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**Amen.**

### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

***Please stand and greet one another with words and signs of peace.***

**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**

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

**Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

**DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PREFACE** (*Pastor)*

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God’s table.

**communion** \**continuous*

*\*People are welcome to kneel at the altar rail for a time of prayer after they receive their communion elements*

**SongS During Communion**

**“We Come to the Hungry Feast” HYMN # 479**



**“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” HYMN # 733**



**TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**Amen.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

**Amen**.

**BLESSING**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” HYMN # 836**



**DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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

**Presider: Pastor Jim Morgan Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Acolyte: Lexie Griffin Safety Person:**

**Elder: Buffy Meyers Trustee: Martha Yoder**

**Offering Counters: Paul Meade & Carlotta Willard**

**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, and especially **Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos, and Rev. Buce Thorsen**

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.

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**ONLINE GIVING**

Zion has received a QR code to facilitate online giving. If you are interested in donating online instead of bringing your donation to church, simply scan the QR code and it will direct you to the appropriate site. The code is on our website as well.

**This week at Zion:**

* Men’s Coffee, 8 AM Wednesday, May 8

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **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.
* **Help and Donations Needed – Baccalaureate Service, May 19th, 6 pm:** Zion will be hosting refreshments following the 2024 baccalaureate service at Lakewood High School on May 19. The service is at 6 pm and lasts about an hour. We need volunteers to set-up, host, and clean-up. We also need donations of the small cans of soda. Coke, Diet Coke, Mountain Dew and Root Beer seems the most popular last year. Also needed are packaged cookies, crackers and cheese, rice Krispie treats, etc. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or see Martha or Karen. Thank you.
* **Help and Desserts Needed – Community Dinner, June 6th, 3-6:30 pm**: Zion’s next turn to host the free community dinner is June 6th. Volunteers are needed to work the dinner which includes settting up, serving, and washing dishes/cleaning up. It is about a 2-1/2 to 3 hour commitment. If you can help, please let Martha know. Zion will also provide the desserts. The dinners typically serve between 60-90 people. We plan on the high end so desserts enough for 90 are needed. If you can make a dessert, please let Martha know. Thank you for your generosity and spirit of service!
* **Thank you, Zion!** The free community dinner organizers thank Zion for joining with them to provide the food for the April 25th dinner. The meal is typically provided by Swede’s Restaurant in Mulliken and the desserts by the host church. A few days before the meal, it was learned that Swede’s could not provide the food. Rather than cancel the dinner, the Zion Evangelism committee committed to providing food along with the dinner organizers. Zion provided hot dogs, buns, cheese, onions, ketchup, and mustard along with donated desserts. The organizers provided chili and beans. It was a wonderful dinner enjoyed by nearly 80 people.
* **Graduate Recognition Sunday:** On May 12, we will be having Graduate Recognition Sunday. There will be breakfast fellowship at 9:15 AM with the as usual at 10:30 AM. There will be no Sunday School on that Sunday.
* **Vacation Bible School:** Zion will be joining with Central UMC this year for VBS. Central will host and VBS will kick off with registration on Sunday, June 16 from 5:30-7 PM with refreshments and games. VBS will be on Monday and Tuesday June 17 & 18 from 5-7:45 PM with a family dinner from 5-5:30 both nights. Online registration is available at <https://www.myvbs.org/Zionwoodlandmi/>
* **Special Offering Designations:** The first quarter financial reports are being distributed and include a sticker with the special offering designations for you to affix to your offering envelop box. There are extra stickers in the narthex for those who do not use envelopes. The special offering designations are: Lent: World Hunger. Thanksgiving: Lakewood Ministerial Association. Advent: Manna’s Market. Christmas: Lakewood Community Council.
* **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
* **Church Musician Opening**: We have an opening for the position of church musician for two Sundays a month 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.