



October/November 2021

Zion Lutheran Church

Auburn, MI

Forgiven and Forgiving - a Message from Pastor Hemme

We struggle with forgiving others. We lose patience with those who we disagree with. We are quick to point out the faults of others. We like to think we are better than others. What does God have to say about these attitudes? God calls us to forgive others and live at peace with one another. We can forgive others because we have been forgiven by God. All of our sins have been forgiven by Jesus. Jesus' death on Good Friday and resurrection on Easter Sunday won for us forgiveness, life, and salvation. Martin Luther wrote these words reflecting on John 1:29: *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

"From this passage, we learn that all people have been plunged into sin by the devil and that only the Lamb can lead us out. Our unbelief isn't Jesus' fault. The guilt is ours. If we don't believe, then we're stuck in our own sins. In short, the Lamb of God has carried the sins of the world.

You should believe and confess this all of your life. You may wonder, "Yes, I know that Jesus carried the sins of Peter, Paul, and other saints. They were holy people. But who knows if Christ will carry my sins, too? If only I were as good as Peter or Paul." Can't you hear what John is saying? "This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." You must admit that you, too, are a part of this world. You were born of a human mother and father, you aren't a cow or pig! It follows, then, that your sins are paid for, just as the sins of Peter and Paul are paid for. You are unable to pay for your own sins. They couldn't pay for their own sins either. There are no exceptions.

Therefore, don't listen to your own thoughts. Listen to God's Word. It promises forgiveness of sins to anyone who believes that this little Lamb carried the sins of the whole world. Did you hear that? The Lamb didn't miss any of it. He carried all the sins of the world from the beginning of time. Therefore, he carried your sin, too, and he offers his undeserved kindness to you."

You are forgiven. Jesus loves you. And you are called to forgive others. Show mercy and grace to those who have wronged you. Be loving to those who you find hard to love. Strive to live at peace with your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors. May you live as God's forgiven and forgiving child.

In Christ,

Pastor Seth Hemme

Pastor Andrew Menz 989-513-0197

Pastor Seth R. Hemme 989-600-5343

e-mail: andrewmenz@gmail.com

e-mail: pastorhemme@yahoo.com

♥ The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is to better know and show Christ's love. ♥

Preschool and Day School News

We currently have 83 students enrolled for the 2021/2022 school year which is an increase from the 74 students we had from last year. Preschool is full with 20 enrolled students, half of them being full day students.

The staff and myself are starting to prep, plan, and prepare as we get ready to endure the Accreditation process. This process is rather detailed and precise in showing evidence of the high quality education we provide in a well kept and maintained environment. We will be asking some congregation members to help us during this process too. It is a collaborative effort to continue to hold the title of an "Nationally Accredited" school. There will be a meeting in the near future to work on this.

Our staff went through many different types of training in the last couple of months; First Aid and CPR, Concussion training, Bloodborne Pathogens, Crisis Management, and Stop the Bleed. All of these different training sessions help our staff to be prepared in the case of emergencies or injuries.

We are looking forward to having events at school again; Apple Pies, Smorgasbord, Special Person's Day and more. We would love help on Oct. 13-16 for Apple Pies. Please contact the office for dates and times to volunteer.

We held our Special Person's Day on September 17. It appeared that most students had a special person or two to bring and we started the event off with chapel. Afterwards the students took their special people around the school completing a checklist to explain and share their favorite things about our school.

Our soccer season was an interesting one as we battled severe weather, heavy rains, and game cancellations. However the games we were able to play were successful. Our A-team went undefeated in the league and in the tournament, bringing home two championship trophies. Our pee wee teams also did great. The 4th and 5th grade team had a successful season with only one loss as they dominated the field. Our second and third graders did a great job learning the basics, ball handling, and working together. We will start our next sports season of volleyball during the month of October and November.



I will be attending the Michigan Association of Nonpublic Schools Administrators Conference October 13th through the 15th. It's always a great conference held every other year to help strengthen and preserve Christian education.

In His Service,
Colett Dominowski

Ladies Bible Class and World Relief Projects

All ladies are welcome to join us beginning October 13th, on Wednesday mornings for Bible class at 9 AM. If you would like to help with the World Relief Projects, we begin at 10 AM, enjoy a sack lunch at noon, and then work until 2 PM. No special skills are required!

Reformation Party



Please join us for brunch and light entertainment on Reformation Day, October 31 in the school cafeteria after the worship service. We will be serving from the service counter and 2 tables will be put together to make a square to allow for distancing. Bring the whole family and get refreshed on why we are glad we are Lutherans celebrating the 500th year since the Diet of Worms when Martin Luther would not recant his writings. Everything will be provided for this occasion.

Snow Birds

We know some of our members are leaving for the warmer climates. Please let the office know when you're leaving and when you will return. We are more than happy to send you the weekly church bulletin and monthly Messenger via snail mail or email. We pray for your safe travels and beautiful weather!



The Ladies of Zion Christmas Party



Details have not been finalized. Please check the bulletin for a date and time.

Grave Blankets

Grave blankets will be available for sale starting November 7th through December 12th. Since it worked so well last year we will only be selling from my home (we are 1.5 miles west of church at 2174 Seidler Rd.) Feel free to just stop by, or text/call ahead at 989-280-3185 to make sure we are home. Prices are: small \$25, large \$40, and full size (available upon request) \$55.

Checks made out to Santa Store is the preferred payment, but we will also accept cash.

If anyone is interested in joining our team, please call or text 989-280-3185. No experience necessary, we will provide training, supplies, and good cheer.

Thank you, Diana Hebel



Address/Phone Number Updates

If you have moved, changed your phone number, or email address, and not updated your information with church, please be sure to contact the office. We have received a lot of mail back from Smorgasbord and Messenger. This will help ensure you receive information in a timely matter.

Veterans Day

Zion Lutheran School will be honoring veterans with a celebration on Thursday, November 11th starting at 8:30 a.m. with breakfast for veterans (and spouses) in the cafeteria. Following will be a program beginning with the presentation of the colors. All are welcome to join us for the presentation: veterans, families of veterans, and those who want to join the celebration thanking veterans for their service.



Holiday Food Baskets

Food baskets for families in need will be provided at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Anyone desiring to receive a holiday food basket or wanting to refer a family in need, please contact the church office.

All Saints' Day

All Saints' Day is November 1st. It is a day to remember and thank God for those who lived lives of faithfulness to God and who rest in the Lord. As a part of our worship on November 6th and 7th we will be having a remembrance of the faithful departed which includes reading the names of those who have died since the last All Saints' Day. Those who died as members of Zion during the past year will automatically be included. If you would like us to also remember a loved one who was not a Zion member, but died in the Christian faith during the last year (Nov. 1, 2020 - Oct. 31, 2021), please contact the church office or write the name and the person's relationship to you and give the name to a Pastor. All such requests need to be in by November 1st.



Fall LWML Rally

LADIES – The Fall LWML Rally will be held here at Zion on Sat, Oct 30, from 8:30-12. We will be serving a light breakfast. We will have a Missions Work Bee instead of a speaker. We will be collecting items for Birthday Bags for Midland County Foster Closet, sorting, and filling the bags. We will also make beaded bracelets and eyeglass cases for MOST Ministries. You can find an information sheet in the narthex by the Mites Box or a poster on the bulletin board. There will be a \$5 registration fee. RSVP to Luanne Wegener (662-6645) or for more information by Oct 25





Oh give thanks unto the Lord for He is good and His mercy endures forever.

Please join us for our Thanksgiving service.

Thursday, November 25th at 9 AM.

Santa Store

The Santa Store will open for business on Friday, December 10th in the school gym. As in the past, prices will range from .25 to \$5.00. All children will be given an opportunity to shop. Donations of small toys, gifts, and crafts are needed. All proceeds from the sale are returned to the school or church in the form of grants for equipment, educational material or funding for special projects. VOLUNTEERS are needed on Friday, December 13th from 8am—3:00pm for wrapping gifts. There will be a break for a delicious lunch which will be provided. This is a busy but rewarding day.

Organizations that would like to receive grants from the Santa Store should get a Santa Store Request Form from the school or church secretary, complete the form, and return it to the secretary before **January 8th, 2022**. The committee will consider all requests and make its decision before January 31st, 2022.



A letter from Carol Westphal and Family

Dear Zion Family,

Many of you have recently asked whether there will be a memorial service for Pastor Leroy. After much discussing and prayerful consideration, our family has decided that we will not be having a service.

This certainly was not an easy decision— but with many months of changes with Covid guidance and restrictions, we feel this is the best choice.

We are so incredibly grateful for the love so many of you have shown to us— For wonderful memories and stories shared, memorial gifts, cards letters, and phone calls just to name a few.

We ask that you please join with our family in continuing to honor Pastor Leroy's memory through daily living a life of gratitude and service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ— until the day when we are all reunited in heaven!

God's best and richest blessings to all of you-

Carol Westphal and Family

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