

Zion Messenger

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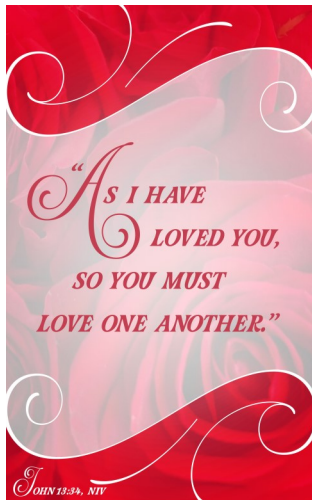
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November 2023

Greetings to you and yours!

It has been a busy time as the cold set into our lovely "Banana Belt!" I think winter just might be trying to get here early. We have had a few losses in our community, and it is never easy for us to accept. On October 30th, the community came together for Jace Pruitt's funeral. It was held at our church, with an attendance of about 300 people. I saw our women put a meal together for the family and friends of Jace. Watching them work together in this time of grief and need made me very proud to be the pastor here. I watched as they were living out their faith (in my opinion).

When Jesus commanded us to love our neighbor, I see this as something He foresaw being a result of His Command. It is in times of desperation, sorrow, grief, and personal loss that we can put aside any differences we might have and work together as the body of Christ. I thank God for His Spirit working in and around us as we continue our faith journey here on earth.



There will be a time when our journey is over and we stand before our God and give an account of our life. When that time comes, we will not only see our sins, but I believe we will also see the love and kindness we shared with each other while we were alive. This is why I feel it is so important to live out our faith in our daily lives. It might not always be easy, but in the end, it is well worth the effort. We touch many lives in our lifetime. When we share love and kindness with the people we interact with, it can change lives for the better.

I strongly feel that the only time we truly fail is when we stop trying. Wherever we are in our faith journey,

God is there with us. We are not perfect, and we never will be. God sees into our hearts and understands what each individual needs. When we keep trying, asking God for His strength and guidance, He will support us.

I believe that when someone knows they are going to die, or they know we will not see them again, they impart to their loved ones what is most important to them. On the night Jesus was betrayed, he imparted one last commandment to His disciples.

34 "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
(John 13:34-35)

I cannot stress enough how important it is for us to do our best to live this commandment out in our lives. As Christians, it is paramount that we follow the teachings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Another way to look at this, is that by doing this, we avoid a lot of things that can cause us to sin.

I know life is not always easy, and I also know that when we are tired and under stress, we can say and do things we regret. It is what we do when we realize our error that says a lot about who we are and what we believe. I know from my own personal experience that it is difficult to try and make things right when we make mistakes or hurt other people. When I stopped drinking and got into recovery, I was told that I needed to make amends to the people I had harmed, as long as it didn't cause them any further harm.

It was not something that I really wanted to do, but I was told if I didn't, I would not stay sober. So mostly out of fear, to begin with, I did what I was told I needed to do. What happened was it opened up the opportunity for healing on both sides. I only focused on what I had done, it was not about their

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WELCA News

Serving - Group 2 serves next.

School Kit Drive - Thank you to all who donated school supplies or money to purchase school supplies. And thank you to the Sunday School kids for packing the school bags. We shipped off 67 school kits, along with the 103 personal care kits we packed earlier. The number of school kits shipped this year was down from 76 last year.

Cluster Fall Gathering - WELCA donated \$500 worth of supplies to Heavens Helpers Soup Café.

Activity (Serving) Book Update - WELCA is updating serving book for next year. If your availability or contact information has changed, please contact Doris Friedt at 584-3726.

Thanksgiving Greeting Cards - There are beautiful Thanksgiving cards available. They are 50 cents each and can be found on the table in the library.

Next Meeting - Thursday, November 9, at 1:30 pm



Library News

by Cyndy Zacher

Who would like to read 4 books while just checking out one book? Ruby Koeplin graciously donated *Reader's Digest Condensed Editions*. The first book, *Still Life*, written by Joy Felding, is about a woman unable to communicate following an accident—or was it an accident? The second book is *Grace*, authored by Richard Paul Evans. In this book, a 14 year old runaway learns some valuable life lessons. Book three, *Hell Bent*, by William G Tapply, involves a lawyer and Iraq war veteran. Book four is a historic fiction book written by Sandra Dally. In this book, an elderly quilter develops a friendship with a very young newlywed during the depression set in the mountains of Colorado. Each book sounds very interesting. Thank you, Ruby!

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How Do We Live Our Baptism?

Martin Luther taught that we are to daily renew our baptism. Rise and say, "I am baptized into Christ."

Whether we are young or old, this daily renewal of baptism leads to a practicing of faith and deepening of discipleship. Living our Baptism describes our faith journey as we come from the baptismal waters to live a new life in Christ.

We do not have to discern how to follow Christ without assistance. God sends the Holy Spirit to call, gather, and sustain us in God's grace, connecting us to brothers and sisters in Christ who also are living out their baptism.

"Baptism inaugurates a life of discipleship in the death and resurrection of Christ. Baptism conforms us to the death and resurrection of Christ precisely so that we repent and receive forgiveness, love our neighbors, suffer for the sake of the Gospel, and witness to Christ." ("The Use of the Means of Grace: A Statement on the Practice of Word and Sacrament," principle 14, page 20)

How can we renew our baptism each day? We can renew our baptism in a variety of ways. Here are a few possibilities:

- Each morning, rise and say Martin Luther's words, "I am baptized into Christ." This may be especially meaningful if you say this while washing your face or showering.
- Each day, pray for the Holy Spirit to be your guide and keep you near Jesus Christ.
- Each night, place water on your forehead, make the sign of the cross, remember you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.
- Combine all of the above.

Hopefully, the five-fold question used in the Affirmation of Baptism becomes a guide for living your baptism as a disciple of Christ:

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism

- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Offerings & Gifts - October		
	Undesignated	Attendance
October 1	\$1,688	89
October 8	1,738	69
October 15	2,052	86
October 22	1,175	59
October 29	2,855	88
Total Undesignated	\$8,790	Avg Sun Attend: 78
Bulletins	66	
Parish Ed	50	
Miscellaneous	35	
Luth Dis Resp	100	
Sunday School	45	Avg SS Attend: 22
Income & Expenses - Year to Date		
Income	Undesignated	Other
\$107,097	\$104,035	\$3,062
Expenses	Budgeted	Designated Funds
105,969	103,634	2,335
Income vs Expense		
1,128		

Our New Confirmed Members



Elijah Ottmar (left) and Gavin Ottmar (right) publicly professed their faith in the Affirmation of Baptism service officiated by Rev. Michael HarriSon on Reformation Sunday, October 29.

Congratulations! We pray each of you is blessed with the joy of your faith and strengthened by the Holy Spirit to do God's will with each step you take in life as a disciple of Christ.

Sharing the Bounty

“Sharing the Bounty” was the theme of the Heart River Cluster Women’s Fall Gathering here at Zion on October 21. The theme was based on Matthew 25:35:

“for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me”

Thirty-three women attended the gathering at which Mark Meier, executive director of Heavens Helpers Soup Café, gave a captivating and inspiring presentation. The presentation centered on God’s provision through the Holy Spirit moving Mark to create the ministry of Heavens Helpers and then moving others to provide materiel and financial resources to accomplish God’s will for His ministry.



In 2006, Mark felt prompting by the Holy Spirit to go on a fast during which Heavens Helpers ministry was birthed. Out of the Heavens Helpers ministries, the Soup Café opened in 2009.

The Soup Café receives no funding other than donations. It also receives donations of food and

supplies. It is staffed by volunteers, with the exception of Mark and a part-time employee who receive salaries. The Café is open six days each week except on holidays—although, they do serve a meal on Christmas Day.

Bible studies are held at the Café for anyone who wishes to participate. There are also showers and laundry services available to people who earn coins by doing various tasks around the Soup Café.

The Café is open to everyone. There is a locked box by the door in which to place a donation for a meal if you can afford it.

Two additional Heavens Helpers ministries have been created more recently - Heavens Helpers Closet 701 and Heavens Helpers Repurpose Store. Both of these ministries accept donations—the Closet to provide free clothing to those who need them, and the Repurpose Store to reclaim and repurpose usable products and give back to the community.

One of the Soup Café’s greatest needs is volunteers. You will find that working a shift is truly rewarding. To volunteer at the Soup Café, make a financial donation, or see what supplies they are in need of, go to soupcafe.org. Go as a family, a group of friends, or just yourself. They encourage the body of Christ to stop asking “What would Jesus do (WWJD)?” and start “Doing what Jesus did (DWJD)” by loving, serving, and praying with others.

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
October 8, 2023**

Present: Kayedenn Rivinius, Virginia Rivinius, Sydney Richardson, Tabitha Zimmerman, Ronae Hochhalter, Bridget Winkler, Jim Zimmerman, Steph Lince. Absent: Pastor Mike HarriSon, Brandy Fuchs, Terry Bentz, Doug Rivinius, Kenny Friedt.

Meeting called to order by Steph with a prayer.

Secretary's Report - Motion to approve report by Tabitha and seconded by Ronae; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Motion made to approve report by Tabitha and seconded by Jim; motion carried.

Pastor's Report – Written report reviewed.

Correspondence - None.

Committee Reports:

1. **Constitution & Bylaws** – Motion made by Bridget and seconded by Sydney to increase the maximum amount of expenditure from \$1000 to \$2500 before needed to seek congregation approval; motion carried. Motion made by Bridget and seconded by Kayedenn to send constitution and bylaws to synod attorney for review and then to congregation at annual meeting; motion carried.
2. **Finance** – Met; over on some expenses but under in others.
3. **Mission Endowment Fund** – Report reviewed, they decided to distribute this quarter's \$1250.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.
4. **Parish Education** – They will donate the balance of Sunday school donations to Country Community Cupboard.
5. **Property** – Workday was held yesterday, only 4 volunteers came so they were unable to complete all projects.

Old Business: Options for Savings Funds -

Discussed options for money in savings account such as CD's or money market and various financial institutions. Motion made by Bridget and seconded by Jim to take \$50,000 from savings and put it into a 6-month CD at First International Bank and Trust. Motion Carried.

New Business:

1. **Designation of Synod benevolence** – Discussion to let synod disperse the \$750.00 as they see fit.

2. **Lease Agreement, Propane Supplier for Rental House** – Discussion held on where to fill propane when needed. Rate at SWG is 1.45 and at New England from Fitterer is 1.59. Motion made by Bridget and seconded by Tabitha to have Southwest Grain see to propane needs for Pastor's rental house. Jim Zimmerman gave Lease agreement for house to Virginia.

Other Business - Discussion held on insurance increase letter from Church Mutual Insurance. Virginia will call to get some clarification.

Motion by Bridget and seconded by Tabitha to adjourn the meeting, motion carried.

Bridget Winkler
Council Secretary

Pastor's Message

(continued from page 1)

behavior, only mine. Most of my amends went well, but not all of them. In the end, we cannot control what another person is going to feel. It is still the right thing to try and address any harm we have caused. It is worth our effort, and it is what Jesus would have us do.

“⁴¹ Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye but do not notice the log in your own eye? ⁴² Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.” (John 6:41-42)

It is important to take care of our own errors before we can see clearly to help another person with theirs. Treat each other with patience, love, and understanding. Isn't that how we would like to be treated?

I am praying for us, and I see so many amazing people in our midst. This is a very special place; you have something worth fighting for. Never stop trying. God loves you and that will never stop!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Michael S. HarriSon

Abbreviations

- A - Acolyte
- AG - Altar Guild
- C - Communion
- L - Lector
- G - Greeter



NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2	3	4 AG: Misti H Jill F Kip H Gloria S
5 	6	7	8 7:00 Mission Endowment Fund Comm Meeting Janet D Mildred R Mason & Laura Z	9 1:30 WELCA Meeting	10 Ronae H	11 AG: Cyndy Z Delores S 
9:30 Worship 10:30 S School / Confirmation / Fellowship A: Treyvn L: Senora C: Quincey G: Kylor						
9:30 Worship 10:30 S School / Confirmation / Council Meeting / Fellowship A: Clay L: Jace C: Rosemary G: Quincey, Reuben	12	13	14 6:30 All-Student Confirmation Class Allie F Danielle H	15 1:30 Fellowship at Dakota Hill Gen B	16 Shayli R	17 Mingo K Elijah F
9:30 Worship 10:30 S School / Confirmation / Fellowship A: Sloan L: Yvonne C: Steph G: Chad & Joy Patty Z	19	20 Joel K	21 Alan A Darvin B	22 Cheryl W Arla & Dale R	23 	24 Leona S
9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship  A: Ivy L: Robin C: Becky G: Marleen, Jackie	26	27	28 Justin L	29 Bree R	30 Brady F	25 AG: Joleen R Connie H Sherry F