



Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble arrive, and those years about which you'll say, "I take no pleasure in these"—before the sun and the light grow dark, the moon and the stars too, before the clouds return after the rain...when the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along and desire fails...before dust returns to the earth as it was before and the life-breath returns to God who gave it. -Ecclesiastes 12:1-7 I like to read this poem from the end of Ecclesiastes every year around this time as my devotion for Autumn. Now, I know that almond trees blossom closer to spring, but so much of the rest of the poem has an Autumnal feel to it that I cannot help the association. I can taste in this poem the shortening of days, the gradual turn away from the vigor and rowdiness of the summer toward coziness, crispness, and earthy dead-leaf smells. At this point you may stop me and say, Pastor, why would you want to read such a dark sounding poem? Where is the comfort in these words? Well, if there is something life-giving in it, it's all because of that little word at the beginning: remember. I find the gospel often works that way, one small, weak little word that shines new light into the darkness. It can be tough to see at fist, but like with many things good—thanksgiving, forgiveness, and faith— it takes practice. Through the lens of remembering, this becomes a poem about holding fast to our creator before the Autumn of our lives. It reminds us to be grateful for what we have while we have it, and to relish in life as God breathes it into us. Remembering holds at its heart a re-mem-bering, a restoring of the members of our body. And so it encourages us to take a deep breath out in the fall air. It is also humbling; reminding us that part of life is in that cycle of winding down and Autumn, and that we will all return to dust as surely as the leaves do. As my students of Ecclesiastes well know, there is also a great comfort in knowing that this too has its place (everything has its season). And therefore it is okay to have ups and downs in life, and springs and autumns and all the rest. Because God works in the crisp Autumn air just as surely as God works in the blossoms of spring. So, am I looking at this poem with "almond blossom" tinted glasses? Maybe, but the rest of the book of Ecclesiastes compels me to take this attitude. Here is a whole book devoted to finding the beauty of what God is doing buried amidst the starkness and vanity of life! In taking that deep Autumnal breath this year, I am reminded of all the things I am thankful for here in Manistique. I take pleasure in each and every day I spend with my new daughter, and I delight in watching her grow and change. I am excited for our continued growth and vibrancy as a community despite the pandemic. I am grateful for the life-breath of God which is still breathing here at Zion Lutheran Church. We might be having some tough autumnal bouts with the pandemic and the austerity of more restrictions. But God is at work here, even as our breaths are stifled behind masks, we can take comfort in knowing that it is a way to re-member the vulnerable among us, and wearing the masks lets the vulnerable know that we cherish them and that we do not want them to slip away from us like fallen leaves. What are some things you re-member as you take a breath this Autumn? What are the days you take pleasure in, and where do you see the breath of God at work?



Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00am  
November 7, 2021. Be sure to set your clocks back **one hour** the night  
before.

**During these uncertain times** of COVID, worship continues to be offered weekly. Saturday worship continues each week at 5:00 p.m. in the parking lot. Sunday morning worship is available on Zoom as well as worshipping in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. If you choose to worship in person, please wear a face mask and practice social distancing. Also the Coffee Hour has been suspended for the foreseeable future. Join us every week for worship in the way you find the safest.

**All Saints Sunday is November 7th.** Join us for our 10:30 am worship as we honor those who been welcomed into Zion's family through Holy Baptism. **Blake Kangas, Riggs Kangas and Eldon Kangas** will be honored with the lighting of a candle and an engraved medallion. We remember **Carl and Violet Sundling** who passed away this year with an Angel and the lighting of a candle.



**Thanks!**

I would like to give a sincere "Thank you" to the Saturday evening cookie servers at Zion Lutheran. a very unexpected but pleasurable treat before service starts.

Thank you,  
Betty Denessen

## Those Who Serve In November

Readers: 11/7 Ruth Jones  
11/14 Ann Richter  
11/21 Kathy McDonough  
11/28 Rick Pink  
Ushers: November Cindy Olli & Kathy McDonough  
Altar Flowers: 11/7 Lila Panek  
Bulletin/Bread & Wine: 11/7 David & Gloria McGuire

### Zion Quilters Thank You!

Many thanks go out to all of you who helped the Zion Lutheran Quilting program this past quilting year! Many people gave of their time to do the numerous tasks that were needed to complete the quilts. Several people were also involved in the packaging of the quilts for shipping and delivery to Gladstone. Thank you for the donations of fabric, sheets, batting, blankets, thread, crochet cotton, other supplies and monetary gifts. They were greatly appreciated. Thank you to Rick Pink for taking all the boxes to Gladstone.

If anyone would like to join us on Monday mornings, 9:15am, please feel free to do so. If you have any questions, please ask a Zion Quilter or contact either chairperson, Kaye Jarski or Mary Ansell.

#### Join us for Bible Study

The Monday night Bible study group will be 4th Mondays in November and will not meet Tommy will be leading our study on the book of John. We will meet in person in Augustana Hall. Be sure to wear your mask and social distance. If you have any questions about this opportunity for study, please contact the office.



meeting at 6:30, the 2nd and again until January 2022. Pr.



This year we will once again be filling Thanksgiving Baskets for those in need in our community. We will be filling 4 baskets instead of the 6 we have done in the past. MDHSS no longer manages this program and the Kiwanis must rely on St. Vincent, Good Neighbors, and the Escanaba

Salvation Army for the list of families. The menu is the same: Turkey for a family of 3-4, potatoes, canned vegetables, stuffing mix, rolls, butter or margarine, cranberry sauce or jelly, frozen pies or some other dessert, coffee, milk, fruit, nuts, candy and Thanksgiving napkins. If you are able to help you can use the sign up sheets in Augustana Hall or call the church office with the items you would like to donate. When you bring in the items you signed for and they don't need to be refrigerated, please put them on the pew outside the office so Shirley can put them in the store room. All items need to be at the church by November 21st. The baskets will be delivered that day and we need a volunteer or volunteers to make the delivers. If you can help with this contact the office.

### **Circle News**

The Circles are able to start their monthly meetings. If you are not a member of a circle and would be interested in joining one, please contact any one of the following ladies for more information:

Sarah Circle—Liz Macklem

Joy Circle—

Hope Circle—Sheila Clark

The **Sarah Circle** meets on Mondays at 1:00pm

The **Joy Circle** meets on the second Thursday at 10:00am.

The **Hope Circle** meets on the third Thursday at 6:00pm.

**Be sure to check with your Circle Leader to find out if and where your circle will be meeting.**



We will once again be ordering Poinsettia's for Christmas. The cost will be \$10.00. If you would like to order one, please use a pew pocket envelope and mark if it is in honor or memory of someone or a special event. Pew pocket envelopes are available on the turn style in Augustana Hall. There will be more information in the December *Beacon* regarding delivery.

## Upcoming Scripture Readings

**November 7** —All Saints Sunday

Isaiah 25:6-9, Psalm 24, Revelation 21:1-6a, John 11:32-44

**November 14**—Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Daniel 12:1-3, Psalm 16, Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25,  
Mark 13:1-8

**November 21**—Christ the King Sunday

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, Psalm 93, Revelation 1:4b-8,  
John 18:33-37

**November 28**—First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36

## Church Attendance Report

	Saturday	Sunday	Zoom
August 1, 2021		30	4
August 7/8, 2021	15	23	12
August 14/15, 2021	18	37	14
August 21/22, 2021	12	32	4
August 28/29, 2021	20	34	7
September 4/5 2021	14	38	10
September 11/12 2021	17	29	6
September 18/19 2021	22	37	6
September 25/26 2021	21	37	10
October 2/3 2021	19	28	9
October 9/10 2021	18	24	6
October 16/17 2021	12	28	7
October 23/24 2021	20	24	7
October 30/31 2021	16	29	9

### Sing Praise Unto the Lord

“Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.

Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre. For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory. Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches.”

~Psalm 149:1-5

The people of God have often sung songs to the Lord, thus expressing their faith. I'm thinking about the power of songs in our individual and corporate lives. I'm thinking about the power of the brain to remember songs, even when we might forget the periodic table we learned in high school chemistry class. What songs or hymns have brought you closer to God? What songs are still seared into your memory banks?

I was confirmed at Grace Lutheran Church in Ripon, Wisconsin. It was the tradition that the confirmation class would choose a “Confirmation Hymn.” Our class chose the strong classic, “Lead On, O King Eternal.” I still have a memory of marching out of that sanctuary on my confirmation day while my fellow confirmands and the whole congregation belted out that hymn (#550 from the old, red Service Book and Hymnal). It is a feeling of strength and confidence. It is a feeling that I'm not alone.

Verse 1 of that hymn seems kind of militaristic ending with, “We lift our battle song.” But, looking at verse 2, we see the fuller context of our battle. “For not with swords loud clashing, Nor roll of stirring drums, But deeds of love and mercy, The heavenly kingdom comes.”

There it is. Human instincts want to fight and stake their hopes on the power of the sword or the more muscular manifestations of power. Or, perhaps today, the allure of power is to pay attention to the loudest voice or to the one with the ability to win an argument in a world polarized. We are so quick to speak, but not so quick to listen.

Does our world need more loud and angry voices, or does our world need more deeds of love and mercy?

Verse 3 of “Lead On, O King Eternal” proclaims that

“Thy Cross is lifted o'er us; We journey in its light.”

When my mind fades and good memory slips away, I suspect I will remember the words of my confirmation hymn. I pray that then and now my life might be marked by the power of the cross of Christ which beckons me to deeds of love and mercy. And the greatest mercy is that God loves me, a sinner in need of redeeming. That is something worth singing and dancing about!

Pastor Jim Duehring

Assistant to the Bishop/DEM

## News From Fortune Lake

“Join us at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp for our Unfinished Objects Retreat! The event will take place from November 19th through the 21st and aims to provide time to crafters of all types to work on any outstanding projects they may have. Limited meals and programming will be provided in order to allow participants to focus on their crafting. Come and spend time with new and old friends, rejuvenate your spirit, and get some hobby work done! Registration is open now on our website, fortunelake.org under the drop down tab “Year Round Retreats.” Deadline to register is November 8th. We hope to see you there!”

If you have any questions about the specifics of the event, please feel free to reach out by phone or email, both of which are listed below.

Grace and Peace,

Charlotte Strom

P: (906)214-2267

E: [hospitality@fortunelake.org](mailto:hospitality@fortunelake.org)



**CONTACT US:**

Zion Lutheran Church  
435 Oak Street  
Manistique, MI 49854  
906-341-5427

[www.zionlutheran-manistique.org](http://www.zionlutheran-manistique.org) or find us on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

**Rev. Tommy Richter, Pastor**

Office: 906- 341-5427, Home:286-4383

**Secretary:** Shirley Leitgeb

[shirley.leitgeb@zionmanistique.org](mailto:shirley.leitgeb@zionmanistique.org)

**Musician:** Linda Levin

**Choir Director:** Rebecca Peterson

**Custodian:** Pat Toennesen

**Congregation Council:**

Rick Pink, President

Cathy Knudson, Vice President

Kay MacGregor, Secretary

Marie Bellville, Treasurer

Cyndee Miske, Financial Secretary

Jo-Nell Berger

Naomi Fletcher

Ruth Jones

Janet Krueger

Peter Mattson

Kathy McDonough

Teddy Nelson

Cindy Olli

Rebecca Peterson



A congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.