



Happiness comes from having your transgressions taken away, from having your failure completely covered. Happiness comes from the Lord not counting your mistakes, from having nothing to hide. As long as I kept my stubborn silence, my bones grew weak because of my constant complaints.

Day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped by a summer's heat. Finally I admitted my sin to you, and stopped hiding my guilt. I said "I confess my rebellion, Lord" and you took away the guilt of my sin. That's why people of faith everywhere should pray to you—because they will find you! -Psalm 32

Gratitude takes practice. It does not come naturally to us. When it is Summer we complain about the heat and the bugs, when it is fall we complain about the ragweed and how many things have pumpkin spice in them (whether it be too many or too little is a matter of hot debate). When it is winter we complain about the snow and so on. Before you know it, we've spent the whole year complaining and our bones are growing weak because of it. We even complain about the idea of having to practice something like gratitude, because it is hard. But as we do so, it turns out, in our stubbornness we *have* been practicing something all year round: we've put in our 10,000 hours and become masters at complaining!

So why spend so much time becoming adept at grumbling, when there are so many other useful skills we could spend our time on? After all, being adept at complaining has brought us so much happiness! (About as much happiness as elephants can fit in a thimble.) That is to say, none at all. Happiness comes from elsewhere other than our grumbling. And our practicing it as a skill has done us no favors. As the psalmist encourages us: true happiness comes from the opposite of complaining, namely, forgiveness! God does not complain about our sins, but takes them away and covers them in mercy. God takes away the guilt of our sin, and replaces it with faith and love. And this is the source and wellspring from which true delight and joy abound!

Imagine if you approached bugs, ragweed, pumpkin spice, summer heat and snow and all the rest with forgiveness and grace! What a skill that would be to practice. I particularly feel no forgiveness or tendency toward mercy for ragweed, as it is merciless in its attack on my sinuses. But as I said, gratitude and mercy take practice and do not come naturally to us. I might be ungrateful for the sinus pressure, but I am grateful for the vital part the plant plays in the ecosystem and that I am not alone on this planet, but surrounded by growing living things.

But if we have trouble finding gratitude, that is a good prayer to take back to God. For God is the one who is the source and author of faith, grace and mercy. As the psalmist concludes: that's why everyone everywhere should pray to God, because

when we do so, we will find God shows up! It is not our practicing that makes gratitude possible, but the fact that God shows up. It is God who moves and shakes the Earth and forgives our sins which creates that true happiness. So we practice Gratitude in response to that movement of God. When you have trouble finding gratitude, you have every right to rub God's ears in it and say: "show up, O Lord, and give me life again."

It is not like a homework assignment. "Oh, we have to be more grateful or we will never ace the Holiness test." At that point, we might as well just keep complaining and making our bones weak, because we will never manage to muster it out of ourselves. No, the reason gratitude is a better practice, is because it truly comes from life and light and it creates more of the same. Have you ever experienced gratitude and not been filled with life afterward? So much abundantly tumbles from this one tiny practice with its simple words: "thank you." In this way, it is more like a dance with someone you love. How could you do otherwise than say yes to one more dance? And one more after that? God has looked kindly on us, with favor and mercy that we do not deserve. How could we continue after that with practices like grumbling and complaining? The difficult practice of Gratitude comes because we have been loved and made alive through Christ. Amen.

-Pastor Tommy.



Please join us for the Manistique Ministerial Associations Progressive Dinner, October 2nd starting at the Mennonite Church for appetizers.

Then back to Zion for soup. The salad course will be served at First United Methodist Church. First Baptist will serve the main course. Last but not least, dessert will be at the Presbyterian Church. A free will offering will be taken at that time. All monies collected will stay with the MMA to help people in need for heating expenses or if they need gas to get to appointments.

Quilts and Kits

Lutheran World Relief shipping date is Saturday October 22, 2022, 9-10:30am. We are looking for someone with a truck and trailer to take our quilts and kits to First Lutheran in Gladstone. If you are able to help, please call the office at 906.341.5427.

Zion will be hosting the fall meeting of the Tri-County Conference on Sunday, October 2nd. Pastors and members of congregations from Escanaba, Gladstone, Rapid River, Stonington, Rock, Trenary and Manistique. The meeting begins at 4:00pm in the sanctuary with dinner served at St. Alban's Episcopal Church.



We will be holding a Church Garden Clean-Up Day on Saturday, October 22nd for 10:00am-2:00pm. Please bring your gardening tools and whatever other equipment you may need to “get the weeds out”! Lunch will be provided!

Gifts to our congregation have been given in memory of

Jeanne Jenerou

Jeanne Selling & Family—Memorial
Kathy Peterson—Memorial
Larry & Rebecca Peterson—Memorial
Marilyn Larson—Memorial
Lois Bentley—Memorial
Dorothy Brandstrom—Endowment Fund
Kaye & Mike Jarski—Memorial
Joanne Nelson—Memorial
Brandi Storm—Memorial
Lila Panek—Memorial
Tom & Carla Flodin—Memorial
Brenda Keller—Memorial
Linda Levin—Endowment Fund
Doris Ribblet—Roofing Fund
Terry Savage—Memorial
Robert Carpenter
Linda Levin—Endowment Fund

Join us for Bible Study

The Monday night Bible study group will be and 4th Mondays. Pr. Tommy will be leading our We will meet in person in Augustana Hall. If you have any questions about this opportunity for study, please contact the office.



meeting at 6:30, every 2nd study on the book of Luke

Circle News

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.

Our Congregation provides support to other organizations in our church community and Manistique community through the Noisy Offering collected on the third Sunday of every month. In September the offering (\$28.67) was given to the Schoolcraft County Community Foundation. In conjunction with the Blessing of the Pets, the October offering will be given to the Eva Burrell Animal Shelter. November's offering will go to the Thanksgiving Basket project and December's offering will help with home heating expenses for people needing assistance. This offering will be given to the Manistique Ministerial Association as they offer home heating assistance to families.



Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00am
November 6, 2022. Be sure to set your clocks back **one hour** the night before.



After 2 years, the Festival of Lessons and Carols will be happening!
Rebecca Peterson is directing the choir and she is looking for singers.
Rehearsals start Sunday, October 9th, 2:00pm at Zion. The performance
will be Sunday, December 11th, 3:00pm at Saint Frances de Sales Church.

Soup with the Saints will be held on All Saints
6, 2022, immediately following morning
Congregation Council will host the luncheon.
sandwiches along with dessert will be
During worship we will be honoring those who
family at Zion through their Holy Baptism and those who have passed away .



Sunday, November
worship. The
Soup and
provided.
have joined the

Upcoming Scripture Readings

October 2 —Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4, Psalm 37:1-9, 2 Timothy 1:1-14,
Luke 17:5-10

October 9— Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15, Psalm 111, 2 Timothy 2:8-15, Luke 17:11-19

October 16— Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 32:22-31, Psalm 121, 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5, Luke 18:1-8

October 23—Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22, Psalm 84:1-7, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, Luke 18:9-14

October 30---Reformation Sunday

Isaiah 1:10-18, Psalm 32:1-7, 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12,

Luke 19:1-10



We cannot thank you all enough for all your help and kindness during our loss of our mother Jeanne Jenerou. The luncheon was very much appreciated.

Kerri Unger and Sherri Jenerou

Thank you to the members of our congregation who helped with Backpack Buddies in September: Jo-Nell Berger, Kathy Peterson, Laurie Nauman, Lila Panek, Janet Krueger, and Linda Levin. Thank you, as well, to all of our faithful donors to this important ministry of our congregation.

Those Who Serve In October

Lectors: 10/2 Kristen Lamb
10/9 Ken Groh
10/16 Michael Lamb
10/23 Ruth Jones
10/30 Julie Gauthier

Ushers: Jo Nell Berger & Janet Krueger

Altar Flowers: 10/23 Hoss & Pat Toenneson

Bulletin/Bread & Wine: 10/9 Dorothy Brandstram

Coffee Hour: 10/2
10/9
10/16
10/23
10/30 Confirmation

Acolyte: 10/2 Aiyonna Swisher
10/9 Michael Lamb
10/16 Kristen Lamb
10/23
10/30 Nicholas Gauthier

Communion Assistant: 10/2 Linda Mason
10/9 Sheila Clark
10/16 Kim Lamb
10/23 Linda Levin
10/30 Julie Gauthier

Church Attendance Report

	Saturday	Sunday	Zoom
Sept.3-4, 2022	20	39	5
Sept. 10-11, 2022	26	45	8
Sept. 17/18, 2022	14	38	4
Sept. 24/25, 2022	15	34	6

Please be watching your mail for the Stewardship letter you will receive this month!



Blessing of the Pets Sunday October 2nd.

**Congregation Council Highlights
September, 2022**

+The treasurer's report showed an August income of \$8,637.31 with expenses of \$12,521.23.

+Pastor Tommy reported on Blessing of the Animals on October 2nd, Sunday School and Bible studies. In addition, he attended a meeting with Bishop Katherine and Conference pastors, traveled to Bethany Lutheran Church in Escanaba to present a program on Shishmaref, AL and attended the installation service for Pastor Tera Kossow at Eden Lutheran Church in Munising. Pastor made 6 pastoral calls and officiated at one funeral.

+The Worship and Music Committee met to choose hymns.

+Highway Pick-Up is scheduled for September 24th at 10:00 a.m. Pick-up may be done at other times through October 2nd.

+Soup with the Saints will be held following worship on November 6th.

+Noisy offering designations were made for the remainder of the year:

September – Schoolcraft County Community Foundation

October – Eva Burrell Animal Shelter

November – Thanksgiving Basket Project

December – Heating Expenses (Manistique Ministerial Association)

+The Property Committee met in September. They set Saturday, October 22nd as a Church Garden Clean-Up. The work bee will be held from 10:00-2:00. Lunch will be provided.

+The Christian Education and Youth Committee gave an update on Sunday School and adult education/Bible study.

+Zion will host the Conference 6 meeting on Sunday, October 2 beginning at 4:00 p.m.

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ~ Genesis 1:1



Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

Have you ever ventured down the craft aisle of some do-ityourself store? I remember being given a make your own sand art, make your own paint by number picture, and cross stitch kits with all the embroidery floss included. Maybe you graduated to the kits that brew your own beer or make your own birdhouse or nail together a raised garden bed. I ordered a baker's rack once that required assembly. It was very handy to have step by step instructions paired with pictures and arrows, connecting part a to part b. Sure, I put it together wrong a few times before I got it right, but it now stands correctly assembled. It was easy to begin these projects because I had a guide, instructions, I knew what the finished product was supposed to look like. Beginning was easy because the end was clear. We know something about beginnings. We begin new jobs, new school years, move into a new house or apartment, welcome a new child, initiate a new ministry. Even without a kit, we know what it is to "start from scratch" when there are no pieces to put together, no foundation already laid, no past to shape the future, no ready-made mix that only needs eggs to make the cake. Certainly, God didn't have much to work with "in the beginning." God has a knack of how to make something from nothing. Such creative success takes a certain divine skill set. It is a God-only talent. And yet, God shares God's own creative genius with us. And that is a good thing. Because we as congregations, we as the church, are at the beginning again. We need the creative spirit that only God can give because there are a host of things that

are unclear. Do we have all the pieces we need? I say yes. I believe God provides the resources, the people, and the way forward for whatever God would have happen in and through your congregation. Are we starting from scratch? Not really. There is recent and a collective memory of the way things used to be, not only pre-pandemic, but pre-eighties. Whether these expectations, or even hopes, will be a help or a hindrance to new efforts remains to be seen. Do we have clear instructions? I say no. This is where we need the collective wisdom of the body of Christ listening intently to the Spirit and finding a way forward together. The goal is not to recreate the church of the past but to lean into the future church that is becoming. The Church is being transformed. Our job is to be faithful in this moment of history that will last years. Keeping the witness of Jesus of Nazareth as the lens through which all else is considered, we can't go far wrong. Are we clear on what the finished product will be? Maybe a little, but not really. The Church, capital C, is timeless. God will always call people to faith in Christ. The Spirit will always gather believers together. The Bible will always be treasured and provide an inspiring word to proclaim Christ. But what the Church looks like, how it sounds, where it gathers, the liturgy, traditions, music, language, rhythms, might all be reshaped and reformed. The wind of God is sweeping over the face of the Church. We may not be a formless void, but our shape is being re-formed, slowly but surely, and yet certainly faster than anyone is comfortable with. As congregations are investing energy into new or resurrected ministry efforts, we are beginning again in a new set of circumstances. It feels both familiar and foreign. It is both exciting and overwhelming, hopeful and anxious. I pray God's blessings upon your efforts. You're not creating something from nothing, but I think it can feel like that. God is with you, inspiring, energizing, and speaking the Word Christ into any darkness, saying, "Let there be...Church!"

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan

Grief and Gratitude—Living with Balance

by Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission

Several years ago, I came across this little citation by the author and psychotherapist, Francis Ward Weller. I liked it and saved it for future reference. Like many things I read and save, I don't immediately come back to them. But now, a few years later, I think it's time to reflect on Grief and Gratitude. Francis Weller wrote: "The work of a mature person is to carry grief in one hand and gratitude in the other and to be stretched large by them. How much sorrow can I hold? That's how much gratitude I can give. If I carry only grief, I'll bend toward cynicism and despair. If I only have gratitude, I'll become saccharine and won't develop much compassion for people's suffering. Grief keeps the heart fluid and soft, which makes compassion possible." These words strike me as being very realistic and theologically sound. We've all experienced a whole lot of grief during the past couple of years because of the pandemic. Some of you may have lost a job. Some of you may have lost a loved one to COVID-19. Grief can intensify our sense of differences. We compare losses and judge others. "My loss is greater than your loss." But grief doesn't have to lead to cynicism and distrust of others. Grief can be seen as part of our common humanity. No one escapes this life without some pain and loss. Theologians speak of the theology of the cross. The cross shows us that Jesus intimately knew pain and loss. Jesus wept when his friend Lazarus died. Jesus experienced betrayal by his best friends. Jesus felt the sting of the whip and the crown of thorns thrust down upon his head. The writer of Hebrews says of Jesus, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses."

(Hebrews 4:15a NRSV) The theology of the cross speaks honestly of the realities of sin and brokenness in our world. This sin and brokenness are not only experienced on the individual level but also on the systemic level. “We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now.” (Romans 8:22 RSV) The Hebrews speak of the pathos of God. God is moved by human suffering. God is with the children of Israel when they go down into slavery in Egypt. The Psalmist says, “You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your record?” (Psalm 56:8 NRSV) The suffering of the Hebrews as slaves in Egypt was not meant to be interpreted only as a painful memory. Because of the experience of slavery and the experience of God’s pathos and redemption, the Hebrews were charged to show compassion to the foreigner in their land. “You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice...remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this.” (Deuteronomy 24:17 NRSV) Grief rightfully dealt with can lead to compassion rather than the lethargy of bitterness and despair. Gratitude rightfully expressed can bear us up during times of grief and empower us to show compassion to others. Being thankful for discovering that new patch of blackberries doesn’t have to mean you don’t care about what’s going on in Ukraine. Enjoying a good hearty meal doesn’t have to mean that you are neglectful of those hungry in Afghanistan. Eat, drink, be merry. Be grateful. Remember the source of all good things. The Lord God has given you blessings so that you might bless others. And yes, God can even redeem the things in life that you grieve and use you to be a blessing to others. Thomas Merton wrote of a Christian’s capacity to be a “wounded healer.” May that be said of us all in the days ahead as we balance genuine grief with compassionate gratitude!

HARVEST

Trail Mix

This portable snack combines favorite fall flavors.



What you need:

- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup maple syrup
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- $\frac{1}{8}$ tsp. salt
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup pecan pieces
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup roasted pumpkin seeds
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup almonds
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup raisins
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup dried fruit (any)

What you do:

1. Microwave syrup, spices, seeds and nuts for 30 seconds at a time, stirring frequently, until mixture thickens.
2. Spread the mixture on a baking sheet lined with wax paper. Let cool and harden.
3. Break the candied nuts into chunks. Combine with dried fruit.
4. Store in airtight container.

CONTACT US:

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

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

Musician: Linda Levin

Custodian: Pat Toennesen

Treasurer: Naomi Fletcher

Financial Secretary: Cyndee Miske

Choir Director: Rebecca Peterson

Congregation Council:

Linda Levin, President

Donna Mott, Vice President

Kay MacGregor, Secretary

Jo-Nell Berger

Ruth Jones

Cathy Knudson

Janet Krueger

Peter Mathson

Teddy Nelson



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