

Tower Topics September 2020



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Dear Lord Jesus, bless the children and youth of this nation, and all school personnel returning to their jobs in schools and colleges during this pandemic. May your Holy Spirit protect their bodies, enlighten their minds, and give them vision for the future and initiative to learn. Protect the teachers and give them wisdom and patience as they deal with the new safety procedures. Protect the children as they learn in the physical and virtual classrooms and participate in activities outside of school. May they learn to follow in your steps, just as you grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. Amen.



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PASTOR'S PAGE



New Preaching Series

Some of you may know that Zion has traditionally utilized a series of readings on Sunday morning from the Revised Common Lectionary. It's basically a series of readings on a 3 year cycle that is shared by many Catholic and mainline protestant churches. There are a couple of benefits to these readings. First, the common readings connect us to other congregations on Sunday morning as we are all hearing the same readings. Second, the common lectionary gives discipline to preaching. That is, pastors aren't simply selecting their favorite Bible passages every Sunday. Instead, texts are assigned and preachers come to those readings each week listening for God's voice in them.

One of the drawbacks to the common lectionary, however, is the readings often don't fall in any sort of order, especially those from the Old Testament. The story of the Bible loses its cohesion when we jump from one book to the next or when we read from a chapter in the Gospels then jump backward in the story the following week.

Enter the narrative lectionary. This series of readings is on a 4 year cycle. It gives only 2 readings on Sunday instead of 4. The narrative lectionary covers the major stories of the Old Testament in an orderly way. Zion will be utilizing the narrative lectionary beginning Sunday, September 13 until at least May.

The reason for this change is to encourage the congregation to take a journey together. While many of us may not be in worship because of the risk coming together currently carries, being focused on a singular reading each week, in a disciplined and planned way, will give us an additional connecting point. I hope to host a study, in advance of Sunday, each week. I hope to send a devotion using the assigned Sunday reading as a launching point. Sunday school is hoping to plan lessons around these Sunday readings as well. This will be an intergenerational trip through the Bible that allows all of us to find our way into God's story.

I often hear folks lament that they "don't know the Bible better." These next months will pull the Bible together in an orderly way and give you a launching point into the Biblical story. Please watch your email, the church website, Facebook, and your mail as we begin this journey together September 13. "Zion Lutheran Church fosters connection with God, our neighbors, and each other." May this walk thru the Bible be one more way to find connection during this season when connections are hard to come by.

Blessed to be your pastor,

Pr. Scott

What is the narrative lectionary?

The Narrative Lectionary is a four-year cycle of readings. On the Sundays from September through May each year the texts follow the sweep of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church.

The texts show the breadth and variety of voices within Scripture. They invite people to hear the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the prophets, Jesus, and Paul. Listening to the many different voices within Scripture enriches preaching and the life of faith.

What are the readings?

The texts include the major episodes in Scripture. They are arranged in a narrative sequence to help people see Scripture as a story that has coherence and a dynamic movement.:

- From September to mid-December the preaching texts begin with the early chapters of Genesis, move through the stories of Israel's early history, the exodus, the kings, prophets, exile and return.
- From Christmas to Easter there is sustained reading of one of the four gospels
- From Easter to Pentecost the texts are chosen from Acts and Paul's letters.

Why these readings?

Texts were selected that lead well to the proclamation of what God is doing. The stories tell of hope and disappointment, suffering and redemption. In all these varied contexts, we find God dealing with the complexities of human life. Stories from the gospels differ each year, avoiding repetition and highlighting what is distinctive about each gospel's telling of the story of Jesus.

The Church Year helped to shape the flow of the Narrative Lectionary. Old Testament readings move through the story of God's dealings with Israel and culminate in Advent with the prophets who speak of longing and hope. Readings from the gospels fit the movement from Christmas and Epiphany to the Transfiguration, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Easter. Selections from the book of Acts and Paul's letters trace the outward movement of the resurrection message, culminating on Pentecost with readings focusing on the Spirit.

What if we want to read a Gospel?

When the primary text is not from a Gospel, there is an accompanying Gospel text suggested. So during the fall when the primary readings are taken from the Old Testament, and in the spring when primary readings come from the Epistles, a Gospel reading is provided in the schedule. When the primary reading is from the Gospel, the accompanying reading is taken from the Psalms.

Ministry Coordinator

Val Hanson



Ministries Coordinator Report

Change is in the air as fall approaches. As always, I am amazed at the incredible people God has gathered at Zion and the ways he is helping us figure out how to go forward differently than we have in the past. We are getting new guidelines and volunteers in place as needed. I am working with our new office manager and helping her transition into her role. The Education Committee is in conversation about what Sunday School will look like this fall. Kids Hope is figuring out how we can support our students and schools without physically visiting for the first semester. The Outreach committee is going forward with plans for blessing bags and other ministries. God keeps blessing us with work to do. I am grateful to be doing it with you.

In His Service, Val



Introducing Kendra Vandervelde

New Church Office Manager

We are pleased to welcome Kendra Vandervelde to our Zion staff in the role of Office Manager.

Kendra's leadership ability and dedication to living out a faithful Christian life are two of the many gifts she brings to her new position.

She has been an active member at Zion over the last few years.

She has served as the high school youth group leader, accompanied our youth on a mission trip, attended several bible study classes, and helped with several special events.

Kendra and her husband, Michael, have lived in the McBain area since 1998. Kendra recently retired after teaching elementary school for 25 years (20 in McBain).

They have two sons, Gray and Tucker. In her free time she likes to read, play golf, and watch her favorite TV shows and sporting events. Kendra also enjoys spending time with family and friends.





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It has happened!! During this time in our lives, right now, our world, (not just our town or state or country) has been infected with an unknown, invisible virus which has affected each and every one of us in some way.

We are reminded to “wash our hands” - “practice social distancing” - “wear masks” - “stay away from crowds”.....among many other cautions and each individual has responded to the safety suggestions during this Covid 19 pandemic in their own way.

Some do a little.....some do a lot.....some ignore it.....some have become ill.....some have died.

On top of this huge crisis in our world, we here in the USA have also experienced racial inequity and violence erupting throughout our country, plus political unrest.

My husband and I, due to our age and our medical issues, have chosen to withdraw, for whatever period of time necessary, from our normal social routines. Because of the lovely summer weather, we are able to be outside and enjoy working around the house and garden, taking walks and bike rides, and visiting with neighbors at a distance and family, by text, email, phone and visits at a distance.

We often wonder if we are carrying our practices a bit too far.....if cutting off close contact with family and friends, church, outside activities, volunteering, etc., are truly necessary.

We observe others getting together, following their regular routines with little more than wearing a mask where required, and enjoying their relationships without interruption, and we wonder if we have allowed a mind set of “fear.”

We believe we have faith and live by faith, not fear. But recently I read an article by a man who said “if we believe we have no fear, then we are fooling ourselves.” Yet, he continued, fear, in reasonable portions, is, in many cases, not a bad thing to have.

If we didn't fear getting hit by a car, we would walk into traffic.
If we didn't fear pain, we would touch hot items and places and be burned.
And the list goes on.....

So, as our church liturgy says: “ if we say we have no sin, then the truth is not in us,”
And —If we say we have no fear, during this pandemic, then perhaps the truth is not in us either.

It's good to have enough fear that we will be wise and do what we can to maintain our health and the health of those around us. As with anything.....we need to “use” our fear to protect ourselves, but not to “abuse” it and allow it to take us to extremes we need not go.

To choose wisely and live life in the best way we know how, is all that can be expected of one another.

Just a thought from Judie

August 1st to 25th, 2020



Dear Love INC Friends,

In response to COVID-19, it is with disappointment that we share that we must cancel our two annual fundraising events. Love INC's budget support from the Golf Outing and Dinner Event is \$25,000. Please help us continue Love INC services for families facing health issues and concerns, layoffs and increasing unemployment.

(231) 779-1888 Please help us reach the Love, INC goal, consider:

*Relax at home and donate what you would have normally paid for golf and prizes
Dine at home and donate your ticket costs, raffle and auction item winnings*

Love INC - FUNDRAISING GOAL - \$25,000 IN 25 DAYS

Be brave, be bold!

- 25 \$1,000 donations**
- 50 \$500 donations**
- 100 \$250 donations**
- 250 \$100 donations**
- 500 \$50 donations**

If your stimulus check is an unexpected bonus, consider donating some of it to Love INC and help us during this difficult time.

Love INC needs everyone doing all we can with what God has given us

- Donate and see God's work yield an amazing return on your investment
- Please pray without ceasing for provision, protection and direction
- Leave a legacy by gifting: investments, insurance, bequest or trust gifts

You and your family are invited to our

***STAY AT HOME* LOVE INC - 2020 FUNDRAISER**

- Open your checkbook or turn on your computer
- Open your heart
- Thank God for ...
- Give greatly as God has given to you

Leave your car in the garage
Wear whatever you would like
Enjoy a casual dinner at your table
Relax in the comfort of your own home



Mail your check or donate online: www.loveinccadillac.org to support
Love, INC of Wexford and Osceola Counties



New Prayer requests or updates

Linda S, recovery from knee surgery

Keagan C, son of Cherie B, recovery from COVID-19

Shawnee S, granddaughter of Judie S recovery from COVID-19

Donna R, recovery from back surgery

Keith Z, health concerns

Susan Y, health concerns

Mike U, surgery recovery

Brian B, pancreatic cancer, stroke or brain infection recovery, strength

Dr. David R, friend of Dave and Linda M, lymphoma treatments

Continuing prayer requests:

- John C
- Deb B
- Barb B
- June E
- Kay F
- Kim G
- Nancy G
- Norma J
- Allena M
- Dan S
- Janet S
- Elaine W
- Arline W
- Ron W



Would you like us
to pray for you?

To add a prayer request to our list, please contact Pastor Scott or email at zionlutherancadillac@gmail.com

Prayer Chain

Zion's Prayer Chain is happy to pray for requests that you have throughout the week. To request prayer, contact Linda Carlson. To join the Prayer Chain, contact Linda.



September

BIRTHDAYS

Leanna J

Carter L

Adam H

Janet W

Ron W

Dan B

Joanne B

Pam D

Ty W

Bob L

John F

Tara M

Robert S

Maggie K

Scott R

Mike U

Ava L

Tabatha G

Terry K

Hadley H

Dezi T

Bob S

Deb B

Rod G

Ada K

Elijah K

Henrik K

Woodie D

Matthew S

Arline W

Bruce B

Autumn V

Devin T

Dianne N

Liz B

Erica C

Emsley B

Linda R



Events And Updates

PROJECT CHRISTMAS 2020

Due to Covid 19 the Outreach Committee has decided not to participate in Project Christmas this year. We made this decision in an effort to keep Zion members safe. Hopefully, we will be able to participate next year. We are continuing our monthly distribution to families referred by Love Inc. At the beginning of the school year we usually get the most requests for socks and underwear. We still need your support. If you would like to make a monetary donation to this ministry be sure to signify this by writing Socks and Underwear in the notation line of your check. Again we want to thank the congregation for their continual support. We hope that next year you will be able to participate in our Socks and Underwear table at Project Christmas.

Blessing Baskets

Blessing baskets are needed now more than ever. All of those we donated were distributed to people in need but, during these times of Covid, more people seem to be in dire need. Some items we include in the baskets are: hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, laundry soap, bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, all purpose cleaners, Kleenex, tall kitchen garbage bags, laundry baskets, small buckets, deodorant, paper towel, band aides, antiseptic cream and liquid hand soap. Diapers of all sizes are always welcome. Please consider donating some of these items or making a monetary donation.

We will be collecting items for only two weeks, from Sept. 14-25. The church will be open during the hours of 10-4:00 Monday through Friday. Two tables will be set up in the Fellowship Hall and a container will be on a table to place any money donated to the cause.

We thank you in advance for your help in making this ministry the success it has become.

The Outreach Committee



Stitchery

"Zion Stitchery will continue to meet every Monday at 9:30 AM in the Choir Room at the church to assemble quilts. There is a great need for supplies to include fillers and backings for the quilts. Fillers may include purchased batting, flannel sheets, old mattress pads or lightweight blankets. Backings may include material or sheets of any color, pattern or size. Material needed for each backing may be made from four yards of 44" material or five yards of 36" material. Any supplies are greatly appreciated. All finished quilts made at Zion are twin size."



Activities



Fellowship Activity - Fall Hike

The spring hike was such a success - thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended - the Fellowship Committee has decided to do a fall hike.

Join us Sunday, September 20, to walk our beautiful Cadillac lakefront. Everyone should meet at the fountain in the park at 1:00 p.m. Although we'll be outside, we're asking everyone to please wear a mask in case social distancing cannot be maintained. Should there be inclement weather on September 20, the rain date is Sunday, September 27.

Since this is an outside activity and we'll all be arriving in our own vehicles, this gives us a chance to reconnect with our Zion friends and family while being socially responsible and practicing safe Covid-19 practices.

Join us September 20, as we enjoy each others company and enjoy the blessing of a beautiful lake and a wonderful walking trail.

Worship Update

As of right now, the plan is to resume in person services on a trial basis with strict guidelines on September 13, 2020. These services will be limited to 50 participants and signing up is required.

We will continue with Facebook live worship service at 9:00 am and parking lot worship at 10:30am the first part of September. Communion services are planned for the third week in September - Mon, Wed, Thurs and Fri. at noon and Wed. and Thurs. at 7 pm.

Why should I look in a tiny rear view mirror at what was, when I can look through a huge windshield at the glorious future ahead?

From "Christ in the Home"

Kid's Hope Update



The Kids Hope main office says it like it is, " We are building the airplane as we are flying it." For at least the first semester, the mentors will not be able to mentor in person. The headquarters came up with alternative options. We are hoping the online mentoring from the school and the mentors home will be the recourse of preference. A computer would be set up at a designated space at the school. A staff person would go get the student from the classroom and take him/her to the computer and get them set up on a zoom meeting with their mentor. The call would be monitored from the school for security. The session would be one half hour, instead of the usual hour. The second option would be online mentoring from the students home and the mentors home. The third option would be a pen pal option. This would be where a mentor puts together a packet with a note and drops it off at the school. The student does the activities inside the packet and writes a message back to the mentor and the mentor goes to the school and picks it up. This helps keep the relationship active. Forest View has a new secretary and guidance counselor this year, plus needs to adapt to the "new normal" teaching.

I have corresponded with other Kids Hope directors in the area. Other churches are going down the same road. Let schools adapt and then we will start mentoring when they are ready.

Becki Kanipe

Kid's Hope Director

DO YOU KNOW YOUR HYMNS?

Dentist's Hymn	Crown Him With Many Crowns
Weatherman's Hymn	There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
Contractor's Hymn	The Church's One Foundation
Tailor's Hymn	Holy, Holy, Holy
Golfer's Hymn	There's A Green Hill Far Away
Politician's Hymn	Standing On The Promises!
Optometrist's Hymn	Open My Eyes That I May See
IRS' Agent's Hymn	I Surrender All
Gossip's Hymn	Pass It On
Electrician's Hymn	Send The Light
Shopper's Hymn	Sweet Bye and Bye
Realtor's Hymn	I've Got A Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop
Massage Therapist's Hymn	He Touched Me

And for those who speed on the highway—a few hymns

55 mph	God Will Take Care of You
75 mph	Nearer My God To Thee
85 mph	This World Is Not My Home
95 mph	Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph	Precious Memories

A little humor is good for the soul..... Give me a sense of humor, Lord,. Give me the grace to see a joke.

To get some humor out of life, and pass it on to other folks.

Passed on by Joan Allinder

Time for a Smile



The whole church watched with nervous anticipation as the visitors sat where the Martins have sat for 42 years.



A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom as the children drew pictures. The teacher would occasionally walk around and see each child's artwork. As she approached one little girl who was working especially hard, she asked what the drawing was.

The little girl told her: "I'm drawing God!"

"But sweetie," the teacher replied, "no one actually knows what God looks like."

Automatically, the little girl continued drawing and said: "well, they certainly will in a minute!"

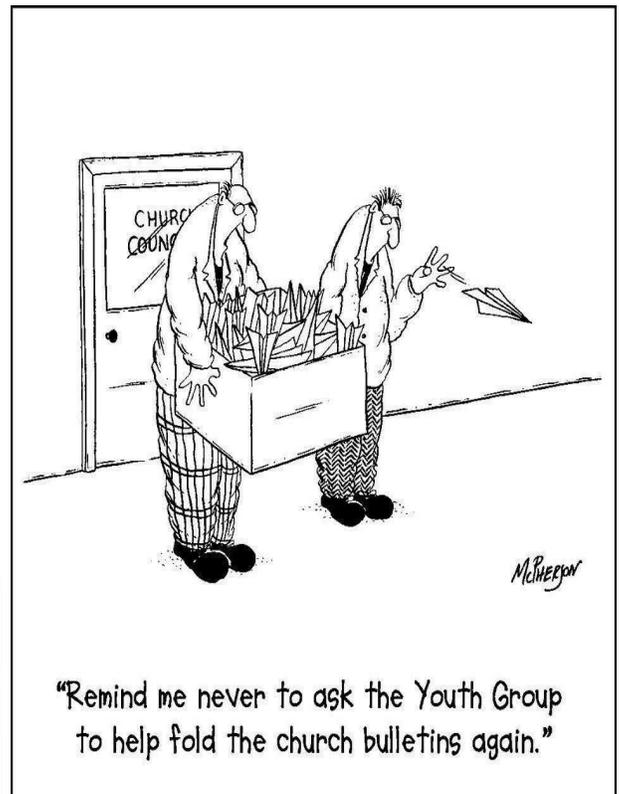


Where was Solomon's temple located? – On the side of his head. Duh!

Our fourth grader celebrated his birthday on crutches, so he couldn't carry the cupcakes into school without help. I asked our sixth-grader, Noah, to help his brother carry them in. "I could," he said, "but I'd prefer not to." Spotting a teaching moment, my husband asked Noah, "What would Jesus do?" Noah answered, "Jesus would heal him so he could carry his own cupcakes."

I have come to the conclusion that politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians.

Charles de Gaulle~



NEW HOPE CENTER NEWS

7/5/20

New Hope Center (previously named New Hope Shelter) is a crisis response center which has served the homeless in Wexford and Missaukee counties for over 28 years. New Hope is the only shelter in our area and a vital part of helping the homeless TO BECOME PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY. Currently, we have five different locations for men, women and families in Cadillac.

Our goal is to consolidate our five shelters in to one building which will improve our housing and supervision, give better access to other services and training for our clients, and hopefully allow us to operate 24/7. Currently our clients must leave during the day (even during our bitter winter months) because of lack of staffing.

We currently coordinate our efforts with these agencies to help BRING STABILITY AND HOPE FOR THE FUTURE TO OUR CLIENTS:

HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION System (HMIS) MICHIGAN HOMELESS ACTION COUNCIL EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER BOARD
NORTHERN LAKES COMMUNITY HEALTH MICHIGAN WORKS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES ALCOHOLIC ANONYMOUS and others

A school building in Hart was donated to NEW HOPE--if-- we would tear it down and move it. Several volunteers have spent many months in hard physical labor to accomplish this, and now the 12,000 square foot building is being stored in semi trailers here in Cadillac to be used for our new center.

We are ready to start our building project at 1125 LINCOLN ST. (located behind FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE on M55 east of Cadillac). Footers and foundation walls are being laid at this time.

THIS IS A MONUMENTAL TASK BUT IF EVERYONE HELPS---- IT IS POSSIBLE

WE NEED MONETARY DONATIONS AS WELL AS MATERIALS AND LABOR FROM OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY TO COMPLETE THIS HUGE PROJECT

WE HOPE TO HAVE WORK CREWS ON SITE SATURDAYS THIS FALL!!!!

The rewards for our community are great. We have witnessed many homeless people gain self confidence, overcome addictions, restore family unity, become employed and find personal housing with the help of the services and counseling we have provided. Everyone deserves a second chance!!!!

Cadillac is a very generous and caring community. We are asking that you open up your hearts to the most needy segment of our society.

PLEASE CONTACT MARK MOGAN TO DONATE YOUR SUPPORT

Mark B. Mogan

231-429-2974

m-mogan@outlook.com

New Hope Center Homeless Shelter Volunteer Jobs

Description	Date	People Needed	Special Tools
Install vinyl siding and fascia	9/26/20	65+	Levels, chalk line, hammer, cutoff saws
Blow in insulation (attic blown cellulose/fiberglass)	10/24/20	16+	Machines to blow, masks, vent openings?
Insulation/wall labor	11/7/20	40+	Utility knives, masks, staples and gun
Priming and painting	11/21/20	85+	
Painting and installation of cabinetry, flooring, and countertops	11/28/20	75+	Level, screws, drills, saber saw
Cove base; 13 bathrooms, flooring, trim shelves	12/5/20	50+	Glue, putty knife
Plumbing fixtures; install sinks, toilets, mirrors, shelves, etc.	12/12/20	30+	Sealer, saber saw, level, wrenches
Install appliances	12/19/20	25+	Two wheel carts, drills, screws, levels
Furniture move in	1/2/21	40+	Two wheel carts, haul straps
Landscaping	Spring	30+	Garden tools, tractors

We can accommodate projects most any day or evening, if these dates do not work. If volunteers are not present, more dates will be added.

“May angels light your path to that indwelling City of God within your own soul.”

“If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life.”
—Author unknown

