



The Tower Topics May 2022

May 2022
Volume 31 Number 5
Rev. Scott Torkko

Website: www.cadillaczion.org
Church Office 775-9821
Email: zionlutherancadillac@gmail.com

Just after John baptized Jesus, the guests arrived to celebrate! The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus. God claimed Jesus in the best baptism speech ever. “You are my son, the Beloved” (Luke 3:22). Then the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness, where the devil tempted Him to show off his power, capture the glory and respect of the world, and test God’s love. But in every case, Jesus turned down the devil by turning to God.

Most of us won’t be tempted in the wilderness, but every day we are barraged by messages that tell us : *You’re not lovable. You haven’t accomplished enough. But we can help!* It’s tempting to believe these half-truths.

In those times, remember that Jesus handled temptation by turning to God. When the world causes you to doubt God’s promises or your worth, remember that God loves you and claims you as God’s own. No matter what happens in life, turn to God to remember that **YOU ARE ENOUGH.** You are loved. And you belong.

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May



<p>Sun, May 1 9 am Worship & communion (FB live) 10:30 Worship & communion</p> <p>Mon, May 2 1pm Evangelism meeting 4pm Fellowship meeting 5pm TOPS</p> <p>Tues. May 3 1pm Staff Meeting 5:30 Special Olympics Board meeting 6pm Property Committee</p> <p>Wed, May 4 1pm Prayer Shawl Meeting 1pm Bulletin Deadline</p> <p>Thurs. May 5 6:30pm Ensemble Practice 7pm National Day of Prayer @ Zion</p> <p>Sun, May 8 Mother's Day 9 am Worship (FB live) 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship - Fiia Torkko Bapstism</p> <p>Mon, May 9 9:30 Stitchery 4pm Outreach 5pm TOPS Potluck 6:30 Finance Committee</p> <p>Tue, May 10 1pm Staff Meeting 4pm Book Club 5:15 Executive meeting</p> <p>Wed, May 11 1pm Bulletin Deadline</p> <p>Sat, May 14 9am Annual Clean up Day</p> <p>Sun, May 15 9 am Worship & communion (FB live) 10:30 Worship & communion 11:30 Potluck</p>	<p>Mon, May 16 5pm TOPS 7pm Cadillac Welcome Club</p> <p>Tues, May 17 1pm Staff meeting 630 Council meeting</p> <p>Wed, May 18 1pm Bulletin Deadline 2:30 Kids Hope Celebration @ Forest View</p> <p>Thurs, May 19 12pm Lunch Bunch 13th St Market</p> <p>Fri, May 20 Evening Wedding Rehearsal</p> <p>Sat, May 21 Afternoon Wedding</p> <p>Sun, May 22 9 am Worship (FB live) 9:15 Sunday School (last one til Fall) 10:30 Worship</p> <p>Mon, May 23 Parking Lot Construction 9:30 Stitchery 5pm TOPS</p> <p>Tues, May 24 Parking lot Construction</p> <p>Wed, May 25 Parking lot Construction</p> <p>Thurs, May 26 Parking lot Construction</p> <p>Fri, May 27 Parking lot Construction</p> <p>Sat, May 28 11am Grad Party</p> <p>Sun, May 29 NOISY Offering & Food Pantry 9 am Worship (FB live) 10:30 Worship</p> <p>Mon, May 30 Memorial Day Office Closed</p> <p>Tues, May 31 1pm Staff Meeting 5pm TOPS</p>
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Thoughts from Pastor Scott

The Gift of Community

What a gift you all have given the Torkko family. And by “gift” I actually mean, “gifts.” It would have been enough for Zion’s leadership to allow me the time I needed to spend traveling to appointments with Lindsey during her pregnancy that had all sorts of complications. It would have been enough for Zion’s leadership to give me the time I needed as Fiia spent 60 days in the NICU in Traverse City. It would have been more than enough for the congregation to provide Fiia with 2 years of diapers and 2 years of wipes. It would have been way more than enough to find 3-4 gifts at my office door for many weeks after Fiia’s birth. It would have been way, way more than enough to have meals brought to us when Fiia came home. We have sensed your prayers at work in our journey. We have felt your support as you’ve been interested in how Fiia is doing. We have been grateful for your patience as Lindsey and I have been protective of Fiia, keeping her away from large gatherings because the last thing she needed over these first 5 months was to get sick.

On May 8 (at the 10:30 service), we (Lindsey and I, you, and God himself) will baptize Fiia and welcome her into the life of the church. Sometimes baptism can feel like a simple ritual. Bring together some family. Stand in front of the church reciting a few lines. Pour some water over the head of the one being baptized. Clap. Go eat cookies and drink coffee.

I expect to feel something else on May 8. The road to the baptismal font for Fiia has been full of twists and turns, uncertainty and surprise. When water is poured over Fiia’s head, it will be the culmination of a journey in which we have known God’s presence again and again. When water is poured over Fiia’s head, it will be in large part because of Zion’s prayers, acts of love, and graciousness.

The Torkko’s will provide the cake for coffee hour May 8 as a thank you to you all. It hardly feels like enough, but short of throwing a huge party for you all, it’s the most we can muster at this time. Let the cake be a symbol of our deep appreciation for the way you all have cared for us, given us necessary time and space, and for all of the delightful gifts Fiia has received.

We are still being somewhat careful with Fiia. We know she will eventually get sick...we all get sick! We continue to try and put it off a while longer, however. So, Fiia will likely sit in the balcony on the day of her baptism. We will likely visit with you outside after worship, so long as the weather cooperates. We ask that you keep a bit of space for now. A few people holding her and getting close to her is one thing, 150 people doing so, quite another!

We are so excited for Fiia’s baptism on May 8. Thank you for being the body of Christ for the Torkko family. You are a gift.

Blessed to be your pastor,
Pr. Scott





Ministry Coordinator

Val Hanson

This spring it truly feels like a time of renewal for many of our ministries. We had the privilege of worshipping in person through Lent and Holy Week, meeting for fellowship meals on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday, offering Zion 101 to a class of about 20 people, listening to our ensemble once again, having restoration work completed on our steeple, hosting a silent quilt auction, and welcoming new members to our congregation.

May will find us hosting the National Day of Prayer service, meeting in some small discussion groups to explore kindness, gathering for a congregational potluck, having the parking lot repaved, and wrapping up a school year of

Sunday School. Our youth are preparing for camp and for a mission trip. We have a Zion softball team ready to go. Summer concerts are scheduled. Zion is active in the community through Kids Hope and our service through the Council on Aging.

It feels like we're back to ministry in full swing, and it feels wonderful!

In His Service, Val

Ministry & Service



Opportunities

Special dates

- National Day of Prayer, *May 5, 2022*
- Mother's Day, *May 8, 2022*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 21, 2022*
- Ascension Day, *May 26, 2022*
- Memorial Day, *May 30, 2022*



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Deborah B	05/01
Pat L	05/04
Rhonda P	05/06
Gavin P	05/08
Gwen P	05/08
Kip D	05/09
Maureen A	05/09
Stephen N	05/10
Roger A	05/11
Bertha F	05/12
JT T	05/14
Gloria K	05/14
Margie J	05/15
Garth H	05/16
Michelle R	05/18
Lee G	05/18
John C	05/18
Rylen R	05/22
Randy W	05/22
Gray V	05/24
Marty D	05/25
Hayley F	05/26
Mason F	05/26
Hannah F	05/26
Brenner B	05/27
Kendra V	05/27
Cara B	05/27
Chris B	05/27
Mary B	05/27
Haley L	05/28
Susan Y	05/28
Alex C	05/30
Carol B	05/30

Cadillac Area Ministerial Association invites you to Zion Lutheran Church, 350 Pearl St., Cadillac, MI on May 5, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.

The hymn, "This Is My Song" declares, in part, "So hear my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine."

This year, the Cadillac Area Ministerial Association's National Day of Prayer event will revolve around the tragic events taking place in Ukraine and Eastern Europe. We will lean on the power of prayer, asking God to intervene in the midst of heartache, grief, and death.

A time of fellowship and refreshments will conclude our time together. Please join us.





Not Good Enough?

Is there any one among us who hasn't wondered what physical death will be like? No.....this is not meant to be a morbid reminder of endings.....

This is the time of year we walk spiritually with Christ - through His death and, most important, into His resurrection. He experiences physical death to bring to us forgiveness and truth of life after death.

What better thoughts could we have as mortals who will each experience physical death to know we can look forward to life after death? He paid the debt for our sins and prepares for us new life for eternity.

Any of you reading this ever wonder if the life you're living is "good enough" to earn for yourself eternal life?

Many years ago, I heard my beloved grandma, on her death bed, say fearfully to her pastor who was there with her, "Oh, I just don't think I'm good enough to go to heaven." She knew she was at the end of her life, and though she had lived her life as a devoted, loving servant of God, she feared she wasn't good enough to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

My heart was overwhelmed with sadness as I heard her words.

This was a woman of great faith and I wondered if she believed that "good works" were necessary to earn her entry into Heaven in addition to Christ's gift of His life given for her. With the uncertainty of death approaching, was her mind not clear enough

to remember that Christ had already paid for her way home?

Despite all the years of going to church, reading the scriptures, living a beautifully, loving life - at the time when she most needed to know that Christ had given His life for her and nothing more was required - she still thought she wasn't "good enough," thinking that it also depended on her actions.

I don't know if her pastor was able to reassure her into acceptance of the truth, so that she was able to make her transition peacefully, but I do believe as she passed from this life, she was welcomed into His kingdom with open arms, assuring her that she was "good enough." And the joy revealed to her was, no doubt, beyond words.

The season of Lent and Easter brings both pain and joy as we follow our Lord through His death and Resurrection.

His Resurrection assures us of life after death. That each and every one of us who believe, are "good enough" and will one day hear the words of our God
"Well done thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of the Lord."

Just a thought from Judie



You make a Difference



Making a difference in the lives of homebound seniors

Thank you for helping to brighten the lives of homebound seniors in our local community. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to send the Cadillac Meals on Wheels \$273.56. This money will help with their ministry to provide healthy meals and social contact to older, vulnerable adults in our local community.

Zion Family,

It was so nice to know how much you cared for me during my 6 weeks of shoulder replacement recovery. No better proof than when you showered me with kindness with cards, phone calls & when we met. The fact you've taken out time from your busy schedule to support me has meant the world to me. Thank you all for caring.

Peace be with you, John 20:19,
Sue Anderson



Friday Evening, April 22nd, Zion hosted the Great Lakes Adventist Academy Concert.

A very large group of extremely versatile, talented young people gave a musical treat to touch the souls of those attending.

Orchestra, bell choir and vocal choir filled our sanctuary with heavenly sounds. A resounding THANK YOU to them all.

Kindness Conversations



Join a small group to share stories of kindness.

We'll also discuss the need for kindness in the world, the difference between confetti kindness and deep kindness, some traits and practices that enable kindness, and some things that get in the way.

Sessions will begin the second week of May. Discussions will be one hour long, last 6 weeks, and be facilitated by Val. Groups will meet on Mondays or Fridays, with the time determined by the people in the group.

Zoom and in-person groups will both be options.

Let us know you are interested by calling the church at 775-9821, signing up on the church bulletin board, or completing the google form online.



May Potluck

Gathering as a Zion family

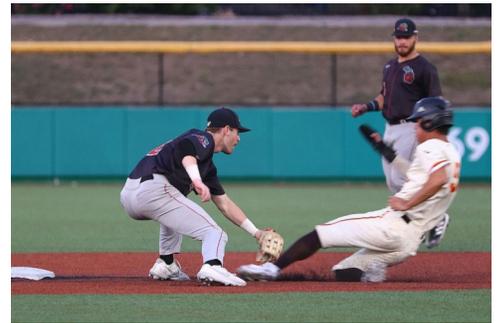
Part of the Fellowship Committee's Mission Statement is to strengthen the relationships we have with each other. So, after a long time of being apart, we want to bring everyone back together for our May fellowship activity - a potluck dinner!

Join us, following the late service on Sunday, May 15, for good food and lots of fellowship. The committee is supplying a ham and beverages. Bring your favorite dish - whether homemade or store bought - it doesn't matter. Since it's a "potluck," we'll make due with whatever everyone brings. Actually, some members of the committee, are hoping it's an "all dessert" meal.

As always, "many hands make light work," so if you would be willing to assist, your help would be greatly appreciated. There will be a sign-up sheet posted at church for volunteers to help in one of three areas: Working in the kitchen and setting out the food from 11:00 until 11:30 a.m., helping clean up the kitchen after the potluck, and also helping put away the extra tables and chairs after the potluck. If you can help, sign up or let Val or Kendra know.

Join us May 15, as we enjoy each other's company and a delicious dinner.

*FUN
AND
FELLOWSHIP
AT
ZION*



Save the Date!!

Going to watch the Pit Spitters Baseball Team play in Traverse City is always a fun outing. We've reserved seats for the 7:00 p.m. game on Friday, August 5. Talk to your friends and family and make plans now for this fun outing! Watch for more information in the June or July newsletter, but mark the date on your calendar now.



Help Needed

Spring Beautification Day: Join our dedicated Property Committee members on Saturday, May 14, and help get our Zion grounds cleaned up. Clean up will be going on from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Come for just a part of the morning or all morning. Remember, many hands make for light work! The more people who come out to help, the more work they'll be able to get done. If you are able to help May 14, please bring yard tools such as rakes and shovels.

Serving in Worship

<p>Sunday, May 1</p> <p><u>Communion Assistants</u> 9:00 Michael & Kendra Vandervelde and Nancy Anderson</p> <p>10:30 Bobbie Brown, Helen Potter, and Colleen Luhtanen</p> <p><u>Lectors</u> 9:00 Marilyn Bridges</p> <p>10:30 Dick Myers</p> <p><u>Sound Techs</u> 9:00 Scott Hanson</p> <p>10:30 Anne Koschmider</p> <p><u>Ushers</u> 9:00 Bob Shumway and Cara Bosack</p> <p>10:30 Marty & Pam Dahlstrom</p> <p><u>Coffee Hour</u> 9:00 Jeff & Penny Johnson</p> <p>10:30 Howard & Helen Potter</p>	<p>Sunday, May 8</p> <p><u>Lectors</u> 9:00 Abby Zukauskay</p> <p>10:30 Dave Koenig</p> <p><u>Sound Techs</u> 9:00 Mike and Tucker Vandervelde</p> <p>10:30 Devin Taylor</p> <p><u>Ushers</u> 9:00 Carol Neverth</p> <p>10:30 Ron and Sue Smith</p> <p><u>Coffee Hour</u> 9:00 Elsie Moore and Chris Venenma</p> <p>10:30 Ryan and Melissa Benzenberg</p>	<p>Sunday, May 15</p> <p><u>Communion Assistants</u> 9:00 Marilyn Bridges, Jim Higgins, and Elsie Moore</p> <p>10:30 Bobbie Brown, Helen Potter, and Lee Jones</p> <p><u>Lectors</u> 9:00 Carolyn Emerson</p> <p>10:30 Colleen Luhtanen</p> <p><u>Sound Techs</u> 9:00 Scott Hanson</p> <p>10:30 Maddie Masten</p> <p><u>Ushers</u> 9:00 Paula Campbell and Marty Solomon</p> <p>10:30 Rick and Patti Swanson</p> <p><u>Coffee Hour</u> 9:00 Marilyn Bridges and Val Hanson</p> <p>10:30 Potluck</p>
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<p>Sunday, May 22</p> <p><u>Lectors</u> 9:00 Craig Johnson</p> <p>10:30 Marie Mercier</p> <p><u>Sound Techs</u> 9:00 Eric Gustafson</p> <p>10:30 Randy Mercier</p> <p><u>Ushers</u> 9:00 Becky Gustafson</p> <p>10:30 Beckie Kanipe</p> <p><u>Coffee Hour</u> 9:00 Darlene Hettel and Bill Yost</p> <p>10:30 Marie Mercier and Bonnie James</p>	<p>Sunday, May 29</p> <p><u>Lector</u> 9:00 Dave Koenig</p> <p>10:30 Barb Hazlett</p> <p><u>Sound Tech</u> 9:00 Scott Hanson</p> <p>10:30 Eric Gustafson</p> <p><u>Usher</u> 9:00 Karla Anderson</p> <p>10:30 Phil Kuusisto</p> <p><u>Coffee Hour</u> 9:00 Roger and Rhonda Pitts</p> <p>10:30 Marilyn Pratt and Cheryl Ray</p>
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- *Laurie K, friend of Cherly R, Cancer
- *Kathy G, knee replacement surgery
- *Scott N, son of Bruce and Chris N, cancer
- *Rhonda P, healing from surgery
- *Kathy K, Carolyn & Dale E's daughter, endometrial cancer
- *Ron M, son in law of Bob & Marcia S, triple bypass surgery recovery
- *Dick S, Stacie W's father, dementia
- *Fatima, Nailya C's sister, lives in Ukraine
- *Bob H, healing
- *Phil P, cancer
- *Wendy M, healing

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



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.

Continuing
prayer requests:

- * Deb B
- * Nancy G
- * Allena M
- * Janet S

Prayer is essentially a type of meditation.

The benefits of meditation—reducing stress, increasing patience and tolerance, reducing negative emotions, and promoting good mental health are well known and well documented.



WOW!

During the current violent war situation in the Ukraine, Lutheran Disaster Relief has asked for donations to help meet the needs of their people. Since our very own, Nailya Cederstrom, Music Coordinator for Zion, has a sister, Fatima, living there, our congregation has been trying to find ways to help the Ukraine in support of Nailya and her sister.

The ladies of Zion Stitchery decided to hold a Silent Quilt Auction to raise money for the Ukrainians. As a result of the three hour silent auction, held on April 24th, the generosity of the people of Zion raised a whopping

\$2,408.00

to be sent to Lutheran Disaster Relief to help meet the needs of the Ukrainian people.

Our thanks to the Stitchery quilters, and the many who participated with over the top bids. We have a congregation that steps up whenever there is a need and participates generously.

Many, many thanks to you all.....

To whom much has been given, much will be expected (Luke 12:48).....and the people of Zion always come through, even beyond expectations.

THANKS BE TO GOD

Activities at Zion



Zion Book Club will be meeting Tuesday, May 10th at 4:00 p.m. They will be discussing the book The Charm Bracelet by Viola Shipman.

Marilyn Ulander is the hostess.

Book Synopsis: On her birthday each year, Lolly's mother gave her a charm, along with the advice that there is nothing more important than keeping family memories alive, and so Lolly's charm bracelet would be a constant reminder of that love. Now, seventy years old and starting to forget things, Lolly knows time is running out to reconnect with a daughter and granddaughter whose lives have become too busy for Lolly or her family stories. But when Arden, Lolly's daughter, receives an unexpected phone call about her mother, she and granddaughter Lauren rush home.



The Lunch Bunch

May Lunch Bunch will meet at Helsels 13th Street Market & Restaurant on Thursday, May 19th at noon.



Prayer Shawl Ministry meets at Zion the first Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. for all interested knitters.



Quilt Stitchery Group meets the second and fourth Monday of each month from 9:30 to 11:30.

More hands are needed and welcome.

He walked three miles to the woman's house and returned the money.

Imagine that you lived at the same time as Abraham Lincoln. What would you say to him or ask him?

I'd tell him not to go to a play ever.

I just read a book on marriage that says treat your wife like you treated her on the first date.

So after dinner tonight I'm dropping her off at her parents' house.

TIME FOR A SMILE



Education is important
But coffee is importanter!



A pastor giving a children's sermon on vestments asked: "Why do you think I wear this collar?"
One kid answered: "Because it kills ticks and fleas up to 30 days?"

Mr. Clark, I have reviewed this case very carefully,' the divorce Court Judge said, 'And I've decided to give your wife \$775 a week.'

"That's very fair, your honor," the husband said. "And every now and then I'll try to send her a few bucks myself." 😊



Zion Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 314
350 Pearl St.
Cadillac, MI 49601



TOWER TOPICS

May 2022

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

On line Worship Service

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

In house Worship Services

Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Communion Services

1st & 3rd Sundays - both Services

Sunday School

2nd & 4th Sundays @ 9:15 a.m.

Ending May 22nd for summer