

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
1557 W. Seidlers Road  
Auburn, MI 48611  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*The mission of Zion Lutheran Church & School is to better know and show Christ's love.*

# 2026 April/May Messenger





## 2026 April/May Messenger

Senior Pastor: Rev. Andrew Menz 989-513-0197 [andrewmenz@gmail.com](mailto:andrewmenz@gmail.com)

Associate Pastor: Rev. Seth Hemme 989-600-5343 [pastorhemme@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorhemme@yahoo.com)

Principal: Mrs. Susan Klauer [sklauer@zionauburn.com](mailto:sklauer@zionauburn.com)

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## "It Is Finished"

How often have we hit the sack at the end of the day with worries and anxiety over things we have left undone, incomplete, or unfinished? We know that the unfinished tasks of today will be waiting for us tomorrow-be it homework assignments, reports, taxes, emails, and more. There are projects at home or at work that need to be finished. Finished is not a word that we apply too often to what we have done.

When we look at our own lives, we see little that is finished. Too frequently relationships with family and friends are left undeveloped and unfinished, especially when we don't get our way. The bookkeeping that we use to keep track of the wrongs others do and the small columns of our own good reveal how unfaithful and unfinished our lives truly are. Even our relationship with God is broken and unfinished because of our sin. When we try to fix it with our own small attempts at doing good, our relationship remains incomplete. Finished? No, we really can't say, "It is finished."

In fact, there is only One who has been able to say "It is finished"-the Author and Finisher of our faith, Jesus the Christ. As He hung on the cross, He proclaimed "It is finished," not in defeat, but in victory. His task of our salvation is fully, completely, and stunningly accomplished. For our sake God made Jesus, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. On the cross Jesus offered for us a full, sufficient, and perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world-including yours and mine. On the cross Jesus finished the great work of our salvation that God had begun so long ago. What we could not do for ourselves, not even in an incomplete way, God has done for us. Because we could not reach up to God, He reached down to us, to become one of us, and in the death and resurrection of His Son, He finished what He had begun.

As far as our salvation, what is there to be done by us? Nothing. Is there anything in our salvation that we need to finish? Nothing. Is there anything that can condemn us and keep us from Christ Jesus? Nothing! Remember what Jesus said. "It is finished."

In Christ,

Pastor Hemme



### Join us for Holy Week Worship

**Maudy Thursday w/communion**

**6:30pm**

**Good Friday**

**9:00am & 6:30pm**

**Saturday Easter Vigil w/communion**

**5:30pm**

**Easter Sunrise Worship w/communion**

**7:00am & 9:00am**

**Easter Breakfast served 8:00am-10:30am**

# News from the Principal

## Spreading God's Word Here in Michigan

When Jesus went to Heaven, He said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the end of the age." Usually, when people think about this verse, they think about going far away, often to a different country, to spread the Gospel. However, we can spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ right here in Michigan.

We share Jesus many ways here at 1557 Seidlers Road. For example, the congregation provides most of our tuition to go to Zion Lutheran School. Without them, a lot of the students here would not be able to come here. They enable many kids to get an education while learning all about Jesus. This is one of the ways we share Jesus here at 1557 Seidlers Road.

We can also share Jesus in many ways in our community and world. One of the ways we do so is through prayer partners. We can encourage each other to be faithful, like Mrs. Engelhardt did when she was my prayer partner. We can also do things like attending local Christian events, or we can volunteer. Times of fellowship, like Lenten dinners, are times where we can encourage each other to have strong faith. The Easter Egg Hunt also is a great way to connect people from our community to celebrate Easter.

Sharing Jesus and God's Word can be very hard. Many places shame Christians just for believing in God. However, you can get to meet many amazing people while sharing God's Word. We are blessed to be able to share God's Word and be Christians without being discriminated against. I have not been around anyone while knowing that they are not Christian, but I have encouraged my prayer partner to be strong in faith.

In summary, we share God's Word and are missionaries here every day. Whether we are at school or at home or anywhere else, we can always share the Word of God with others. Sharing God's Word can just be little things like encouragement. It doesn't need to be anything big or difficult. We should be faithful wherever we are and be a blessing to those around us.

Samuel Bright, Zion 7<sup>th</sup> Grader



The Bay City Noon Optimist Club had their Annual Youth Appreciation Luncheon. Schools in the area have been asked to nominate a student that may be a quiet leader who lifts others and strengthens their community, or whose leadership shows up in kindness, reliability, and support. This student is someone who leads without a spotlight, and impacts their peers, and yet quietly strengthens our community through service, empathy, and responsibility.

Zion nominated 8th grader Makayla Schwannecke! Makayla was honored on March 10<sup>th</sup> at the luncheon, accompanied by her parents and Mrs. Hemme.

Congratulations Makayla!

## News from Preschool

This month we have slowly, but surely started to look forward to spring! Preschoolers created a village, added soil and grass seed to grow their own yards! We made peanut butter, bird seed and pinecone bird feeders and are learning about the plant life cycle. We are observing lent by reading through our "All Around Jerusalem." count down to Easter book and continuing with our Enduring Faith curriculum.

We are enrolling students for Summer Care! We have a really big group already signed up with only a few more spots available. Summer is a great time here at Zion, with exciting activities planned each day. Please contact Ms.Lacie if you have any questions.

In His Service, Lacie Steelmon



April is Mite month for LWML. If you would like to contribute, there are mite boxes to take home and fill. They are located in the Narthex right beside the wooden mite box on the table. You can return your mite boxes by placing them in the wooden mite box at any time. **Thank you for your support.**

## Our 2026 Confirmands

*Aiden Boyat  
Matthew Hemme  
Carter Rossow  
Makayla Schwannecke  
Konnor Tomczak  
Mya Tomczak  
Graham Varner*



Confirmation marks the opportunity for individual Christians, relying on God's promise given in Holy Baptism, to make a personal, public confession of the faith and a lifelong pledge of fidelity to Christ. Prior to Confirmation day, students (also called catechumens) engage in a time of instruction where they learn the primary teachings of the Christian Church as summarized in Martin Luther's Small Catechism.

At Zion, Junior Confirmation preparation generally involves two years of instruction which is completed during the seventh and eighth grade years. In addition to class work, students are given the opportunity to serve the congregation as ushers and through other service projects. Junior Confirmation classes are taught by Zion's pastors and are held each weekday morning for students in Zion Lutheran School and Sundays during Bible Study time for students attending public school. If you would like more information about enrolling a student in Zion's confirmation program please contact Pastor Hemme.

While Confirmation is not an end to Christian instruction, it does mark a significant milestone in the fulfillment of the Lord's command to make disciples by "teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." sponsors are particularly encouraged to make sure that those they sponsored are being taught the faith.

On Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, our second year confirmation students will make their public profession of faith and a promise of faithfulness to Christ through the Rite of Confirmation. May God keep them faithful to their promise.

## Confirmation Meeting

An organizational meeting and usher training for those who will be in Junior Confirmation instruction during the 2026/27 school year will be **Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>** following the worship service. It is expected that students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will participate in Junior Confirmation instruction. If you need more information about enrolling your student in Zion's confirmation program please contact Pastor Hemme.



**Are you graduating High School or College?** Please share the news and join us on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at the 9:00 AM service so we might recognize you for your accomplishments. Call the office or send an email with your name, school, and degree achieved. Congratulations on a job well done!



Mrs. Julie List, Lily Steelmon, Molly Riker, and members from St. John Lutheran, Midland spent a week in Cambodia sharing God's word and volunteering. Throughout the week they helped with flouride treatments, painted four murals, and helped with ESL classes (English Second Language), VBS and a youth gathering. They also visited families in their homes and schools giving out donations. God works in wondrous ways! Thank you for your support.

PRAISE  
REMEMBER  
ASK  
YIELD  
EXCITEMENT  
REJOICE

**LUTHERAN WOMEN  
IN MISSION  
PRAYER DAY / RALLY**

**Saturday, May 2, 2026**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church  
10020 E Monroe Rd, Wheeler, MI**

**8:30 am Registration & Breakfast**

**9:30 am Prayer Service & Meeting**

**Gifts from the Heart collections requested -**

**For Hope Works Mid-Michigan: Quick & Easy Breakfasts  
(Cereal, Granola Bars, Canned Fruit, Oatmeal, Pop-Tarts,  
Coffee Mate, Paper Towels, Coffee Cups)**

**Please RSVP if attending to:**

**DeAnna Roberts 989-980-9813 by April 27**

**Registration is \$5.00, payable at the door**

**There will be a MITE Collection separate from registration**

"If you cannot attend but would like to contribute to the Gifts from the Heart please put your items in the box in the narthex labeled so by April 26. Call Luanne Wegener 989-948-4426 by April 26 if you can attend."

**Join us in the rainforest, June 21-25!**

Each night VBS will open in the gym at 6:00PM and wrap up at 8:30PM. Dinner is served each night for your convenience starting at 5:00PM.



**Church camp- July 22<sup>nd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>**

Join us at Groveland Oaks county park! We have 3 group sites reserved with room for 45 total electrical hookups. If you are interested, please sign up and pay by May 1<sup>st</sup>. The cost is \$100 for the whole 6 nights. You can check in as early as 8:00 am on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and check out is as late as 11:00am on the 28<sup>th</sup>. You are welcome to stay as many or few of those days as you wish all at the same cost. Please contact Gail @ 989-415-8170 or Gary @ 989-205-1598 if you have any questions. We currently have 40 campers interested.

**BOOK THIS CELEBRATION**

**DUE DATE: MAY 17, 2026**

Please join us in celebrating the retirement of  
**Mrs. Susan Klauer**

Church Service at 9:00 am followed by a brunch and entertainment in gym

AUTHOR		GOD
TITLE		THE SAGA OF SUSAN'S SUCCESSES
CHECKED IN	CHECKED OUT	
1983	1985	Public Education
1985	1988	Lutheran High Northwest
1988	1995	Public Education
1995	2000	Our Savior, Armada
2000	2012	St. Peter's, Richmond
2012	2015	St. Paul, Millington
2015	2021	Trinity, Monitor
2021	2023	Peace, Shelby Twp.
2023	2026	Zion, Auburn
RSVP: 989.662.4264		Worship and celebration will take place at Zion Lutheran, 1557 Seidlers Road Auburn, MI 48611



JOIN US IN THE CAFETERIA FOR **FOOD, DRINKS AND CARDS**

# EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>



Tournament starts at 6:30 PM  
Entry is \$5

Don't forget quarters for euchres

All Proceeds will benefit the 2027 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Trip

Join us for

# EARTH DAY

When: Friday, April 24th

Time: 11:00 - ? - Bring your own picnic lunch

What We Are Doing: We will be cleaning up the grounds and prepping for the greenhouse.

What to Bring: Any garden tools, especially rakes, wheelbarrows, gloves, etc.



Zion Lutheran School's

# PLANT SALE

Friday, May 8th  
2:00 PM -  
3:30PM

\$1 per  
plant

Please bring a box to carry your plants home!



**SAVE THE DATE!**

# FISH FRY

Zion's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fish Fry

**TUESDAY, JULY 14**

MORE  
INFORMATION TO  
COME & MORE  
FRYERS.

At Zion's Pavilion





**Zion's Vacation Bible School**  
**Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>—Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:00pm—8:30pm**

Open to children entering Preschool –6<sup>th</sup> grade this Fall 2026.

At Rainforest Falls, kids explore the nature of God— discovering who God is and how much he loves them! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies, and test out sciency-fun experiments they'll never forget. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Canopy Closing that gets everyone

involved in living what they've learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for Canopy Closing.

**\*Please register so we have enough supplies and volunteers.**

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's age: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade entering in Fall 2026: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

✚ ADDITIONAL Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

**I, \_\_\_\_\_ will volunteer to help with VBS.**

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred area or task:** \_\_\_\_\_

**⇨Dinner is served each evening between 5:00-5:50pm.**

How many in your family and what days will you be joining us for dinner?

Sun #: \_\_\_\_\_ Mon #: \_\_\_\_\_ Tues #: \_\_\_\_\_ Wed #: \_\_\_\_\_ Thurs #: \_\_\_\_\_

Zion Lutheran Church & School 1557 W. Seidlers Rd, Auburn 989-662-4264  
 Email: office@zionauburn.com Website: zionauburn.com

# APRIL 2026

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH/SCHOOL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 			1 7:40 AM -6:00 PM Book Fair	2 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Worship w/communion	3 8:00 AM -12:00 PM Office Hours 9:00 AM & 6:30 PM Good Friday Worship	4 5:30 PM Easter Vigil w/communion
5 7:00 AM Easter Sunrise Worship w/communion 8:00 AM -10:30 AM Easter Breakfast 9:00 AM Easter w/communion	6 <u>Office Closed</u>	7 8:00 AM -3:00 PM Office Hours	8 8:00 AM -3:00 PM Office Hours 9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study & Quilting 6:30 PM Ladies of Zion meeting	9 8:00 AM -3:00 PM Office Hours	10 <u>Office Closed</u>	11 5:30 PM Worship w/communion
<b>Spring Break</b>						
12 9:00 AM Worship w/communion 10:15 AM Family Bible Hour	13 6:30 PM Council Meeting	14	15 9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study & Quilting	16	17	18 5:30 PM Worship K-2nd gr Sing
19 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Family Bible Hour	20 6:30 PM BCDS Meeting	21	22 9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study & Quilting	23	24 11:00 AM Earth Day Clean-up	25 8:30 AM Track Meet @VLHS 5:30 PM Worship w/communion
26 9:00 AM Worship w/communion 10:15 AM Family Bible Hour 10:15 AM New Student Confirmation Meeting	27 6:30 PM Elder's meeting	28	29 9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study & Quilting	30		

# MAY 2026

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH/SCHOOL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																					
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