

Bulletin for Sunday, October 24, 2021 For Distribution

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸**Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has**

brought upon the earth;

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰**“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Gospel – John 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?” ³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The Gospel of our Lord!
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Reformation – Confirmation Sunday 2021 John 8:31-36

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

The sound rang clear on the doors of the Wittenberg Castle Church.

On All Hallows' Eve, the day before All Saints Day in 1517, Dr. Martin Luther, Augustinian Monk, and academic, nailed the Ninety-Five Theses to the doors.

Luther's hope was that many of the academics of the Wittenberg University and other people would see the multiple reforms to the Roman Catholic Church that he thought were needed. The main disputation was against the sale of indulgences (the purchase of salvation forgiveness) by the Roman Catholic Church. Luther's scripture study also revealed to him that we are not justified by good works and can earn salvation. Rather we are justified by faith apart from the works. In other words, God through Christ comes to us and chooses to love us freely and unconditionally. Salvation and the heavenly promises of eternal life are a gift not to be earned.

This notion was earth shattering. Without hesitation someone ripped the 95 Theses off the door, ran to the nearest Guttenberg Printing Press and the rest is history. Many 10s of thousands of tracts with Luther's Theses were distributed across the Deutschland Germany. A new Reformation, a new Protestant movement and eventual Lutheran church was soon formed.

Now, many could not read at the time. That was part of the problem of the day. Everything the church said was in Latin, the ancient language and not in the German vernacular. Most of the time when it came to worship the laity could not understand what the priests said. Therefore, if someone more learned were to share these facts it must have been true.

Covid has forced us all to take part in what is a new Reformation. Technology has become a very important tool in the continued process of getting the Word of God to people. During the time that we were unable to gather, the message still got out online or on tv. Now when planning worship we consider the hybrid- both online and in-person-manner in which we worship. Covid has forced every church to evaluate and adapt their conduct for everything from holding meetings, teaching confirmation classes, how we connect with those shut-in, preaching the gospel, how we share in the Lord's meal, how we sing while wearing masks, maintaining social

distancing, how we promote ourselves on social media, and how we keep people informed about activities on Facebook. The wider church has even found a way to connect in new ways. The Eastern Synod Assembly was held online this year which saved travel costs for all of our churches. As fast as we can take our next breath, the world continues and the church is changing.

God's love for us is never changing. It is everlasting! What can change is how we respond to his love. As we follow God in faithfulness, our response can be one of action. Why not individually support one of the community projects the church supports? Or choose an agency in our community that might benefit from your support? Or take on a project of Canadian Lutheran World Relief. As I challenge you I must also say that I commend all of you for giving away every dollar that you raise through our regular fundraising events. That is a response to God's love.

May you always know that you are saved by grace alone through faith alone...it is a gift from God. God's love is freely given. Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation.

We pray for all who long for a word of truth and for the radical grace that flows from the cross. Inspire congregations to freely and boldly proclaim your love for all people with persistence and hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for your creation, for mountains, rivers, streams, cities, homesteads, and neighborhoods. Write in our hearts a new love and care for creation. Give us the will to curb wasteful habits and to hold accountable those who neglect the vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all who long for healing in mind, body, or spirit (*especially*). Strengthen hospitals, clinics, counseling centers, nursing homes, and recovery centers to be holy spaces of renewal that all might live the abundant life you intend. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all who seek to grow in faith and love of you. Guide our young people who are affirming their faith this morning. Grant them a faithful relationship with you O Lord. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for all the saints and reformers who have gone before us who dwell in your holy habitation (*especially*). Give us courage through their example to challenge unjust systems and work toward life-giving reformation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life.

Amen.

News & Announcements

Please Pray for Those Who are Ill, in Hospital, or Requested Special

Prayers: Florence Felske, Jason Godin, Richard Hubert, Stanley Kubiseskie, Heather Miller, Vince Rabishaw, Aileen Roesler, Joan Schimmens, Mae Schizkoske, Kaitlyn Vaillancourt, Dorian Verch, Ryan.

Congratulations Is Extended To Those Affirming Their Faith

Please pray for those confirmands who will be affirming their faith today: Meara Caughey, Rachel Howell, Madison Kuehl, Jacob Landon, Daniel Reid, Jayne Reid, Hannah Schmidt, Jaeven Toney, Avery Trader.

RETURN TO FULL HOLY COMMUNION

We have returned to full Holy Communion with Bread and Wine. We will only be using the individual cups. The ushers will direct you forward in the middle. Maintain social distancing. You will receive the bread from Pastor Scott and a cup will be given to you by the assisting minister. After drinking the wine you can return your empty cup to the side wall at the front and return to your seat. Masks must be worn but obviously moved to consume the bread and wine. Please remember to social distance.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A reminder to everyone that we will be holding a congregational meeting on Sunday November 14 immediately following the worship service to discuss the selling of our rental property on Miller Street. Please plan to attend this important meeting. Susan Dupuis Church Council Chairperson

LECTIONARY (FOLLOWING SUNDAY LESSONS STUDY) Every Tuesday at 10am we will gather for a casual study of the Gospel for the following week.

CONFIRMATION 6:15pm Wednesday

SECOND WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP

Join us beginning at confirmation age for fun and fellowship.

Council Retreat on November 13th.

ELCIC BIBLE BOOK CLUB

Please join us for a study on the book of Deuteronomy. Please try and read as much as you can but don't worry if you haven't read it all.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HAS BEGUN AGAIN!

The Sunday School Classes are back in! Just show up. No need to register. Friends are welcome.

OFFICE HOURS

There has been a slight change to the office hours. The church office will now be open on Mondays from 9am until 2pm, Wednesday and Thursdays from 9am until 12 noon. This change is on a trial period to help accommodate those who cannot make it into the office in the mornings.

GARAGE SALE UPDATE

Thank you to everybody for all your donated treasures for the garage sale held on October 16th. We had another very successful year. Zion is a very generous congregation. We are so blessed. Together we raised \$2,649.25. 50% will be donated to the Robbie Dean Center and the other 50% will be donated to the Bernadette McCann House. Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who came out and donated their time to organize, clean, and price some items every day, the week preceding the garage sale. It is quite an organizational feat to bring order to the first day of chaos. Our volunteers have a flare for displaying and making things look pleasing... well, as best as we can in the space we have. It is a great team working together and having fun too. We enjoyed a tasty lunch on the day of the garage sale, all the volunteers brought in something to share. Thank you to the volunteers who came in near the end of the sale to pack everything up and sweep the floor to get things back to normal. It is a relief to have people with fresh energy to help. The leftover items were donated to Value Village and Mission Thrift Store. Some books were dropped off at Heritage Manor. It is amazing what we can accomplish when we work together. Not only did we raise money to help those in need, we tidied up our homes by decluttering which in turn helped people who could use those things we no longer used. Our Garage Sale is good stewardship of resources. Thanks be to God!

ZLW NEWS

1. The ZLW are collecting school supplies for children who may not have what they need. Simply bring them in and put them in the foodbank box - HB Pencils, Large glue sticks, Coloured pencil crayons. Pens (blue or black ink). White glue. Highlighter pens. Geometry set. Waxed crayons Washable markers Metric ruler Erasers 3-ringed lined paper. Also, the ZLW are again

gathering donations for the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Please consider giving. The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement for justice, peace, and reconciliation led *by* Christian women *for* women and girls all over the world.

2. Our ZLW will be meeting this Wednesday, November 3rd. The program is entitled "Peace" and will be lead by Janet Schultze-Jones. Please wear your poppy.

SERVICE BROADCAST ON COGECO

Cogeco Community Channel is now broadcasting Zion's services at 9:00 a.m. and 12:30pm (if it is not on at 12:30, it will be on at 1:30pm) on Sunday mornings a week later.

COFFEE HOUR RETURNS

We are finally able to hold coffee hour in the parish hall following our worship services. We invite all members who have had 2 covid vaccinations. This rule has been put in place by the Ontario Government anytime that an event takes place where masks are being removed. We ask that you continue to wear your mask until you are seated at a table. We are looking forward to seeing the smiling faces and hear the chatter of voices as we re-connect.

ST JOSEPH FOOD BANK UPDATE

St. Joseph's food bank could use your help! We are currently serving 80 – 100 families per week. Because of COVID restrictions and closures of places during this time, our donations were very low and our shelves pretty empty. Just some ideas for things we give in their food order.

1. Soup
2. Box of cereal
3. Pasta and Sauce
4. Canned Veggies
5. Juice
6. Peanut Butter
7. Canned Fruit
8. Coffee (instant or perked), Tea Bags

9. Sugar

We also make up school packs for children so they will have something to eat while there. This includes drinking boxes, puddings, granola bags (nut free), tins of flakes ham, snacks like Bear Paws. Also we need Ensure bottles or smaller plastic bottles (no glass) or vitamin bottles for dividing detergent and dishwashing liquid into smaller amounts so that everyone who needs these products will get some. Donations can be deposited in the box at the top of the stairs. Thank you for your support. We appreciate even the smallest donation. God Bless! – Debbie Sitkiewicz

JAM JAR FUNDRAISER

Every year the Social Ministry Committee holds the Jam Jar Fundraiser to raise money to help with some cause. This year we have chosen our Lutherlyn Camp and Conference Centre. We are kicking off the event today, Thanksgiving Sunday. We ask that you pick up a jam jar and fill it with spare change or paper if you like. Please bring it back by All Saints Sunday, November 7th. Lutherlyn is such a beautiful camp. With our help and support to upkeep and help it to improve it will continue to host children and families long into the future. Thank you for your support. Your Social Ministry Committee.

CAMP LUTHERLYN 100 X 100 IN 100 CAMPAIGN

As previewed at the AGM, now that the Comfort Station is complete the team at Camp Lutherlyn is turning its attention to the next Legacy Project. Hoffman Beach is a beautiful underused area and an important part of the camp's sustainable future. We are looking for 100 people to contribute \$100 in the next 100 days! Help us reach our goal. Your donation can be provided in one of four ways. You will receive a charitable tax receipt for the full amount. As we have been able to weather the pandemic, this year's fundraising campaign will go to Legacy Funds. We look forward to telling members, partners and friends of Camp Lutherlyn more in the months to come. Thank you for your contributions and the Camp Lutherlyn team looks forward to engaging you on future use and programming at Hoffman. - Robert Tremblay, Secretary, Camp Lutherlyn

SPECIAL VISITOR NOVEMBER 28TH – BISHOP MICHAEL PRYSE

The Bishop will be joining us for the first week of Advent.

This Week at Zion – November 1 - 7

Tues	10am	Lectionary Bible Study
	7pm	Worship & Music Cte. Mtg.
	7pm	Narcotics Anonymous
Wed	2pm	ZLW Mtg.
	6:15pm	Confirmation Class
	7pm	Men's Choir Practice
Thurs	10am	Horticultural Executive Mtg.
	7pm	Mixed Choir Practice
	7pm	Music Healing Vets
Sunday	10am	Worship Service with Holy Communion