



SERMON ON THE MOUNT

The manifesto of God's kingdom

ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONROE, MI

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

IN JESUS' NAME WE WELCOME YOU!

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 8 & 12, 2023

WELCOME TO ZION. It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will strengthen your faith and fill your heart with the peace only God can give and the joy we have in believing that JESUS CHRIST is our Savior from sin.

Worship Focus: The Law of God cannot be minimized, but must be understood in its fullness. Jesus makes the demands of the law clear and lays bare our need for a Savior.

Liturgy: Service of the Word

CW pg. 38

OPENING HYMN: *CW 367*

“Christ Be My Leader”

REDEEMER

367

Christ Be My Leader



1 Christ be my lead - er by night as by day,
2 Christ be my teach - er in age as in youth,
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife;



Safe through the dark - ness, for he is the way.
Drift - ing or doubt - ing, for he is the truth.
Death can - not hold me, for he is the life. Nor



Glad - ly I fol - low, my fu - ture his care;
Grant me to trust him, though shift - ing as sand.
dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor sin and its stain Can



Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
Doubt can - not daunt me— in Je - sus I stand!
touch my sal - va - tion— with Je - sus I reign!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926. © 1964. Renewed 1992 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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Tune: SLANE (Irregular) Irish folk tune.

P: The grace of our Lord (✠) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

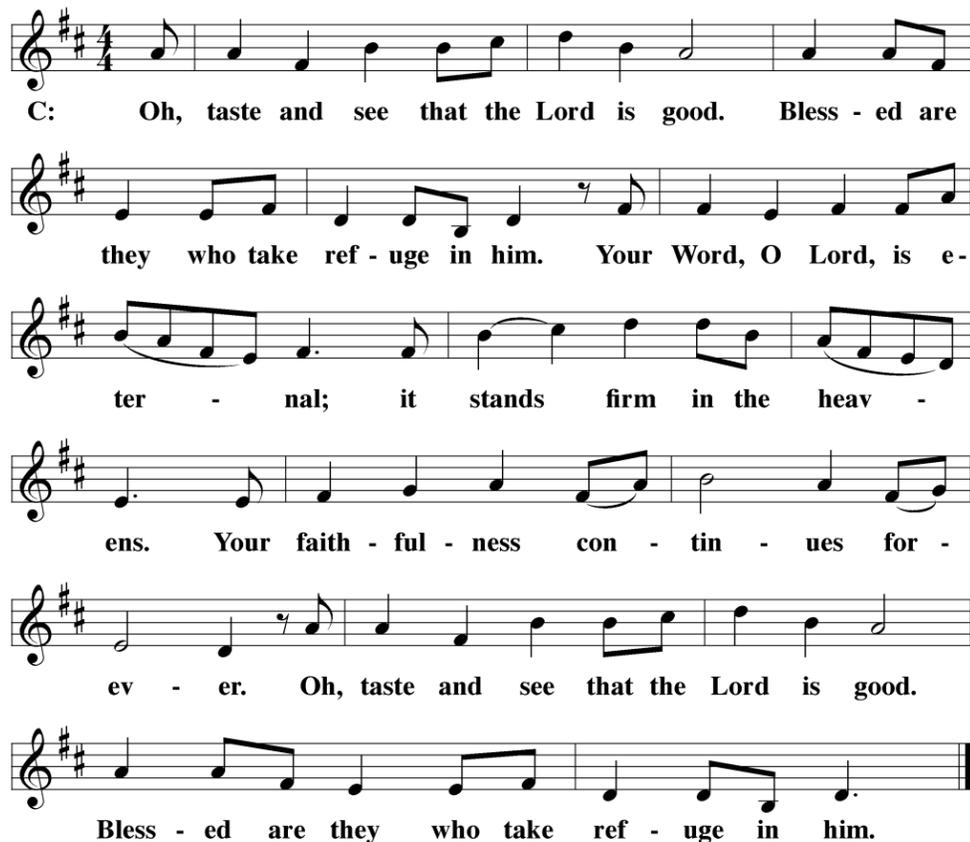
C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

The minister says the Prayer of the Day.

Lord God, in mercy receive the prayers of your people. Grant them the wisdom to know the things that please you and the grace and power always to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



THE WORD

First Lesson

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ See now, today I have set before you life and prosperity, death and disaster. ¹⁶ This is what I am commanding you today: Love the LORD your God, walk in his ways, and keep his commandments, his statutes, and his ordinances. Then you will live and increase in number, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are going to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you do not listen, and you are lured away, and you bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ then I declare to you today that you will most certainly perish. You will not live a long life on the land that you are about to enter and possess by crossing over the Jordan. ¹⁹ I call the heavens and the earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, a blessing and a curse. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live ²⁰ by loving the LORD your God, by listening to his voice, and by clinging to him, because that means life for you, and you will live a long life on your land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (EHV)

Refrain

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Psalm tone

Blessed are they whose ways are blameless,*
who walk according to the law of the LORD.

Blessed are they who keep his statutes*
and seek him with all their heart.

You have laid down precepts*
that are to be fully obeyed.

Refrain

Oh, that my ways were steadfast*
in obeying your decrees!

Then I would not be put to shame*
when I consider all your commands.

I will praise you with an upright heart*
as I learn your righteous laws.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

⁶ Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature, but it is not a wisdom of this world or of the rulers of this world, who are being reduced to nothing. ⁷ Instead we speak God’s wisdom that has been hidden in mystery—before the ages, God foreordained that this wisdom would result in our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this world knew it. (If they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.) ⁹ But as it is written: What no eye has seen and no ear has heard and no human mind has conceived—that is what God has prepared for those who love him. ¹⁰ But God revealed it to us through his Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. ¹¹ Indeed, who among men knows a man’s thoughts except the man’s spirit within him? So also, no one else knows God’s thoughts except God’s Spirit. ¹² What we received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we might know the blessings freely given to us by God. ¹³ We also speak about these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual truths with spiritual words. (EHV)

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. (John 6:68 cf. NIV)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

COMMITMENT

464

Jesus Christ, My Pride and Glory



1 Je - sus Christ, my pride and glo - ry, He, the true and
 2 Let me live to praise you ev - er, Je - sus, now my
 3 Grant me, Lord, your Ho - ly Spir - it That in all I
 4 From all pain and im - per - fec - tion, Gra - cious Lord, de -



liv - ing light, Strength - ens me with glo - rious might.
 heart's de - light; You are lead - ing me a - right.
 fol - low him Lest the light of faith grow dim.
 liv - er me; Heav - en's glo - ry let me see.



Christ, re - vealed in sa - cred sto - ry, Whom I now as
 Let me cling to you for - ev - er, All the flesh - ly
 Let me ev - er trust your mer - it; Let your bless - ing
 Keep me un - der your di - rec - tion That the grace you



Lord con - fess, Teach - es me true ho - li - ness.
 lusts de - ny, And the dev - il's hosts de - fy.
 me at - tend; From all e - vil me de - fend.
 gave to me I may praise e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711, abr.; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt.

Tune: ACH, WAS SOLL ICH SÜNDER MACHEN (877 877) *Schäffer-Belustigung . . . Hirthen-Lieder*, Altdorf, 1653, alt.

SERMON TEXT AND THEME:

Matthew 5:20-37

²⁰ Indeed I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and experts in the law, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ²¹ “You have heard that it was said to people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment.’ ²² But I tell you that everyone who is angry with his brother without a cause will be subject to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, ‘*Raca*,’ will have to answer to the Sanhedrin. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of hell fire. ²³ “So if you are about to offer your gift at the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother. Then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ “If someone accuses you, reach an agreement with him quickly, while you are with him on the way. Otherwise your accuser may bring you to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you

will be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Amen I tell you: You will never get out until you have paid the last penny. ²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ²⁸ but I tell you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to fall into sin, pluck it out and throw it away from you. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ If your right hand causes you to fall into sin, cut it off and throw it away from you. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³¹ “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³² But I tell you that whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, causes her to be regarded as an adulteress. And whoever marries the divorced woman is regarded as an adulterer. ³³ “Again you have heard that it was said to people long ago, ‘Do not break your oaths, but fulfill your vows to the Lord.’ ³⁴ But I tell you, do not swear at all: not by heaven, because it is God’s throne; ³⁵ and not by earth, because it is his footstool; and not by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ And do not swear by your own head, since you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ Instead, let your statement be, ‘Yes, yes,’ or ‘No, no.’ Whatever goes beyond these is from the Evil One. (EHV)

“YOU HAVE HEARD THAT IT WAS SAID . . . BUT I TELL YOU.”

APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

pg. 42

P: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

P: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

P: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

P: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

P: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

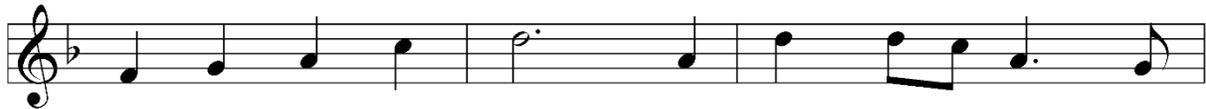
CHRISTIAN LOVE

493

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” You
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless The
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals The
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls And



taught us, Lord, to pray, But you a - lone can
 un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and
 truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are
 bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in



grant us grace To live the words we say.
 will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 owed to us; How great our debt to you!
 bonds of love Our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–87, alt. © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: DETROIT (CM) *A Supplement to the Kentucky Harmony*, Harrisonburg, 1820.

CLOSING PRAYER

P: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BENEDICTION

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (✚) give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

CLOSING HYMN: CW 323

“Almighty Father, Bless the Word”

CLOSE OF SERVICE

323

Almighty Father, Bless the Word



1 Al - mighty - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through your
2 We praise you for the means of grace As home - ward



grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pre - cious seed
now our steps we trace. Grant, Lord, that we who wor -



take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dant fruit.
shipped here May all at last in heav'n ap - pear.

Text: Scandinavian hymn; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnary*, Decorah, 1913, alt.
Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH (LM) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551.



Officiants

Accompanist: Mona Vitale

Wednesday Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Ross Ulrich

Sunday Liturgist: Pastor Greg Sitzman

Sunday Preacher: Pastor Ross Ulrich

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Ross Ulrich: 734-244-4553; rwulrich@zionmonroe.org

Pastor Greg Sitzman: 734-309-7877; gsitzman@zionmonroe.org

Principal: Bryan Schneck: 907-331-7761; bschneck@zionmonroe.org

Voters' Meeting Call Update:

At the January 29 Quarterly Voters' Meeting, the voters decided to gather more information before making a decision on calling a Head Pastor upon Pastor Ulrich's retirement. On Sunday February 26, there will be a special Open Forum at 10:15am and Special Voters' Meeting at 11:30am on this topic. Please mark your calendars for these important upcoming meetings.

FRIENDS IN FAITH: On Sunday, February 12th at 11:30 am, Cynthia Natsis will be presenting information on the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS). A light luncheon will be served. All women of the congregation who are interested are invited to attend.

BEEF JERKY FUNDRAISER: Zion School Upper Graders will be selling Lee's Market Beef Jerky from February 13-27 to fund their trip to Washington D.C. Please see any 5-8 grader or Deborah Hill to place an order.

ANNUAL STATEMENTS: The end of the year contribution statements are available to be picked up in the church office. They will be available in the office until Sunday, February 12. We will be mailing them out after that date.

FOOD PANTRY: The Zion Food Pantry at this time is being closed. We are no longer accepting food donations. With the future construction it has been determined at this time the collection of food is not prudent. If someone is in need please see either Pastor for needed assistance. We have an alternative program now available on a need basis.

Dear Ladies of Zion,

The funeral dinner list has recently been revised, from three groups to one large group. Sherry Fuerstenberg will head the Funeral Dinners and Kathy Wozniak will contact you to see if you are available for set up, serving or making a dessert on a rotating basis.

We will continue to have three groups for church cleanup.

- | | | |
|----------|---|----------|
| Group #1 | Brenda Chandonnet | 241-6857 |
| | Front of the church, Sacrastry, Balcony and Flowers | |
| Group #2 | Sherry Fuerstenberg | 654-3736 |
| | Church Proper (east foyer), Pews, Narthex, and back of Church | |
| Group #3 | Linda Johnson | 735-0090 |
| | Sue Moore | 735-7380 |
| | Mother's Room, Kitchen and Pantry | |

This year there are no Confirmands but we still would like to have our annual cleaning completed by Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023. The leaders will call to let you know when cleaning starts. Men, please feel free to come and help us!

Thanks to all who have helped in the past, continue to help and we pray we can continue to serve our Congregation faithfully together.

Sincerely,

Sherry Fuerstenberg

PLAYGROUP AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH: Come join parents and littles, children kindergarten or younger and their parents, to come have fun. They are meeting on Monday mornings from 8:30 until 10:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Albain Rd. Join for snacks, play and Christian fellowship. Contact Chelsea Kowalski at 507-766-5679 for any questions.

ZION CONGREGATION PARTICIPATION:

ART FAIR – The Zion Art Fair is planned for Sunday, March 5th. We would love items from the Zion Congregation to put in alongside the Zion School art projects. Please have all items into the Zion office by Monday, February 27. We look forward to all the beautiful artistic items. Thank you in advance for your participation.

ZION SCHOOL AUCTION – Zion is holding their bi-annual auction on Sunday, March 5th at noon. There will be live auction, silent auction, and raffle ticket items. We will also have some fun games to play before and after the auction. There will be a free will offering lunch available. If we have enough participation, we would love to have a bake sale this year – due to the pandemic at the last auction we were not able to have the bake sale.

SECURITY UPDATE: Zion Church Council has decided that starting on **Sunday, January 8th** for security reasons they will be **locking the school door entrance at 9:10 a.m.** If you get to church after 9:10 a.m. please use the other church entrances. Thank you.

PASTOR ULRICH RETIRING – Pastor Ulrich has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2023. The Board of Elders has recommendations for Zion in light of Pastor Ulrich's retirement.

THE BOARD OF SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP: The Board of Service and Fellowship has made the following updates to the Marriage Retreat to be held on March 17-19. We are looking forward to a fun and fulfilling God pleasing learning opportunity.

Location:

Faholo Christian Conference Center, 3000 Mt.Hope Road, Grass Lake, Michigan 49240

Facilitator: Pastor Randy Hunter

Cost Per Person: \$200.00 includes 2 night lodging 4 meals Snacks and refreshment during sessions. Hotel style rooms.

This also covers the use of conference room and AV equipment, all retreat learning materials. This also covers the expenses of the Facilitator.

Many other amenities including an indoor pool are available.

Payment:

Checks made payable to: Zion Lutheran Church

Payable on or prior to March 1, 2023

At this time, we are full for the marriage retreat. So the sign-up sheet has been removed.

SISTERS IN CHRIST RETREAT

Registration is now open for the Sisters in Christ retreat. Please join us April 14-16, 2023, at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center in East Lansing! We will dive into God's Word, refresh our souls, and build up our Sisters in Christ as we focus on our theme: **"My Grace is sufficient for you, because My Power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9** The retreat is intended for women of the WELS/ELS and their guests. In addition, please visit our website www.sistersinchristretreat.org for complete details and registration information. Please note, an early bird discount is in effect through January 31, but registration will continue through February 28th. **We also have flyers in both foyers with additional information.**



LUTHERAN CAMPSITE ASSOCIATION SPECIAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 19, 2023 at 2:30pm

***Killarney Lutheran Camp
1200 Chisholm Rd.
Onsted, MI 49265***

This special meeting is being called to approve the loan from LACE (Lutheran Association for Church Extension) to rewire the camp property, including the camp manager's house. The loan will also be used to level the house's foundation, replace the siding, roof, windows and sills, and make other improvements.

Please contact Board President John Rettle at (517) 260-4577 or jrettle@wilburellis.com, if you plan to attend. This announcement is being made to comply with the Lutheran Campsite Association Constitution and Bylaws. You will be informed if this meeting date needs to be changed. Contact John if you have any questions. We will let you know if a virtual option becomes available.

HVL NEWS:

New Logo & Seal for HVL's new name: Hope Christian Academy



Hope Christian Academy is owned and operated by an association of WELS congregations
Logomark - Using the 4 C's of our educational philosophy: Christian, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication; these 4 C's are linked and centered around the cross to keep the focus on Christ. The icon also can be seen as a flower to represent the growing and blooming generations to come through Hope.

Questions, Comments, Feedback - Please contact us at 734-525-0160 or mfoley@hvlhs.org if you have any questions or would like more information about the changes taking place at HVL for next school year.

PLANNING AHEAD FOR FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME: Zion Annual Killarney Camp-out is scheduled for Friday- Sunday, August 4-6th. So on that note please read the following:

Dear Zion Members,

Think spring, think May 26th.(Memorial Day Week-end), think Killarney Lutheran Camp. It's getting time to start sitting at my table and collect Booster dues! Yearly dues are still only \$40.00 and the Lifetime membership is \$400.00.

Zion continues to be the top supporter of the camp!! We have 13 Lifetime Booster memberships, what a blessing.

This year, I'm having a contest with my son Dan, who now is a member at St. Stephen's in Adrian and their Rep for Killarney. We're going to see who can get the most Boosters. In 2022, Zion had 30 and we have had the most Boosters from any church, for the last five years. Thank you very much!

Please know that even if you are a Lifetime Booster, Killarney would appreciate any donation to the camp! Many projects are being planned to make improvements to the property, the camping area, cabins, and the manager's house.

I will start collecting the second week in February and the beginning of March.

God Bless,
Sherry Fuerstenberg
Killarney Booster Rep for Zion

COMING UP AT ZION

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
 10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Group and Adult Bible Class
 Monday 7:00 p.m. Board of Education Meeting
 Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Bible Class
 1:30 p.m. Worship (IC)
 5:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting
 Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Worship Service (IC)
 Thursday 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting
 Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship Service (IC/CC)
 10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Group and Adult Bible Class

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

	Feb. 1 & 5	Feb. 8 & 12	Feb. 15 & 19	Feb. 22 & 26
ALTAR GUILD		Deanna	Schneck	
LIVE STREAM HELPERS	Steve Sordahl	Rob Krueger	Need Volunteer	Miller Sordahl
USHERS	<u>Feb. 1</u> Rob Krueger Ralph Naveaux Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny <u>Feb. 5</u> Tony Affholter Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier Jeff Douglas	<u>Feb. 12</u> Joe Koch Dave Bengé Joe Schmeling	<u>Feb. 15</u> Joe Koch Dave Bengé Joe Schmeling <u>Feb. 19</u> Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson Alan Bober	<u>Feb. 26</u> Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Jake Burke Juergan Koenig Matt McCormick