

“Have mercy on me!

Mark 10:47



Zion Lutheran Church

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A member of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*Can we pray the way
Bartimaeus prays?
People try to hush him
up because by ad-
dressing Jesus as "Son
of David" he is making
a politically dangerous
claim that Jesus is the
rightful king. Could our
prayers ever be heard
as a threat to unjust
powers that be? Barti-
maeus won't give up or
go away quietly, but
repeats his call for help
more loudly. Do we ask
so boldly? And are our
prayers an honest an-
swer to Jesus' ques-
tion, "What do you want
me to do for you?"*

*The Holy Spirit calls us
together as the people
of God.*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, October 24, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

"As God's children, we go where Jesus leads."

Welcome to our visitors and guests.

Thank you for worshipping with us today. We hope that your worship experience here will be meaningful and inspirational, and that you will receive warm hospitality from our members.

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Announcements

GATHERING

Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our comforter,

C: **Like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

C: **Amen.**

Gathering Song – “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
 in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
 most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
 almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
 nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
 thy justice like mountains high soaring above
 thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
 in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
 we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
 and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
 thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
 all laud we would render; oh, help us to see
 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.
 C: **Eternal light, shine in our hearts. Eternal wisdom,
 scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal
 compassion, have mercy on us. Turn us to seek
 your face, and enable us to reflect your goodness,
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

This passage speaks not only of the southern kingdom, Judah, and its homecoming from exile in Babylon, but also of the northern kingdom ("Israel" or "Ephraim") and its restoration. The northern tribes of Israel had been lost in exile to Assyria more than a century before Jeremiah prophesied.

Human priests of old offered sacrifice for their own sins and served only until their death. In contrast, Jesus is God's Son, the holy, sinless, resurrected high priest. Death did not terminate his priestly service, but through his death he has interceded for our sins.

WORD

First Reading — Jeremiah 31:7-9

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Second Reading — Hebrews 7:23-28

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Bartimaeus comes to Jesus with faith, asking that he might see again. Recognizing Jesus' identity, Bartimaeus is the first person to call him "Son of David" in the Gospel of Mark.

Children's Time

Holy Gospel — Mark 10:46-52

P: The holy gospel according to Mark, the 10th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

As [Jesus] and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – "Jesus, the Very Thought of You"

Jesus, the very thought of you
fills us with sweet delight;
but sweeter far your face to view
and rest within your light.

No voice can sing, no heart can frame,
nor can the mind recall
a sweeter sound than your blest name,
O Savior of us all!

O Hope of ev'ry contrite soul,
O joy of all the meek,
how kind you are to those who fall!
How good to those who seek!

O Jesus, be our joy today;
 help us to prize your love;
 grant us at last to hear you say:
 "Come, share my home above."

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878



Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn - "Hear Our Prayer"

**Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:
 peace to all people, hope for each soul.
 God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.**

Text: Paul Andress, b. 1956 Text and music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Together, We Pray

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy
 kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heav-
 en. 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.**

*God blesses us and
sends us in mission to
the world.*

SENDING

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace

C: **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude



October 24, 2021

LECTIONARY 30

Restored by Grace

The word for today is restoration. Both the Old Testament reading and the psalm speak of God's restoration of the people of Israel, gathering them from sorrowful exile into joyful community. The gospel tells the story of Jesus healing Bartimaeus, restoring his sight in response to his faith. Today we do not have the same understanding of "clean" and "unclean" people; however, those who are sick still need restoration. There are people who are hospitalized for extended periods of time who need to be restored to the community. There are folks in nursing homes who long for the connections they once had to a worshiping community. There are people in prison who are cut off. There are even people who have been hurt or disappointed by the church who need restoration.

This same Jesus, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us, is our great high priest who continually restores us to right relationship with God. This hope of restoration is echoed in the reading from Jeremiah. Here God promises to gather and restore the people of Israel from their exile.

This promise of restoration is acted out through worship. Much of what happens in worship is concerned with restoration. In the word, in the meal, in confession and forgiveness, we are restored to wholeness (and holiness) with God and with one another. In the sharing of the peace we act out the restoration and reconciliation we all need. In the Lord's Prayer we ask, "forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." What is this if not a plea for restoration? This restoration is not through our own merit, but through the love of Christ and the faith we have been given.

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In Our Prayers This Week

It is so important that we remember one another in prayer. During this week, please focus your prayers on the following members who were picked randomly: Maxwell Albert, Regina Boucher, Donna Dietrich, Joe and Georgann Griffiths, Victoria Johnson, Brian and Vallery Krah, Belinda Lemire, Jo Ann McGee, Diane Race, Jacob Swenson



What's Around the Corner?

Zion has been very busy with worship preparations! Below is a brief outline of what is "around the corner".

- Oct. 24: The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. outdoor worship and via Facebook Live.
- Oct. 31: Reformation Day, 9:30 a.m. indoor worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Recorded special music by the Zion Senior Choir. Confirmation Sunday.
- Nov. 7: All Saints Sunday, 9:30 a.m. indoor worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Recorded special music by the Zion Senior Choir.
- Nov. 14: The 25th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. indoor worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. With special music.
- Nov. 21: The 26th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. indoor worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Special music by the Thanksgiving Service Mass Choir.
- Nov. 28: The first Sunday of Advent, 9:30 a.m. indoor worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. With special music.

Holy Communion Offered During Indoor Worship

Presently we are distributing Holy Communion as a part of our in-person indoor Sunday worship. The distribution takes place at the end of the worship service outside when the weather allows. For those who do not want to worship indoors, you are still welcome to join us for Holy Communion following the service, but please call the church office at 715-735-7898 to inform us of your intent so that we will wait for you if necessary. (When the weather doesn't allow, we are planning to distribute communion in the social hall with fans on and plenty of fresh air passing through, and with people exiting out the north door.)

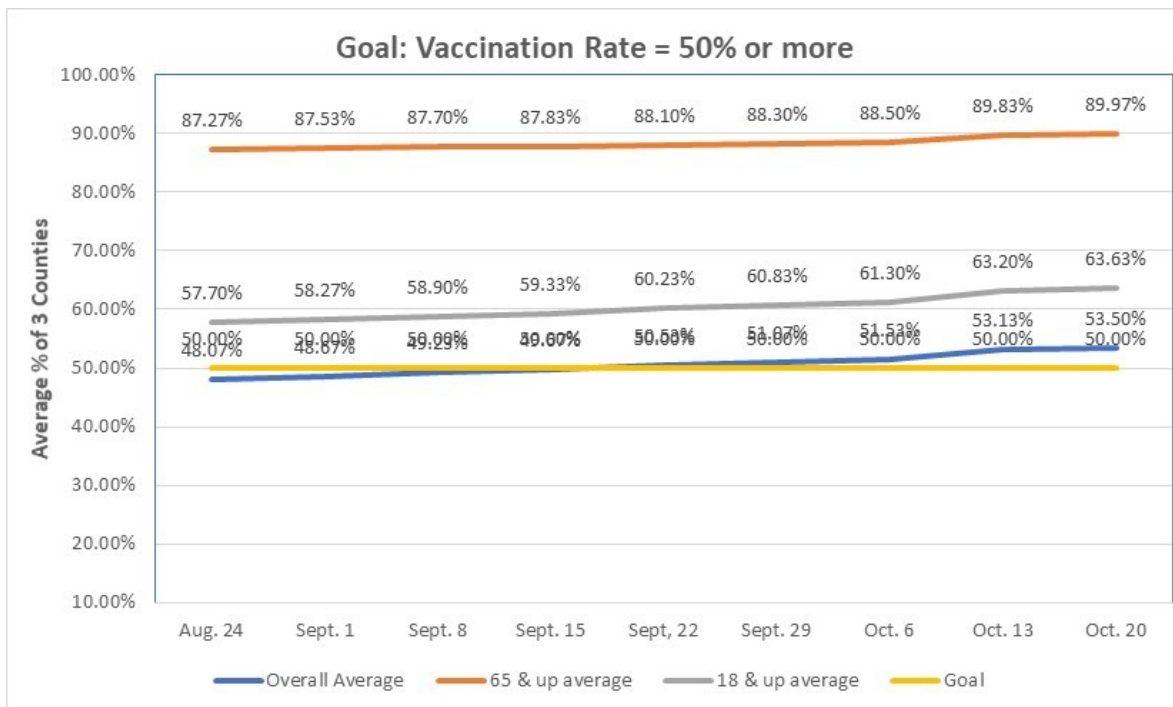
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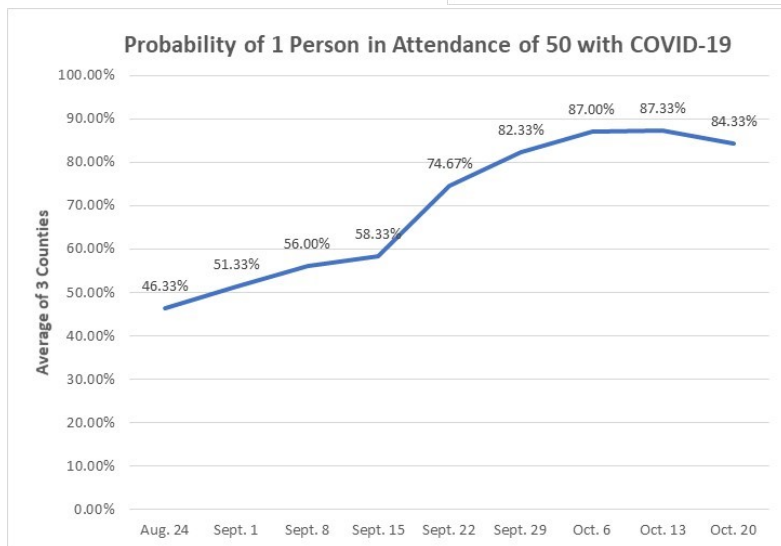
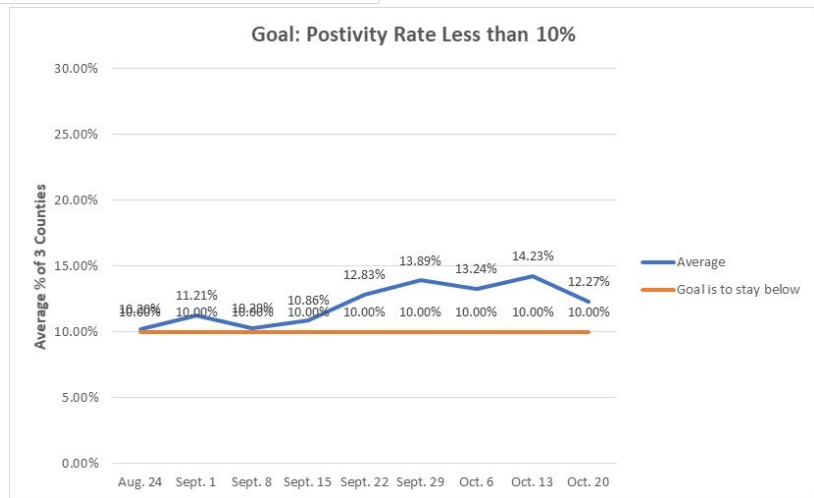
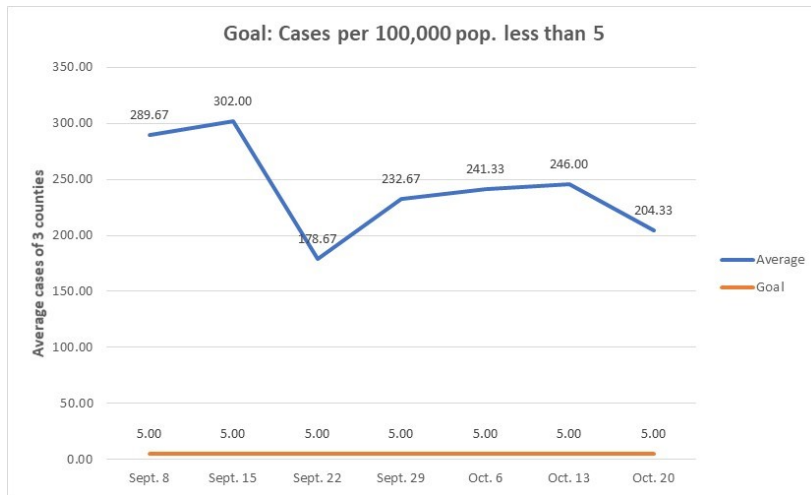
We are looking for people who would like to help wash the windows inside the church. We will provide supplies and you can do them when ever you want. Call Ann Buscher at 715-735-0317 for more information.

Indoor in-person worship: October 31, 2021

Indoor services will be held every other Sunday. Outdoor services will alternate with these indoor services. (If an outdoor service is cancelled because of weather, indoor worship will be available, first come, first served.) *At this time, Zion is no longer requiring you to reserve a pew for the in-person indoor worship. However, it is subject to change* and is dependent upon the positive test rate, cases per 100,000 and the probability rate. Social distancing practices will continue to be used (no passing of the peace or offering plate, limited & soft singing). Please visit Zion's website to read the [Protocols for In-Person Indoor Worship](#) - *all adults in attendance are required to wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth* (the exception being Pastor who is leading worship). As always, if you have questions, please call Zion's office at: 715-735-7898 or send an email to: Zion@newbc.rr.com.

At this time, we acknowledge that there is some risk involved. Our local total population is 53.50% vaccinated, which means our safer goal of 50% was reached; our 65+ age group is over our safe goal at 89.97%. The 18 & up vaccinated average is currently at 63.63%. We are also watching the test positivity rate. Our area's positivity rate is 12.27%, which is over our goal and continues to persist above it. The cases per 100,000 is still high. Another measurement is a percentage of probability where, in a gathering of 50 people, how likely is it that someone with COVID-19 would be present. Right now, there is a 84% chance of this happening. *We feel that everyone's knowledge of the risk is important. We are publishing graphs in the weekly announcements that represent the average numbers of the following Counties: Oconto, Marinette and Menominee, MI.* We are watching the trend of each graph with what are considered to be safer and safe goals in mind. The data used in the graphs is collected from the [CDC website](#) and from a [website tool](#) provided to us from our Northern Great Lakes Synod. Please make the time to familiarize yourself with the graphs/information. Should you have concerns, questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Zion's office.







Birthday Blessings to You

October 26: Carole Boerner, Belinda Lemire
 October 28: Alexandria Cording
 October 29: Melanie Bennett
 October 30: Randall Schroeder II
 October 31: Bryan Gutknecht, Laura Rowe

Tithes & Offerings Oct. 3-17

General Fund—\$7,875.50 Capital Improvement Fund: \$40
 Helping Hand Fund: \$10 Lutheran World Relief: \$50

*Thank you so very much for your continued giving and generosity.
 Every little bit helps. You are making a difference!
 Again, thank you!*



Thank you to our Worship Assistants

Thank you to Sharon Powilaites for being our lector today!
 If you'd like to volunteer to serve as lector or usher please contact
 Ann Buscher at 715-735-3017. Or sign up on Signup Genius by
 clicking [here](#).

Accurate contact information?

Have you or a family member recently had a change of mailing address, phone number or email address? Not sure if Zion has accurate information on file? Zion is striving to have current information on file. Please call or email Zion's office to verify what is on file (715-735-7898 or orzion@newbc.rr.com). Thank you for your assistance!



Altar Flower Sponsorship

Zion has altar flower sponsorships available. The cost of sponsoring the flowers for one week is \$15.00. Dates are reserved on a first come first serve basis. To reserve a date, please call or email Zion's office.

Electronic Piano in Our Worship Area

Our Kurzweil electronic piano has been a part of our worship experience since the fall of 2000. The computer that it contained was quite a few years older. This summer it finally died. With the approval of Zion's Congregation Council, a new Yamaha electronic piano has been purchased for a total cost of \$4,772. Due to the challenges that COVID has brought to the world of commerce, it may be a few months before the piano arrives. We will be using some designated and undesignated Memorial money to help pay for the piano, and we welcome any and all additional gifts towards this purchase. Please be sure to clearly designate that your gift is for the new piano and thank you so very much!



Celebrating Baptismal Birthdays this Week

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October 26: Annette Anderson, Joyce Anderson, Jill Harding

October 27: Alex Powers

October 30: Samantha Schroeder

October 31: Jacob Cording

Questions of the Day for Sunday, October 31, John 8:31-36

The Question of the Day helps prepare you for next Sunday's focus text. These questions are posted on Zion's website each day offering an opportunity for discussion. (Just click in the title of the post and you will be taken to the discussion window.) Try it out for a week and see how Jesus will use your time of pondering upon God's word to deepen your faith and enrich your worship experience.

Monday: What does "continuing in his word" look like?

Tuesday: Why do we want to know the truth?

Wednesday: In what ways are we slaves to sin?

Thursday: How does the Son make us free?

Friday: What is the relationship between freedom and having a permanent place in the household?

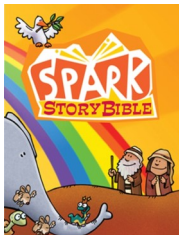
Saturday: What does this freedom allow us to do?



Racial Equity Challenge for October

We will be switching gears with October's racial equity challenge. We will view a 1-hour PBS program about Native American boarding schools entitled, "Unspoken." These boarding schools have been in the news lately. This program is a moving and insightful look into the history, operation, and legacy of the federal Indian Boarding School system, whose goal was total assimilation of Native Americans at the cost of stripping away Native culture, tradition, and language. It can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

This Tuesday, October 26, starting at 6:30 p.m., we will offer an opportunity to discuss this video on Zoom. All are welcome, even if you have not been a part of the discussion previously. Here is the [Zoom link](#) for the meeting. Please be aware that there will be a "waiting room" before the meeting begins. If you need a phone connection to the meeting, please contact Pastor Keith.



SPARK Bible Story

The SPARK Bible Story for Sunday, October 24 is found on page 338; "Bartimaeus Sees" based on the reading from Mark 10:46-52



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