

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:3-9a (ESV)

³ 'Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?' Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers.⁴ Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high.⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶ "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? ⁸ Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'

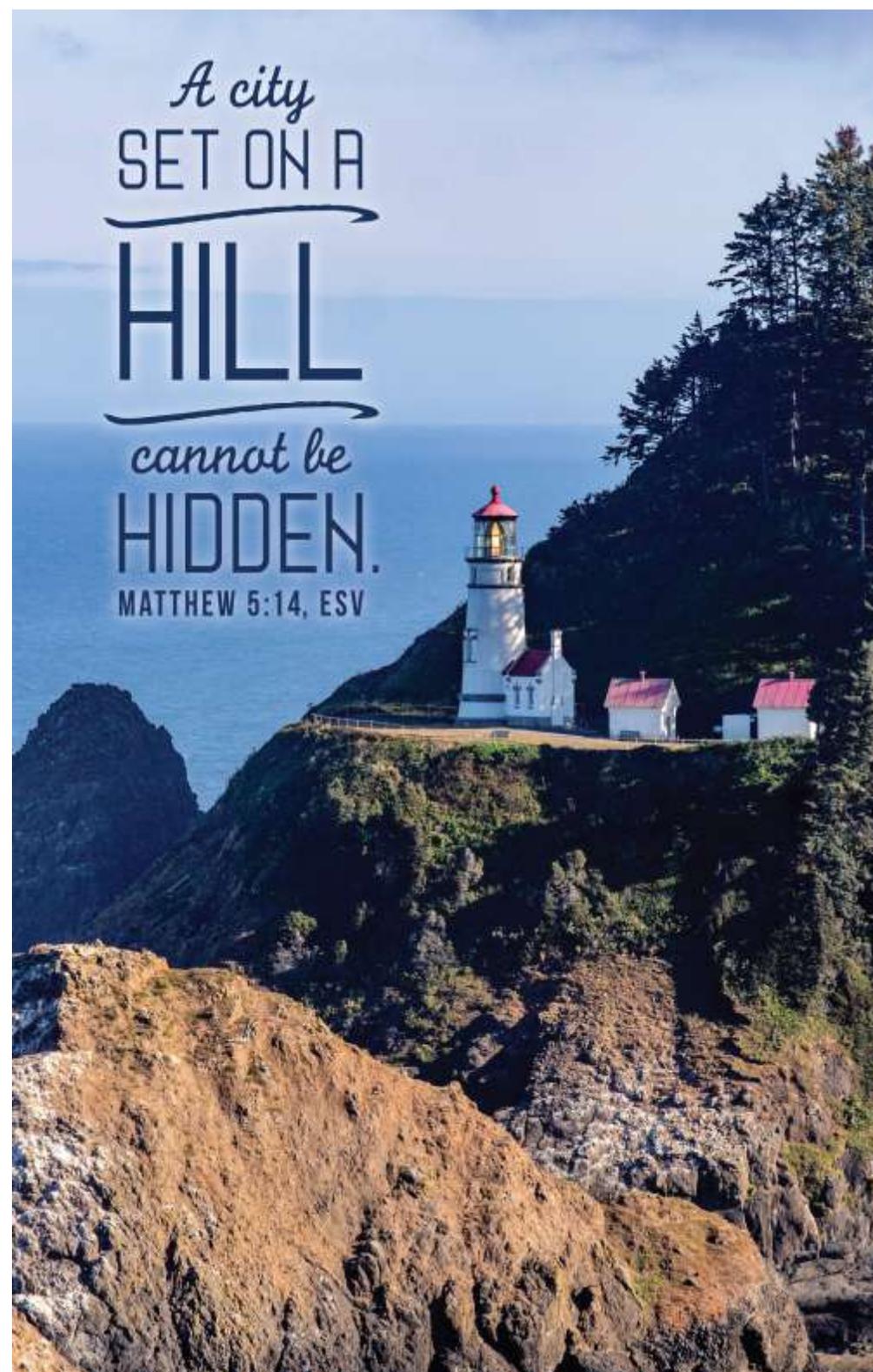
1 Corinthians 2:1-16 (ESV)

² And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. ⁶ Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man

imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"—¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Matthew 5:13-20 (ESV)

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. ¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.



February 8, 2026
5th Sunday after Epiphany

Zion Lutheran Church, 17927 Dice Road, Hemlock, MI 48626
www.zionhemlock.org ~ Church Office 642-5909 ~

✠ In the Name of Jesus ✠

The Righteousness of Christ

Jesus warns that *“unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven”* (Matt. 5:20), but He also calls His imperfect people *“the salt of the earth”* and *“the light of the world”* (Matt. 5:13, 14). That’s because the Lord Jesus came not to abolish the Law or the Prophets *“but to fulfill them”* (Matt. 5:17) in perfect faith and love. God manifests His *“demonstration of the Spirit and of power”* in *“Jesus Christ and him crucified”* (1 Cor. 2:2–4) and through the preaching of the Gospel gives His *“secret and hidden wisdom”* (1 Cor. 2:7). Christ gives this perfect righteousness to His people, and it leads them to true duty to love God, country, others, and ourselves. Today, is traditionally Scout Sunday, let us scout out Christ and His Word, that we may be prepared to show the fruits of the Spirit in our lives as He empowers us to do the good works He prepared for us to do for Christ’s sake. We welcome Pastor Bob Smith and thank him for sharing God’s Word with us this morning.

ORDER OF SERVICE Divine Service Setting One	151
OPENING HYMN <i>“God Himself is Present”</i>	907
SERMON HYMN <i>“I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus”</i>	729
SERMON <i>“City on a Hill”</i>	Matthew 5:13-20
CLOSING HYMN <i>“Jesus Lead Thou On”</i>	718

Pastor	Bob Smith
Organist	Tami Mosher
Elder	Dick Bluemer
AV	Pam Gilbert
Ushers	Paul Bohn and Roger Kade
Altar Guild	Suzanne Schultz and Diane Schultz

Our Measure of Love and Gifts

Attendance last week – 59 Needed for The Lord’s Work at Zion \$4,729 ~ Received for the Lord’s Work \$3,126; Capital Projects \$127; \$20 in memory of Carl Neuenfeldt, \$50 in honor of Pastor Schiefer’s 100th birthday, \$20 in memory of Myrna Pruitt.

Please pray for your fellow Christians on their birthday:
February 8- Sally Wietfeldt; February 10- Leon Zastrow; February 14- Tami Mosher.



Myrna Pruitt, faithful member of Zion died January 28, 2026. Memorial service will be held on Tuesday, February 10. Myrna is survived by her brother, John (Janet) Pruitt; her nieces Annette (Chris) Good, Tracey (Michael) Kushion and Heather (Andrew) Appold; great nieces and nephews, cousins and friends. *“And I heard a voice from heaven saying, ‘Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Blessed indeed,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!’”* (Revelation 14:13 ESV).

You are invited to be a part of Valley Lutheran’s upcoming Auction and Benefit Dinner! This event will be held on February 28, 2026 and brings together a great mix of the VL family - past, present, and future. Grab tickets to attend at www.vlhsauction.com or join in on the silent auction fun without a ticket beginning on February 26!

Valley Lutheran is still accepting applications for the 2026-2027 school year! Begin your student’s today at www.vlhs.com/apply. Or, have additional questions before you apply? Contact Amy or Beth at 989-790-1676 or admissions@vlhs.com.



“We love because he first loved us.” — 1 John 4:19 (NIV)

Happy Valentine’s Day! A sweet reminder that God’s love is the very source of all love. May we share it freely — with kind words, grateful hearts and acts of compassion. #GodIsLove #ValentinesDay