

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:16-29 ESV

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD ¹⁷ They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, 'It shall be well with you'; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, 'No disaster shall come upon you.'"

¹⁸ For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened? ¹⁹ Behold, the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. ²⁰ The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart. In the latter days you will understand it clearly. ²¹ "I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. ²² But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds. ²³ "Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? ²⁴ Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed! ²⁶ How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, ²⁷ who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

Hebrews 11:17-40; 12:1-3 (ESV)

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." ¹⁹ He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. ²⁰ By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. ²¹ By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. ²² By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones. ²³ By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to

the reward. ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them. ²⁹ By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.

³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. ³² And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two! they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹ And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. ¹² Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Luke 12:49-56 (ESV)

⁴⁹ "I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵² For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming.' And so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

A woman is running on a sandy beach at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm orange glow. The woman is in the foreground, running towards the right. In the background, the ocean waves are visible. Overlaid on the right side of the image is a large, semi-transparent white box containing text. The text reads: "Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us." Below this, in a smaller font, is "HEBREWS 12:1, NRSV". There are also some decorative circular patterns around the text box.

Let us run with
perseverance
the race that
is set before us.

HEBREWS 12:1, NRSV

August 17, 2025
10th Sunday after Pentecost

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

✠ In the Name of Jesus ✠

Theme of the Day ~ *Christ's Suffering and Death Bring Division.* The Lord Jesus causes fear and trembling and division because His Word is *"like fire ... and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces"* (Jer. 23:29). His Law puts us all to death, whereas only His Gospel can bring us to life. He has fulfilled that Word for us by His cross and in His resurrection from the dead. He undergoes such a distressing Baptism, accomplished by His death, in order to open the way for us through our Holy Baptism into His cross and resurrection. So, then, if we are able *"to interpret the appearance of earth and sky"* (Luke 12:56), let us mark this sign of His cross — recognizing that this world is subject to death, but knowing that Christ Jesus also has conquered death and obtained life everlasting for us. Let us fix our eyes on *"Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith"* and *"run with endurance the race that is set before us"* (Heb. 12:1-2). We are grateful for Pastor Hessler as he leads us in worship this morning.

ORDER OF SERVICE Divine Service Setting Four	203
OPENING HYMN <i>"Come, Thou Almighty King"</i>	905
SERMON HYMN <i>"We Sing for All the Unsung Saints"</i>	678
SERMON <i>"And the Race is On"</i>	Hebrews 12:1-3
COMMUNION HYMNS	
<i>"Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord"</i>	637
<i>"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"</i>	636
CLOSING HYMN <i>"On What Has Now Been Sown"</i>	921

Pastor	William Hessler
Organist	Carolyn Laurenz
Elders	Dick Bluemer and Dale Rohde
A/V	Dave Hutfilz
Ushers	Jerry Neuenfeldt and Mike Hingston
Altar Guild	Myrna Pruitt and Mary Lou Garner

Life is often hard, for many reasons. So we gather to be fed and strengthened by Jesus, our Good Shepherd; to be assured of his presence and goodness. Welcome to worship

Our Measure of Love and Gifts

Attendance last week – 51 *Needed for The Lord's Work at Zion* \$4,316
~ *Received for the Lord's Work* \$2,408; Capital Projects \$70; God's Helping Hands \$70.

Please pray for your fellow Christians on their birthday: August 17- Kaiden Knapik; August 18- Korbin Knapik, Zackery Leppert.; August 21- Darin Rowe; August 23- Kelly Kocsis.



Cross Repairs ~ If you haven't noticed, the cross on the front of the church is in need of repair. The left cross piece is failing. Pumford Construction will soon be taking the cross down, repairing and placing it back up. This will cost over \$8,000. Contributions directed to the Capital Projects Fund on your weekly envelope to cover the cost of repairs is greatly appreciated.

Our Christian Sympathy to the family of James Byron. Funeral service for Jim will be held at Zion on Monday, August 18 at 11:am. Jim is survived by his wife, Sally; his children Shawn, James and Ian Byron and their families. He was predeceased by his parents Don and Alice Byron. *"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)