

Isaiah 51:1-6 (ESV)

51 "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. ³ For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴ "Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵ My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

Romans 11:33-12:8 (ESV)

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. ¹² I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,

that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Matthew 16:13-20 (ESV)

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.



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ROMANS 12:2 (ESV)



August 23, 2026

13th Sunday After Pentecost

Zion Lutheran Church, 17927 Dice Road, Hemlock, MI 48626

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Vicar Ron Zuccaro 989-385-7569 email zuccaro@zionhemlock.org

✠ **In the Name of Jesus** ✠

**The Lord Jesus Christ Is the Son of the Living God. Jesus asked His disciples: “But who do you say that I am?”
(Matt. 16:15).**

The question is also put to us: Who do you say that He is? Flesh and blood do not reveal this to us, but by the ministry of the Gospel, the Father in heaven reveals His Son to us on earth, who has become flesh and suffered death for our salvation. Thus, we believe and confess that He is “the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matt 16:16). As He died for our transgressions and was raised for our justification, He looses us from all our sins and preserves our life within His Church, against which even “the gates of hell shall not prevail” (Matt. 16:18–19). His salvation is forever, and His righteousness “will never be dismayed” (Is. 51:6). He comforts us with the Gospel in His Church, so that “joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song” (Is. 51:3). Therefore, “according to the measure of faith that God has assigned” (Rom. 12:3), we also offer ourselves “as a *living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God*” (Rom. 12:1) through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ORDER OF SERVICE Service of Prayer and Preaching 260

OPENING “*They’ll Know We are Christians by Our Love*”

CANTICLE “*Pass It On*”

SERMON “*Metamorphosis*”

Romans 12:1-2

CANTICLE “*Thy Word is a Lamp*”

CLOSING “*Sanctuary*”

Pastor	Charles Buckhahn
Vicar	Ron Zuccaro
Musician	Randy Laurenz, Mark Hingston
Elder	Dick Bluemer
A/V	Paul Bohn
Ushers	Dick Bluemer and Bruce Tessin
Altar Guild	Mary Lou Garner

Our Measure of Love and Gifts

Attendance last week 53 –*Needed for The Lord's Work at Zion* \$4,729
 ~ *Received for the Lord's Work* \$1803; Capital Projects \$30; God's
 Helping Hands \$2,385.

Please pray for your fellow Christians on their birthday: Aug 23- Kelly Kocsis; Aug 24- Carol Eggebrecht; Aug 25- Dede Gath; Aug 26- Curt Seeburger, August 27 – Daniel Bohn; August 28- Nicole Hanson.

Prayer Requests ~ Feel free to contact Vicar Ron at 989-385-7569 if you have a scheduled hospital visit and would like him to visit and pray with you or if would like to have someone put on the prayer list.

Homecoming ~ Join us on Sunday, September 27 following worship as we celebrate Zion's church family and renew our commitment to serving God. We'll enjoy a cookout with meat provided. Please sign up in the narthex to RSVP, bring a side dish or dessert or to help in planning and serving.

Volunteer Opportunities ~ A volunteer is needed to paint the new front railings at the church entrance and the railing at the old office entry. Supplies are ready for you in the shed! Please see Dave Hutfilz if you are willing to help! Sign up sheet for ushers is also in the narthex.



Sunflower — The sunflower, a symbol of faithfulness and devotion, represents a life turned toward God. Just as the flower follows the sun, believers are called to seek the light of Christ and remain focused on Him.

Its bright bloom reflects the joy and glory of God's presence, while its steady growth points to a life rooted in faith. The many seeds of the sunflower can also symbolize spiritual fruitfulness.

In Christian symbolism, the sunflower reminds us to remain steadfast, to seek God daily and to reflect His light in all we do.