

Isaiah 55:6-9 (ESV)

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30 (ESV)

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. ²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of

their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Matthew 20:1-16 (ESV)

²⁰“For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”



A steady light in uncertain waters.

The LORD is my light and
my salvation — whom shall I fear?

Psalm 27:1, NIV

September 20, 2026
17th Sunday After Pentecost

Zion Lutheran Church, 17927 Dice Road, Hemlock, MI 48626
www.zionhemlock.org ~ Church Office 642-5909 Vicar Ron 989-385-7569

Disciples Live in Their Vocations by Grace through Faith in Christ.

Those who are sent as *“laborers for his vineyard”* (Matt. 20:1) depict the wide diversity of vocations to which the disciples of Christ Jesus are called. Whatever our particular stations in life may be, we are called to live and serve by faith in His promises. Our labors do not merit anything before Him, for He is already generous to one and all without partiality. In mercy, He has chosen to bear *“the burden of the day and the scorching heat”* on our behalf, to make us equal to Himself and to give us what belongs to Him, that is, the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 20:12-15). This way of the Lord is foolishness to the world and foreign to our thoughts, but He draws near, so that *“he may be found”* (Is. 55:6), *“have compassion”* and *“abundantly pardon”* (Is. 55:7). So it is that we are found in Christ Jesus, and He is honored in our bodies, *“whether by life or by death”* (Phil. 1:20), by *“fruitful labor”* (Phil. 1:22) or by suffering. It is by faith in His forgiveness that our works are *“worthy of the gospel”* (Phil. 1:27).

ORDER OF SERVICE Divine Service Setting Four	203
OPENING HYMN <i>“God Himself, is Present”</i>	907
SERMON HYMN <i>“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”</i>	655
SERMON <i>“Sing Praises to the Lord”</i>	Psalm 27:1-9
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS <i>“O Lord We Praise Thee”</i>	617
<i>“Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray”</i>	623
CLOSING HYMN <i>“Crown Him with Many Crowns”</i>	525

Pastor	Charles Buckhahn
Vicar	Ron Zuccaro
Organist	Tami Mosher
Elders	Dale Rohde and Paul Bohn
A/V	Mark Richardson
Ushers	Dave Hutfilz and Dave Little
Altar Guild	Troy and Michelle Beyersdorf

Our Measure of Love and Gifts

Attendance last week – 72 Needed for *The Lord's Work at Zion* \$4,729 ~ Received for the *Lord's Work* \$2,485; Capital Projects \$15; God's Helping Hands \$70; Quilters \$70. We remember with thanksgiving Jim Bohn who thru Thrivent has remembered Zion with a gift of \$159,355. Give thanks to the Lord.

Please pray for your fellow Christians on their birthday: September 20- Pat Seeburger; September 21- Braden Beyersdorf, Jonell Davis, Emily Farrar, Jim Knapik, Bonnie Krape; September 22- Cindy Thom; September 24- Dale Thom; September 26-Ellie Beyersdorf.

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. Feel free to invite a member or a friend to join us.



Bible Study ~ Vicar Ron will continue Bible Study this morning after church at 10:45am in the fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend.

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 you would like to have someone put on the Sunday prayers. Keep in your prayers this week Bernie Hutfilz for improved health. Gertie Schomaker recovering from a fall.

God's Helping Hands will be open the **first Wednesday in October, November, and December from 3:30-5:30pm** offering household items and clothing only. No food or diapers will be given out. Please let those you know who may be in need any of these items.

Prayer Chain ~ If you would like to be included on a prayer chain a signup sheet is in the narthex. Prayer requests will be called to the first person who will pass the prayer request on to the tree. More information as people are signed up.

Lunch, Silent Auction, and Euchre Tourney Fundraiser Oct. 11 Grace Lutheran Church (303 Ruth St, Auburn) will be sending a group of volunteers to Puerto Rico to assist the LCMS Missionaries there with planting Lutheran churches in January of 2027. On Sunday, October 11 at 11:30 a.m. Grace will host a Mission Fundraiser consisting of lunch, euchre tournament, and silent auction. So come to Grace in Auburn on October 11 to eat some coney dogs and/or sloppy joes, bid on silent auction items, and/or play some euchre! \$5 registration fee to play, 25¢ penalty pot if euchred. We hope that you'll join us in supporting this good cause. See you there!