

Ezekiel 17:22-24 (ESV)

²² Thus says the Lord GOD: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³ On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. ²⁴ And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it."

2 Corinthians 5:1-17 (ESV)

⁵ For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶ So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. ¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to

your conscience. ¹² We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. ¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. ¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Mark 4:26-34 (ESV)

²⁶ And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸ The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." ³⁰ And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹ It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." ³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴ He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.



"The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground ... and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how."

Mark 4:26-27, NRSV

June 17, 2018
4th Sunday after Pentecost
Zion Lutheran Church

17927 Dice Road, Hemlock, MI 48626 ~ Church Office 642-5909 ~ Pastor Cell 989-964-8722

✠ In the Name of Jesus ✠

Theme of the Day ~ *The Cross of Christ Is the Tree of Life, Which Bears Abundant Fruit after Its Own Kind.* The parables of our Lord convey the mysteries of the kingdom of God to those who are “able to hear it,” that is, “to his own disciples,” who are catechized to fear, love and trust in Him by faith (Mark 4:33–34). He scatters “seed on the ground,” which “sprouts and grows” unto life, even as “he sleeps and rises” (Mark 4:26–27). “On the mountain height of Israel,” He plants a young and tender twig, and it becomes “a noble cedar.” Indeed, His own cross becomes the Tree of Life, under which “every kind of bird” will dwell, and in which “birds of every sort will nest” (Ezek. 17:22–25). His cross is our resting place, even while now in mortal bodies, we “groan, being burdened” (2 Cor. 5:1–4). Yet in faith, we live for God in Christ, who for our sake “died and was raised” (2 Cor. 5:15). We know that, in His resurrected body, “we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Cor. 5:1). Today on Father’s Day, we remember all our fathers who are with us on earth, as well as those already in heaven, where we will join them in Jesus’ name.

ORDER OF SERVICE Divine Service Setting Three	pp. 184
OPENING HYMN	Father’s Choice
SERMON HYMN	Father’s Choice
SERMON “ <i>The Power Behind the Father</i> ”	Mark 4:26-34
CLOSING HYMN “ <i>On What Has Now Been Sown</i> ”	LSB 921

Pastor	Paul Hauser
Organist	Tami Mosher
Elders	Frank Yell & Jack Traub
A/V	Paul Bohn
Greeters	Gertie Schomaker & Karen Seeburger
Ushers	Jerry Neuenfeldt, Bob Burdick, Dave Little
Altar Guild	Connie Richardson & Carolyn McKellar

Our Measure of Love and Gifts

Attendance last week – 117 Needed for *The Lord’s Work at Zion* \$4,128 ~ Received for the *Lord’s Work* \$5,623= Loose Plate \$100, Envelopes \$5,308, Mission \$25, Maintenance \$190; \$25 in memory of Amy Hyatt Strasel.

Please pray for your fellow Christians on their birthday: Jun 24- Chase Beyersdorf, James Byron, Bob Eggebrecht; Jun 25- Ethan Neuenfeldt, Sue Valliere, Lori Kade, Charity Little; Jun 26 – Jim Rowe; Jun 27- Rodney Laurenz, Tracy Mallek; Jun 28 – Betty Reno. .

Today’s Memory Verse ~ “The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7b

Volunteer Opportunity ~ Do you have a heart to serve? Beacon of Hope in Saginaw next door to the abortion clinic is in need of volunteers. They are hosting an open house on Tuesday, June 26 from 6p-8p at [3099 Cabaret Trail](#). Please join them to hear more or call 989-401-9699 with any questions.



Like Father, Like Child

As we celebrate Father’s Day, we likely see traits in our dads (or other father figures) that we hope to be known for ourselves: integrity, gentleness, a great sense of humor, a love of learning, a humble spirit.

Amy Grant’s song “Father’s Eyes” tells of a young girl who wants nothing more than for others to recognize her father – and her heavenly Father – in her. “When people look inside my life, I want to hear them say, ‘She’s got her father’s eyes.’”

What characteristics of God your Father are reflected in your eyes, heart and life? And what godly qualities would you like to cultivate?

May others see our heavenly Father in us!

“My father didn’t tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it.” –Clarence Kelland