



Zion Lutheran Church NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO THE ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER
Zion is a member congregation of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

FEBRUARY 2017 **5831 GRUNDY ROAD, HUDSON, IA 50643**
Pastor Mark's cell: 515-538-2200 Church & Parsonage: 988-4534 www.zionlutheranhudson.com

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Most of us will never experience the kind of severe physical pain that Jesus did. Neither have we gone through the depth of emotional suffering as Jesus. But we have experienced some of the same sorts of things. For example, our friends did not betray and abandon us while we were dying (yes, I know that if we were already dead you couldn't be reading this anyway), but if you live very long, you will experience that loneliness that comes with the feeling that someone has abandoned you, or failed to care for you the way you expected. Jesus experienced all that with an intensity that was incredibly deep. No one stood beside him in his hour of need. His closest friends couldn't even stay awake (even though he had asked them to do so and they said they would) while he agonized in prayer, and they abandoned him shortly thereafter.

Not only was Jesus abandoned by his disciples, but also by God Himself, while Jesus was dying on the cross he called out the words of Psalm 22, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

We believe that this was the arrangement - that God laid upon Jesus all the sins of the world, our sins, and treated Jesus as our sins deserved: "He made the One who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."
(2 Corinthians 5:21)

That means that no one has felt the full consequences of sin to the extent experienced by Jesus. No one has been cut off from God in the way Jesus was. No one has yet been so thoroughly rejected by God, as Jesus. The Bible says that at the end of time, those who do not repent and trust Jesus will also

experience the hell of eternal separation from God. But until that time, only Jesus has experienced what that is like.

Jesus also understands what it feels like to be abandoned by God – in ways that we may never feel. He can empathize with every kind of relationship pain we might suffer. What I want to emphasize is this: Jesus is for you; he loves you. All that he went through, he did for you. Sometimes God is a mystery, and it seems like he's distant, like he doesn't care about us. The actions of Jesus show us definitively and conclusively that he loves us.

Let the Holy Spirit speak to you today. Hear the message of God's love for you in Christ.

In Christ, *Pastor Mark Decker*

Thrivent Members

If you invest through Thrivent, please remember that you need to designate where your Thrivent Choice dollars go every year. This does not happen automatically, you have to call to renew every year. Thrivent matches funds that you make and disperses them to local charities/organizations. If you do not designate Zion, or any other organization of your choice, Thrivent donates to an organization of their choice. If you wish Zion to benefit from your matching investment funds, please call 1-800-thrivent (1-800-847-4836) by the end of February. If you do not call, unclaimed monies are dispersed by March 15. Last year, multiple Thrivent members did not donate their Choice dollars to any organization of their choice. Remember, the 'Choice' is yours!

Sign-up to Read of Serve Fellowship Treats

There are sign-up pages on the wall of the church entryway for those interested in taking a turn to serve as a reader or bringing fellowship treats on Sunday mornings. Please take advantage these opportunities to use your talent.

Adult Sunday School Continues

Our adult Sunday School class using the DVD and discussion format with materials prepared by Concordia Publishing's "Men's Network" series: "He Who Dies with the Most Toys Still Dies." This study uses Scripture to examine how toys (our possessions) can accumulate, overtake our priorities, and choke off our relationship with God. Toys come in many sounds, sizes and shapes, As the presenter says, "The challenge is realizing that what Jesus earned and imparted to us is enough. In fact, it's far more than all the toys on earth are worth. The good news is that you can be rich in Christ without having all the money or wealth in the world." This class will consist of five sessions.

February Anniversaries

20 Fred & Bev Wulf

February Birthdays

1 Sherrie Decker
5 Marj Simpson
9 Martha Watson
9 Zander Young
10 Ben Sorensen
14 Chris Brandhorst
17 Thelma Gutknecht
23 Ben Volding
25 Casey Bonwell
26 Marvin Miller
26 John Neil
27 Jodi Sorensen

February Acolytes

5 Zander Young
12 Preston Seible
19 Kristina Kajtezovic
26 Zach Young

March 1

(Ash Wednesday) Kristina Kajtezovic

Ushers

February 5 Brad Ohrt & Lynn Pedersen
February 12 Bill & Lori Gutknecht
February 19 Bill & Lori Gutknecht
February 26 Harold & Julie Sorensen

March 1 (Ash Wed) Bill & Lori Gutknecht

Communion Servers

February 5 Rod & Marilu Degener
February 12 Angie Marsh & Lyle Wulf
February 19 Angie Marsh & Lyle Wulf
February 26 Cindy & Austin Appleton
March 1 (Ash Wed.) Harold & Julie Sorensen

Communion Clean-up

February 5 Monica & Amber Laube
February 12 Marian Grover & Janet Brandhorst
February 19 Marian Grover & Janet Brandhorst
February 26 Stacy Lee & Barb McCulley
March 1 (Ash Wed.) Stacy Lee & Barb McCulley

Snow Removal

February 1-15 Andy Appleton, Dan Miller
February 16-28 Chris McCulley, Bruce Bascom

Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:

Feb. 5: Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-10;

1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20

Feb. 12: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8;

1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

Feb. 19: Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18; Psalm 119:33-40;

1 Corinthians 3:10-23; Mt. 5:38-48

Feb. 26: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2;

2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

The **WEB SITE for LCMC** – Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, is www.lcmc.net

If you have an announcement, message, quote, picture, or prayer, that you would like to share in the newsletter, contact Pastor Mark, (515-538-2200) by the 25th of the previous month.

Minutes of council meetings which will be included in the newsletters will be from 2 months earlier as they have to be approved at the next monthly meeting before they can be published.