



Zion Lutheran Church NEWSLETTER

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

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We begin our annual trek through Lent this year with our Ash Wednesday service on March 1. During our mid-week services we will have a series of messages which focuses on our bodily worship of God. When we come to worship, we are to engage all of our bodies in the act of worship -- our heads and our hands, our knees and our arms, our lips and our eyes, our ears and our flesh. Biblical worship is not a disembodied activity, but an artful embodied reality.

Psalm 103 begins: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name." There are two significant words in this verse that can be misinterpreted.

The first is the translation of the verb barak with "bless." This verb is related to the Hebrew noun birek, which literally means "knee." Barak then most literally means something like "kneel." The mistranslation "bless" probably arose because a person kneels to receive a blessing. But one also kneels to worship and praise -- which is really the meaning here.

The second is the translation of the Hebrew word nephesh, often mistranslated as "soul." This is an unfortunate and unhappy translation -- the term does NOT refer to one's "immortal soul" as in some Greek-influenced systems of thought. Rather, it is a metaphor meaning "self" or "the real me." The word nephesh actually refers to the throat-windpipe-esophagus -- the "tube" -- that runs down the center of a person (see Isa 5:14 or Ps 105:18). The nephesh is life itself, but it is never life outside or apart of the body. So, the "my soul" (naphshî) of Psalm 103 should be translated something like "all of me" or "my true self."

So, a corrected translation of Psalm 103: "Let all of me kneel before God's Holy Name."

Taking that corrected translation of Psalm 103 as a point of departure, this Lenten series will focus on worshipping God with our entire bodies -- not just our heads.

I pray you will find it devotionally enlightening and enjoyable for you and your families.

In Christ, *Pastor Mark Decker*

Lent begins on March 1

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday worship on March 1 at 6:30p.m. On the following Wednesdays we will continue to have special worship services at 6:30 with a meal provided beginning at 5:30. There will be no meal on Ash Wednesday but on the following five Wednesdays.

Annual Soup Supper

Our Soup Supper is scheduled for Sunday, March 26. Please be ready to respond to requests to help make this annual event a success!

Sign-up to Read or 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.

Souper Bowl of Caring Report

The high school youth would like to extend a huge thank you to all those who participated in the “Super Bowl of Caring” on Sunday February 5, 2017. We raised \$292 which was donated to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank in Waterloo. Thanks again for your generosity.

March Anniversaries

9 Ed & Gayle Juhl
30 Greg & Tammy Bergman

March Birthdays

6 Whitney Laube
8 Angie Johnson
10 Rorie Volding
12 Luke Kilgore
13 Bill Gutknecht
13 Ryan Johnson
16 Doug Wulf
17 Connor Simpson
20 Austin Appleton
21 Allan McCulley
23 Bev Wulf
26 Dayne Watson
28 Karen Wulf
31 Jace Brandhorst

March Acolytes

1 (Ash Wednesday) Kristina Kajtezovic
5 June Volding
8 (Wednesday) Zach Young
12 Preston Seible
15 (Wednesday) Zander Young
19 Kristina Kajtezovic
22 (Wednesday) Preston Seible
26 June Volding
29 (Wednesday) Zach Young

Ushers

March 1 (Ash Wed) Bill & Lori Gutknecht
March 5 Harold & Julie Sorensen
March 8 (Lent) Harold & Julie Sorensen
March 12 Ed & Gayle Juhl
March 15 (Lent) Ed & Gayle Juhl
March 19 Ed & Gayle Juhl
March 22 (Lent) Ed & Gayle Juhl
March 26 Steve & Michelle Wright
March 29 (Lent) Steve & Michelle Wright

Communion Servers

March 1 (Ash Wed) Harold & Julie Sorensen
March 5 Cindy & Austin Appleton
March 12 Bill & Lori Gutknecht
March 19 Bill & Lori Gutknecht
March 26 Andy & Austin Appleton

Communion Clean-up

March 1 (Ash Wed.) Elaine Brandhorst & Betty Bergman
March 5 Stacy Lee & Barb McCulley
March 12 Eleanor Wettengel & Marilu Degener
March 19 Eleanor Wettengel & Marilu Degener
March 26 Shirley Dufel & Judy Shirley

Snow Removal

March 1-15 Paul Knapp
Elwin Lee
March 16-31 Gerald Brandhorst
Jared Gutknecht

During March, the color of the altar paraments is purple for season of Lent.

Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:

**March 5: Genesis 2:15-17; Psalm 32;
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11**

**March 12: Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 121;
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17**

**March 19: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95;
Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42**

**March 26: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23;
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41**

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.