



# Zion Lutheran Church NEWSLETTER

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

*APRIL 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,

First of all, a huge thank you to Julie Sorensen, Deb Brandhorst and Carrie McCalley for their leadership in making this year's soup supper a wonderful experience. So many more of you helped by serving and bringing items for the supper, that I can't even name all your names, but Julie, Deb and Carrie put in tremendous efforts especially, and I hope they receive the commendations they are due from all of us.

Entering the month of April, the church calendar reaches its climax as we conclude the season of Lent with the Holy Week services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, followed by the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Typically, during the season of Lent, we refrain from using the word "Alleluia" by singing something other than "This is the feast of victory..." as the hymn of praise and sing "Return to the Lord" rather than the "Alleluia" before the reading of the Gospel. Also, during Lent we try to avoid hymns in worship that include the word (although most of you who regularly attend worship know that I don't have a perfect record in that effort).

I realize that for most folks all this fussing about the word "Alleluia" is not a very significant concern. But, yes, there are people (pastors mostly) who actually have fervent arguments about these things. To be technically correct, Sundays are not part of Lent. For example, April 2, is the "Fifth Sunday in Lent" not

the "Fifth Sunday of Lent." The season of Lent being the forty days before Easter, not counting Sundays. Every Sunday's worship service is a celebration of the resurrection of Christ. Still, during Lent, there is a more somber tone as we begin the season reflecting on Jesus' forty days of fasting in the wilderness and culminate by emphasizing his passion and crucifixion during Holy Week. Refraining from using the word "Alleluia" helps set that tone.

In preparation for Lent, this year, I did something that I have not done before. During the children's message on the last Sunday before the start of Lent, I took our Easter banner, which has the words "Alleluia! He is Risen!" in large letters, folded it and put it into a plastic tub with a lid. The tub was then hidden away. However, it was not hidden very well. It is on the floor next to the altar in plain view of anyone who looks. Every week since it was "hidden" I have tried to remind us all that the word has been put away and that it will come out of its box and be used again on Easter.

More than I have in previous years, I find myself looking forward to using the "Alleluia" again. I hope your anticipations for Easter are suitably built up and pray we can all experience the joy of saying "Alleluia" once again.

In Christ, *Pastor Mark Decker*

## Lenten Special Worship Services

The season of Lent began 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. The Wednesday meals conclude on April 5. We will also have special services on April 13 (Maundy Thursday) and April 14 (Good Friday). The Maundy Thursday service focuses on Jesus' Last Supper, including Holy Communion and concludes with the "stripping of the altar" which symbolically displays Jesus' humiliation and abandonment on the cross. The Good Friday service focuses on Jesus' death on the cross as we remember his "last words" spoken while hanging on the cross. Both the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will begin at 6:30 p.m.

## EPIC Scholarship

Wartburg College offers an Epic Scholarship to students who attend from a Lutheran Congregation. Wartburg College will match up to \$750 donated by the local congregation. Mallory Laube will be attending Wartburg College next year. Anyone who would like to donate towards her Epic Scholarship may contact Pastor Mark to make the donation. Several Zion members have participated in the Epic program in past years.

## Annual Soup Supper

Thank you to everyone who made monetary donations, food donations and/or worked at the Zion Soup Supper on March 26. We served 120 people and made \$1,604.00.

Everyone's willingness to help was greatly appreciated.

*Deb Brandhorst, Carrie McCalley and Julie Sorensen, Soup Supper Committee*

## Pastor Mark Away

I will be in California for a short trip to visit my mother April 25-28 (Tuesday through Friday). She turns 86 this month and is doing generally well, but it has been over a year since my last visit in person with her. I appreciate being able to take this time away, MD

## 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.

## April Anniversaries

- 6 Bruce & Dianne Bascom
- 14 Jim & Marion Grover
- 19 Doug & Karen Wulf

## April Birthdays

- 3 Andy Appleton
- 3 Julie Sorensen
- 4 Dianne Bascom
- 4 Tammy Bern
- 5 Joanne Nicklaus
- 5 June Volding
- 6 Carrie McCalley
- 12 Cindy Appleton
- 15 Harold Sorensen
- 26 Danielle Bascom
- 26 Ryan Ohrt
- 26. Marian Grover
- 28 Kevin Simpson

## April Acolytes

- 2 Tanner Laube
- 5 (Wednesday) Preston Seible
- 9 June Volding
- 13 (Thursday) Kristina Kajtezovic
- 16 (Easter) Zander Young
- 23 Zach Young
- 30 Tanner Laube

## Ushers

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| April 2              | Steve & Michelle Wright |
| April 5 (Lent)       | Steve & Michelle Wright |
| April 9              | Elwin & Stacy Lee       |
| April 13 (Maundy Th) | Elwin & Stacy Lee       |
| April 14 (Good Fr)   | Elwin & Stacy Lee       |
| April 16 (Easter)    | Elwin & Stacy Lee       |
| April 23             | Irv & Jennifer Laube    |
| April 30             | Irv & Jennifer Laube    |

## Communion Servers

April 2 Andy & Austin Appleton  
April 9 Chris & Barb McCulley  
April 13 (Maundy Th) Bill & Lori Gutknecht  
April 16 (Easter) Chris & Barb McCulley  
April 23 Dan & Jane Miller  
April 30 Dan & Jane Miller

## Communion Clean-up

April 2 Shirley Dufel & Judy Shirley  
April 9 Michelle Wright & Evelyn Andorf  
April 13 (Maundy Th.)  
Elaine Brandhorst & Betty Bergman  
April 16 (Easter)  
Elaine Brandhorst & Betty Bergman  
April 23 Michelle Wright & Evelyn Andorf  
April 30 Martha Watson & Bev Wulf

On **April 2**, the color of the altar paraments is purple for season of Lent.

On **April 9**, the color of the paraments is red for Palm Sunday.

On **April 16, 23, and 30**, the color of the paraments is white for Easter.

## Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:

**April 2:** Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130;  
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

**April 9:** Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 31:9-16;  
Philppians 2:5-11; Matthew 27:11-5

**April 16:** Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;  
Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18

**April 23:** Acts 2:14, 22-32; Psalm 16;  
1 Peter 1:3-9 John 10:19-31

**April 30:** Acts 2:14, 36-41;  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Luke 24:13-35

The **WEB SITE for LCMC** – Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, is [www.lcmc.net](http://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.