



Zion Lutheran Church NEWSLETTER

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

MAY 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,

On Sunday afternoon, May 21, Hudson High School holds their annual graduation ceremony in the school gym at 3:00 p.m. An hour before that, in the same gym, the Hudson ministerial association will present the annual baccalaureate service. I preached at that service in 2013 and this year, again, is my turn to plan and preach.

The dictionary definition of baccalaureate is “a religious service held at some educational institutions before commencement, containing a farewell sermon to the graduating class.”

Overall, I consider it a blessing and honor to be asked to preach on such occasions. There are many communities and schools that do not set aside time and space for baccalaureate services. Of course, like most of the funerals and weddings where I get to preach, I feel some anxiety because I am well aware of who will be in attendance. There will be some who have never heard the Christian message of the gospel at all. What a fantastic opportunity to bring God's Word to new ears!

In Romans 10:15, we read, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!” How welcome the gospel ought to be to those to whom it was preached, because it shows the way to salvation. Please pray for me in the coming days as I prepare this year's baccalaureate sermon.

Of course, it is not just about a single sermon which may only plant a seed. There is a need for follow-up activity as well. The Sunday after my first baccalaureate sermon at Hudson High in 2013, a school teacher from Hudson visited our worship service with his family. When I called on them later, he told me that he had really liked what I had preached at the baccalaureate. Alas, he and his family have not returned for worship at Zion since that one visit. I pray they have found a good church home elsewhere, because, for whatever reason, Zion didn't seem to click for them. I blame it on the two miles of gravel road they had to drive to get here. Or, could it possibly have been something I said?

In Christ, *Pastor Mark Decker*

Prayers

Each Sunday in worship, we publish a list of people who have requested prayers. To help you remember them in your regular prayer time: Dianne Bascom, Everett Hansen, Dorothy Juhl Zelle, Wilma Kimm, Chuck & Eunice Neil. If you would like another name added to the list, please let Pastor know.

Cookies for NewAldaya Worship

The month of May will be Zion's turn to provide cookies for the fellowship time following their Sunday worship services. We need 10 dozen cookies per week. If you are able, please drop off cookies at the Zion kitchen counter during the week and they will be carried to NewAldaya. Thank you!

Graduation Party for Carson Wright

We would like to invite our Zion family to help us celebrate Carson's graduation from high school on Sunday, May 21 in the Hudson Storage building at 436 Dale Drive. Time will be from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Thank you all for the time you have invested in Carson through the years and for your friendships. Carson will be attending UNI in the fall, eventually transferring to Allen College for his nursing degree.

Graduation party for Mallory Laube

We would like to invite our Zion family to Mallory's high school graduation party on Sunday, May 14 from 4-7 pm at the Dike Memorial Building. It is located at 540 Main Street in Dike. Mallory has greatly appreciated the opportunity to sing with you in worship. Thank you for all of the kind words and encouragement you have given her over the years. She will be attending Wartburg College in the fall.

Rite of Confirmation on May 7

Please join us in honoring Kristina Kajtezovic and Preston Seible as they affirm their baptisms in the Rite of Confirmation, during worship next Sunday, May 7.

Dr. Katie Robinson (Paige) recently earned her PhD in Nutritional Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her research focused on the mechanisms of obesity and Type 2 Diabetes. She has accepted a Postdoctoral research position at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She and her husband, Tim, look forward to moving back to Iowa this summer.

Pastor Mark Away

Pastor Mark and Sherrie will be in Britain and Ireland for a vacation the end of May through the first two weeks of June. We depart on Thursday, May 26, and return on Wednesday, June 14. While we are away, lay members will preach and lead worship on Sundays. Pastoral emergencies such as hospital visits and funerals will be covered by Pastor Luther Thoresen of Grundy Center. He may be reached at 712-260-7412. I appreciate being able to take this time away, and thank all of you who are stepping up to cover duties during my absence, 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.

May Anniversaries

- 19 Elwin & Stacy Lee
- 19 Doug & Carol Weaver
- 30 Dan & Jane Miller

May Birthdays

- 1 Dan Bergman
- 1 Russ Pedersen
- 1 Preston Siebel
- 3 Evelyn Andorf
- 7 Lucas Gutknecht
- 10 Sue Gibson
- 11 Cindy Paige
- 13 Margaret Brandhorst
- 18 Bridget McCulley
- 20 Gayle Juhl
- 23 Brad Dufel
- 23 Amber Laube
- 23 Sammy Ohrt
- 25 Jennifer Sorensen
- 26 Greg Bergman
- 28 Marissa Gutknecht
- 30 Craig Dufel
- 30 Mallory Laube
- 31 Holly Appleton

Acolytes

- May 7 Zach Young
- May 14 June Volding
- May 21 Preston Seible
- May 28 Tanner Laube

Ushers

- May 7 Irv & Jennifer Laube
- May 14 John & Teri Neil
- May 21 Eleanor Wettengel & Joanne Nicklaus
- May 28 Eleanor Wettengel & Joanne Nicklaus

Communion Servers

May 7 Gayle Juhl & Eleanor Wettengel
May 14 Gayle Juhl & Eleanor Wettengel
May 21 John & Teri Neil
May 28 No Communion during worship

Communion Clean-up

May 7 Cindy Young & Carol Weaver
May 14 Cindy Young & Carol Weaver
May 21 Jane Miller & Julie Sorensen
May 28 No Communion during worship

During May, the color of the paraments is white for the season of Easter.

Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:

May 7: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-26;
John 10:1-10

May 14: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter
2:2-10; John 14:1-14

May 21: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter
3:18-22; John 14:15-21

May 28: Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter
4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

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.