



Zion Lutheran Church **NEWSLETTER**

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

AUGUST 2017 5831 GRUNDY ROAD, HUDSON, IA 50643
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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

First off, a word of thanks to our editor Cindy for her text message reminding me to finish this month's newsletter. I had been outside, checking on tomato and raspberry plants in the garden, enjoying the sun shining, vibrant colors, a breeze ruffling the trees and the inevitable sound of traffic passing a couple miles north on highway 20. I am glad the traffic is there, as it is most hours of the day and night, to remind me of the essential work being done to service our needs as men and women. Be it a plumber's van, a semi-trailer, a farm vehicle, an oil tanker, ambulance, whatever, they remind us of the items we now view as necessary in our lives, and give us an opportunity to remember those who provide the services that enable us to live the life we have.

This very beauty of the scene before me also reminds me of the fragility of our lives. As members of the global community, we are shaken by the news of another terrorist attack. As a nation we are affected by the stress of this past election and major questions facing the future of our country. As a congregation we are concerned about our future, is there going to be enough teachers for this fall's Sunday School, how can the Christian church as a whole survive with such a shortage of clergy? What can we do in this part of our country to try to find new ways forward? We all have our own personal challenges. It is sometimes naïve to suggest that greater national events make our own challenges pale into insignificance. Not always true - health, insecurity, uncertainty can rightly dominate our thoughts.

When I try to hold the beauty still before me and the constant flow of heavy traffic, I recall the funeral I

attended earlier this morning, as well as anticipating my upcoming visit the hospital this afternoon, the combination of them all reminds me of the reality of life. It reminds me that this faith given to us is alive and active in the real world. Not just a thing of beauty, but something which digs deep within us, no matter what the situation or the future. A faith that is real, which provides no easy answers but invites us all to think of others and pray for them. We live our lives conscious of the fragility of life and determined to help others find strength and courage. Remembering also those who carry huge responsibility for the well-being of our nation and the nations of the world.

Summer suns are glowing now, but the Spirit of life, the love of Christ and the working of the Holy Spirit continue through the bleak winter ahead and will until the end of time. If you are going away for a vacation, travel safely and well, if you are staying at home enjoy the beauty around you, and we can all remember that we and our world are always part of the work in progress by the Creator.

My friends, life is short and precious and every day is a gift. It is easy to take for granted those who are close to us. There are days that I get frustrated over really stupid things and can be a jerk to those I love. I all too easily forget how precious the gift of life and the gift others in my life are. Remember to tell those you love how much you love them every chance you have. Show them in every way you can that they hold a special place in your heart. Forgive and be kind every day. Enjoy those God has blessed your life with, hug them and kiss them and make each day rich with love.

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, Chuck & Eunice Neil. If you would like another name added to the list, please let Pastor know.

Semi-annual Meeting

On Sunday, August 27, at 10:15 a.m., following worship, during fellowship time, Zion will hold the semi-annual meeting. The main purpose of the meeting is to review finances for the first half of the year.

In Hudson Group Study

As we did last summer, we are planning another group study in the city of Hudson. The theme will be finding joy in the midst of suffering and hardship. We have tentatively set Monday, August 28, as the first date for the study. The location and time will be announced shortly.

Back to School Devotion

At the end of August we enter the season to return to school. As students begin or go back to school, parents wonder and worry: "Will my child be able to keep up? Will my children get the attention they need thrive? What will their teacher be like?"

Teachers have a similar concern: "Am I teaching for a living, or am I teaching for a life?" A teacher that teaches only for the paycheck has little interest in the student's welfare. The true teacher is the one who desires to learn themselves and loves to pass on that love of learning so the students can excel and grow in life. The true teacher is there to make a difference in students' lives.

We have a beautiful example in the life and work of Jesus Christ. He lived, taught, died and rose for all lives—yours, mine, and the whole world. All this, he did to make a difference today and for all eternity. This difference began in the waters of Baptism, and continues as our faith grows through the Word of God and the Lord's Supper. In Baptism, Jesus made a difference by giving us a different life: pure and sinless, like his. Through God's daily forgiveness and grace, you and I are kept in that different life so that we can make a difference in the lives of those around us. Do we live this new life for ourselves or for the sake of another? Do you live the life of faith for its advantages to your earthly life, or to give and increase the life of faith in others? If you and I live for our own advantages, than we will never make a

difference in the lives of others. Only by living the different life—the life of faith—can we truly make difference in the lives of others.

From God's Word, which changes us by the power of the Spirit, we learn of how we can make a difference.

"Encourage one another and build each other up."
1 Thess. 5:11

"Each of us should please his neighbor or his good, to build him up."
Rom 15:2-3

"Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Col. 3:13

"As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
John 13:34-35

You and I have been called to make a difference in the lives of others because Christ made and daily makes a difference in us through faith. We live making this difference to our family of faith here at Zion. We live making this difference to everyone we meet in our community and around the world. This we do by the power of God, "Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God." 2 Cor. 3:5.

Let us pray for every student and every teacher that God may work great things through both for the blessing and sharing of His Kingdom that makes all things different!

Keys Available

All members of Zion are welcome to have a key to open the church doors. If you would like a copy of the church key, please contact Pastor Mark.

Sunday School Classes Forming

We are looking ahead to resuming our Sunday School program in September. If you are interested in serving as a teacher or helper, please let Pastor Mark know. Rally Sunday and the kick-off of this year's program will be September 10.

Sign-up to Read or Serve Fellowship Treats

There are new 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.

August Anniversaries

- 3 John & Teri Neil
9 Jared & Heather Gutknecht
12 Bill & Lori Gutknecht
25 Steve & Michelle Wright

August Birthdays

- 3 Miranda Johnson
6 Elaine Brandhorst
6 Garry Dufel
6 Sam Kilgore
7 Tanner Laube
8 Sharon Dufel
10 Molly Volding
14 Kari Paige
14 Cameron Seible
16 Pat Gutknecht
16 Reese Seible
17 Kyle Degener
18 Chelsea Miller
21 Shirley Dufel
22 Rodney Degener
22 Zachary Young
24 Sandy Pedersen
24 Taylor Bern
25 Doug Weaver

Acolytes

- 6 Zander Young
13 June Volding
20 Zach Young
27 Tanner Laube

Ushers

- 6 Langley Jensen & Bob Petersen
13 Andy & Cindy Appleton
20 Andy & Cindy Appleton
27 Chris & Barb McCulley

Communion Servers

- August 6 Doug & Carol Weaver
August 13 Doug & Karen Wulf
August 20 Doug & Karen Wulf
August 27 Jennifer Brandhorst &
Carrie McCalley

Communion Clean-up

- Aug 6 Lori Gutknecht & Marj Simpson
Aug 13 Lori Gutknecht & Marj Simpson
Aug 20 Molly Volding & Gayle Juhl
Aug 27 Molly Volding & Gayle Juhl

The color of the paraments during August is Green for the Season of Pentecost.

Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:

Aug 6: Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

Aug 13: 1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

Aug 20: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67; Romans 11:1-2, 29-32; Matthew 15:10-28

Aug 27: Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

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.