



Zion Lutheran Church **NEWSLETTER**

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

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

What do we do after the storm? Blame God for allowing this to happen? Can we in the same way praise God for beautiful weather?

Where and how does beauty rise up from the awful? In all things God works for the good for those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Can we see it? Can we move toward it? Can we embrace it? Yes. As we look through a lens that gets us into the presence of God—regardless of circumstances—we can stand...and we can care for those in need.

In Matthew 8:23-27, we encounter Jesus asleep in the boat during the storm. Awakened, he calms the storm. Recently we have all heard of several hurricanes in the news. We have seen stories of people who have lost everything in the storms, earthquakes, forest fires, Puerto Rico gets hit by one storm after another. I'm not going to venture into whether these storms are portents something larger. Signs of the end times? God's punishment? Global warming? Speculation about such things is more indicative of a lack of understanding. Getting caught up into wondering about the causes of each disaster misses the point. Those in the midst of the storm don't concern themselves with these questions, they're just trying to stay alive. How will we live after the storms? How can we become the lifeboats? The healers, the comforters?

Someone smarter than me told me, "Can you become the answer to your own prayer? You pray for the hungry, then you feed them. That's how prayer works."

Others criticize Christians by asking how can we worship during these times of disaster? Yet, I believe that it's during these times that we need to worship the most.

We gather to worship, then go out to do, to give comfort. These storms and earthquakes and forest fires are not here in Iowa. Yet there are "storms" raging in people's

lives here. Addictions, grief over lost loved ones, divorces, unemployment, stress concerning the upcoming harvest. Rather than trying to hang a label of an answer as to why this has happened, can we instead ask: "What lessons are we learning from this that allow us to give comfort in the here and now and have hope for the future?" Rather than being consumed with blame and asking "why?" can we simply accept the reality that the storm, the cancer, the addiction, has happened, now deal with it?

When we read Romans 8:28, it doesn't say that all things are beautiful, but does say that in the midst of something that is truly awful, is where can we see God working for good.

One of my best friends during junior high and high school was Bruce. Bruce is a Japanese-American. I asked him once if his parents had had to go to internment camps during World War Two. He said that yes, they had. I asked wasn't it awful. He said, well, yes there were a lot bad things happening, but on the other hand it was at such an internment camp, that his parents met and fell in love with each other. They were married shortly after the war and Bruce and his sister now live as a result of that.

Our whole life is worship, not just the hour we spend in a building on Sunday morning. We are church members (parts of the body of Christ) all the time. God gives us gifts to love and serve others. Through us and through the gifts God has given us, others will also experience the love of God. Perhaps the "purpose" of the storms we encounter is to give us the opportunity show that love to those who are desperate to encounter God. The actions of service we do for others speak so much louder than any words we say.

We don't come the Lord's table only to receive, but to be empowered to serve others in need.

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, Elaine Brandhorst, Everett Hansen, Dorothy Juhl Zelle, Eunice Neil. If you would like another name added to the list, please let Pastor know.

Thank You: I would like to thank everyone for the cards, memorials, prayers, and kind words that I received after the death of my dad. I appreciate everything that everyone has done. *John Neil*

Thank you to everyone who made monetary donations, food donations and/or worked at the sandwich supper last Sunday. We served 183 people and made \$1710. Everyone's willingness to help was greatly appreciated. It all made for a fun, successful evening!

Sandwich Supper committee: Marilu Degener, Lori Gutknecht, Marj Simpson and Julie Sorensen

Our annual Harvest Ingather drive goes through November 20. The goal this year is \$15,000.00. Watch the Grain Bin as it starts to fill up. Farmers, as you take your harvest to the elevator, remember to designate a portion to Zion. Others are asked to contribute with a cash donation. Thanks to those who have already donated. May God bless those working the harvest season.

"Armor of God" Women's Bible Study

This Means War.

All day, every day, an invisible war rages around you. A cunning, devilish enemy seeks to wreak havoc on everything that matters to you—your emotion, your mind, your family, your future. But his reign stops right here, right now. With you.

The enemy always fails miserably when he meets a woman dressed for the occasion. A woman who is armed and dangerous.

The Bible study you will be holding in your hands is more than just a biblical description of the believer's inventory. It is an action plan for putting on your armor and developing a personalized strategy to secure victory against the enemy. Yes. A strategy. Targeted. Specific. Precise. Detailed.

We started by watching "The War Room" and plan to continue meeting at confirmation time of 6:30 p.m. during the confirmation evenings throughout the remainder of the year.

In doing this 6 week study weekly I found it took me about 30 minutes daily to work through the work book, thus every other week would give ample time for busy women.

The bible study format will be to do the work at home, come for discussion time and then, listen to the speaker on DVD.

Our next class will be October 4 when the confirmation class meets.

Come check it out. Cindy Appleton

In Hudson Group Study

We continue our Monday group study in the city of Hudson. The theme is finding joy in the midst of suffering and hardship. The study will be held at ABC Insurance Building, 335 5th St, Hudson, from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. Our next session will be Monday, October 2, but no class on October 9.

Sign-up to Read of Serve Fellowship Treats

There are still some empty spaces on the 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.

October Anniversaries

- 19 Kyle & Lacey Degener
- 23 Paul & Janine Knapp
- 29 Andy & Cindy Appleton

October Birthdays

- 1 Bruce Bascom
- 3 Kelly Paige
- 4 Betty Bergman
- 4 Elwin Lee
- 4 Jeff Marsh
- 8 Carson Laube
- 9 Spencer Simpson
- 13 Carol Weaver
- 14 Chris McCulley
- 20 Langley Jensen
- 24 Irv Laube
- 24 Holley Wulf
- 25 Jim Grover
- 25 Jane Miller
- 27 Aaron Seible

Acolytes

- 1 Cameron Seible
- 8 June Volding
- 15 Zach Young
- 22 Reece Seible
- 29 Tanner Laube

Ushers

- 1 Irv & Jennifer Laube
- 8 Karen Wulf & Angie Marsh
- 15 Karen Wulf & Angie Marsh
- 22 Lyle Wulf & Bob Petersen
- 29 Lyle Wulf & Bob Petersen

Communion Servers

- 1 John & Teri Neil
- 8 Julie & Jodi Sorensen
- 15 Julie & Jodi Sorensen
- 22 Marilu & Pam Degener
- 29 Marilu & Pam Degener

Communion Clean-up

- 1 Eleanor Wettengel & Carol Weaver
- 8 Eleanor Wettengel & Carol Weaver
- 15 Jennifer Laube & Mallory Laube
- 22 Jennifer Laube & Mallory Laube
- 29 Janet Brandhorst & Stacy Lee

The color of the paraments October 1-22 is Green for the Season of Pentecost, on October 29, the color is Red for Reformation Sunday.

Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:

Oct. 1: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

Oct. 8: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4-14; Matthew 21:33-40

Oct. 15: Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

Oct. 22: Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-13; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

Oct. 29: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

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.