



# Zion Lutheran Church NEWSLETTER

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

**NOVEMBER 2017**      **5831 GRUNDY ROAD, HUDSON, IA 50643**  
*Pastor Mark's cell: 515-538-2200    Church & Parsonage: 988-4534    [www.zionlutheranhuson.com](http://www.zionlutheranhuson.com)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I recently finished reading **The Martian** by Andy Weir. [Okay, I didn't actually "read" the book, I listened to the audio version from the public library, so don't get picky on me for that. After last month's newsletter came out, my uncle called to let me know that I had made a grammatical error by using "than me" when I should have used "than I" – did anyone else notice that?] I enjoyed **The Martian** very much. It came out as a movie last year and I look forward to watching how it was adapted. We know the adage that "the movie is never as good as the book" but we'll see if that is the case with this one. **The Martian** tells the story of a NASA astronaut who is left alone on Mars when his crewmates assume he was killed during a terrible sandstorm during which they have to make an emergency departure. Most of the book describes how he survives crisis after crisis using just his own knowledge and the few resources he has at his disposal.

In the end, he is rescued when his crewmates, who, realizing he is still alive, come back to rescue him. This book belongs to a genre of books and movies begun by Robinson Crusoe where the main character has adventures involved with surviving alone in a deserted or desolated environment. Some examples are: TV shows like "Lost in Space" and "Gilligan's Island"; books like **The Life of Pi** and **Independent People**; and the movie "Cast Away" with Tom Hanks. I'm sure the TV show "Survivor" tries to be part of this genre, but it's hard for me to accept the "reality" that their lives (or that of the film crew) are in any danger. (Wouldn't you like to see a "Survivor" set in North Dakota in January?)

There is an attraction to this type of story. We

want to believe that we would be able to survive in tough circumstances. We want to believe that we would be resourceful, using our limited supplies. Ten years ago, I rode a few days of RAGBRAI, trying to be as self-sufficient as I could. I didn't want to depend on a "sag wagon" to rescue me. Being a trained bicycle mechanic I have the ability to fix any breakdown that might occur. I needed to take along various tools, tubes, an air pump, - none of which I actually used. I also brought along a couple changes of clothes, a small tent, sleeping bag, and medications I might need. To carry all that stuff I had to tow a trailer behind my bicycle. Towing such a weight slowed me down – a lot. I was constantly being passed by other riders. I recall passing only one other group of riders, a family riding with very young children on small "kiddie" bikes. If I ride RAGBRAI again, I hope I will rely on the help of a team of others with a "sag wagon" for repairs and a bus of people who will set up the tent and prepare the food for me.

In Ephesians 2:8-9, we read "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast." This passage is what got Martin Luther excited enough to get off the treadmill of relying on his own works for his salvation, and motivated him to lead the way for the protestant reformation. This runs directly contrary to the Robinson Crusoe theme of self-reliance. Which is one reason I enjoyed the **The Martian** – in the end he was saved, not by his own works, as wonderful and marvelous as they were, but by others who came to rescue him. So it is with us.

*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, Sean Love, Cameron Wright, Lyle Wulf, Dorothy Juhl Zelle, and Eunice Neil. If you would like another name added to the list, please let Pastor know.

The **Zion Annual Bake Sale** will be held Saturday, December 2, 2017 from 9am to 12noon at the Hudson Community Center. Some of our bakers in the past are unable to bake this year. It is our hope that more will decide to help by baking! Items may be brought to the Community Center after 8am that morning. Proceeds will go to the Mission Committee to help those in need. Thanks!

## New Directories are here

After a long wait, our new pictorial directories have arrived. Name labels have been put on them (so we know who have picked theirs up). Please check your mailbox in the narthex.

## Our annual Harvest Ingathering Drive

goes through November. The goal this year is \$15,000.00. Watch the Grain Bin poster as it starts to fill up. Farmers, as you take your harvest to the elevator, remember to designate a portion to Zion. It's not just for the farmers only - others are asked to contribute with a cash donation. So far, we have received over \$3,500! Thanks to those who have already donated. May God bless those working the harvest season. After worship on Sunday, November 19, we will have our annual Harvest Ingathering potluck as we celebrate the season.

## Hudson Community Thanksgiving Service

This year the Hudson Ministerial Alliance will conduct our annual Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 19. It will be hosted by Hudson Community Church, 226 Eldora Road. There will be a meal at 5:30 and the worship at 6:30 p.m.

## Nominees

We have openings to serve on the church council and some of the committees. If you are interested please contact Ben Volding (our church council president). Thanks for considering.

**Our annual Harvest Ingathering** 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

We continue to meet on Wednesdays during the time of Confirmation class.

## Thank You

Jenna & Joel Parr, and Judy Shirley: would like to thank everyone who helped "spruce" up the outside of the church in time for the wedding on October 7. It looks great! Your efforts are very much appreciated! Thank you!

## Address

I can't remember who all had asked for Cam's address.....He will be in Texas until approximately December 1. It doesn't sound like there are any restrictions as to what you can send him. Just a letter with words from home would be great! Thank you for all the support you have already shown him, Michelle Wright

SPC Cameron J Wright  
HSC 248th ASB  
56414 Headquarters Ave  
Ft. Hood, TX 76544

## Sign-up to Read or 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.

## November Anniversaries

1 Tony & Cindy Young  
19 Harlan & Deb Brandhorst

## November Birthdays

8 Anna VanHemert  
12 Fred Wulf  
12 Cameron Wright  
24 Harley Bergman  
24 Lorraine Joens  
24 Janine Knapp  
28 Allison Bergman  
28 Michelle Wright

## Acolytes

5 June Volding  
12 Zander Young  
19 Cameron Seible  
26 Zach Young

## Ushers

5 Elwin & Stacy Lee  
12 Elwin & Stacy Lee  
19 Chris & Jen Brandhorst  
26 Chris & Jen Brandhorst

## Communion Servers

5 Angie Marsh & Lyle Wulf  
12 Angie Marsh & Lyle Wulf  
19 Steve & Michelle Wright  
26 Steve & Michelle Wright

## Fellowship Servers

5 Marilu Degener  
12 Holly Karsjens  
19 Martha Watson  
26 Gayle Juhl

## Lectors

5 Marilu Degener  
12 June Volding  
19 Janine Knapp  
26 Julie Sorensen

## Communion Clean-up

5 Donna Dufel & Janet Dufel  
12 Donna Dufel & Janet Dufel  
19 Marian Grover & Janine Knapp  
26 Marian Grover & Janine Knapp

The color of the paraments on November 5, is white for All Saints Sunday.

The color of the paraments on Nov. 12 & 19 is green for the Season of Pentecost.

On November 26, the color is white for Christ the King Sunday.

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Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:

### Nov. 5:

Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

### Nov. 12:

Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

### Nov. 19:

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

### Nov. 26:

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

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.