



Zion Lutheran Church **NEWSLETTER**

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

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2018 **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,

The year I graduated law school (1979) I served as law clerk for Judge Richard Mednick in the Federal Bankruptcy Court in Los Angeles. My first day there, within the first five minutes after I met him, Judge Mednick brought me into his office, opened the Bible that he kept on his desk and read from Deuteronomy 15:1-5, "At the end of every seven years you must forgive people what they owe you. Have you made a loan to one of your own people? Then forgive what is owed to you. You can't require that person to pay you back. The Lord's time to forgive what is owed has been announced. You can require someone from another nation to pay you back. But you must forgive what any of your own people owes you... The Lord your God will bless you if you obey him completely. Be careful to follow all the commands I'm giving you today."

Then he told me, "That's what we do here. We follow God's commands. We make it possible for people to have their debts forgiven." He was a deeply religious man.

I had a deep respect for Judge Mednick, and believe he had respect for me and my Christian faith even though he was steadfastly Jewish. I had worked the previous summer as a youth counselor at a Lutheran Bible Camp and felt my faith in Christ was stronger than ever before in my life. During the time I was his clerk, we regularly had lunch together at least once a week. At those lunches, our conversations were hardly ever about the cases in his courtroom (we

talked plenty about those during the rest of the day). He always wanted to ask about my faith in Christ. He was curious and told me was "seriously considering converting" to Christianity.

Well, as far as I know, he never did accept Jesus as his Savior. The last time I saw him in person was at my ordination in 1988. A few weeks ago, I was reminiscing about Judge Mednick and wondered if I could get in contact with him – might he be on Facebook? No. He died in 2008, at the age of 75. This line from his Los Angeles Times obituary struck me: "At the time of his death, he was a vibrant contributor in Torah Study Class at Temple Isaiah in West Los Angeles."

My first reactions were that I could certainly envision Judge Mednick as a "vibrant contributor" and that it'd be a nice thing to have said in one's obituary – that you were a vibrant contributor in a Bible Study at the time of your death. However, the more I thought about it, the greater my disappointment that there was no mention of his becoming a believer in Jesus as his Lord and Savior, the long-expected Messiah. It is a disappointment to attempt to plant a seed and not see it bear fruit.

A few days after reading Judge Mednick's obituary, a friend of mine sent me a quote from Edith Stein regarding something to do after Christmas day – perhaps an inspiration for a New Year's resolution. Edith Stein, was a German Jewish philosopher who converted to Roman Catholicism and became a Carmelite nun. She is canonized as a martyr and saint of the Catholic Church. She died in Auschwitz concentration

camp in 1942. She wrote:

“In order to penetrate a whole human life with the divine life it is not enough to kneel once a year before the crib and let ourselves be captivated by the charm of the holy night. To achieve this, we must be in daily contact with God, listening to the words he has spoken and which have been transmitted to us, and obeying them. We must above all, pray as the Savior himself has taught us so insistently. ‘Ask and it shall be given you.’ This is the certain promise of being heard. And if we pray every day with all our heart: ‘Lord, thy will be done,’ we may well trust that we shall not fail to do God’s will even when we no longer have subjective certainty.”

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

Congregational Meeting on January 21

Our annual congregational meeting to set the budget for 2018 fiscal year will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, January 21. All Zion members are welcome to participate.

Pastor Mark Away

Pastor Mark and Sherrie will be attending the LCMC Spiritual Life Conference at Fountain Hills Lutheran Church in Fountain Hills, Arizona. We depart on Tuesday, January 23, and return on Tuesday, January 30. On Sunday, the 28th, lay members will preach and lead worship. I appreciate being able to take this time away, and thank all of you who are stepping up to cover duties during my absence, Pastor Mark

Our annual Harvest Ingathering

The goal this year was \$15,000.00. Not just the farmers, but all members were encouraged to give to this annual drive to show our thankfulness. As of the end of December, we have received over \$24,756. Wow! Thank you to those who donated. God bless those working this harvest season.

Women’s Bible Study

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

We have decided to pursue another Phyllis Shirer bible study on Gideon.

The flyer on the book says:

“Seven session study to encourage us to recognize our weakness as a key that the Lord gives to unlock the full experience of His strength in your life. If you’ve ever felt insufficient, ill-equipped, incompetent, or outnumbered this study is for you. Instead of ignoring, neglecting or trying to escape your weaknesses, learn to see them as gifts given specifically and strategically by God.”

Lent Begins February 14

We begin our annual trek through Lent this year with our Ash Wednesday service on February 14. During our mid-week services we will have a series of messages which focuses on emotions. Lent can be imagined in terms of its emotions. Lent is mourning our fallen-ness, grieving over sin, a season of sadness before the season of joy, a song of sorrow that precedes Easter’s shouts of praise. Lent is the dance of despair and dejection, before Easter’s lively rejoicing. Biblical worship is not a disembodied activity, but an emotional reality. . On the following Wednesdays we will continue to have special worship services at 6:30 with a meal provided beginning at 5:30. There will be no meal on Ash Wednesday but on the following five Wednesdays.

Thank You Notes Received

Zion Lutheran-

Thank you so much for the card and the gift card. It means a lot to have support from my church family back home. Merry Christmas!

Sincerely, Jace Brandhorst

Zion Lutheran-

Thank you so much for the gift card to Subway! It’s kind of you to think of me as I approach the end of my schooling. Merry Christmas!

Love, Jenna (Brandhorst) Beninga

Zion Family –

Thank you very much for the gift card to Subway. Finals week is stressful so it was beyond reassuring to know that my church family is behind me and supporting my future success. I am thankful that God

blessed me with such great people. Thank you again!

Carson Wright

Zion Family,

I wanted to thank you for the kind gift of the Subway gift card. It's been put to great use in the chaotic last few weeks. Update on where I am: due to some unforeseen circumstances, I was sent home from the deployment and attached to a unit here in Waterloo. It was a very tough pill to swallow for a while but I'm at peace and trusting in this new plan God has for me. I'll be able to resume classes and graduate much earlier than expected. Thank you so much again and peace be with you all!

Cameron Wright

Zion Lutheran Church Family,

Thank you so much for the thoughtful card and Subway gift card. It was really nice to hear from you right before finals, as that was a very stressful time. I feel so blessed to have such a loving, supportive church family.

Mallory Laube

Hello Zion Lutheran Church Family,

Thank you for the thoughtful card wishing me luck on finals. This past semester was the most trying one yet, and it's nice to feel supported and encouraged by the church. Also, the gift card was appreciated as sometimes I forget to feed myself if I'm having a busy week. I thank you for keeping me in your thoughts as the semester wrapped up for me.

Thank you, Chelsea Miller

Thank You!

Sherrie and I are grateful for the Christmas gift from the congregation which was presented on Christmas Eve. We are truly blessed to serve the Zion family. Pastor Mark

January Anniversaries

- 4 Pastor Mark & Sherrie Decker
- 6 Jerry & Donna Dufel
- 29 Jeff & Angie Marsh

February Anniversaries

- 20 Fred & Bev Wulf

January Birthdays

- 4 Jenna Parr
- 7 Judy Shirley

- 11 Lori Gutknecht
- 12 Stacy Lee
- 12 Jamie Miller
- 14 Josh Shirley
- 16 Hayden Gutknecht
- 19 Tanner Wright
- 24 Bob Petersen
- 25 Casey Bonwell
- 29 Carson Wright
- 30 Madeline Brandhorst

February Birthdays

- 1 Sherrie Decker
- 5 Marj Simpson
- 9 Martha Watson
- 9 Zander Young
- 10 Ben Sorensen
- 14 Chris Brandhorst
- 17 Thelma Gutknecht
- 23 Ben Volding
- 25 Casey Bonwell
- 26 Marvin Miller
- 26 John Neil
- 27 Jodi Sorensen

January Acolytes

- 7 Cameron Seible
- 14 Zack Young
- 21 June Volding
- 28 Tanner Laube

February Acolytes

- 4 Reese Seible
- 11 Zander Young
- 18 Cameron Seible
- 25 Zack Young

Ushers

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| January 7 | Jim & Marian Grover |
| January 14 | Jim & Marian Grover |
| January 21 | Gerald & Janet Brandhorst |
| January 28 | Gerald & Janet Brandhorst |
| February 4 | Brad Ohrt & Lynn Pedersen |
| February 11 | Brad Ohrt & Lynn Pedersen |
| Feb. 14 (Ash Wed) | Bill & Lori Gutknecht |
| February 18 | Bill & Lori Gutknecht |
| Feb. 21 (Lent) | Bill & Lori Gutknecht |
| February 25 | Bill & Lori Gutknecht |
| Feb. 28 (Lent) | Harold & Julie Sorensen |

Communion Servers

January 7	Gerald & Janet Brandhorst
January 14	Gerald & Janet Brandhorst
January 21	Steve & Carson Wright
January 28	(no Communion)
February 4	Rod & Marilu Degener
February 11	Rod & Marilu Degener
February 14 (Ash Wed)	Rod & Marilu Degener
February 18	Angie Marsh & Lyle Wulf
February 25	Angie Marsh & Lyle Wulf

Fellowship Servers

January 7	
January 14	Stacy & Elwin Lee
January 21	Langley Jensen
January 28	Allison & Betty Bergman
February 4	Marilu Degener
February 11	Carrie McCalley
February 18	Fred & Bev Wulf
February 25	Sorensen

Lectors

January	Confirmation Students
February 4	John Neil
February 11	Marilu Degener
February 18	Irv Laube
February 25	Dresden Wulf

Communion Clean-up

January 7	Marilu Degener & Janet Brandhorst
January 14	Marilu Degener & Janet Brandhorst
January 21	Eleanor Wettengel & Stacy Lee
January 28	(no Communion)
February 4	Janine Knapp & Marian Grover
February 11	Janine Knapp & Marian Grover
February 14 (Ash Wed)	Elaine Brandhorst & Betty Bergman
February 18	Barb McCulley & Evelyn Andorf
February 25	Barb McCulley & Evelyn Andorf

Snow Removal

January 1-15	Ben Volding	319-229-6058
	Steve Wright	319-239-6375
January 16-31	Chris Brandhorst	319-269-0660
	Aaron Seible	402-730-0487
February 1-15	Andy Appleton	319-239-0340
	Dan Miller	319-988-3610
February 16-28	Chris McCulley	319-239-2518
	Bruce Bascom	319-240-1862

The color of the paraments on January 7 is WHITE for the Baptism of our Lord.

The color of the paraments on Jan. 14, 21, 28 and Feb. 4 is GREEN for Epiphany.

The color of the paraments on February 11 is WHITE for Transfiguration.

The color of the paraments on Feb. 14, 18 and 25 is PURPLE for Lent.

Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:

Jan. 7: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Jan. 14: 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

Jan. 21: Jonah 3:1-5; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Jan. 28: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

Feb. 4: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Feb. 11: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

Feb. 18: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

Feb. 25: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

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.