



# *Zion Lutheran Church* **NEWSLETTER**

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

*APRIL 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,

On Easter Sunday, God again breaks into our darkness with the message of the risen Christ. This year Easter falls on April first. "April Fools Day" has long be celebrated as a day for good humor, harmless pranks and practical jokes.

Paul uses the words "foolishness" and "fools" several times in his letters to the Corinthian church. In 1 Corinthians 1:15 we read, "For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." In the same chapter, verse 21, we read, "For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe." In verse 23, "but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles." In 1 Corinthians 3:18, Paul writes, "Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise." Then in 4:10, "We are fools for the sake of Christ, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute."

As "fools" for Christ, we celebrate with the "foolish" Easter message that brings Christ's forgiving light to those trapped in the darkness of guilt and shame.

Attempts to blend different and distinct holidays is not a good idea as it can be confusing. One of my favorite jokes (an old joke I first heard at Bible camp forty years ago) goes like this: Three Lutheran pastors were comparing which American holiday they liked the best. The first pastor said, "My favorite American holiday is Thanksgiving. It's such a patriotic day, with parades and fireworks as we remember the signing of the Declaration of Independence and honor our nation's birth."

The second Lutheran pastor said, "You've got your holidays mixed up. That's not Thanksgiving. You're talking about the Fourth of July. Thanksgiving is in November, you fool. My favorite American holiday is Christmas, because at Christmas we remember those soldiers who have died for our country, we honor all our fallen heroes with flowers on their graves and many people consider it to be the true beginning of summer."

The third Lutheran pastor said, "You've got your holidays mixed up, too. You're not talking about Christmas, that's Memorial Day. You're a fool yourself. My favorite holiday is Easter, because Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, lived his life as our savior and died on the cross on Good Friday. He was dead and buried, but the sun was shining brightly on that first Easter morning as the stone was rolled away and Jesus stepped out of the tomb, saw his shadow and it meant six more weeks of winter."

I repeat, that was a joke and should not be considered as any basis of theological argument. My favorite April Fools prank was one I did a few years ago at the previous congregation I served as pastor. Unlike this year, it wasn't Easter, merely a regular Sunday in Lent that happened to fall on April first. I have owned a bright red surfboard since my youth in California. It is over six feet long. At the start of worship that Sunday, I entered the sanctuary carrying my surfboard under my arm and propped it against the wall directly behind the pulpit. Throughout the service I tried not to look at it. I did not use it as a sermon illustration or make reference to it in any way during the service. During the singing of the last hymn, I picked it up and carried it out of the sanctuary. Naturally, after the service had ended, several people asked me why surfboard was there. No, there was no reason other than it was an April Fools prank.

Please come to worship this Easter. I promise

you no surfboard pranks this year. There will be the honest, life changing message of the gospel of Christ. Jesus truly did rise from the tomb and that resurrection continues to change our lives today.

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

### **Hospital Visits**

If you or a family member are in the hospital, please let Pastor Mark know so he can visit and pray with you during your time there.

### **Blessing of Seeds and Soils**

As we look forward to warmer weather and spring planting we have scheduled our annual "Blessing of Seeds and Soils" for Sunday, April 8, immediately following the conclusion of worship services. After that, all who are able are invited to help take down the snow fence in the field across from the church buildings. With a lot of hands working, this usually is accomplished easily and quickly, although you should expect to get a little muddy.

### **Thank You**

Thanks to all who helped with snow removal this past winter (and spring). Special thanks to Rod Degener who went above and beyond on Palm Sunday (March 25) with his tractor and snowblower, clearing out on Grundy Road when the county had not sent out their plows before worship.

### **Women's Bible Study**

We continue to meet on Wednesdays during the time of Confirmation class. We have been using Phyllis Shirer's Bible study on Gideon.

### **Annual Soup Supper**

Thank you to everyone who made monetary donations, food donations and/or worked at the Zion Soup Supper on March 25. We served 90 people and made \$1615. Not bad considering the muddy road conditions! Everyone's willingness to help was greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Deb Brandhorst, Carrie McCalley and Julie Sorensen, who lead the Soup Supper Committee. Also thanks to Sherrie Decker for sharing her chicken & bacon with creamy wild rice recipe and playing keyboard during the meal.

### **Easter Lilies**

Easter Lilies have been placed in the altar area in memory of:

#### **Don & Dave Brandhorst**

(by Jenny, Gary, Luke, Chris, Brett,  
Reed Brandhorst)

#### **Don, David & Karen Brandhorst**

(by Margaret Brandhorst)

#### **Leo & Alma Waltmann and Erwin & Martha Bergman and Harley Bergman**

(by Betty Bergman)

#### **Carlyle Nicklaus & Chuck Neil**

(by John & Teri Neil)

#### **In memory of parents and Robert Dufel & Margaret Petersen**

(by Bob Petersen and Shirley Dufel)

#### **In memory of:**

**Clarence & Susan Gutknecht**

**Martin & Mildred Dufel**

**Alice & Edward Brandhorst**

**Bill & Thelma Gutknecht**

**Mary Bauer**

(by Donna & Jerry Dufel)

## April Anniversaries

|    |                       |
|----|-----------------------|
| 6  | Bruce & Dianne Bascom |
| 14 | Jim & Marion Grover   |
| 19 | Doug & Karen Wulf     |

## April Birthdays

|    |                 |
|----|-----------------|
| 3  | Andy Appleton   |
| 3  | Julie Sorensen  |
| 4  | Dianne Bascom   |
| 4  | Tammy Bern      |
| 5  | Joanne Nicklaus |
| 5  | June Volding    |
| 6  | Carrie McCalley |
| 12 | Cindy Appleton  |
| 15 | Harold Sorensen |
| 26 | Danielle Bascom |
| 26 | Ryan Ohrt       |
| 26 | Marian Grover   |
| 28 | Kevin Simpson   |

## April Acolytes

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

## Ushers

|                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| April 1 (Easter) | Steve & Michelle Wright |
| April 8          | Steve & Michelle Wright |
| April 15         | Elwin & Stacy Lee       |
| April 22         | Elwin & Stacy Lee       |
| April 29         | John & Teri Neil        |

## Communion Servers

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| April 1 (Easter) | Andy & Austin Appleton |
| April 8          | Andy & Austin Appleton |
| April 15         | Ed & Gayle Juhl        |
| April 22         | Ed & Gayle Juhl        |
| April 29         | Dan & Jane Miller      |

## Communion Clean-up

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| April 1 (Easter) | Jennifer Laube &<br>Marilu Degener      |
| April 8          | Jennifer Laube &<br>Marilu Degener      |
| April 15         | Judy Shirley & Jenna Parr               |
| April 22         | Judy Shirley & Jenna Parr               |
| April 29         | Elaine Brandhorst & Janet<br>Brandhorst |

## Fellowship Servers

|                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| April 1 (Easter) | Sunday School         |
| April 8          | Karen Wulf            |
| April 15         | Sorensens             |
| April 22         | Shirley and Parr      |
| April 29         | Janine and Paul Knapp |

## Lectors

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| April 1 (Easter) | Zander Young   |
| April 8          | Karen Wulf     |
| April 15         | Julie Sorensen |
| April 22         | Zander Young   |
| April 29         | John Neil      |

## Snow Removal Teams

|       |                         |
|-------|-------------------------|
| April | Rod Degener and Ed Juhl |
|-------|-------------------------|

**The color of the paraments in April is white for Easter.**

## Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:

|  |
|--|
| <b>April 1:</b> Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24;<br>1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18 |
| <b>April 8:</b> Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2;<br>John 20:19-31                  |
| <b>April 15:</b> Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7;<br>Luke 24:36-48                     |
| <b>April 22:</b> Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24;<br>John 10:11-18                   |
| <b>April 29:</b> Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31;<br>John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8                 |

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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.