



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 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,

For many of us, the tradition of "going back to school" which we learned as children, continues on into adulthood. We make resolutions this time of year to re-commit ourselves to become more involved with our children, our work, and our lives at church.

In the coming weeks, as we will get ready to resume Sunday School and Confirmation classes at Zion, as well as organize various service projects. You may yourself receiving a call to step up and give your time and talent to serve in a manner which you had never considered before. I believe that God gives each of us gifts.

In First Corinthians 12:5-7, Paul writes: "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

Yes, we all have gifts, but I also believe that many of us have gifts that we have not realized. When I was a kid, I recall playing catch with my uncle. As we tossed the ball back and forth he'd tell me his theory of untapped gifts. His theory was that the most gifted shortstop in baseball was potentially some Egyptian kid who never heard of baseball, using his talent by throwing rocks at birds while walking along the Nile.

I believe many of us are like that. We have talents that God has given us that we have not developed, simply because we haven't tried. When someone asks if you can play the violin, do you automatically say, "No" or do you more honestly say, "Well, I've never tried, so I really don't know."?

I would hope we can all have that attitude when asked to do something we've never tried. They probably won't make a movie of it, but you might have a wonderful adventure discovering a new talent that God has given you.

In Christ, Pastor Mark Decker

P.S.: As we think about Sunday School resuming, please consider inviting a neighborhood child who is not involved in another congregation to come with you to try out our Sunday School.

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, Susan Decker, Sean Love, Eileen McKenna, 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 Backpacks

On Sunday, August 19, during our worship, we plan to have the "Blessing of the Backpacks" which honors and asks a blessing on students returning to school for the fall as well as teachers, administrators, and all workers returning after a summer which included vacations and time away.

Semi-Annual Meeting

On Sunday, August 26, Zion's semi-annual meeting will be held immediately following worship. Please submit your reports to Chris McCulley or the church office by the morning of August 19. The main purpose of the meeting is to review finances for the first half of the year.

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 with Rally Sunday on September 9. If you are interested in serving as a teacher or helper, please let Pastor Mark know.

Sign-up to Read or Serve Fellowship Treats

There are still some open days 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.

NEW ZION LUTHERAN COOKBOOK "FAITH. FOOD. FELLOWSHIP."

We are planning to create a new cookbook! Our last cookbook at Zion was printed in 1987 and our congregation has grown since that time! Your participation will be needed to make this project a success. Church cookbooks contain tried and true recipes and are a lasting keepsake.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please submit five to six of your favorite, cherished recipes to be included in our cookbook by September 15, 2018. We would also like to include recipes in memory of our church members that have passed away.

Recipes may be left in the church mailbox marked "Recipes" in the church entryway. Questions may be directed to Jan Brandhorst. The committee will keep you updated on the progress of this project. Thank you for submitting your recipes!

Golf Lessons

After some requests, Pastor Mark will be offering golf lessons again on Sundays, August 12, 19, and 26 at 4:00 p.m. at Beechnut Golf Course on Dale Drive in Hudson. Pastor Mark worked for over four years as a golf professional in California from 1979 to 1984 and has much experience giving lessons to all skill levels.

Our LCMC Annual Gathering

The Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) annual gathering takes place October 7-10, 2018 in Des Moines, and features keynote speakers, opportunities for fellowship and networking, break-out sessions, dozens of vendors to explore, and more. If you plan on attending, early bird registration ends

soon, so be sure to register by September 1, to secure the best possible rate.

Tour of Israel Information

Pastor Mark has signed up to tour Israel in March of 2019. He will be traveling with a group of LCMC pastors and church members. There are still some spots available if any of you might be interested.

This promises to be an exciting travel opportunity to Israel and the many incredible sites associated with the Biblical story – from the Old Testament to the Gospels' historic locations. This tour is sure to be one of spiritual inspiration and insight as we discover the cradle of Christian history!

Dates for travel are Monday, March 18 through Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Cost is \$3,997 including taxes, airline surcharges, flight from Cedar Rapids, and tips.

Departure is from either the Eastern Iowa or Des Moines International Airport (unless otherwise specified). The carrier is not known to us until a couple of months prior to departure. Flight out is typically later in the day with afternoon arrival in Israel.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner is included daily. Lunch is often arranged in one of the locations we'll find ourselves on our sightseeing tour. The cost of this is on your own. Typically, there are additional choices within a reasonable distance (we'll be given a certain amount of time and some guidance in this regard).

Accommodations are first class hotels (four star or better) based on double occupancy...usually two twin beds. The hotels typically include restaurant, air conditioning, modern private bathroom facilities, and are centrally located in the areas we'll visit.

There is a brochure available for more details.

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

- 11 Sheila Petry
- 14 Kari Paige
- 14 Cameron Seible
- 16 Pat Gutknecht
- 16 Reese Seible
- 17 Kyle Degener
- 18 Chelsea Miller
- 21 Shirley Dufel Petersen
- 22 Rodney Degener
- 22 Zachary Young
- 24 Sandy Pedersen
- 24 Taylor Bern
- 25 Doug Weaver

August Acolytes

- 5 Zack Young
- 12 Reece Seible
- 19 June Volding
- 26 Zander Young

Ushers

- August 5 Langley Jensen & Bob Petersen
- August 12 Joel & Jenna Parr
- August 19 Joel & Jenna Parr
- August 26 Chris & Barb McCulley

Communion Servers

- August 5 Doug & Carol Weaver
- August 12 Doug & Carol Weaver
- August 19 Doug & Karen Wulf
- August 26 Doug & Karen Wulf

Communion Clean-up

- August 5 Lori Gutknecht & Marj Simpson
- August 12 Lori Gutknecht & Marj Simpson
- August 19 Molly Volding & Gayle Juhl
- August 26 Molly Volding & Gayle Juhl

The color of the paraments on all the Sundays of August is green for the season after Pentecost.

Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:

August 5: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6 24-35

August 12: 1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

August 19: Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

August 26: Joshua 24:1-2, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 2:11-22; John 6:56-69

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.