



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 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,

In the 14th chapter of the gospel of Matthew we read of Jesus miraculously feeding some 5,000 people. I love this passage of scripture. In one elegant action, Jesus accomplishes so much. He shows his miraculous power once more. He takes care of a bunch of hungry people. He uses it as an extremely effective object lesson for his disciples.

It isn't what you bring that makes a difference. What makes the difference is that you bring it to Jesus. He can take the little you have and make it enough – more than enough. Let's make this practical in our own lives right now.

First, of course, Jesus did this particular miracle in this way to show the people that he was the messiah. His actions are a very close parallel of how the Lord dealt with the people of Israel during the Exodus. They could hardly miss the significance of it all. He led them into the wilderness where they experienced their need, and then he satisfied that need.

Second, this is often exactly how Jesus deals with us. Jesus allowed a difficult situation to develop, and then left it to the disciples, to see what they would do. More than once, I have faithfully followed Jesus to the best of my ability, and I wind up, figuratively speaking, alone and hungry in the wilderness. Instead of great results from trying to be faithful to Jesus, I end up feeling like I'm worse off than I was before. And then comes the worst part. Like the disciples, I go to him with the problem and he says, "Look at your own resources. What have you got? What will you do?"

I'm sure the disciples first thought this was unfair. Jesus got them into this – why should they be the ones to figure a way out? But that wasn't Jesus' point, and it isn't his point when he does this with us. His point

is this: whatever resources you have – when you bring them to Jesus – are enough. Five loaves of bread split between five thousand people is one one-thousandth of a loaf of bread for everyone. It is pathetic, even laughable. We are supposed to look at our resources and see how hopeless it is without Jesus. But when we bring what we have to Jesus – even when it is as pathetic as five loaves and two fish among five thousand – Jesus can turn it into enough.

Of course, we aren't on a deserted hillside in Galilee with five-thousand hungry people. But you might be in the middle of another difficult situation, one that seems impossible. Perhaps you are in a very troubled place in one of your important relationships. Maybe you are in the midst of work or career difficulties. Maybe your struggle has to do with finances, or health. It might seem like you got into this mess in the first place by trying to follow Jesus. It might feel like he's asking you to care of everything.

Take a moment right now, and bring to mind a situation that seem difficult or impossible for you. Now picture Jesus. Let him ask you to give him your resources.

It's okay if your resources are pathetic. In fact, imagine him as he looks at the inadequacies you bring to this situation and smiles a big smile, and says "Perfect."

You see, it isn't what you bring that makes a difference. What makes the difference is that you bring it to Jesus. He can take the little you have, and make it enough – more than enough.

Yes, Jesus did ask the disciples to trust him. He provided the food. He supplied the miracle. But he asked his disciples to trust him, and to act on that trust. They took what he gave, and went out the crowd and gave it away. So also, he asks you to trust him.

He will provide. He will take your pathetic resources and make them more than enough. But he wants you to trust that, and act on that trust. Listen as he tells you what to do right now, then obey, and be thankful.

In Christ's Love,
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, Susan Decker, Lorraine Joens, Sean Love, Eileen McKenna, Dan Miller, Bill Neil, Eunice Neil, Margaret Brandhorst. If you would like another name added to the list, please let Pastor know.

Our annual Harvest Ingathering Drive

goes through November 25. 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. It's not just for farmers only, others are asked to contribute with a cash donation. Thanks to those who have already donated. May God bless those working the harvest season.

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.

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.

Bake Sale

Zion will once again be participating in the bake sale on Saturday, December 1 in conjunction with Santa Claus coming to town. At present, they do not know the exact time that the event will be, but please watch for that announcement for the upcoming event like you have in the past years. All we know for now is the date, but not the time.

Practice for Musicians and Singers

Immediately following worship, Sherrie Decker is leading a short practice time for those interested

in singing or playing a musical instrument with our worship team. We will only do a couple of songs so you will still have time to participate in Sunday School or fellowship afterwards.

Here's How You Can Help

There are many ways to be involved in worship. Some are more "up front" such as serving as a reader, usher, musician, or communion server. Others are more "behind the scenes" such as cleaning up the communion ware after worship or operating the sound system and power point presentation.

Included in this newsletter is an opportunity to let the Worship and Parish Life Committee know how you and your family would like to serve in 2017. Please return this page by the end of November before the committee meets to schedule ushers and other servers for next year.

Sunday, November 18, is going to be a busy day at Zion. Amidst the plans we make, we remember to pray, "Lord willing, this will all take place with God's blessing and direction."

The 9:00 a.m. worship service on the 18th will include the culmination of our annual Harvest In-gathering. That service will be followed by a potluck lunch. Later that afternoon, we are invited to the annual Hudson Ministerial Association's community-wide Thanksgiving celebration, which begins with a soup and sandwich meal at 5:30 p.m., followed by worship at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Church in Hudson.

Although the first verse of Psalm 122 should apply to every opportunity to gather as followers of Christ, I think it especially appropriate on November 20th to say, "I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord'."

Please Put Us on the Schedule for 2017

Names _____

Would like to serve as:

- ___ Usher
- ___ Communion Server
- ___ Communion Clean-up
- ___ Sound System/PowerPoint Operator
- ___ Other _____

Please schedule us for these months:

Please do not schedule us for these months:

Comment Overheard

“What a nice little church” Have you heard those words used to describe Zion? I have...and on the surface, it’s true! We’re “nice”...at least most of us (you know who you are)...and we’re definitely not a huge church. What’s lost in that description, however, is the impact Zion is able to make. While we’re not a “huge” church, God is making a huge impact through Zion. God is at work through Zion and God doesn’t do anything “little”. We can’t be content to be a “nice little church” either. It’s not about growing to some certain size or expanding for expansion’s sake. It’s all about making a God-sized impact in our world, with His help, for His glory!

November Anniversaries

1	Tony & Cindy Young
11	Nick & Holley VanHemert
19	Harlan & Deb Brandhorst

November Birthdays

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

Ushers

November 4	Elwin & Stacy Lee
November 11	Elwin & Stacy Lee
November 18	Chris & Jen Brandhorst
November 25	Chris & Jen Brandhorst

Communion Servers

November 4	Marilu Degener & Judy Shirley
November 11	Angie Marsh & Lyle Wulf
November 18	Angie Marsh & Lyle Wulf
November 25	Steve & Michelle Wright

Communion Clean-up

November 4	Stacy Lee & Carol Weaver
November 11	Stacy Lee & Carol Weaver
November 18	Monica Laube & Whitney Laube
November 25	Monica Laube & Whitney Laube

Read Scripture during Worship

November 4	Irv Laube
November 11	Dresden Wulf
November 18	June Volding

November 25

Gayle Juhl

Serve Fellowship Treats

November 4	Bergman family
November 11	Dresden Wulf
November 18	Gayle Juhl & Connie Aronson
November 25	Marilu Degener & June Volding

Parking Concerns

There has been some conversation concerning leaving space for an emergency vehicle to have access to the church basement if the “loop” of our front driveway is overcrowded with parked cars. While it is certainly okay to park there, just keep in mind that we don’t want to have the driveway completely blocked.

The color of the paraments on Sunday November 4, the color is White for All Saints Sunday. On Sundays, November 11 and 18 is green for the season after Pentecost. On Sunday, November 25, the color is white for Christ the King Sunday.

Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:

Nov. 4: Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6; John 11:32-44

Nov. 11: 1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

Nov. 18: Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-25; Mark 13:1-8

Nov. 25: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4-8; John 18:33-37

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.