



# Zion Lutheran Church NEWSLETTER

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

**DECEMBER 2018**      **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,

About the time I got used to writing 2018 (about the middle of summer), it seemed like the year was almost over. Time moves differently than when we were younger. Then, it seemed like it took forever to get to next Christmas, but now I find myself saying, "Is it already Christmastime again?" Our perspective on time and the speed at which it seems to move changes as we get older.

Yet time is one of those blessings and commodities that God has given us. As we are perched at the edge of saying good-bye to the old year and hello to the new one, it is a good time to think about time. Especially in our stewardship of time.

Time is a major part of our stewardship calling. What will we do with the time that God has given us? God gives all of us 365 days and 24 hours in each and every one of those days. Those in recovery talk about living "One day at a time" because thinking about being sober for a whole year seems like too big of a bite to swallow. God has given us one day at a time to manage. Certainly, we need to have a plan, at least know where we'd like to end up, so we have an idea of which direction to begin moving. But that merely means that we ask the question, "If God wants me to move in a certain direction, what should I be doing TODAY to have God get me there?" God calls me to make the most of my time today so that he can lead me where he wants me to be.

In my life, this process is usually punctuated with surprises and changes all along the way. God's plan for me always takes precedence over the plans I might make. One saying I have to keep in mind is, "When I make plans for my life, God laughs." I am not sure where I am headed or what God plans for me, but he is. My life plan must be flexible if I am to

be God's disciple. That does not mean I am off the hook for a plan; it just means that I can expect some changes along the way. I am called to adapt.

What I do with my time is important. It's a stewardship issue. I need to constantly ask, "What is God's will for me TODAY?" I have found that things I used to think were interruptions very well may be the reason God puts me here on earth at this time and at this place. Perhaps the most important task I face is always living in the present – experiencing life as it happens so I don't miss the blessings and opportunities God throws my way.

There is an old Hank Williams song, "If you've got the money, honey, I've got the time." That may have been true when I was younger. But as I have matured I am realizing that I often really do not have that much time available. If I am to be a faithful steward, I must use what little amount of time I have for maximum use and service to God. When I was in law school, I recall on the first day of my Wills and Trusts class, the professor said, "If we all knew the exact day we were going to die, there would be no need to have a will because you would spend your last dime at the same time you took your last breath and would have given away everything else ahead of time. Trouble is, we don't know, so that's why we need to have a will."

As we stand at the beginning of a New Year, 2019, please to give some thought to how you will use your time. What is God's will for your time in 2019? What is God's will for you today? Will you be a good steward of this valuable gift of time that God has given you? May God's grace and peace be with you this year.

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. If you would like another name added to the list, please let Pastor know.

## **Our annual Harvest Ingathering Drive**

The goal this year was \$15,000.00. May we have a sense that God blesses those working the harvest season. As of the end of November, we have received \$9,441.28. Many thanks to all who have contributed!

## **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 or help with the sound and PowerPoint display on Sunday mornings. Please take advantage these opportunities to use your talent.

## **Bake Sale**

Zion will once again be participating in the Hudson bake sale on Saturday, December 1 in conjunction with Santa Claus coming to town. The bake sale goes from 9 a.m. to noon with Santa there from 10:30 to noon. You may drop off bake sale goodies at the Hudson Community Center after 8:00 a.m.

## **Annual Congregational Meeting**

On Sunday, December 16, immediately following worship (at 10:00 a.m.) Zion will hold our Annual Meeting for Election of Church Officers for 2019.

## **Graduation**

Jace Brandhorst will graduate on Saturday, December 15, 2018 from Iowa State University. He will receive a degree in Mechanical Engineering. His family will honor him during fellowship time on Sunday, December 16, 2018. Jace appreciates all the love and support he has received from his Zion church family during his college days at ISU! Congratulations, Jace!

## **Zion Women Christmas Lunch**

On Monday, December 10 at 11:30 p.m., the Zion Lutheran Church Women (ZLCW) meets for lunch together at Perkins on Hammond Avenue in Waterloo.

## **Caroling**

All those interested in going out to sing Christmas Carols are invited to gather at Zion at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 9. We will sing to some in nursing homes and various people who are somewhat "home" bound or alone. We expect to be finished and back to Zion by about 5:00 p.m.

## **Sunday School Christmas Program**

Our Sunday School Christmas program is being practiced and plans to be presented during worship on Sunday, December 23. Thanks to Evelyn Andorf's knitting skill we have several costumes for lambs (hats with ears) – If you are going to have younger grandchildren visiting with you that Sunday, we could find a place for them to participate in the program as part of the flock tended by the shepherds.

## **Opportunities for Helping those in Need**

There are two trees set up in the church building north entryway. One is a "mitten" tree to attach new gloves, scarves, hats, stockings and mittens to be given to those in need of such items during the coming winter cold weather. The other tree is decorated with paper notes, each note listing a specific item to be donated and given to local family that has been identified as having these specific needs. Please turn in your items for this tree by December 9. Thanks.

*"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, 'Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you'—when you already have it with you."*

— Proverbs 3:27-28

*"Those who give to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to them receive many curses."*

— Proverbs 28:27

## **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.

## December Anniversaries

19	Garry & Sharon Dufel
21	Gerald & Janet Brandhorst
21	Ben & Molly Volding

## December Birthdays

1	Angie Marsh
8	Jennifer Laube
13	Jenna Brandhorst Beninga
13	Paul Knapp
14	Teri Neil
17	Harlan Brandhorst
18	Florence Wrede
19	Gerald Brandhorst
21	Barb McCulley
24	Brett Gutknecht
24	Phil Laube
27	Jessica Lee

## Acolytes

2	Reece Seible
9	Zander Young
16	Tanner Laube
23	Dylan Garbes
24 (Christmas Eve - evening)	June Volding
30	Cameron Seible

## Ushers

December 2	Langley Jensen & Ed Juhl
December 9	Langley Jensen & Ed Juhl
December 16	Harold & Julie Sorensen
December 23	Harold & Julie Sorensen
December 24 (eve)	Harold & Julie Sorensen
December 30	Jim & Marian Grover

## Communion Servers

December 2	Gayle Juhl & Barb Gutknecht
December 9	Gayle Juhl & Barb Gutknecht
December 16	Chris & Jennifer Brandhorst
December 23	[no Communion, Christmas program]
December 24 (eve)	Chris & Jennifer Brandhorst
December 31	Gerald & Janet Brandhorst

## Communion Clean-up

December 2	Jennifer Laube & Marilu Degener
December 9	Jennifer Laube & Marilu Degener
December 16	Judy Shirley & Jenna Parr
December 23	Judy Shirley & Jenna Parr
December 24 (Eve)	Elaine Brandhorst & Betty Bergman
December 30	Gayle Juhl & Elaine Brandhorst

## Read Scripture during Worship

December 2	Teri Neil
December 9	[available]
December 16	Gerald Brandhorst
December 23	SS Christmas Program
December 24 (Eve)	[available]
December 30	[available]

## Serve Fellowship Treats

December 2	[available]
December 9	[available]
December 16	Gerald & Janet Brandhorst
December 23	SS Christmas Program
December 30	[available]

## Snow Removal

December 1-15	Brad Ohrt & Mark Decker
December 16-31	Greg Bergman & Craig Dufel

## 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 Sundays, December 2, 9, 16 and 23 is blue for the season of Advent. On Monday, December 24 and Sunday, December 30, the color is white for Christmas.**

## Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:

**Dec. 2:** Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10;

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

**Dec. 9:** Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm is Luke 1:68-79;

Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

**Dec. 16:** Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm is Isaiah 12:2-6;

Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

**Dec. 23:** Micah 5:2-5; Psalm 80:1-7;

Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55

**Dec. 30:** Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14;

Luke 2:1-20

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.