



Zion Lutheran Church NEWSLETTER

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

FEBRUARY 2019 **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,

“It is winter in Narnia,” said Mr. Tumnus, “and has been for ever so long.... always winter, but never Christmas.”

This is a line from the beloved story *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. These words capture our imagination and are remembered long after they have been read for the first time. Always winter, but never Christmas. It is always winter and never Christmas in Narnia because the White Witch has cast an evil spell over the whole land. So when the snow begins to melt, and Father Christmas makes a welcome appearance, it is a sign that the White Witch's powers are fading. After Father Christmas has distributed gifts, he cries out, “Merry Christmas. Long live the true king!” Winter's grip is loosening because the true king (Aslan) has returned.

A few of you might know that the image of a winter spell being broken was one that Lewis used to describe his own conversion to Christianity. His journey to Christian faith was a slow one, which he likened to the melting of snow, a retreat of the cold unbelief that had chilled his heart. He described himself as having been a ‘man of snow’ who began to melt. Narnia being released from the freezing grip of winter is an image of our own hearts being released from the dead winter of unbelief into the warmth of springtime faith.

Lewis, who introduced this memorable image of Christmas representing springtime redemption from winter's cold control of the human heart, was not a fan of what the celebration of Christmas had become. He wrote of there being three Christmases. First, there is the religious one, which he describes as ‘important and obligatory’ for Christians. Next, there is the popular holiday that goes by the same name and is an occasion for merrymaking. Lewis is keen

on merrymaking and has nothing much to say about that. He certainly has nothing to say against it. The third Christmas is what he refers to as the ‘commercial racket’, which he saw, quite accurately, as both a modern invention and an evil intrusion. He wrote an article in December of 1957 called “What Christmas Means To Me”:

“.....the thing is a nightmare. Long before December 25th everyone is worn out - physically worn out by weeks of daily struggle in overcrowded shops, mentally worn out by the effort to remember all the right recipients and to think out suitable gifts for them. They are in no trim for merry-making; much less (if they should want to) to take part in a religious act. They look far more as if there had been a long illness in the house.”

What further infuriates him is that during the weeks before Christmas he can't even do his normal shopping without being seriously inconvenienced. Finally, at his curmudgeonly best, he concludes:

“We are told that the whole dreary business must go on because it is good for trade. It is in fact merely one annual symptom of that lunatic condition of our country, and indeed of the world, in which everyone lives by persuading everyone else to buy things. I don't know the way out. But can it really be my duty to buy and receive masses of junk every winter just to help the shopkeepers? If the worst comes to the worst I'd sooner give them money for nothing and write it off as a charity. For nothing? Why, better for nothing than for a nuisance”.

You might think Lewis is just being a grump. Is he a latter-day Grinch, seeking to steal Christmas? Not at all. Lewis saw distinctions that can easily be missed. Remember, his well-thought-out view was that the “religious Christmas” was “obligatory and important” for Christians. What he objected to was the rampant profiteering and its unhealthy disruption

to life.

Early in the New Year, we are told whether Christmas was a “success” or not. That success will not be measured by whether the lonely were befriended, or the homeless given shelter, far less whether the message of Christian hope was widely received. It will be measured by the profits at cash registers. We will be told - because apparently we need to know - how much profit was made out of us all. That tells us what we need to know about what Christmas is really all about in our culture.

I hope you all have had a truly blessed Christmas. But the key to Christmas is whether Jesus is truly at the center. Without Him, the winter chill, whereby hearts freeze out the incomparable, unconditional love of God, continues its icy grip. Without Jesus, without seeking Him as did the Magi of old, without celebrating Him as did the angelic host, without the faith of the shepherds, then all we have is a brief festive cheer without Christmas: it then remains always winter and never Christmas in our hearts. We remain, to borrow Lewis’s phrase “men and women of snow”.

Wishing you every blessing over Christmas, and praying the winter can melt away as soon as possible.

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, Clarence Laube, Sean Love, Eileen McKenna, Dan Miller, Eunice Neil, Harlan Selken. If you would like another name added to the list, please let Pastor know.

“Enhancing Lives Through a Commitment to Individualized Care in a Home Empowered by God’s Love”

In the newsletters this year we will highlight ministry and service opportunities that are available to you at NewAldaya. We hope that you will gain knowledge and an appreciation for the relationship between NewAldaya and our Zion congregation. It is our sincere desire that you will find a way to engage meaningfully in this ministry at NewAldaya.

The title of this article is the mission statement of NewAldaya. This place of Christian caring was conceived of in 1955 by members of seven Lutheran churches in the Cedar Valley. Zion was one of those seven founding churches. After much prayer, fundraising and dedication to hard work, the Cedar Valley Lutheran Home opened in 1958. While the name has changed over the years, the mission of Christian caring has remained paramount when serving the needs of those who reside at NewAldaya.

Zion continues to embrace NewAldaya as an important part of our ministry plan. Some people might say that it is part of our senior ministry, however it also impacts the families of the residents who see their loved ones receiving good care. Every individual who joins in the mission of serving at NewAldaya in big ways or small, is positively impacted by their experiences. It is a ministry for all ages as each of us is drawn closer to God through interacting across generations.

Coming up in the month of February is the opportunity to usher residents to and from their Sunday morning Chapel service. Many residents appreciate the willingness of volunteers to push their wheelchairs.

Edward and Gayle Juhl

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 plenty of 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.

Thank You!

Dear Zion Lutheran Church Family,

Thank you to all those who helped prepare the care package I received. It was a lovely gift to receive over the holidays. It’s hard to express how impressed PFC Thomas was that we actually received socks. The baked goods were by far the first to go, followed by the sunflower seeds. We also have a nice supply of hot sauce to liven up the powdered eggs at our field exercise this month. I hope everyone

had a merry Christmas and a good start to the new year back home. Again, thank you for your generosity. It means a lot.

God Bless,
2LT Mitchell Juhl
HSC, 70th BSB
Camp Casey, Korea
APO, AP 96224

NewAldaya Chapel Helpers

The month of February will be Zion's turn to help residents of NewAldaya attend their Sunday morning chapel service, usually by pushing wheelchairs.

Wednesday Women's Bible Study

On the same Wednesdays when there is Confirmation Class, Cindy Appleton leads a study for women. Please join the study, "Breathe, Keeping the Sabbath" a DVD series from Priscilla Shirer. There will also be a Priscilla Shirer live simulcast at the Riverview Conference on Saturday, April 27, called "Going Beyond." Hours for the presentation will be forthcoming. Several were interested in going last year, but we didn't get signed up in time, so here is another opportunity!

Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, February 3, is the Souper Bowl of Caring campaign. Following worship, a student will hold a container in which donations may be placed. Thank you for participating in the "Souper Bowl of Caring," along with the Zion high school youth! The money collected will be given to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. Your donations will make a difference in someone's life!

New Adult Sunday Bible Study

We invite everyone to a new adult Bible study. "You Make Me Crazy: Surviving Relationships God's Way" is a DVD and discussion during fellowship 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.

February Birthdays

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

Acolytes

3 Reece Seible
10 Elizabeth Karsjens
17 Cameron Seible
24 Zack Young

Ushers

February 3 Gerald & Janet Brandhorst
February 10 Gerald & Janet Brandhorst
February 17 Bill & Lori Gutknecht
February 24 Bill & Lori Gutknecht

Communion Servers

February 3 Rod & Marilu Degener
February 10 Rod & Marilu Degener
February 17 Angie Marsh & Lyle Wulf
February 24 Angie Marsh & Lyle Wulf

Communion Clean-up

February 3 Janine Knapp & Marian Grover
February 10 Janine Knapp & Marian Grover
February 17 Janet Brandhorst & Marilu Degener
February 24 Janet Brandhorst & Marilu Degener

Snow Removal

February 1-15 Andy Appleton
Dan Miller
February 16-28 Chris McCulley
Bruce Bascom

The color of the paraments for all Sundays in February is green for the season of Epiphany.

Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:

Feb. 3: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

Feb 10: Isaiah 6:1-13; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

Feb. 17: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

Feb 24: Genesis 45:3-15; Psalm 37:1-11,39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38; Luke 6:27-38

2019 Communion Clean-up Schedule

January 6	Gayle Juhl & Elaine Brandhorst
January 13	Evelyn Andorf & Joanne Nicklaus
January 20	Evelyn Andorf & Joanne Nicklaus
January 27	(no Communion)
February 3	Janine Knapp & Marian Grover
February 10	Janine Knapp & Marian Grover
February 17	Janet Brandhorst & Marilu Degener
February 24	Janet Brandhorst & Marilu Degener
March 3	Eleanor Wettengel & Stacy Lee
March 6 (Ash Wed.)	Elaine Brandhorst & Betty Bergman
March 10	Eleanor Wettengel & Stacy Lee
March 17	Karen Wulf & Barb McCulley
March 24	(no Communion)
March 31	Karen Wulf & Barb McCulley
April 7	Monica & Whitney Laube
April 14	Monica & Whitney Laube
April 18 (Maundy Th.)	Elaine Brandhorst & Janet Brandhorst
April 21	Judy Shirley & Jenna Parr
April 28	Judy Shirley & Jenna Parr
May 4	Jennifer Laube & Lori Gutknecht
May 11	Jennifer Laube & Lori Gutknecht
May 18	Molly Volding & Gayle Juhl
May 25	Molly Volding & Gayle Juhl
June 2	Teri Neil & Joanne Nicklaus
June 9	Teri Neil & Joanne Nicklaus
June 16	Cindy Appleton & Shirley Petersen
June 23	Cindy Appleton & Shirley Petersen
June 30	Eleanor Wettengel & Beverly Wulf
July 7	Donna Dufel & Janet Dufel
July 14	Donna Dufel & Janet Dufel

July 21	Jane Miller & Julie Sorensen
July 28	Jane Miller & Julie Sorensen
August 4	Barb McCulley & Evelyn Andorf
August 11	Barb McCulley & Evelyn Andorf
August 18	Jennifer Laube & Stacy Lee
August 25	Jennifer Laube & Stacy Lee
September 1	Teri Neil & Joanne Nicklaus
September 8	Teri Neil & Joanne Nicklaus
September 15	Marilu Degener & Molly Volding
September 22	Marilu Degener & Molly Volding
September 29	Eleanor Wettengel & Beverly Wulf
October 6	Lori Gutknecht & Elaine Brandhorst
October 13	Lori Gutknecht & Elaine Brandhorst
October 20	Janine Knapp & Jane Miller
October 27	Janine Knapp & Jane Miller
November 3	Jennifer Laube & Molly Volding
November 10	Jennifer Laube & Molly Volding
November 17	Karen Wulf & Shirley Petersen
November 24	Karen Wulf & Shirley Petersen
December 1	Donna Dufel & Janet Dufel
December 8	Donna Dufel & Janet Dufel
December 15	Monica Laube & Whitney Laube
December 22	Monica Laube & Whitney Laube
December 24 (Eve)	Elaine Brandhorst & Janet Brandhorst
December 29	Elaine Brandhorst & Janet Brandhorst
2020	
January 5	Karen Wulf & Evelyn Andorf
January 12	Karen Wulf & Evelyn Andorf
January 19	Gayle Juhl & Elaine Brandhorst
January 26	Gayle Juhl & Elaine Brandhorst

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.