



Zion Lutheran Church NEWSLETTER

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

MARCH 2019 **5831 GRUNDY ROAD, HUDSON, IA 50643**
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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last Sunday, February 24, the weather was so awful that our worship services at Zion were cancelled. The decision to cancel was actually made late on Saturday afternoon, based on several weather forecasts and in consultation with various leaders of the church. Cancelling is not something done very often here at Zion. This was the first Sunday in the seven years I've been here that worship has been called off. As it turned out, the combination of snow, cold temperatures and very high wind on Sunday morning made travel extremely dangerous, if not impossible. Although I had been reluctant to cancel at first, I'm very glad we did now, especially when I consider the many reports of cars and trucks who went into the ditch. When people feel compelled to go someplace, they sometimes make the bad decision to get out and drive in bad weather. We, as leaders of the church, don't need to add to that situation. We made personal phone calls to the "die-hards" who aren't about to let a little bad weather stop them (you know who you are), sent an email to a larger group, and called in to channel 7, so we would be on their huge list of other congregations who had cancelled.

So, with Sunday worship services cancelled, what does the pastor do? I did make an attempt to walk over to the church building at about 8:45 in the morning, just in case someone, somehow, hadn't heard we had cancelled and had made it here expecting worship. I cleared away the snow that was blocking the door, got to the bottom of the parsonage steps, and promptly turned around and came back in the house. No one was going to be coming – not with 6 foot high drifts in the middle of Grundy Road. I had prepared my sermon and children's message for the Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany (a Sunday in the lectionary that doesn't come around very often, but was on the calendar this year because Easter is so late

– April 21) so I'll use those for this coming Sunday rather than the Transfiguration texts which the lectionary recommends for March 3.

The week before, I had attended a gathering of our LCMC Iowa District pastors at Riverside Bible Camp with the theme of "How to Enrich Your Practice of the Sabbath." Remembering the Sabbath is more than just resting or not doing something. It is about actively and regularly devoting time and energy to the meditating on God's Word and praising and thanking God in prayer and worship. While I enjoy leading worship and preaching, I will admit that my pastoral "busyness" on a typical Sunday morning is not a time of Sabbath rest. For that reason, being forced to slow down and stop my routine proved to be a helpful time of keeping the Sabbath for me. What about you? How does your prayer life change when you are taken out of your regular schedule? When non-weather related crises arise and break into your life, are you able to remember to keep the Sabbath with more prayer and thankfulness to God?

One concluding note about the snow. Everyone says that no two snowflakes look the same. But, considering the countless number of snowflakes that have fallen, how many actually have been examined under a microscope and compared to each other? In a lot of ways, we as Christians are like snowflakes. Alone and on their own, snowflakes are weak and fragile. Touch a snowflake with your finger and it will melt instantly. But when enough snowflakes gather together they can shut down a huge area, bringing everything to a standstill. When we, as individual Christians stand alone, our weaknesses make our faith vulnerable to outside forces. But when we stick together as a community following Christ, we can do amazing things.

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, Walt Eccard, Lorraine Joens, Clarence Laube, Sean Love, Eileen McKenna, Dan Miller, Eunice Neil, Dale Neuhaus, Harlan Selken.**

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

Lenten Worship on Wednesdays

We begin our annual trek through Lent this year with our Ash Wednesday service on March 6, at 6:30 p.m. On the following Wednesdays we will continue to have special worship services at 6:30 with a meal provided beginning at 5:30. There will be no meal on Ash Wednesday but on the following five Wednesdays. The theme of this year's Lenten services will be stories from the life of King David. We will use the "Holden Evening Prayer" as music for the service.

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.

Pastor Mark in Israel

Pastor Mark has prepared for his tour of Israel. He will be away from March 17-27. He will be traveling with a group of LCMC pastors and church members. 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. Please pray for Pastor and those on the tour during this time. Thank you to Jace Brandhorst for agreeing to preach the sermon on March 24!

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.

NewAldaya Chapel Helpers

Thank you to those who helped assist the residents of NewAldaya attend their Sunday morning chapel service, during the month of February..

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

On February 3, the special collection for the Souper Bowl of Caring campaign raised \$282. The money will be donated to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. Thank you! 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.

Thrivent Members

If you invest through Thrivent, please remember that you need to designate where your Thrivent Choice dollars go every year. This does not happen automatically, you have to call to renew every year. Thrivent matches funds that you make and disperses them to local charities/organizations. If you do not designate Zion, or any other organization of your choice, Thrivent donates to an organization of their choice. If you wish Zion to benefit from your matching investment funds, please call 1-800-thrivent (1-800-847-4836) by the end of February. If you do not call, unclaimed monies are dispersed by March 15.

Last year, multiple Thrivent members did not donate their Choice dollars to any organization of their choice. Remember, the 'Choice' is yours!

March Anniversaries

9 Ed & Gayle Juhl
30 Greg & Tammy Bergman

March Birthdays

6 Whitney Laube
8 Angie Johnson
10 Rorie Volding
12 Luke Kilgore
13 Bill Gutknecht
13 Ryan Johnson
16 Doug Wulf
17 Connor Simpson
20 Austin Appleton
21 Allan McCulley
23 Bev Wulf
26 Dayne Watson
27 Paul Petry
28 Karen Wulf
31 Jace Brandhorst

Acolytes

3 June Volding
10 Elizabeth Karsjens
17 Dylan Garbes
24 Cameron Seible
31 Zander Young

Ushers

March 3	Harold & Julie Sorensen
March 6 (Ash Wed)	Harold & Julie Sorensen
March 10	Harold & Julie Sorensen
March 13 (Lent)	Ed & Gayle Juhl
March 17	Ed & Gayle Juhl
March 20 (Lent)	Ed & Gayle Juhl
March 24	Ed & Gayle Juhl
March 27 (Lent)	Rod & Marilu Degener
March 31	Rod & Marilu Degener

Communion Servers

March 3	Joel & Jenna Parr
March 6 (Ash Wed)	Rod & Marilu Degener
March 10	Joel & Jenna Parr
March 17	Bill & Lori Gutknecht
March 24	(no Communion)
March 31	Andy & Austin Appleton

Communion Clean-up

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

Snow Removal

March 1-15	Paul Knapp Elwin Lee
March 16-31	Gerald Brandhorst Jared Gutknecht

The color of the paraments for Sunday, March 3 is white for the Transfiguration of Our Lord. For the rest of the March the color is purple for the season of Lent.

Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:

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

March 10: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13

March 17: Genesis 15:1-12; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

March 24: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

March 31: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-13

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.