



Zion Lutheran Church NEWSLETTER

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

MAY 2019 5831 GRUNDY ROAD, HUDSON, IA 50643

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As most of you have heard by now, my mother passed away on April 9. April 11 would have been her 88th birthday. Her health had been declining over the past few years, especially these last months, so her death was certainly not unexpected. In the midst of so many memories and emotions, I keep reminding myself of the words I have said to others going through the death of a loved one, "It hurts."

When I was younger, I remember conversations about which was worse – for a loved one to die quickly and unexpectedly, such as in a car crash – or – for a loved one to die slowly, such as after a long illness. There really is no resolution to that debate. Imagine two scenarios. In the first, you are standing in the middle of a room and a man sneaks up behind you and, with no warning, whacks you across the back of your legs with a baseball bat. In the second, you are standing in the middle of a room and you see a man enter the room carrying a baseball bat. As he walks toward you, he tells that he is going to hit you with the bat. As he gets closer he lifts the bat and describes exactly where he is going to hit you and how hard he is going to swing. You believe him and prepare yourself as best you are able to receive the blow. Then he whacks you across the back of your legs with the bat. The question as to which hurt worse can't really be answered. They both hurt.

For me, even though I have faith that my mother is at peace now, enjoying a reunion with my father, who died in 1996, it still hurts. Part of my faith is that Jesus knows my grief. In the gospel of John, the 11th chapter, we read of Jesus raising his friend Lazarus back to life. John 11:35, that shortest verse in the Bible, tells us, "Jesus wept." Even though Jesus knew full well that in about five minutes he was going to have the stone in front of Lazarus' tomb to be pulled

aside and he was going to bring the already decomposing Lazarus back to life. Despite all that, Jesus grieved the loss of his friend so much that he cried. And not just a few tears, the Bible tells us that Jesus wept. If Jesus could weep at the death of Lazarus, it is certainly appropriate for us to feel grief and weep at the death of our loved ones. Because it hurts.

Throughout my life, my mother was a tremendous encourager and shared her wisdom as I made important decisions. One of the last occasions she was able to that was when the time came for me to resign from my previous church denomination and seek a new call in an LCMC congregation. If it wasn't for her encouragement at that time, I very well may have never come to be your pastor here at Zion.

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, Walt Eccard, Lorraine Joens, Clarence Laube, Sean Love, Eileen McKenna, Eunice Neil, Dale Neuhaus, Harlan Selken, Wanda (Cindy Young's friend). Also, the families and friends of Florence Wrede, Flynn Meyer, Dennis Gerholdt, and Susan Decker, whose funerals were recently. 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. Unlike in years past, hospital staff does not call the pastor to notify him when a church member has been hospitalized.

Sign-up to Read of 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.

Wednesday Women's Bible Study

On the same Wednesdays when there is Confirmation Class, Cindy Appleton leads a study for women. We are using the study, "40 Days of Prayer" a DVD series from Rick Warren.

LCMC Youth Event

CALLED 2: LOVE

JULY 21-24, 2020, in Des Moines, IA

If you've ever wondered what God's call on your life is, or wanted to gain a better understanding of what God might be calling you to do in your local community, you're not alone. Join other students and youth leaders from Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ's summer youth event and find out! The event is designed for high school students completing grades 8-12. Youth leaders and adult chaperones are also needed to attend.

First Communion Class

On Sunday, May 19, starting at 11:00, Pastor Mark will be teaching a class for those in third grade or higher who are interested in receiving the bread and wine as they participate in Holy Communion. The class will help parents decide when their children are ready. Parents are welcome to attend the class with their children.

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.

May Anniversaries

19 Elwin & Stacy Lee
19 Doug & Carol Weaver
30 Dan & Jane Miller

May Birthdays

1 Dan Bergman
1 Russ Pedersen
1 Preston Sieble
3 Evelyn Andorf
7 Lucas Gutknecht
10 Sue Gibson
11 Cindy Paige
18 Bridget McCulley
20 Gayle Juhl
23 Brad Dufel
23 Amber Laube
23 Sammy Ohrt
25 Jennifer Weitzel
26 Greg Bergman
28 Marissa Gutknecht
30 Craig Dufel
30 Mallory Laube
31 Holly Appleton

Acolytes

May 5 Dylan Garbes
May 12 Zack Young
May 19 Hayden Gutknecht
May 26 June Volding

Ushers

May 5 Irv & Jennifer Laube
May 12 John & Teri Neil
May 19 Eleanor Wettengel & Joanne Nicklaus
May 26 Eleanor Wettengel & Joanne Nicklaus

Communion Servers

May 5 Dan & Jane Miller
May 12 Ed & Gayle Juhl
May 19 Ed & Gayle Juhl
May 26 John & Teri Neil

Communion Clean-up

May 5 Jennifer Laube & Lori Gutknecht
May 12 Jennifer Laube & Lori Gutknecht
May 19 Molly Volding & Gayle Juhl
May 26 Molly Volding & Gayle Juhl

The color of the paraments for all the Sundays in May is white for the season of Easter.

Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:

May 5: Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

May 12: Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

May 19: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May 26: Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 5:1-9

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.