



Zion Lutheran Church NEWSLETTER

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

JUNE 2019 5831 GRUNDY ROAD, HUDSON, IA 50643

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

June 9 is Pentecost Sunday. We will begin our three days of Vacation Bible School that evening at 6:00 p.m. We offer activities and studies for all ages as part of our program.

You only have a few days left to finish your preparations for Pentecost. But, maybe you already have everything decided. The menu for the family feast is posted on the refrigerator; there are still a few items to pick up at the grocery store. The guest room is prepped for the company arriving Friday evening. The new red shirt you bought is hanging in the closet and you can't wait to wear it to church Sunday morning.

What? You don't have special plans for Pentecost weekend? In our current culture, most people don't celebrate Pentecost with special plans outside of possibly attending church on Pentecost Sunday. However, it hasn't always been like that in other parts of the world. Apparently Germany had traditions connected with Pentecost that extended beyond a church-related celebration. The following remembrance was recorded by Evelyn (Mueller) Wilson in 1987. She wrote about her mother's memories of Pentecost celebrations in Niederplanitz, Saxony, East Germany.

"Did we celebrate Pentecost both Sunday and Monday?" I heard Mother say it again this year. She was reminiscing about a time long ago when she was a girl and she participated in the Pentecost festivities in Niederplanitz, Saxony, East Germany. She told me that Pentecost was celebrated as enthusiastically as Christmas and Easter. It was a two-day festival with church services on both days. Preparation began on Saturday with the purchase of birch trees. They were purchased from a man who rode slowly through the neighborhood, his horse-drawn wagon loaded with

freshly cut trees. Children jumped about in excitement as they followed his wagon. The excitement mounted as the wagon pulled up to Mother's church, Johannes Gemeinde, where four especially nice trees were unloaded. The white-barked trees had a trunk the diameter of about 6 inches and fresh green leaves clung to the branches. After the trees were placed in large, dirt-filled buckets, one tree was placed on each side of the sanctuary. The other two trees were placed outside of the church entrance, on either side.

Birch trees were also purchased to have in the home. It always delighted Mother to have the fresh tree in the living room. In addition to the birch tree, a neighbor sold lilacs for the occasion. The fragrance of the lilacs together with the scent of fresh birch permeated the house. Pentecost morning began early. Mother rose about 4 am, donned her church clothes and quickly left the house to join her friend Emma. Together with hurried steps they walked into the woods in time for the 6 am Pentecost concert. They walked about one hour to reach the location of the concert.

A 25-member band awaited them, playing Pentecost hymns such as Come Holy Ghost, God and Lord. Everyone who had come to hear the music stood quietly among the trees. In the crisp morning air, the melodies rose and mingled with the songs of the birds in a joint chorus of praise. After the concert, Emma and Mother hurried back to reach Johannes Gemeinde in time for the 9 am service. As a member of the church choir, Mother said, "We always sang our beautiful choir hymn Freut Euch, ihr Christen alle, Gott schenkt uns seinen Sohn. [A modern translation of one of the verses of this hymn is at the end of this article.]

The pastor preached an hour-long sermon on the Acts 2 account of Pentecost while the congregation

settled into quiet attention. After a meal of meat, potatoes and vegetables, Mother joined her parents, brothers and sister for their afternoon walk into the woods. Girls wore new white dresses for the occasion, as did my Mother. Food was brought along, packed in a basket. This included Ash Kuchen baked on Saturday for the occasion. After the long walk into the woods, all were hungry again and so the family sat on the ground to eat.

Following the long walk home a good night's sleep was welcomed. Monday all were up early for the second church service in observance of Pentecost. "It was all so wonderful, so festive! It comes to my mind so strongly, even though it was so long ago," Mother said. "Some day we will celebrate and sing beautifully in heaven."

Modern Hymn Translation: Rejoice, all you Christians, rejoice, whoever is able. God has done so much for us; rejoice most loudly, that he has valued us so highly that he has become our friend. Joy, joy upon joy! Christ protects from all suffering. Delight, delight upon delight! He is the son of mercy.

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, Sean Love, Eileen McKenna, Eunice Neil, Dale Neuhaus, Harlan Selken, Wanda (Cindy Young's friend). Also, the families and friends of Lorraine Joens and Clarence Laube, 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.

At Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp

Please pray for June Volding as she will be attending Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp during the week of June 23 through 28.

Women's Bible Study

We will be starting a new study the first week of June. "It's Not Supposed to Be This Way" is a Bible Study by Lisa Terkeust that will focus on finding unexpected strength when disappointments leave you shattered. The study will be at 6:30 p.m. either on Tuesday or Wednesday, the day will be finalized this week. If you are interested please contact Cindy Appleton at 319-988-9309. The study will be held weekly for 6 weeks.

Thank You

To all those who provided cookies for the chapel Sunday Fellowship at NewAldaya!

Thank You

For all your expressions of prayer and comfort on the death of my mother, please know that your support has been greatly appreciated. We are planning to send memorial gifts to Mexico Missions, an LCMC congregation in Monterrey, Mexico, a place dear to my mother's heart. Thank you, Pastor Mark.

Vacation Bible School

Zion's annual VBS program will be held Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, June 9,10,11. We will begin with a meal from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m., Music, Classes for all ages, Crafts and Games all combine for a fun and faith-filled program.

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.

A Joke

Timmy didn't want to put his money in the offering plate Sunday morning, so his mother decided to use some hurried creative reasoning with him.

"You don't want that money, honey," she whispered in his ear. "Quick! Drop it in the plate. It's tainted!"

Horrified, the little boy obeyed. After a few seconds he whispered, "But, mommy, why was the money tainted? Was it dirty?"

"Oh, no dear," she replied. "It's not really dirty. It just 'taint yours, and it 'taint mine," she replied. "It's God's."

June Anniversaries

6	Chris & Barb McCulley
6	Chris & Jennifer Brandhorst
14	Rodney & Marilu Degener
15	Phil & Monica Laube
18	Irv & Jennifer Laube
30	Harold & Julie Sorensen

June Birthdays

1	Miles Bern
4	Donna Dufel
9	Holley Bergman
12	Dresden Wulf
13	Jessi Sorensen
15	Edward Juhl
19	Bob Johnson
20	Eleanor Wettengel
21	Harris Jorgensen
21	Monica Laube
23	Brad Ohrt
26	Marilu Degener
27	Pamela Degener
30	Ronnie Degener

Acolytes

June 2	Zander Young
June 9	Tanner Laube
June 16	Dylan Garbes
June 23	Zack Young
June 30	Hayden Gutknecht

Ushers

June 2	Andy & Cindy Appleton
June 9	Paul & Janine Knapp
June 16	Andy & Cindy Appleton
June 23	Craig & Janet Dufel
June 30	Craig & Janet Dufel

Communion Servers

June 2	John & Teri Neil
June 9	Paul & Janine Knapp
June 16	Ed & Gayle Juhl
June 23	Paul & Janine Knapp
June 30	Ed & Gayle Juhl

Communion Clean-up

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

The color of the paraments for Sunday in June 2 is white for the season of Easter. June 9 is red for Pentecost. June 16 is white for Holy Trinity Sunday. June 23 and 30 are green for the season of Pentecost.

Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:

June 2: Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17; John 17:20-26

June 9: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-35; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17

June 16: Proverbs 8:1-4; 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

June 23: Isaiah 65:1-9; Psalm 22:19-28; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39

June 30: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21; Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

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.