



# Zion Lutheran Church NEWSLETTER

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

**AUGUST 2019**      **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,

August 25th is going to be a busy Sunday at Zion. With the beginning of Sunday School, we will hold our traditional "Rally Day" breakfast, before worship, starting at 8:00 a.m. During worship, we will also celebrate the Rite of Confirmation for four of our young people. Immediately following worship we will kick off our first day of Sunday School classes including a class taught by myself for older youth and adults. Then, after the Sunday School hour, those newly confirmed will go to the boat landing at Prairie Lakes Park as they continue to re-affirm their baptisms with an immersion in the water.

Now, I know that some of you may be asking yourselves, "What on earth is that about? Are they getting re-baptized? Why the dunking in the water?" Good questions.

I have heard at least one person ask, "Why have confirmation on Rally Sunday?" Let me address that first. Confirmation is not a "graduation" from church. It is an affirmation or re-commitment to the promises made at a child's baptism. What better time to make this re-commitment than on the day others in our church are returning to their Sunday School classes? So, the Rite of Confirmation fits in perfectly for Rally Sunday.

The immersion in the water is not another baptism, but a dramatic use of water to emphasize how important their re-commitment in the Rite of Confirmation truly is. The idea for doing this came to me during my trip to Israel last March. Part of our tour was going to the Jordan River, donning baptismal gowns (over our swimsuits), and being immersed in the waters near the place where Jesus himself was baptized by John. I freely admit that when I first saw

that on our itinerary, I was very reluctant to participate in it. As a good Lutheran, I believe that once a person has been baptized (no matter what age that baptism happened) there is no need to be re-baptized. When I hear of someone who was baptized in a Lutheran church as an infant going through another baptism as an adult because they are joining a congregation of a denomination that does not recognize infant baptisms or practices a "believer's baptism" I am greatly disturbed. To me such a practice is not only problematic theologically, but shows a disregard and disrespect for the tradition out of which that person was raised. I absolutely did not want my participation in this Jordan River baptismal ceremony to encourage such an attitude.

I did participate. As it turned out, that affirmation of baptism was one of the top highlights of my time in Israel. I'm sure it helped ease my cynicism to have our tour leaders (fellow LCMC pastors whom I greatly respect) repeatedly say that we were not being re-baptized, but that it was an affirmation of our baptism. I was surprised that I found the experience to have such a great impact on my faith. Martin Luther recommended that we should remember our baptisms on a daily basis. Doing so is not necessarily an easy task.

We have a wonderful group of young people completing their confirmation studies and affirming the promises of their baptisms on August 25. I pray that the added immersion affirmation will be memorable for them as they continue to mature in their faith.

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, Mary Hansen, Sean Love, Eunice Neil, Dale Neuhaus, Holly Paar, Wanda (Cindy Young's friend). 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.

## Semi-Annual Meeting

Zion's Semi-Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, August 11, immediately following the worship service. This meeting is a report of our finances for the first half of the year.

## Wednesday Evening Bible Study

In late August we will be starting "The Bible from 30,000 Feet" by Skip Heitzeig. If you have ever wanted to read through the Bible, now is your chance. This will require reading the Bible, watching a video from Pastor Skip, and then Bible study to discuss the video and the workbook. It is an exciting study. Let Cindy Appleton know if you're interested at 319-988-9309. The study is expected to be held on Wednesdays unless Bible study members want another night.

## Sunday School Information

Zion Sunday School resumes on Sunday, August 25. We will have a Rally Day breakfast starting at 8:00, with classes at 10:15 for ages 3 through adult.

## Adult Bible Study

We are continuing our study "Jesus Wept - Why?" a Bible Study of John chapter 11 on Monday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. on Mondays, August 5 and 12. This study will focus on our expectations, disappointments and surprising grace of following Jesus.

## DVD Library

We have a very useful free library of DVD movies in the cabinet in the narthex / front entry. If you have borrowed any, please return them so others may enjoy this blessing.

## Faith. Food. Fellowship.

Great news! Our Zion Cookbook is complete and has arrived! The cookbook was revealed on Sunday, July 7 and is for sale during fellowship time. The price is \$20 and contains 615 recipes. Cookbooks make great gifts!

It was August 2018 when we started our project. Our last cookbook was printed in 1987. Thank you to all that submitted recipes and asked others for recipes. Each recipe makes our book special. Our cookbook also contains many recipes from those we hold in our memory. Thank you to everyone for your support and encouragement. We have a great cookbook and we hope you enjoy it!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ELAINE BRANDHORST!

Elaine will turn 90 on August 6, 2019. Please join Elaine and her family as they honor her during Fellowship Time following the church service on Sunday, August 4, 2019.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO PAT GUTKNECHT!

Pat will turn 90 on August 16, 2019. Please join Pat and her family as they honor her at the Dike Memorial Building from 2-4 PM on Saturday, August 17th.

## Congratulations Confirmands

Please continue to pray for Tanner Laube, June Volding, Zachary Young and Zander Young as they affirm the promises of their baptism with the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, August 25.

## August Anniversaries

- 3 John & Teri Neil
- 9 Jared & Heather Gutknecht
- 12 Bill & Lori Gutknecht

## August Birthdays

- 3 Miranda Johnson
- 6 Elaine Brandhorst
- 6 Garry Dufel
- 6 Sam Kilgore
- 7 Tanner Laube
- 8 Sharon Dufel
- 10 Molly Volding
- 14 Kari Paige
- 14 Cameron Seible
- 16 Pat Gutknecht
- 16 Reese Seible
- 17 Kyle Degener

18 Chelsea Miller  
21 Shirley Dufel  
22 Rodney Degener  
22 Zachary Young  
24 Sandy Pedersen  
24 Taylor Bern  
25 Doug Weaver

### **Acolytes**

4 Zack Young  
11 Reece Seible  
18 June Volding  
25 Zander Young

### **Ushers**

August 4 Langley Jensen & Lyle Wulf  
August 11 Joel & Jenna Parr  
August 18 Joel & Jenna Parr  
August 25 Chris & Barb McCulley

### **Communion Servers**

August 4 Zander Young & Carol Weaver  
August 11 Zander Young & Carol Weaver  
August 18 Doug & Karen Wulf  
August 25 Doug & Karen Wulf

### **Communion Clean-up**

August 4 Barb McCulley & Evelyn Andorf  
August 11 Barb McCulley & Evelyn Andorf  
August 18 Jennifer Laube & Stacy Lee  
August 25 Jennifer Laube & Stacy Lee

**The color of the paraments for all the Sundays in August is green for the season of Pentecost.**

### **Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:**

**August 4:** Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 49:1-12; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:3-21  
**August 11:** Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3;8-16; Luke 12:32-40  
**August 18:** Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56  
**August 25:** Isaiah 58:9-14; Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

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.