



# Zion Lutheran Church NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME TO THE ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

*Zion is a member congregation of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)*

**DECEMBER 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,

With Christmas approaching I'm reminded of this well-known passage from the Gospel of Luke 2:8-17:

*And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.*

When I was in Israel last spring, we visited Bethlehem and were treated to the view of actual 21st century shepherds on the hillsides, keeping watch over their flocks of sheep. Our tour guide pointed out that these hills outside of Bethlehem were directly along the way that visitors would have passed on their way up to the temple in Jerusalem. Part of the worship included the offering of an unblemished lamb to be sacrificed. Two thousand years ago the shepherds made money by selling

unblemished lambs to the pilgrims who needed to offer their sacrificial lambs.

The shepherds kept newborn lambs in an unblemished condition by wrapping the lambs' legs in "swaddling cloths" which protected them from injury. Only the sacrifice of an unblemished lamb obeyed the instructions for the first Passover in Exodus 12:5-6, "Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight."

The connection to Jesus is in 1 Peter 1:18-19 "You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot." The connection to Jesus was also made by the angels on the night of his birth, but we can miss it because we are not familiar with lives of first century shepherds. When the angel said, "And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths." They knew what it meant for an unblemished sacrificial lamb to be wrapped in swaddling cloths. It was truly a "sign for you." ("You" being the shepherds.) The sign for the shepherds was that this newborn child would be the unblemished lamb of God, sent to take away the sin of the world.

I believe that God continues to have signs for you and me today. When we receive the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper we are reminded of Jesus' words that this is "for you" for the forgiveness of sins. Outside of worship, how attentive are we of the "sign for you" that God is presenting us?

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, Whitney Laube, Sean Love, Eunice Neil, Holly Paar, Fred Tessmer 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.

## **Planning for the Christmas Program**

We are preparing another original Christmas program to be presented during worship on Sunday, December 22. If you would like to be involved in the program such as helping with the rehearsals, decorating or costuming, please let Pastor Mark or Cindy Appleton know. Rehearsals will begin on December 1.

## **Mitten Tree**

As we consider cold weather this Christmas season we have placed a "Mitten Tree" in the narthex of the church building. Please bring gloves, mittens, hats or scarves that can be worn during the winter. Items will be distributed to families in need through our local schools.

## **Four Oaks Tree**

We have also placed a "Four Oaks Tree" in the narthex with tags to suggest gifts for the residents and students at Four Oaks school.

## **Congregational Meeting**

We will hold our annual meeting for the election of committee and church council members immediately following worship on Sunday, December 15,

## **Wednesday Evening Bible Study**

We are continuing "The Bible from 30,000 Feet" by Skip Heitzig. 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 on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

## **Faith. Food. Fellowship.**

Great news! Our new Zion Cookbook is complete! The cookbook is for sale during fellowship time. The price is \$20 and contains 615 recipes. Cookbooks make great gifts! 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. so far, we have earned \$6,665.85. Thank you to everyone for your support and encouragement. We have a great cookbook and we hope you enjoy it!

## **Our Annual Harvest Ingathering Drive**

May we have a sense that God blesses those working the harvest season. As of the end of November, we have \$12,136.35. Many thanks to all who have contributed!

## **December Anniversaries**

- 19 Garry & Sharon Dufel
- 21 Gerald & Janet Brandhorst
- 21 Ben & Molly Volding

## **December Birthdays**

- 8 Jennifer Laube
- 13 Jenna Beninga
- 13 Paul Knapp
- 14 Teri Neil
- 17 Harlan Brandhorst
- 19 Gerald Brandhorst
- 21 Barb McCulley
- 24 Brett Gutknecht
- 24 Phil Laube
- 27 Jessica Lee

## **Acolytes**

- 1 Aubrey Wulf
- 8 Carson Laube
- 15 Zach Young
- 22 Dylan Garbes
- 24 (Christmas Eve - evening) Rorie Volding
- 29 Elizabeth Karsjens

## **Ushers**

- December 1 Langley Jensen & Ed Juhl
- December 8 Langley Jensen & Ed Juhl
- December 15 Harold & Julie Sorensen
- December 22 Harold & Julie Sorensen
- December 24 (evening) Harold & Julie Sorensen
- December 29 Jim & Marian Grover

## Communion Servers

December 1 Chris & Jennifer Brandhorst  
December 8 Chris & Jennifer Brandhorst  
December 15 Gayle Juhl & Barb Gutknecht  
December 22 (No Communion – S.S. Program)  
December 24 (evening) Rod & Marilu Degener  
December 29 Rod & Marilu Degener

## Communion Clean-up

December 1 Donna Dufel & Janet Dufel  
December 8 Donna Dufel & Janet Dufel  
December 15 Monica Laube & Whitney Laube  
December 22 (No Communion)  
December 24 (Eve)  
Elaine Brandhorst & Janet Brandhorst  
December 29 Elaine Brandhorst & Janet Brandhorst

## Snow Removal

December 1-15 Brad Ohrt  
Mark Decker  
December 16-31 Greg Bergman  
Craig Dufel

## Sunday Readers

December 1 June Volding  
December 8 Ben Volding  
December 15 Gerald Brandhorst  
December 22 Holly Karsjens  
December 29 (open)

## Serving Fellowship Treats

December 1 (open)  
December 8 Sorensens  
December 15 Garry & Sharon Dufel  
December 22 Holly Karsjens  
December 29 (open)

## Here's How You Can Help

Included in this month's newsletter are the 2020 schedules for ushers, communion servers and clean-up, as well as snow removal. As always, if you see your name in a time that will not work for you, please contact the pastor or make arrangements to switch with someone who can take your place.

### Snow Removal Schedule 2019-2020

November	Rod Degener	319-415-5071	Ed Juhl	319-215-2585
December 1-15	Brad Ohrt	319-231-9436	Mark Decker	515-538-2200
December 16-31	Greg Bergman	319-504-5574	Craig Dufel	319-988-3722
January 1-15	Ben Volding	319-415-0043	Chris McCulley	319-239-2518
January 16-31	Chris Brandhorst	319-269-0660	Elwin Lee	319-988-4219
February 1-15	Andy Appleton	319-239-0340	Dan Miller	319-988-3610
February 16-28	Chris McCulley	319-239-2518	Bruce Bascom	319-240-1862
March 1-15	Ben Volding	319-415-0043	Elwin Lee	319-988-4219
March 16-31	Gerald Brandhorst	319-239-4844	Jared Gutknecht	319-404-8856
April	Rod Degener	319-415-5071	Ed Juhl	319-215-2585

The color of the paraments for Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, and 22, is blue for the season of Advent, the Sundays, December 29 is white for the season of Christmas.

## Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:

### Dec. 1:

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14;  
Matthew 24:36-44

### Dec. 8:

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72; Romans 15:4-13;  
Matthew 3:1-12

### Dec. 15:

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146; James 5:7-10;  
Matthew 11:1-11

### Dec. 22:

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80; Romans 1:1-7;  
Matthew 1:18-25

**Dec. 29:** Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18;  
Matthew 2:13-23

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.

## 2020 Usher Schedule

January 5 Jim & Marian Grover  
January 12 Jim & Marian Grover  
January 19 Gerald & Janet Brandhorst  
January 26 Gerald & Janet Brandhorst

February 2 Andy & Cindy Appleton  
February 9 Andy & Cindy Appleton  
February 16 Irv & Jennifer Laube  
February 23 Irv & Jennifer Laube  
Feb 26 (Ash Wed) Harold & Julie Sorensen

March 1 Harold & Julie Sorensen  
March 4 (Lent) Harold & Julie Sorensen  
March 8 Harold & Julie Sorensen  
March 11 (Lent) Ed & Gayle Juhl  
March 15 Ed & Gayle Juhl  
March 18 (Lent) Ed & Gayle Juhl  
March 22 Ed & Gayle Juhl  
March 25 (Lent) Rod & Marilu Degener  
March 29 Rod & Marilu Degener

April 1 (Lent) Rod & Marilu Degener  
April 5 Rod & Marilu Degener  
April 9 (Maundy Th) Elwin & Stacy Lee  
April 10 Good Fri) Elwin & Stacy Lee  
April 12 (Easter) Elwin & Stacy Lee  
April 19 Elwin & Stacy Lee  
April 26 Irv & Jennifer Laube

May 3 Irv & Jennifer Laube  
May 10 John & Teri Neil  
May 17 John & Teri Neil  
May 24 Eleanor Wettengel & Joanne Nicklaus  
May 31 Eleanor Wettengel & Joanne Nicklaus

June 7 Andy & Cindy Appleton  
June 14 Andy & Cindy Appleton  
June 21 Craig & Janet Dufel  
June 28 Craig & Janet Dufel

July 5 Bob & Shirley Petersen  
July 12 Bob & Shirley Petersen  
July 19 Brad & Lynn Ohrt  
July 26 Brad & Lynn Ohrt

August 2 Doug & Karen Wulf  
August 9 Joel & Jenna Parr  
August 16 Joel & Jenna Parr  
August 23 Chris & Barb McCulley  
August 30 Chris & Barb McCulley

September 6 Zach Young & Carol Weaver  
September 13 Zach Young & Carol Weaver  
September 20 Irv & Jennifer Laube  
September 27 Irv & Jennifer Laube

October 4 Tony & Cindy Young  
October 11 Tony & Cindy Young  
October 15 Lyle Wulf & Bob Petersen  
October 25 Lyle Wulf & Bob Petersen

November 1 Elwin & Stacy Lee  
November 8 Elwin & Stacy Lee  
November 15 Chris & Jen Brandhorst  
November 22 Chris & Jen Brandhorst  
November 29 Langley Jensen & Ed Juhl

December 6 Langley Jensen & Ed Juhl  
December 13 Harold & Julie Sorensen  
December 20 Harold & Julie Sorensen  
Dec 24 (evening) Harold & Julie Sorensen  
December 27 Jim & Marian Grover

## 2020 Communion Server Schedule

January 5 Gerald & Janet Brandhorst  
January 12 Gerald & Janet Brandhorst  
January 19 Cindy & Austin Appleton  
January 26 (No Communion)

February 2 Rod & Marilu Degener  
February 9 Rod & Marilu Degener  
February 16 Dan & Jane Miller  
February 23 Dan & Jane Miller  
Feb 26 (Ash Wed) Rod & Marilu Degener

March 1 Joel & Jenna Parr  
March 8 Joel & Jenna Parr  
March 15 Bill & Lori Gutknecht  
March 22 Bill & Lori Gutknecht  
March 29 Bill & Lori Gutknecht

April 5 Andy & Austin Appleton  
April 9 (Maundy Th) Andy & Austin Appleton  
April 12 (Easter) Chris & Barb McCulley  
April 19 Chris & Barb McCulley  
April 26 Gerald & Janet Brandhorst

May 3 Gerald & Janet Brandhorst  
May 10 Gayle Juhl & Cindy Young  
May 17 Gayle Juhl & Cindy Young  
May 24 John & Teri Neil  
May 31 John & Teri Neil

June 7 Doug & Karen Wulf  
June 14 Doug & Karen Wulf  
June 21 Ed & Gayle Juhl  
June 29 Ed & Gayle Juhl

July 5 Harold & Julie Sorensen  
July 12 Harold & Julie Sorensen  
July 19 Whitney & Tanner Laube  
July 26 Whitney & Tanner Laube

August 2 Rod & Marilu Degener  
August 9 Rod & Marilu Degener  
August 16 Doug & Karen Wulf  
August 23 Doug & Karen Wulf  
August 30 Chris & Jen Brandhorst

September 6 Chris & Jen Brandhorst  
September 13 John & Teri Neil  
September 20 John & Teri Neil  
Sept 27 Zander Young &  
Carol Weaver

Oct 4 Zander Young &  
Carol Weaver  
October 11 Julie & Jodi Sorensen  
October 18 Julie & Jodi Sorensen  
October 25 Molly & June Volding

November 1 Molly & June Volding  
November 8 Karen Wulf & Lyle Wulf  
November 15 Karen Wulf & Lyle Wulf  
November 22 Jenna Parr & Judy Shirley  
November 29 Chris & Jennifer Brandhorst

December 6 Chris & Jennifer Brandhorst  
December 13 Dan & Jane Miller  
December 20 Dan & Jane Miller  
Dec 24 (evening) Rod & Marilu Degener  
December 27 Rod & Marilu Degener

## 2020 Communion Clean-up Schedule

January 5 Gayle Juhl & Elaine Brandhorst  
January 12 Gayle Juhl & Elaine Brandhorst  
January 19 Andy & Cindy Appleton  
January 26 (no Communion)

February 2 Evelyn Andorf & Marian Grover  
February 9 Evelyn Andorf & Marian Grover  
February 16 Dan & Jane Miller  
February 23 Dan & Jane Miller  
Feb 26 (Ash) Elaine Brandhorst & Gayle Juhl

March 1 Eleanor Wettengel & Stacy Lee  
March 8 Eleanor Wettengel & Stacy Lee  
March 15 Jennifer Laube & Barb McCulley  
March 22 Jennifer Laube & Barb McCulley  
March 29 Elaine & Janet Brandhorst

April 5 Andy & Cindy Appleton  
April 9 (Maundy Th.) Andy & Cindy Appleton  
April 12 (Easter) Elaine & Janet Brandhorst  
April 19 Judy Shirley & Jenna Parr  
April 26 Judy Shirley & Jenna Parr

May 3 June Harn & Lori Gutknecht  
May 10 June Harn & Lori Gutknecht  
May 17 Molly Volding & Gayle Juhl  
May 24 Molly Volding & Gayle Juhl  
May 31 Teri Neil & Joanne Nicklaus

June 7 Teri Neil & Joanne Nicklaus  
June 14 Cindy Appleton & Shirley Petersen  
June 21 Cindy Appleton & Shirley Petersen  
June 28 Eleanor Wettengel & Beverly Wulf  
Dec 27 Elaine & Janet Brandhorst

## 2021

January 3 Karen Wulf & Evelyn Andorf  
January 10 Karen Wulf & Evelyn Andorf  
January 17 Gayle Juhl & Elaine Brandhorst  
January 24 Gayle Juhl & Elaine Brandhorst  
January 31 Gayle Juhl & Elaine Brandhorst

July 5 Donna Dufel & Janet Dufel  
July 12 Donna Dufel & Janet Dufel  
July 19 Jane Miller & Julie Sorensen  
July 26 Jane Miller & Julie Sorensen

Aug 2 Barb McCulley & Evelyn Andorf  
Aug 9 Barb McCulley & Evelyn Andorf  
Aug 16 Jennifer Laube & Stacy Lee  
Aug 23 Jennifer Laube & Stacy Lee  
Aug 30 Teri Neil & Joanne Nicklaus

Sept 6 Teri Neil & Joanne Nicklaus  
Sept 13 Marilu Degener & Molly Volding  
Sept 20 Marilu Degener & Molly Volding  
Sept 27 Eleanor Wettengel & Beverly Wulf

October 4 Lori Gutknecht & Elaine Brandhorst  
October 11 Lori Gutknecht & Elaine Brandhorst  
October 18 June Harn & Jane Miller  
October 25 June Harn & Jane Miller

November 1 Jennifer Laube & Molly Volding  
November 8 Jennifer Laube & Molly Volding  
November 15 Karen Wulf & Shirley Petersen  
November 22 Karen Wulf & Shirley Petersen  
November 29 Donna Dufel & Janet Dufel

December 6 Donna Dufel & Janet Dufel  
December 13 Monica & Whitney Laube  
December 20 Monica & Whitney Laube  
Dec 24 (Eve) Elaine & Janet Brandhorst

