



**lcmc**

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

# *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 2020**      **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,

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
We live in strange times, days of change when what we once thought was solid ground moves under our feet and when once familiar landmarks have all but disappeared. That is certainly true on the current events front with all the uncertainty which a new election creates, as well as the threat of epidemic virus, but we also witness the changes which have taken place in society over the past few decades. Those of us who are older sometimes wonder what our grandparents would make of the world we now live in, if they were to come back. Far reaching changes have taken place in the culture of which we are a part - changes in work patterns, in how we spend our leisure time, in the ways we communicate and relate to each other, and in how we behave. And because the church is part of society (though it now plays a much lesser role that it once did) these changes have also affected our life together in the church. We're not immune to the trends and changes in the culture around us. Many of them have affected us adversely.

The Psalmist, who with his fellow Jews had been deported from the land of his fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and now lived as an exile in a pagan land, asked, "How are we to sing the song of the Lord in a strange land?" (Psalm 137:4) That too is a question we ask in the church today because like the Psalmist we also find ourselves in a strange land.

That said, there are certain constants around which the life of a congregation revolves. Worship, the Word of God, prayer and fellowship are the means by which the body of Christ is sustained. The effectiveness of our service and witness as a congregation depends very much on the priority we

give to these basic elements of congregational life.

This Lenten season, as we again offer the opportunity for an extra time to gather in fellowship, worship and study on Wednesday evenings, let us make of the most of this opportunity. You probably have friends and neighbors who were raised in the Lutheran tradition of Wednesday evening services during Lent. Perhaps they have moved on to another congregation which doesn't offer Lenten services. Perhaps they miss the smallness and familiarity available here at Zion. Now is the time for you to mention what we have going on here and invite them.

I find it ironic that many large congregations, with their many resources, are trying to create what we (in small congregations) have. In the typical large church, where the numbers of people make it difficult to feel like a person fits in and knows that person who sits in the pew next to them, much of the work of the staff is to break the big church down into "small groups" where people can become better acquainted and feel like they belong. We already are a small group. We already are a place where people feel they belong and know each other well.

Think of someone you know who might be seeking such a place a Zion – a small community where they could feel they belong. Feeling like you are safe in a small group makes hearing the gospel message of God's love for us in Christ a much more attractive proposition. Being able to sit anonymously in the back rows, or up in the balcony of a large church, coming late, leaving early, never really getting to know anyone or being asked to do anything, might seem attractive for a while, eventually, that type of church "involvement" is unsatisfying and people long to be part of a smaller, more intimate church. They are ready for Zion.

Here they will be noticed, they will become known and asked to get involved. Give them that opportunity by inviting them for a Wednesday evening meal and worship with you.

May we all sing the song of the Lord in a strange land.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Mark Decker

### **Please Join Us in Prayer**

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. Prayer requests can be submitted to Pastor Mark.

### **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 or Serve Fellowship Treats**

There are still some 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 getting the residents of NewAldaya to worship at their chapel during the month of February.

### **Thank You!**

To Sherrie Decker and Monica Laube for stepping in to play keyboards and help lead worship while our regular organist, Tammy, has been recovering from injuring her hand and arm.

### **Lenten Series**

During this season of Lent, we at Zion are offering a series of Wednesday evening activities that I hope you will find attractive and be able to find a way to participate with us. The focus of these Wednesday evenings will be "How Not to Die Before You're Dead". We will look at how this applies, not only to us as individuals, but to our church

community. We know what a tragedy it is to see some people give up and just exist long before they actually die. Looking at the various stages of life development is helpful to be aware of where we are now and what to expect in the future so we are better prepared to deal with inevitable changes that occur as we go through life, and continue to experience the abundant life that God has promised through every stage of life. We're encouraging neighbors and folks who haven't been attending recently to join us, and hope you'll try to think of a friend, family member or neighbor who may enjoy fellowshiping with us during Lent even if they attend another church on Sundays. You can use the invitation below to print and mail or email to friends. Our suppers will start at 5:30 pm (although you may come to eat anytime before 6:30) followed by our study and a little music at 6:30 pm on March 4, 11, 18, and 25 and April 1.

### **Zion Cookbook.**

Our Zion Cookbook is available. The cookbook is for purchase 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. Thank you to everyone for your support and encouragement. We have a great cookbook and we hope you enjoy it!

### **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**

1	Aubrey Wulf
8	Elizabeth Karsjens
15	Hayden Gutknecht
22	Carson Laube
29	Rorie Volding

## **Ushers**

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

## **Communion Servers**

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

## **Communion Clean-up**

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

## **Snow Removal**

March 1-15	Ben Volding Elwin Lee
March 16-31	Gerald Brandhorst Jared Gutknecht

**The color of the paraments for March**  
are Purple for the Season of Lent.

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

**March 1:** Genesis 2:15-17; Psalm 32;

Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

**March 8:** Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 121;

Romans 4:1-5,13-17; John 3:1-17

**March 15:** Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95;

Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

**March 22:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23;

Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

**March 29:** Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130;

Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

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 month-  
ly meeting before they can be published.