



**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)*

**JUNE 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,

We have been sheltering in place, staying at home, socially distancing for two months now. Honestly it feels longer than that. So what have we learned?

There was a posting on Facebook that said: "Your grandparents went to war to protect your generation . . . you can stay home on your couch to protect theirs." This sounds easy enough. Stay in my pajamas all day long, recline on my couch, neglect to shower, watch HGTV, Hallmark, cruise Facebook and just kick back. So why is this so hard? Well, it's hard because we are created for a purpose. As nice as it sounds to have a lazy day, that is important, even God rested on the seventh day, there has to be more to life. When we don't live out our purpose it is very draining on our soul. Each of us has a calling, blessed with different abilities and gifts that we are to use to make this world a better place. I don't know your overall purpose in life, but I know that part of the purpose, woven into each of us, is to care about others. Let me suggest that if this is a day where we are feeling down, a day when we are struggling, that we should do one of two things, or maybe both. First, let someone care for you, reach out to someone you trust and let them know you need someone to talk with today. Second, reach out and see what you can do for another person. As John Donne, a 17th century pastor and poet, wrote, 'no man is an island.' Donne clearly expresses the idea that human beings do badly when isolated from others and need to be part of a community in order to thrive.

Joan Baez in her 1968 song "No Man Is An Island" put it this way: "No man is an island, No man stands alone, Each man's joy is joy to me, Each man's grief is my own."

We need one another, your joy is my joy and your grief is my grief . . . and mine is yours. In this time of pandemic, we have this great reminder "we need one another". Thanks to all of you who have and continue to be there for me and for others. Let's keep at it!

In Christ's Love, Pastor Mark Decker

## **Please Join Us in Prayer**

Each month, we publish a list of people who have requested prayers. To help you remember them in your regular prayer time Dianne Bascom, Mike Dufe, Whitney Laube, Sean Love, Maurita Lubbers, Eunice Neil, Holly Paar, and Jim Reid. 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 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. Although, during this time of quarantine, the pastor is not allowed to visit in person, we are nonetheless able to connect via the phone and pray in that manner. Let us appreciate the blessings we have, as few and far between as they may seem to be.

## **Austin Appleton Graduation**

### **Hudson High School Class of 2020**

We feel a need to celebrate,  
Austin, he is our graduate.  
COVID has us guessing  
how to handle this blessing,  
At minimum, it will be a drive-by,  
take ice cream on the fly  
If we are allowed to gather,  
a sitting meal we rather.

### **July 4th, 4:00 – 7:00 PM Open House 4421 Ranchero Rd, Cedar Falls**

Hope to see you July 4th!  
Andy and Cindy Appleton

### **From the Church Council**

During this time of suspension of gathering for worship, the expenses of being a congregation continue. Although, many of our church members regularly give through electronic means, we cannot collect offerings as we usually do during worship. Please consider sending your offering checks through the U.S. mail to the church: 5831 Grundy Road, Hudson, IA 50643. Many thanks to those of you who continue to give during this “down” time. Your gifts are greatly appreciated!

### **Zion Cookbook**

During this time of quarantine, many people are experimenting with new ways to prepare meals. Our Zion Cookbook is a great way to accomplish that. The cookbook is available for purchase and can be mailed to those who are unable to come in person to the church. The price is \$20, please include an additional \$5 for postage if you'd like one mailed to you. It contains 615 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!

## **When and How to Resume**

### **Worship at Zion**

#### **WHEN CAN WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP AGAIN?**

There is great joy in getting together with people we love and care about. That is certainly part of the joy that we experience when we gather with our family and friends for worship and church activities. To answer the question, “when can we all gather together again?” is not easy. Each day seems to get more confusing than the day before. Some people are crying out to immediately reopen our communities, our businesses, and our houses of worship. While others are fearing it will happen to fast and create new spikes in COVID-19 cases resulting in more suffering and death. I certainly am not an expert in knowing how to move forward but what I do know is that fear doesn't have or get the final say. 1 John 4:18 says, “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.” Our hope is built on God's perfect love for us, a love that we have been called to share freely with others. An important aspect of this time is to consider just what love looks like and acts like. What does “love do” in this situation?

At our May Church Council meeting, the decision was made to continue to not meet in person for worship at least through the end of June. The council will meet again in the last week of June and decide at that time regarding future in person gatherings. We will continue to meet online via Facebook Live - for worship at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays, as well as for devotional reflection on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

In recent weeks some clergy are claiming that our religious freedoms have been compromised. There are cries and protests, there are legal questions and lawsuits being filed claiming that we have been stripped of our right to worship. Some pastors are insisting on “reopening” their churches and disregarding many of the guidelines put in place for the safety of the public. During this time of pandemic my freedom and your freedom to worship has not been taken away. In fact, for many of us it has helped us value how important worship actually is. Don't misunderstand me, I miss gathering in person. I miss hugging you folks and sharing in Holy Communion where everyone is welcome. I miss greeting you personally and having fellowship treats with my friends in the church basement. That is all certainly a part of

how we express and share our love for each other at Zion. I also believe that our ability to keep each other safe and to make sure that we continue to bring that safety and concern to our larger community is one of the most powerful ways that we live out what it means to love one another, to love our neighbor, in a pandemic world. Because we are Christians does not mean that somehow we get a magic bubble surrounding us to prevent a virus from spreading among us and beyond us. Someone recently asked me what our church will be known for when this pandemic is all behind us. We have a lot of gifts to share with our community, our world, and each other that is life giving and compassionate. The virus is not what we want to be known for spreading.

During this time of pandemic, we have not stopped being the church or doing what we are supposed to be doing to care for and love others. We actually have more people worshipping with us every week than before the crisis. In fact, the silver lining for our church in this is that we have expanded our reach and our message. We have people in places like Brazil, England, Germany, Romania, Texas, Oklahoma, Indiana, Arizona, California, Colorado, North Dakota, Minnesota and throughout Iowa worshipping with us each week. We have been reminded that the church is not a building — it's a community of people who love God and love each other. While we may not be able to meet in person, we continue to stay connected with people we care about and expand our reach to care about others.

Our ability to care for and be there for others has not stopped. I am appreciative more each day of just how connected we are to each other. No, it is not an ideal situation, but we still extend our compassion as we mourn lost loved ones, provide pastoral care, spiritual support, and seize the opportunities to pray with and for each other. We remain connected to the joy of learning together online. We are not doing all of this perfectly, but we didn't do it perfectly before the pandemic either. This is an imperfect world where we strive every day to share God's love, doing better at being the Church than we did the day before.

I am often asked when we are going to reopen the church. WE. NEVER. CLOSED! Let me say that again, WE NEVER CLOSED! The question that still remains is "when can we gather again in person to worship?"

There is not yet an exact answer. This gradual process will be determined by Zion's Church Council and leadership. The process will be respectful of the guidelines put in place by the federal, state, and local authorities. Our Zion Church Council will follow evidence-based public health guidance to assure loving care for our partners in ministry as well as those beyond our walls.

As a result of this pandemic, we have readjusted. We have stepped outside of our comfort zone. We have been creative. All through this pandemic we have been determined not to stop and not to close. Jesus said that "wherever two or more are gathered" God promises to be in the midst of them. Whether that is in person, side by side, or tethered together through the internet, we are still God's gathered people. We are still being the church. We are still "choosing hope and connecting to joy". So today and in the days ahead that is what we will continue to spread... love, hope, and yes... abundant joy!

### **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

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

**June 7:**

Genesis 1:1-2:4; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13;  
Matthew 28:16-20

**June 14:** Exodus 19:2-8; Psalm 100; Romans 5:1-8;  
Matthew 9:35-10:23

**June 21:** Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69; Romans 6:1-11;  
Matthew 10:24-39

**June 28:** Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89; Romans 6:12-33;  
Matthew 10:40-42

**Calendar:**

Sunday, June 21- 11:00 Church Council meeting

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.