



**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)*

**JULY 2020      5831 GRUNDY ROAD, HUDSON, IA 50643**

*Pastor Mark's cell: 515-538-2200    Church & Parsonage: 988-4534    [www.zionlutheranhudson.com](http://www.zionlutheranhudson.com)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During the quarantine, to some extent, we've all become shut-ins. Many churches have streamed worship live or prerecorded. Recently, I saw the worldwide phenomenon of people singing choir harmonies online, each from their own home. It was awesome to see so many singing like that. Wow! All those people, singing together, apart! Challenges produce creativity!

My wife, Sherrie, and I have developed a new routine for our Sunday mornings. I go over the church building from the parsonage next door at about 8:30 to set up for our Facebook Live worship from the sanctuary. I set up the tripod that will hold my cell phone which will be used as the camera as well as feed the sound and video into the internet. The whole service (including the entire text of my sermon) has been loaded into the PowerPoint of the church's laptop computer. This is connected to the screen in the rear of the sanctuary and I will advance the slides using my remote "clicker" device. I adjust the sound and lighting. We spend considerable time rehearsing the songs on Saturday evening. When Sherrie comes over on Sunday morning, we "warm up" by singing and playing the first song we'll be doing. We are set and ready to go live on Facebook as close to exactly 9:00 as we can (I'm sorry there have been a couple of times we didn't start until 9:02).

Never having done an online service until last March, we have made mistakes and learned from them as we have developed our routine. The first Sunday we went online, I had the phone camera

horizontal (thinking it would be a "better" picture than the vertical look), only to find out that it would be automatically switched to vertical – not a problem if you're watching on your own cell phone which you can easily turn in your hand, but means that those watching on their home computer screen had to turn their heads 90 degrees. We've learned to keep the camera set in one place and not pan around to show our beautiful stained glass windows or show Sherrie playing the keyboard – not having a "stabilizer" the camera wobbles in my hand even though I'm trying my best to move it smoothly. After several complaints that the sound quality was poor, we invested in a new corded microphone specifically made to plug into my phone – resulting in an immediate improvement in that area. Like anything, the more we've practiced with Facebook Live, the better we've gotten at it. Now, just when we're finally doing a decent job at it we're changing things.

Last Sunday afternoon the Zion council met and decided to move into a "gradual resumption" of in person worship in the sanctuary beginning Sunday, July 5. What does this mean? We will continue to use the camera and post the Sunday worship service with Facebook Live. Those who prefer watching the service on Facebook may continue to do so as has become your new Sunday routine, from the comfort of your home. Others who long to be in the Zion sanctuary are welcome to attend the service in person.

Those attending in person will notice some changes from what you saw when you were there for worship only four months ago. The doors will be propped open to welcome people without touch-

ing the handles. We'll be keeping the service shorter, simpler, and more casual, just as we've been doing on Facebook Live since March 22. Wearing masks will not be required, but is recommended (especially if you want to sing). While we won't be providing coffee downstairs, you are welcome to bring your own to sip on during the service. Seating in the pews will be done with at least six feet distances between families. For those wishing to contribute, offering plates will be set near the entrance. For those desiring to receive Communion, we will have a table set up with the bread and pre-poured glasses of wine and juice available without direct contact. This will take place immediately after the camera is turned off and the Facebook Live service is posted.

We will try to have a time for conversation upstairs during the worship. I believe that one of the things we miss about gathering in person is hearing each others' voices and listening to what is going on in each others' lives. I will try to include a time for such conversations with sermons that are more like a Bible study discussion. We will continue having children's sermons (without the kids coming up front to gather around seated on the floor together), asking those questions and hearing their responses. Also, we will welcome the verbal sharing of prayer requests and praises during our prayer time. Whether you feel comfortable sharing during these times is completely up to you.

While we welcome people to come and be involved in our live worship services, we also respect those who choose to stay at home. There are many valid reasons for continuing to stay at home: those who feel especially at risk of catching the virus, those whose jobs require them to be in contact with many potentially infected others and don't want to be an asymptomatic carrier of the virus themselves, as well as those who simply prefer the convenience of watching online, any place, at any time.

We hope that these measures may be temporary. The church council continues to evaluate the situation. I have great respect for these, our church leaders. While I personally appreciate your feedback and advice, I also ask that you respect my personal safety and refrain from seeking me out for close contact conversations immediately before or after worship. The best way to contact me is on the phone (my cell is 515-538-2200) or message in various ways (via

Facebook messenger or my email [pastormark@myomnitel.com](mailto:pastormark@myomnitel.com)).

I look forward to seeing those who plan to come to worship as well as continuing the excellent phone calls with those who are staying at home. I am greatly touched by the many comments and notes we have received from you during these past months.

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 Dufel, 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 Rancho Rd, Cedar Falls**

Hope to see you July 4th!

Andy and Cindy Appleton

## **Jace Brandhorst And Sidney Linck Wedding**

Gerald and Jan Brandhorst are happy to announce the engagement and upcoming wedding of their son, Jace to Sidney Linck. The wedding will be Saturday, July 11, 2020 in Ravenna, Michigan. Jace and Sidney will be moving to Tempe, Arizona in August, 2020.

Wishing God's blessings upon both of them as they begin their journey of life together! Congratulations!

## **Sunday School Classes Online**

Sunday School classes have not met since the middle of March. I've mailed Sunday School materials to the elementary and younger students. We are going to try to finish up the classes online. I'm continuing my Wednesday evening at 6:30 Facebook Live devotional time focusing on the lesson for them each week. Even if you don't have the materials (or are an adult) you are welcome to watch these devotionals and classes. You can watch anytime as it stays available on Facebook once it is posted.

## **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!

## **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!

## **July Anniversaries**

- 7 Russ & Sandy Pedersen
- 21 Dan & Tammy Bern
- 24 Pr. Mark Ordination (1988)
- 28 Bob & Shirley Dufel Petersen

## **July Birthdays**

- 1 Pastor Mark
- 7 Dylan Garbes
- 11 Tara Seible
- 21 Tammy Bergman
- 23 Mitch Juhl
- 25 Lyle Wulf
- 25 Dan Bern

## **The color of the paraments during July is green for the season of Pentecost.**

Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:

- July 5:** Colossians 3:12-17
- July 12:** Romans 5:1-8;
- July 19:** Ezra 7:6-7
- July 26:** 2 Corinthians 5:6-15

## **Calendar:**

### **Sundays at 9:00 a.m.**

Worship and Facebook Live streaming

### **Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.**

Pastor Mark's Devotional time with Sunday School lesson

### **Sunday, July 19**

10:30 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.