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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)

MAY 2021 5831 GRUNDY ROAD, HUDSON, IA 50643

Pastor Mark's cell: 515-538-2200 Church & Parsonage: 988-4534 www.zionlutheranhuson.com

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last week, I was having a “Zoom” meeting with some pastors from other congregations and the question was asked if anything new was happening here at Zion. I said, “Well, the most noticeable thing is that our church building is in the middle of an \$8 million construction project.” Yes, I admit that statement is a bit misleading; the actual Zion building isn’t having any remodeling. While we do have some plans for altering our parking lot configuration in the coming year, the bulk of the \$8 million is being spent by the combined effort of Grundy County and Black Hawk County to put a hard surface on Grundy Road. The plan is to grade the road in 2021 and put on the asphalt surface in 2022. This hard surface is planned to cover the road for the five miles between Highway 20 and Zaneta Avenue. The Zion church building sits two and a half miles south of Highway 20, so in that sense my statement that we are “in the middle” of the project is accurate.



The county engineer offices have been good at keeping us updated as to the schedule of the work. Included in this newsletter is a map with the heading “Grundy Road Construction Timeline” which we received the first week of April. The map shows the phasing schedule of the work. They have already started the first phase at the south end of Grundy Road. The plan is to complete the grading work of the project in the Spring of 2022 with improvements to the Strayer Road intersection just south of the Zion buildings. The work at this intersection is going to be the last grading phase before putting on the asphalt

because they are planning to raise the level of the roadway some 20 to 30 higher than it currently is. If you come out to look for yourself, you will see there is already a good sized deposit of dirt to the west and south of Zion, where the new road will be. It is not hard to imagine that the asphalt road will be about 25 feet further to the west from where the current gravel road goes past the church.

As a result of this scheduled phasing, the grading of the area directly across from Zion in the Spring of 2022, gives us a little more time to enjoy our current parking system along the shoulder of Grundy Road. As we have said before, I remind you, the easiest way to avoid the construction work as you drive to Zion is to approach on Strayer Road from the east or 190th from the west.

Whichever road you choose, you will see signs that read “Road Closed to Through Traffic” as you enter

Grundy Road. I made reference to these signs during my “Invitation to Worship” posting on Facebook Live for Easter Sunday. Despite what the sign says, the road to Zion is NOT closed. How appropriate for an invitation to come and see during the season of Easter! When Jesus’ followers had seen him die on the cross that Friday, many of them gave up. In Luke 24:21 we hear the words of two of Jesus’ followers, “But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.” For them, the road ahead appeared closed. The signs all said so. But God had a surprise for them. Although he had been dead and buried, Jesus was now alive, and walking right beside them on the road to Emmaus.

No matter the condition (or construction phase) of Grundy Road, Zion is open and welcomes to come for worship. Maybe you're just curious to see how the construction is going, but whatever reason you come, I assure you, you will hear the gospel and experience the fellowship of believers who have not let a "Road Closed" sign stop them.

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, Dan Bern, Sherrie Decker, Gayle Juhl, Whitney Laube, Sean Love, Mary Mommer, Eunice Neil, Holly Paar, Sheila Petry, Eleanor Wettengel, and Jean Wittgreve.. We also continue to pray for the family and friends of Joyce (the mother of Lynn Ohrt) as we grieve her passing. 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. Even though some facilities may not allow the pastor 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. One bright spot regarding hospital visits is that some hospitals are now allowing pastors to visit church members!

Whitney Laube Graduation Reception

The congregation is invited to attend Whitney Laube's high school graduation reception. Whitney's reception will be on Friday, May 14, from 5:30-8:00 PM, at her home: 19855 180th St., Holland.

Vacation Bible School Survey

We are planning to have Vacation Bible School this coming summer after not having it last year because the virus restrictions. We would like to hold it for three evenings, on a Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, beginning with a meal. followed by music, classes, crafts and games. Please contact the church office at 319-988-4534 if you have a preference for which week you would like to attend. We are looking at scheduling sometime in mid to late June (shortly after regular school gets out for the summer) or early

to mid August (shortly before regular school begins in the fall). We look forward to hearing from you!

Online and In-person Worship at the Same Time

With the resumption of in person worship in the sanctuary, we continue to use the camera and post the Sunday worship service with Facebook Live. Those who prefer watching the service on Facebook worship, from the comfort of their home. Those who prefer to be in the Zion sanctuary have been welcome to attend the service in person. The in person attendance has leveled off to about 30 people per Sunday – plenty of room to spread out and keep a safe distance. Those attending in person are able to share in Holy Communion, receiving the bread and wine on their way out of the sanctuary (after the Facebook Live camera is turned off). We are requiring masks be worn as you enter and are with groups other than your immediate family. Online Facebook Live views have been between 100 and 380 per Sunday.

From the Church Council

Although we have restrictions for gathering together, the expenses of being a congregation continue. We are grateful that many of our church members regularly give through electronic means. 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!

May Anniversaries

19 Elwin & Stacy Lee
30 Dan & Jane Miller

May Birthdays

1 Dan Bergman
1 Russ Pedersen
1 Preston Sieble
3 Evelyn Andorf
4 Gabi Petry
7 Lucas Gutknecht
10 Sue Gibson
11 Cindy Paige
15 Hope Heckenlaible
18 Bridget McCulley
20 Gayle Juhl
23 Brad Dufel
23 Amber Laube
23 Sammy Ohrt
25 Jennifer Weitzell

26 Greg Bergman
28 Marissa Woomer
30 Craig Dufel
30 Mallory Laube
31 Holly Appleton

**The color of the paraments for Sundays, May 2, 9,
and 16 is white for Easter.**

May 20 is white for Holy Trinity.

May 23 is red for Pentecost.

Our readings for the Sundays are:

May 2 – John 11:1-21

May 9 – John 15:9-17

May 16 – John 17:6-19

May 23 – Acts 2:1-21

May 30 – John 3:1-17

Calendar:

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary and
Facebook Live streaming

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Devotional time on
Facebook Live

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School, youth and adults

Sunday, May 16 – 10:30 a.m. Church Council meets

The **WEB SITE for LCMC** – Lutheran
Congregations in Mission for Christ, is 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.