



# 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 2021**

**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,

As we are emerging from the past year and a half of Covid restrictions, I can honestly say I have been surprised with several developments. As I get older, I find myself less surprised by things. Maybe it's the jaded cynicism of having "seen it all" but some things have truly surprised me. The eagerness of most of us to get back to "normal" by discarding our

protective face masks is not really surprising because very few people wanted to wear those masks in the first place. What is surprising is that I have found myself missing wearing my mask.

There is a kind of anonymity that comes when I'm wearing that mask. For much of my life, I've been told "You need to smile more." When I'm wearing the mask, I don't need to worry about smiling. If people wanted me to be smiling, they could just assume I was wearing a big grin behind my mask and that was fine with me. I've also realized that I don't feel quite so concerned about displaying my ignorance when I'm wearing the mask. I've found when I go into a store, (especially a hardware store or a farm & fleet store, where I'm not really sure what I'm looking for) I'm less timid to ask the stupid questions that I'm too embarrassed to ask when everyone can see the confusion on my face. Maybe you can relate to that?

I have noticed this in our gatherings for worship as well. When we were all masked up, I noticed people were less timid to ask me serious questions about their relationship with Jesus than they otherwise were. Maybe that's why our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters have a confessional booth where there is some sort of screen giving some anonymity between the people making confession and the priest hearing it and declaring forgiveness.

While we, as a church, return to more "normal" practices of worship and fellowship, I hope we can keep the

lessons we have learned during the last year close to our hearts. At our May church council meeting this hope was certainly the consensus as we discussed how we will be re-introducing fellowship conversations, readers, ushers, Communion servers, and singers into worship that has been forever changed because of the adjustments we made while in the Covid time. We are looking at keeping a camera and Facebook Live as part of our worship experience.



A couple of Bible passages come to mind as we move forward:

### **Isaiah 43:19**

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

### **1 Corinthians 2:8-10**

None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Mark Decker

### **Driving Directions to Zion**

During this time of construction on Grundy Road, please use Strayer Road (from the east) or 190th Street (from the west) as you approach the Zion Church building. Coming this way, you will only have about 100 yards of driving on Grundy Road and will avoid much of the heavy machinery that is moving dirt and rocks elsewhere along the construction area. Please come and see for yourselves how the landscape is changing as the work progresses.

## **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. 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!

## **Vacation Bible School**

We are planning to have Vacation Bible School this coming summer after not having it last year because the virus restrictions. We planning for three evenings, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, June 20-22. The evenings begin with a meal, followed by music, classes, crafts and games. Please contact the church office at 319-988-4534 if you would like to attend. The theme for our program is “Armor of God” from Ephesians 6:10-18.

We look forward to hearing from you!

## **Ephesians 6:10-18 “The Armor of God”**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

## **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 30-40 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!

## **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      | 20 Eleanor Wettengel |
| 4 Donna Dufel     | 21 Harris Jorgensen  |
| 9 Holley Bergman  | 21 Monica Laube      |
| 12 Dresden Wulf   | 23 Brad Ohrt         |
| 13 Jessi Sorensen | 26 Marilu Degener    |
| 15 Edward Juhl    | 27 Pamela Degener    |
| 19 Bob Johnson    | 30 Ronnie Degener    |

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.