

WELCOME TO THE ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER
Zion is a member congregation of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

SEPTEMBER 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,

After two years without a Confirmation Class on Wednesday evenings, we are resuming classes this fall, starting on Wednesday, September 29, at 6:30 p.m. Through an odd coincidence of family planning among our members, we have not had any students of confirmation age since 2019. Following our Zion tradition, we are planning to hold classes every other Wednesday (more or less – sometimes, we might have two consecutive weeks with classes) from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Truth be told, I enjoy teaching confirmation classes very much. Not only is it a great way for the students and me to become better acquainted with each other, we have wonderful discussions on important topics surrounding the Bible, God, and personal faith formation. I have dearly missed those regular interactions with the students for these past two years.

Also, I want to express my great appreciation to Ben Volding, our church council president, for helping lead the worship services while I am away on vacation. Ben has done a fantastic job serving as a leader of our congregation for the past several years. He will be stepping down from his position as council president at the end of this year, so please let him know your thanks, as well.

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. Every week there is something different.

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, Marcia Ecker Jim & Julie Leonard, Eunice Neil, Holly Paar, Sheila Petry, Adriana Reyes, 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 most hospitals are now allowing pastors to visit church members!

Church Property Clean-Up & Potluck Meal

On Sunday, September 12, starting at 1:00 p.m. all are invited to a church clean-up party. There are several tasks that require some attention, including repairing vinyl siding on the church entry, weeding and trimming bushes, and replacing shutters on the parsonage that were damaged in a recent windstorm. These work parties have traditionally been great times for fellowship and conversation. We plan to conclude the afternoon with a potluck meal at 5:00 p.m. The church council decided to hold this work party after realizing the annual sandwich supper / soup supper events would not be taking place this year due to the road construction issues.

Sunday School Classes Forming

We are looking ahead to resuming our Sunday School program with Rally Sunday on September 12. Parents, please let us know if you or your neighbors are interested in having your children in Sunday School classes when they resume this fall. Confirmation classes begin on Wednesday evening, September 29, at 6:30 p.m..

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 serving Holy Communion during worship on Sunday mornings. Please take advantage these opportunities to use your talent.

Looking Ahead to 150th Anniversary

September of 2023 marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of Zion in 1873. Such a milestone deserves a celebration and will also require a good amount of planning. If you might be interested in serving on a planning team for this event, please contact the church office at 319-988-4534.

Pastor Mark and Sherrie Away

After several postponements because of COVID related travel restrictions, Pastor Mark and Sherrie are finally able to take a long anticipated trip to Scotland. This trip was originally planned for June of 2020, then rescheduled for last September, and again booked for last May and June. Each time, the United Kingdom would have required a ten-day quarantine had we gone there – which pretty much wipes out a twenty-day vacation. Finally, in July, those restrictions were lifted for people who have been vaccinated. So, we rescheduled (for a fourth time) and are now on our way! [I'm writing this from O'Hare Airport in Chicago during our layover before boarding our flight for London.]

Yes, there have been a lot more hoops to jump through than any previous vacation. Besides getting our vaccines, we've had to pass tests to prove we're not infected, complete a "Passenger Locator Form" which lets the UK government know where we're planning to stay every night, and we have to be tested for the virus again after our second day there as well as another test prior to returning home.

Sometimes people ask, "Why are you so determined to go to Scotland?" Well, those are usually people who have never been there. It is a physically beautiful and spiritually inspiring place to be. This is our fourth trip to Scotland and on each of our previous visits I have returned refreshed and inspired to serve as a minister of the Gospel. There are not a lot of experiences that have that effect. Lord willing, we will return safely on

September 18.

We have greatly appreciated your prayers and expressions of support and encouragement.

Pastor Mark

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. Our online Facebook Live views set a new with over 610 views for the worship service on Sunday, July 4. The church council continues the plan for mounting the camera in a rear wall position rather than using an phone hand held in the front of the sanctuary. Some prefer watching the worship service on Facebook, from the comfort of their home. Others 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. We are no longer requiring masks be worn as you enter and are welcoming people come to come downstairs for fellowship.

From the Church Council

Although the COVID virus continues, with some 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. Your gifts are greatly appreciated!

September Anniversaries

6	Austin & Carrie McCalley
9	Bob & Angie Johnson
9	Sloan & Jenna Beninga
19	Mike & Connie Twente

September Birthdays

5	Deb Brandhorst
5	Tyler Laube
14	Heather Gutknecht
18	Dan Miller
24	Katie Robinson
28	Janet Brandhorst
28	Jared Gutknecht

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.

Colors:

The color of the paraments for September is green for the season of Pentecost.

Readings:

Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:

September 5: James 5

September 12: Psalm 23

September 19: Mark 9:30-37

September 26: Mark 9:38-50

Calendar:

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. -

Worship in the Sanctuary and Facebook Live streaming

Sunday, August 8 – Reports due for Semi-annual Meeting

Sunday, August 15 at 10:00 a.m. - Semi-annual Meeting of the congregation

Sunday, August 15 at 10:30 a.m. - Church Council meets

Sunday, August 22 during the 9:00 a.m. Worship – Blessing of the Backpacks