



**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)*

**NOVEMBER 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,

As many of you know, I recently attended the annual Convention of our Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, in Columbus, Ohio. It was a great opportunity to have conversations with other pastors and lay leaders from congregations all over the United States and other countries. Almost everyone I spoke with told me the same story: that the world has changed since the onset of COVID, and that things will never go back to the way they were. They spoke of their frustration levels rising as the numbers of people attending live worship dwindle to about half of what they used to be. People are not coming back to their churches and nobody seems to know exactly why. Pastors and church leaders are blaming themselves. The changes brought about by COVID too easily lead to self-doubt and feelings of futility. We wonder to ourselves, "If only I had done something more, or different, or better, then we wouldn't be going through these difficulties." I don't know if it's more re-assuring or concerning to hear that other congregations are also experiencing lower attendance and participation in ministry, but it does provide me some relief just to know we are not alone.

Some are so worried by the ways the world has changed and is changing that they wonder if perhaps we're in the end of the age that Jesus spoke about. Perhaps they're justified in their concerns. There should always be a sense of urgency about the end of the age. The end tomorrow or next week. We don't know exactly when it will be, but we do know that



people who don't know Jesus need to come to a saving knowledge of his grace before the end comes. In Matthew 28 we read, "Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

Jesus promises to be with us. In this, we also have the sense that we are not alone. No matter what we're going through as individuals and as a church, we have Jesus with us through it all. No matter how crazy or unrecognizable the world is getting to be, Jesus promises to be with us. And through it all, our command is the same. Even though "some doubted" they are still given the command to Go, Baptize and Teach. It's called the "Great Commission." Jesus doesn't say he'll proceed with His plan for spreading the Good News to the world when everyone is on board and in complete agreement. Our command is to move ahead with his plans for us as his church to go out into the world with his message – it was then, and it is now.

Even during this time of COVID, church growth is possible. Even the in the midst of doubt and fear, we are commanded to "Go" and as we go, we have the assurance that Jesus is with us. The good news of the gospel message, the good news of Jesus,

is contagious in a good way, and spreads by contact with others. A rich, Christ-centered life is rooted in a worshiping community that meets regularly to hear God's Word read, reflect on that reading, and respond to the needs of others through prayer and activity together. When you are willing to GO as Jesus has commanded us, God will bless this church, lives will be changed, and growth within our community will be the new norm in an ever changing world.

*In Christ's Love, Pastor Mark Decker*

### **Congregational Meeting**

We will hold our annual meeting for the election of committee and church council members immediately following worship on Sunday, November 21. Thank you to all who have volunteered to serve in these various roles.

### **Harvest Ingathering**

Our annual Harvest Ingathering Drive goes through November 21. The goal this year is \$15,000.00. Watch the Grain Bin as it starts to fill up. Farmers, as you take your harvest to the elevator, remember to designate a portion to Zion. It's not just for farmers only, others are asked to contribute with a cash donation. Thanks to those who have donated in past years and those who will contribute this year. May God bless those working the harvest season.

### **Planning for the Christmas Program**

We are preparing another original Christmas program to be presented during worship on Sunday, December 19. If you would like to be involved in the program such as helping with the rehearsals, decorating or costuming, please let Pastor Mark or Cindy Appleton know. Rehearsals will begin on December 5.

### **Potluck after Worship on November 21**

Sunday, November 21, is going to be a busy day at Zion. The 9:00 a.m. worship service on the 21st will include the culmination of our annual Harvest In-gathering. That service will be followed by a potluck lunch. Although the first verse of Psalm 122 should apply to every opportunity to gather as followers of Christ, I think it especially appropriate on November 21st to say, "I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord'."

### **Zion Cookbooks Make Great Gifts**

Are you looking ahead to what you might give as Christmas presents? How about one of our Zion Lutheran Church cookbooks! Many are still available for purchase. The price is \$20 and contains 615 recipes. Cookbooks make great gifts! Thank you to all that submitted recipes and asked others for 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!

### **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, Jean Wittgreve, Nikki and Russ. 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!

### **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.

**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. 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!

**November Anniversaries**

- 1 Tony & Cindy Young
- 11 Nick & Holley VanHemert
- 19 Harlan & Deb Brandhorst

**November Birthdays**

- 4 Holly Paar
- 8 Anna VanHemert
- 11 Joel Parr
- 24 Janine Knapp
- 28 Allison Bergman

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.

**Colors:**

The color of the paraments for Sunday, November 7, is white for All Saints Sunday. Sunday, Nov 14, is green for the season of Pentecost. Sunday, November 21 is white for Christ the King. Sunday, November 28 is blue for Advent.

**Readings:**

Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:  
 November 7: John 11:32-44  
 November 14: Mark 13:1-8  
 November 21: John 18:33-37  
 November: Luke 21:25-36

**Zion Lutheran Church Snow Removal Schedule 2021-2022**

November	Rod Degener	319-415-5071
	Ed Juhl	319-215-2585
December 1-15	Brad Ohrt	319-231-9436
	Mark Decker	515-538-2200
December 16-31	Greg Bergman	319-504-5574
	Craig Dufel	319-988-3722
January 1-15	Ben Volding	319-415-0043
	Chris McCulley	319-239-2518
January 16-31	Chris Brandhorst	319-269-0660
	Elwin Lee	319-988-4219
February 1-15	Andy Appleton	319-239-0340
	Dan Miller	319-988-3610
February 16-28	Chris McCulley	319-239-2518
	Bruce Bascom	319-240-1862
March 1-15	Ben Volding	319-415-0043
	Elwin Lee	319-988-4219
March 16-31	Andy Appleton	319-239-0340
	Mark Decker	515-538-2200
April	Rod Degener	319-415-5071
	Ed Juhl	319-215-2585