



**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)*

**JANUARY 2022**

**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,

What a year 2021 turned out to be. By most accounts, 2022 will continue to be a rollercoaster ride. We have been living in a time when strangeness and uncertainty looks like the new normal for many months ahead. So many of the old established things in our national, local and family life have been put into a sort of cold storage. Who knows for how long? We are experiencing so many different emotions. Sometimes we can be fine, and yet at other times, feelings of fragility, anxiety, even panic can come over us.

As I think about the current situation, these thoughts come to me. In our church basement are copies of photos of the founders of our Zion congregation, mostly immigrants from Germany who came to this area in the 1870's. At this moment, we can learn much from these pioneer families. In the midst of the stress of establishing new homes and earning a living doing jobs they were likely unaccustomed to back in the "old country" they persevered. Without things that we take for granted today: inadequate health care, no insurance against raids from native tribes, no welfare scheme for loss of income, they persevered. One action they took as part of that perseverance was to establish this congregation. They built and rebuilt their farms and homes after fires and storms. Their legacy continues to bless us today.

The lesson for us in this history is a simple one: we build and rebuild with what is available. We trust that God will provide and bless us with what we

need. No point crossing bridges before we come to them, we live in the moment and use what is in our hands.

Life brings many unwanted things that turn out to be more struggle than we would have anticipated. When the apostle Paul was reviewing his ministry, in Second Corinthians, he lists unbidden, hardships

such as shipwrecks, beatings, imprisonments, riots, sleepless nights, hunger ... he concludes, "and yet we live on, having nothing, yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 6:10)

So then, my brothers and sisters in Christ, as we move forward into whatever times we will receive. Let's commit to having our minds and hearts ready to take hold of the opportunities for us to show that same spirit of courage and resilience that our forebears showed in past years, and which shall see us through to joyful times ahead.

*In Christ's Love, Pastor Mark Decker*

### **Potluck Meals – January 23**

At our last Zion Lutheran Church council we discussed the benefits of fellowship time and agreed that the recent success of potluck meals following worship should be continued. We are inviting everyone to bring an item to share following worship on January 23. Even if you forget (or are unable) to bring an item, you are welcome to join us for the meal. Past experience tells us that there will be plenty to go around.



## **Zion Annual Meeting – January 30**

Our Zion Lutheran Church annual meeting to discuss and vote on the 2022 budget will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, January 30. Please have reports ready by January 21, to be compiled in the annual report which should be available on January 23.

## **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, Pastor Mark Decker, Sherrie Decker, Eunice Neil, Sheila Petry, Adriana Reyes, Jean Wittgreve, Carrie Carey, Nikki and Russ. Prayer requests can be submitted to Pastor Mark

## **Installation of Church Officers – January 9**

The 2022 Zion Church Council and Committee servers will be recognized and installed with prayers of the congregation during worship on January 9.

## **Zion Cookbooks Make Great Gifts**

Our Zion Lutheran Church cookbooks 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!

## **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!

## **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 a 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!

## **January Anniversaries**

4 Pastor Mark and Sherrie Decker

## **January Birthdays**

4 Jenna Parr  
7 Judy Shirley  
11 Lori Gutknecht  
12 Stacy Lee  
12 Jamie Miller  
14 Josh Shirley  
16 Hayden Gutknecht  
24 Bob Petersen  
25 Casey Bonwell  
28 Chrissy Peters  
30 Madeline Brandhorst

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.

### **The Paraments For Sundays**

The paraments for Sundays, January 2 and 9, are white for Christmas and the Baptism of our Lord. On January 16, 23, and 30, the color is green for Epiphany.

### **Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:**

January 2: Matthew 2:1-15

January 9: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 16: John 2:1-11

January 23: Luke 4:14-21

January 30: Luke 4:21-30

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

January 1-15	Ben Volding Chris McCulley	319-415-0043 319-239-2518
January 16-31	Chris Brandhorst Elwin Lee	319-269-0660 319-988-4219
February 1-15	Andy Appleton Dan Miller	319-239-0340 319-988-3610
February 16-28	Chris McCulley Bruce Bascom	319-239-2518 319-240-1862