



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)

FEBRUARY 2022

5831 GRUNDY ROAD, HUDSON, IA 50643

Pastor Mark's cell: 515-538-2200

Church & Parsonage: 988-4534 www.zionlutheranhusdon.com

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lent Begins March 2

Ash Wednesday is March 2 this year. We will have a worship service at 6:30 p.m. that evening with a celebration of Holy Communion as well as the traditional imposition of ashes on our foreheads. Lent is a season of the church calendar – the forty days (not counting Sundays) before Easter. Often it is seen as a time of more solemn preparation for the great celebration of Jesus' resurrection. In early Christianity, it was when new believers, preparing for Baptism, received instruction on the basics of Christian faith. After an interruption for the past two years, we will resume offering Wednesday evening worship services during Lent. We will also resume offering meals prior to the Wednesday services following Ash Wednesday. No meal on Ash Wednesday, but meals prior to worship on Wednesdays, March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6.

At our last Zion Lutheran Church council we discussed the benefits of fellowship time and agreed that the recent success of potluck meals should be continued. We are inviting everyone to bring an item to share prior to the Wednesday Lenten services. Except on Ash Wednesday, the meals will begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by worship at 6:30.. 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. Even if you can't be there by 5:30, usually folks arriving as late at 6:15 are able to grab a quite meal before worship begins.



Like Easter, Ash Wednesday is not on the same date every year. I am sometimes asked, "How do they decide the date when Easter is going to be held?" That's a good question and I didn't know the answer until I was already a pastor for several years. Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. So, it could be as early as March 22 and a late as April 25. This year, Easter is April 17.

Likewise, Ash Wednesday could be as early as February 4 and a late as March 10. My nephew, Stephen, was born on Ash Wednesday in 1989, February 8th, that year. The trouble is I have it in my mind that he was born on Ash Wednesday, so by the time Ash Wednesday rolls around, I have usually missed his birthday. So, if you get thrown off by the changing dates, you are not alone.

The Best Way to Make Announcements

It has come to my attention that not all of our church members get our email announcements. Likewise not all of our members are on Facebook or are able to check our Zion Facebook page for announcements. Sadly, not all of our members are present in worship even as rarely as once a month to hear the announcements made at that time. When I make phone calls to those of you who are in these first three categories, it's very hit and miss, with at least half the calls going unanswered. Apparently, the best way to make sure all our members get an announcement is right here in the monthly newsletter, delivered faithfully by our United States Postal Service.

One vital announcement is when someone asks to be added to our prayer list. While the names of those on the prayer list are given in the newsletter every month, but quite often the reasons why those names are there is not mentioned. I have found that the most asked question I hear when I visit our shut-ins is, “Why is _____ on the prayer list?” Bearing in mind the respect for confidentiality, I am usually able to give a satisfactory answer.

Which brings me to let you know about my wife, Sherrie’s, recent heart procedure. Last December 30 (by which time I had already completed the January newsletter) she underwent an angiogram at St. Mary’s Hospital in Rochester, MN. During the angiogram, one artery was determined to have 90% blockage and two others had 80% blockages. The doctors inserted three stents into those blockages. The announcements requesting prayers for her recovery were made on Facebook and during worship services, but some people had not heard this.

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

Pastor Mark Away

Pastor Mark and Sherrie will be taking a short vacation to Florida for the first ten days of February. While Pastor Mark is away, Pastor Kent Wallace of Bethel Lutheran Church (LCMC) of Parkersburg has agreed to cover any pastoral emergencies. Pastor Wallace may be reached at 716-296-0797. On Sunday, February 6, recent seminary graduate, Rudy Pithan of Pleasant Hill, Iowa, will preach and preside at Communion. Please plan to be in worship on that Sunday to greet him and hear in message.

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!

February Birthdays

1 Sherrie Decker
5 Marj Simpson
9 Martha Watson
9 Zander Young
10 Ben Sorensen
14 Chris Brandhorst
23 Ben Volding
25 Casey Bonwell
26 Marvin Miller
26 John Neil
27 Jodi Sorensen

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.

The Paraments For Sundays

The color of the paraments for all the Sundays in February is green for Epiphany.

Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:

February 6: Matthew 25:31-40
February 13: Luke 6:17-26
February 20: Luke 6:27-38
February 27: Luke 9:28-36

Zion Lutheran Church Snow Removal Schedule 2022

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
March 1-15	Ben Volding Elwin Lee	319-415-0043 319-988-4219
March 16-31	Andy Appleton Mark Decker	319-239-0340 515-538-2200