



# 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)*

**MAY 2022      5831 GRUNDY ROAD, HUDSON, IA 50643**

**Pastor Mark's cell: 515-538-2200    Church & Parsonage: 988-4534    [www.zionlutheranhusdon.com](http://www.zionlutheranhusdon.com)**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I prepare for my retirement from full-time ministry at Zion, I am reminded of an old joke told to me by a pastor friend many years ago: A pastor was retiring from the church he had served for several years and the appreciative congregation was giving a going-away-party in his honor.

Almost everyone there seemed to be enjoying themselves and were wishing him well. But the pastor noticed one woman standing off by herself looking very sad with tears running down her cheeks. He went to her and asked what was wrong. She said that she was just sad because he would be leaving them. Being a good pastor, he assured her that the next pastor would probably be a much better preacher and worship leader than he had been. He also assured her that the next pastor would likely be better at visitation and leading Bible studies than he had been. Her reply to this was, "Yes, Pastor, you're probably right. As a matter of fact, several other people here at this party have already come up to me and told me that exact same thing. But, it just seems to me that every new pastor we get is worse than the one we had before."

Seriously, leaving a congregation is not an easy time for a pastor. There is that feeling that, "If I could've only stayed a little bit longer, I could have done this or that..." Again, I'm helped remembering wise words from another pastor. He said, "Whether

you serve a congregation for ten years or ten weeks, when the time comes to leave, there will always be something that you feel you have left undone."

That's just the way life is; you do your best and move on.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Mark Decker



### **Thank You Pastor Mark & Sherrie!**

As Pastor Mark has already announced, he will be retiring from Zion at the end of June. It will be with both heartening and sorrowful sentiments that we say our goodbyes. Pastor Mark and Sherrie have served our congregation for ten and a half years. Pastor has performed many baptisms and watched those same children grow into faithful little members of our church body.

He's also taught and guided some of our adolescents into becoming

both confirmed and re-baptized young members of our congregation. He's pronounced loving couples within our church body (both young and old) man and wife after leading their marriage ceremonies.

He's been there to console and comfort the families and friends of our elder members who have passed away. Having lived and worked in various parts of the United States, Pastor has had many interesting stories and life lessons to teach us. Along with his love and knowledge of the Bible, Pastor has taught us using his passion for golf, bicycles, and baseball. Both Pastor Mark and Sherrie's love of music (both traditional and contemporary) has brought so much to our worship.

We are forever grateful and inspired by Sherrie for everything she has done to contribute her musical talents to help us worship the Lord. We are also thankful for Sherrie's creative input towards our Sunday School Christmas programs. We're very appreciative to Sherrie for the many delicious foods she's prepared and shared with the congregation over the years.

The both of them have touched the lives of so many of our members in unique ways. During this time of transition for both Pastor Mark and Sherrie, as they start a new chapter in their lives, and Zion Lutheran Church, as we look for a new shepherd to lead our flock, we need to turn to God in prayer. We need to pray for joyful new beginnings and helping our hearts through saying tough goodbyes. Let's all turn to the Lord and let Him guide the path for both Mark and Sherrie and for our congregation.

### **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, Jeff and Nikki Coons, Pastor Mark Decker, Marcia Ecker, Eunice Neil, Sheila Petry, Adriana Reyes, Janet Schoenfelder, Jean Wittgreve, Carrie Carey, and Russ. Please pray along with the call committee that they are guided by God in their preparations and search.

### **Thank You**

After several months of waiting (supply-chain issues can be blamed), the new camera has been successfully installed, connected to the sound system and new laptop. We have received several compliments on the quality of Facebook Live presentation. A very grateful thank you to those of you who stepped up to give special donations for the new camera.

### **Vacation Bible School**

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 12, 13, 14 (Sunday through Tuesday). From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The theme for this year's VBS is from Psalm 23 and John 10: lambs and the Good Shepherd. The first night (Sunday, June 12) will be a family potluck picnic. All ages are welcome. Could anyone with magazines or photos with sheep, wilderness, still waters, banquet (images from the 23rd Psalm) please contact Cindy Appleton. Thank you!

### **Zion Lutheran Church Call Committee**

The Zion Lutheran Church call committee is hard at work finding a suitable candidate to fill Pastor Mark's shoes once he retires at the end of June. Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the membership survey so we can take your suggestions and use them in our search. So far, we have posted the position and job description on LCMC.net and have received a few applications. We will be interviewing those candidates in the coming weeks to see if they are a good match.

Thank you to the congregation for your prayers for guiding us during this process and thank you to Pastor Mark for all you have done and continue to do during your tenure at Zion Lutheran Church. You have given hope and encouragement to so many.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to one of the members of the call committee.

### **Last Day of Sunday School**

Sunday, May 15, will be our last day of Sunday School until classes resume in the fall (the Sunday after Labor Day). Many thanks to Cindy Appleton and Molly Volding for your dedicated work with our students for this past year!

### **Newsletter Contact**

Thank you to Jane Miller for stepping up to serve as temporary chair for the Zion newsletter. Anyone interested in submitting an article will need to send her a text at her cell number: 319-231-9035. The cut-off date for submitting information for the newsletter is a couple days before the end of the month.

### **Clean Up Opportunities**

There are large brown long folding tables in the undercroft that are free for taking home by anyone interested. If you are interested in getting one or know of a place that might need them, please contact Marian Grover at 319-231-7459. Saturday, May 7, starting at 9 a.m. will be a day for painting the undercroft. Please bring rollers and paint brushes if you have them. Donuts will be provided. The undercroft is the part of the church basement directly beneath the church sanctuary.

### **Cemetery Flowers**

The sign at the entrance to the Zion Cemetery reminds us that flowers are to be removed by the first of May. Thank you!

## Call Committee Update

The call committee has been meeting weekly and doing the tasks to prepare for interviewing candidates to fill the pastor position after Pastor Mark retires at the end of June. They have already received a couple of applications from those interested in the position.

## 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. We have a great cookbook!

## 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. One bright spot regarding hospital visits is that most hospitals are now allowing pastors to visit church members!

## May Ushers

May 1 – Rod and Marilu Degener  
May 8 – Rod and Marilu Degener  
May 15 – Lyle Wulf and Langley Jensen  
May 22 – Lyle Wulf and Langley Jensen  
May 29 – Sam Meier and Jenn Brandhorst

## May Communion Servers

May 1 – Molly Volding  
May 8 – Karen Wulf  
May 15 – Langley Jensen  
May 22 – Langley Jensen  
May 29 – Jenn Brandhorst

## May Anniversaries

19 – Elwin & Stacy Lee  
30 – Dan & Jane Miller

## May Birthdays

1 – Dan Bergman  
1 – Russ Pedersen  
1 – Preston Sieble  
3 – Evelyn Andorf  
4 – Gabi Petry

7 – Lucas Gutknecht  
10 – Jennifer Brandhorst  
10 – Sue Gibson  
11 – Cindy Paige  
15 – Hope Petry Heckenlaible  
18 – Bridget McCulley  
20 – Gayle Juhl  
23 – Brad Dufel  
23 – Amber Laube  
23 – Sammy Ohrt  
25 – Jennifer Sorensen Weitzell  
26 – Greg Bergman  
28 – Marissa Gutknecht Woomer  
30 – Craig Dufel  
30 – Mallory Laube  
31 – Holly Appleton

## Calendar:

**May 4 and 18: 6:30 p.m.** – Confirmation Class  
**May 22:** 11:00 a.m. – Church Council  
**Sundays at 9:00 a.m.** - Worship in the Sanctuary and Facebook Live streaming  
**Sundays at 10:00 a.m.** - Sunday School classes (last classes on May 15)

**The color of the paraments** for all the Sundays in May is white for Easter.

## Our lectionary readings for the Sundays are:

May 1: John 9:1-25  
May 8: John 21:1-14  
May 15: John 21:15-19  
May 22: John 13:31-35  
May 29: John 5:1-9

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 Jane Miller, (319-231-9035) 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.