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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)

JUNE 2022 **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,

I've been asked to write about some of the highlights of my service as your pastor for the past ten and a half years. Well, that is a tough one because there have been so many highlights I fear that mentioning just a few will leave out some people and events that deserve to be mentioned. Likewise, it is always dangerous to admit that certain people have been my favorites, because some will wonder, "Why aren't I one of the pastor's favorites?" On the other hand, there have also been "lowlights" (not so good experiences) and people who would not want to be considered favorites of mine. I'm not going to mention those. I was asked to talk about the highlights, not the lowlights.

Some of my favorite people who come to mind are dear saints of our church family whose funerals have taken place during this past decade.

I remember conversations with people facing death and their family members during those last days: Joan Dahms, Marian Petersen, James Schoolcraft, Jonsey Watson, Dennis Clarke, Margaret Petersen, Laura Wulf Siemens, Diann Wulf, Kay Degener, Bonnie Miller, Harley Bergman, Thelma Gutknecht, Dennis Gutknecht, Jerry Dufel, Dorothy Juhl Zelle, Dolores Wulf, Margaret Brandhorst, Florence Wrede, Lorraine Joens, John Miller, Doug Weaver, Fred and Beverly Wulf. One of my great privileges has been to sit and pray with families during these end-of-life days and weeks.

Another highlight that I will always remember when I think of the ministry of Zion has

been the young people who participate in our children's sermons during worship. What a joy to see their faces and listen to their answers to my questions! I will not forget watching Madeline Brandhorst scrunching up her face as she tries to think of something to say. One favorite of many of ours for the past decade, has been June Volding, especially as a first and second grader; I would ask a question, she would raise her hand, I would hand her the microphone and she would expound on a deep discussion of God for the next three or four minutes. On several occasions, people would come up to me after worship and say something like, "Pastor, your sermon was good, but I really enjoyed and got a lot out of what June said during the children's sermon." June, I pray that you never lose that fire for talking about God and sharing your faith.

All in all, I look back at my years as your pastor as a blessing for both Sherrie and myself. I was called to serve as your pastor and teacher and feel that I have done that. But we have also learned and been blessed by your prayers and attention to our needs. We all learned to adjust to the changes brought about because of COVID restrictions in 2020. In 2021, Sherrie fell and broke her back requiring spinal fusion surgery that necessitated me being with her every day as her primary care-giver for nearly a year. I can't express my gratitude enough to you for allowing me to do that.

I am praying that your next pastor will be blessed by you and a blessing for you.

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, 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.

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. We would also appreciate the use of fly swatters that may be donated for one of the planned activities – about 25 fly swatters are needed. Thank you!

Pastor Mark Moves On

While I will be “retiring” from full-time service as Zion’s pastor at the end of June. I will not be completely retiring. I have accepted a part-time call to serve as pastor of Sion Lutheran Church, a rural congregation about five miles east of Lake Mills, Iowa, starting in July. Like Zion, Sion is also a member of our Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). Some of you may be wondering, “What is the difference between Zion and Sion as a name for a congregation?” Well, I had to look it up. Both are references to the same thing: the hill in Jerusalem upon which the great Hebrew Temple was built. Both spellings are transliterations of an ancient Hebrew word that probably sounded something like “Schzyion.”

Last month, Sherrie agreed to sell her wonderful bed and breakfast, the Blue Belle Inn. The new owners will take possession on June 30. Last week, I was the winner of an auction for a home and five acres of farm buildings about three miles from the Sion building. We will be doing a lot of “downsizing” as we move into this smaller home. While we leave behind dear friends at Zion, we also look forward to being part of the ministry at Sion.

Pastor Mark & Sherrie's Farewell Sunday

Pastor Mark and Sherrie's last Sunday at Zion Lutheran Church will be June 26th. They will be honored with a potluck and program following the church service. Please mark your calendars.

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.

Thank You For Building & Yard Clean

Over the past month several projects have been accomplished by volunteers to spruce up the appearance of Zion's building and grounds. The undercroft has been cleaned and painted. Bulletin boards have been given new life. The windows and siding of the front entry have been repaired. Many flowers have been planted and cared for in our front and side yards. Thank you to the many of you who have given your time and talents for these projects!

Flower Appreciation

The beautiful flowers planted around the outside of the church are compliments of Lori Gutknecht and Ben Woomer. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Yoga

Anyone is invited to join Lori Gutknecht for yoga in the church basement. Lori leads hour-long sessions from 5-6 pm every Monday, Tuesday, and Friday. Bring your own mat if you have one. Come and join the fun!

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 has been reduced to \$15! It 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!

June Ushers

June 5 – Sammy Meier
June 12 – Bob and Shirley Petersen
June 19 – Harold and Julie Sorensen
June 26 – Jim and Marian Grover

June Communion Servers

6 – Chris & Barb McCulley
6 – Chris & Jennifer Brandhorst
14 – Rodney & Marilu Degener
15 – Phil & Monica Laube
18 – Irv & Jennifer Laube
30 – Harold & Julie Sorensen

June Anniversaries

6 – Chris & Barb McCulley
6 – Chris & Jennifer Brandhorst
14 – Rodney & Marilu Degener
15 – Phil & Monica Laube
18 – Irv & Jennifer Laube
30 – Harold & Julie Sorensen

June Birthdays

1 – Miles Bern
4 – Donna Dufel
9 – Holley Bergman
12 – Dresden Wulf
13 – Jessi Sorensen
15 – Edward Juhl
19 – Bob Johnson
20 – Eleanor Wettengel
21 – Harris Jorgensen
21 – Monica Laube
23 – Brad Ohrt
26 – Marilu Degener
27 – Pamela Degener
30 – Ronnie Degener
30 – Tony Young

Calendar:

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. - Worship in the Sanctuary and Facebook Live streaming

June 12-14: 6:30-8:00 p.m. Vacation Bible School

June 19: 11:00 a.m. – Church Council

June 26: 10:00 a.m. Potluck Lunch and Send-off for Pastor Mark and Sherrie

The color of the paraments for June 5 is red for Pentecost and the following weeks is green for the Sundays after Pentecost.

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 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.