**ZION’S MESSENGER**

**May 2022 + Zion Lutheran Church + 269-367-4817**

**Pastor Becky Emergency Phone: 616-265-2862**

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! This newsletter finds us in the midst of the Easter season where we celebrate with joy that the risen Christ is among us at all times and in all circumstances.

It was a particularly joyous Easter Sunday to see the church nearly full again and to see so many people return to worship after two challenging years. Easter happened in the past two years also and the risen Christ has been with us. We found new and different ways to be the church and did a lot of outreach to those in need both in our local community and in the world through our partnership with the many Lutheran relief organizations. And the risen Christ will continue to be with us and call us to more new ways to be the church. Wouldn’t it be great to see the fruition of the many seeds planted and continue to have a full church with both long time and new members as Zion continues to reach out to our community.

We will grow through baptisms and affirmation of faith this month as we welcome the Hokanson family with the baptisms of both Shana Griffin and Aiden Hokanson and the affirmation of baptism of Fred Hokanson. And there are more baptisms of our new babies in the congregation to come!

We will grow as the visioning process begins. Pastor David Sprang gave us some good direction to get started but your voices are needed to help us look to the future and find new ways to be the church and to open our lives and hearts to the work and direction of the Spirit to guide us.

We have been very generous in reaching out to the people of Ukraine during this time of war and terrible devastation. Many Lutheran relief agencies are at work on the ground and our gifts have become our presence in this part of the world. Check out the thermometer in the fellowship hall to see how our giving to Lutheran World Relief has grown. We received a letter of thanks from LWR with information on how our gifts are helping the people of Ukraine. This letter will be included in this newsletter.

May is a season where we see much new life as the flowers bloom, as the crops are planted and begin to grow. May we all experience new life in the risen Christ in some special way this season!

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Becky +

Pastor Becky and the people of Zion,

Christ is Risen!  Christ is Risen indeed!  Alleluia!

My name is Tim Krick and I am one of the pastors on staff at Lutheran World Relief.  My position is called “Manager of Congregational Engagement.”  I have the privilege of thanking and being in communication with congregations who share their love and generosity with our neighbors around the world through their partnership with LWR.

As you proclaim the good news of Jesus this Easter season, I give thanks for the many ways that you and your congregation are sharing the hope of Jesus. As war continues to rage in Ukraine, and the ripple effects are felt around the globe, we all need glimpses of that hope.

**Because of your love, Lutheran World Relief committed $7 million to respond to the crisis in Ukraine**, and we expect to increase this amount as we receive additional support. With more than 4.6 million refugees fleeing to other countries and more than 6.5 million individuals displaced in Ukraine, the needs grow daily.

* **In Ukraine, we support health facilities by providing supplies**like surgical and wound care kits, IV kits, defibrillators and stretchers. **We provide ongoing support to six facilities used to shelter displaced persons.** Your love will provide nearly 60,000 nights of shelter for people who need a place to stay.
* **In Poland, we are distributing emergency cash and vouchers** to more than 1,300 refugee families for the next three months. We’re also integrating a referral system at these sites to **protect women and children from sexual exploitation and abuse**.

None of this would be possible without your generous care and support. **Thank you for all the ways you are caring for God’s people.** Grace and Peace, Tim

**DONATIONS NEEDED**

We are collecting donations of individually packaged breakfast snack items for the school. Items will be collected this month. Please drop in the Fellowship Hall.

**TABLE SHOWER**

There will be a table shower to welcome Fred Hokanson and Shana Griffin’s newest child: Aiden Atlas Hokanson (grandchild of Mike & Rocky Johnson). Since he was born during Covid, we weren’t able to have a shower for him. The shower will run through May. Please watch for more details.

**REBECKA NELSON NEW ADDRESS**

Rebecka Nelson

44199 US 27

Davenport, FL 33837

**Sunday School Opening**

May 1: Dan Utterback

May 8: Pastor Becky

May 15: Martha Yoder

May 22: Dan Utterback

May 29: Memorial Day, no Sunday School

**SUNDAYS IN MAY**

**May 1- In Sanctuary & Drive-in, Communion,**

Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese

Elder: Paul Meade

Trustee: Mike Johnson

Safety Person: Dan Zylstra

Offering Counters: Jerry Engle & Carlotta Willard

**May 8 In Sanctuary & Drive-in, Communion, Coffee Fellowship**

Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese

Elder: Dan Utterback

Trustee: Dan Zylstra

Safety Person: Jerry Engle

Offering Counters: Doug Mackenzie & Mike Johnson

**May 15- In Sanctuary & Drive-in, Communion**

Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese

Elder: Jolene Griffin

Trustee: Jerry Engle

Safety Person: Diane Griffin

Offering Counters: Mary Makley, Martha Yoder

**May 22- In Sanctuary & Drive-in, No Communion, Coffee Fellowship**

Presider: Martha Yoder

Elder: Dan Utterback

Trustee: Mike Johnson

Safety Person: Ken Heise

Offering Counters: Diane Griffin & Carlotta Willard

**May 29 In Sanctuary & Drive-in, Communion,**

Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese

Elder: Paul Meade

Trustee: Dan Zylstra

Safety Person: Dan Zylstra

Offering Counters: Jerry Engle & Carlotta Willard