

**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**MARCH 2019**

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**MARCH**

## Community Wednesday Lenten Services

Day	Location	Preacher
March 13	St. John's Clarence	Pastor Steve
March 20	Peace Church Bennett	Pastor Matt
March 27	Zion UCC, Lowden	Pastor Tessa
April 3	St. Paul's Wheatland	Pastor Ann
April 10	First Church Tipton	Pastor Scott
<b>Worship – 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Evening Meal 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.</b>	<b><u>Meal prices</u></b> \$7.00 for adults Free 12 yrs. and younger
April 18	Maundy Thursday	
April 19	Good Friday	

*What does love look like?  
 It has the hands to help others.  
 It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy.  
 It has eyes to see misery and want.  
 It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men.  
 That is what love looks like. Saint Augustine*

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

My father served in the Navy for over 36 years and during that time, my mom picked up a few phrases what were naval related. This morning, I was reminded of one of those phrases, “stay on an even keel.” She would say this when me and/or my brothers got into an argument, or if we just couldn’t get something to work, or even if we simply seemed a little out of sorts. She was saying, keep cool, stay balanced, and don’t rock the boat. That can certainly happen to families when a disagreement arises, an item is lost, an ill placed word is spoken, a practical joke is played on an unwilling participant or when a terrible event occurs. Events like these create a squall that can force the keel of a family to pass a point of balance and potentially capsize the family.



*From The Pastor's Pen*

Now, if you have ever been on a small boat that has capsized or flipped upside-down, then you (like me) know it is very frightening because your sense of balance and control is lost and it is almost impossible to right the boat without assistance, not to mention the water that is trying to force its way down your throat. Hopefully, you end up floating in the water as you cling to a boat that right now only serves as a makeshift life preserver.

Faith can also be subject to the squalls of humanity. We often struggle to keep our cool, stay balanced and keep our boat steady when problems arise. This causes us to lash out, be overbearing and invite conflict to resolve the problems which usually makes things worse. Instead, we need to use Jesus’ problem resolution skills to work through our issues.

- Jesus didn't lash out at those problem people, instead he presented the correct interpretation of God's Word to help them see the truth of God.
- Jesus wasn't over bearing, but he was persistent and consistent in his responses to the challenges that were levied at him and this brought balance to all those who witnessed his loving way.
- Jesus did not invite conflict to solve differences or impasses between the people. Instead, Jesus built pathways that brought people together so that they could see that they were all equal in the eyes of God and therefore they should also accept each other as equals by loving one another.

My Beloved Christians, this Lenten Season, let us stay on an "even keel" with Jesus by following his faithful path, the path of love that leads to hope, joy, and peace, not just for you and me, but for all people. Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34).

Grace and peace,

Pastor Steve

*Something to remember during the Lenten Season*

*"No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others. So, no matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great."*

*— John Chrysostom (c. 349 -407) Archbishop of Constantinople —*

# USHERS

THIS MONTH

March 3, 2019 Church Council  
March 10, 2019 Jared Bentrott, Brett Esbaum,  
Dennis Mostaert  
March 17, 2019 David Niermeyer,  
Donavon & Linda Freese  
March 24, 2019 Merlin Conrad, Janice Strackbein  
March 31, 2019 Senior High Fellowship

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April 7, 2019 Church Council  
April 14, 2019 (Palm Sunday) Randy Horman,  
Wilbert Muhs, Robert & Sharon Johnson  
April 21, 2019 (Easter) Dan & Amy Mohr,  
Ryan & Sara Sawyer  
April 28, 2019 Senior High Fellowship



March 3, 2019 Johny & Josselyn  
March 6, 2019 Matthew & Sophie (Ash Wednesday)  
March 10, 2019 Jaydon & Sophie  
March 17, 2019 Carter & Matthew  
March 24, 2019 Josselyn & Johny  
March 31, 2019 Drew & Jaydon

April 7, 2019 Sophie & Carter  
April 14, 2019 Johny & Matthew  
April 21, 2019 Jaydon & Josselyn  
April 28, 2019 Drew & Sophie



March 3, 2019	Jane Drewelow
March 11, 2019	Cheryl Boedeker
March 18, 2019	Donna Luepker
March 24, 2019	Jody Yutesler
March 31, 2019	Donna Luepker



March 1	*Amanda Kahl, *Elaine Mae Coppess
March 4	Doug Wiedenhoff, Jamie Nabb, Mary Campbell
March 5	Lonnie Luepker
March 8	Tanya Stewart
March 9	Jalynn O'Howell
March 10	Carolee Lohman
March 11	Gene Horman, Annette Behrens, Kody Klahn, Seth Hamilton
March 12	Dennis Mostaert, *Lisa Horman
March 13	Megan Horman
March 14	Lisa Gottschalk
March 15	Aaron Horman, Anna Welch
March 18	Addison Luepker
March 19	KaCee Traver
March 22	*Parker Stout
March 23	Sandra Koch
March 25	Paige Holland
March 27	Donna Tank
March 30	Kent Stout, Heidi Neill, Dean Behrens
March 31	Jennifer Glover

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 5, 1960	Alden & Marilyn Klahn	59 years
March 10, 1956	Merle & Donna Tank	63 years
March 14, 1992	Scott & Carman Fields	27 years



# Lenten Dinner at Zion

Zion Evening Circle will provide a delicious meal before the Lenten Service at our church on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

The meal will be served from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Come and enjoy our Beef Lasagna or Chicken Lasagna with a Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread, Beverage and Dessert. The cost will be \$7.00 for adults; Children under 12 are Free. The Lenten Service will begin at 7:00 p.m.



Mark your calendars hungry Brothers and Sisters!!!

On April 28, 2019, we will be having our Annual Spring Dinner at Zion United Church of Christ. As this date approaches, the committee would like to thank all who have so generously donated their time, talents, and resources so that this community mission event may be enjoyed by all.

Perhaps you missed the sign-up sheets, do not fret! There is still time for you to be involved by simply calling on one of the committee members. Maybe you like

surprises and are waiting for us to delegate a job to you. In either event there will be lots of fun to be had by all.

The committee will be working on Saturday starting at 9:00 a.m. and invite 6 more volunteers to help. The committee will be working on some grilling involved and we know some of our men and women like to grill. So, if you would like to join us, please let us know and we will put you on the schedule. Oh, by the way, if you work on Saturday you will have Sunday off! It is a win, win.

This year the will be: **Swiss Steak**

**Mashed Potatoes with gravy**

**French Cut Green Beans and Corn**

**Mandarin Orange Cookie Salad and Pasta Salad**

**Chocolate Lasagna or Cherry Cheesecake**

**Rolls with butter and a beverage**

**All of this for just \$10.00**

With God's blessing and our Zion Church family working together as one body in Christ, we will be fruitful in our mission.

With hearty appetites,

Your Spring Dinner Committee

Jody Yutesler, Diane Esbaum, Julie Hoffmeier, Sue Monson  
Merlin Conrad and Dean Behrens Family

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## **Human Trafficking 101**

On Tuesday, February 19, the Missions Committee hosted a Human Trafficking 101 presentation at Zion UCC. Human trafficking is the fastest growing organized criminal industry in the world. Tish Young from Chains Interrupted spoke about the definition, warning signs, and situations of human trafficking. Tish is a homeschooling mom of six, grandma of two, software trainer and project management assistant by day. She joined the Chains Interrupted team as a volunteer about 3 years ago and is very passionate about speaking out against the crime of

human trafficking. Her goal is to empower people to prevent, fight and restore those hurt by human trafficking. The main take-away of the presentation is to alert authorities if you see anything suspicious. Do NOT take matters into your own hands. To request help or report suspected human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888. Or text HELP to: BeFree (233733). Detailed resources to learn more about human trafficking, Chains Interrupted programs and projects or volunteering to help the fight against such a horrendous crime may be found at [www.chainsinterrupted.com](http://www.chainsinterrupted.com).



## **BEAUTIFY THE CHURCH WITH SPRING FLOWERS FOR EASTER 2019**

Janice Strackbein, Donna Luepker and Jean Stepp will be taking orders for Easter flowers

this year on Sundays: March 10, March 17, and March 24 before church. We will need your order and money by Sunday, March 24. The prices will be available at a later date. The following prices are from last year and could be subject to change, 6" pot for \$10.50 or 8" pot with two plants for \$20, Azaleas 6" pot for \$21, Mum 6" pot for \$14, Hydrangeas 6" pot for \$23, and Tulips, Hyacinths, or Daffodils 6" pot for \$14.

The flowers will be in the sanctuary on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. We would like you to pick up your flowers or plan to pick them up following the Easter Service.

Thank you in advance for your order!

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**Zion United Church of  
Christ  
Church Council  
Meeting Minutes  
JANUARY 17, 2019**

Zion United Church of Christ Council met January 17, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. Vice-president Jamie Nabb called the meeting to order. Pastor Steve opened with a devotion and a prayer. Those in attendance were Jon Mansfield, Duane Lasack, Aaron Horman, Bonnie Kintzel, Jamie Nabb, Sharon Elijah and Rick Balke. Linda Behrens was present through the treasurer's reports.

Joys and concerns were discussed. The secretary's report was read and made official on a motion by Bonnie, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aaron. Carried. The treasurer's reports were read. There was not an Endowment or Memorial Report. Aaron moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick that the improvement report be accepted and the general and benevolent fund reports be tabled and approved at a later time. Carried.

Duane moved that a transfer from the roofing/improvement fund be made to the general fund annually if there are additional gifts. Second by Aaron. Carried.

Calendar review:

- Feb. 9 Father-Daughter dance
- Feb. 12 Movie night
- Feb. 19 Human trafficking program
- Feb. 24 Mission committee meeting
- March 6 Ash Wednesday service at Zion

Old business:

Aaron will take care of getting the thermostat replaced in the Educational Building.

New business:

Election of officers: Moved by Duane, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick, that Joy Combs serve as president for 2019. Carried. Moved by Sharon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Duane, that Rick Balke serve as vice-president for 2019. Carried. Moved by Aaron, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick, that Sharon Elijah serve as secretary. Carried. Council representatives on committees were named. In the absence of President Joy Combs, Jamie Nabb will present the annual report at the January 27<sup>th</sup> annual meeting.

A discussion was held about the committees serving the church. Each committee should have a purpose statement. Aaron reported that the church now has an updated internet speed and expanded Wi-Fi coverage throughout the church.

Pastor Steve's expense report was approved on a motion by Rick, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bonnie. Carried. Pastor Steve said the annual movie license needed to be renewed. Aaron moved to pay for the \$246.41 license from the general fund with potential compensation from the mission committee. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick. Carried. The general synod meeting will be held June 21-25 and Pastor would like to go and have some young people also attend.

Duane moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jon, that we host the 2019 Association meeting on September 22, 2019. Motion carried. Evening Circle will be asked to serve the evening meal. It is Pastor's hope that we have a joint worship service with the five area churches on that Sunday before the afternoon session.

Our next meeting will be Feb. 21 at 7:00. The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Duane, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aaron. Pastor closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted  
Sharon Elijah, Secretary

## **ZION CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES January 20, 2019**

Zion church council met at a special meeting after worship service January 20, 2019 to make final approval of the 2018 general fund and benevolent fund. Those in attendance were Duane Lasack, Aaron Horman, Jamie Nabb, Sharon Elijah, Rick Balke, Jon Mansfield and Rev. Stepp. Linda Behrens was also in attendance. Jamie called the meeting to order. Pastor Steve led us in prayer. After discussion, Aaron moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Duane to approve the general fund with small math corrections to be made by Greg Wiese and to approve the benevolence fund as presented. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned and Pastor Steve closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted  
Sharon Elijah, Secretary



## ZION EVENING CIRCLE

February 19, 2019

Eleven Zion Evening Circle members and Pastor Steve met February 18, 2019, for their regular meeting. Sharon Elijah gave devotions entitled "Gummed Up".

Donna Luepker presented the program "Remember When". The historian books and old secretary's books were on the tables for us to look at and "remember when". Donna also told us some of the history of Evening Circle. Did you know that Rev. Roberts was pastor when Girls Guild started; the name from Girl's Guild to Evening Circle was changed in 1949; that Ina Hack Kahl was the first president of Girl's Guild; Evening Circle organized a nursery in 1964 and we have been serving the Committee on Ministry for 17 years?

President Terry called the meeting to order with roll call. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved. A thank you from the Committee on Ministry was read. President Terry thanked those who worked the Henry Boedeker funeral and Janice for purchasing the winter altar flowers. She also thanked those serving on tonight's program.

Members signed up for working and providing food for the March 27<sup>th</sup> Lenten supper. We should think about what we want to do with the proceeds from the supper.

The project committee talked about going to the Ronald McDonald house to serve a meal. It was decided to

postpone that trip until summer and there will be no March meeting.

The senior breakfast will be held in May. The Human Trafficking program will be held on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Terry will take care of flowers in March; Janice and Jody will serve the Committee on Ministry. Jean, Janice and Donna will oversee Easter flowers.

Refreshments were served by Joy and Rose.

Sharon Elijah  
Secretary

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## **SENIOR HIGH FELLOWSHIP:**

Please mark your calendars to meet on Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>! Plan to help with ushering and offering and we will meet after the worship service to discuss the Easter Sunrise Service and the breakfast we host! Lots to talk about so please plan to attend and mark your calendars! Thank you!

## Christian Education News:

Thank you to all who were able to join us for bowling on Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup> in Dewitt! Lots of fun was had by all ages!

Please mark your calendars for Sunday March 24 at 9AM. This will be our Family Sunday for Sunday School. We will provide breakfast and some fun activities.

Also, as you plan out your family vacations this summer; please leave open Sunday, July 21 – Thursday, July 25 for VBS Week! The theme will be **ROAR!** *Life is Wild. God is Good.*

We have been spending our time in the classrooms on the great Miracles of Jesus! Please ask your youth about the miracles they have learned about thus far!

## One Great Hour of Sharing Offering March 31, 2019

It is easy to feel overwhelmed when we look at all the areas of need in God's world: there is hunger, sickness, and injustice in so many communities. It is easy to feel there is nothing we can do to help. We feel trapped by hopelessness and fear that what little we can do-won't have an impact.

**But there is Hope! Better yet: we are that hope!**

We cannot only care about those around us both near and far. Our gifts become part of a loving legacy in ways we can't expect. We can make a difference beyond what we can imagine. Make a donation by using the enclosed envelope and returning to the church and placing them in the offering plate of giving to the office. Thank you for bringing hope to the world.

### **REMEMBER TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

March 6, 2019	7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday at Zion United Church of Christ in Lowden,
March 13, 2019	7:00 p.m. Lenten Service at St. John's UCC in Clarence, Pastor Steve will be preaching. Meal from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.
March 20, 2018	7:00 p.m. Lenten Service at Peace UCC church in Bennett, Pastor Matt is preaching. Meal from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
March 27, 2019	7:00 p.m. Lenten service at Zion United Church of Christ in Lowden, Pastor Tessa is preaching