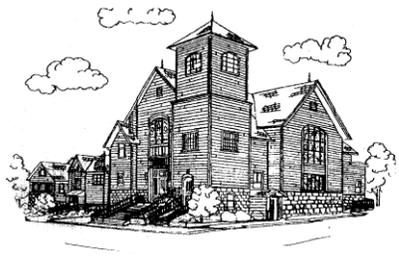


# ZION HERALD



DECEMBER 2014

VOLUME 87 NUMBER 12

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On December 1, 2013 Pope Francis said, "The time of Advent that we begin again today returns us to the horizon of hope, a hope that does not disappoint because it is founded on the Word of God. A hope that does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful!"

The birth Jesus Christ is what we as Christians celebrate at Christmas. The season of Advent is the time we honor the wait for Christ's birth. During this time, we remember the centuries of waiting that the Israelites endured, and quite frankly the whole world endured because it was this human and divine birth that would begin a revolution of faith. I say revolution because the word "revolution" has many meanings and those meanings were needed 2000 years ago and they are truly needed today. Revolution—a transformation, a upheaval, and a turning to a new direction. That is what happened when Jesus began his ministry. He transformed people from a distorted human life to the faithful life in God. To do this there was an upheaval of the distorted beliefs and a reordering of priorities. The first and primary order placed God back on the top where God belongs; and then placed the needs of the community and its people above the needs of the individual. When these events unfolded, the direction of the people became

God centered with Christ in the middle and all actions proceeded from him. The result was the formation and growth of a community of believers that truly changed the world they lived in. The direction of the new Christ driven community was recorded in the book of Acts.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47

Does that sound like something we need today? If it does, then we need to be who we are, Christians and confront the powers of our culture and say, **"We are Christians!"** as we reclaim our Christian life by turning our backs on the activities that interfere with our worship of God and inhibit us from being the Christians that God wants us to be. We will pray for God's strength to fight worldly temptation and we will pray for

all those we need to love whether friend or foe because that is what Christ did. There is of course much more and that is why we must have open discussions in our community just as the early Christians did, just as Christ did. Brothers and sisters, we are due for a revolution, a Christian revolution that puts Christ at the center of our lives. This Advent season, let us prepare the **Way** for Christ by developing **Hope** in our lives and in the lives of others as we experience the **Great Joy** of becoming an active participant in Christ's faith in God so we can embrace the **Peace** that God gives through the promise of the baby we so anxiously await. So as we begin the Advent season, let us open our hearts to God and explore the possibilities of God's love together as we prepare to be revolutionized by Jesus Christ. See you in church!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Steve

The only real blind person at Christmas is the person who has not Christmas in their heart. *Helen Keller*

P.S. Great big thanks from the Red Roots family; Mark and Sherry and their triplets Nika, Natalie, and Nicole. They shared with me the love they felt from all who came and made their evening with us very special. They truly felt the presence of Christ in our community. They were also very impressed by our preparations, our reception and the fact that so many came out on such a snowy night. I offered our blessing as the community of Christ at Zion for their future ministry in Christ. And I would like to thank everyone who participated in and preparation and attendance at the "Mission of Hope" event.

# USHERS THIS MONTH

- December 7 Church Council
- December 14 Janis & Lou Krafock,  
Darrell & Jody Yutesler
- December 21 Jim & Sharon  
Kruckenberg
- December 24 (6:30 pm) Donna  
Luepker, Landon,  
McKenna & Avery  
Luepker
- December 30 Senior High Fellowship



- Dec. 7 Kaci Gottschalk &  
MacKenzie Poppe
- Dec 14 Kelli Proesch & Addie  
Luepker
- Dec. 21 Mackenzie Poppe & Kelli  
Proesch
- Dec. 24 6:30 p.m. Addie Luepker & Kaci  
Gottschalk
- Dec. 28 Kelli Proesch & Addie Luepker

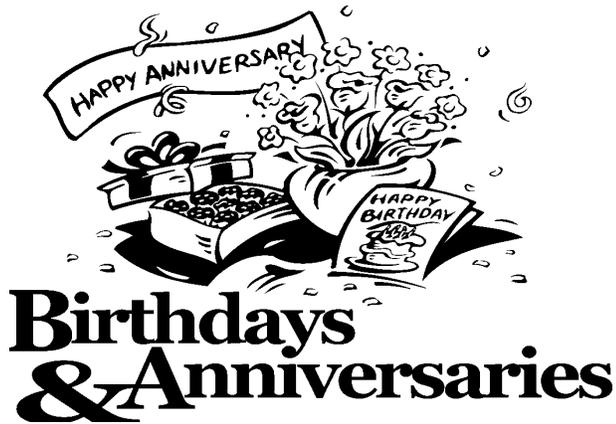


SUNDAY  
VIDEOGRAPHER

- December 7 Donna Luepker
- December 14 Mark McElhaney
- December 21 David Niermeyer
- December 28 Jody Yutesler

**Congregational Meeting**

There will be a Congregational Meeting on December 14, 2014 following the 10:15 am worship service. The election of church council members and conference delegates will take place. The 2013 budget is enclosed in the December Herald and will be discussed and voted on during this meeting as well. Please bring your copy of the budget to the meeting.



**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| December 1  | Roland Fox   |
| December 2  | Larry Havel  |
| December 3  | Dana Moran   |
| December 5  | Jaynice Hamdorf, Jane<br>Drewelow, Linda Horman,<br>Scott Fields |
| December 7  | Scott Boedeker, Gary Klahn,<br>Riley Holst                       |
| December 8  | Dwight Niermeyer   |
| December 9  | Megan Neill  |
| December 11 | Landon Luepker   |
| December 12 | Kent Strackbein, *Barry<br>Hoffmeier                             |
| December 15 | Jill Jacobs, Elle Esbaum   |
| December 17 | Wilbert Muhs   |
| December 20 | Bonnie Kintzel, Angie Peet,<br>Tim Kahl                          |
| December 21 | Beth Fox, Pavin Esbaum   |
| December 26 | Sadie Holst  |
| December 27 | Trevor Hamdorf   |
| December 28 | Alex Dittmer   |
| December 30 | Cindy Wiedenhoff,  |

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER**

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| December 1 | Roland Fox, PO Box 245,<br>Lowden, Iowa 52255 |
|------------|---|

Notice: There was an anniversary missed last issue: November 16 Dan & Amy Mohr

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| December 9  | Donavon & Linda Freese<br>47 years           |
| December 28 | *David & Tessa Holst<br>24 years<br>16 years |



November 12, 2014  
Unofficial Minutes

Members of the Church Council are Donavon Freese, Mark McElaney, Tanya Stewart, Kevin Kahl, Renate Port, and LeRoy Luepker.

Zion United Church of Christ met at 7:00 p.m. on November 13, 2014. The meeting was called to order by President Donavon Freese. Pastor Steve opened with a reading and a prayer. Those in attendance were Pastor Steve, Donavon Freese, Kevin Kahl, Mark McElaney, and Tanya Stewart. LeRoy Luepker and Renate Port were absent. Linda Behrens was present thru the treasurer's report.

Joy and concerns were shared.

Secretary's minutes from the last meeting were read and approved with a motion by Kevin and second Tanya. Motion carried.

**Calendar Review:**

- Confirmation Bake Sale 11/23
- Thanksgiving Eve Service 11/26 at 7:00 p.m.
- Senior Dinner 12/7
- Congregational meeting 12/14
- Christmas Eve Service 12/24 at 6:30 p.m.
- Annual meeting 01/25

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- \$425 paid to JJJ for sidewalk
- Improvement Fund and General Fund each received \$1,721.82 from Spring Dinner profits.
- East entry project in progress
- Council received committee member list for 2015.

## NEW BUSINESS:

- 2015 Budget discussed
- Pastor Steve presented 2015 Compensation Guidelines by Iowa Conference UCC.
- Church Council budget letter presented and signed.
- Building and Ground attending to the bell repair.
- Alliant energy assessment to be done, free of charge.
- Mark and Kevin will check wheels on communion table on Sunday.
- Pastor's pre tax gift to church, motion by Kevin and second by Mark. Motion carried.
- Discussed roof concerns with arriving winter weather.
- Missions is planning a soup luncheon in January.

Pastor's report read and approved on a motion made by Mark, second by Kevin. Membership reinstatement for Kyle Gottschalk, a motion by Tanya and second by Mark. Motion carried. Discussion topic: What is the greatest challenge for our congregation in 2015?

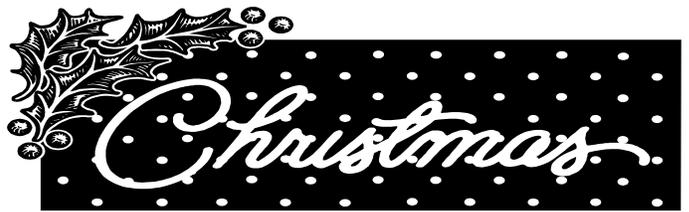
Next meeting Thursday, December 11 at 5:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned with a closing prayer by Pastor Steve.

Tanya Stewart, Secretary Pro-Tem

## **Too Much Snow or Ice?**

### **Worship Service Cancellation Policy**

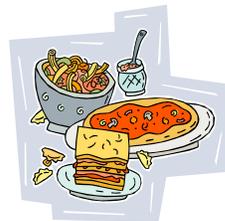
If there comes a time when the weather is bad on a Sunday morning, and it is not safe to travel, the church will call WMT 600 radio and also KCRG Channel 9 news to have it listed. If you would like to make sure call one of the council members or Pastor Steve. Let us hope that we do not have to cancel any services this year.



Last year's transformation invited all in attendance to enjoy our most cherished Christmas worship traditions. Last year there were 196 in attendance and this year we hope continue our growth. Communion will be served at the beginning of the service, so please join us as we praise and thank God for the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ's birth.

## **Reminder**

Financial contributions need to be received by 12:00 pm on December 30, 2014 to be included in the 2014 year. This year we are a little behind last year gifts. So if you missed a Sunday, it's never too late to catch up.



## **Zion's Senior Dinner**

Senior High Fellowship will offer a wonderful dinner on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> following the worship service. There will be games following the meal. Come and enjoy!

# Mission of Hope

Featuring the Country Christian band

*red roots*

From Christian Education Coordinator: I have to admit, I was star-struck on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Meeting the ladies of Red Roots with their parents, Mark and Sherry, was a dream come true on many levels. Nika, Natalie, and Nicole are full of talent and kindness beyond my belief. At their young age of 23, they have a passion of sharing the story of Jesus Christ with the world! What an amazing way to be an example to our youth! Lead by example! This was what I took away from the night of Mission of Hope concert! And I used this on Sunday morning in our devotion time at Sunday School. "Lead by example"; quite simple. Jesus led by example and these young ladies are leading by example for many to see and feel this message through their music. I was very proud of our youth that worked and/or attended the evening. They were so helpful and a fine example to our community of what great youth we are blessed with in our church community! A big thank you to all those who helped make this event a huge success! I am also so proud of those church members who really made the extra effort and promoted the event and made tickets sales! We sold 255 tickets for the Mission of Hope concert. Amazing! Unfortunately, the snowfall did keep some of those who held tickets from making the event. However, our best estimate, 235 attended the evening with Red Roots. Also, a sincere thank you goes to Jean Stepp for coordinating the dessert reception. An awesome layout it was for so many to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who donated desserts and to Heidi Krafock for donating her time and supplies to decorate all the

cupcakes. The chocolate fountain was a big hit! We will see it reappear soon! I have received many compliments of the reception and for making the night possible. I am so thrilled this idea we had in July come into a reality for many to enjoy. Again, thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this event a success! What a wonderful event to see Zion shine in our community to bring wonderful music and a message to those around us. Let us continue to learn and lead by example for our community especially our youth and for our Lord and his son, Jesus Christ.

*Blessings, Kelly Nabb*

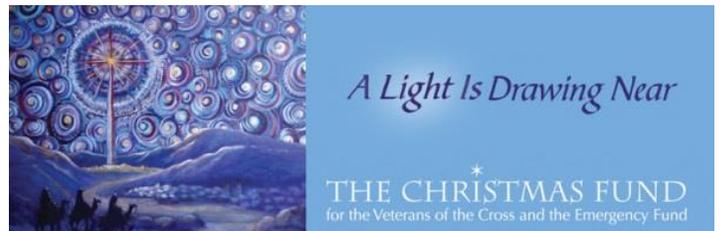
## Herald Helpers Wanted

### See how to apply here!

Would you like to assist in assembling the Zion Herald? The new schedule will be compiled in January. If you would like your name added or no longer are able to help, please call Marilyn Klahn at 941-5239 by January 1. Four persons help each time and each person usually helps twice a year.

Thank you to all who have helped in the past year.

Marilyn Klahn  
Herald Coordinator.



## The United Church of Christ Christmas Fund

remembers those who serve our church by providing financial aid to retired and active ministers and their surviving spouses and children who face overwhelming financial demands.