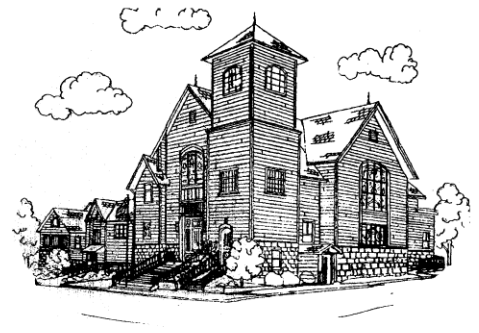


ZION HERALD



JANUARY 2015

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Greeting Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On Christmas, we as Christians with our own special traditions and as a community of Christ with its own distinctive customs celebrated the glorious birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We shared our Christmas cookies, presents, and cheer with neighbors and loved ones. We enjoyed the closeness of family and friends as we gathered for a Christmas meal. Through this sharing of love, we have also shared our faith in community. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, our sharing of faith and love brings the story of Christ's birth to life in our hearts and minds. When I say, "Brings the story of Christ's birth to life," I truly mean to LIFE.

We may have felt an unexplained chill travel through our body. It may have been an overwhelming feeling of joy or happiness as we watched a child open a present. We may have felt the Holy Spirit move within us as we heard a song by the choir or maybe when we sang our favorite hymn. It may have happened when a familiar verse from Scripture or a prayer was read. It may have been during our Christmas program as childhood memories flooded our thoughts.

The important thing is this, God made God's presence known to us and there is no greater feeling than God's presence. And that my sisters and brothers is

something special to pass along to our family and friends. So let us share our experiences with God with each other and pray that God will continue to make God's presence known to each and every one of us as we move forward on our journey of faith together.

The year 2014 is now a part of Zion United Church of Christ's history. As we look back and remember the special moments, let us give thanks to God for we are truly blessed.

Now we probably have already begun to ponder what is in store for us in 2015. But before we get too far ahead, let me suggest that we all approach the New Year as a child—a child of God. To do that we begin by asking one question, "How can I live each day as a child of God?"

The answer is to look through the window God provides for us in the life of God's child, Jesus Christ. You see, Jesus is a child of God and so are we. So let us pick up our Bibles, let us give thanks to God, and let us ask for God's help as we read and learn how to be one of God's children.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve

A Christian's New Year's Resolutions

1. I will live my life with Jesus Christ as my guide.
2. I will live that life even if no one else does.

THIS MONTH USHERS

- January 4 Church Council
- January 11 David Niermeyer, Kent & Janice Strackbein
- January 18 Dwight Niermeyer, Dalton Yutesler
- January 27 Senior High Fellowship

ACOLYTES

- January 4 Kaci Gottschalk & Kelli Proesch
- January 11-Mackenzie Poppe & Addie Luepker
- January 18-Kelli Proesch & Mackenzie Poppe
- January 25-Kaci Gottschalk & Addie Luepker



Look who's having a Birthday!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- January 3 Phyllis Boedeker,
- January 4 Allen Behrens, Josh Hamdorf, Matt Drewelow, Samantha Horman,
- January 6 Lois Latare, Kalynn Kessler, Welma Krueger
- January 7 Cavan Wiedenhoff
- January 8 Angie Williams
- January 9 *Mark Fox
- January 10 Shannon Hayton,
- January 13 Allison Hamdorf, Ari Ehltz, Owen Kahl
- January 14 *Sandy Esbaum
- January 16 Chris Boedeker,
- January 18 Liz Norton
- January 26 Ladon Griesbach
- January 29 Mel Hamilton
- January 30

JANUARY BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER

- January 7 Welma Krueger, 1929 155th Street, Lowden, Iowa 52255

January 18 Chris Boedeker, 907 McKinley Avenue, PO Box,205, Lowden, Iowa 52255



- January 6 Mel & Kelli Hamilton, 30 years
- January 11 Angie & Dustin Peet, 6 years
- January 29 Elon & Marcine Miller, 42 years



EVENING CIRCLE MEETING **November 17, 2014**

Eighteen Evening Circle members and Pastor Steve met at 6:30 to cut labels for North Cedar Schools. We had 3109 Box tops for education, 594 O bar codes, and 1356 soup labels .

Carma led devotions entitled "God has filled my Blessing Basket."

President Linda called the meeting to order with roll call. The Secretary's report was read and approved. Treasurer's report was read and approved. Motion was made by Janis Krafock, 2nd by Janice Strackbein to pay all bills

Correspondence was read from Marlene Weidenhoff for the flowers she received while in the hospital.

Linda thanked Marilyn and Marlene Fox for taking care of purchasing the roses and candles for Totenfest Sunday. Also thanked Marilyn, Marlene Fox, Janis Krafock, and Marlene W for decorating the altar for the month of November..Thanked Carma and Sharon for serving the committee of Ministry in October.

New Business—December 15 will be our Christmas party at the church with a catered meal with husbands as guests. RSVP by Dec 1st.

Please bring a gift for the church. We will again take care of this.

The food baskets were discussed. Joy will purchase apples and oranges to add to the baskets. Motion was made by Terry, 2nd by Millie to give a Casey's gift card to a family in need,

Pastor Steve announced that there may be an Eastern Iowa Clergy meeting at our church on April 25, 2015 and asked if the Evening Circle would serve a luncheon for 12 – 20 persons. Pastor also thanked the persons for providing bars and cupcakes for the Red Roots concert.

Julie announced that help is always needed for decorating the church for Christmas.

December flower committee---Julie, Marlene W. & Janis K.

Evening Circle will not serve Com. on Ministry in December.

Julie and Marilyn will serve on January 20th

January flowers is Linda

January meeting---January 19,2015---Fun night-
Marilyn & Jean

Devotions---Phyllis

Refreshments---Terry and Sig

Phyllis Boedeker, Secretary

DECEMBER 15th ~ EVENING CIRCLE Christmas Party

Evening Circle members gathered Dec. 15th for their annual Christmas party with their husbands. A social time with refreshments was held before we enjoyed a delicious supper catered by Mill Creek. Yummy chocolate Oreo cake and strawberry pie were served for dessert. Entertainment followed with 3 lively tables of Pictionary being played followed by a game called Logos. Grasshoppers and Squirrels were served during the games.

Marlene presented Pastor Steve and Jean with a beautiful music box treasure chest filled with gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Evening circle would like to express our THANK YOUS to Sharon and JOY for their time and efforts in planning a great Christmas party.

Linda Freese, Pres.

**REMEMBER:
ANNUAL MEETING: JANUARY 27, 2013**

Thank You!

The family of Sue Jensen Isaacson wishes to thank our church family for the kind thoughts, prayers and memorial gifts, during this difficult time. She will be missed.

Zion Evening Circle wishes to thank all who contributed poinsettias to Zion's Advent beauty of our sanctuary. It was ablaze with color and glory to the celebration of the Baby Jesus. We also thank those who gave monetary donations for the community food baskets, technology Fund and the Christmas Decorating Fund.

Blessings and Love,
Zion Evening Circle

Senior High Fellowship

Thank you for all those who came to the Annual Christmas Dinner. We enjoyed serving you and we thank you for the gifts we received to support our mission.



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Council Meeting

December 11, 2014

5:30 P.M.

Unofficial Minutes

Zion United Church of Christ Church Council met at 5:30 p.m. on December 12, 2014. Those in attendance were Donavon Freese, LeRoy Luepker, Mark McElaney, Tanya Stewart, Kevin Kahl, Renate Port and Pastor Steve. Linda Behrens was in attendance through the treasurer's reports.

The meeting was called to order by Donavon Freese. Pastor Steve opened with a reading and a prayer.

Secretary's minutes from the November 13 were read and stand approved on a motion by LeRoy, second Kevin, motion carried.

Treasurer's Reports by Linda were reviewed and approved with Kevin making a motion and LeRoy second to approve the Treasurer's reports. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Furnaces in sanctuary need to be set at 65 degrees for the poinsettias.
- Pastor's pretax gift to the church that carried last meeting was rescinded on December 11, 2014. With a motion by LeRoy and was 2nd by Tanya. Motion carried and passed.
- Bill for bells was paid by LeRoy. They were in need of clothes to polish the bells.
-

NEW BUSINESS:

- January 25, 2015 will be the Annual Meeting.
- Discussed Christmas Eve Service.

PASTOR'S REPORT

A motion to pay Pastor's mileage and professional expenses of \$536.03 was made by Mark, second by LeRoy, motion carried.

Discussion Topic:

What are your earliest Christmas memories at church and at home?

Next Church Council meeting will be held January 15, 2015 with a Pizza Party to begin At 6:00 p.m.

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DECEMBER 14, 2014

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Zion United Church of Christ was held on Sunday, December 14, 2014 following the worship service. The meeting was called to order by President Donavon Freese.

Pastor Stephen Stepp opened with a prayer.

Minutes from the December 15, 2012 Congregational Meeting were read by Church Council Secretary Renate Port. Having no additions or corrections the minutes stand approved as read.

President Donavon asked for the Nominating Committee's report.

The Nominating Committee presented the names of Merlin Conrad, and David Niermeyer for 3 year terms and Pete Johnson as Church Council members with Pete finishing out Mark McElaney term because Mark will be leaving in March 2015.

President Freese then asked for a motion to accept the Nominating Committee nominees for church council. Aaron Horman made the motion to accept the nominations second by Randy Horman. Motion Carried.

Cheryl Boedeker, will be our conference delegate with Donna Luepker as Alternate Delegate for a 2 year term. Duane Lasack made a motion to accept these nominees, with Linda Freese second. Motion carried.

The 2015 Budget was presented with a motion from Sharon Elijah to accept the 2015 Budget and second by Duane Lasack Motion carried.

We have 19,524.00 in our Organ Fund toward the repairs. Marcine Miller brought up bell repairs questions. David Niermeyer answered questions to her satisfaction.

Having no further business Donavon Freese asked for a motion to adjourn. LeRoy Luepker made the motion, second by Kent Strackbein. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Pastor Steve closed with a prayer.

Renate Port, secretary



