

ZION HERALD



FEBRUARY 2015

VOLUME 88 NUMBER 2



Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Each year I write a year end pastor's report* in the Annual Report and I know that many of our readers do not have an opportunity to read that article. So this year I have decided to share my year-end report with all of our Herald subscribers as my article for February.

*2014 is now officially part of Zion United Church of Christ's history and with that where do I begin. In the past year we have revealed to ourselves and others that we are a living community in Christ. We have continued to reach out into Lowden, Cedar County, the State of Iowa, the United States, and the world. By supporting this church, our community has benefited greatly. As individuals and as a community we have given generously to the food pantry, the Christmas Bell Program, Camp Courageous, emergency aid for snow storm victims in New York, and help desperate children in the world have a chance to grow up with food, water, shelter, clothing and education. Those are just some of the ways the Zion community has helped bring worldly and divine salvation to people in the world. That is what we are to do as apprentices of Jesus Christ. So let us rejoice in what has been done and hope that 2015 will give us the opportunity to grow in our outreach and assistance so that more may have the life they deserve and come to know our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

In 2014, I continued to be blessed by God through you as we continued our faith journey together. You see, a pastor is just one part of a Christian community. They are

important, but the community is the true heart and soul. It is from the community that hands burst forth and do God's work. Whether that is preparing and serving a meal or fixing the church bell so it doesn't fall through to the basement. It is from the community that hearts join to support the family who has lost a loved one. It is from the community that support is given so the Gospel of Jesus Christ may be proclaimed and lived inside and outside of the church walls. Our community is a strong community and our community continues to grow in its faith. We must be challenged to grow so let us accept the challenge and continue to develop our talents in faith, so we may all be the best apprentices in Christ that we can be.

In 2014, the Zion Choir and Bell Choir continued to offer their joyful music in our worship services. Thank you Joy Combs, Terry Lasack and all our choir participants.

Our Senior High Fellowship continues to offer our youth a connection to the Zion community. Thank you SHF parents for your support and guidance and thank you SHF members for continuing to be a part of this living community in Christ.

Our Evening Circle who performs so many important functions for our community and brings the words and actions of Christ to life as they support the Christian life at Zion. Thank you to all your members for giving us a bright example of how to live in and support Christ's ministry.

Our Christian Education department carried on a great Zion tradition by offering the best quality teaching program about God and they continue to reach outside the walls of our church through the Zion Youth Club, "Mission of Hope" with Red Roots, outdoor events, and offerings dedicated to

helping people everywhere. Thank you Kelly Nabb, our teachers, our youth, and our community for leading, supporting, and participating in the future of our Christian youth.

Our Music and Worship Committee was an important part of our worship of God by supporting and participating in our worship services. Thank you to all the members of the committee.

Our Mission Committee continues to grow in Christ. They hosted the End of Summer Picnic and Ice Cream Social to support local missions and they plan to expand their fund raising efforts in 2015. Therefore, they have added two members to the committee to help support their increased activity. Thank you to all the members for your leadership and time.

To all the Zion committees and groups who have throughout the 2014 year brought the light of Christ to shine on a variety of regular and special projects like the refurbishment of the organ, the decorating of our church for Christmas, reallocation of endowment funds, water drainage to help prevent future flood damage, preparation of reports and financial documents for the annual report, recording and storing the history of Zion and making the calls to fill the positions on these committees, Thank you! This is not a complete list, but it does reveal more of this living community in Christ.

My wife, oh yes, I must thank Jean for many things. Thank you for all that you do for me and our community in Christ. And special thanks for all you did to make our reenactment of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday a great success.

In 2014 we tried some new things and we continued some of our deepest traditions. We shared laughs and we shared tears. We agreed and we disagreed. We loved and we wanted to love. The most important thing in 2014 is that God was with us. God laughed and cried with us. God agreed and disagreed with us. God loved us

unconditionally and that is one attribute in our lives we all can grow in. In 2015, let us continue to step outside the box and find new ways to grow in our love and service to God and in our love and service to each other. It is our growth in love and service which truly defines us as a living community in Christ. So let us love God and each other so that 2015 will be an even greater year, filled with GREAT JOY in Jesus Christ!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve

"What you are is God's gift to you,
what you become
is your gift to God."
Hans Urs von Balthasar

ATTENTION!

The Spring Dinner Committee is still looking for one new member to add to their committee. Anyone who is interested in this fun and exciting committee, please contact Sandy Esbaum or Annette Behrens to volunteer. Jody Yutesler has volunteered to be one of the committee members.

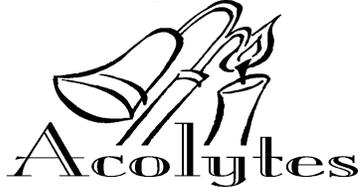
NOTICE

If you received a copy of the Annual Report on January 18, please pick up the three sheets that were added to the Final copy of the Annual Report. These sheets are available in the office and will be available on Sunday morning. If you bring along your copy, we can staple the report together for you.

THIS MONTH USHERS

FEBRUARY USHER SCHEDULE

- Feb. 1 Church Council
- Feb. 8 Elon & Marcine Miller
- Feb. 15 Brian & Carolee Lohman
- Feb. 22 Senior High Fellowship



- Feb. 1** Kelli Proesch & Kaci Gottschalk
- Feb .8 Addie Luepker & Mackenzie Poppe
- Feb. 15 Kaci Gottschalk & Addie Luepker
- Feb. 22 Mackenzie Poppe & Kelli Proesch



VIDEOGRAPHERS

- February 1 Cody Fields
- February 8 Jean Stepp
- February 15 Julie Hoffmeier
- February 22 Donna Luepker



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Feb 2 Brenda Esbaum
- Feb 3 Taylor Armstrong
- Feb 5 Elmer Krueger
- Feb 7 Duane Lasack
- Feb 8 Darren Esbaum, Dawson Hamdorf
- Feb 9 Laettner Esbaum
- Feb 10 Sharon Elijah
- Feb 12 Millie Muhs
- Feb 13 Kevin Kahl, Renate Port
- Feb 14 Blake Proesch, Rose Horman
- Feb 15 McKenna Luepker
- Feb 16 MaKayla Schluter, Aidan Jacobs
- Feb 21 Ben Traver
- Feb 23 Kip Esbaum
- Feb 24 Curt Conrad
- Feb 25 Don Boedeker, Gunner Klahn
- Feb 26 Sig Schluter
- Feb. 27 Madeleine Rose

Feb 28 Alexis Freese

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER

- February 5 Elmer Kruger,
1929 155th Street,
Lowden, Iowa 52255
- February 25 Don Boedeker, 507 Hall
Ave., P.O. Box 177,
Lowden, Iowa 52255

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- Feb 4 Elmer & Welma Krueger-63 years
Harold & Mary Louise Horman-58 years
- Feb 5 Randy & Sandy Horman- 38 years
- Feb 7 Rich & Sigrun Schluter-17 years
- Feb 14 Michael & Tracy Clark-20 years



President, Mark McElhaney, Vice President: ,
Secretary: Renate Port, Kevin Kahl, Tanya Stewart
David Niermeyer and Merlin Conrad. Donavon
Freese and LeRoy Luepker went off the Council.

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Council Meeting
January 15, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.

Unofficial Minutes

Our evening started out with a Pizza Party provided by LeRoy and Donavon and their spouses. Pastor Steve and Jean, Don and Carol Boedeker along with council members and spouses, new members David Niermeyer attended. Pizza, desserts and sodas were provided.

Council meeting was called to order by President Donavon Freese with LeRoy Luepker, Mark McElhaney, Kevin Kahl, Tanya Stewart, Renate Port, and David Niermeyer present. Linda Behrens attended through treasurer's report.

Pastor Steve gave a reading with a prayer to follow.

Last month minutes; motion to approve by Mark McElhaney, second by Tanya. Motion Carried.

General Fund was approved with LeRoy making a motion, second by Kevin. Motion Carried.

Improvement Fund was read by Kevin and approved with a motion by LeRoy and Tanya second. Motion carried.

Memorial Fund: LeRoy stated there was no monthly activity, all memorials used and closed.

Benevolence Fund was explained by Linda and accepted. Mark made a motion with a second by David Niermeyer. Motion carried.

Deacon Fund also had no activity.

Mission Report was given by Tanya. \$500.00 was given to North Cedar Milk Fund. \$1,000.00 was given to North Cedar Bell Program. \$1,000.00 Willis Dady Center, \$1,000.00 was given to snow relief in Buffalo, New York, with \$100.00 going to each of the 5 special offerings. The Mission is sending out Birthday recognitions' to our member.

Calendar Review: February 1 is Souper Bowl Sunday, wear your favorite team shirts, enjoy a bake sale for Christian Education and join us for the Mission Committee Soup Luncheon. February 25 Lenten Service at Wheatland with Pastor Steve delivering the lesson for that evening.

March 18 our church is schedule to host the Lenten service, with a delicious meal ahead of worship.

Ash Wednesday, February 18, will be held at Clarence, with Maundy Thursday will be hosted by Wheatland, with Lowden having Good Friday service.

Congregational Meeting will be January 25, 2015.

Council members asked Mark McElhaney to be President until March, he accepted. Renate Port will be secretary and Tanya will be representative for the Mission Committee. Since the other 2 council members were absent, the other committee assignments will wait until next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Council along with Linda Behrens will collect offering after services until a replacement for Carol position is found.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ✓ Reviewed the Alliant Assessment Package.
- ✓ Discussed the new contract with whoever takes on mowing this next year.
- ✓ David updated us on organ repairs

PASTOR'S REPORT:

- Christmas Eve Service had 177 in attendance.
- Installation of Church council members.
- Calendar for Lenten Service will be posted in the February Herald.
- Confirmation class is studying Stories of faith.

DISCUSSION TOPIC:

When you were younger, who in your family made sure you made it to church on Sunday morning?

Meeting was adjourned with a Closing Prayer. Next meeting will be February 12, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Renate Port, Secretary.



Evening Circle January 19, 2015

Evening Circle met on January 19, 2005 with 19 members and Pastor Steve present. We are happy to accept another new member, Rose Horman. Our membership is now a total of 21. Phyllis opened our meeting with devotions entitled "Your New Year". Marilyn played the piano. President Linda Freese called the meeting to order with roll call. The secretary's report was read and approved. The Treasurer's report was also read and approve. Motion was made by Marilyn, 2nd by Millie to pay all bills. Thank you notes were read from those persons who the Evening Circle remembered with a gift at Christmas time.

President Linda thanked Joy and Sharon for the wonderful Christmas party that they planned. Thanks also to the December flower committee Marlene Wiedenhoff reported on the gifts she purchased for the bell tree.

Carol Boedeker has polished the silver communion set for many years. Due to her health, she no longer is able to do this. Someone from the Evening Circle will do this. We thank her for doing this. Carol also has taken care of the Altar flowers the first two Sunday's of the month. She also checked on flowers left at the church from funerals. Terry mad a motion, Carolee 2nd that The Evening Circled take care of the flowers

for the full month and also change the bulletin board. Thank you Carol for you many years of service.

Lenten services were discussed. Our service will be in Lowden on Wednesday, March 18th. Each church will again serve a meal prior to the service.

February devotions – Julie Hoffmeier
 Speaker – Donna Luepker to South America
 Flowers – Donna

For our fun night, we each brought a baby picture. We enjoyed trying to guess who they were. Some of us only knew one and Jan Strackbein identified 15. We then played a game of passing various sized balls on a spoon without dropping it. We ended the evening doing exercises with music. Everyone enjoyed the evening. Thanks to Marilyn and Jean.

Refreshments were served by Terry and Sig
 Respectful submitted by Phyllis Boedeker

SHF

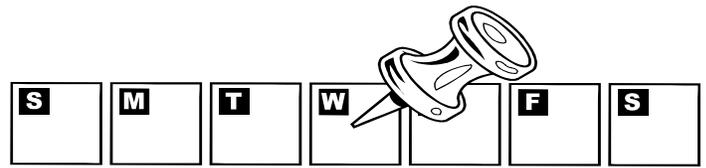
Senior High Fellowship

SHF met on Sunday January 25, 2015. There were 8 youth in attendance for the meal and meeting. Tessa Fields led the group in prayer before the meal and guided the group in a devotional after eating. The members decided to look into the possibility of having a food drive at the North Cedar Schools. Dalton Yutesler will talk with Superintendent Cooper and pass on his findings. We are hoping to hold the Food Drive Feb. 23-26. After the meeting, we played video games in fellowship hall and in the CE basement using our projectors.

On December 30 we went to AirFX in Cedar Rapids for a fun afternoon.

Our next meeting is February 22nd and parents are asked to attend to help plan for the Easter Breakfast. Other calendar events: Saturday, April 4th—practice Easter Sunrise service;

Sunday, April 5th Easter.



Mid-Week WORSHIP SERVICES 2015 Lenten Schedule

5:00 to 6:30 meal	7:00 service
February 18, 2015	Ash Wednesday St. John's UCC Clarence 7:00
Wed, February 25	St. Paul's UCC Wheatland 7:00 Meal 5-6:30 Pastor Stepp
Wed. March 4	St. John UCC Clarence 7:00 Meal 5-6:30 Pastor Boeder
Wed, March 11	Peace Church Bennett 7:00 Meal 5:00 to 6:30 Pastor Mears
Wed, March 18	Zion UCC Lowden 7:00 Meal 5-6:30 Pastor Lorenzen
Wed. March 25	First UCC Tipton 7:00 Meal 5-6:30 Pastor Cofield
Thurs., April 2,	Maundy Thursday St. Paul's UCC Wheatland 7:00
Friday, April 3.	Good Friday St. Paul's UCC Wheatland 7:00



ZYC

ZION YOUTH CLUB NEWS

Hard to believe that the first half is already over! It sure has been busy. We went from mainly 7 & 8th graders to mostly 3 graders. Our theme with crafts has been "Trash to Treasures," for example we made nice gift boxes out of empty cereal boxes. We found out just how many Christmas Carols we knew, in a Christmas Song competition. On our Christmas party the kids adopted "abandoned" stuff animals, we had pizza and Trish made a Christmas tree out of cupcakes. Looking forward to a fun filled second half. Sig and Trish.

Greetings from our Sunday School!

Sunday, February 1st is a very busy and exciting day!



Bake Sale!

Sunday, February 1st

Proceeds will be going to



HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

And

A portion of the proceeds will also be going to the **Mary Balke Family**.

Please support this great cause with helping by baking goods or taking some baked goods home to enjoy!



Wear your favorite sports apparel for "Souper" Bowl Sunday!

Join us by donating food to our local Food Pantry!

Things we especially need are:

Canned Tuna

Hearty Vegetable Soups

Canned Fruit

Hamburger Helper

Box Potatoes

The youth will be collecting your donations and sharing a fun SKIT with you !

Thank you for your help!

We have several functions coming up so mark your calendars!

Birthday Sunday Celebration
Sunday, February 15

Family Day at Sunday School
Sunday, March 15

VBS Pie Auction
Sunday, May 3

2015 VBS dates
Sunday, July 19 –
Thursday, July 23

We look forward to several fun and exciting events! Don't miss out! Any questions please feel free to contact me!

Kelly Nabb,
Christian Education Coordinator

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