

**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

402 Main Street

P.O. Box 339

Lowden, IA 52255-0339



**JANUARY 2021**

Zion HERALD January 2021 Volume 94 No. 1

### Church Information

Website: [www.zionucclowden.org](http://www.zionucclowden.org)

Zion office phone #563-941-7726

**Pastor Susan Schneider-Adams;**

Cell: 715-307-1054 email: [zionpastor@fbcom.net](mailto:zionpastor@fbcom.net)

Office hours... Tuesday thru Thursday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm or by appointment

### Zion UCC Church Council

Aaron Horman - President, David Niermeyer – Vice President,

Janice Strackbein – Secretary, and Jon Mansfield.

**Thank you** to Randy Horman and Duane Lasack, completing their terms.

Welcome to new 2021 Members: Diane Esbaum and Jody Yutesler.

# Prayer Joys & Concerns

Will & Millie Muhs, Florence Deerberg, Duane Lasack, David Mansfield, Richard Bore

**Clarence Nursing Home:** Gladys Conrad

**Clarence Nursing Home Apartments:** Donna Jensen

**Clarence Assisted Living:** Margery Norton, Dorothy Pingel

**Rehabilitation Center of Lisbon:** Helen Gottschalk

**At home or in care:** Harlan & Florence Deerberg, Berniece Miner, Alice Rowold, Rhonda Schoenfelder

If you have a Prayer Joy or Concern, please contact the church office or Pastor Susan. Names will remain on the list for one month, unless you contact the church office to request otherwise. Thank you.



## CARD SHOWER

Shower the people you love with love, show them the way you feel.."

Everyone loves getting cards in the mail! This month, let's shower these people with cards and well wishes to help them celebrate:

**Birthday**, January 6<sup>th</sup> - Lois Latare

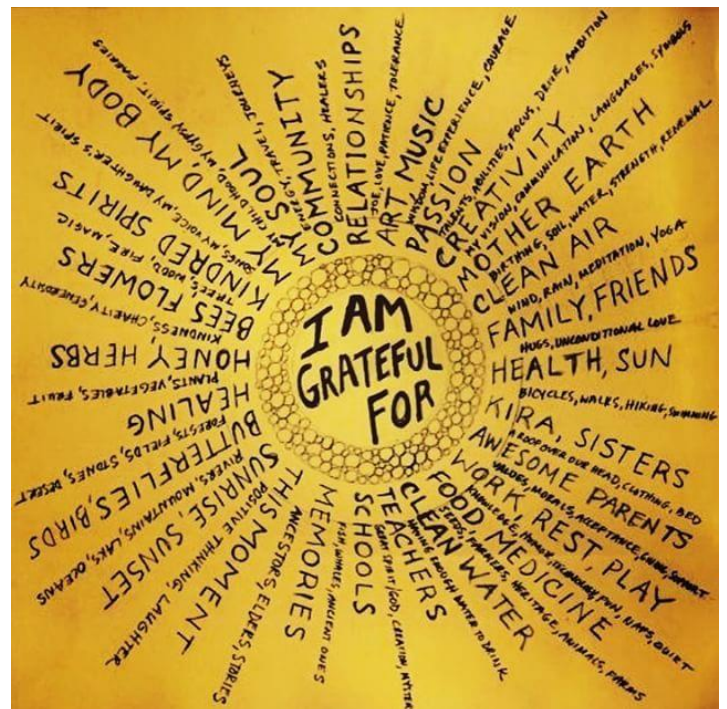
303 E. Franklin Street, Eldridge, Iowa 52747

**Retirement** January 17<sup>th</sup> - Linda Behrens

Address: 841 Hoover Hwy., Lowden 52255 (And don't forget to help us say thank you to Linda on January 17<sup>th</sup>)

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,  
Thank you for your thoughtful gifts and cards this Christmas. Thank you to the Evening Circle for the beautiful floral arrangement and the gift card, to the Council for the delicious treats, and the lovely ceramic sculpture. Thank you for delicious treats, and notes and ornaments. And thank you to those who wrote a card or stop by with a kind word. Most of all - to so many of you who regularly go above and beyond to make our worship meaningful and to help our ministry reach far beyond these walls -- I am grateful!

In Christian love,  
Pastor Susan Schneider-Adams (& family)



# Worship Helpers for January and February, 2021

January	Liturgist	Organist	Ushers	Videographer	PowerPoint	Council Ushers First/Second	Acolytes
1/3/2021	Kelly Nabb	Carter Horman	Church Council	Aaron Horman	Koby Stewart	Duane/Aaron	
1/10/2021	Jody Yutesler	Joy Combs	Church Council	Cheryl Boedeker	Diane Esbaum	Randy/Janice	
1/17/2021	Aaron Horman	Sue Monson	Scott & Carmen Field	David Niermeyer	Carter Horman	David/Jon	
1/24/2021	Terry Lasack	Carter Horman	Merling Conrad Dennis Mostaert	Jody Yutesler	Julie Hoffmeier	Janice/Aaron	
1/31/2021	Nathan Nabb Carter Horman	Sandra Horman	SHF	Leighton Tjaden	Drew Behrens	Jon/David	SHF / Youth

February	Liturgist	Organist	Ushers	Videographer	PowerPoint	Council Ushers	Acolytes
2/7/2021	Aaron Horman	Carter Horman	Church Council	Julie Hoffmeier	Diane Esbaum		
<b>Transfiguration</b> 2/14/2021	Julie Hoffmeier	Joy Combs	Karen Bentrutt Megan Horman	Aaron Horman	Koby Stewart		
<b>Ash Wed.,</b> 2/17/2021							
<b>Lent 1</b> 2/21/2021	Jamie Nabb	Sue Monson	Marcine Miller Jessica Coppess Deb Axline	Cheryl Boedeker	Carter Horman		
<b>Lent 2</b> 2/28/2021	Carter Horman Drew Behrens	Sandra Horman	SHF	Kelly Proesch	Koby Stewart		SHF / Youth



## Birthdays of the Month

January 4  
January 5  
January 6  
January 8  
January 9  
January 13  
January 14  
January 16  
January 18  
January 26  
January 29  
January 30

Allen Behrens, Josh Hamdorf, Matt Drewelow  
Samantha Horman,  
Lois Latare  
Caven Wiedenhoff  
Angie Williams  
Mandi Behrens, Shannon Hayton, Jan Olsen  
Allison Hamdorf, Owen Kahl  
Sandy Esbaum  
Koby Stewart  
Liz Norton  
Ladon Griesbach  
Mel Hamilton



January 6, 1984 Mel & Kelli Hamilton, 36 years

# January-February 2021

January-February 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">                     Church office open                      Tuesday-Wed - Thursday, 10 am - 12                 </div>					Happy New Year!	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>Celebration of Epiphany</b> 9:30 am - Worship w/Holy Communion 10:40 am - Un-Decorate church			Epiphany			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Baptism of Jesus</b> 9:30 am Worship & Christian Education - Renewal of Baptismal Vows and Installation of Council		3:30-4:30 pm - HACAP food truck - Bennett	Annual Reports Due  6:00 pm Church Council meeting			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30 am Worship & Christian Education - Recognition of Linda Behren's Retirement 10:40 am - Transition Team mtg.	5:00 pm Worship & Music Committee NO Evening Circle					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30 am Worship & Christian Education 10:40 am - Missions Committee meeting						
31	February 1	Feb 2	Feb 3	Feb 4	Feb 5	Feb 6
9:30 am Youth-Led Worship & Christian Education ANNUAL MEETING follows worship			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <b>Looking ahead:</b>                      Wed., Feb. 10 - Church Council meeting                      Mon., Feb. 15 - Evening Circle                      Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17 - Worship TBA                      Lent begins                 </div>			
February 7	8	9				
9:30 am - Worship w/Holy Communion; Christian Education		3:30-4:30 pm - HACAP food truck - Bennett				

**CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, December 9, 2020 - 6 p.m.**

All members were present (via Zoom)

Devotions - Pastor Sue (see attached) - Discussion on the Five Purposes of the church –from Matthew 28:37-40 (Great Commandment) and Matthew 28:19-20 (Great Commission)

Minutes from 11/18/2020 approved after a couple of changes made. David motion to accept, Randy H, second.

Financial reports - Randy made a motion to accept, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jon.

Boiler has been repaired and seems to be functioning well.

Pastor's report. Duane made a motion to accept her report. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janice.

Sandy is finalizing job descriptions.

Sandra Horman has been designated a Ministry Account treasurer. Duane made a motion, seconded by Janice.

Linda Behrens is retiring as Zion Church secretary, effective December 31, 2020. David made a motion to accept resignation, Second by Sandy.

Duane made a motion to continue suspension of in-person worship & activities December 13 thru the 20, due more cases of Covid-19. Seconded by Randy.

December 24 (Christmas Eve) worship with reservations with communion. President Aaron, David, and Pastor Sue decided when to resume in-person worship & activities.

Committee Annual Reports are due January 13 for the 2020 Annual Report -  
Annual Congregational meeting January 31, 2021.

Christmas Council dinner postponed until further notice.

Next meeting January 13, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Respectful submitted

Janice Strackbein

**Let's Stay Connected**

We are continuing to update contact information for all of our members and friends. We are working to keep in touch through email rather than 'snail-mail,' in order to save money on postage, and be better stewards. If you have not been receiving news from the church like the Herald via e-mail, and are able to do so, please let us know. You will also start receiving the ZionNews, a weekly email that contains what is happening in the life of our congregation. If you would like to continue to receive communications through the mail, that's fine, too. Just let us know. Thank you!

***The Upper Room***  
**devotionals are here**  
**for January –**  
**February. You can**  
**pick one up from the**  
**table near the**  
**elevator.**

## **Message from the Church Council**

As we close the book on 2020, it is important for us to pause and reflect on the year. While it is easy to dwell on the many challenges that have come our way because of the Coronavirus pandemic, we can celebrate the fact that our Zion community found innovative ways to carry out our ministry beyond the walls of our church building. Online worship has not only allowed us to stay connected with our members, but it has allowed us to reach out into the greater community to share the message of Jesus Christ. We must be constantly evolving and looking for new ways to be “church” during a pandemic. If you have suggestions of ways to do that, please let us know – no idea is too far-fetched to consider.

### **IN-PERSON WORSHIP RESUMES**

After much conversation and prayer, the Church Council of Zion made the decision to resume in-person worship beginning with Christmas Eve. Masks are required when in the church building and all safety protocols in place prior to our latest suspension continue to be followed. While we are trying out in-person worship again, Christian Education classes and all other church activities and meetings remain suspended. We encourage all groups to meet virtually and explore new ways to continue our ministry. Please pray for your Church Council as we weigh our options and make important decisions about how to stay safe while carrying on the ministry of our church. We will issue updates by e-mail and Facebook. If you are not a computer user and would like to be on the call list to receive news about any changes in worship or activities, please contact the church office.

### **WEEKLY ZION NEWS E-MAILS**

Are you receiving the weekly Zion News Update emails? If not, you could be missing some very important information about the life of Zion UCC. This weekly electronic newsletter is sent on Fridays and as needed for special announcements. If you are not receiving this communication, please check your e-mail spam folder for messages from [news@zionucclowden.org](mailto:news@zionucclowden.org). If you need assistance or want to make sure that your e-mail address is on our list, please contact the church office. For those members without e-mail access, printed copies of the weekly Zion News are available to pick up at worship.

### **CHURCH FURNACE & AIR CONDITIONER REPLACEMENT**

We continue to raise funds to replace the south furnace and air conditioner. You can help us meet our fundraising goal of approximately \$11,500 with any gift – large or small. We currently need to raise another \$9,175 to meet our goal. Contributions may be sent directly to the church or placed in the weekly offering marked “Heating & Cooling Fund.”

### **ANNUAL MEETING AND REPORTS**

The Annual Meeting of Zion United Church of Christ will be held Sunday, Jan. 31 following worship. The meeting will be conducted in-person and available virtually by Zoom for members choosing to participate at home. Registration information will be e-mailed in mid-January. If you are not an Internet user and would like to participate from home by phone, please contact the church office.

**2020 activity and financial reports from committees and organizations are due in the church office no later than Jan. 13.** Please drop them off or send by e-mail to [zionucc@fbcom.net](mailto:zionucc@fbcom.net). The Annual Report will again be distributed electronically this year. If you would like a printed copy, you may pick one up at the church or request one be mailed. Reports will be available on or around Jan. 24.

Aaron Horman

Church Council President



Epiphany. It starts with light and ends with light - from the brilliant light of a star drawing magi from the east to worship an infant king, to the magnificent light show of the Transfiguration. Jesus, the Light of the World, abides with us and shines healing light in the dark places of our world.

“Shine a little light on the subject,” we say. And that is precisely what the Church is about in this season of LIGHT: Epiphany. In this darkest season of our calendar year, the Church bears witness to the Light that cannot be put out. The world right now is telling us we have good reason to be afraid. The good news of Jesus Christ, and the stories of our faith give us courage to take a breath and lean into the One who is with us always. The One who tells us over and over “do not be afraid” BECAUSE we are not alone.

The stories shine light on how God is revealed to us in Jesus. As we renew our vows of baptism, those holy waters remind us we are claimed as children of the Light. The Light of the world sees us, and FINDS Philip (John 1:43-51, January 17), who then FINDS his friend Nathanael, and tells him to “come and see.”

As the first disciples are called, we too, are summoned to throw out the nets of God’s amazing grace – to catch people for Christ (Mark 1:14-20, January 24). It is our baptismal vocation. As God invites us, so we invite others, and the light of Christ shines brighter.

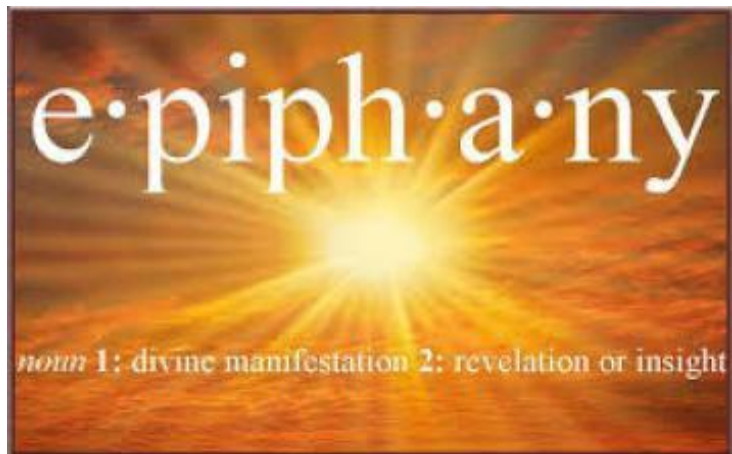
God’s power and love is made manifest in stories of healing – real people’s lives are transformed. In these scriptures, people are found in the darkness, they are made well, they are called to re-think their vocations, to get up and serve. So are we. Jesus is with us IN the darkness – able to heal and comfort, but also willing to challenge our stubborn pride and fondness for half-truths. He confronts and silences the distractions and yes – evil - that can take over our very lives (Mark 1:21-28, Jan. 31). The One we are called to follow is more powerful than evil, full of both grace AND truth.

During Epiphany, we are reminded that the Light of the World shines into our lives *always*. But this Light does not simply shine – “the Light shines *in the darkness.*” The Light shines in the dark corners of our fear, it blazes in the dank places we would rather ignore, warms the wounded places, and clarifies our confusion. And this Light sheds grace and love, compassion and understanding. Jesus, Light of the world, comes right into our lives, if we will let Him.

And if we will but pause for a moment to let in this Light, our lives will be changed forever.

Your Sister in Christ –

*Pastor Susan*





January, 2021



## Congratulations, Linda Behrens! A Time of Recognition & Gratitude

Congratulations to Linda Behrens on her retirement! Thank you for eleven years of service as our church secretary. We wish you well as you begin this next chapter in your life. Here's to throwing away the alarm clock, and having more time to relax and enjoy your family and friends!

On Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, we will take some time during worship to celebrate Linda's tenure as secretary. Join us online or in person to show your appreciation for Linda's faithful service and dedication over the last eleven years.

The Annual Meeting  
of  
Zion United Church of Christ  
will follow our 9:30 am worship on  
Sunday, January 31, 2021.  
Join us in person or online as We review  
2020 Annual Reports and discuss the  
mission and ministry  
of our congregation – past, present, and  
future!  
The DEADLINE for Annual Reports is  
Wednesday, Jan 13<sup>th</sup>.

