

# Zion's Caring Voice

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STEPHEN MINISTRY



1003 Church Street, PO Box 63, Gowrie, IA 50543



Thrivent

## A CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM JESUS

As the holidays get closer many of us compose Christmas letters to our family and friends. Here is how a Christmas letter from Jesus might read.

*Merry Christmas Dear Ones:*

*It's been an eventful year to remember.*

*I've been busy loving all of you January through December.*

*I loved you all year long, every single minute.*

*My world has been a better place because you have been in it.*

*I loved you doing homework, playing games, and making friends.*

*Like your mother's list of things to do, my love never ends.*

*I loved you at your workplace, at your home, and at the store.*

*When you were too busy to love me back, I loved you all the more.*

*I loved you when you came to me in quiet thoughtful prayer,*

*And when you shared the gifts God gave you, showing others how you cared.*

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Zion's Church Staff

James Davis.....	Administrative Pastor	352-3932
Rod Meyer .....	Pastoral Associate	846-6277
Don Wahlgren.....	Visitation Pastor	352-5245
Cindy Youngquist...	Stephen Ministry	352-3612
Cheryl Rasmussen .....	Secretary	352-3645
Beth Miller .....	Financial Secretary	879-2410
Terry Mentzer.....	Treasurer	352-3292
Cindy McCubbin .....	Custodian	352-5225
Nick & Lindy Lehman .....	Sr. High Youth Leaders	968-4342
Shannon & Beth Miller .....	Jr. High Youth Leaders	879-2410
Colleen Palmer .....	Music Director	352-3598

## Wartburg Youth Event

Wartburg College hosted its annual Jr. High Days on Saturday, November 5. The theme for the event was "God Is Here" The day was filled with



music, worship, workshops and food. The youth who attended also had an opportunity to tour Wartburg and learn about its Lutheran roots.

The youth had a great time. They enjoyed the music, the opportunity to be around kids from other areas and the food. Believe it or not, the cafeteria food at Wartburg is great!

Thanks to Monte Albert for being a chaperone for the event!

### E-Mail Addresses

Office:

[ziongowr@wccta.net](mailto:ziongowr@wccta.net)

Stephen Ministry:

[stephencoop@hotmail.com](mailto:stephencoop@hotmail.com)

### Website Addresses

ZION:

[www.countrysidecoop.org/zion](http://www.countrysidecoop.org/zion)

COOPERATIVE:

[www.countrysidecoop.org](http://www.countrysidecoop.org)

### Zion's Council

Richard Phillips .....	Chair
Don Larson .....	Vice-Chair
Beryl Birkland .....	Greta Jansa
Gary Kuhn .....	Colleen Palmer
Jeff Petersen .....	Kim Rolfes

# COME AND WORSHIP

The Christmas program for this year is titled "Come and Worship". We ask you to sit back and listen to this story about the birth of Jesus Christ. Listen to how each one of us is affected by this Great Birth, no matter who you are or what your profession is. Please, "Come and Worship" with our Children's Christmas Pro-



gram on December 11, 2005, at 10:30 AM.

We still have practices on Nov.30.; Dec.7 and Dec. 11. If you have any questions please call Jennifer Carlson (352-3685) or Sharon Carlson (359-2976) Thank You.

**OUR VISION:  
CARING FOR ALL  
GOD'S PEOPLE,  
ONE BY ONE**

## DISASTER RELIEF



*Help those in need*

If you would like to provide support for the residents of Stratford affected by the tornado, you may do so by sending monetary donations to:

**Stratford Disaster Response  
P.O. Box 200  
Stratford, IA 50249**

Please remember to keep the residents of Stratford in your prayers.

## Zion Women of the E.L.C.A. Act Boldly!!



"Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born."

"Joy to the world, He rules with truth and grace."

The star that leads to God will bring us peace and joy and love.

Amen

—Mary Orness  
Chairperson

### Upcoming Events

#### DECEMBER

- 1—Potluck Dinner .... 12:00 p.m.  
Sing-a-long/General mtg
- 6—Bible Briefing ..... 10:00 a.m.

- 7—Fulton Lutheran Church  
Advent Event ..... 1:30 p.m.
- 8—Dorcas & Esther circles together at church.. 9:00 a.m.  
Hostess ..... Jean Larson  
Bible Study ..... Rod Meyer
- Martha circle at The Second Cup..... 12:00 p.m.  
Bible Study. Dorothy Carlon
- 21—Birthday at Gowrie Care Center ..... 2:00 p.m.  
Martha Circle in charge



Dear Zion,

Thank you for remembering me as I go to school and work. I will enjoy using the Pizza Hut gift card I received.

Thanks again,  
Korryn Mohr

Thank you for sending the gift certificate for Pizza Hut. The cards of encouragement are always appreciated as well. College can be stressful and it is nice to have a home congregation to think back on.

Kirsten Towne

# POINSETTIAS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

If you would like to give a poinsettia this holiday season in memory or in honor of someone, you will need to place the order yourself or you may bring a plant to the church. We would like to have them on the altar on December 18th.

If you would like your poinsettia listed in the special insert on Christmas Eve, please contact Cheryl in the office or place this slip in the collection plate before the December 15th deadline.

**Poinsettia given in Memory Honor (circle one) of:**

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**By:**

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(Continued from page 1)

## Christmas Letter

*When your faith was strong and steadfast and you glorified my name,  
Even when you doubted me, my love always stayed the same.  
When you were anxious and afraid and your faith was challenged by fear.  
You thought I wasn't listening, but I was ever near.  
When you were hurting and wondering if I would ever ease your pain,  
I was right there hurting with you and there my love remains.  
I loved you all day long and when you couldn't sleep at night.  
In your darkest hour, it was my love that gave you light.  
I gave you peace and patience when you couldn't find it on your own.  
I was your companion in times of change, so you wouldn't feel alone.  
I loved you everywhere you went in every situation,  
When you sinned so carelessly and when you resisted that temptation.  
Sometimes you blessed my heart with songs and praise and joyful laughter.  
I loved you long before those times and I will love you ever after.  
As you celebrate my birthday now and a bright new year begins,  
Please remember that I came that night to save you from your sins.  
My love, it stretches far and wide.  
There's no place it wouldn't go.  
From the manger to the cross and beyond, I've always loved you so.  
It is my deepest desire to be a part of all you say and do.  
And for you to know how much I*

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## LIBRARY NEWS

### CHURCH LIBRARY

New books for your enjoyment include the following:

#### Fiction:

*All She Ever Wanted*  
by Lynn Austin

*Amethyst*  
by Lauraine Snelling  
(Book 4 of Dakota Treasures Series.)

*The Preacher's Daughter*  
By Beverly Lewis  
(1st book in a new series.)

We have several other inter-

esting books for your holiday reading. Come in and browse.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL LIBRARY

*One Baby Jesus*  
by Patricia Pingry  
(A new 12 days of Christmas story.)

#### Videos for Sunday School:

Gaither Kid Series:  
*Homecoming Kids Go West*  
*Gaither's Pond—The Lure Depths*

These are a gift from Everett & Joyce Hade.

Encourage your children to read more during the holidays. Enrich your Christmas season.

—Marjorie Wahlgren  
Librarian

# WE NEED YOUR HELP, PLEASE

One of the ministries at Zion I am most excited about is our Faith Development Program. I can already see the fruits of this program and, as we continue to strengthen this program, the harvest will grow. Our dream for the Faith Development Program is to surround every child in our congregation with people who are praying for them, mentoring them and working with them in small groups. There they discover the gifts God has given them and ways in which they can use their



Be a Mentor

gifts to make a positive difference in the lives of others. We are confident that through the ministry of those involved in this program that God will

bless us by empowering us to pass on the faith to the next generation.

One of the areas in which we struggle is the small group component. We currently have only three people who are willing to work with small groups of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This limits our ability to develop the peer relationships that are such an important part of our faith community.

Would you please consider being a part of this vital ministry? We will provide you with all the resources and support you need. It is also an exciting opportunity to grow in your faith.

Please consider helping. We really do need you.

Talk to Pastor Jim for more information.

—Pastor Jim

# Faithful Attendance!

## OCTOBER

### PRESCHOOL

Ben Carlson

### KINDERGARTEN

Colton Rasmussen

### 1ST GRADE

Myles Davis

### 2ND GRADE

Allie Carlon  
Josh Carlson  
Miranda Keith

### 4TH GRADE

Olivia Hanson  
Maria Towne

### 6TH GRADE

Hannah Carlson

### 7TH GRADE

Ashley Carlon  
Taylor Warehime

### 8TH GRADE

Emma Davis

Shannon & Beth Miller  
Sunday School Superintendents

## Zion Financial Report

	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
<b>ACTUAL INCOME</b>	8,455.50	105,095.87
<b>BUDGETED INCOME</b>	14,133.00	141,328.00
<b>ACTUAL EXPENSES</b>	6,947.74	112,597.73
<b>BUDGETED EXPENSES</b>	12,947.66	129,049.68

(The entire line item reports are posted on the bulletin board by Pastor Jim's office. Please take a moment to look at them.)

### Zion's Guiding Principles:

1. Jesus is Lord.
2. Each person is a child of God.
3. Everyone is welcome.
4. Love changes us.
5. Everyone has gifts to offer.
6. The world needs the vision we have to offer.
7. We exist to serve others.



## Choir Director

As I'm sitting here typing this schedule, we have our first blizzard of the fall. Maybe this will get me fired up for the holidays. I'm not ready for all the hustle and bustle. I pray that our days won't be crammed with *stuff* to do, but that we can concentrate on preparing our hearts for the real meaning of Christmas. I want to wish all of you a most joyous and blessed holiday season.

—Colleen

**SONSHINE BELLS**  
**November 30**—will be scheduled around the program practice.  
**December 4**—practice with Morning Glory bells following church at 11:30 a.m.  
**December 7**—will be scheduled around the program practice.  
**11**—PLAY IN CHURCH  
**14**—Christmas party after school

**MORNING GLORY BELLS**  
 Dec. 4 practice after church  
 11 PLAY IN CHURCH  
 18 practice after church  
 25 CHRISTMAS DAY—No Practice

**VESPER RINGERS**  
 Nov. 30 6:30 practice  
 Dec. 4 Community Concert at 7:00 p.m.

7 6:30 practice  
 14 6:30 supper provided by morning circles—practice following  
 21 6:30 practice????  
 24 CHRISTMAS EVE—Play  
 28 No Practice

**SENIOR CHOIR**  
 Dec. 7 7:30 practice (Wednesday)  
 14 6:30 supper provided by morning circles—practice following  
 18 maybe practice at 9:00  
 24 CHRISTMAS EVE—Sing

(Continued from page 3)

### Christmas Letter

*treasure my relationship with you.  
 So let's keep in touch throughout the year and let us not drift apart.  
 I'll keep you wrapped safely in my loving arms. Please keep me in your heart.*

*All my love,  
 Jesus*

—written by Lori Huntley of Bellevue, NE and reprinted with permission from the Joyful Noiseletter

## CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

We need your help to purchase some new Christmas decorations. Many of our Christmas decorations have faithfully served for so many years that it is time to allow them to retire. A fund has been started to buy new ones. If you are willing to help us, please place your donation in one of the envelopes marked "Christmas Decorations" that are available on the table at the back of the church and then drop it in the offering plate or at the office.



## SERVING BREAKFAST



### BRUNCH

They will be serving eggs, sausage, hash browns, orange juice, coffee, and milk.

The Sons of the American Legion will be serving brunch on Sunday, December 11, following the children's Christmas program.

## 5th & 6th Grade News

In the spirit of the fall season and our football team on the verge of heading to the playoffs, our 5th & 6th grad youth group choose to watch "Friday Night Lights" at our movie night. We share our favorite snacks with each other and enjoyed the movie together.

—Shannon & Beth Miller  
 5th & 6th grade youth leaders

# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

# DECEMBER DUTIES



## Birthdays This Month

- 1 Ali Carlson  
Cindy Fevold  
Nicole Fevold  
Nicole Nelson-Sease  
Gabe Olson
- 3 Paulette Carlson  
Helen Nelson
- 4 Evan Telleen
- 5 Tanner Carlson  
Blaine Kamp  
Nik Telleen
- 6 Steph Heinze  
Judi Johnson
- 7 Dean Summers
- 8 Kris Cathcart  
Brandon Johnson  
Ilene Lundblad
- 10 Stacey Cline

- 11 Laurie Telleen  
Cindy Youngquist
- 14 Frances Brown  
Jerry Mohr  
Raegan Ware
- 15 Dylan Nelson-Sease  
Darian Shirbroun
- 17 Jocelyn Anderson  
Don Borgen, Sr.
- 19 Tyler McCubbin  
Nicole Thompson
- 21 Jordan Schultz
- 23 Audra Paullin
- 24 Keenan Mohr
- 25 Mary Lind
- 26 Phyllis Norine
- 28 Miranda Keith  
Larry Nelson
- 29 Vicki Anderson  
Ashley McCubbin  
Darwin Peterson
- 30 Arnie Bloomquist  
Sarah Fevold
- 31 Lori Pirie  
Paula Smith

If your birthday was missed or you would like a birthday included, please call the church office so we can update the computer.  
Thank you!— Cheryl

## GREETERS

- 4 John & Pam Kennell  
Darrel & Vicky Mischke
- 11 Ellis & Mary Harklau  
John & Julia Fevold
- 18 Tom & Gayle Rabbitt  
Frances Brown & Shirley Johnson
- 25 Jerry & Donna Mohr  
David & Janet Carlon



- Greg Carlson  
Jim Peterson  
Brett Carlson  
Lonnie Carlson  
Tanner Carlson  
Trent Farnham

- 4 Leanne Keith
- 11 S. S. Program
- 18 Lessons & Carols
- 25 None



## MISSIONARY FOR A DAY\*

- 1 Richard I. Johnson
- 3 Helen Nelson
- 8 Kris Cathcart  
Ilene Lundblad
- 11 Cindy Youngquist
- 13 4th & 5th Grade Class
- 17 Vicki Anderson
- 19 Tyler McCubbin
- 21 Pauline Johnson

- 22 Nels & Cindy Lindquist
- 25 Tyler McCubbin
- 29 Ashley McCubbin

We have lots of room for more "Missionaries for a Day" this month. Please sign up today!!!

\* Zion is in need of more members to sign up for "Missionary for a Day." All you need to do is sign your name next to a date on the Missionary Calendar in the library. Gifts range from 50 cents to whatever amount you wish to give.

## GOWRIE CARE CENTER



- 4 Bob & Almeda Gordon
- 18 Bud & Donita Johanson



Don Larson & Dick Phillips

