

# Zion's Caring Voice

Volume 3 Issue 6

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STEPHEN MINISTRY



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



Thrivent

## EPIPHANY

In western Christian tradition, **January 6** is celebrated as **Epiphany**. It goes by other names in various church traditions. In Hispanic and Latin culture, as well as some places in Europe, it is known as **Three Kings' Day**.

Epiphany is the climax of the Christmas Season and the Twelve Days of Christmas, which are counted from December 25th until January 5th. The day *before* Epiphany is the twelfth day of Christmas, and is sometimes called **Twelfth Night**, an occasion for feasting in

some cultures. The baking of a special **King's Cake** is part of the festivities of Epiphany in some cultures (a King's Cake is part of the observance of Mardi Gras in French Catholic culture of the Southern USA).

In traditional Christian churches, Christmas, as well as Easter, is celebrated as a period of time, a season of the church year, rather than just a day. The Season of Christmas begins with the First Sunday of Advent, marked by expectation and anticipation, and concludes with

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## Council Minutes

The Zion Lutheran Church Council met on November 22, 2005.

Present: Don Larson, Colleen Palmer, Kim Rolfes, Jeff Petersen, Gary Kuhn, Beryl Birkland, Dick Phillips, Greta Jansa, and Pastor Davis.

Dick Dahle, from Lutheran Lakeside Camp, made a presentation regarding the camp and asked for our continued support.

Don Larson, vice chairman, presided over the

meeting. Pastor Davis led devotions, "No Longer Anxious", using Philippians 4:4-7. Anxious moments were discussed. We were reminded that joy is increased and anxiety reduced when we realize that we do not face any situation alone--the Lord is always near.

Motion by Colleen Palmer, seconded by Kim Rolfes, to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion by Gary Kuhn, seconded by Beryl Birkland, to accept the financial

*(Continued on page 2a)*

### 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

### E-Mail Addresses

Office:	<a href="mailto:ziongowr@wccta.net">ziongowr@wccta.net</a>
Stephen Ministry:	<a href="mailto:stephencoop@hotmail.com">stephencoop@hotmail.com</a>

### Website Addresses

ZION:	<a href="http://www.countrysidecoop.org/zion">www.countrysidecoop.org/zion</a>
COOPERATIVE:	<a href="http://www.countrysidecoop.org">www.countrysidecoop.org</a>

### Zion's Council

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

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### Council Minutes

reports. A lengthy discussion was held in regard to our financial condition with many ideas and frustrations discussed. Motion by Gary Kuhn, seconded by Dick Phillips, to ask permission from the congregation to borrow an additional \$13,000 to cover our obligations to the Countryside Ministry.

An all-out effort will be made to encourage members to make their contributions for 2005 as soon as possible so that we can cover all of our financial obligations. If all members would give an additional \$99 we would be able to cover our debt! The called congregational meeting will take place December 11.

Motion by Jeff Petersen,

seconded by Colleen Palmer, to recommend to the Endowed Benevolence that a grant of \$1000 be given to Lutheran Lakeside Camp at Spirit Lake, Iowa.

Motion by Jeff Petersen, seconded by Colleen Palmer, that the Thanksgiving offering be given to the Prairie Valley Food Pantry. Motion by Beryl Birkland, seconded by Gary Kuhn, that the Christmas offering be given to Bremwood.

Property team reported that the church thermostats were being checked. The elevator was repaired & the cost of that repair was covered by a special gift.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Greta Jansa

## PASSING ON THE FAITH

A few months ago, I felt moved by Pastor Jim's repeated calls for some of us adults to be involved in small group mentoring of youth in order to pass along the faith. I'd always made excuses before ("I work with kids 5 days a week. Why would I want to make it 6 or 7?" "I'm doing my share, let someone else." "Junior high kids can be so, well . . . annoying!" "They wouldn't want me, anyway. I'm not 'cool.'" You get the picture, I'm sure.)

But I decided to give it a try, and I've found out that it's really a lot of fun. We go places together to do fun things – there's something scheduled every month. I don't have to spend a lot of time in preparation, because Pastor Jim has all that figured out ahead of time, and the materials are detailed, yet flexible. The kids and I have some meaningful conversations (and some, of course, that are just plain silly). They even seem to like

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

## The Epiphany of Our Lord

Dearest Father, in Your goodness and mercy toward us, You sent Your son, Jesus Christ, to save us from our sin. In Your goodness and mercy, You revealed Him to us, that we might confess Him as You have given Him to us.

In this epiphany season, by Your word and sacraments, reveal to us anew your Christ and the greatness of salvation.



Your word and promises shine in our hearts, through the same holy name, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

—Mary Orness  
Chairperson

### Upcoming Events

#### JANUARY

- 3—Bible Briefing..... 10:00 a.m.
- 4—Rachel circle ..... Tea Room
- 5—Dorcas & Esther circles .....  
..... 9:00 a.m.  
Hostess .....Pauline Johnson  
Bible Study.. Ruth E. Sandeen

- 5— Martha circle ..... 1:30 p.m.  
Hostess ..... Rita Peterson  
at the Community Center  
Bible Study..... Mary Orness
- 12—Project Day ..... 1:30 p.m.
- 19—General Meeting.... 1:30 p.m.  
Program .....Dorcas circle  
Serv. Comm..Dorothy Carlon,  
Chr., Virginia Amandus, &  
Ruth E. Sandeen
- 25—Bingo @ Care Center.....  
..... 2:00 p.m.  
Martha Circle



The November 2005 Newsletter  
of Marvin Kananen and Jean  
Wahlstrom

ELCA-DGM missionaries  
serving in Tanzania

Dear friends and partners in  
mission,

It's Advent Season! Advent is: a) The period beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, observed by many Christians as a season of prayer, fasting, and penitence in preparation for Christmas. The word itself comes from Latin *adventus*, arrival; from past participle of *advenire* to come to *ad- ad- venire* to come. Or, in the vernacular from East Africa, 'May your coming Advent season be blessed, joyful, memorable, and a season of shared love.'

This November, 17 students were confirmed and 11 baptized. Some of our students took new names for themselves during the baptism service: Enditorangae became Maria and Noosuswan became Sarah. Taking a new name at baptism is a common practice in the church. May this change be not in name only, but may it also be in their commitment to serve Jesus.

We know many people who promise to change their lives. There are really only two personal changes we have come to believe in: the first is to Christ and the second is to sobriety, because both are truly the work of God only. All other changes are made on shifting ground. But then, we may be a tad biased.

Marvin continues to teach at

the other local Lutheran secondary school in town, Moringe Sokoine Secondary School. On a typical day of walking there and home, he greets people in four languages. He speaks in English if they're young, Maa if they aren't young any more and wearing red blankets, then responds with Arabic greetings or Swahili greetings, depending on what they say or what he guesses might be their language. His favorite exchanges are his formal greetings to the old Maasai men and having them respond in a clipped British English.

On the last weekend in October we went with a former student (who is doing her internship at MGLSS, she'll be our first pastor graduate) so she might see her grandmother on her mother's side. We were honored to be there to see our ex-student and her brother receive the blessings of the Maasai. The elders spit on our student and her brother (quite politely) and then tied grass into their clothing. (They usually use milk but all the cows are high in the mountains, searching for more grass.) It is an old, old blessing and it struck Marvin as a sort of 'vegetarian' communion. And then, the moment that will forever mark a change in their lives came when they brought our ex-student and her mother into the "men's" tent and they ate together. The food was served by the 'younger uncles' because women are not even allowed to serve in that special area, and yet the Maasai men brought food to Neema, our ex-student. As you read this please pause a moment and

realize the significance of this moment which just passed. They honored her as they would a man. Perhaps this would have been akin to a white man on that Selma bus in 1955 standing up and giving his seat to Rosa Parks. To have visiting white women sitting among the men is common, but they brought in their own 'daughter.' This school where we serve, this Maasae Girls Lutheran Secondary School, is impacting the future. And there to witness this honoring of a fourth year seminary student was the newest bride in the boma, a child of thirteen. The child represented the old way, and the way she looked at Neema (who was a foot taller and a decade older) was of awe. The child saw what women can become if given a chance. At the Maasae Girls Lutheran Secondary School, we give some a chance. We would like to help them all, but perhaps by showing the example of a few we can affect the many. Perhaps.

Jean just spent three nights, four days in Nairobi with four of our students, taking the IELTS (an English knowledge exam which includes speaking, listening, reading, and writing). Two of these four students will then be invited to study at Concordia College, Moorhead. We won't know the results for two or three weeks.

As the year ends and many churches begin their budgeting for next year, do remember missions. The Lutherans have missionaries in many places doing many things. Whereas it might be wonderful to conjure up images of missionaries out in the bush bringing people the love and knowledge of Jesus for the very first time, few are doing that today. Those missionaries who have gone before us have done the cultivating and planting work (and

*(Continued on page 5)*

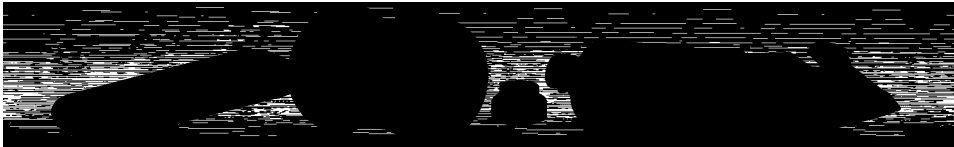
# HEALTH KITS

People who must flee their homes quickly often do not have time to pack essential items. A health kit can help children, men, and women who are refugees to maintain personal hygiene while living in exile. Items may also contribute to a new start for those who can return home.

Zion's Women of the ELCA are currently collecting items to make health kits for Lutheran World Relief. The following is a list of items needed to make 1 health kit.

- One hand towel
- One washcloth
- One bath-size bar of soap, any brand
- One toothbrush
- One tube of toothpaste, 5 or 7 oz.
- One comb, wide tooth preferred
- One metal nail file, or nail clippers with file attached
- Six Band-Aids, preferably 1/2" to 3/4" wide

Wrap items in the towel, tie securely with ribbon or yarn. Place your contributions in the blue plastic container labeled "Lutheran World Relief" in the back of the church. If you do not care to shop, monetary contributions are an option. You can give them to Mary Lind, WELCA treasurer, or leave them in the church office.



## Zion Financial Report

	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
<b>ACTUAL INCOME</b>	16,428.00	121,523.87
<b>BUDGETED INCOME</b>	14,133.00	155,461.00
<b>ACTUAL EXPENSES</b>	19,838.84	132,436.57
<b>BUDGETED EXPENSES</b>	12,948.66	141,998.34

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

# Faithful Attendance!

## NOVEMBER

### PRESCHOOL

Paige Frahm  
Lincoln Miller  
Ivan Hudson  
Max Davis  
Bryce Rasmussen  
Jarett Loeske

### KINDERGARTEN

Bryce Fevold

### 1ST GRADE

Myles Davis  
Jayden Cline

### 2ND GRADE

Allie Carlon  
Cassie Zinnel

### 4TH GRADE

Olivia Hanson  
Maria Towne

### 5TH GRADE

Chelsea Anderson

### 6TH GRADE

Austin Davis  
Holden Miller

### 7TH GRADE

Ashley Carlon  
Shanda Carlson  
Taylor Warehime

### 8TH GRADE

No Report

Shannon & Beth Miller  
Sunday School Superintendents



# LIBRARY NEWS

## CHURCH LIBRARY

New books donated to the Zion Church Libraries:

*The Purpose Driven Life*

by Rick Warren

### Devotional:

*Together with Jesus*

by Richard Lauersdorf  
(Gift from Thrivent)

Try some of our new devotional books or books on prayer for the Epiphany season, the time of revealing God's gift of light and hope to the Gentiles. We have several interesting books in

this section, including some that emphasize missions.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL LIBRARY

*Rock-a-bye Prayers*

by Marjorie Decker  
(A Christian Mother Goose book.)

*The Lost Sheep and Other Stories of Jesus*

by Phil Smouse  
(An *I Can Read* book.)

Be sure to read the recent letter from our missionaries in Tanzania also in this issue of Zion's Caring Voice.

May we all grow in our Christian faith and service in 2006.

—Marjorie Wahlgren  
Librarian

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### Missionaries

Herb Hafermann is still out there in the bush "Having the best years of my life," he says). Most evangelism today is being done by those Tanzanian children who learned about evangelism sitting at the feet of missionaries, children who grew up to become Tanzanian pastors and evangelists. Today missionaries bring other skills. The fish farming projects in Tanzania added protein to the diets of children. The three ELCA-DGM doctors currently working in Tanzania are bringing hope and health to the sick who were once expected to die. The new Hospice program brings love and comfort to those who are dying. Teachers come bringing knowledge and English and hope to people who need these things for a future with promise. Please remember missionaries at budget time. Pray for them and consider anew their needs and support. I know that the missionaries today share the same Gospel as those early missionaries, the Good News of Jesus Christ. They are quick to pray and witness of their Lord. They are people who live in a perpetual 'Advent' fashion. We are honored to be considered among them.

For your knowledge, this was not a request from the ELCA. This was a request, meant to be most gentle, from your missionaries, Jean and Marvin, on behalf of global mission everywhere. We who care, share. Those who do not care think we live foolish lives and make needless sacrifice. Those who care wish they could give more.

We close for now. Have a blessed holiday season.

In the Grace of our Lord,  
Jean Wahlstrom  
& Marvin Kananen

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### Passing on the Faith

me! Well, much of the time, anyway. By far the best part, though, is the feeling that I get every so often that I really am making some difference in these kids' lives. Sometimes that's kind of scary, too, realizing that they are looking at me as some sort of Christian example, and I don't feel very holy. Nevertheless, taken as a whole, it's been a very positive and rewarding experience for me, and I encourage, yea, challenge you adults to get involved, too. I can't see how you would regret it (except maybe while you're standing out in the December wind ringing a bell over a Salvation Army kettle! It's amazing that those boys don't get cold! Ah, to be young again!) Give it a try! There's a blessing waiting for you!

—Monte Albert

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

**OUR MISSION IS TO CARE BY:**

**REACHING OUT TO OTHERS  
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS  
IN A CHRIST-CENTERED  
COMMUNITY  
EMPOWERING TO SERVE**

**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.



HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope your holiday season was a blessed one.

—Colleen

**SONSHINE BELLS**

- Jan. 11 - practice after school snacks — Rebecca and Olivia
- 18 - practice after school snacks — Maria and Mariah

25 - practice after school snacks— Liz and Katie

Remember that if school gets out early, there will be no practice.

**MORNING GLORY BELLS**

- Jan. 8 PLAY IN CHURCH
- 15 OFF
- 22 practice after church
- 29 practice after church

**VESPER RINGERS**

- Jan. 11 6:30 practice
- 18 6:30 practice
- 25 6:30 practice

**SENIOR CHOIR**

We sing on Sunday, January 22, so we will practice at 9:00 a.m. on that day



The church received these “thank you” notes this month.

*We want to thank you for the gift to Ron’s memorial at the Presbyterian Camp on Lake Okoboji. Your prayers and concerns are appreciated. Blessings to each of you as you look to the future and prepare for the celebration of our Lord’s birth.*

—The Ron Walrod family  
Wyman, Judith, Nancy, & Bruce Zion,

*Thank you so much for the package of Christmas goodies. It’s always nice to know that you are thinking of your college students and the treats were great for finals time! I look forward to coming back for Christmas break.*

—Emilie Nelson

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**Epiphany**

Epiphany, which looks ahead to the mission of the church to the world in light of the Nativity. The one or two Sundays between Christmas Day and Epiphany are sometimes called **Christmastide**. For many Protestant church traditions, the season of Epiphany extends from January 6th until Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent leading to Easter. In some western traditions, the last Sunday of Epiphany is celebrated as Transfiguration Sunday.

The term *epiphany* means “to show” or “to make known” or even “to reveal.” In Western churches, it remembers the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to visit the Christ child, who

by so doing “reveal” Jesus to the world as Lord and King. In some Central and South American countries influenced by Catholic tradition, Three Kings’ Day, or the night before, is the time for opening Christmas presents. The colors of Epiphany are usually the colors of Christmas, white and gold, the colors of celebration, newness, and hope that mark the most sacred days of the church year.

As with most aspects of the Christian liturgical calendar, Epiphany has theological significance as a teaching tool in the church. The Wise Men, or Magi, who brought gifts to the infant Jesus were the first Gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as “King” and so were the first to “show” or “reveal” Jesus to a wider world as the incarnate

Christ. This act of worship by the Magi, which corresponded to Simeon’s blessing that this child Jesus would be “a light for revelation to the Gentiles” (Luke 2:32), was one of the first indications that Jesus came for all people of all nations and of all races, and that the work of God in the world would not be limited to only a few.

The day is now observed as a time of focusing on the mission of the church in reaching others by “showing” Jesus as the Savior of all people. It is also a time of focusing on Christian brotherhood and fellowship, especially in healing the divisions of prejudice and bigotry that we all too often create between God’s children.

For more information about Epiphany visit <http://www.cresourcei.org/cyepiph.html>.

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

# JANUARY DUTIES



1	Zanie Rydman
	Liz Welter
3	Monte Albert
7	Trevor Larson
8	Norman Peterson
9	Mike Johnson
10	Tatum Baade
	Shaylin Carlson
	Sydney Carlson
11	Brandon Brohimer
	Brett Carlson
	Steve Cathcart
	Russ Petersen
	LuAnn Suchan
12	Jim Fevold
	Jackie Johnson
	Megan Peterson
13	Jaxon Carlson
14	Ann Albert
	Dale Carlson, Sr.
15	Nuella Franzeen
16	Mike McGovern

17	Nick Carlson
	Glee Foster
18	Gary Carstens
21	Megan Eastman
	Sharon Fevold
	Hannah Plain
22	Bud Johanson
	Phyllis Rasmussen
	Rod Warehime
23	Pauline Johnson
	Jessica Peterson
24	Nikki Carstens
	Cindy McCubbin
	Tanner Miller
	LaVern Urelius
25	Landon McCarthy
27	Erv Buske
	Steve Mohr
28	Eleanor Bloomquist
29	Sybil Bauer
	Leonard Jansa
	Marjorie Wahlgren
30	Morgan Farnham
31	Katie Clough
	Megan Schill

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

1	Marty & Chris Carlson
	Rob & Jill Mischke
8	Dan & Janet Nordin
	Phil & Natalie Fevold
15	Gregg & Martha Norine
	Gene & Sandy Thoma
22	Ken & Betty Pedersen
	Don & Corliss Schill
29	Matt & Stacie Nordin
	Tim & Deb Olson

## USHERS



Ellis Harklau
Greg Anderson
Ken Pedersen
Bob Sease
Bruce Towne

1	Almeda Gordon
8	Darrel Mischke
15	Holly Shirbroun
22	Jeff Kruse
29	Kari Suhrbier



LAY READERS



## GOWRIE CARE CENTER

1	Everett & Joyce Hade
15	Don & Phyllis Rasmussen
29	Bob & Almeda Gordon

## MISSIONARY FOR A DAY\*

1	Tyler McCubbin
10	Andy Cathcart
19	Cindy Youngquist
22	Nels & Cindy Lindquist
29	Marjorie Wahlgren

**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.



Kim Rolfes & Gary Kuhn

# Zion's Caring Ministry

## January 2006

<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 9:15 AM Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Zion Worship 7:00 PM Youth Group</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Doubting Thomas @ Monte's house 1204 Lynd</p> 	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Prayers for Peace 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Bible Briefing 11:30 AM Pastor Text Study</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>7:30 PM FUSION</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Dorcas &amp; Esther Circle @ church 1:30 PM Martha Circle</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> 	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>12:00 PM Rachel Circle @ Thymes Remembered in Perry 5:00 PM Worship</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 9:15 AM Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Zion Worship 10:30 AM Morning Glory Bells play 5:00 PM Burning of the Greens potluck following 7:00 PM "Connections" @ FUSION bldg</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Gowrie Care Center-Taped Service 7:00 PM FUSION Team</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Prayers for Peace 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:30 AM Pastor Text Study</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>4:00 PM Sonshine Bells after school 6:30 PM Vesper Bells 7:30 PM FUSION Jr. Choir no practice</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>1:30 PM Project Day</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 9:15 AM Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Zion Worship 7:00 PM Youth Group NEWSLETTER DEADLINE NO MG Bells practice</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Prayers for Peace 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:30 AM Pastor Text Study 2:30 PM Worship Team</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>4:00 PM Sonshine Bells after school 5:15 PM Caring Team @ Monte's 1204 Lynd 6:30 PM Vesper Bells 7:30 PM FUSION Jr. Choir no practice</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>1:30 PM WELCA General Meeting 2:30 PM Gowrie Care Center Devotions</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>5:00 PM Worship</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Sr. Choir 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 9:15 AM Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Zion Worship 10:30 AM Sr. Choir sings 11:30 AM Morning Glory Bell Practice 6:30 PM LMIM</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Gowrie Care Center-Taped Service 7:00 PM Doubting Thomas @ Monte's house 1204 Lynd</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Prayers for Peace 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:30 AM Pastor Text Study 7:00 PM Zion Council</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>2:00 PM Bingo at Gowrie Care Center 4:00 PM Sonshine Bells after school 6:30 PM Vesper Bells 7:30 PM FUSION</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>		<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 9:15 AM Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Zion Worship 11:30 AM Morning Glory Bell Practice 6:30 PM LMI</p> 	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Prayers for Peace 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:30 AM Pastor Text Study</p>				