

Zion's Caring Voice

Volume 3 Issue 7

A Publication of Zion Lutheran Church

February 2006

STEPHEN MINISTRY



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



30 HOUR FAMINE

A year ago, eleven of our youth went for 30 hours without food to raise money to help alleviate world hunger. Our youth raised almost \$1,100 that was pooled with youth across America who have raised over \$8,500,000 to combat world hunger. On February 24 and 25 we will do it again.

The 30 Hour Famine helps students learn about the struggles many children face every day. A



series of simulations helped them become more aware of the

issues that are faced by some of the poorest people in our world: adequate food, clean water, land, disease, education and poverty.

The youth will be asking people to sponsor them. All donations will be used to make a difference in the lives of the hungriest of the world's children. Please respond generously to our youth and help them make a difference in the lives of others.

If you would like more information about the 30 Hour Famine or if you are interested in helping or participating, please contact Pastor Jim.

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

Council Minutes

The Zion Lutheran Church Council met on Tuesday, December 27, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Motion by Colleen Palmer, seconded by Don Larson, to accept the minutes of the previous meeting.

A discussion on our finances was lengthy. We don't want to be thought of as someone who doesn't pay their bills!

Motion to approve the

financial report as of November 30 made by Gary Kuhn, seconded by Jeff Petersen.

Endowed Benevolence Team will announce on Easter Sunday.

Motion to pursue a Stewardship Phone-a-Thon by Gary Kuhn, seconded by Colleen Palmer.

January 22 — Budget Meeting.

Mission goals to council after church on January 8.

Next meeting will be February 28 at 7:00 p.m.

(Continued on page 2a)

E-Mail Addresses

- Office: ziongowr@wccta.net
- Stephen Ministry: stephencoop@hotmail.com

Website Addresses

- ZION: www.countrysidecoop.org/zion
- COOPERATIVE: 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

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Council Minutes

Meeting adjourned with the Lords Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Kim Rolfes,
Secretary pro-tem

Zion Lutheran Church Council met for a brief meeting following church on January 8, 2006.

Present: Beryl Birkland, Don Larson, Jeff Petersen, Colleen Palmer, Kim Rolfes, Dick Phillips, & Greta Jansa.

Absent: Gary Kuhn

A discussion was held regarding the 2006 Budget Proposal. Motion by Don Larson, seconded by Beryl Birkland, to recommend the approval and adoption of the 2006 Budget Proposal to the

congregation at the annual budget meeting on January 22, 2006. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Greta Jansa, Sec.

**THERE WILL NOT
BE SUNDAY
SCHOOL OR
ADULT BIBLE
STUDY ON
SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 19,
DUE TO THE
COUNTRYSIDE
MINISTRY JOINT
SERVICE**

LENTEN SERVICES

Joint Lenten services begin with Ash Wednesday service on March 1st at the United Methodist Church. There will be a soup supper starting at 6:00 p.m. followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. each week. The soup suppers and services will continue alternating between Zion and the Methodist church through April 5th.

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

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

The Transfiguration Of Our Lord

In Luke 9:29 we read about how Jesus' clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.

The transfiguration of Jesus declared Jesus' true identity. He is both human and divine, the Son of Man and the glorious Son of God.

He is the only human who never sinned and the bright shining Son of God who suffered, died on the cross, and rose triumphantly

from the grave.

His transfiguration proclaims His perfect humanity and His lightning-bright divinity. Jesus is the God who has come to save us.

Thank you Jesus!!!

—Mary Orness
Chairperson

Upcoming Events

JANUARY

31—Bible Briefing..... 10:00 a.m.

FEBRUARY

1—Rachel circle 7:00 p.m.
Hostess Tami Davis
Co-Hostess .. Almeda Gordon
Bible Study Kim Rolfes

2—Dorcas & Esther circles
..... 9:00 a.m.
Hostess Colleen Palmer
Bible Study
..... Marjorie Wahlgren

2—Martha circle
..... at church 1:30 p.m.
Hostess . Delores Gronemeyer
Bible Study
..... Maxine Nordstrom

9—Project Day 1:30 p.m.

15—Birthdays @ Gowrie Care
Center 2:00 p.m.
Esther Circle in charge

18—Christian Woman Speaks
..... 8:30 a.m.
KVFD Radio





A Letter from Our Missionaries

January 2006 Newsletter from
Jean and Marvin
Monduli, Tanzania

Dearly beloved friends,

Since last we communicated, Jean finished her three-week course in Swahili and loved being back in school without papers to correct. They fed her three times a day with two snacks, abundant water (both flavors, hot and cold), and they taught her. She did her first sermon in Swahili on Christmas Eve. She said she never worked so hard before on a five minute talk. The evening was filled with singing, candlelight, and joyful students rejoicing.

Somehow, and you'll have to ask God how because Marvin has no idea, Marvin's fun little AA group with his utterly inadequate Swahili has been averaging 10 members (actually, 10.5) through December. We are the tribe of those who must either drink and die or those who learn to live soberly. This month we lost a sister. She had been sober for years, and following the election she was appointed to a national chair. In the celebration, somehow, she accepted a victory toast. After three days of constant drinking, without control or help, much to the shock of those who knew her, she tried to drive, too fast, swerved to miss a goat, and died. AA is not some pleasant little social work program; we are people barely hanging on to life. Never look at us and say we have our

alcoholism under control; we're living with a loaded gun aimed at our head, the safety is off, and we hope no one bumps us. Our friend was bumped.

Speaking of tragedies, there is now a newborn infant in town with the first name 'Marvin.' They honor me but I feel sorry for the boy who will grow up with that moniker in a Swahili-speaking land. They are the same family with an elder girl (if two years of age makes one 'elder') named Jean. It is amazing to think that we are not the only Jean and Marvin in Monduli. I asked the father if he was going to name his third child 'Macho' after our dog; he assured me that was the plan. I choose not to believe him.

In February we are beginning the final step for 19 students who have been with us for six and a half years, the Form Six National Exams that will decide their fates in a manner as never happens in America. With two of them destined (we think, nothing has been announced) to study in Concordia, Moorhead, the remaining 17 will probably qualify for other tertiary programs. They have gone through Primary and Secondary schooling and now dare have hopes for an education beyond. This is an exceptional class with unique academic, spiritual, and leadership qualities. Several of them dream of rising to the administrative level in their fields of interest. For these students who came here six and a half years ago, this hope exceeds expectation. In three or four years, these students will join a growing list of those MGLSS (Maasae Girls Lutheran

Secondary School) university graduates. Not enough are becoming teachers, but some are. But all impact their community. Incidentally, when one of our first graduates in Law finished her program this year, her area priest, Father Ned, loaded 13 students from her area and drove 1500 miles (round-trip) so his students could see what is possible.

Miracles are possible. So, for about nine thousand dollars over three years, if any of you (individuals or churches or other groups) want to take part in a culturally quaking miracle, let us know and we will put you in contact with Operation Bootstrap Africa who are the connecting angels (with a 501 C 3) between you, the student, and the appropriate educational institution. Our former student could be 'your Luther tree.' Consider this.

And I would add a special prayer request for this year of 2006. As is the case every two years, this is the visa renewal year, to be exact, July 20, 2006. We do not anticipate any changes; we sense our call is to continue, but we ask your prayers that in this matter God's will may be done.

We do anticipate some changes this year in the leadership positions in the diocese and at our schools. We ask that you pray for the new leaders of Tanzania. Pray that God would use them to help the people of Tanzania move forward into a satisfying future, full of the grace and presence of God.

May 2006 be a blessed year for you, your families, and your ministries. May your 'Luther trees' grow more beautiful. May we all pray for each other more frequently.

In the name of our most

(Continued on page 5)

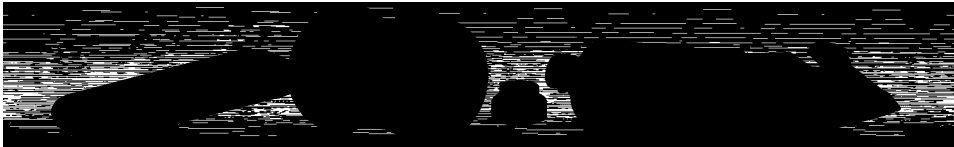
HEALTH KITS

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>DECEMBER</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
ACTUAL INCOME	19,698.00	141,221.87
BUDGETED INCOME	14,133.00	169,594.00
ACTUAL EXPENSES	22,110.57	156,965.14
BUDGETED EXPENSES	12,948.66	154,947.00

(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!

DECEMBER

PRESCHOOL

Samantha Alphas
Ben Carlson
Paige Frahm
Chase Kamp
Colton Kamp
Brycelynn Rasmussen
Katelyn Stern

1ST GRADE

Kenly Clough
Myles Davis
Kennedy Stern

2ND GRADE

Justin Alphas
Allie Carlson
Josh Carlson

4TH GRADE

Katie Clough
Olivia Hanson
Rebecca Nellis
Maria Towne

5TH GRADE

Chelsea Anderson
Nicholas Carlson
Taylor Clough

6TH GRADE

Hannah Carlson
Austin Davis
Gabe Olson
Megan Peterson

7TH GRADE

Ashley Carlon
Joey Kinley

8TH GRADE

Tristan Miller
Matt Nellis

Shannon & Beth Miller
Sunday School Superintendents



LIBRARY NEWS

SUNDAY SCHOOL LIBRARY

New books acquired this past month include:

The Crippled Lamb
by Max Lucado

God Loves His Precious Children
by Jim & Elizabeth George
(Based on Psalm 23.)

A Wing and a Prayer
by Franklin Graham

CHURCH LIBRARY

Devotional:

Booklets by Karen Weld of Clarion, IA

We Are Chosen
As His Children
God's Love is Higher, Deeper, Wider

These are especially good for families with young children.

The above booklets may also be helpful to any of you who are planning to write some devotions for our Lenten booklet. They are brief yet to the point and presented in an interesting way.

—Marjorie Wahlgren
Librarian

(Continued from page 3)

Missionaries

blessed Lord, the Christ Jesus, we say, "Amen."

Love,

Jean Wahlstrom and Marvin

Kananen,

ELCA missionaries serving in
Tanzania

P.S. This is what happens when you write the newsletter and then wait a week before you send it. We thought the following worth sharing in order to support the cause of providing more secondary education opportunities, not only in Tanzania but in all developing countries. In the newspaper THE CITIZEN, Tuesday, 27 Dec, 2005, there was a 'newsbrief' from the Arusha Region.

Our incoming Form One students come from this class of the Arusha area: 22,036 students took their Standard Seven exams. Of the 12,590 who passed, 5,648 will miss the chance because of a classroom shortage. Or, restating this, 31.5% of the students coming from primary schools this year will be allowed to go on.

Compounding the problem, at every level, additional students are refused the opportunity to go further. Compare this to America's "No child left behind." We are bucking the pattern. And this is the main weapon we use: God cares, we care and we are supported by others who care. Thank you.

P.P.S Jean again, feeling I need to ask for special prayer that the rains would come soon.

We close for now. Have a blessed holiday season.

In the Grace of our Lord,

Jean Wahlstrom
& Marvin Kananen

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Would you like to contribute a devotional writing for a booklet to be shared with other members of our congregation to use during Lent?

The theme for our Lenten Sunday services will be *The Seven Deadly Sins*, a reminder to us all why Jesus Christ came to earth to suffer and die for us, "the righteous for the unrighteous".

How do we try to deal with these deadly sins of pride, coveting, lust, envy, gluttony, anger, and sloth (or laziness)? Are you willing to share a personal experience about any of these topics in a brief account (175-180 words) that might be helpful to someone else? You may write about more than one of the sins if you wish.

Articles should be typed

double spaced and will need to be turned into the church office by February 12 in order to be edited and printed by March 1, Ash Wednesday. Please sign your name and give your phone number. If you have any questions you may contact Marjorie Wahlgren or Monte Albert.

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.



Where do the months go to? Maybe it seems faster because of all the nice weather we've been having. It seems so good to be back practicing with all the groups! I'm excited about the music that you are working on. Some of it will be a challenge, which is always good for us. Keep up the good work!

—Colleen

SONSHINE BELLS

Feb. 1 – practice after school – snacks–Jordan and Chelsea
 8 – practice after school – snacks–Megan and Colleen
 15 – OFF – early dismissal
 22 – practice after school – snacks–Rebecca and Olivia

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

MORNING GLORY BELLS

Feb. 5 practice after church
 12 practice after church
 19 OFF
 26 practice after church

VESPER RINGERS

Feb. 1 6:30 practice
 8 6:30 practice
 15 6:30 practice
 19 PLAY IN CHURCH
 22 OFF

SENIOR CHOIR

Sunday, Feb. 5 – practice at 9:00 a.m.
 Thursday, Feb. 9 – practice at 7:00 p.m. with the other churches for the combined service on the 19th
 Sunday, Feb. 26 – MEN will SING-practices will be on:
 Sun. the 5th after the choir
 Wed. the 15th at 7:30
 Wed. the 22nd at 6:45

MITTEN TREE

The Christian Action Committee reported that 34 pairs of mittens and gloves and 9 stocking caps were given to the Prairie Valley school district this year. Thank you to everyone who donated. It is greatly appreciated!!



MEN'S RETREAT

The Western Iowa Synod Lutheran Men in Missions Board has planned its annual retreat scheduled for the evening of February 10th and for February 11th at the Twin Lakes Christian Center near Manson.

This year we are offering a great reduced rate for young men in the 18-34 year old age group. Demographically this is the most unchurched group in America and Lutheran Men in Mission is placing an emphasis on trying to reach this age group. Also many

in this age group are or soon will be fathers and one of the most significant factors in children attending church when they become adults is having a father who is involved in church. Doug Haugen, Director of Lutheran Men in Missions nationally will be giving the presentation entitled *Building Better Men for Christ*.

See the bulletin board for more information and for a registration form see Cheryl in the church office.

OUR MISSION IS TO CARE BY:
REACHING OUT TO OTHERS
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
IN A CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY
EMPOWERING TO SERVE



Zion,

Thank you for the Christmas Card and all of the food. It was delicious and a great surprise! I hope everyone has a Happy New Year and thanks again.

Sincerely,
 Jocelyn Anderson

DEAR MEMBERS OF ZION,

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE APPRECIATE THE HATS AND GLOVES THAT DOROTHY CARLON BROUGHT TO OUR SCHOOLS. IT AMAZES ME HOW THOSE ITEMS SEEM TO VANISH!

I TRULY APPRECIATE YOUR KINDNESS AND HELPFULNESS FOR OUR STUDENTS HERE AT PRAIRIE VALLEY.

JENNY TAYLOR,
 SCHOOL NURSE

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Everett Hade
 2 Seth Jepsen
 Colton Kamp
 Ruth Norine
 3 Bruce Johnson
 4 Paul Piltingsrud
 6 Jennifer (Dale) Carlson
 Pam Kennell
 Kyle Kruse
 Lincoln Miller
 7 Sierra Clark
 Logan Fischer
 Ellis Harklau
 8 Emma Davis
 Mitch Nordin
 11 Shelly Nelson
 Jon Telleen
 12 David Fevold
 Colleen Palmer
 15 Drake Baade
 Hannah Carlson
 Danielle Peterson
 Drew Stanek
 Madelyn Stanek
 Kari Suhrbier
 Joelle Vote
 16 Kris Carlson
 Bruce Towne
 Don VanHoff
 17 Audrey Brundage

Dave Carlon
 Dan Telleen
 18 Corrine Jackson
 19 Elizabeth Burger
 Andrea Kuhn
 20 Dick Phillips
 21 Kathy Mossberg
 22 Adelynne Peterson
 John Wendell
 23 Aaron Will
 24 Irene Christianson
 Donita Johanson
 Julie Petersen
 25 Mary Harklau
 Kim Kennell
 Jason Mohr
 26 Bev Buske
 Jim W. Carlson
 Betty Peterson
 27 Roy Anderson
 Renae Lane
 28 Ashley Telleen

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

FEBRUARY DUTIES

GREETERS

5 David & Sharon Fevold
 Bob & Almeda Gordon
 12 Dennis & Kathy Peterson
 Norm & Phyllis Peterson
 19 Jim & LuAnn Suchan
 Melanie Clark & Mary Larson
 26 Evan & Jon Telleen
 Merlyn, Marv, & Corrine Jensen

USHERS



Dan Rasmussen
 Tim Olson
 Doug Bloomquist
 Jim Carlson
 Darrel Mischke

5 Marsha Farnham
 12 Todd Anderson
 19 Jeff Petersen
 26 Sue Anderson



LAY READERS

GOWRIE CARE CENTER



12 Ned Palmer
 26 Shannon & Beth Miller

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY*

2 Everett & Joyce Hade
 6 Pam Kennell
 7 Davis Family
 11 Colleen Palmer
 Shelly Nelson
 12 Ellis & Mary Harklau
 14 Danielle Peterson
 15 Hannah Carlson

19 Andrea Kuhn
 28 Ashley Telleen

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 February 2006



						<p>1 4:00 PM Sonshine Bells after school 6:30 PM Vesper Bells 7:00 PM Rachel Circle 7:30 PM FUSION</p>		<p>2 9:00 AM Dorcas & Esther Circle 1:30 PM Martha Circle in library @ church</p> 		<p>3</p>		<p>4 5:00 PM Worship</p>	
<p>5 9:00 AM Senior Choir practice 9:10 AM Men's Choir practice 9:15 AM Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Zion Worship 11:30 AM Morning Glory Bell Practice 4:00 PM Youth Group Super Bowl Party SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY</p>		<p>6 9:30 AM Gowrie Care Center-Taped Service</p>		<p>7 8:00 AM Prayers for Peace 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:30 AM Pastor Text Study</p>		<p>8 4:00 PM Sonshine Bells after school 6:30 PM Vesper Bells 7:30 PM FUSION</p>		<p>9 1:30 PM Project Day 7:00 PM Cooperative Choir practice</p>		<p>10 <i>Aquire the Fire at Hilton Coliseum in Ames February 10 & 11</i></p> 		<p>11 Byron Chalstrom/ Diane Albers wedding @ Twin Lakes Bible Camp</p>	
<p>12 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 5:00 PM Valentine's Supper (Served by Youth Group) 7:00 PM "Connections" @ FUSION bldg</p>		<p>13 7:00 PM FUSION Team</p>		<p>14 8:00 AM Prayers for Peace 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:30 AM Pastor Text Study 7:00 PM Doubting Thomas @ Monte's house 1204 Lynd</p> 		<p>15 2:00 PM Birthdays @ G.C.C. 6:30 PM Caring Team @ Kim Rolfe's 6:30 PM Vesper Bells 7:30 PM FUSION 7:30 PM Men's Choir practice NEWSLETTER DEADLINE No Sonshine Bells</p> 		<p>16 2:30 PM Gowrie Care Center Devotions</p>		<p>17</p>		<p>18 8:30 AM Christian Woman Speaks KVFD 1400 AM Radio 5:00 PM Worship</p>	
<p>19 10:30 AM Cooperative Worship Service 10:30 AM Vesper Bells Play 11:30 AM Ham Ball dinner following worship 7:00 PM Youth Group No Sunday School or Adult Bible Study</p>		<p>20 9:30 AM Gowrie Care Center-Taped Service</p> 		<p>21 8:00 AM Prayers for Peace 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:30 AM Pastor Text Study 2:30 PM Worship Team</p>		<p>22 4:00 PM Sonshine Bells after school 6:45 PM Men's Choir practice 7:30 PM FUSION No Vesper Bells</p>		<p>23</p>		<p>24 6:00 PM 7th & 8th grade 30 hour famine</p>		<p>25 7th & 8th grade 30 hour famine</p> 	
<p>26 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 9:15 AM Children's Sunday School 9:50 AM Men's Choir practice 10:30 AM Zion Worship 10:30 AM Men's sings 11:30 AM Mornin Glory Bell Prac 6:30 PM LMIM</p>		<p>27 7:00 PM Doubting Thomas @ Monte's house 1204 Lynd</p> 		<p>28 8:00 AM Prayers for Peace 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:30 AM Pastor Text Study 7:00 PM Zion Council</p>									