

Zion's Caring Voice

Volume 4 Issue 6

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STEPHEN MINISTRY



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



Thrivent

A YEAR OF TIME

...Though even thinking on the subject of time may prove discomfoting, it is not a bad idea—especially at the beginning of a new year.

As we look into 2007 we look at a block of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds. And all is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or

purchase it. Like the air we breathe, time comes to us as a part of life.

The gift of time is not ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak—every man, woman and child has the same twenty-four hours every day.

Another important thing

(Continued on page 4)

Council Minutes

The Zion Lutheran Church Council met on November 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Members present were: Beryl Birkland, Ann Albert, Jeff Peterson, Don Larson, Claire Davis, Colleen Palmer, Kim Rolfes, Gary Kuhn and Pastor Jim Davis.

Don called the meeting to order. Pastor Jim led devotions entitled, "When Doors Close," based on Acts 16:6-10.

The financial reports were reviewed. The Building Fund is currently approximately \$500 in the red. An announcement will be placed in the bulletin

informing the congregation of this and soliciting donations.

Colleen made a motion to accept the financial reports as presented. Ann seconded the motion. Carried.

Colleen made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Gary seconded the motion. Carried.

Jennifer and Sharon Carlson have organized the Children's Christmas program along with the help of others. The council is very grateful for their work.

The maintenance agreement

(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:	ziongowr@wccta.net
Stephen Ministry:	stephencoop@hotmail.com

Website Addresses

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

Zion's Council

Don Larson	.....	Chair
Jeff Petersen	.....	Vice-Chair
Ann Albert		Beryl Birkland
Claire Davis		Gary Kuhn
Colleen Palmer		Kim Rolfes

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Council Minutes

on the copy machine will soon be due. There was discussion regarding what we should do next. Cheryl will be consulted regarding this.

Jeff presented a budget proposal for 2007. After review, Gary moved to accept the budget proposal and recommend it to the congregation. Kim seconded the motion. Carried.

Colleen made a motion to set the annual congregational budget meeting for January 21. Beryl seconded the motion. Carried.

The council will conduct a Phone-a-thon in January.

Christmas Eve worship will

be at 7:00 p.m. on December 24.

A new computer for the office has been purchased.

The council selected individuals to be invited to serve on a Long Range Planning Team.

Gary made a motion to covenant support for Jean Wahlstrom and Marvin Kananen with \$2,000 in 2007. Ann seconded the motion. Carried.

Jeff made a motion to pay for a membership in the Lutheran Resource Center. Gary seconded the motion. Carried.

Pastor Jim reported on the Companion Congregation program. Kyla Mohr and Claire Davis will be assisting him with this. Approximately eighteen

congregations in Western Iowa will be participating in this program.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Rolfes, Secretary

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

**ZION'S MISSION IS TO CARE BY:
REACHING OUT TO OTHERS
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
IN A CHRIST-CENTERED
COMMUNITY
EMPOWERING TO SERVE**

Zion Women of the E.L.C.A.



Act Boldly!!



The One Who Serves

Who is greater, he who sits at the table or he who serves? Luke 22:27

When the Lord asked this question, the obvious answer what "The one being waited on is greater." But Jesus said, "I am among you as the one who serves." Then He washed their feet; He fed them the Sacrament. In God's kingdom, the greater one isn't the one who receives service, but the one who gives service.

God is pure, self-giving Love. He did not create man so man would serve Him, but so He could serve man. He breathed life into His peo-

ple, blessed them with His creation and laid down His life for them. God is glorified in His giving himself to man, not man giving himself to God.

We gather in church as receivers. We give God nothing except thanksgiving for the gifts He freely bestows. It truly is divine service. The Lord is among us as the One who serves—at His table and from His pulpit. The highest form of worship is faith, to receive His gifts and to revere Him as the One from whom all blessings flow.

Lord, grant me humility to receive Your gifts and to serve others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

—Mary Orness, Chairperson

Upcoming Events

January

- 2—Bible Briefing 10:00 a.m.
- 3—Bingo at Gowrie Care Center 2:30 p.m.
Martha Circle in charge
- 4—Dorcas & Esther Circles 9:00 a.m.
Bible Study ..Ruth E. Sandeen
Hostess..... Pauline Johnson
- Martha Circle..... 1:30 p.m.
Bible StudyMary Orness
Hostess.....Ruby Phillips
- NO Rachel Circle**
- 11—Project Day 1:30 p.m.
- 18—General Meeting 1:30 p.m.
Hostesses P h y l l i s
Rasmussen, chr. & Jean Larson



Women's Bible Study

LIBRARY NEWS

New Books in the Church Library



CHURCH LIBRARY

Recent acquisitions for our library include:

Fiction:

Brushstroke Legacy
by Lauraine Snelling

Yada Yada Prayer Group Gets Down
by Neta Jackson
(donated by Cindy Lindquist)

Inspiration or Christian Living:

How Good Do We Have to Be?
by Harold Kushner

Video:

Touched by An Angel: A Christmas Miracle

SUNDAY SCHOOL LIBRARY

Three books to read and three activity books:

The Time of Christmas
The Time of Easter
The Time of the Church

by Suzanne Richterkessing
(Donation from Thrivent and good for Sunday School teachers and parents to use.)

Best Friends—Classic Stories

Illustrated by Thomas Kinkade
(Stories from several well-known authors.)

The Good Shepherd (hard cover)
by Alice Davidson

I Can Read God's Word Series
By Phil Smouse

Born Again! and Other Stories
The Lord is My Shepherd and other Psalms

The Lost Sheep and other stories of Jesus

Treasure in Heaven
(Gary & Andrea Kuhn donated this group of four books for young readers.)

—Marjorie Wahlgren
Librarian

Faithful Attendance!

November

PRESCHOOL

Morgan Farnham
Carson Suchan
Paige Frahm
Izaiah Taylor
Chase Kamp
Lincoln Miller

KINDERGARTEN

Sam Alphas
Ben Carlson
Max Davis
Ivan Hudson
Colton Kamp

1ST & 2ND GRADE

Colton Rasmussen
Jayden Cline
Myles Davis
Jordan Lane
Keenan Mohr

3RD & 4TH GRADE

Allie Carlson
Josh Carlson
Cassie Zinnel

5TH GRADE

Travis Goodale
Maria Towne
Olivia Hanson

Zion Financial Report

	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
ACTUAL INCOME	11,338.00	138,372.48
BUDGETED INCOME	13,618.00	150,313.00
ACTUAL EXPENSES	16,991.56	146,867.74
BUDGETED EXPENSES	13,479.83	149,420.67

(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.

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The Gift of Time

There is a time
for everything,
and a season for every
activity under heaven...



Ecclesiastes 3:1

about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no way to slow it down, turn it off, or adjust it. Time marches on.

And you cannot bring time back. Once it is gone, it is gone forever. Yesterday is lost. If yesterday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look ahead at a full year's block of time, but we really have no guarantee that

we will experience any of it.

Obviously, time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it. We can worry over it. We can spend it on ourselves. Or, as good stewards, we can invest it in the Kingdom of God.

The new year is full of time. As the seconds tick away, will you be tossing time out the window, or will you make every minute count?



STEPHEN MINISTRY

If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:11b

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.



Faithful Attendance!



December

PRESCHOOL

Carson Suchan
Chase Kamp
Lincoln Miller

KINDERGARTEN

Ben Carlson
Max Davis
Jarrett Loseke
Bryce Rasmussen
Carter Lane

3RD & 4TH GRADE

Justin Alphas
Josh Carlson
Miranda Keith
Maggie McCormack

5TH GRADE

Rebecca Nellis
Maria Towne

6TH GRADE

Chelsea Anderson
Nick Carlson

7TH GRADE

Hannah Carlson
Brett Larson
Holden Miller
Megan Peterson
Anthony Schovone
Katie Albright

8TH GRADE

Taylor Warehime
Shanda Carlson
Ashley Carlon
Matt Nellis



**The November 2006
newsletter of Jean
Wahlstrom and Marvin
Kananen
ELCA-GM
missionaries serving in
Tanzania**

Dear sponsors, friends, and family,

Greetings from Tanzania during this, our one hundredth month in the country. About a lifetime ago we came here for three years, maybe five. Now it has been 100 months! This month at the school we have already celebrated six baptisms, followed by nineteen confirmands, all making public faith commitments. The Form Four students took their national exams and left. Soon after, the Form Two students left, having completed their national exams. Today there is an assembly which officially closes this term. Tomorrow the Form Ones and Threes will leave. Only the 77 Pre-Form Ones and the A-levels (Form 5 and 6), the youngest and the oldest, will stay. The A-levels get a short break from the 23rd of Dec to 2nd Jan. All the grades are in, parent reports filed, and teachers sufficiently tired. (Sounds like a farmer with the 'hay in the barn'.) A few teachers are off in other places grading those national exams, assigned by the government.

We are moving now into our warm season following a time of the 'short rains.' This year the coffee has already bloomed (I think it's the first time in six years we will have a fair crop) and these wonderful night rains have turned our world green again. Among the coffee bushes the young grass looks like a newly mown lawn. When things are going right, it's so wonderful to be here. The world is green and life is good.

We love working under our new Head of School, who keeps calling on Jean more and more often to handle situations. Jean is willing. And Marvin's role here is changing slightly as he becomes the A-level English Structure teacher, leaving the Form Four to another. This means, for you who like numbers, that I get six students in Form Six and no way of knowing how many Form Five students instead of sixty Form Four students. I also remain at the other school, Moringe Sokoine, teaching the same thing, with forty-some students in

each class.

We live sort of on the edge of what is possible. From September through January every year we have our Pre-Form One students on campus. This is a program meant to cover seven years of primary education in four months to be certain everyone has a chance to be at the same starting point. Last year we had six teachers, this year we have two. Last year we had 60 something students, this year we have 77. And so in God's wonderful providence, this month two girls walked up. They'll be around into December, and asked if they could help. Uh, like yeah! Our two volunteers, Naomi and Tony, could use extra prayers, extra energy, and more hours in the day. We had a group from Seattle come for a week to work with the Pre-Form Ones so Naomi and Tony could escape for a week's sanity break on Zanzibar, but I wouldn't be surprised if they never forgave us. Their work is so much more than we ever anticipated.

On Sunday the 12th, Jean led two services, the first in Swahili at the Monduli Lutheran Church because they were recording it for broadcast and they wanted her voice, then an hour later we were 45 kilometers away and she was leading an English service while they let Marvin preach. I think they keep inviting him back because they're still waiting for the punch-line. In case you don't ever get to hear his sermons, the punch line goes: 'Jesus is the Lord, so shut up and accept it.' Actually, he hasn't had the nerve to tell them that so bluntly, but he's working on it.

Also, driving home that day in the rain our car jumped off the road and into someone's field, twenty minutes later and in 'Low Four' we crept out, but the male half of us was just covered in mud, wonderfully so. The warm rains here are lovely. But really, in this 'gumbo' kind of mud we were fine and then, suddenly, we were not. We drive a big Toyota Land Cruiser that the ELCA provides. I think only that car and a Land Rover could have gotten out of the mud without assistance (excluding Marvin pushing).

Sometimes we realize that our work here could almost be classified as being 'sacred.' We educate these young women; that is our job and we do it. But for the vast majority of them, if it were not for the Maasae Girls Lutheran Secondary School, there would be no education. The thought of these girls, bright and eager to learn (generally), being left with

Zion's Joyful Music Makers

Thank you to all the groups for the wonderful music during the month of December. It was truly special. 2007! Sounds really strange, doesn't it. I hope you have a safe and blessed New Year. As we enter the season of Epiphany, I pray that the light of the star and the glory of God will shine through you for all to see.

BEGINNERS AND SONSHINE BELLS

- Jan. 10 ... We will have our party**
 Snacks – Colleen
 17both groups after school – Miranda – snack
 24both groups after school – Katie – snack
 31both groups after school – Allie – snack

If school gets out early because of the weather, we will not have practice.

MORNING GLORY BELLS

- Jan. 7NO practice
 14..... practice after church
 21..... practice after church
 28..... practice after church

VESPER RINGERS

- Jan. 10 6:30 practice
 17 6:30 practice
 24 6:30 practice
 28PLAY IN CHURCH
 31NO practice

SENIOR CHOIR

We will practice on Sunday, Jan. 21 at 9:00 and SING IN CHURCH.

—Colleen

PASTORAL ACTS

Pastoral Acts since our last newsletter:

Funerals:

Dianne J. Crouse
 Earl E. Pirie



Just a reminder to everyone that we will be having our annual budget meeting following worship on January 21. Please plan on attending, bring any questions and concerns you may have about our church budget with you.

THRIVENT MEETING

There will be a meeting for all Thrivent members following worship on Sunday, January 14. Anyone wishing to request matching funds from Thrivent, please contact Marsha Farnham (352-3298) prior to the meeting so we can decide how the funds will be distributed.

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the door to any opportunity for further education being slammed in their face is terrifying. They are the few lucky enough to be chosen to be here, but these are the ones who will change the future for their people; the Maasai, and their country. We did not start this project, but those who did believed in something far greater than what was, and it came to pass. When we touch lives, we do touch what is sacred in life.

Those who believed in the 'something far greater' reminds us during this Season of Advent of anticipation of those amazing folks in the scriptures who 'saw' or 'heard' some word of hope from God that help was on the way in the human form of the Messiah. Born to be Light and Hope and King, Jesus was that 'something far greater'.

Blessed are those who hope without fail, who believe without seeing.

In this coming Christmas season, we hope and pray that your lives will be full of family, friends, joy, and confidence. This Advent Season is special. I would hope this year you receive fewer gifts and more love, spend less money and share more time with one another. This is a special season. We rejoice in it with you.

Until January when the next newsletter comes, love and peace and joy be yours, through our Lord Jesus. He's the Christ! Amen!

—Marvin Kananen and Jean Wahlstrom, ELCA - GM missionaries serving in Tanzania.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Birthdays
This Month!

		17	Nicholas Carlson (Marty)
		18	Gary Carstens
		20	Dawn Loseke
		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 Urelus
		25	Duane Lundberg
			Landon McCarthy
		27	Erv Buske
			Steve Mohr
		28	Eleanor Bloomquist
		29	Leonard Jansa
			Marjorie Wahlgren
		30	Morgan Farnham
		31	Katie Clough
			Megan Schill
1	Zanie Rydman		
	Elizabeth Welter		
3	Monte Albert		
7	Trevor Larson		
8	Norm Peterson		
9	Mike Johnson		
10	Tatum Baade		
	Shaylin Carlson		
	Sydney Carlson		
11	Brandon Brohimer		
	Brett Carlson		
	Steve Cathcart		
	Ross Larson		
	Russ Petersen		
	LuAnn Suchan		
12	Jim Fevold		
	Jackie Johnson		
	Megan Peterson (Dennis)		
13	Jaxon Carlson		
14	Ann Albert		
	Brooklynn Anderson		
	Dale Carlson, Sr.		
15	Nuella Franzeen		
16	Mike McGovern		

**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**

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY*

1	Tyler McCubbin
4	David Shavone
19	Cindy Youngquist
29	Marjorie Wahlgren



*** 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.**

JANUARY CHURCH DUTIES

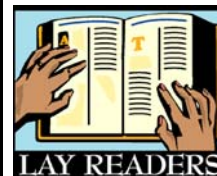
GREETERS

7	Jim & LuAnn Suchan
	Phil & Natalie Fevold
14	Melanie Clark & Mary Larson
	Chad & Angie Burger
21	Jim & Jennifer Carlson
	Evan & Jon Telleen
28	Bill & Julie Mosher
	Kyle & Sarah Kuhn

Ellis Harklau
Greg Anderson
Kenneth Pedersen
Bob Sease
Bruce Towne
Brandon Brohimer



USHERS



LAY READERS

7	Almeda Gordon
14	Darrel Mischke
21	Amy Carlon
28	Jeff Kruse



Our Nursing
Home Ministry

GOWRIE
CARE
CENTER

14	Dennis & Carol Barnum
28	Dick & Pauline Johnson



Kim Rolfes & Gary Kuhn

Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year

<p>1 New Year's Day- Office Closed</p> 	<p>2 8:00 AM Prayers for Peace 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Bible Briefing 11:30 AM Pastor Text Study</p>	<p>3 2:30 PM Bingo at Gowrie Care Center 7:30 PM FUSION No Beginners or Sonshine Bells No Rachel Circle No Vesper Bells</p>	<p>4 9:00 AM Dorcas & Esther Circle 1:30 PM Martha Circle</p> 	<p>5</p>	<p>6 5:00 PM Worship</p> 
<p>7 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Zion Worship 7:00 PM Youth Group NO Morning Glory Bells</p>	<p>8 9:30 AM Gowrie Care Center- Taped Service 7:00 PM Stephen Minister Training</p> 	<p>9 8:00 AM Prayers for Peace 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:30 AM Pastor Text Study</p>	<p>10 4:00 PM Sonshi- ne and Begin- ner Bells 5:45 PM Church of Damascus Road 6:30 PM Vesper Bells 7:30 PM FUSION</p>	<p>11 1:30 PM Project Day</p> 	<p>12 13</p>
<p>14 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Zion Worship 11:30 AM Morning Glory Bell Practice 11:30 AM Thrivent meeting following worship 7:00 PM "Connections" @ FUSION bldg **Secret Angel Sunday**</p>	<p>15 5:00 PM Doubt- ing Thomas @ Dennis' house 7:00 PM Stephen Minister Training</p>  <p>Newsletter DEADLine</p>	<p>16 8:00 AM Prayers for Peace 11:30 AM Pastor Text Study 2:30 PM Worship Team</p>	<p>17 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM Sonshi- ne and Begin- ner Bells 6:30 PM Vesper Bells 7:30 PM FUSION</p>	<p>18 1:30 PM WELCA General Meeting 2:30 PM Gowrie Care Center Devotions</p>	<p>19 20 5:00 PM Worship</p>
<p>21 9:00 AM Senior Choir practice 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Zion Worship 11:30 AM Congregational Budget Meeting following worship 11:30 AM Morning Glory Bell Practice 7:00 PM Youth Group</p>	<p>22 9:30 AM Gowrie Care Center- Taped Service 7:00 PM Stephen Minister Training</p> 	<p>23 8:00 AM Prayers for Peace 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:30 AM Pastor Text Study 7:00 PM Zion Council</p>	<p>24 4:00 PM Sonshi- ne and Begin- ner Bells 6:30 PM Vesper Bells 7:30 PM FUSION</p>	<p>25 26 27</p>	
<p>28 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10:30 AM Zion Worship 10:30 AM Vesper Bells Play 11:30 AM Morning Glory Bell Practice 6:30 PM Lutheran Men in Mission</p>	<p>29 7:00 PM Stephen Minister Training</p> 	<p>30 8:00 AM Prayers for Peace 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Bible Briefing 11:30 AM Pastor Text Study</p>	<p>31 1:00 PM Alzheim- er's Meeting @ Gowrie Care Center 4:00 PM Sonshi- ne and Begin- ner Bells 7:30 PM FUSION No Vesper Bells</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Zion's Caring Ministry January 2007</p>	