

# ZION News – February

A monthly publication of Zion Lutheran Church

Vol. 2011 - Issue 2

February 3, 2011

## Zion continues to **Reach out in Love ... with a “valentine Special”**

### worshipService: Neighborhood & Community Meal

Wednesday, Feb. 16th at 6:00pm  
(crafts for kids beginning at 5:30)



**This month it’s a delicious, heart-**warming meal of Lasagna, Salad, and Bread, and lots of fellowship with our neighbors & friends, with help (and desserts :) from our friends at St. Mark Lutheran



Sign up is posted on the window-wall at the office.

*Pencil yourself in for what you can contribute and/or do,  
and come be blessed in being a blessing!*



Acts 2:42

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”*

### “Thursday Church”

Word and Sacrament,  
simple & straightforward

Thursdays, 5:30—6:30pm  
In the Lounge with Pr. Del

*A GREAT place & time to  
INVITE a friend!  
Casual. Conversational. Church.*

Matthew 18:20

*[Jesus said,] For where two or three  
are gathered in my name, I am there*

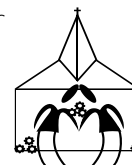


### COATS ‘Cuz WE CARE

Our Sunday School children’s coat drive, led by the intrepid Ms Kate Kealey, will go through Feb. 13th.

We are collecting clean, gently used winter coats for children & adults to give to those in need.

Drop-off zone is in the hall just to the right of the entryway. If you **don’t have a coat to donate, you** can give money toward the purchase of coats for kids in need. Contact Jody Kealey, Linda Baustian, or Pastor Ritva for more info.



### Also in this issue

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*Pastor Ritva writes about ...*  
**THAT WHICH MUST NOT BE NAMED IN MAINLINE CHURCHES!**

Can you guess what it is? It's the "E" word.... Evangelism.... But you never heard me actually say it. That was just a tiny little whisper....

How would you respond to the following questions?

1. Zion Lutheran Church is effectively reaching unchurched persons? True or False
2. Zion Lutheran Church provides training in sharing Christ with others? True or False

Let's think about question #1: Every third Wednesday we have a large crowd of people at our worship:Service community meals. This past Wednesday there was a whole lot of people lined up on the stairs going down to the food pantry. I have a hunch that many of them are unchurched people, so maybe we are reaching some unchurched persons in our neighborhood. But I'm not 100% sure, because I haven't really talked to any of those folks about faith – mine or theirs. Have you?

In response to question #2: in November six of our members traveled to the Synod's Mission Center in Iowa City to attend a "Congregational Renewal Resourcing Event." They came back committed to initiating a renewal process here at Zion. That process is now underway. The original six - Sue & Steve Keller, Tom Handlen, Mary Lou Kelley, Kris Preston and Kirsten Wright - have been joined by Anita Hagen, Janine Johnson, Cary Scott and myself. Together we are working through an eight week study of *Unbinding the Gospel* by Martha Grace Reese.

*Unbinding the Gospel* grew out of Reese's "Mainline \_\_\_\_\_ Project" [fill in the blank with THAT WHICH MUST NOT BE NAMED, if you dare!], a four year study of highly effective faith sharing practices in seven mainline denominations across the country. *Unbinding the Gospel* leads participants to consider **why** we ought to be doing "E---" and what it really is: **"E--- is anything you do to help another person move closer to a relationship with God, or into Christian community"** (p. 9). Even more importantly this 8 week study is leading **us** to move closer to God through Scripture, prayer and faith sharing. It is helping **unbind our hearts, our minds, our souls and our mouths** so that we can more effectively share our faith with our families, friends, co-workers, neighbors, perhaps even strangers who are hungry to hear some good news.

*Unbinding the Gospel* is the first step in a series of 3 resources intended to renew congregations and overcome their fear of THAT WHICH MUST NOT BE NAMED! As of June 12,000 congregations across the country were using these resources. Here's what participants are saying about their experiences:

*"I've never prayed this way. It's hard, but it's amazing. I'm seeing God really doing things in my life. It's changing the way I see people."*

*"We've never talked this openly with each other in our church. We're so close now. It's wonderful. We don't want this group to stop."*

*"I had really bad feelings about e---. I kept thinking about tracts and arguing people into some 'right' position. But this is different. I can do this! I'm starting to see opportunities to talk to people normally."*

In a couple weeks you are all going to receive an invitation to join the second stage of this renewal process by becoming part of a six week small group Lenten study of *Unbinding Your Heart – 40 Days of Prayer and Faith Sharing*. Small groups will be meeting on Monday mornings, Thursday evenings, and Sunday evenings (as part of the School of Christian Living) and any other time that works for you. Look for the announcements and sign-up sheets....Come, learn how to move closer to God, and overcome your fear of THAT WHICH MUST NOT BE NAMED IN MAINLINE CHURCHES!

*Blessings,*  
*Pastor Ritva*



*Baptized into ...*


Owen Michael Keppy  
 January 9, 2011

*... New Life!*

*Married...*

Gregory & Ann Marie (Mooney) Keppy  
 January 15, 2011

Scott & Jacqui (Liljequist) Plumb  
 January 15, 2011

*"Abide in my Love"* 

## February Christian Education & Fellowship



Suggestions from SPARK Team:

SPARK **Sunday** School children have begun reading from the New Testament! They became familiar with John the Baptist, that unusual man called to "get people ready for Jesus." We found that by what we do and by what we say, we are all God's messengers.

We have now met the first followers of Jesus--the disciples--and learned that all of us can follow Jesus, too. We will continue turning to the Gospels as we delve into familiar stories of Jesus' ministry, beginning with the surprising occurrence during a wedding at Cana.

Again, we thank everyone who has been willing to work with Zion's youth on **Sunday** mornings. New leaders and shepherds are always welcome. We are eager to help you get started at any time! Please keep looking over workshop schedules posted across from the church office. Then, sign up to lead or shepherd those that appeal to you.

**May** God continue to SPARK us all to love-in-action!

SPARK Leadership Team  
Linda Baustian, Anne Flynn, and Ellen Heritage



### Confirmation News ...

Confirmation is back in full swing with the curriculum: "**Here We Stand**" for our 6th-7th-8th graders!

**We're continuing in study of the Old & New Testaments with Pastor Ritva, Pastor Del, "Grandma" Jay Eldredge, and enlisting the help of parent-small group leaders.**

See YOU there for Here WE Stand!

### NOTE TO 7th Graders:

Confirmation Camp at EWALU will be a part of your summer— either the 2nd or 3rd week of June. Please check your summer schedules now and get that "reserved." Pastors will let us know the definite week by the end of February.

THANKS!

### Winston says "THANK YOU!"

(along with his owner, Tim Mahr)



Bailey's uncle (Toni Jensen's brother) Tim Mahr and family offer "humble thanks to all of you for your "Wishes for Winston" bake sale last fall. We are overwhelmed by your generosity! Because of your help we are now able to enroll Winston in "school" and begin training as a safety dog for Tim (who suffers frequent epileptic seizures), which will not only help Tim, but will also help our family & friends as we worry about Tim's safety. We feel blessed to receive this outpouring of caring by all of you who donated (baking, buying, coordinating & set-up). Of course Bailey Hermann, his mom Toni (and the entire Confirmation group!) deserve a HUGE thank-you for making this a service project. It took a lot of courage and consideration! We cannot put into words our feelings ... just know we are forever grateful!"

Tim Mahr & Barb Dreyer

## Reaching Out in Love ...

### ... In the Neighborhood

A **BIG** thank you to all who have helped with Neighborhood Ministry activities this past month, as always your help has been instrumental in keeping things going. January was a busy month and we look forward to February being just as busy.



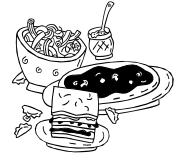
**Food Pantry:** Big news the move of the pantry from Hope House to the church is complete and we are working through some of the glitches that come with a move and change. We are very excited about our new digs as we have more space for food and a much more comfortable area for our guests to wait. We officially opened our doors at Zion on January 24<sup>th</sup> and served 25 families; all who came seemed very comfortable with the new surroundings. The pantry's new location is Room 5 downstairs and across from the Youth Lounge. Stop by and check it out.

The Food Pantry is open Monday and Wednesday 3:30-5:00. There is always need for help, so please consider how you might be able to assist. There is need for people to stock shelves, pick up food at the food bank, check guests in and put boxes together for distribution. This ministry of Zion reaches those in our neighborhood and community who struggle with making ends meet each month. Is God calling you to be a part of this ministry?

On February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm there will be a meeting of Food Pantry volunteers and those interested in learning more about the Pantry. We will meet in the Lounge for a short meeting to review how

things are going since the move and to answer any questions of those who may be interested in helping out. Please feel free to join us and if you have any questions please contact Janine.

Zion worshipService Dinner: A Special Valentine Dinner will be held on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:00; an Italian dinner of lasagna, salad, bread and cookies/cupcakes will be served. Also from 5:30-6:00 there will be an opportunity for the children to make Valentines to give to their family and friends; it may be a couple of days late but it is never too late to share with those closest to us our love for them and God's love. We will need help at the craft tables, with set up and clean up and with providing the lasagnas, salads, and bread. Please consider signing up to help, as you are able, on the sign up sheets on the "glass wall" outside the office. This month we will be joined by St. Mark's confirmation class who will provide the dessert and fresh fruit. We will again be welcoming our friends from Augustana. What a blessing and joy to have these additional hands to share in this ministry. Come and join in the fun and fellowship of this monthly Zion and Neighborhood Event.



worshipService Dinner Planners will meet February 22 at 4:15 in the Lounge to plan March's dinner. All those interested in helping to plan March's dinner join us on February 22 (Next month's dinner is March 16).

Quick reminder: Ham Hop coming in April....mark your calendars.

God's Peace to All, Janine Johnson



### ... And on the Global front

The Global Ministry team is hoping to organize a project(s) within our Zion congregation to work with the people of Haiti through Beyond Borders, Haiti Partners and/or the ELCA Disaster Response. Beyond Borders has worked in Haiti for over 20 years; Haiti Partners is its new partner organization in Haiti, in its second year of existence. Beyond Borders has a long-standing relationship with many people and organizations of Haiti, and through Haiti Partners, they were in place to respond to the earthquake disaster immediately and the on-going challenges that have followed. Both citizens of the US and of Haiti work and serve in their ministries together.

News stories on TV have often shared much of what has NOT been accomplished since the earthquake in Jan. 2010. And while those evaluations are, no doubt, true in many ways, they most certainly do not tell the stories of achievement, hope, and progress that have and are happening.

Beyond Borders and Haiti Partners, as well as Lutheran World Relief and the ELCA, (and countless other organizations and peoples) helped in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake with emergency food, clean water, medicines and medical care, emergency shelter, generally in the form of huge tents that housed up 50 people at night and served as schools by day. As the year continued, 6 schools have been rebuilt, many now newly equipped with lap top computers; more Haitian teachers trained (and thus more jobs), children returned to school and a "normal routine," trauma counseling services provided, and major efforts to reunite families. An additional 270 child advocates have been trained and more planned to continue to reunite displaced children with families and ensure that they get to attend schools. Loans ranging from \$50-\$250 have been given to many families. 6000 Bibles in the Creole language have been shared. Churches are being rebuilt. (A note however - in cases where churches have not yet been finished, etc., congregations meet beside the buildings, filled with sorrow, yes, but also praise and gratitude!) This listing only touches the surface of accomplishments. There is so much more for the people of Haiti to do, but they have overcome enormous obstacles.

It is still a very long road, one that with prayers of all of us walking along side our brothers and sisters in Haiti, we can help their progress continue. Global ministry will have more in the coming weeks and months so stay tuned (or prayed!) in. We can be one spark of hope, of kindness, of sharing - all because of and in the gentle and mighty love of Jesus.

## For Our Seniors ...

### Sweet, heartfelt Birthday Wishes to these Zion Seniors who will celebrate in February!

2/02 Charles Dau  
2/03 Kenneth Buckmeyer  
2/03 Edward Molis  
2/06 Dianne Guerrero  
2/09 Walter Smith  
2/15 Jean Shepherd  
2/19 Lisa Zosulis  
2/22 Sharon Lorenzen  
2/22 Ruth and Ray Sterner  
2/25 Barbara Grady

### O.W.L.'s (Older Wiser Lutherans)

WE may be "over" winter by now, but WINTER doesn't seem to be done with us yet... stay warm, but come out of hibernation on Thursday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> for our first get-together of 2011. We'll be doing our favorite - - LUNCH of course - - at the Family Square restaurant in Davenport, 11:30am. Bring your favorite "valentine" and come out for fun!

Please let Grace Haller (324-8463) or Phyllis Beck (391-7518) to let us know you're coming so we can reserve enough tables.

*Grace & Phyllis, OWL planners*

### Thank-You!(s)

**Quad City Singers** would like to thank Zion for your hospitality in hosting our jazz concert in May 2010. We certainly appreciate your help and support of our group by allowing us to use your beautiful facility!

*Sincerely yours,  
Holly Kennedy, President QC Singers*



Dear Members of Zion Lutheran Church,

Our group, **Artists Unlimited**, would like to thank you for providing a place for us to meet for several years now. We also greatly appreciate the help given to us by James Hill & Beth Longlett whenever we need it.



*Thank you again,  
Artists Unlimited*

To our Zion family,

We would like to say "Thank you" for all the cards, kind words, bake sales, attending the Trivia night, and prayers over the past two years as Greg fought his battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). You are all such special people, and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

*In Greg's memory,  
Vicky Arp, Chris Arp, Tony & Laura(Arp) Frankowski, and the Arp families.*



Speaking of birthdays ... Save the date!

**Zion's 150th Anniversary**  
*is June 10, 2012*

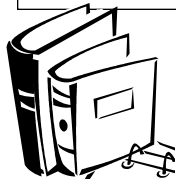
The Anniversary Planning Committee is  
getting geared up!

Details to follow in the months ahead.

### "SouperBowl" Sunday is QUARTER Sunday at Zion!

Although Zion is not participating in the official Souper-Bowl of Caring campaign this year, we are continuing our Social Ministry team's "QUARTER Sunday" program. So, bring all your spare change ... and a few bills if you want ... to church with you on Sunday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, and help fight hunger - around the world and right here in our communities!

# Small Groups and Such ...



## Morning Book Review

The date: Monday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>

The time: 9:00am

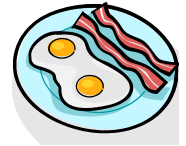
The place: Zion's Lounge

The book: **The Unlikely Disciple** by Kevin Roose

The story: Brown University sophomore Kevin Roose grew up in a small liberal college town. He describes his home as "practically religion-free." His parents were occasional Quakers who attended the Christmas service at a nearby Baptist church because they liked to sing Christmas carols. He went to high school at a Quaker boarding school, and holidays were spent with his Episcopalian grandparents. Kevin decided to transfer to Liberty University, Jerry Falwell's "Bible Bootcamp," which seemed incomprehensible to his friends and family. This book is about how that semester unfolds...

Availability: Limited editions available in area libraries. None available in used book stores, but may be ordered new through local stores. If anyone has a copy to loan, please talk to Anita Hagen.

## Zion Men's Group



The **Zion Men's group** (ALL welcome!) will meet on Saturday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am at the Hickory Gardens restaurant in Davenport.

ALL men are welcome to join in this monthly morning of breakfast, fellowship, and brief Bible study led by Tom Handlen or one of the 'regulars' of the group. Join us - bring a friend!



Feel free to call Tom if you have questions or are interested in coming for the first time.



## "Immersed in the Word"



(Pr. Ritva's morning Bible study)

Mondays 10:30am in Room 8

All adult learners welcome!

We are coming near the end of our study of the gospel of John, and will finish it at the end of this month. We will begin a new series "Unbinding Your Heart" in March, part of the congregational renewal process [Unbinding the Gospel](#).

If you are able to come, please do, we'd love to have some newcomers as well as our 'regulars.'

## Figures & Financial Facts:

Regular Budget offerings, Jan.2011 =	\$ 21,489.77
JAN. 2011 Actual Expenses =	\$ 26,297.48
Covered by Legacy funds =	\$ 4,807.71
<i>per Legacy Committee &amp; Council approval</i>	
Current month status +/-	+\$ 0.00

Thank-you, Zion for God's work through our hands!

## ZION Introduces On-Line GIVING

You can give your offerings on-line now! Go to [www.ziondavenport.org](http://www.ziondavenport.org) and look for the blue GiveNow button below the pictures. Click there and it will take you into the process of direct-giving of your offerings to Zion. Please note that there is a transaction fee that the administrative service (Vanco) takes off the top of the amount. (ie: if you put in a contribution of \$100, approx. \$97.00 of it will actually come to Zion.) Any more questions, give us a call, we'll be happy to get you answers.

## Calling All First-Year COLLEGE Students!



Zion has received info & applications from **Luther College and Iowa State's Beta Sigma Psi fraternity for Scholarships** to be awarded for fall of 2011.

Luther has three: the Peterson Church Relations (\$750), the Kristi Hermeier (up to \$500), and the Geneveive Stelberg (\$500). Iowa State has three Darryl Jahn Memorial scholarships (\$1500 ea.) to award.

Anyone interested? If so, stop in or call the Zion office pronto, as the applications must be mailed by February 15<sup>th</sup> (Luther) and 25<sup>th</sup> (ISU).

## Called Together in Mission

A resource event for congregations of the SE Iowa Synod  
Saturday, March 12, 2010

8:30am - 4:00pm

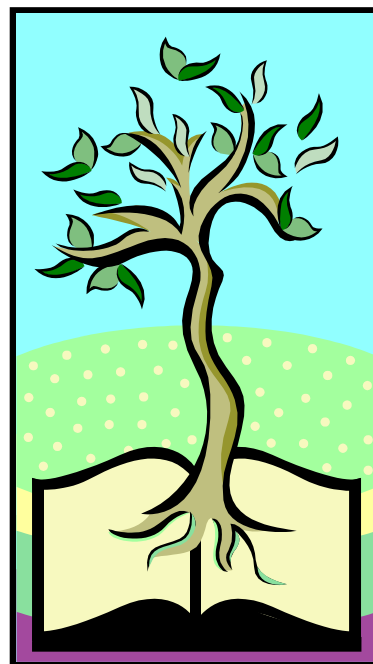
First Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids IA

# *Deep Roots*

## *Christian worship in Our Local Places*

With special guest speaker,

the Rev. Dr. Benjamin M. Stewart,  
Gordon A. Braatz Assistant Professor of Worship &  
Dean of Augustana Chapel,  
Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago IL



GREAT Workshops, too, for folks of all ages, such as:

- Centering Prayer
- Connecting People To & In Ministry: New ways to look at & connect volunteers
- **Relational Evangelism: An "Old" Idea Recycled**
- Future of the Church (parts 1 & 2)
- Life Passages (baptism, confirmation, weddings, funerals, and more faith milestones)
- Prayer Labyrinth
- LI FT: Living Into the Future Together
- Stereotypes: We All Have Them
- Sunday School Open Forum
- Youth & Family Ministry Teams: What do we do now?

And Many, MANY More!!!

*ALL are invited to benefit from this event. There's something for everyone at CTIM. Zion will help with cost for anyone who wishes to attend.*

*Full catalog of workshops & registration info in the Zion office—see Beth.*

*Stop in & look NOW, we have to register by Feb. 28th. Let's GO, ZION!*

# ALTAR FLOWERS 'GIVING'

## - FEBRUARY

- Feb. 6 - Open
- Feb.13 - Open
- Feb.20 - Deb Hughes
- Feb.27 - Darrell & Kathy Longlett



The new flower chart for 2011 is posted now. Please sign up for a Sunday –or- an alternate offering, to the fund of your choice in lieu of flowers.

Remember, you can give flowers for the altar – or– **an alternative offering to one of Zion's special funds** (ie: Brown Bag, Scholarship fund, etc.) in lieu of flowers. On such Sundays, we will have 2 green plants adorning the altar.

### USHERS - February 2011

(One Svc - 9:00am)

Jack Hodges, Chuck Dau, Deb Hughes, Mike & Jake Hamann

Attn: Ushers ...

WE NEED MORE OF YOU!! Please ask someone you think might be interested in the easy job and let Bud Kelley know.

### Communion Assistants - FEB.

(One svc—9:00am)

- Feb. 6 - at the Altar
- Feb. 13 - Gail Abbs & Mary Schnack
- Feb. 20 - OPEN
- Feb. 27 - Tom & Opal Handlen



### TELLERS - February 2011

(One Service - 9:00am)

- 2/06 - Chuck Dau, Dave Wright, Lois Kershaw, Eva Hammond
- 2/13 - John & Roxeann Ford, Birdine Tucker, Lisa Zosulis
- 2/20 - Stu Goldsmith, Delores Smith, Doug Kline
- 2/27 - Mark & Beth Meyer, Mike Hamann, Gene Rome

### Greeters for February 2011

(One Service 9:00am)

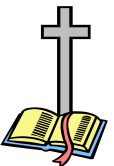
- 2/06 Ruth Ann Greve
- 2/13 Laurie & Jessica Elliott
- 2/20 Wanda & Allen McDonnell
- 2/27 Allen & Wanda McDonnell

We NEED GREETERS! Call Grace Haller at 324-8463 if you can help out with this EASY and FUN ministry of hospitality!

### Lectors— February 2011

(One Svc - 9:00am)

- Feb. 6 Cary Scott
- Feb. 13 Mary Schnack
- Feb. 20 Gail Abbs
- Feb. 27 Tom Handlen



### February COMMUNION

#### Set-Up/Clean-Up



- Feb. 6 Jensen-Hermann family (glasses)
- Feb.13 OPEN (glasses)
- Feb.20 Elliott family (intinction)
- Feb.27 Mary Lou Vikdal (glasses)

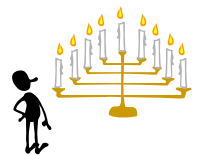
February LINENS Care: MLVikdal

THANKS!

### ACOLYTES - FEBRUARY 2011

(One Svc at 9:00am)

- Feb. 6 Bailey Hermann, Courtney Hamann
- Feb. 13 TBA
- Feb. 20 TBA
- Feb. 27 TBA



THANKS BE TO GOD FOR EACH OF YOU and the dependable leadership you give to our worship. If you cannot serve when assigned, please try to switch with **someone or get a sub for your 'shift.'**

PEACE! Beth Longlett

## Council Highlights

### Excerpts from January 11, 2011

*(Full copy of Council meeting minutes posted across from the Church office)*

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dianne Rasmus, Gina Geering, Mike Hamann, Todd Grady, Brad Kirkeeng, Sue Keller, Bob Lehms

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Pastor Del Preston, Pastor Ritva Williams

Pastor Del opened the meeting with “Empty Me” from Guerillas of Grace.

MSC— Minutes of the December 14 Council meeting be accepted as written.

The December Parochial report was reviewed.

### PASTORS’/STAFF TIME

Pastor Del expressed his appreciation for the continued service of council members during the past year.

Pastor Ritva reported that 10 members of Zion have begun “Unbinding the Gospel” sessions, a program that trains people to be small group leaders with a goal of facilitating faith-sharing.

### REPORTS:

#### Property

Moving of HOPE House services will begin in January. The 22 desks from classroom #5 will be offered to Zion members first, then whatever is left will be donated.

#### Finance

MSC - Approve December financial statements as submitted.

### OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1.) Mike Hamann thanked council members for all their efforts during the past year.
- 2.) It was felt that as new Council assumes its leadership role, holding a council retreat should be a priority.

The meeting adjourned with prayer by Mike Hamann.



## Highlights from the Annual Meeting held January 23, 2011

*(Full copy of meeting minutes posted across from the Church office)*

The meeting was called to order at 10:15am with 68 signed in attendance.

President Mike Hamann said that although 2010 had been a “roller-coaster year,” many things happened to allow Zion to grow. He believes “we have become strong and will become stronger.” Since there will always be work ahead of us, he urged everyone to consider committee/ministry team involvement.

In his report, Pastor Del reaffirmed his belief in Zion’s ministry, and feels we have a bright future. He has heard youth “bubbling with ideas for mission.” He knows 2011 will be another challenging year, but also a year to see results of things we have started.

Pastor Ritva announced that Zion is poised to celebrate our 150th anniversary, and that ELCA (SE Iowa Synod) Bishop Michael Burk has agreed to come to Zion on June 10, 2012, as part of our celebration.

Reporting for the Nominating committee, Mike Hamann presented the following for Zion Council terms: John Ford, Jody Kealey, Gene Rome (Property Trustee), Jenny Winn, and Dave Wright. There being no nominations from the floor, it was moved, seconded, and carried that a unanimous vote be cast for all nominees.

Zion was blessed to receive a \$119,000 bequest from Gretchen Dietz’ estate. Being no restrictions for its use, the money has been added to the Legacy fund.

Legacy funds support projects that expand Zion’s mission, enhance our property, or help Zion to grow. Requests for funds are to be submitted in writing to the Legacy committee, where they are reviewed. If accepted, Legacy then submits the requests to Zion Council for approval.

Pastor Del and Darrell Longlett (Treasurer) presented the 2011 Budget Proposal and addressed questions/comments. A spontaneous round of applause followed the announcement that we have no debt!

MSC - The proposed Budget for 2011 be accepted as presented.

Written reports of committees, ministry teams and organizations were accepted/acknowledged.

Outgoing Council members, as well as Zion staff and their families were thanked for leadership and dedicated service. The meeting adjourned with prayer.

