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# *The Contact*

*February 2005*

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## **Worship Schedule**

**Sunday Worship Service 8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.  
9:15 A.M. Sunday School**

**Mid-week Lenten Services  
5:30 P.M.**

Zion Lutheran Church  
PO Box 585  
6th & Sycamore St  
Muscatine, IA 52761  
563-263-5074

Return service requested

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The report of the ELCA Task Force on Sexuality is now in. The complete report is available on the ELCA website, [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org). The task force has made three recommendations. I list them briefly here.

The first, in my mind, is the most important:

*“Because the God-given mission and communion we share is at least as important as the issues about which faithful conscience-bound Lutherans find themselves to decisively at odds, the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality recommends that the ELCA concentrate on finding ways to live together faithfully in the midst of our disagreements.”*

The second recommendation regarding the blessing of same sex unions would essentially formalize the current pastoral guidance of bishops in this church who stated in 1993:

*“We . . . recognize that there is basis neither in Scripture nor tradition for the establishment of an official ceremony by this church for the blessing of a homosexual relationship. We, therefore, do not approve such as ceremony as an official action of the this church’s ministry. Nevertheless, we express trust in and will continue dialogue with those pastors and congregations who are in ministry with gay and lesbian persons, and affirm their desire to explore the best ways to provide pastoral care for all to whom they minister.”*

The third recommendation states that the ELCA should continue to adhere to the current standards for ordination and rostered ministries which would preclude rostering people in committed same sex relationships. However, the report goes on to state:

*“... as a pastoral response to the deep divisions among us, this church may choose to refrain from disciplining those who is good conscience, and for the sake of outreach, ministry, and the commitment to continuing dialogue, call or approve partnered gay or lesbian candidates whom they believe to be otherwise in compliance with (current policies) and to refrain from disciplining those rostered people so approved”*

These recommendations now go on to various groups on their way to the Churchwide Assembly in August. They may be changed along the way. There will be forum for our conference at which Bishop Hougen and voting members to the Churchwide Assembly will be present on Sunday, February 13, (place to be announced) at 3:00 PM. All are welcome at this forum to hear discussion or speak to the issues presented in the report. We will have a limited number of copies of this report available at the church. I urge you to be informed.

**Lent** comes upon us early this year. Our theme, this year, will be, *This Lenten Road*. As we make our way to Jerusalem, there will be many opportunities to assist you in your walk on that Lenten Road:

- Midweek Lenten worship will again be offered on Wednesdays beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 9. Light meals will be served after the services on February 16, 23 & March 2, 9 & 16. Together we will be walking The Road to Damascus, The Road to the Wilderness, The Road Home, The Road to Jerusalem, The Road to Jericho, and The Bethany Road.
- Centered Life Small Groups will be gathering on Sundays and Wednesdays to discuss, *A Christian’s Calling in the World*.
- High School youth will be offered the opportunity to walk the *Lenten Road* and meet, for 5 Wednesdays, after the Lenten Midweek worship & meals. They will gather for conversation and a look (through the lens of faith and scripture) at favorite Bible Stories or current world events. It will last for one hour. Participants will receive a Lenten key tag.
- Families with children in Sunday School will be given their own Lenten Road to travel--*Meeting Jesus on the Lenten Road*. A “road” will be distributed to them on Sunday, February 6 & 13. Then for the weeks of Lent, they can collect the seven Lenten sticker activities to place on their road and together follow the directions for each meeting along the road.

*Those of us who walk along this road  
Do so reluctantly.*

*Lent is not our favorite time of year.*

*... Give us the trust to know we’re  
forgiven,*

*and give us the faith  
to take up our lives and walk.*

(Ann Weems)

## PRAYER CORNER

*"Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus  
and for all people according to their needs."*

### THOSE HOSPITALIZED & THOSE WHO HAVE REQUESTED OUR CONTINUED PRAYERS:

Tim Stange    Karen Padgett    Lynn Heitmann  
Lisa (Frieden) Dowell    Art Miller  
Betty Miller    Chet Axel    Kathy Wagner  
Helen Frietag    Ruth Umbanhowar    Jackie Opel

### Our 2005 Congregational Council

Tom Burzlaff    Austin Cole    Deb Hughes  
Dave Hanson    Pam Dettmann    Fran Carter  
Mike Batenhorst    Bill Chrisman    Roger Roskens  
Kent Heckman    LoAnne Worth    Dyann Roby  
Jeff Kokemuller

### Other Special Needs:

- 1) Pray for the hungry and the homeless throughout the world and for those for whom the cold weather will present special challenges and danger.
- 2) Pray for our missionary to Mexico, Katherine Grafft; our Bishops, Mark and Philip, and all who serve the Church.
- 3) Pray for our nation, for peace in our world, an end to all conflicts, and for all those who serve our nation on foreign soil.
- 4) Pray for our fourth grade students who are preparing to receive their first communion.
- 5) Pray that Lent might be a time of renewal for all in our congregation.
- 6) Give thanks for the birth of Matthew Lawrence to Scott and Michelle Richardson.
- 7) Pray for all who serve in Congress and in the state Legislature as the new terms begin.
- 8) Pray for those affected by the Tsunami in South Asia and for the relief efforts there, especially for the work of Lutheran World Relief.



The Fellowship Committee invites you to express your warmest wishes to the following members of Zion who celebrate their 80th or older birthday this month:

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO**

**BETTY BRECKENFELDER    FEBRUARY 8**

\*DENOTES 90+ YEARS



### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 9, with services and Holy Communion at 5:30 P.M. Our theme for the Lenten season this year is "This Lenten Road". Be watching the mail in mid-month for a complete listing of the services for Lent and Holy Week at Zion.



*Anniversaries  
this  
Month*

### **50+ YEARS**

Jack & Mary Ann Stange  
February 6, 1949

Warren & Arlene Erickson  
February 27, 1949

# Thank You!

I wish to thank all my friends who sent me those beautiful cards for my birthday. I really enjoyed them. God Bless,

Henrietta Bishop

Thank you for helping with my baptism and everything else. Also thank you to the church for the blanket. God Bless,

Molly White

Thank you for the wonderful cards I received during my stay in the hospital and recovery time at home. It is wonderful being back at work. Thanks also to Pastor Paul and Cheryl for filling in for me while I was gone.

Wilma Roach

Thank you for your generous gift of giving from the heart! Once again your assistance through the giving of toys, clothes, wrapping paper, monetary donation, batteries, books art supplies, etc. has given many families in our community a very Merry Christmas. We wish to extend to you and your families the best of the New Year.

Mary Barrett  
S.T.A.R. Director

A big thank you to **Kurt Boche** for the donation of a very nice ping-pong table. We are very fortunate to have received this and our youth will have fun using it.

Zion Lutheran Church

Dear Friends,  
Thank you for the Christmas poinsettia. I've enjoyed it.

Sincerely, Gordon Day

Wishing each of you a very healthy & Happy New Year. Thanks for all the birthday cards, it brings me back to wonderful Zion.

Hazel Kolsrud

## DAFFODIL DAYS

Daffodil's are the first flower in the spring. It is the flower of hope. The American Cancer Society is offering daffodils again this year.

- Orders must be turned in before February 18, 2005
- The flowers will be delivered after March 8.
- Orders **MUST BE** prepaid. Make your checks payable to The American Cancer Society.
- Bouquets of 8-10 daffodil buds are \$7.00.
- Gift of Hope is \$15.00.
- Delivery within the city limits in Wilton.
- Enclose a separate sheet with short gift card message.

Mail your orders to: Daffodils  
803 Climer  
Muscatine, IA 52761



## DID YOU KNOW?

*Newsweek* recently gave Lutheran World Relief an "A+" rating for its relief work. It noted that it promises to give 100% of tsunami relief to victims and that it only costs LWR \$3.00 to raise \$100. (This last figure is much lower than any others listed.)

## Sower's - - -

*Sower's will meet at the home of Cheryl Hollich on February 21, at 6:30 p.m. Come and stitch with us. It is good fun and fellowship.*



# Financial Report

If you would like to see the full report as the finance committee and council sees it and reviews it each month, please call or stop in the church office and we will gladly share it.

## ZLC Monthly Financial Update

	December 2004 Actual	12/12 Year Budget	Year-to-Date Difference
<b>Income</b>			
Budgeted Income	\$ 291,588	\$ 290,100	\$ 1,488
Unbudgeted Income	\$ 20,824	\$ -	\$ 20,824
Total Income	\$ 312,413	\$ 290,100	\$ 22,313
<b>Expenses</b>			
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 288,688	\$ 290,100	\$ (1,412)
Unbudgeted Expenses	\$ 18,409	\$ -	\$ 18,409
Total Expenses	\$ 307,097	\$ 290,100	\$ 16,997
<b>Income - Expenses</b>	\$ 5,315	\$ -	\$ 5,315
<b>Fund Balances</b>			
Current Fund	\$ 27,837		
Memorial Fund	\$ 8,280		
Building Fund	\$ 14,972		
Gateway Apartments	\$ 28,031		

We must come to see that human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and persistent work of (people) willing to be co-workers with God.

- - Martin Luther King Jr.



## LENTEN SMALL GROUPS

There is still time to sign up to be a part of a small group during the season of Lent to discuss the book, The Christian's Calling in the World. These groups are a part of our "Centered Life" emphasis at Zion as we seek to explore further what it means to live out our faith in daily life. Contact the church office if you are interested.



The articles for the newsletter are due on February 21 and the "Contact" will be assembled on February 24th." Everyone is welcome to come and join us, we have a good time and there is usually a snack to be shared.

The Church Office will be closed Monday, February 21 for President's Day.

Winter address for:

Robert Brocket  
Aztec Springs Apt's  
164 N 74th Street, Apt 1108  
Mesa, AZ 85207

Winter address for:

Robert & Sharon Pugh  
La Casa Blanca  
2208 W. Baseline Ave. #81  
Apache Junction, AZ 85220-9503



## Quilting Ladies

Zion's quilting group will start meeting Thursday February 3, 10, 17, 24, 2:00—4:00 p.m. They will meet in the multipurpose room on the lower level of the church.

We invite anyone that wants to help to come and join us. There will be coffee and hot water for tea.

Note the time and day has been changed from previous years.



# SINGING VALENTINES



The Youth Choir will be delivering singing valentines this year on Sunday, February 13. If you would like to send one or more, there are forms available at the church. The cost, which includes a song, a card, and cookie, is \$5.00.

## Supper Club

Join us at Floodwaters February 19 at 6:00 p.m. for fellowship time. The food is wonderful and you will have a good time. Sign up on the bulletin board near the Nursery.



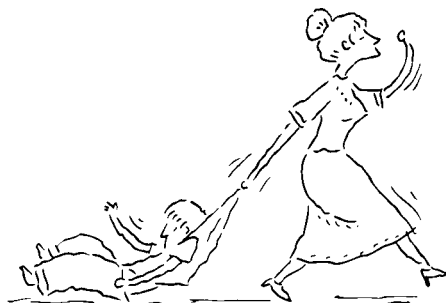
## Grandpa's "drug" Problem

My generation just might have been lucky. I had a "drug" problem when I was young, but I turned out all right anyway.

- I was drug to church
- I was drug to family reunions.
- I was drug out of bed in the early morning.
- I was drug by the ears when I was disrespectful.
- I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents.

Those "drugs" still run through my veins and they affect my behavior— everything I do, say and think.

Signed,  
Grandpa



# ZLCW

## "To Mobilize Women to Act Boldly on Their Faith in Jesus Christ"

This is the Mission Statement for the Women of the ELCA. The women of Zion (ZLCW) are looking forward to learning how we can mobilize ourselves to act on our faith.

There are several opportunities here at Zion. We have monthly Bible Studies, service groups, Sunday School teachers, choir members, council members and many others. YES, the women of Zion do act boldly in their faith.

Each month we will inform you of upcoming events within our Cluster and our Synod. Check the bulletin board on the first floor for new and exciting opportunities.

Events coming up:

- At Zion: February 3, 10, 17, 24—  
 Quilting for Missions  
 February 7— ZLCW Board Mtg.  
 February 16—March 16—  
 Lenten Dinners  
 February 18— Group 4  
 February 20— Group 5  
 February 27— Group 6

Cluster 7 April 23— Spring Gathering

Positions available to serve on the Cluster Board—Contact Cheryl Jacobsen if interested.

SE Iowa Synod  
 June 17-18 Women's Gathering at Grinnell, IA\*

National WELCA  
 July 8-10 Triennial Gathering at San Antonio, TX\*

\*Some Scholarships available

As you can see, there are many exciting things ahead—just for you— Women of Zion

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## Altar Flowers – 2005

The “flower chart” for 2005 is now posted on the bulletin board by the nursery. If you would like to sponsor the flowers on the altar for a given Sunday, please sign up.



### JUST IN!

As we “go to press” we have just learned that the “listening post” mentioned in Pastor Paul’s article will be at Bethany Lutheran Church, West Branch, on Sunday, February 13, from 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Anyone who would like to hear more or comment about the report of the ELCA Task Force on Sexuality is welcome to attend. Bishop Hougen, members of the synod council, and voting members to the churchwide assembly in August will be present.

## “The Lutheran”

In the current packet of offering envelopes there is included an envelope for “The Lutheran” magazine. This official publication of the ELCA comes into the homes of our congregation once a month, offering inspirational and devotional articles as well as information about the work and actions of our church body. This expense is paid through our budget, but we ask for donations from the congregation to help off-set this expense. Our cost per subscription is about \$8.50 a year. We encourage your assistance in this effort. Our first payment of three installments is now due.



If our hearts are in heaven, then heaven will be in our hearts, and here we shall know the joy and the peace that come from “sitting in heavenly places in Christ Jesus,” even whilst here on Earth.

Alexander Maclaren

## EASTER LILLIES



We are offering the opportunity to purchase Easter Lilies in honor or memory of a loved one. The lilies will be purchased from Garrisons Market in Wilton and will be \$8.00 each, delivered to the church. There will be envelopes in the narthex for you to use for purchasing alily.



February 9, 2005  
5:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday

## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Our Strengthening Families Classes will be meeting on Sunday evening for the next five weeks. We will be serving a evening meal to everyone participating. We need help with food and help with the serving. If you can help there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the Nursery



# Youth News



## **Summer Mission Trip**

July 24-29, 2005  
Grades: 6-12

- It's not too late to register!
- We will be traveling to a camp near Wausau, Wisconsin.
- Sr. High will be part of Road Rulz—living together in an RV and traveling to undisclosed destinations to work and help others. Bible Study along the way.
- Meanwhile, the Middle School youth will G.D.G.—Get Dirty for God. This is a site based-program where our group will travel each day to sites to do work projects like repairing the environment, painting & fixing elderly homes, etc. They will return to camp for food, lodging, showers, etc. See Cheryl for more details. Deadline is February 15.

## **Looking Ahead**

The ELCA National Youth Gathering, for current 9-12th Graders, will be held July 5-9 or July 12-16, 2006 in San Antonio, Texas. If you are interested, talk to Cheryl.

## **LENTEN DINNERS**

The youth have been asked to serve the Wednesday, March 2, Lenten Dinner. If you can help with providing food, preparing food, or working please sign up on the youth bulletin board.

### **High School Youth**

**You are invited.....to join the Lenten Road!\***

\*We'll gather for conversation and a look (through the lens of faith and scripture) at favorite Bible Stories or current events.

5 Wednesdays—

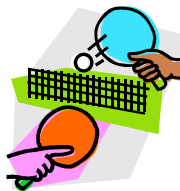
February 16, 23

March 2, 9, 16

7:00ish (PM) following the Lenten Mid-week service and Meal.

Participants will receive a Lenten keytag.

**GAME DAY...  
Saturday,  
February 26  
4-6:30 PM**



Calling all 7-12<sup>th</sup> Graders...

It's Game Day at Zion—indoor games that is. Come and play board games, ping-pong, Twister, make pizzas, etc.

Bring: Your own drink.

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## LAY READERS

	<b>8:00 A.M.</b>	<b>10:30 A.M.</b>
<b>February</b>	6 Dave Pusateri	Tyler Carter
	13 Chuck Hoffman	Evie Marr
	20 Julie Haage	Rosemary Hollatz
	27 Jim Haage	Dave Watson

<u>Lenten Services</u>		<b>5:30 P.M.</b>
9	Shirley Stange	
16	Dick Marr	
23	Austin Cole	

## GREETERS

	<b>8:00 A.M.</b>	<b>10:30 A.M.</b>
<b>February</b>	6 Wilmer & Lee Denker	Mark & Julie Frye & Abby
	13 Charles & Phyllis Hoffman	Darlene Martin
	20 Alan Lange	Irmgard Shoppa
	27 Bruce & Sue Miller	Bill Mark

<u>Lenten Services</u>		<b>5:30 P.M.</b>
9	Jim & Julie Haage	
16	Vicki Pedersen	
23	June Pries	

## **HOSPITALITY SERVERS**

<b>February</b>	13 Finance Committee
	27 Worship Committee

## **AMBASSADORS**

6	Kent & Mary Heckman
13	Margaret Wiesner & Helen Colony
20	Dick & Evie Marr

## USHERS

<b>February</b>	<b>8:00 A.M.</b>	<b>10:30 A.M.</b>
	Paul Ruden Bill Toyne	Dyann Roby Greg Padgett Gary Sebbert
	Ray Stange Jeff Baird Denise Baird	Mike Batenhorst Kent Heckman
	Jason Dierdorff	David Ostrem Jennifer Heitmann Paul Wedel

## ACOLYTES

<b>February</b>	<b>8:00 A.M.</b>	<b>10:30 A.M.</b>
	6 Sara Subbert & Meredith Baird	Justin Honeyman & Halston Phelps
	13 Brandon Bass & Marissa Toyne	Philip Ostrem & Zarah Batie
	20 Kathleen Pusateri & Kirsten Schneider	Karly McDonald & Justin Honeyman
	27 Brandon Bass & Molly White	Halston Phelps & Mario Alvarez

<u>Lenten Services</u>		<b>5:30 P.M.</b>
9	Kathleen Pusateri & Kirsten Schneider	
16	Chelsea Echelbarger & Marissa Toyne	
23	Meredith Baird & Sara Subbert	

## ALTAR GUILD

Karen Padgett & Helen Stange

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## FEBRUARY 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	<b>1</b> <b>6:15 PM</b> Fellowship Committee <b>7:00 PM</b> Evangelism Committee	<b>2</b> <b>5:15 PM</b> Youth Choir <b>6:00 PM</b> Cherub Choir <b>6:00 PM</b> Confirmation Class <b>6:15 PM</b> Bell Choir <b>7:00 PM</b> Senior Choir	<b>3</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Quilting Ladies <b>6:30 PM</b> Social Ministry Committee <b>7:00 PM</b> Worship Committee	<b>4</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Women's Retreat	<b>5</b> Women's Retreat
<b>6</b> <b>Transfiguration Sunday</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Worship Service with Holy Communion <b>9:15 AM</b> Sunday School/Adult Study/Bell Choir/1st Communion <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service With Holy Communion <b>3:00 PM</b> Centered Life Training <b>5:00 PM</b> Strengthening Families	<b>7</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> ZLCW Board Meeting	<b>8</b> <b>5:45 PM</b> Memorial Committee <b>7:00 PM</b> Stewardship Committee <b>8:00 PM</b> Finance Committee	<b>9</b>  <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> Ash Wednesday Service	<b>10</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Quilting Ladies <b>6:45 PM</b> Executive Committee <b>7:30 PM</b> Church Council	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Worship Service <b>9:15 AM</b> Bell Choir <b>9:15 AM</b> Sunday School/Adult Study/Bell Choir/1st Communion <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service <b>11:30 AM</b> Bell Choir <b>1:00 PM</b> Singing Valentines <b>5:00 PM</b> Strengthening Families	<b>14</b> <b>Valentine's Day</b>	<b>15</b> <b>1:30 PM</b> Group 4 - ZLCW <b>5:30 PM</b> Parish Ed. Committee <b>6:30 PM</b> Thrivent Meeting  <b>7:00 PM</b> Trust Fund Committee	<b>16</b> <b>3:40 PM</b> Youth Choir <b>4:30 PM</b> Cherub Choir <b>5:30 PM</b> Lenten Service w/meal <b>7:00 PM</b> Senior Choir & High School Youth	<b>17</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Quilting Ladies <b>6:30 PM</b> Property Committee <b>7:30 PM</b> Group 5 ZLCW	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Supper Club at Floodwaters
<b>20</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Worship Service with Holy Communion <b>9:15 AM</b> Sunday School/Adult Study/Bell Choir <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service With Holy Communion <b>11:30 AM</b> Bell Choir <b>5:00 PM</b> Strengthening Families	<b>21</b> Office Closed Contact Articles Due <b>Presidents' Day</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Sower's	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>3:40 PM</b> Youth Choir <b>4:30 PM</b> Cherub Choir <b>5:30 PM</b> Lenten Service w/meal <b>7:00 PM</b> Senior Choir & High School Youth	<b>24</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Assemble Contact</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Group 6 - ZLCW	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Council Retreat <b>4:00 PM</b> Youth Game Day
<b>27</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Worship Service <b>9:15 AM</b> Sunday School/Adult Study/Bell Choir/1st Communion <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service <b>11:30 AM</b> Bell Choir <b>5:00 PM</b> Strengthening Families	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b> <b>6:15 PM</b> Fellowship Committee <b>7:00 PM</b> Evangelism Committee	<b>2</b> <b>3:40 PM</b> Youth Choir <b>4:30 PM</b> Cherub Choir <b>5:30 PM</b> Lenten Service w/meal <b>7:00 PM</b> Senior Choir & High School Youth	<b>3</b> <b>4:45 PM</b> Planning Committee <b>6:30 PM</b> Social Ministry Committee <b>7:00 PM</b> Worship Committee	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>