

The Contact

July 2007

Pastor Paul D. Ostrem
Cheryl Hollich—Lay Associate
Wilma Roach —Secretary
Oscar Alvarez —Custodian
Heather Simpson—Missionary to Japan
Kihario Lutheran Parish—Tanzanian Companion

CHURCH COUNCIL—2007

Austin Cole - President	Kris Ward - Vice-President
Dave Hanson - Treasurer	Julie Frye - Secretary
Sue McDonald - Parish Ed	Roger Roskens - Planning
Kent Heckman - Youth	Doreen Borde - Fellowship
Jon Benson - Evangelism	Mike Carter - Property
Bill Chrisman— Stewardship	Mike Batenhorst - Finance
Beth Batenhorst—Social Ministry	

Phone Numbers

Church Office	563-263-5074
Fax	563-263-8858
Dial Inspiration	563-263-9999
Fellowship Hall	563-263-3049
Website	www.zionmuscatine.org

Worship Services

Sunday Worship Services 9:00 A.M.

Saturday Evening Worship Services
July 14 - September 1, 2007, 5:30 P.M.
Zion Lutheran Church

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MUSCATINE, IOWA
PERMIT NO. 299

Return service requested

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

Mostly just for fun – and also to make a point, I offer a brief story which came across my desk a few months ago in a newsletter I receive each month.

A small town had historically been dry, but then a local businessman decided to build a tavern. A group of Christians from a local church were concerned and held an all-night prayer meeting to ask God to intervene. It just so happened that shortly thereafter, lightning struck the bar and it burned to the ground.

The owner of the bar sued the church, claiming the prayers of the congregation were responsible, but the church hired a lawyer to argue in court that the prayers were not responsible for the lightning and fire. The presiding judge, after his initial review of the case, stated “No matter how this case comes out, one thing is clear: The tavern owner believes in prayer and the members of the church do not.”

Some have said, “Be careful what you pray for – you just might get it.” Indeed, sometimes we get more in response to our prayers than we bargained for. If we pray, “Use me, God,” it may be that God has plans for us that we didn’t have for ourselves.

“Do we believe in prayer? Does God answer prayer? Does prayer make a difference?” There have been studies, scientific in nature, to try to discern answers to these questions and the results have been surprising, at least to the skeptics, about the effectiveness of prayer. Sick people prayed for by family and friends seemed to recover more quickly than those who were not prayed for.

Perhaps it is the realization that prayer is effective that caused a writer to the *Christian Century* to state, “When life is good, our prayers for the kingdom get a little faint. We whisper our prayers for the kingdom so that God can’t quite hear them. ‘Thy kingdom come,’ we pray, and hope it won’t. When our own kingdom has had a good year we aren’t necessarily looking for God’s kingdom.”

We live in a world in dire need of experiencing the breaking in of the kingdom of God which comes, as the hymn states, “In deeds of love and mercy.” I trust, hope, and pray that we will pray for the kingdom in the confidence that God will bring it, and that we will be full participants.

Pastor Ostrem

It’s Bible School week as I write this article. The theme of Great Bible Reef: Dive Deep into God’s Word! is designed to help the children experience the importance of discipleship.

The program has a daily theme that says, “God’s People...Care; God’s People...Help; God’s People...Trust; God’s People...Believe; and God’s People...Listen.” Those are listed as the marks of discipleship.

Today, as I was struggling with what to write, my phone rang. On the other end was someone that I have not spoken to in about 20 years. We met years ago while leading Leadership Training Schools for the old ALC Iowa District. We soon found that we had a lot in common. We share the same name (although I always say her mother couldn’t spell since her name is spelled with a S); we both have been teachers; we both have the same sense of humor and the same spirituality. Sheryl lives in Storm Lake and when I left Iowa years ago, we never stopped communicating with each other. That communicating has not been in the form of talking. Communication has been mostly through Christmas cards. Sheryl is so good at writing notes and including them with her yearly Christmas “letter.” It struck me as I heard her voice that those 20 years disappeared and I was once again sitting on a dorm room bed, talking into the wee hours of the night. Once again I was transported to all the events and activities (many of them crazy) that we had shared.

God’s people do care, help, trust, believe and listen. Friendships made with fellow disciples are connected through that shared faith and don’t easily disappear. The VBS verse for “God’s People...Care” was from Philippians 2:4—“Care about (others) as much as you care about yourselves.” That is one of the commands and blessings of discipleship. I have been the recipient of shared discipleship and I hope you have also.

Blessings, Cheryl

Thank You!

Thanks for the many cards and blessings for our 50th anniversary.

Robert & Janice Martz

Thanks to all who donated blood on June 7th. We surpassed our gal and had 26 pints.

Nancy Tietge

Ivan & I want to thank our Zion family for the prayers and good wishes, phone calls and candy. Ivan is getting used to his new place and I am doing well with my dialysis. A special thanks to Ron Subbert for the sermon tape and church bulletins.

God Bless you ALL
Ivan & Gertrude Day

We would like to thank our church friends for the nice cards we received on our birthdays and anniversary. We enjoyed them very much.

Ray & Helen Stange

Thank you so much for the prayer shawl and the faith stepping stones book. I really appreciate you all thinking of me on my graduation. Thanks for your guidance throughout all the years!

Anna Pusateri

^^

“All Are Welcome” – Camp EWALU Fund Appeal

We continue to give thanks to all who participated in the “All Are Welcome” campaign for Camp Ewalu. To date, members of Zion have committed \$18,600 in gifts and pledges.

Fourth of July Parade

Zion will be sponsoring a float in the Fourth of July parade which will highlight the many ways Zion is involved with the cause of hunger. Along the parade route, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the local pantry.

We have asked area churches to help us encourage people to bring food items to share to the parade, and will be promoting this through the newspaper and radio. You can help by passing the word as well, and by bringing some food items to the parade. We hope to have a very sizable gift for the food pantry by the time the parade is over.



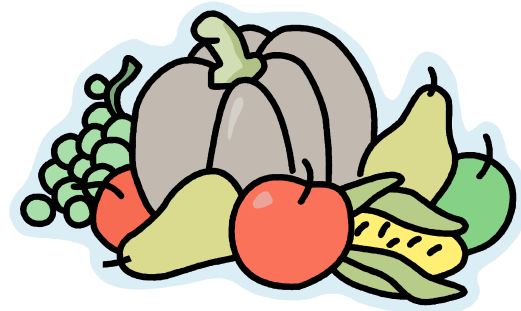
^^

No member of our family should be satisfied if any member of our American family is suffering or in need and we can do something about it.

———Colin Powell

^^

Farmer’s Market



Beginning in July, Zion’s Farmer’s Market will begin. Bring your surplus produce to the church and place it on the round table in the narthex. Anyone interested in the produce may take it home for a free-will donation. The money collected will go to World Hunger and any produce that is left will be given to MCSA. Last year we collected \$113.

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.

ZLC Monthly Financial Update

Income	January-May, 2007
Budgeted income	\$127,557.67
Unbudgeted income	<u>9,198.95</u>
Total Income	\$136,756.62
Expenses	
Budgeted Expenses	\$138,056.45
Unbudgeted Expenses	<u>9,572.05</u>
Total Expenses	\$147,628.50
Net income for 2007	- \$ 10,871.88
Fund Balances 5/31/2007	
Current Fund	\$ 37,564.69
Building Fund	52,307.28
Memorial Fund	7,952.52

Summer Worship Schedule

The summer worship schedule will continue at Grace Lutheran Church and will begin at Zion on Saturday, July 14, 5:30 P.M.



A Resource for Families

Christy Roby Williams, a member of Zion and a social worker with Lutheran Services in Iowa, has graciously offered to volunteer her time and gifts to do family intervention, mentoring, and referral for members of our congregation. She is willing to help families around issues of child-rearing, communication, marital conflict, teen issues, and all family dynamics. Feel free to contact her at 260-5401.



'Contact'

The Contact articles are due in the office on Monday, July 23, 2007 with assembly on Thursday July 26, 2007, 9:00 a.m.

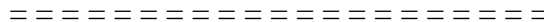
If you would like to receive the 'Contact' by e-mail instead of through the mail, contact the office.



E-Mails



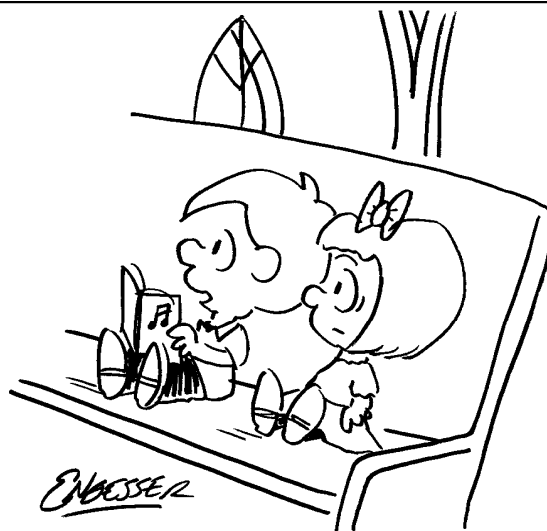
Occasionally Pastor Ostrem sends out a short e-mail to members of the congregation regarding special events, notifications of deaths in the parish, requests for prayer, etc. At this time we have over 90 families on this list. If you are not receiving these updates but would like to, please let us know your e-mail address so we may add you to the list.



Sowers



Sowers will meet with Susan Bantz-Gustafson on Monday, July 16, 6:30 P.M. Bring your latest project or a brand new one and join us for an evening of fellowship and fun.



ENDESSEER

"Dad's 'Joy, joy, joy, joy down in his heart' turned out to be indigestion."

The Welcome Place

Expectations of Visitors

Forward: This article is part of a series of articles brought to you by the Evangelism Committee. Look for future articles under the column titled "The Welcome Place."

EVANGELIZING INSIDE THE CHURCH

EVANGELISM I'm in my middle fifties and have been a member of Zion almost my entire life. One would think that by now I would have at least a fair understanding of this word *Evangelism*. But instead, I am just now learning to not be afraid of the word or the action. And I'm learning that, yes, even I can evangelize!

Jesus Christ asks us to evangelize and He gives each of us different talents and tools to do so. He never intended for all of us to be preachers – but He does lovingly ask each of us to love our neighbor and to treat them and befriend them like we wish to be befriended.

Every Sunday we have the opportunity to evangelize right inside Zion! Evangelizing inside the church is the process of melting the ice cube around a person's heart so the gospel is easily received. Every one of us can do this through our open acceptance and love of the people who are new to Zion.

As we meet visitors, and get to know them by name and converse with them on a personal level and a spiritual level, we are loving our neighbors and melting their barriers to accepting the gospel that is proclaimed to us.

You and I don't have to know the "Plan of Salvation" and the 14 scriptures to back it up. We have Pastor Paul and Cheryl for that. However, you and I can do the loving and the conversing part – and that brings the gospel to life! And *that is evangelizing!*

What a relief to know that *WE* really can evangelize!

Praise to God!

BLOCK PARTY THANKS

Thank you to everyone who once again joined together to make Zion's Block Party a fun event for all. Everyone involved deserves a round of applause. Special thanks to:

- ✦ Everyone who donated cookies;
- ✦ Bert Toyne and Cheryl Jacobsen for arranging for and obtaining the food and to Thrivent for providing funding for the Brats and Hotdogs;
- ✦ The Kitchen Crew for all of their work;
- ✦ The Committees who created those wonderful baskets for door prizes and who spoke a few words about their connection with Zion;
- ✦ The Recycle Sale donations and to the Stewardship Committee who worked the sale and collected \$350;
- ✦ Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for \$150 to add to the Recycle Sale proceeds that will be given to MCSA;
- ✦ Susan Bantz-Gustafson who provided entertainment;
- ✦ The Popcorn Maker (aka The Starkweathers & the Hansons);
- ✦ The Property Committee and the Planning Committee and many, many others for moving all the materials upstairs;
- ✦ Finance Committee for organizing the Door Prizes;
- ✦ LoAnne Worth for "wrapping" the door prize baskets.
- ✦ Ray & Don Stange for the use of their hayracks;
- ✦ Fellowship for working on registration;
- ✦ Parish Ed and youth for games, face painting, and tattoos.
- ✦ Our cadre of "green shirts" who were willing and able to talk about Zion and to Thrivent for also providing the funding for purchasing more shirts; and All the other many volunteers who are too numerous to mention but who know who they are and how invaluable they are.



**A Message from LSI –
Parents Make the Difference – Celebrate
National Parents’ Day July 22**

A parent has many jobs: mentor, support system, nurturer, provider and teacher. All of these and so much more are important in the development of a child. However, not all parents are prepared for this responsibility. For this reason, Lutheran Services in Iowa provides early childhood and family programs to help parents and children.

LSI’s Families Together program works to preserve the family as the central support system for children by empowering parents to be the best teachers, mentors, and role models. The Healthy Opportunities to Experience Success, or HOPES, program assists parents in giving their children a healthy start in life. Goals include promoting positive parenting, improving child health and development and preventing child abuse and neglect.

Every child deserves to have a parent to look up to. LSI helps parents gain the skills they need to be that person.

Supper Club

Supper Club is July 21, 2007, 6:00 p.m. at Mo Brady’s Restaurant, Davenport. If you have never joined us before come and enjoy the fellowship and fun that is had by all. Sign up on the bulletin board by the nursery.



Youth News



+



**YOUTH SUMMER TRIP
FLATHEAD LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP, KALISPELL,
MONTANA
JULY 20-28, 2007**

There will be a “Blessing of the Trip” at the worship service on Sunday, July 15, 9:00 AM. If you cannot attend, please let me know. Cheryl will give you your trip T-shirts that day so that you can wear them on July 20.

Thank you to Pr. Paul, Sue McDonald, and Susan Bantz-Gustafson for providing transportation to/from LaCrosse.

~~~~~

**MESSY GAMES  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 11  
1:00 PM**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

Wear old clothes and come prepared to get wet and messy. It’s great fun for all. Prizes for the winners!

# STORIES TO TELL - GIFTS TO SHARE

Over the balance of this year the Stewardship Committee will be sharing stories of the work and efforts of the ELCA at home and around the world.

## Delivering God's Love to Kids and Families

Your offerings help build bridges between the church and the world. Through your gifts and efforts, this church is helping to spread the Good News of Jesus' teachings on justice, peacemaking, and nonviolence.

Our society is inundated by television programs and video games that have become increasingly violent. In response, the ELCA is supporting efforts to improve television programming, strengthen parental awareness of violence in video games, and develop guidelines for retailers to implement common sense policies for selling video games to minors.

The Deaconess Community of the ELCA has taken a proactive approach by producing a nonviolent video game called "Rescue Riders," in which players deliver food, clothing, and medicine to people in need. The game, introduced at the 2006 Youth Gathering in San Antonio, teaches young people the real game of life: making God known through their service to others.

The ELCA is creating a safe space for the spiritual, emotional, and physical development of our children, providing opportunities for Spirit-filled renewal for families and communities.

To learn more about where your mission support dollars are shared, visit [www.elca.org/stewardship/interpreting.html](http://www.elca.org/stewardship/interpreting.html)



## Global Health Ministries

Adults...Youth...Families...all are invited to participate in a Mission Trip to Global Health Ministries, Minneapolis, MN.

When: August 3-5

What: Friday—leave and spend some time at the Mall of America;

Saturday--work all day at the Global Health and then attend an evening Twins Game (if we have 20 or more we can get a group rate);

Sunday—Attend a worship service and drive back to Muscatine.

Talk to Beth Batenhorst or Cheryl if you are interested.

**And**

## Biloxi Trip

When: end of September or beginning of October for one week.

Cost: \$100 for food and board; there will be fundraisers for the gas and expenses along the way.

What: No skills needed; for all ages.

If you are interested talk to Bob Nicolai or Cheryl.



# COUNCIL REPORT – June Meeting

Included here are some highlights from the June Congregational Council meeting:

- Heard positive reports on the Block Party, including \$350 received through the recycling sale (with an additional \$150 match from Thrivent) to be given to MCSA.
- Approved a proposal from J. L. Brady in Moline, to replace the boiler at a cost of \$52,985.33 which includes tax and asbestos removal. We will also receive an \$800 rebate from Alliant Energy for this improvement. There will be a series of three boilers installed which operate at 93% efficiency. There is money available in the Boiler Fund and the Building Fund for this project. No funds will need to be borrowed. *(If there are those who would like to contribute to the boiler replacement project, gifts may be made to the building fund.)*
- Approved moving the date of the confirmation service from October 28 to October 21 at the 10:30 AM service.
- Received a report on the Synod Assembly.
- Received information that a gift of \$5000 from the estate of Emma Whisler was received by the Trust Fund and was divided equally between the Mission Outreach Fund and the Parsonage Fund. Also a gift of \$5000 was received from the estate of Ray Wichers for the Scholarship Fund.
- 26 pints of blood were donated at the June 7<sup>th</sup> blood drive.

=====

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

There will NOT be a ZLCW board meeting in July

- |         |                                                     |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| July 17 | Group 4 – Potluck dinner<br>Rosemarie Paul, Hostess |
| July 19 | Group 5 – Emily Cole, Hostess                       |
| July 26 | Group 6 – Cheryl Jacobsen,<br>Hostess               |

## ZLCW NEWS

July – summer is officially here. Take a moment and give thanks. We as a nation have so much to be thankful for. For those who have fought and died for our freedom so we could choose to worship where we wanted to, vote for our favorite candidate and speak out freely of injustice here and around the globe. We say thank you.

At Zion we have much to be thankful for. To Susan Bantz-Gustafson, Karen Goodell and June Pries, thank you for attending the 2007 SE Iowa Women’s Synodical Gathering in Cedar Rapids. We look forward to hearing about the speakers and workshops that you attended.

June 13 was Zion’s Annual Block Party. To all of you who cooked, baked, served and supported the ZLCW portion of this wonderful, successful event, Thank you, your help was appreciated. See you next year!

We remember all too well the event that happened in our community and surrounding area on June 1. It was a shock to drive around and see all of the destruction that occurred in just a few minutes. It has been stated that people are amazed at how Grandview, Fruitland and Muscatine people came together to help their neighbors. I would like to add that on Thursday, June 7, I received a call asking if our church would be willing to donate any food for the Fruitland clean-up day on Saturday, June 9. I made a few phone calls to group leaders, council leaders, bell and senior choir members. They, in turn, called others and together Zion delivered a generous amount of baked goods, fruit and snacks to the Fruitland Fire Station Saturday afternoon. There are pictures of how full my car was when I delivered them. They were very grateful for our contribution and I am grateful to you, Zion, for coming out to help our neighbors.

[Check out the new shipment of Equal Exchange Coffee that just arrived., the ZLCW bulletin board](#) and remember to visit the women’s page on Zion’s website at <http://www.zionmuscatine.org>

Thought for the month – **“Give people more than they expect and do it cheerfully.”**

From: Life’s Little Instruction Book, Volume II

---

## Lay Readers

*July*    *1*            Kathleen Pusateri  
              *8*                Linda Bjella  
              *15*               Roger Roskens  
              *22*               Dick O'Brien  
              *29*               To Be Announced

## Greeters

*July*    *1*                Jim & Julie Haage  
              *8*                Karmon & Linda Bjella  
              *15*               Karen Goodell  
              *22*               Charlie & Jan Drumm  
              *29*               Dick & Evie Marr

## Acolytes

*July*    *1*                Brandon Honeyman & Ben Chrisman  
              *8*                Meg McDonald & Katie Manley  
              *15*               Thomas Gustafson & Brandon Honeyman  
              *22*               Kody Bass & Cole Morgan  
              *29*               Tyler Baars & Alex Merrill

## Ushers

**Paul Ruden**    **Bill Toyne**    **Mike Batenhorst**    Gary Sebbert  
Ray Stange    Dyann Roby    Denise Baird    Kent Heckman    Jeff Baird  
Don White    David Ostrem    Steve Andersen    Lori Andersen

## Hospitality





*July*    *1*                Social Ministry Committee  
              *8*                Finance Committee  
              *15*               Fellowship Committee  
              *22*               Worship Committee  
              *29*               Stewardship Committee

## Altar Guild

Diamoah & Comfort Ngwayah

---

# JULY 2007

| Sunday                                                                                              | Monday                                                                          | Tuesday                                                                                      | Wednesday                                                                                                                                         | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                       | Friday                                                                                                                      | Saturday                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship Service<br><b>11:30 AM</b> Youth Committee                       | <b>2</b>                                                                        | <b>3</b>                                                                                     | <b>4</b><br><br><b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b><br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> | <b>5</b>                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>6</b><br><b>4:00 PM</b> McDaniel/Mills Rehearsal                                                                         | <b>7</b><br><br><b>4:00 PM</b> McDaniel/Mills Wedding<br><b>5:30 PM</b> Worship Service - Grace Lutheran Church |
| <b>8</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship Service                                                          | <b>9</b>                                                                        | <b>10</b><br><b>5:30 PM</b> Memorial Committee<br><b>8:00 PM</b> Finance Committee           | <b>11</b>                                                                                                                                         | <b>12</b><br><b>6:30 PM</b> Executive Committee<br><b>7:30 PM</b> Church Council                                                                                                               | <b>13</b>                                                                                                                   | <b>14</b><br><b>5:30 PM</b> Worship Service - Zion Lutheran Church                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>15</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship Service                                                         | <b>16</b><br><b>1:00 PM</b> AARP<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Sowers-Susan Bantz Gustafson | <b>17</b><br><b>12:00 PM</b> Group 4 - Rosemarie Paul's<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Thrivent Committee | <b>18</b>                                                                                                                                         | <b>19</b><br><b>6:30 PM</b> Property Committee<br><b>7:30 PM</b> Group 5 - Evie Marr                                                                                                           | <b>20</b><br><br>Youth leave for Montana | <b>21</b><br><b>5:30 PM</b> Worship Service - Zion Lutheran Church<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Supper Club - Mo Bandy's                                                                                      |
| <b>22</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship Service<br><b>12:00 PM</b> Bell Choirs Picnic - Tom Burzclaff's | <b>23</b><br>Contact Articles Due                                               | <b>24</b><br><b>6:15 PM</b> Group 5 - Dinner Out                                             | <b>25</b>                                                                                                                                         | <b>26</b><br><br>Newsletter Reading Party<br>Group 6 - Cheryl Jacobsen<br><b>9:00 AM</b> Assemble Contact | <b>27</b>                                                                                                                   | <b>28</b><br>Youth Return<br><b>5:30 PM</b> Worship Service - Zion Lutheran Church                                                                                                                 |
| <b>29</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship Service                                                         | <b>30</b>                                                                       | <b>31</b>                                                                                    | <b>1</b>                                                                                                                                          | <b>2</b><br><b>6:30 PM</b> Social Ministry Committee                                                                                                                                           | <b>3</b>                                                                                                                    | <b>4</b><br><b>5:30 PM</b> Worship Service - Zion Lutheran Church                                                                                                                                  |