

JANUARY  
2026



## Zion Reformed Church

Dear Zion Family,

As we enter 2026, Zion Reformed Church embraces a new theme: "Renewed Minds, Faithful Lives." This theme is rooted in Romans 12:2, which calls us: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

This year, we are invited to focus on inner transformation through Christ. A renewed mind is not simply thinking differently—it is a heart and mind shaped by God's Word, attentive to His truth, and aligned with His Spirit. Transformation begins within, but it is never private. The renewal of our minds leads to faithful living: lives of obedience, love, and service in our homes, workplaces, and community.

"Renewed Minds, Faithful Lives" challenges us to examine how the world influences our thoughts and actions, and to allow Christ to reorder our priorities, perspectives, and behaviors. As a congregation, we will explore this theme through sermons, Bible studies, and ministry activities, seeking not only to grow in understanding but also to live out our faith daily. Let 2026 be a year where our minds are transformed and our lives faithfully reflect the glory of God.

In Christ,  
Pastor Petri



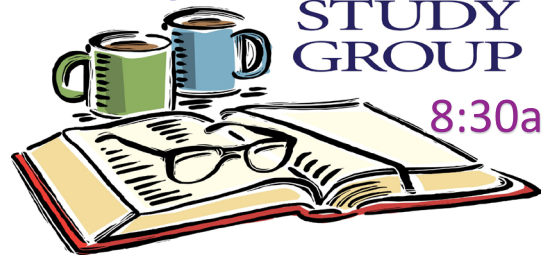
**Family  
Ministry  
Wed,  
Jan. 21**

**Hosts needed**

\*Family Ministry (FM): Family Ministry is Zion's Catechism. FM meets (generally) the third Wednesday of each month through the year. FM begins at 6:30pm with a free meal and the lesson will begin at 7pm-8pm. Children ages PreK-12th grade will be dismissed to the basement for their lesson time. Adults will remain in the fellowship hall. At 7:45pm the children will join their parents/adult group for a discussion. NOTE: Family Ministry is welcome to any person meaning you are welcome as a single adult/a couple/a family. However, all children of Zion and their parent(s) are strongly encouraged to attend regularly as part of the catechism.

**January 4**

**MEN'S  
STUDY  
GROUP**



**8:30am**



**Food  
Pantry  
Needs**

**Please  
Bring  
Items  
Monthly -  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday**



\*The Annual Congregational Meeting took place on December 21, 2025.

\*Installation of the new consistory members will be in January.

\* Consistory members were elected for a three yr. term:  
Elder: Phil Markwardt  
Deacon: Kellen Suntken

\*Next Consistory Meeting: Jan. 22.



## Consistory Highlights

\*Holy Communion will take place on Sunday, Jan.25.

\*The Consistory will follow last year's format for announcing church cancellation due to inclement weather. The consistory will no longer call all members to announce the cancellation. The cancellation will be put on KLMJ Radio and Radioonthego.com. An all church email will also be sent out notifying the congregational members of the cancellation. You may also call a consistory member if you should have a question.

Jerry Buseman	641-425-2507
Dennis Crom	641-425-4829
Phil Markwardt	641-420-6275
Dave Harms	641-456-9823
Keaton Buseman	515-408-6069
Kellen Suntken	515-571-8565
Kelly Bennett	515-480-0758
Michael Halsne	641-512-5314



Greetings Zion Family!

First of all, THANK YOU for your financial gifts in 2025! We will provide 2025 giving statements in your mailboxes by the end of January.



Meets at 7pm - Wednesdays

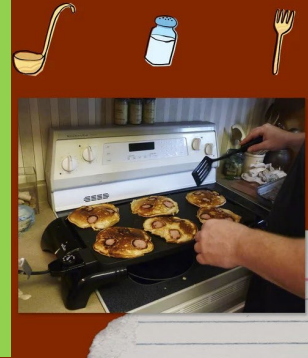
SPECK 'N  
DICKEN

JAN. 18

11AM-1PM

FREEWILL

BY RCYF



New beginning in God's Faithful Hands

The beginning of a new year reminds us that our times are in the hands of the Lord. While January often calls us to make resolutions, Scripture directs our hearts first to God's unchanging faithfulness. Our hope does not rest in fresh starts or stronger resolve, but in the sovereign grace of the One who makes all things new.

The Lord declares, "Behold, I am doing a new thing" (Isaiah 43:19). This promise flows from His covenant faithfulness, renewed toward His people each day. As Lamentations reminds us, His mercies are new every morning—steadfast, undeserved, and sure.

As we enter this year, we do so trusting that God goes before us and remains with us (Deuteronomy 31:8). Whether the path ahead is clear or uncertain, we are called to walk by faith, resting in Christ alone and submitting our plans to the will of God.

May this month lead us to renewed devotion—faithful prayer, careful attention to God's Word, and a deeper love for one another as the body of Christ. Confident in God's sovereignty and grace, we move forward together, trusting that He will complete the good work He has begun among us.

I look forward to serving Zion as WOZ President throughout this year. Please be sure to refer to your WOZ booklet for your responsibilities during the year. In addition to our monthly Circle groups, Spiritual Life Secretary Megan Oehlert is leading a weekly women's Bible Study (sign up on the bulletin). Zion will be hosting the ARC Midwest Network Cluster at the beginning of February so be watching for details on that.

Blessings in the New Year!

Tonya Halsne, WOZ President



## WOZ SPIRITUAL LIFE

"We were the only family with children in the restaurant. I sat Erik in a high chair and noticed everyone was quietly eating and talking. Suddenly, Erik squealed with glee and said, "Hi there!" as he pounded his fat baby hands on the big chair tray. His eyes were crinkled in laughter and excitement and his mouth was bared in a toothless grin, as he wriggled and giggled with merriment. I looked around and saw the source of his merriment. It was a man whose pants were baggy with a zipper at half-mast and his toes poked out of would-be shoes. His shirt was dirty and his hair was uncombed and unwashed. His whiskers were too short to be called beard and his nose was so varicose it looked like a road map. We were too far from him to smell, but I was sure he smelled. His hands waved and flapped on loose wrists. "Hi there, baby; hi there, big boy. I see ya, buster," the man said to Erik. My husband and I exchanged looks, "What do we do?" Erik continued to laugh and answer, "Hi, hi there."

Everyone in the restaurant noticed and looked at us and then at the man. The gold geezer was creating a nuisance with my beautiful baby. Our meal came and the man began shouting from across the room; "Do ya patty cake? Do you know peek-a-boo? Hey, look, he knows peek-a-boo." Nobody, especially my husband and I thought the old man was cute. He was obviously a bum and a drunk. My husband and I were embarrassed. We ate in silence; all except for Erik, who was running

through his repertoire for the admiring skid row bum, who in turn, reciprocated with his cute comments.

We finally got through the meal and headed for the door. My husband went to pay the check and told me to meet him in the parking lot. The old man sat poised between me and the door. "Lord, just let me out of here before he speaks to me or Erik," I prayed. As I drew closer to the man, I turned my back trying to sidestep him and avoid any air he might be breathing. As I did, Erik leaned over my arm, reaching with both arms in a baby's "pick-me-up" position. Before I could stop him, Erik had propelled himself from my arms to the man's. Suddenly a very old smelly man and a very young baby consummated their love relationship. Erik in an act of total trust, love, and submission laid his tiny head upon the man's ragged shoulder. The man's eyes closed, and I saw tears hover beneath his lashed. His aged hands full of grime, pain, and hard labor, cradled my baby's bottom and stroked his back with a gentle love I could not describe, but I felt in my soul.

No two beings had for ever loved so deeply for so short a time. I stood awestruck. The old man rocked and cradled Erik in his arms and his eyes opened and set squarely on mine. He said in a firm commanding voice, "You take care of this baby." Somehow I managed, "I will," from a throat that contained a stone. The old man pried Erik from his chest unwillingly, longingly, as though he were in pain, and handed him to me. I received my baby, and the man said, "God bless you, ma'am, you've given me my Christmas gift." I said nothing more than a muttered "thanks."

With Erik in my arms I ran for the car. My husband was wondering why I was crying and holding Erik so tightly, and why I was saying, "My God, my God, forgive me" over and over. I had just witnessed Christ's love shown through the innocence of a tiny child who saw no sin, who made no judgment; a child who saw a soul, and a mother who saw a suit of clothes.

I was a Christian who was blind, holding a child who was not. I felt as if God asked, "Are you willing to share your son for a moment?" And I remembered that He shared His for all eternity. The ragged old man, unwittingly, had reminded me, "To enter the Kingdom of God, we must become as little children."

Megan Mollenbeck, Spiritual Life Committee 2026

# Holy Communion

## JANUARY 25

# SNOW

If you are at Zion during the week, please use the **south driveway & east parking area** as these will be kept clear throughout the week. The remainder of the grounds will only be cleared on Sunday mornings & for funerals.



**"ZUBER" Driver's Needed!**

**Name/Contact Number:**

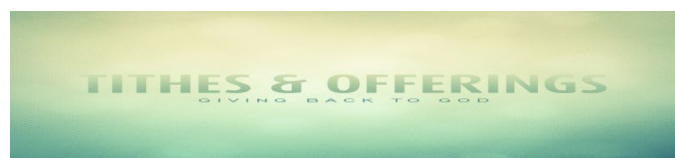
Are you willing to pick up/drop off a Zion member in order for them to attend Sunday Service?

**Return to Marsha by January 4 OR email [zionchurch2029@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurch2029@gmail.com)**

- ☐ Yes, in Hampton  
☐ Yes, in Sheffield  
☐ Yes, in Latimer  
☐ Yes, in Belmond

IF you are wanting a ride to Sunday church service during the winter months or on a particular Sunday, please return to Marsha by Jan 4 OR email.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like a ride to Sunday service during the winter months.



DATE	GENERAL	BENEVOLENT	ATTENDANCE
Dec. 07	\$2,722.00	\$1,320.00	80
Dec. 14	\$3,990.00	\$610.00	105
Dec. 21			
Dec 28			



ELAINE PARKS, DALE BUTSON, JON SUNTKEN, Arlene Maifeld,  
 Bev Moore, Darwin Butson, Brian Lupkes, Ted Hughes,  
 Sam Butson, Morgan Ault, Carol Koenen, Vernon VanHorn,  
 Marsha Muhlenbruch



Duane and Lenora Payne, Elaine Parks, Phyllis Nelson

**Homebound Visitation Team**



*\*Sammy Buseman, Addie Buseman*





Special Music Committee is in need of your talent to share during Sunday services. If you are willing to share, please visit Rose Markwardt, Jessica Sheely or Sonna McMahon. Live talent is inspiring and uplifting. Thank you!



	<u>AUDIO</u>	<u>VIDEO</u>
<b>JAN 04</b>	Jerry	Duane
<b>JAN 11</b>	Nick	Molly
<b>JAN 18</b>	Dave	Carma
<b>JAN 25</b>	Jesse	Tonya



**Orphan Grain Train and Country View Nursing Facility** are needing donations. See Bulletin Board



**HOPE CIRCLE:** No January Meeting

**Sunrise Circle:** No January Meeting

**Faith Circle:** Jan. 1, Movie Night

**JOY CIRCLE** - Jan 11 @ 7:00pm

*Devotions/Lesson/Host:* Teresa S.

**VESPER CIRCLE** - Jan 12 @ 1:30pm (Fellowship Hall)

*Devotions:* Molly; *Lesson:* Molly; *Host:* Audrey

**Faith:** Jan. 29: Lesson 1 & 2

**CIRCLE CONVERSATION STARTER:**  
**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SEASON?**



**Sunday School children's choir will sing the last Sunday of every month**



**Children's Time during church service**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>
Jan. 4	Ann
Jan. 11	Megan M
Jan. 18	Shelly
Jan. 25	Dave



**DAYCARE PROVIDERS**

After Children's Time !

\* If your Sunday does not work, please find a replacement. Your efforts are very much appreciated.\*

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LEADER / HELPER</u>
Jan. 4	Sammy
Jan. 11	Molly B/Tatum
Jan. 18	Shelly/Tenley
Jan. 25	Kirsten/Edrich

## **FELLOWSHIP**

Jan. 4	Hosts needed
Jan. 11	Sammy B/Stephanie K.
Jan. 18	Hosts needed
Jan. 25	Hosts needed

**If you are serving fellowship,** please review the list of kitchen duties that go along with serving. The list is posted by the sign up sheet.



## POINSETTIAS



### In Loving Memory of:

**\*Our loved ones**  
**\*Dad/Grandpa Al DeVries**

**\*Paul & Marie Jurgens**  
**Therron Miller**

**\*Roy Parks**

### Given By:

**Markwardt Family**  
**Mike, Sarah, Luke,**  
**Meghan, Matt**  
**Their Family**

**LeAnn and Jori**

### In Honor of:

**\*Mom/Gramma Esther**

**Mike, Sarah, Luke,**  
**Meghan, Matt**

### In Celebration of:

**\*Christmas**

**Mark and Carma DeVries**



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 02 Corey Eberling
- 06 Molly Allen
- 07 Jennie Barkema
- 08 Dale Haver
- 11 Roger Stock
- 13 Weston Barkema
- 16 Carma DeVries, Jessica Sheely  
Dave & Deanna Harms
- 17 Haisley Smith
- 20 Megan Oehlert
- 21 Jane Elphic
- 22 Kendrick Suntken
- 26 Bob & Ardith Parks
- 30 Bob Parks

*Thank  
You!*

The Children's Christmas Program was a delight and filled with the meaning of Jesus' birth. A huge shoutout to Tonya and Janette for directing this year. Again, a big thank you to EVERYONE that was involved in making the Christmas program a success.

## "Zion Family Spotlight"

Zion's Spotlight features Paul & Jackie Sandersfeld.

Paul has always lived on a farm North of Latimer, and Jackie grew up on a farm South-West of Coulter. They went to the same High School and met at a concert at "The Surf". They have been married for 46 years.

Paul is a grain farmer, and last fall was his 52nd crop. He started renting ground when he was 15yrs old. Jackie retired recently after 21yrs at Franklin General Hospital, working in the satellite clinics and occasionally the Hampton facility.

They have 3 daughters in the Des Moines area. Tonia & husband Ryan live west of Waukee with their family of 3 dogs. Kendra & husband Tyson live in Ankeny with their 2 boys aged 8 & 12. Jenna & husband Brett live in the Northwest side of Waukee with their 2 boys & daughter aged 13, 8 & 5.

Paul & Jackie enjoy traveling and have done a lot of camping with their girls and now the grandkids like going with them. They like spending time in Florida during the winter. Also going to a lot of the grandkids' events keeps them pretty busy.

They simply just enjoy being part of Zion: the pastor and people are very welcoming and approachable; they like all the special music and the Bible Quiz during services; they also enjoy getting to know the congregation during fellowship after church.

A favorite Bible verse for them is Joshua 24:15 - "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord".



**Zion Reformed Church**

2029B Jonquil Avenue

Sheffield, IA 50475 641-579-6186 / [www.zionreformed.com](http://www.zionreformed.com)

(zionchurch2029@gmail.com)

Pastor Petri van Rooyen; 641-231-2361



2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>*REMINDER*</b> Office Hours: M,T, W: 8-Noon *Bad Weather: KL MJ*	<b>* Every Sunday *</b> 09:15am Worship 10:30am Sunday School / Kids' Choir					
				1 Faith Circle-Movie 	2	3
4 *Food Pantry* 8:30am Men's Bible 9:15am Worship No Sunday School	5	6	7  7:00pm RCYF	8	9	10
11 9:15am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 7pm Joy Circle	12 1:30pm Vesper Circle	13	14 7pm RCYF	15	16	17
18 9:15am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11am-1pm Spec'n Dicken 25 Holy Communion 9:15 am worship 10:30am Sunday School	19       26	20       27	21   6:30pm Family Ministry    28 7:00pm RCYF	22 6pm Elders' Mtng 7pm Consistory   29 Faith Circle Lesson 1 & 2	23      30	24      31