

# ZION HI-LITES

January 2018

## Are the Best Days of the Church Behind Us or In Front of Us?

The following is from Concordia Seminary Magazine, Fall 2017, pg. 5, Dr. Dale Meyer preached Opening Service Aug. 25, 2017.

Jesus asks His disciples two questions. First, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” Then He narrows it down. “But who do you say that I am?” (Matt. 16:13, 15 ESV). These two questions capture the essence of the mission before us. First, know the mission field. Second, know what you believe.

“Who do people say the Son of Man is?” *Barna Trends 2017* summarizes “5 Popular Beliefs about Jesus.” First, “The vast majority of Americans believe Jesus was a real person.” Second, “Younger generations are increasingly less likely to believe Jesus was God.” Third, “Americans are divided on whether Jesus was sinless.” Fourth, “Most Americans say they have made a commitment to Jesus Christ.” In light of doubts about His divinity and sinlessness, what does a commitment mean? And fifth, “People are conflicted between ‘Jesus’ and ‘Good Deeds’ as the way to heaven.” “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” Barna’s president, David Kinnaman, sums it up: “Americans’ dedication to Jesus is, in most cases, a mile wide and an inch deep.”

“But who do you say that I am?” Think back to when America was “Christian” America. Most people went to church, or at least knew they should go to church. Most people knew about the Bible and its main characters. Most people knew who Jesus was. And years ago, public morality was based on the Ten Commandments. In that environment, the things of God and the things of public society were easily mixed together; homogenized. The distinctiveness of following Jesus could get lost. But now “Christian” America is gone. Today, we’re living in a new time, an opportunity to understand anew, or understand for the first time, the radical nature of faith in Jesus.

In the Bible, faith has two aspects. One is internal, subjective, how we feel about something. This is the way most Americans understand faith—whatever’s in your heart. The second aspect of faith in the Bible is something we look to, something we focus on, something that shapes who we are and how we live life. What is that external focus on faith? Not health or family, although both are gifts from our Creator. Not a more “Christian” America; we’re not going back to the 1950’s. Not Martin Luther, though God continues to bless us through Luther’s work. The focus of faith is Jesus Christ. “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” And God answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.” (Matt. 16:16-17 ESV). Martin Luther said: “Faith is living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that the believer would stake his life on it a thousand times. This knowledge of and confidence in God’s grace makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and with all creatures. And this is the work which the Holy Spirit performs in faith.”

“Glad and bold and happy!” The future of the church is not on our shoulders; it’s Jesus’ church, His cross, His resurrection and His coming again to take you and me to heaven. “Come, follow me” (Matt. 19:21 ESV)!

## In This Issue:

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Above: Sunday School students in Preschool-2nd grade sing "Away in a Manger" while Mary and Joseph (Derek Lobaugh and Lauren Herring) sit at the manger with Baby Jesus during the Sunday School Christmas service "From Heaven Above."



Above and at left: Zion first graders (Libbie Johnston, McKenzie Neumann, Kelsey Schorg, Aubrie McCollough, Aluk Kuoiolo and Tabitha Jackson) had a Christmas party with their Eventide friends.



**Zion School Christmas Service "In Prayer Before Him"**

Above: Adalis Boeck, LaRee Huisinga, Jersey Bexten, Karly Brodersen, Brooklyn Winey and Sophie Sonnichsen sing "Silent Night"; 5-8 graders sing "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"; Jon Segebart, Tucker Bexten, Gavin Miller, Sophia Mujica, Colby Kahl and Jacob Bruck act out the Nativity scene



At left: K-4 grades sing "Happy Birthday, Jesus"

**Parish Records**

**Baptisms...**

Aspen Josephean Krajicek, daughter of Colin Krajicek and Hollie Weltz, was baptized on December 2, 2017.

**Deaths...**

Robin Furne died on December 2 and her funeral service was held on December 6, 2017.

Rhonda Ohl died on December 4 and her funeral service was held on December 7, 2017.

Arlene Rank died on December 5 and her funeral service was held on December 11, 2017.

**Transfers...**

David, Kim and Eva Weidt to Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Polk City, Iowa.

Ben, Ashley, Nathan, Elliott and Jaxson Green to Faith Lutheran Church, Deloit, Iowa.

Memorials

In loving memory of Rhonda Ohl, gifts were given to Zion in the amount of \$50 from friends of Rhonda.

In loving memory of Roseann Gehlsen, a gift of \$10 was given to Mission Central.

In loving memory of Arlene Rank, a gift of \$10 was given to Mission Central.

Gifts totaling \$1,502 were given from Zion members/friends to Mission Central to support the Rev. James and Angie Sharp family (missionaries to Uruguay).

In loving memory of loved ones, Christmas trees for Zion's sanctuary were donated by the Ed & Carol Fink Family. Merry Christmas!

Thank you to all the families who have so generously supported Zion in its mission and ministries throughout this past year with their gifts in memory of loved ones. May God be with you and grant you comfort and peace!



# Serving in January:

## Greeters:

Jan. 6	6:30	Summer Lamaak, Diane Ettleman, Amy Ettleman
Jan. 7	8:00	Ashlyn Herrig, Sharon Gosch, Kim Gustafson
	10:30	Ryan, Kelly & Sophie Sonnichsen
Jan. 13	6:30	Barb & Brittany Krajicek
Jan. 14	8:00	Mark, Renee & Delaney Lutz
	10:30	Mike, Janelle & Leigha Brungardt
Jan. 20	6:30	Michelle & Ashlyn Herrig
Jan. 21	8:00	Katie & Elizabeth Christensen
	10:30	Nathan, Amber & Quincy Mahrt
Jan. 27	6:30	Jeff, Sherri & Summer Lamaak
Jan. 28	8:00	Dave, Darcy & Gus Boettger
	10:30	Jenn, Emma & Gracie Schurke

## Elders:

Jan. 6	6:30	Dick Erickson
Jan. 7	8:00	Jim Asmus, Marc Gosch
	10:30	Kieth Osborn, Brian Kempfert
Jan. 13	6:30	Butch Miller, Jim Asmus
Jan. 14	8:00	Kent Hollrah, Brian Christensen
	10:30	Dave Nemitz, Mark Feller
Jan. 20	6:30	Butch Miller
Jan. 21	8:00	Bob Matthiesen, Marc Gosch
	10:30	Dave Nemitz, Kieth Osborn
Jan. 27	6:30	Jim Asmus, Dick Erickson
Jan. 28	8:00	Larry Berner
	10:30	Mark Feller

## Ushers:

Jan. 6	6:30	Gavin Miller, Chuck Ettleman, Brian Ettleman, Gage Miller
Jan. 7	8:00	Elizabeth Christensen, Marc Gosch, David Gosch, Chris Gosch, Joel Gustafson
	10:30	Garret Plagge, Marc & Holly Meyer, Jeff Mengwasser, Dave Hidding
Jan. 13	6:30	Summer Lamaak, Chuck Ettleman, Brian Ettleman, Gage Miller
Jan. 14	8:00	Teryn & Ty Fink, Marc Gosch, David Gosch, Chris Gosch, Joel Gustafson
	10:30	Garret Plagge, Marc & Holly Meyer, Jeff Mengwasser, Dave Hidding
Jan. 20	6:30	Renee Lutz, Chuck Ettleman, Brian Ettleman, Gage Miller
Jan. 21	8:00	Gus Boettger, Marc Gosch, David Gosch, Chris Gosch, Joel Gustafson
	10:30	Cole Carlson, Marc & Holly Meyer, Jeff Mengwasser, Dave Hidding
Jan. 27	6:30	Chuck Ettleman, Brian Ettleman, Gage Miller
Jan. 28	8:00	Matthew Weltz, Marc Gosch, David Gosch, Chris Gosch, Joel Gustafson
	10:30	Quincy Mahrt, Marc & Holly Meyer, Jeff Mengwasser, Dave Hidding

## Acolytes:

Jan. 6	6:30	Brittany Krajicek
Jan. 7	8:00	Lauren Bowker
	10:30	Leigha Brungardt
Jan. 13	6:30	Matthew Weltz
Jan. 14	8:00	Gus Boettger
	10:30	Cole Carlson
Jan. 20	6:30	Karly Brodersen
Jan. 21	8:00	Matthew Weltz
	10:30	Summer Lamaak
Jan. 27	6:30	Colton Neumann
Jan. 28	8:00	Devin & Jake Fink
	10:30	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>

## Projector:

Jan. 6	6:30	Karly Brodersen
Jan. 7	8:00	Gus Boettger
	10:30	Quincy Mahrt
Jan. 13	6:30	Gavin Miller
Jan. 14	8:00	Elizabeth Christensen
	10:30	Quincy Mahrt
Jan. 20	6:30	Devin & Jake Fink
	8:00	Lauren Bowker
	10:30	Leigha Brungardt
Jan. 27	6:30	Lexi Neumann
Jan. 28	8:00	Teryn & Ty Fink
	10:30	Garret Plagge

**If you would like to volunteer to serve,  
please call the Zion office!**

### Read 3 Bible Passages Each Day for a Year!

Jan. 1	Luke 5:27-39; Genesis 1:1-2:25; Psalm 1	Jan. 17	Luke 13:18-35; Genesis 24; Psalm 17
Jan. 2	Luke 6:1-26; Genesis 3-5; Psalm 2	Jan. 18	Luke 14:1-24; Genesis 25; Psalm 18
Jan. 3	Luke 6:27-49; Genesis 6:1-7:24; Psalm 3	Jan. 19	Luke 14:25-35; Genesis 26; Psalm 19
Jan. 4	Luke 7:1-17; Genesis 8-10; Psalm 4	Jan. 20	Luke 15; Genesis 27:1-45; Psalm 20
Jan. 5	Luke 7:18-50; Genesis 11; Psalm 5	Jan. 21	Luke 16; Genesis 27:46-28:22; Psalm 21
Jan. 6	Luke 8:1-25; Genesis 12; Psalm 6	Jan. 22	Luke 17; Genesis 29:1-30; Psalm 22
Jan. 7	Luke 8:26-56; Genesis 13:1-14:24; Psalm 7	Jan. 23	Luke 18:1-17; Genesis 29:31-30; Psalm 23
Jan. 8	Luke 9:1-27; Genesis 15; Psalm 8	Jan. 24	Luke 18:18-43; Genesis 31; Psalm 24
Jan. 9	Luke 9:28-62; Genesis 16; Psalm 9	Jan. 25	Luke 19:1-27; Genesis 32-33; Psalm 25
Jan. 10	Luke 10:1-20; Genesis 17; Psalm 10	Jan. 26	Luke 19:28-48; Genesis 34; Psalm 26
Jan. 11	Luke 10:21-42; Genesis 18; Psalm 11	Jan. 27	Luke 20:1-26; Genesis 35:1-36:43; Psalm 27
Jan. 12	Luke 11:1-28; Genesis 19; Psalm 12	Jan. 28	Luke 20:27-47; Genesis 27; Psalm 28
Jan. 13	Luke 11:29-54; Genesis 20; Psalm 13	Jan. 29	Luke 21; Genesis 38; Psalm 29
Jan. 14	Luke 12:1-31; Genesis 21; Psalm 14	Jan. 30	Luke 22:1-38; Genesis 39; Psalm 30
Jan. 15	Luke 12:32-59; Genesis 22; Psalm 15	Jan. 31	Luke 22:39-71; Genesis 40; Psalm 31
Jan. 16	Luke 13:1-17; Genesis 23; Psalm 16		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>No School</p> 	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>No School - Teacher Inservice</p> <p>2:00 Tuesdays at Two Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>6:30 Women's Bible Class @ Cronks</p> <p>8:30 Chapel</p> <p>10:00 Board of Stewardship</p> <p>6:30 Confirmation</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>10:00 Bible Class</p> <p>1:00 Nifty Needles</p> <p>7:00 Evening Guild</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Class @ Cronks</p> <p>7:30 Prayer Party</p> <p>1:30 Ladies' Aid</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>6:30 Worship</p>
<p><b>7</b></p> <p>8:00 Worship ☩</p> <p>9:15 Bible Class</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 Worship ☩</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9:00 Scrip Orders Due</p> <p>1:30 Monday Sewing</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>2:00 Tuesdays at Two Women's Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 Board of Elders</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>6:30 Women's Bible Class @ Cronks</p> <p>No Preschool</p> <p>8:30 Chapel</p> <p>1:20 Early Dismissal</p> <p>2:00 Altar Guild</p> <p>6:30 Confirmation</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>10:00 Bible Class</p> <p>1:00 Nifty Needles</p> <p>6:00 Board of Education</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Class @ Cronks</p> <p>7:30 Prayer Party</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Boone Triangular Basketball</p> <p>6:30 Worship ☩</p>
<p><b>14</b></p> <p>8:00 Worship</p> <p>9:15 Bible Class</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>NO Bussing (AM &amp; PM)</p> <p>1:30 Monday Sewing</p> <p>6:00 Parish Planning</p> <p>7:00 Board of Trustees</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>2:00 Tuesdays at Two Women's Bible Study</p> <p>4:00 Home Basketball Game vs. Arlington</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>6:30 Women's Bible Class @ Cronks</p> <p>8:30 Chapel</p> <p>6:30 Confirmation</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>10:00 Bible Class</p> <p>1:00 Nifty Needles</p> <p>4:30-7:30 Pancake Supper</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Class @ Cronks</p> <p>7:30 Prayer Party</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>6:30 Worship</p>
<p><b>21</b></p> <p>8:00 Worship ☩</p> <p>9:15 Bible Class</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 Worship ☩</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9:00 Scrip Orders Due</p> <p>1:30 Monday Sewing</p> <p>4:00 Newsletter Article Deadline</p> <p>6:30 Operation Barnabas</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>2:00 Tuesdays at Two Women's Bible Study</p> <p>4:00 Home Basketball Game vs. Ft. Dodge</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>6:30 Women's Bible Class @ Cronks</p> <p>No Preschool</p> <p>8:30 Chapel</p> <p>1:20 Early Dismissal</p> <p>6:30 Confirmation</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>10:00 Bible Class</p> <p>1:00 Nifty Needles</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Class @ Cronks</p> <p>7:30 Prayer Party</p> <p>Ft. Dodge Basketball Tournament</p> <p>No PM Preschool</p> <p>1:20 Early School Dismissal</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Ft. Dodge Basketball Tournament</p> <p>6:30 Worship ☩</p>
<p><b>28</b></p> <p>8:00 Worship</p> <p>9:15 Bible Class</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>1:30 Voters' Meeting</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>1:30 Monday Sewing</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>1:00 Newsletter Assembly</p> <p>2:00 Tuesdays at Two Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>6:30 Women's Bible Class @ Cronks</p> <p>8:30 Chapel</p> <p>6:30 Confirmation</p>			

## BIRTHDAYS

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1/1 Lindsay Bandow    | 1/12 Troy Curnyn     |
| Teresa Barnes         | Riley Miller         |
| Nancy Jors            | Tami Nelson          |
| Sandy Luvaas          | Aiden Ransom         |
| Steve Schurke         | Alex Spahn           |
| Amanda Spahn          | 1/13 Penni Coenen    |
| Beverly Winn          | Kristin Webb         |
| Bob Wulf              | Lori Wight           |
| 1/2 Lorraine Groth    | 1/14 Colleen Goering |
| Brian Knudsen         | 1/15 Larry Berner    |
| Markita Mujica        | Kenny Christiansen   |
| Joe Rank              | Ritchie Meeves       |
| 1/3 Donna Ahart       | Marc Meyer           |
| Kia Coenen            | Marcella Schneller   |
| Joan Fryar            | 1/16 Jenny Bevar     |
| Scott Hast            | Blaine Bohlmann      |
| Diane Poggensee       | Donna DeVolld        |
| Jason Vogt            | Stockton Gabel       |
| 1/4 Keira Hartwig     | Janet Iversen        |
| Brad Scott            | Holly Meyer          |
| 1/5 Deb Gress         | Zac Petersen         |
| Cindy Mathies         | 1/17 Chris Fink      |
| Bradley Meeves        | Lorena Fink          |
| Kelsey Meyer          | Troy Huisinga        |
| Trig Mumm             | Kryson Krapfl        |
| Blaze Schneller       | Mike Miller          |
| Colleen Wessel        | Sandra Nemitz        |
| Doug Wessel           | Myron Plagge         |
| 1/6 Kris Anastasi     | Jessenia Vazquez     |
| Meggan Brandmeyer     | 1/18 Jeremy Brown    |
| Troy Dahleen          | Amy Malone           |
| Phillip Schurke       | Marie Peterson       |
| 1/7 Samantha Segebart | Roger Siemer         |
| Janet Cornelius       | Donavon Sonnichsen   |
| Hunter Emery          | 1/19 Dakota Boger    |
| 1/8 Aaron Hansen      | Karen Book           |
| Gaylon Reetz          | Tara Donar           |
| Arnie Walde           | Mandy Hartwig        |
| 1/9 Lori Asmus        | Evelyn Staller       |
| Scott Ellis           | Logan Volkmann       |
| Kevin Goslar          | 1/20 Shaun Baker     |
| Dave Haase            | Samantha Thies       |
| Jill Jahn             | Jordan Voss          |
| Megan Plagge          | 1/21 Janice Arnold   |
| Jason Stover          | Merci Frazier        |
| 1/10 Jason Arn        | Kathy Miller         |
| Matt Gosch            | James Werkmeister    |
| Brynn Potts           | 1/22 Joe Brown       |
| Kelly Rosburg         | Lois Duncan          |
| 1/11 Maddox Franck    | Marsha Kolls         |
| Addison Houston       | Brianne Malone       |
| Ernie Hulsebus        | Connie Meyer         |
| Marsha Kracht         | Evan Schroeder       |
| Gavin Miller          | Karlen Watson        |
| Jacob Pedersen        | Parker Wessel        |
| Myron Peters          |                      |



## ANNIVERSARIES

- |                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1/23 Cindy Fastje    | 1/7 Jeff & Michelle Fink  |
| Dan Fastje           | 1/30 Eric & Steph Mahoney |
| Justin Kahl          |                           |
| Joanne Sachau        |                           |
| Shirley Schneider    |                           |
| Hollie Weltz         |                           |
| 1/24 David Parr      |                           |
| Ron Rothe            |                           |
| 1/25 Justin Barnett  |                           |
| Silas Gosch          |                           |
| Cindy Huisinga       |                           |
| Mandi Kløver         |                           |
| Jeff Lamaak          |                           |
| 1/26 Dave Frazier    |                           |
| 1/27 Jim Bielfeldt   |                           |
| Chris Blum           |                           |
| Morgan Winey         |                           |
| Jack Younggren       |                           |
| 1/28 Bill Gehring    |                           |
| Glen Miller          |                           |
| 1/29 Larry Boeck     |                           |
| Lester Boettger      |                           |
| Linda Curnyn         |                           |
| Dan Grill            |                           |
| Brittany Pittman     |                           |
| Mike Scherff         |                           |
| Marlyce Schraeder    |                           |
| 1/30 Kaylie Baker    |                           |
| Goanar Biliew        |                           |
| Marc Gosch           |                           |
| Howard Kremin        |                           |
| Philip Sharon        |                           |
| 1/31 Tatum Fink      |                           |
| Dave Hidding         |                           |
| Andrea Hoffmeier     |                           |
| Robert Jepsen        |                           |
| Johnathon Mengwasser |                           |
| Bob Olson            |                           |
| Reagan Winey         |                           |

### Stewardship Corner...

Happy New Year! Have you looked up the word “new” in your Bible concordance? Just reading the portions of verses listed there is a very affirming, encouraging experience. The message they give can be summed up in one phrase: What Jesus brings us is always “new and improved!” There are verses that remind us that there’s nothing ahead of us that Christ hasn’t faced before us. Nothing that we encounter in this new year will surprise our God, who has all things under His control. We read that we are new creatures with new hearts and spirits, new lives and attitudes. Even though our sinful human nature wrestles with our spiritual nature and often seems to win, we are assured that, in spite of what we do and say, we are still new, made new by Christ’s atoning work on the cross. So Happy NEW Year! It’s not only new, it’s improved!



# Pancake Supper



**Freewill Offering**

**Thursday, January 18**  
**4:30 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**Zion - Denison**

Serving

Pancakes, sausage, applesauce,  
juice and milk

Sponsored by Zion teachers and Board of Education



**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**1004 1st Avenue South**  
**Denison, Iowa 51442**

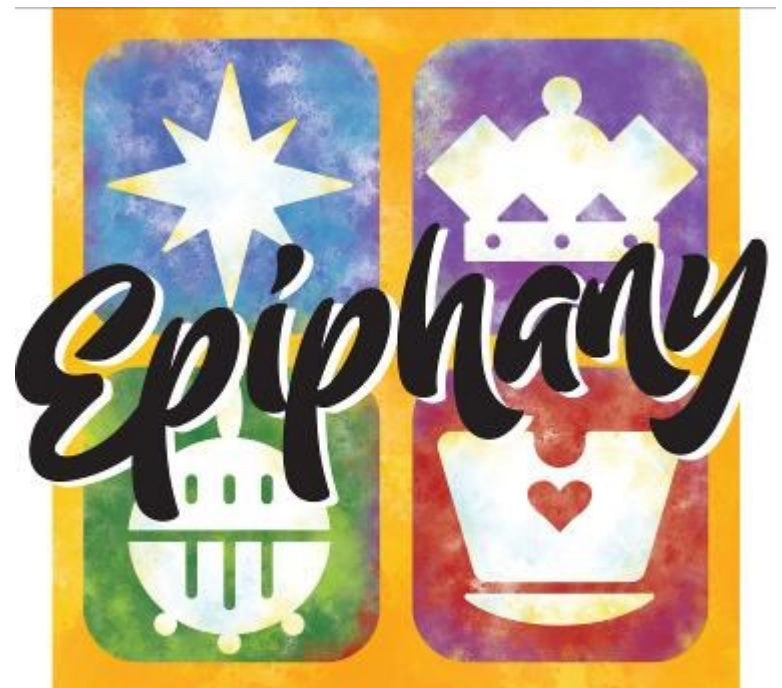
*Worship Times*  
**Saturdays 6:30 p.m.**  
**Sundays 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.**

*Sunday School & Bible Classes*  
**Sundays 9:15-10:15 a.m.**

*Church Office* 712-263-2235  
*School Office* 712-263-4766  
*Fax* 712-263-6010

*E-Mail:* [info@ziondenison.org](mailto:info@ziondenison.org)  
*Website:* [www.ziondenison.org](http://www.ziondenison.org)

Rev. Joshua Keinath, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Kurt Kaiser, Associate Pastor  
Merrilee Sump, School Principal



**Tell. Teach. Involve.**