

Zion News

"Preach the word of God: be prepared in season and out of season. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching." - 2 Timothy 4:2

In the fall of 2009 our congregation experienced an unsettling situation with another church that had shared ministers with us for nearly forty years. Suddenly, Zion was without any pastoral leadership and felt somewhat adrift and wondering what the future would hold for our church.

Just days later, a dear, sweet lady of the congregation made a phone call to one of Zion's trustees. She was getting her hair done and was introduced to a man who she felt would be a wonderful preacher for our church.

The phone call prompted a meeting with the church trustee who thought the man would also be a good match for the congregation and, soon, before the end of 2009, Dennis R. Hanner became Zion's interim pastor.

The search for a settled pastor seemed like it would be a long and tedious task, and since Pastor Hanner was "patiently correcting, rebuking, and encouraging his people with good teaching" so well, he was unanimously called to serve as Zion's permanent pastor on July 5, 2010.

Pastor Hanner became immediately and enthusiastically involved with preparations for the celebration of Zion's 140th Anniversary on August 7-8, 2010. It was a special occasion made better by Zion having Pastor Hanner present.

Pastor Hanner was a builder. He enjoyed the works of the hands as well as the works of the spirit. In January of 2012, he and two trustees met with an architect to see about making the church building more accessible to people with disabilities.

In less than six months the congregation approved a

proposed Accessibility Project at an estimated cost of \$175,000.00. Some money had been set aside for such a project, but not nearly enough. In less than another sixty days, more than the amount needed to proceed had been received in donations from church members - thanks in large part to Pastor Hanner's leadership and encouragement.

Pastor Hanner financially supported the work of the church. He often declined pay increases offered him in order to free up funds for Zion's projects and missions.

Many interesting changes happened to Zion's worship services and Sunday school activities while Pastor Hanner served our church. He brought stability to a congregation that could have been floundering without a pastor during an important time in its history.

Pastor Hanner announced well in advance that he intended to end his service as Zion's pastor effective December 31, 2016, but he never really left. He extended his stay into 2017 and had been continuously providing once-a-month pulpit supply while Zion is once again searching for a permanent pastor.

Pastor Hanner's sudden passing was a shock to family, friends, and our congregation. He was scheduled to preach this past Sunday and had already provided his scripture text for inclusion in the bulletin. The scripture was about the Lord's Supper. It was hoped that his sermon notes could be used as his final message to our congregation, but he had not completed his sermon on paper before his passing.

"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, but his delight is in the Law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night." - Psalm 1

Pastor Hanner was a good man who served his Lord well.

Time to get back to the real world

BACK TO THE REAL WORLD

Or as real as it is going to get. I guess I should say new world. I refuse to say 'new normal' because I hated that phrase during covid. Guess this is more of a learning to live with a different way of thinking. But enough of that, too many things happening in our great little town.

SPEAKING OF WHICH

Many of you may have seen the article on facebook titled, "The Tiny Amish Town In Illinois That's The Perfect Day Trip Destination." Very complimentary and mentions the Illinois Amish Heritage Center, Yoder's Kitchen, Homestead Bakery and Countryside Amish Furniture which is located on Moses Court and, admittedly, where you order furniture made elsewhere which I believe is true of many, but not all, of our furniture shops both in and out of town. A few weeks back on the Trips to Discover website Arthur was also featured as one of the state's 15 most charming towns. The article was actually written by Arthur native and 2001 AHS grad Alyssa Ochs.

NEWS FROM CUSD #305

"At our recent IHSA Solo and Ensemble contest, all entries earned first place. Congratulations to Izabella Danford, Chloe Custer, Sara Rogers, Kylie Stutzman, Angelina Davis Kearns and Miah Malin. A Best of Day Award Certificate was presented to Miah Malin in recognition of the most superior musical performance heard that day by a judge. Don't forget that DESSERT THEATRE is Saturday, April 1 at 7 p.m."

SPORTS REPORT

Well, unfortunately, after a February of beautiful weather March has not been so kind. There have been some indoor track meet but the outdoor season starts in earnest this week with meets on Tuesday and Wednesday. The first home meet is on Tuesday, April 4 with the big Arthur Invite on Saturday, April 8. Speaking of track, Logan Beckmier finished 2nd in the 3200m run and 6th in the 1600m run at the Illinois Top Times Indoor Championships! Congratulations Logan! And again unfortunately for the softball and baseball teams, many of their games have been rained out this past week or so. The boys do have home games (at Lovington) today (March 29) and on Tuesday, the 4th and Friday, the 7th. As for softball, they have home games (at Atwood) on Thursday and Friday this week and the next home game is not until Monday, April 10. Good luck to all our Knights!

LEGAL NOTICE

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the legal voters, residents of the Town of Lowe in the county of Moultrie and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Town will take place on Tuesday, April 11th, 2023, being the second Tuesday of said month at the hour of 6:15 p.m. at The Arthur Public Library for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the said town, and, after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting.

Dated March 14, 2023.

Melissa Schrock Township Clerk published 03/29/2023

LEGAL NOTICE

LOVINGTON TOWNSHIP ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, to the residents of Lovington Township in the County of Moultrie, State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Township will be held on APRIL 12, 2022 at the hour of 6:15 P.M. at 314 North Washington Street, Lovington, Illinois 61937 for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the Township and to hear and consider the reports of officers and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting.

The Agenda for the meeting and items to be considered at the meeting will include:

- 1) Election of a moderator for the meeting.
- 2) Hearing and considering the reports of officers.
- 3) Considering and deciding on such other measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting.

Dated this 24th day of March 2022
ERICA CASTEEL, Township Clerk
Lovington Township
published 03/29/2023

Town Talk

By Marty Yeakel

SPEAKING OF SPORTS

Has this been a crazy NCAA basketball tournament or what? Definitely March Madness in that all the #1 seeds are gone (some of them like Purdue right off the bat). I'm sure many, many brackets have been busted. Just heard that none of the top 3 seeds made the final four. First time that has happened. I love basketball, always have. When I was growing up I thought everybody in the world watched the high school basketball tournament. I was truly astonished when I found out that wasn't the case. But that was the household we grew up in which is why you can see what an important part of our lives sports have always been. Good luck to all those left in the tournament!

NEW FIREFIGHTER IN CHARLESTON

I had seen something about this a few weeks back and then the other day in the Mattoon paper there was an article about the first woman firefighter in nearby Charleston. Turns out it is Allison Tinnon, 2012 AHS grad and daughter of Jeff (AHS '81) and Cathy Tinnon. I guess her mother is from that area and she thought she would like to give this new career a try. Seems to be working out well for all so far. Good for you Allison!

BEYOND THE BOARDROOM

The News-Gazette has a feature article each week about someone in the community or the area, often heads of businesses or others who are doing or involved in interesting things. Last week it was Gary Alexander's turn. Gary is married to Always Arthurite Kristi Montgomery (AHS '92) and they have four children. Gary was also grade school principal here in Arthur for many years and he noted that he was principal for his three boys and is now not only superintendent at Tuscola but also principal

for their youngest, Jillian at that school. Gary is a Tuscola native and graduate so I know they were very happy to get back to his hometown a few years ago. Nice guy and a nice family. Know he was very well liked here and I'm sure his hometown is glad to have him back. Great job Gary!

NEW EXHIBIT AT ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

There is a new exhibit at this museum. From their webpage: "Home is more than a structure. It's a feeling of belonging and finding a sense of self and community. Whether by immigration, migration, or residency, Illinoisans from Cahokia to Lincoln into the present-day

See TOWN TALK on page 5

ELECT Isai Gutierrez Village Board Write In Candidate

- Able to engage with people at all levels
- Effective time management skills

Vote Tuesday, April 4

MANNEQUINS

Background: Red barn south of Atwood, Illinois

by Ariana Chambers & Don S. Chambers



In Our Community

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023

Fish and More

at: Otto Center
1/2 mile South of Arthur

Serving From:

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

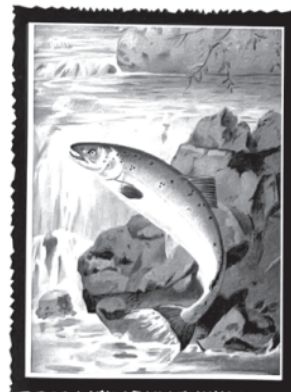
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Serving Batter Dipped Cod Filets, Sweet Rice,
Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad,
Homemade Bread, Cake, and Soft Serve Ice Cream

All You Can Eat!

Donations Accepted

Proceeds from Fish Fry go to
the Otto Center Fund



Gluten Free
Available
After 4 PM

All Day Bake Sale

Donuts,
Tea Rings, Fried Pies,
Cinnamon Rolls, etc.

Ad compliments of:

Look for our convenient ATMs.



State Bank of Arthur

A Division of Morton Community Bank
Member FDIC

Arthur History Fact #43

1929

A newspaper article reported Arthur as being a "city of 1500 friendly and progressive people, located in a rich dairying, poultry and livestock district and in the center of the great Illinois Corn Belt.

It has good stores and business houses, modern homes, five churches, two miles of paved streets, adequate water system, two good schools, two strong banks, live-wire newspaper, municipal library, spacious park with playground equipment and camping facilities for tourists.

It has major industries, three good garages, three poultry buyers, three cream buyers, two mammoth grain elevators, two baby chick hatcheries, two canning factories, and the Arthur Mail Order House.

The city is a freight terminal of the Pennsylvania Railway, and has a second-class post office, unusual for a town of its size."

NEWS FROM THE HEART OF THE AMISH COUNTRY

ARTHUR GRAPHIC-CLARION

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