

# ZION HERALD



JULY/AUGUST 2014

VOLUME 87 NUMBER 7 & 8

## *A note from the pastor...*

Greetings sisters and brothers in Christ,

I remember in May when I wrote my last Herald article. The talk around town was, "Is winter really over?" It was a long, **cold** winter. But now, green, yellow, blue, violet, or almost any color you want to see is just outside your door. Summer is really here, and with summer, the colorful beauty of God's creation. I remember the long winter talk of May because I really haven't heard much talk about the heat or humidity of summer because last winter is still fresh in our minds. (yes it was that long of a winter)

That longing for warmth and comfort is not just a weather related issue. Human beings like you and me all need warmth and comfort beyond the simple physical type. We need smiles, handshakes, hugs, and don't giggle, we need kisses too. I believe our desire for close and personal contact is part of our gift as being created in God's image. Whether we are old or young, tall or short, big or small, we all need love; and the giving and receiving of love begins with our Triune God.

God first shared and will always share God's love between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Today, God continues to share God's ever-giving and receiving love with us through our close and personal relationship with God. Our relationship with God is made strong through the power of God's Spirit. Paul declares in his letter to the Romans, "And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us" (Romans 5:5).

The Holy Spirit interacts directly with us pouring God's love into our hearts and all

we need to do is accept it. Then as God share's God's love with us, we share that love with others just as Christ shared God's love with all those around him and with us. When we freely share Christ's love with everyone, can anyone truly feel alone or unloved? No! Therefore, let us all, as one great community in and with Jesus Christ, pour out the love God pours into our hearts so that all will know we are truly Christians by our love.

As we move into the heart of summer, let us all give thanks for the great gifts that God continues to pour out into our community. We are blest to have leaders who vision a path into the future with Christ by our side. We are blest to see our members gathering on Sunday to worship God. We are blest to have choirs, organists, Scripture readers, and special music to enhance our worship services. We are blest to have to have a congregation that supports special events like the many we witnessed last year during our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We are blest to have our Evening Circle. We are blest to have our Christian Education leaders. We are blest to receive the gifts to support our ministry in Christ and to accomplish major projects like painting and video enhancements in the sanctuary, roofing and drainage updates, sidewalk repair, beautiful artwork painted in the Christian Education wing, and our upcoming organ refurbishment. We are blest to have you as the reader of this newsletter. We are blest to have our Triune God at our side. There are so many more ways we are blest by God that if I tried to list them all, we would have a shortage of paper this month. Let us all rejoice and give thanks to God, for we are truly blest!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Steve

Reflect upon your present blessings of which everyone has many – not on your past misfortunes, of which all people have some. *Charles Dickens*

# THIS MONTH USHERS

## JULY USHER SCHEDULE

July 6 Church Council  
 July 13 Kip & Sandy Esbaum, Pavin Esbaum  
 July 20 Merlin & Carma Conrad  
 July 27 Senior High Fellowship

## AUGUST USHER SCHEDULE

August 3 Church Council  
 August 10 Bill & Sharon Elijah  
 August 17 Kirk & Laurie Steinke, Robert & Joni Fields  
 August 24 Laettner Esbaum, Andrew Fields  
 August 31 Senior High Fellowship



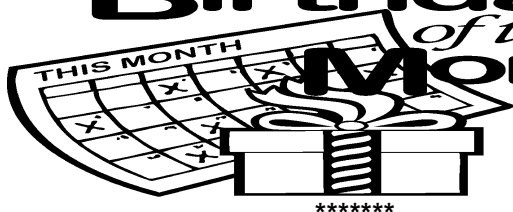
## July Videographer Schedule

July 6 Julie Hoffmeier  
 July 13<sup>th</sup> Donna Luepker  
 July 20 David Niermeyer  
 July 27 Jean Stepp

## August Videographer Schedule

August 3<sup>rd</sup> Jody Yutesler  
 August 10<sup>th</sup> Cody Fields  
 August 17<sup>th</sup> Cheryl Boedeker  
 August 24<sup>th</sup> Jane Drewelow  
 August 31 Mark McElaney

# Birthdays of the Month



## JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 2 Gaylon Esbaum  
 July 3 Lou Krafock  
 July 7 Stacie Luepker  
 July 9 Nathan Nabb  
 July 11 Darrell Yutesler,  
 July 12 Donna Luepker  
 July 15 Carma Conrad

July 16 Nick Combs  
 July 17 Leroy Luepker  
 July 18 Beth Kahl  
 July 19 Ian Fox, \*Dustin Peet  
 July 20 Sue Monson, Laurie Millam  
 July 22 Dalton Yutesler  
 July 23 Gene Hamdorf, Diane Esbaum  
 July 25 Faith Strackbein, Mike Jensen  
 July 26 Carmen Fields, Jamian Horman  
 July 27 Mary Louise Horman, Sandy Fields, Bill Muhs

July 28 Janis Krafock, Judy Mowry, Shandon Hoffmeier, Kelli Esbaum

July 29 Elon Miller  
 July 31 \*Christy Combs

## JULY BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER

July 2 Gaylon Esbaum, 86 East Main Street, Lowden, Iowa 52255  
 July 25 Faith Strackbein, 6126 Rockwell Dr. N.E. Apt. 120, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402-4781  
 July 27 Mary Louise Horman, P.O. Box 448, Lowden, Iowa 52255



# Anniversaries this Month

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

July 6 \*Jacob & Heidi Neill 11 yrs.  
 July 7 Chris & Phyllis Boedeker 58 yrs  
 July 12 Jennifer & \*Patrick Glover 6 years  
 July 16 Nick & \*Christy Combs 9 years  
 July 19 Dave & Rose Horman  
 July 27 Aaron & Megan Horman 12 yrs  
 July 27 Brian & Carolee Lohman 18 yrs.  
 July 30 Al & Vicki Mohr 37 yrs



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 3 Mary Huffman, Londyn Rose Kahl  
 August 7 Judy Proesch  
 August 11 Sharon Kruckenberg, Jennifer Frederick  
 August 14 Marilyn Klahn, Allen Koch  
 August 15 \*Brian Armstrong, Robert O'Howell

August 18 Bill Elijah  
 August 20 Brad Norton, Kim Klahn, Joby Proesch  
 August 21 Leon Kohlhoff  
 August 23 Adam Horman  
 August 25 Bob Fields III  
 August 26 Dennis Boedeker  
 August 28 \*Jason Hayton  
 August 29 Sandra Horman  
 August 30 Brynn Rayella Kahl  
 August 31 Madelynn Sherrill

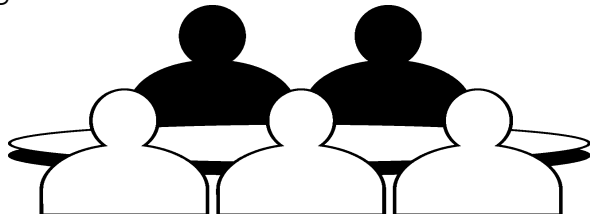
  


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*Anniversaries*  
*this*  
*Month*


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August 1 Duane & Terry Lasack 44 Years  
 Lonnie & Stacie Luepker 22 Years  
 August 2 Larry & Kerri Havel 11 years  
 August 10 Gerald & Alice Rowold 68 Years  
 August 14 Wilbert & Millie Muhs 44 Years  
 August 19 Don & Carol Boedeker 64 Years  
 Mike & Pam Jensen 31 Years  
 August 26 Leroy & Donna Luepker 53 Years  
 August 30 Kevin & Beth Kahl 39 Years



**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

May 13, 2014

Zion United Church of Christ council met at 7:00 on May 13, 2014. Those present were Donavon Freese, Kevin Kahl, LeRoy Luepker, Mark McElaney, Tanya Stewart, Renate Port, Linda Behrens present through treasurer report.

Donavon called the meeting to order. Pastor Steve opened with a reading and prayer.

Joys & Concerns were shared.

Secretary's minutes were read and approved on a motion by Mark, second by Leroy. Carried.

Treasure's reports were read and approved by a motion by Renate, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tanya. Carried

Calendar for upcoming month was reviewed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Mowing starts May 15 through October
2. Trimming and sweeping the sidewalk included in the mowing job.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Wilbert and Millie resigns, we are looking for a replacement. They will stay on until we find someone.
2. Members wishing to go camp can get help toward going.
3. Secretary drawer lock is broke and needs to be replaced.

**PASTOR REPORT:**

1. Cub Scouts will receive their "God and Me" awards for completing their studies. Food will be enjoyed after the service.
2. Several outdoor services are being planned.
3. Pastor vacation will be July 8 through July 22.
4. Question for the month: Why do you come to worship service?

Meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer. Next meeting will be June 10 at 5:30 p.m. Motion to adjourn by LeRoy and seconded by Mark.

Renate Port, Secretary

**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

**June 10, 2014**

**Unofficial Minutes**

Zion United Church of Christ Council met at 5:30 pm on June 10, 2014. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Mark McElaney. Pastor Steve opened with a group prayer. Those in attendance were Pastor Steve, Kevin Kahl, LeRoy Luepker, Mark McElaney, and Tanya Stewart. Donavon Freese and Renate Port were absent. Linda Behrens was present thru the treasurer's report.

Sandra Esbaum presented a Spring Dinner Summary.

Joys and concerns were shared.

Secretary's minutes were reviewed and approved on a motion made by LeRoy, second by Kevin. Motion carried.

All treasurer's reports were reviewed and approved with a motion made by Kevin and second by Tanya. Motion carried.

### Calendar Review

### OLD BUSINESS

- No Applications for custodian have been received. Wilbert & Millie Muhs final date is the end of June.
- Secretary's desk drawer lock is fixed.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- Bills from JJJ and Lowden Plumbing & Heating were received for installing drain tile and sump pit will be paid thru the Improvement Fund.
- Linda's vacation dates are 8/8 and 9-15-18.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- ❖ Organ fund is growing. Leroy received numerous memorial donations.
- ❖ Worship & Music: Suggestion to do skits throughout the year, maybe next one at Thanksgiving.
- ❖ Church in the park on 6/29 with potluck dinner. Bell upkeep/repair items discussed.
- ❖ **Christian Education:** Pie Auction on Sunday. VBS Weird Animals theme will be July 27-31.
- ❖ **Mission:** September 6<sup>th</sup> meal and social fund raiser event planned with Christian Education.
- ❖ **Building and Grounds:** Sidewalk repaired. Bill pending.

**Pastor's** report read and approved on a motion was made by LeRoy, second by Kevin. Motion carried.

Pastor will be on vacation from 7/8-722.

**Discussion Topic:** Share an event in your life when you felt God was present.

Motion was made to adjourn meeting by LeRoy, second by Kevin. Motion carried.

**Next meeting:** July 22 at 5:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned with a closing prayer by Pastor Steve.

Tanya Stewart, Secretary Pro-Tem

## **ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CHURCH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING Minutes June 22, 2014**

Zion United Church of Christ Council met immediately following worship on June 22, 2014. The meeting was called to order by President Donavon Freese. Pastor Steve opened with a prayer. Those in attendance were Pastor Steve, Donavon Freese, Kevin Kahl, LeRoy Luepker, Tanya Stewart, Jean Stepp, Kelly Nabb, Sig & MaKayla Schluter. Mark McElaney and Renate Port were absent.

Kelly Nabb presented "Red Roots." The Christian Education Program would like to sponsor this country Christian band on a date to be determined in our sanctuary, with a meal in the Fellowship Hall immediately following concert. The initial cost of the band would be support by funds from Sunday School and ZYC. Mission Committee is willing to help with the meal. Ticket proceeds will support our Local Food Pantry and/or Deacon Fund. Audience includes our brother and sister church from Tipton thru DeWitt.

President Donavon called for a vote regarding Christian Education's Mission Project "Red Roots" majority voted in favor. Vote passed. Meeting adjourned. Pastor Steve closed with a prayer

Tanya Stewart, Secretary Pro-Tem



### **ZION EVENING CIRCLE MAY 19, 2014**

On Monday evening, May 19, fourteen members and Pastor Steve enjoyed the Evening Circle progressive dinner. We began with delicious appetizers at Julie's house with Carma assisting. We then enjoyed our salad and main course at Terry's house with Bonnie and Jean assisting. While there Bonnie led us in devotions using the topic "God Believes in You". Then it was on to the country to Linda's house for dessert, Sharon assisting.

President Bonnie called the meeting to order with roll call. Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read and approved with the Treasurer reporting a balance of \$2064.59. Bills were presented. Motion made by Julie & 2<sup>nd</sup> by Phyllis to pay the bills.

Thank yous were read or expressed from Wheatland Manor, Wilbert Wenndt, Post Prom Committee and Marilyn. President Bonnie thanked those who served the Senior-Parent breakfast, namely: Joy, Bonnie and Jean. Pastor Steve and Jean were also guests at the breakfast.

Members were reminded to sign up for summer coffee time which will begin in June.

Janice Strackbein and Terry have been doing a good job taking care of the plants outdoors in front of the church. They have purchased more flowers and a trellis.

Sharon announced that we will help with bingo at Wheatland Manor on June 16. All members are to bring prizes which may be brought to Sharon, Marilyn or Jean if not going, Sharon gave ideas for prizes.

Jean and Janice S. will be serving the committee on ministry tomorrow. Janis K. and Marlene Fox will serve in June. Sig will be in charge of flowers in June.

On July 21 we will have a buffet breakfast at the Mill Creek Café in Clarence beginning at 8 a.m. Please let Sharon or Joy know if you won't be able to attend.

Pastor Steve informed us we will be having an outdoor service at Memorial Park open shelter on June 29. This will be open to the community and will begin at 10:15 a.m. All are to bring table service, cups and a covered dish.

The nominating committee announced Phyllis will be the new secretary for the coming year. Meeting was adjourned.

Special thanks to the hostesses and assistants for planning a wonderful and bounteous progressive dinner. It was great!  
Marilyn Klahn, Secretary

## **ZION EVENING CIRCLE**

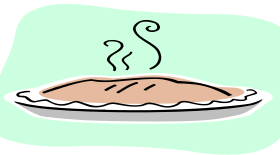
**JUNE 16, 2014**

On Monday, June 16, Evening Circle assisted with bingo at Wheatland Manor. Those

attending were: Sharon, Linda, Marilyn, Donna, Marlene Fox, Joy, Jean, Janis Krafock and Pastor Steve. Diana Thomas, activity director, thanked Circle for their help and the prizes and again expressed thanks for the May baskets.

## **Pastoral Coverage during Pastor Steve's vacation.**

While Pastor Steve is on vacation from July 8<sup>th</sup> to July 21<sup>st</sup>, Pastor Dave Mears, Pastor Tommie Boeder, and Pastor John Cofield will be providing pastoral care to our members. Please contact Linda Behrens at 563-941-5886 or at the office 941-7726.



## **ANNUAL VBS PIE AUCTION!**

We held our annual Pie Auction on Sunday, June

15. All proceeds go towards VBS. Thank you to all those hands who made the 31 pies donated! AND a great big thank you goes out to all those who purchased pies for the benefit of VBS! We raised \$1,654! Thank you again for your generous support of this great program.

## **Organ Fund**



We are continuing to take gifts for the purpose of rebuilding our church's pipe organ. Any size of gift would be greatly appreciated.



Sandra & Brad Schafbuch are the proud parents of a daughter, Cara Jordy Schafbuch, who was born May 2, 2014. She weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz. and was 20 inches long. Welcoming her into the family are Grandparents Al and Vicki Mohr and Uncle Dan and Aunt Amy.



### Meeting

The Missions Committee met Sunday, May 25, 2014 at 11:15. Members in attendance were Linda Behrens, Terry Lasack, Tanya Stewart (council representative), Mary Huffman and Rev. Steve Stepp.

Minutes of the March 9 meeting were reviewed and approved as presented. The financial report was presented and approved and Terry submitted a bill for cards.

With summer hours beginning, blood pressures will be taken between church services and the social hour. Tanya noted that this time actually works better, because we tend to catch more members. She will take blood pressures in June and Beth will do them in July.

Strengthen the Church is scheduled for June 8, but Pastor may change this date. He will let us know if we will need to assist in the service.

Expansion of the committee and the possibility of adding a youth member were discussed. Pastor noted that Makayla has expressed an interest in continuing mission work following her confirmation, as well as some of the other confirmands. He will check with them to see if there is an interest in any of them joining this committee. We will keep the idea of expansion in the back of our minds.

A brief discussion was held regarding the worship service in the park on June 29, followed by the potluck. It was decided that we did not need to be a part of this event since the Music and Worship Committee was in charge.

Fundraising efforts were discussed. Because July is a busy month with Vacation Bible School, it was suggested we work with Kelly and join resources to do an Ice Cream Social to Kick Off the beginning of Christian Education. It will be held either Saturday, September 6 or Sunday, September 7. The Missions Committee would be in charge of the organization of the food and

Christian Education would set up the games. We would charge for the meals. If we hold the event on Saturday, it was suggested that we invite the band back again. They do not play on Sundays.

Pastor Steve noted that they have been looking into doing a Box Holder mailing that would reach over 555 households in the community. We could use this to promote a number of events with funding coming from the General Fund, Christian Education and the Mission Fund depending on what we choose to include.

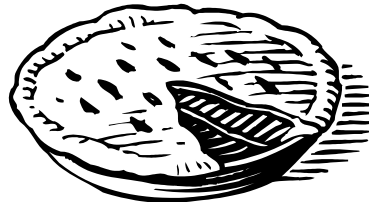
Linda noted that under a ten-year contract with Pilgrim Heights we will need to send them a check for \$500 for the year.

Pastor closed with a mission story and a prayer.

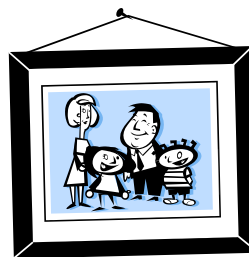
Next meeting date: July 27

Mary Huffman, Secretary

### ATTENTION: PIE MAKERS



Lowden Park Board has asked that Zion donate 10 fruit pies to the Annual Park Day Celebration, Sat. Aug 2. Pies should be delivered to the food stand by 4:30pm on that day. Please contact Vicki Mohr or Sharon Elijah if you can donate a pie. All proceeds go the Lowden Memorial Park.



### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

If you or your family had their pictures taken for the pictorial directory, your complimentary copy is in the office and ready to be picked up. The hours for the office are Monday thru Friday from 8:30 to 12:00. Or you can ask someone when you are at church and they will be able to get your copy for you.