



Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

"Come for all things are prepared," is the sentence of our communion liturgy just before we distribute the bread and the cup. It is a warm and inviting sentence that reminds us that all are welcome to come to Christ's table; all are welcome at God's great banquet. God invites us and all we need to do is accept, put on the robe of Christ, and come. So with our invitation through the grace of God and our robe given to us by Christ as the true way to live in faith, we come to the banquet by living our lives in that robe and accepting God's way and Christ's life as our own.

Then sisters and brothers because we live Christ's life we know the difficulty of crossing the threshold. Therefore we reach out and invite members, neighbors, and strangers to join us. We pray that they too will reach out and join us as we unite in worship and service to God. It is what Jesus did for the disciples when anxiety and uneasiness prevented them from crossing the threshold to go out and make disciples. And when there was still one whose faith was tested, Jesus returned and said, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side" (John 20:27). Jesus came to him. Jesus reached out to him. Jesus invited him to touch and believe. So we need to make every effort by reaching out with God's invitation to the banquet. We need to invite all to learn about the beautiful robe of life in Christ. Then we all will rejoice as we enter God's great banquet. Praise God!

As we begin the month of November, we once again prepare ourselves for the winter ahead. Now I have always seen winter in two parts.

- The first part is the exciting part. The first snow fall. The first snowman. The first snowball fight. But more importantly, the First Christmas. "What?" you may say, "First Christmas?" and I would say yes, our celebration of Christmas

should always be centered on the First Christmas when Jesus Christ was born.

- The second part is the long, long cold winter part when we long for Spring to come.

But let us not get ahead of ourselves, let us first relish November as our time of preparation and excitement as we wait for the first "real" snow and the beginning of Advent. And... as we get ready for our Mission of Hope event with Red Roots. Now this is where I was going all along. Let's face it, sometimes November can use a little excitement, so what better way to bring color into our month than to invite three young women called Red Roots to our church for a concert. I really hope to see everyone as they bring their Christian music into our sanctuary.

November also is a great month for our regular worship services. We begin with our annual memorial service, "Totenfest" when we remember those in this past year who have gone on before us and now shine in glory with God. Then on November 9<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Mills will join us and lead our worship service while we visit family in Wisconsin. Our last two Sundays in November will center on the end of our church year and how we as Christians continue the cycle of life in Christ through our community in the world.

Finally, let me say thank you to everyone at Zion as I approach the end of my third year. THIRD YEAR! You say... I know really; it's been three years since God called me, through this loving community, to serve you. I thank you for your continuing love and support as we continue to move forward in faith on our journey of life together. May God continue to generously bless us so that we may generously bless others with our faith in Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Steve

May every man, woman and child realize that God created us to be a blessing to others so that they may know God by the way they live their lives." *uncredited*

## TOTENFEST SERVICE

Totenfest will be celebrated during our worship service on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. This year we will remember the following church member:

NAME	Birthday	Date of Death
Zella Tharp	April 25, 1927	Sept. 18, 2013
Pearl Russ	May 9, 1912	Dec. 15, 2013
Jerald Jensen	August 9, 1932	Feb. 1, 2014
Lorrie Strackbein	May 23, 1925	Oct. 4, 2014

## THIS MONTH USHERS

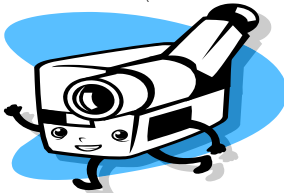
November 2	Church Council
November 9	Senior High Fellowship
November 16	Pete & Sharon Johnson, Dennis & Cheryl Boedeker
November 23	Bonnie Kintzel, Beth Kahl
November 26	Thanksgiving Eve Terry & Duane Lasack
November 30	Rose Horman, Mary Huffman, Brad & Liz Norton

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November 2	Kaci Gottschalk & Kelli Proesch
November 9	MacKenzie Poppe & Addie Luepker
November 16	Kelli Proesch & Addie Luepker
November 23	Kaci Gottschalk & MacKenzie Poppe
November 26	Addie Luepker & Kaci Gottschalk
November 30	Jaylynn Pearson & Kelli Proesch



### SUNDAY VIDEOGRAPHER

November 2	Jody Yutesler
November 9	Cheryl Boedeker
November 16	Jane Drewelow
November 23	Mark McElaney
November 30	Jean Stepp



### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 4	Duane Deerberg
November 5	Florence Deerberg, Jamie O'Howell, Brian Lohman
November 6	Cody Poppe
November 10	Meredith Norton, Hannah Combs, Kyla Kahl
November 18	Karen Bentrutt
November 19	Mark Freese, Ryan Hamilton
November 23	Harold Horman
November 26	Richard (Butch) Schluter
November 28	Alan Mohr
November 30	Terry Lasack

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER

November 23	Harold Horman, P.O. Box 448 Lowden, Iowa 52255
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### NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

November 10	Dennis & Cheryl Boedeker 41 yrs.
November 13	Dean & Jennifer Frederick 15 yrs.
November 14	Bob & Doreen Hamdorf 66 yrs.
November 16	Al & Linda Behrens 46 years
November 18	Jessica & Noah Coppess 8 years
November 21	Doug & Cindy Wiedenhoff 28 yrs.
November 23	Dan & Gail Hamdorf 18 years
November 24	Barry & Julie Hoffmeier 36 years
November 30	Joby & Kyle Proesch 23 years



Advent/Christmas Decorating will be held sometime Saturday, November 29, at 9:00 a.m. All are invited to come and help, the more the merrier!!



## ZION EVENING CIRCLE OCTOBER 20, 2014

Zion Evening Circle met October 20, 2014, with 17 members, including five new members—Jane Drewelow, Jody Yutesler, Carolee Lohman, Annette Behrens and Millie Muhs—and Pastor Steve present.

Jill Tresslar was our speaker for the evening. She explained her business of making and selling children's clothes and accessories and showed us some of her work. She then helped us make a "candy corn" hair or pin accessory. We thank Jill for coming and making such an interesting presentation.

President Linda called the meeting to order with roll call. We welcome our new members. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved. A motion to pay the bills was made by Marlene Fox, 2d by Donna and carried. Correspondence was read from North Cedar Post Prom and Marlene Fox.

Joy moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry, that we donate \$25 to the North Cedar Post Prom Committee. Motion carried.

Linda thanked Sharon for doing the devotions and Joy for playing the piano. She also thanked Millie and Phyllis for serving those who did the CROP walk and Jean, Julie, Janice S. and Linda for providing the bars, and Joy and Phyllis for serving the Sept. committee on ministry meeting.

Totenfest was discussed. It will be Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Marilyn and Marlene Fox are on the committee to get the candles and flowers. The poinsettias were discussed. Our poinsettia queen, Marlene W., will again be in charge of this project with Julie and Janis K. helping. The prices will be the same as last year.

Jean announced that we will be serving cupcakes and bars after the Red Roots concert on Nov. 15. She will put up a signup sheet for Circle members and the congregation.

Serving the committee on ministry for November will be Marlene F. and Linda; Carma will have devotions and Marilyn and Janis K. will do refreshments at the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Devotions were led by Sharon with the topic "Bump in the Night". Refreshments were served by Julie and Marlene F.

Sharon Elijah,  
Acting Secretary

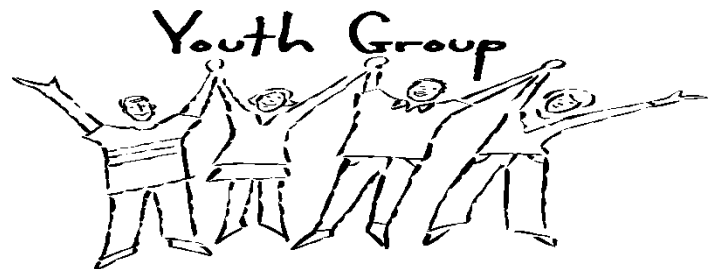


The Evening Circle will be sponsoring the annual "Make our Sanctuary Beautiful." Marlene Wiedenhoff 941-5305, Julie Hoffmeier, 941-5245 and Janis Krafock 941-7711 will be taking orders on Sunday, November 2<sup>th</sup> thru Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. The flowers are available in red, white, and pink, and the cost is \$14.00 for 8" pot, \$21.00 for a 10" pot. If you prefer giving to a favorite Church program, like Baskets for the Needy, The Christmas Decorating Fund, your favorite Charity, etc. Marlene will also help you with this.



It's that time of year for the North Cedar Bell Project. The bells will be available in November. Please return wrapped gifts (no ribbon or bows) with your bell securely attached by December 15.

North Cedar Clergy will also provide a food basket for each family and we will need volunteers to help assemble the food baskets and gifts on the week of December 15-21.



### ZION YOUTH CLUB NEWS!!

ZYC is up and running again, at full speed! We have 9 new 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, and at the last meeting had 17 kids. Trish Regennitter is another leader, and we have 3 helpers: Tristan Regennitter, Maddie Cornelius, and Makayla Schluter. With this "buddy" group they are all needed! The first two meetings we made use of the good

weather and played outside games. Next meeting will be the Halloween Party at our barn, with lots of goodies, fun and crafts. This group is a lot of fun, because nearly 95% also attend Sunday school that makes it easier with Bible Studies and games.

Sig Schluter, ZYC Leader.

# Mission of Hope

Saturday, November 15, 2015

*featuring*



*redroots*

*redroots* is a Christian Country band whose awesome music is great for all ages and makes this event a perfect outing!

Ticket prices are \$8 in advance (\$10 at the door) and children 10 years old and under are just \$5. Proceeds from the concert will go towards Local Mission Funds to benefit people in need and we are asking all concert goers to bring a non-perishable item with them.

And if that were not enough...there will also be a *dessert reception* following the concert so you can

meet the ladies of *redroots* and learn how they share their faith through their music!

We encourage each of you to take a listen to their music by visiting our website at [zionucclowden.org](http://zionucclowden.org). We think your excitement will grow just as ours has! We also have a *promotional video* for the event on our website and on the Zion Christian Education Facebook page that you may share with others!

The excitement is growing in other churches for this event! We encourage our own congregation to share in this excitement and attend as well! This is also a great time to wear your red church shirt! **We hope to see you all there!**



Thank you to everyone who made our trip to the Lowden Fire Department's Waffle Breakfast a huge success! We had over thirty family members and students of Sunday school attend! And we were able to give \$280 with the help of MISSIONS matching our donation! Thank you again for helping us help others in our community!!



The students of Zion Christian Education are excited to have new Bibles in their hands! Each Bible has a library card in them with their name on it and as they grow; their Bible will grow and change with them! Then as they become confirmands, they will receive their Bible for Confirmation and beyond! Please help the students take great care of their Bibles and be sure to read with them as often as you can!

## LOST 'N' FOUND

The Lost 'n' Found box is overflowing so please pick up your items a.s.a.p. There are a stuff toy brown bear, a scarf, a plaid blanket, a blue stocking cap, an orange head band, pair of gloves (blue with light blue), 2 VBS shirts (L), pair of sunglasses, a girl's necklace, & black umbrella. If any of these items are yours please take them out of the box by November 20, if they are not claimed we will donate them to someone who uses them.



Our Church Council

President, Donavon Freese, Vice President, Mark McElaney, Secretary, Renate Port, LeRoy Luepker, Tanya Stewart and Kevin Kahl

**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
September 11, 2014**

Zion United Church of Christ Council met at 5:30 p.m. on September 11, 2014. The meeting was called to order by President Donavon Freese. Pastor Steve opened with a poem and prayer. Those in attendance were Pastor Steve, Donavon Freese, Kevin Kahl, LeRoy Luepker, Mark McElaney, and Tanya Stewart. Renate Port was absent. Linda Behrens was present thru the treasurer's report.

Joys and concerns were shared.

Secretary's minutes from the last meeting were read and approved by Mark, second by LeRoy Motion carried.

All treasurers' reports were reviewed and approved with a motion made by LeRoy and second by Tanya. Motion Carried.

**Calendar Review:** Crop Walk 10/5 3:00 p.m.  
O'Howell Wedding 10/25  
5:30 p.m.  
Red Roots concert 11/15  
7:00 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

New worker found to complete east entry project. Motion made to offer job by LeRoy, second by Mark. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Proceeds from Spring Dinner will be divided equally between the General Fund and the Improvement Fund. A motion was made by Kevin, second by Mark. Motion carried.

LeRoy will follow up on sump pump cover.

Spillway project in progress.

**MISSION COMMITTEE**

Reviewed summer social/Sunday school kickoff. Neighbors in Need skit coming soon.

Pastor's report read and approved on a motion carried by LeRoy, second by Mark. Vacation dates 11/9-11/11 and 11/19-20. Sunday school has 30 enrolled to date and confirmation class has 4 students. Discussion topic: What is your favorite part of our worship services?

**Next Meeting** will be Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 7p.m. Meeting adjourned with a closing prayer by Pastor Steve.

Tanya Stewart, Secretary Pro-Tem

**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
October 9, 2014**

Our Church Council

President, Donavon Freese, Vice President, Mark McElaney, Secretary, Renate Port, LeRoy Luepker, Tanya Stewart and Kevin Kahl

Zion United Church of Christ Council met at 7:00 p.m. on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014. These present were Donavon Freese, Pastor Steve, Tanya Stewart, Mark McElaney, Kevin Kahl, and Renate Port. Linda Behrens attend for treasurer reports. Absent was LeRoy Luepker. Duane Lasack came to discuss 2 maturing CD's. Duane spoke on Funds and investments, and recommendation by Duane and council member put to a vote to invest in both Vanguard and UCC Funds. Motion made by Kevin Kahl and second by Tanya Stewart. A motion to invest was a yes vote. Thank you Duane.

Pastor Steve gave an opening prayer. Joys and concerns were shared.

Minutes were read and approved with a motion from Mark McElaney and second by Kevin Kahl. Carried.

**Treasurer Reports**

Benevolence and General Fund was reported on by Linda Behrens. Kevin Kahl made a motion with Mark seconding it. The motion passed.

**Endowment Fund**

Duane Lasack read report with Kevin Kahl making a motion to accept and was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tanya Stewart. Approved.

### **Improvement Funds:**

Improvement fund was read by Kevin Kahl. It was discussed about half of Spring Dinner Profits going into the improvement fund. Pay JJJ.

### **Calendar Review:**

November 15 – Red Roots concert, with dessert to follow.

November 30<sup>th</sup> Begins Advent

December 7 – Senior Dinner

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Discussed East Entry
- Mark took the vacuum to repair the handle.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Nominating Committee
- Mr. Mooney would like to shovel snow again this year.
- Committee reports were read.

### **PASTOR'S REPORT**

- ❖ Sunday school has 30 children enrolled.
- ❖ Crop walk on October 5 was a great success and was fun. There were 32 walkers.
- ❖ 4 students are in the year's confirmation class.
- ❖ Pastor Buck will preach on November 9 while Pastor Steve is on vacation.

Discussion Topic:

If you could change one person in the world, what would you do?

Next meeting is November 13 at 7:00 p.m.

The October meeting was closed with a prayer.

Meeting Adjourned

Renate Port, Secretary

Our Annual  
**Christmas Senior Dinner**  
sponsored by  
**Senior High Fellowship**  
will be held on  
**Sunday, December, 7<sup>th</sup>.**  
Great food & fellowship for all.



The Missions Committee met Sunday, October 12, 2014, at 11:30. Members in attendance were Linda Behrens, Tanya Stewart (council representative), Mary Huffman and Pastor Steve Stepp.

Pastor Steve opened the meeting with a prayer. The skit for Neighbors in Need will be moved to October 19 with the offering collected on October 26. Each member chose a topic to speak on and Linda agreed to check with Terry. We will present at the beginning of the church service at the front of the church.

It was suggested and the Committee agreed to match the Christian Education donation to the Lowden Fire Station. Linda will check with Kelly on the amount.

We will continue to discuss adding members to this committee, possibly reaching out to recent Confirmands to see if any of them may be interested in getting involved.

The attendance at the Summer Social was lower than expected and discussion was held regarding having it after church on the first Sunday of Sunday School. Attendance might be better with people already being present. It would again be a free will offering. \$150.00 from the Social will be contributed to the Mission Fund.

Pastor Steve suggested that a soup lunch after the first of the year might also be a good fundraiser. A tentative date of January 11 with a snow date of January 18 was suggested. The menu could include chicken and chili soups. We will discuss details as the time draws nearer.

Our next Worship participation will be Veterans of the Cross.

Tanya reported that blood pressure Sundays are going well and that the first Sunday of the month is working well. People are starting to share more personal information which has been helpful.

We will discuss our end of the year donations at our next meeting.

Next meeting date: November 23, 2014

Pastor ended with a prayer.

Mary Huffman, Secretary