

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

402 Main Street

P.O. Box 339

Lowden, IA 52255-0339

Rev .Stephen Stepp, Pastor

Church Phone (563) 941-7726

Parsonage Phone (563) 941-5476

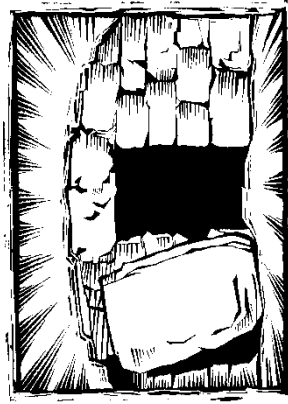
Nonprofit Org.

U.S. Postage Paid

Lowden, IA

Permit No. 3

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



F A S T E R

2015



FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Spring is upon us, but not completely in the minds of many. We need a few more signs of Spring before we proclaim "Spring is here!" Some of those signs may be a warmer & more consistent temperature; more birds singing each morning; early spring flowers in bloom; green grass (without any snow on it); trees budding; and of course those familiar signs of Spring Cleaning.

What?! Spring cleaning! Oh yes, many of us have a yearly ritual called Spring Cleaning. It is that time when we look at our house and say, "What did I do all winter...look at the dust" and "where did all that stuff (junk) come from." We ask questions like, "Why did I keep that whatchamacallit?" or "What was I going to do with that thingamajig?" maybe we even ask, "I know I wanted to use that doohickey for something."

That's when it hits us, "I need to do some Spring Cleaning! And so we begin the horrible task of deciding what we will keep, where we will keep it, and what we will throw out. (Hopefully not much of the stuff we keep will end up in that junk drawer in the kitchen or fill another box in the basement) That's why the hardest part about Spring Cleaning is making choices, especially if we have a special someone like a parent, spouse, child, brother or sister who is looking over our shoulder

with the intent of lightening our load. But ultimately, the decision is ours and ours alone.

You know what Sisters and Brothers, Spring Cleaning sounds a lot like being a Christian. We as Christians have choices to make. We choose what we will keep in our lives and what we will throw out. And there are many people who try to help us make those choices.

First, what we keep. As Christians we make choices based on love, specifically who or what we love. We may love our family, friends, neighbors, and if we embrace the gospel, we will love people we don't like and even people we have never met. We will love our enemies. We will love the drug addicts and alcoholics. We will love what we might feel are the least in our world because we know God loves them and they are first in God's kingdom.

We also decide what items we keep and how many we need of each. And if we really look closely, we may find we can give away what we really don't need so that the least in God's kingdom can have some or more.

Also as Christians, we make decisions on what we throw out. Maybe we discard our bad habits, our short temper, our judgement of others or our willingness to spend more on ourselves than we spend on others.

Whatever we choose to keep or give up, it is our Christian hope that it helps us live in the life and faith of Jesus Christ. And that my Sisters and Brothers is what God hopes for us as well.

May God guide us to choose wisely as we look at ourselves and our lives during our "Christian Spring Cleaning" this year.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve

Spring shows what God can do
with a drab and dirty world.
Rev. Virgil A. Kraft

LifeLong Links: Maintaining Your Independence

Did you know that Iowa has more elderly citizens than most of the other states in the union? Through The Heritage Agency, which is located at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, there is a Community Outreach Specialist, Christine Smith, who is willing and ready to share information on how to connect with home and community-based services through LifeLong Links.

Ms. Smith is an AmeriCorps VISTA Member with The Heritage Agency and recently shared information on LifeLong Links at a recent Cedar County Task Force meeting. LifeLong Links, is Iowa's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), whose purpose is to expand and enhance the state's information and referral resources for aging and/or disabled Iowans, veterans and their caregivers as they begin to think about and plan for long-term independent living.

Administered by the Iowa Department on Aging, LifeLong Links is available to all Iowans who need home and community-based services, is accessible across Iowa and has a toll-free call center: 1-866-468-7887 and a website: www.lifelonglinks.org LifeLong Links works to give you access to a variety of local services and resources:

HOUSING RESPITE

HEALTH CARE FOOD/NUTRITION

TRANSPORTATION EDUCATION

EMPLOYMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

MENTAL HEALTH ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT

For more information or to receive a brochure from LifeLong Links, please stop in at the Church Office, or contact www.lifelonglinks.org or call 1-866-468-7887

THIS USHERS MONTH

APRIL USHER SCHEDULE

April 5 Church Council
April 12 Annette Behrens, Jared Bentrrott
April 19 Linda Behrens & Carma Conrad
April 26 Senior High Fellowship

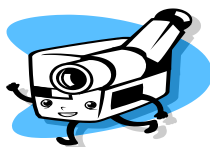
May Usher Schedule

May 3 Church Council
May 10 Tim & Jane Drewelow
May 17 Sharon Elijah & Diane Esbaum
May 24 Beth Fox & Jessica Coppess
May 31 Senior High Fellowship



APRIL SCHEDULE

April 5 Addie Luepker, Mackenzie Poppe
April 12 Kelli Proesch, Mariah Behrens
April 19 Addie Luepker, Kaci Gottschalk
April 26 Mariah Behrens, Mackenzie Poppe



April 5 Cheryl Boedeker
April 12 Jane Drewelow
April 19 David Niermeyer
April 26 Cody Fields



**Birthdays
& Anniversaries**
APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1	Debbie Axline, Dean Hamdorf
April 4	Cody Fields
April 5	Jacob Holst
April 6	David Niermeyer
April 7	Steve Kahl,
April 8	Megan Hamdorf
April 11	Logan Williams
April 14	Kirk Steinke
April 15	Gerald Rowold, Quenten Wiedenhoff
April 17	*Paul Moran
April 18	*Dean Frederick
April 20	Lisa Hamdorf
April 23	Dan Hamdorf
April 26	Wilbert Wenndt, Gladys Conrad
April 27	Kelli Hamilton
April 29	Stacy Traver
April 30	Jody Yutesler

APRIL BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER
Honoring 80 years and over!!

April 15	Gerald Rowold, 307 Main St., Lowden, IA 52255
April 26	Wilbert Wenndt, PO Box 283, Lowden, IA 52255
April 26	Gladys Conrad, 300 Main Street, Apt. 1, Lowden, Iowa 52255

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

April 2 Dennis & *Diane Mostaert-49 yrs.
April 18 Steve & Rhonda Poppe 45 yrs
April 23 Merlin & Carma Conrad 50 yrs.
Jason & Shannon Hayton 17 yrs.
April 26 Gene & Jaynice Hamdorf 35 yrs.
April 29 Gene & Linda Horman 37 yrs.



“POWER UP! Living in the Spirit” At Pilgrim Heights

Are you looking for something exciting to do this summer? We have just received the lists of all the camps that are being offered at Pilgrim Heights. The theme of this year's camps are “Power up! and recharge at Pilgrim Heights” during 2015 Summer residential camping season.

There are camps covering ages K thru adults, there are several camps you can choose from. If you want to find out more details about which camp may suit you, just stop by the office and Linda will share the information with you.

Hope to have a lot of you coming to check out your options.



CHURCH COUNCIL

Zion United Church of Christ
March 12, 2015

Zion United Church of Christ church council meeting was held March 12, 2015. Council members in attendance were Mark McElaney, Merlin Conrad, Kevin Kahl, Pete Johnson, David Niermeyer, Linda Behrens through the treasurers report.

Sandi Esbaum attended the meeting to discuss different ways to give. How the Electronic withdrawal would work and what it took to make it available was discussed. David asked that 2 people count offerings on Sunday. Deloris Kahl will help and a council member will fill in if one of the two are unable to be present on a Sunday. Members will be needed to fill in if needed.

February 12 minutes were approved by Pete and second by Kevin. Motion carried.

Treasurers reports were read and approved with a motion from Pete and second by David. Motion Carried.

Improvement Fund paid \$6,968.33 towards organ repairs. Memorial Funds and Benevolence fund were read with a motion to approve by Kevin and second by Merlin. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- President Mark wrote up a new draft for the lawn mowing this summer.
- Review Alliant Energy Building Assessment.
- Council dedcate \$100.00 toward new vacuum along with Evening Circle donating toward a vacuum.

NEW BUSINESS

- ✓ Greg Wiese, CPA, Wheatland will over see Financials.
- ✓ Electronis Auto Deposit for offering/donations was discussed. Council will check on this.

- ✓ Church Constitution review committee was discussed.
- ✓ Sanctuary south furnace actuator/piverter needs to be replaced (it sticks). It will cost approximately \$500.00
- ✓ Upper bathroom door handle needs replaced.
- ✓ It was discussed to acquire a “Church Handyman” to touch up paint, do light bulbs and replace door handles.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- ❖ Good Friday is on April 3rd and it will be held here.
- ❖ Easter Service at 6:30 and 10:15
 1. Senior High Fellowship will be our service leaders for the early service and we will be serving Communion.
 2. 10:15 service will be altar communion with cups and bread.
- ❖ Summer Hours will begin June 7 at 9:00 a.m. with an 8:00 a.m. Breakfast planned by Mission Committee.
- ❖ Dean and Mandi and their children have transferred back to our church.
- ❖ Lion's Club will be using the fellowship hall on April 27 for the Foreign Exchange student dinner.
- ❖ Pastor's report was read and approved by a motion from Pete and second by David.
Motion carried.
- ❖ We received two Thank You notes for the food donation collected at school by the Senior High Fellowship
 1. Trinity Food Pantry
 2. Eunice Boedeker

DISCUSSION TOPIC:

Who are your 2 favorite people in the Bible and do you see people like that in the world today.

NEXT Meeting April 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 with a motion from Pete and second by David Niermeyer.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted, Renate Port



Evening Circle—March 16th, 2015

Evening Circle met on March 16 members present. Marilyn led devotions entitled "Empty tomb, Full Heart." Joy played the piano.

Linda called the meeting to order with roll call. The Secretary's and Treasures reports were read and approved. Bills were presented.

Motion was made by Julie, 2nd by Marilyn to pay all bills. There will be no confirmation this year.

Sharon will replace Joy next year on the Lenten supper committee.

Terry made a motion, 2nd by Carolee to serve root beer floats and brownie Sunday's for June 12th, the night before garage sales.

The Spring Dinner will be April 19th due to a meal being served in Clarence on the Sunday after Easter.

There are three graduating Seniors this year. Julie and Carma will serve the students and parents breakfast on May 3rd.

Marla Wiedenhoff demonstrated how to frost cupcakes. We then were all given a cupcake to frost which we all enjoyed.

Joy made a motion, Millie 2nd to send Marla \$25.00.

Jody Yutesler asked the group to serve Dalton's graduation party. Janice S made a motion, 2nd by Jean to do this.

Up coming events.

April 20th meeting—Janis K will do devotions. Nicole Rocks School of Dance will perform. Refreshments will be served by Joy Combs and Marlene Wiedenhoff

April flowers will be Marlene W and Terry.

May 18, no meeting. Cinnamon Ridge Dairy Farm tour and dinner. Call Linda Freese for reservations.

June 15th—Breakfast at Mill Creek Café 8:00 am.

July 20----Green thumpers---

Meeting adjourned. Carma and Sharon served refreshments.

The logo for the Spring Dinner features the word "Spring" in a light green, cursive font, with "DINNER" in a bold, dark green, sans-serif font below it. The text is set against a light green background with a white, cloud-like shape behind the words.

The Spring Dinner Committee met on March 7 and March 19. The group talked about scheduling those who are bringing food and willing to help on the dinner day. Cards have been mailed out to you listing your duties for that day. Last year this dinner raised approximately \$3,418.65 including sponsorships and generous donations. It would be difficult to raise this amount of money without a major effort such as the Spring Dinner. For most members, it is only one day out of their busy schedules to make this event happen. The committee sincerely appreciates everyone's willingness to help with this major fundraiser of the year for Zion UCC.

We have made changes to our menu, we are serving:

Chef-carved Ham
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy –
Fresh Vegetables
Rolls, Homemade Salads and
Desserts

If you are unable to attend the Spring Dinner, but would like to have an in town 'home delivery', please call the church office 941-7726 on Sunday morning between 8:30-10:30 a.m. to place your order. Home deliveries will start at 11:00 a.m.

It will be necessary for everyone (including all workers) wanting to eat dinner, to purchase a ticket. By each person presenting a ticket, we should be able to get a more accurate number of the people being served.

The committee is doing an awesome job.

Thank you.

Spring Dinner Steering Committee: Sandy Esbaum, Annette Behrens, Jean Stepp, MaKayla Schluter, Jodi Yutesler and council presentative Renate Port.



ZION SUMMER LAWN CARE

The Church Council is accepting bids for summer lawn care for the church and parsonage. A copy of the lawn care contract listing the expected duties of the job can be reviewed at the church office. The deadline for submitting written bids is April 15th. Thank You.



Automatic Contribution Deduction Program

At the January Annual Meeting a question was raised about the possibility of having an individual's church contributions made by automatic bank account deduction. The Church Council has considered such a program and decided to implement a system that will allow members to contribute in such a way.

Enclosed is a survey form to help us narrow down what costs would be incurred by the church, how many members would enroll and what options the program we choose would offer. If interested please return the enclosed form to the church office as soon as possible. This will speed along the implementation of the program. Thank you

Zion Church Council



Farewell

Zion Congregation would like to thank Mark McElaney for your relentless work, thoughtfulness and care he have given to our church. You will be greatly missed, especially your beautiful voice and your friendly way. We wish Mark all the best in his new journey.
Committee of Christ at Zion



PARENT/FAMILY SUNDAY

was held on Sunday, March 15th.

THANK YOU to all the family members who were able to join us on this special Sunday! We enjoyed a friendly game of FAMILY FEUD and fellowship with our youth!



EASTER PLANS:

Sunday School Youth will lead the precessional and play handbells on Palm Sunday (Sunday, April 29) and will also participate in our EASTER (Sunday, April 5) 10:15AM Service. Please plan to have the youth and families join our wonderful worship hours for our celebration of Easter!



EASTER FLOWERS 2015

Chris & Phyllis Boedeker
Joy Combs
Merlin & Carma Conrad
Tim & Jane Drewelow

Bill & Sharon Elijah
Brenda Esbaum
Barry & Julie Hoffmeier
David & Tessa Holtz
Deloris Kahl
Jim & Sharon Kruckenberg
Duane & Terry Lasack
Elon & Marcine Miller
Sue Monson
Jamie & Kelli Nabb
David Niermeyer
Rodney & Renate Port
Pastor Steve & Jean Stepp

Keith & Tanya Stewart
Kent & Janice Strackbein
Marlene Wiedenhoff
Darrell & Jody Yutesler
Zion Senior High Fellowship
Zion Youth Club

In memory of Terry Boedeker
The Joy of Easter
The Joy of Easter
Memory of Stan Drewelow,
Lewis & Irene Sander
In Celebration of Easter
In memory of Loved Ones
Celebrate Spring
In Celebration of Easter
In Memory of Fred Kahl
The Glory of Easter
In the Memory of our Parents
In Honor of Service men & Women
In memory of Melvin Monson
The Glory of Easter
Food Pantry
In Memory of Mom & Dad Boettger
In Memory of Birdelle Stepp
Carl and Phyllis Chappelow
In memory of our Grandparents
In memory of Loved Ones
In memory of Bob & Connie Wiedenhoff
In Memory of Darrell Yutesler
The Glory of Easter
Let The children Come to Me

The Evening Circle thanks everyone who participated in the decoration of the Church for Easter.

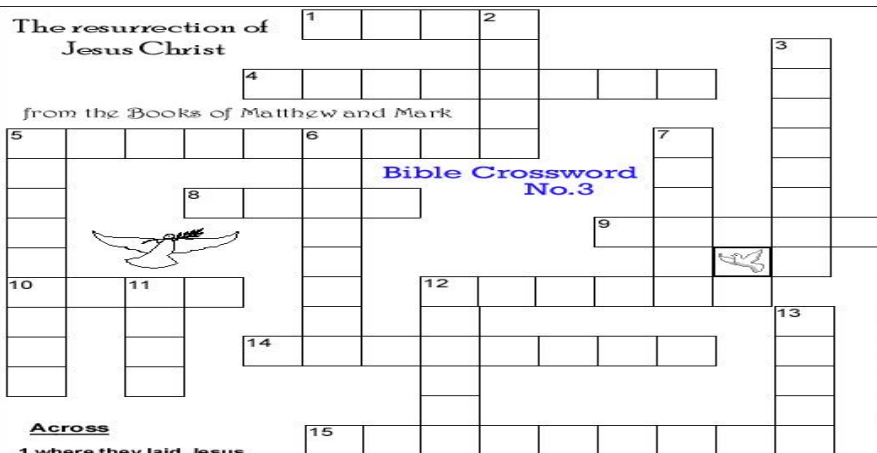
The Palms are a gift from Marlene Wiedenhoff

Everyone who gave flowers may take them home following the 10:15 Easter Service.

The resurrection of
Jesus Christ

from the Books of Matthew and Mark

Bible Crossword
No.3



Across

- 1 where they laid Jesus after He died (Matt. 27:60)
- 4 the place where Jesus died (Matt.27:33)
- 5 Jesus and two thieves were _____ together (Matt.27:38)
- 8 mother of Jesus
- 9 The angel said "He is _____ He is not here" (Mark 16:6)
- 10 They made Jesus wear a scarlet _____ (Matt.27:28)
- 12 Jesus was betrayed for _____ pieces of silver (Matt.27:3)
- 14 Jesus was _____ of any crime (Matt.27:4)
- 15 The 12 companions of Jesus

DOWN

- 2 Jesus shed His _____ for our sins
- 3 Judas Iscariot _____ Jesus (Matt.27:4)
- 5 Roman commander of a hundred men (Matt.27:54)
- 6 Jesus said " My God, My God why hast thou _____ me" (Matt.27:46)
- 7 a title of Jesus (it means anointed one) (Matt.27:17)
- 11 They laid the _____ of Jesus in a tomb (Matt.27:59)
- 12 Jesus wore a "crown of _____"
- 13 our Lord and Saviour

Name: _____

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH

H	F	D	J	Z	A	S	H	W	E	D	N	E	S	D	A	Y	H	R	R
N	O	A	G	O	O	D	F	R	I	D	A	Y	J	E	S	B	O	E	E
G	O	L	P	A	S	S	O	V	E	R	P	A	S	F	O	R	L	S	S

SPECIAL DATE TO REMEMBER!!

*April 2 - Maundy Thursday Service
at St. Paul's UCC Church, Wheatland*

*April 3 - Good Friday Service at 7:00 p.m.
At Zion UCC, Lowden*

April 5 - EASTER

*6:30 Easter Sunrise Service with
Senior High Fellowship leading
The worship*

Breakfasts will following the service

10:15 a.m. Easter Worship Service.

*April 11, 2015 Mary Balke Benefit
4:00 to 7:00 at Mechanicsville Elementary*

*April 19, 2015
Our Spring Dinner
Come & Join in the fellowship*