

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

402 Main Street

P.O. Box 339

Lowden, IA 52255-0339

Rev. Stephen Stepp, Pastor

Nonprofit Org.

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MAY & JUNE 2015



ZION HERALD May/June 2015 Volume 88 No. 5 & 6

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

The months of May and June have a great deal of contrast, but they also have a great deal of similarity. May tends to be a little wetter month unless we hold an outdoor church service in June. 😊 May has the beauty of new flowers bursting forth in a vast array of awesome colors, while June has our spouting vegetable gardens. May has us longing for even warmer temperatures; and lately, we long for June to be absent of the gnats that have plagued us the past two years. Both May and June bring new growth and life into our lives. They also remind us of the ever changing climates of the earth and its people. These differences and similarities are much like our faith. We tend to look for people who share our ideas, concepts, and viewpoints about the Bible and faith.

I recently had someone ask me what religion I was. I must say, I don't get asked that question very often. My answer was Christian. The next question was, "What denomination are you?" When I said, "United Church of Christ" they asked is that part of the Church of Christ? That led to a much longer conversation that I really don't have space for in this article. What we both got out of our conversation was this, "We should all be Christians first, and maybe we should leave it at that."

As Christians, we are called by God to be one in the body of Jesus Christ and in our world that oneness is something we all need to work on. It is not about the one person, but instead it is about the one community in the one body of Christ. Whether it is in one church, a thousand churches, or every church on the planet, we all need to pray that our relationship with each other is founded on our relationship with God. As Christians, our relationship with God is based on Jesus' relationship with God.

To do this, we begin by understanding Christ's pure and perfect faith in God. Then when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we participate in Christ's faith. Part of our Christian faith is understanding Jesus' love for God and for us. "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?" 1 John 3:16-17. When we live the life of faith, we receive a love that has no boundaries. It is a life of giving and receiving God's love and it is God's love that raised Jesus from death and it is God's love that will raise us from death too!

So as we all go out each day during the months of May and June, let us enjoy the contrasts and similarities of God's creation because it is both that gives us such awesome beauty. As we do this, let us remember it is the great joys and the great sorrows that strengthen our faith through the greatest outpouring of love through Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve

"No one should ever need to ask us, 'Are you a Christian?' because they should know we are by the way we live our lives."
author unknown

Thank you to our "Good Friday" witnesses

Wilbert Muhs, Pastor Dave Mears, Avery Luepker, Tessa Fields,
Pastor John Cofield, Vicky Mohr, Makayla Schluter, Pavin Esbaum,
Grace Proesch, Keith Stewart, Pastor Steve Stepp, Jean Stepp
Thank you to our AV/IT Controller-Aaron Horman
Thank you Zion Choir
Thank you everyone who attended.

USHERS

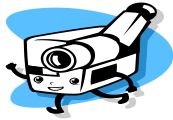
THIS
MONTH

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
June 7	Church Council
June 14	Mary Huffman & Lori Dittmer
June 21	Barry & Julie Hoffmeier
June 28	Senior High Fellowship
July 5	Church Council
July 12	Rose Horman & Beth Kahl
July 19	Lou & Janis Krafock
July 26	Senior High Fellowship



May 3	Addie Luepker & Mackenzie Poppe
May 10	Mackenzie Poppe & Kaci Gottschalk
May 19	Mariah Behrens & Addie Luepker
May 24	Kelli Proesch & Mackenzie Poppe
May 31	Kaci Gottschalk & Mariah Behrens

There are no acolytes during the summer months
their job will begin again in September.



VIDEOGRAPHERS FOR MAY

May 3	Jody Yutesler
May 10	Jean Stepp
May 17	Julie Hoffmeier
May 24	Donna Luepker
May 31	Cheryl Boedeker

VIDEOGRAPHERS FOR JUNE

June 7	Jane Drewelow
June 14	Jean Stepp
June 21	Cody Fields
June 28	Aaron Horman



MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 2	Jessica Coppess
May 5	Andrew Fields
May 7	Merlin Conrad
May 9	Chelsea Ehlt, Brandon Horman
May 12	*Beryl Esbaum
May 14	Bob Hamdorf, Nadine Lafrenz
May 21	Barb Martin, Carter Lee Horman
May 22	Jonie Fields
May 23	Donavon Freese, Marilyn Lafrenz, *Rod Port
May 24	Rick Bentrrott
May 28	Spencer Armstrong
May 29	Cole Hamilton, Beckam Horman
May 30	Josh Horman, Skyler Horman



MAY BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER

- May 14 Bob Hamdorf, 113 Grant Avenue, Lowden, IA 52255
- May 14 Nadine Lafrenz, 1888, 190th Street, Lowden, Iowa 52255
- May 21 Barb Martin, 703 Jefferson, PO Box 383, Lowden, Iowa 52255



Happy Anniversary!

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 4	Jess & Debbie Axline	41 yrs.
May 5	Rev. Steve & Jean Stepp	31 yrs
May 6	*Mark & Beth Fox	43 yrs.
May 9	Roland & Marlene Fox	62 yrs.
May 10	Andrew & *Amanda Kahl	7 yrs.
May 13	Dean & Lisa Hamdorf	26 yrs.
May 16	Kip & *Sandy Esbaum	23 yrs.
May 19	*Ryan & Angie Horman	8 yrs.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- June 1 Connie Madden
- June 2 Marge Norton
- June 3 Lori Dittmer, Kelly Nabb
- June 5 Sharon Johnson, Tim Drewelow,
 Caylee Curley
- June 6 Marvella Fehling,
 Cheryl Boedeker
- June 8 Kerri Havel, Donna Breneman
- June 11 Cadence Horman
- June 12 Rev. Steve Stepp
- June 13 Grace Proesch
- June 15 Doreen Hamdorf
- June 17 Mallory Baldwin, Kyle Gottschalk
 Dan & Amy Mohr baby
- June 20 Alden Klahn
- June 24 Carol Boedeker, June Mowry,
 Don Breneman
- June 26 Imogene Ford
- June 28 Dorothy Pingel, Tessa Fields
- June 30 Kalab Klahn



CARD SHOWER:

- June 2 Marge Norton, 408 2nd Avenue
 Apartment 17
 Clarence, Iowa 52216-0007
- June 6 Marvella Fehling, Wheatland Nursing Home

- PO Box 369, Wheatland, Iowa 52777
- June 15 Doreen Hamdorf, 113 Grant Avenue, Lowden, Iowa 52255
- June 24 Carol Boedeker, 507 Hall Ave. PO Box 177, Lowden, Iowa 52255-0177
- June 26 Imogene Ford, 475 Walker Road, Lowden, Iowa 52255-9569
- June 28 Dorothy Pingel, 404 McKinley Ave., PO Box 402, Lowden, Iowa.



Happy Anniversary!

June 1	Bill & Sharon Elijah	52 years
June 3	Bob & Jonie Fields	15 years
June 5	Harlan & Florence Deerberg	61 years
June 7	Beryl & Diane Esbaum	35 years
June 9	Dana & *Paul Moran	8 years
June 16	Rick & Karen Bentrott	36 years
June 20	Dean & Mandi Behrens	17 years
	Tim & Erica Kahl	6 years
June 24	Wes & Ladon Griesbach	43 years
June 28	Adam & Lisa Horman	12 years
June 29	Chuck & Donna Breneman	52 years
June 30	Lou & Janis Krafock	53 years

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Our first 9:00 am Summer Worship Service begins on Sunday, June 7th, AND the Mission Committee is kicking off the Summer with a breakfast before that worship service at 8:00 am, AND they will be our first sponsor for the after worship Fellowship Hour. SEE YOU IN CHURCH!



Any individuals, groups, committees, or organizations using or passing through Fellowship Hall **please** make sure that the 2 fire doors (the new addition entrance to Fellowship Hall and also the tunnel door) are closed when you are finished in Fellowship Hall. Thank you.



Zion United Church of Christ
Church Council meeting
April 16, 2015

Those in attendance were President David Niermeyer, Merlin Conrad, Pete Johnson, Tanya Stewart, Kevin Kahl, Renate Port, Pastor Steve and Linda Behrens through the Treasurer Report.

Pastor Steve began meeting with a prayer.

Linda read and council reviewed the treasurers' report. Pete made a motion to accept the reports with a second by Kevin. Passed.

Endowment, Improvement, Memorial, Benevolence were reviewed with Pete making a motion to accept the reports with Tanya second it. Passed.

Calendar Reviewed

OLD BUSINESS:

- Electronic deposit, checking on it more but will go forward with it.
- Set up the accounting with Greg Weise.

- David Niermeyer and Dennis Boedeker will be looking into the Alliant Energy review.
- Two bids were taken on the lawn mowing job. The council decided to accept Ryle Holst's bid and will have a contract drawn up.
- Cover for the sump pump need to be made for safety.
- Money has been given for the purchase of a new vacuum.
- Church constitution Review committee will be organized in the summer.
- No response for a handy man.
- A bill from Jim Allen for work done on the organ was submitted.
- Merlin is working on carpet repairs. Paid \$65 out of Improvement Fund. Pete made a motion to accept this bill and Tanya second it. Passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Marvin Mooney was given \$100.00 Commercial Club gift certificate in appreciation for removing the snow.
- Summer worship starts June 7 through August 30, 2105 at 9:00 a.m. September 6, 2015 will go back to 10:15.
- It was discussed about paying Aaron for Financial Secretary duties he has been doing. It was decided to pay him for the full quarter, since he also took care of end of the year reports. Sandi will receive 2 weeks pay on her next quarter payment.
- It was discussed and decided to give the secretary, Linda Behrens, a quarter raise. Renate Port made the motion, Kevin second it. Carried
- It was decided to award \$100.00 per camper that attends a camp at Pilgrim Heights this

summer. Merlin that a motion, with a second from Pete. Carried.

- Lion's Club meets here on April 27th for a special meal with the Foreign Exchange students Committee as a Summer Kick-off.
- Confirmation Class resumes April 15.
- Easter Iowa Clergy meets at Zion Church at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 28th.
- Pastor expense report was read and approved with Merlin making a motion to accept it and Kevin second.

Next meeting May 14th at 7:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned. Pastor closed with a prayer

- **DISCUSSION:** When has your faith in God helped you during your life? attending North Cedar this year.

PASTOR REPORT

- Pastor Mills will hold services during Pastor Steve vacations.
- High School Senior recognition at the May 3 worship service.
- Baccalaureate Service in Clarence on May 13 at 6:45 p.m.
- June 7, 9:00 a.m. will be the start of summer worship time. Also that day you can come at 8:00 a.m. for a breakfast served by the Mission



Constitution Review Committee

The church council is looking for individuals willing to serve on a short term committee that would review the church's constitution to see if any changes might need to be considered.

The Committee would probably start meeting sometime midsummer. Please contact the church office or a council member if

interested in serving. Thank You, Church Council members



Automatic Offering Deposit

Greetings Zion Family,
The Church Council has decided to implement an automatic offering deposit

(or ACH) to any member wanting the convenience of this service. There will be two dates per month to choose from; the 10th and or the 25th. The 10th and 25th were the majority requested dates from the surveys that were returned.

May 10th will be the first automatic transfer. I will be contacting all members who filled out the Automatic Withdraw Forms that are at the church office for verification. The form will also be attached to the church website as soon as possible for anyone wishing to have this service of convenience.

Blessings!

Sandy Esbaum

American Trust & Savings Bank



Missions Committee Meeting

The Missions Committee met Sunday, March 8, 2015 at 9:00. Members in attendance were Linda Behrens, Carmen Fields, Marlene Wiedenhoff, Mary Huffman and Rev. Steve Stepp.

Pastor was attending another meeting at the beginning of our meeting.

Linda called the meeting to order and the minutes of the last meeting were approved. Mary thanked Terry for doing them.

Pastor arrived and gave a prayer.

It was noted that we still needed to donate \$1,000 to The National Spiritual Council of Churches of Haiti.

Linda will cash in a CD for funds for the year.

Pastor gave a brief background of money donated for the Mission Fund for new members, which was donated by a member of the church, and how we donate to local, state, United States and world missions. There is \$7,000 available each year and there is a \$2,000 emergency fund. The hope of the Mission Committee is to continue raising funds for various missions far beyond our current reserves. We also briefly discussed the birthday card project and the bulletin board.

The Committee agreed to match the Lenten Service offering, which will go to Camp Courageous and the Good Friday Service offering, which will go to One Great Hour of Sharing.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the soup dinner. Because the following Sundays are scheduled with several dinners and with Palm Sunday and Easter nearing, Carmen suggested we have a breakfast in June. It was decided to have it the first Sunday of the time change, June 7, and the Committee would also be in charge of Coffee Hour following the worship service.

Discussion was held regarding starting a scholarship fund for students attending college. It was suggested that we look into the criteria placed on the Ministerial Scholarship Fund and continue the discussion at a later date.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 26 following church services.

Pastor Steve closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Huffman



EVENING CIRCLE
MEETING

Evening Circle met on April 20th with 14 members and Pastor Steve present.

Four dancers from Nicole Rocks School of Dance entertained us. They were wonderful, dressed in their glittery attire.

After our refreshments served by Joy and Marlene Wiedenhoff, Janis Krafock led devotions entitled "Spring Clean Up for Heart and soul." Marilyn played the piano.

Linda called the meeting to order with roll call. The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read and approved. Bills were presented. Motion was made by Janice Strackbein, 2nd by Joy to pay all bills.

Linda thanked those who helped serve the funeral luncheon for Jim Kruckenberg.

Vacuum sweepers were discussed again. It was suggested that Bonnie and Annette should choose the type they would like.

Upcoming events

*April 28—Eastern Iowa Clergy lunch & meeting at Zion.

*May 18----Cinnamon ridge Dairy farm tour. Call Linda Freese for reservations.

*May 19---Terry and Janis Krafock will serve com. On Ministry.

*June 12-----Serve brownie Sundae's and root beer floats Friday night during garage sales.

*June 15---Breakfast at Mill Creek Cafe at 8:00 a.m.

Once again there will be refreshments after early church this summer.

Nominating committee reported the following
Project Committee—Joy and Janis Krafock
Vice President---Terry
Treasurer----Carma
Secretary----Sharon

May flowers----Janice Strackbein

June flowers---Jean Stepp

Meeting adjourned.



Zion Evening Circle wishes to thank those who gave flowers for Palm Sunday and Easter. Our sanctuary was alive with flowers in tribute to the risen Lord. Thank you very kindly.

The flower committee, Terry Lasack, Marlene Wiedenhoff



VBS WEEK
SUNDAY, JULY 19 - THURSDAY JULY 23



Sunday School Classes are nearing its end-of-the year! Our last day of classes will be Sunday, May 17th! It has been a great year of learning and we want to keep this momentum going into the summer with our week of Vacation Bible

School! Mark your summer calendars! Our VBS week will begin Sunday, July 19 through Thursday, July 23rd with our finale on Thursday night! Our annual VBS PIE AUCTION is set for Sunday, June 14 immediately following worship.

We ask all families to join in on the fun at the PIE AUCTION!!! Take a pie home and support our VBS program!!! Silver Cord Hours are available for high school students who wish to help out and volunteer during the VBS Week! Stay tuned for more information! Questions, please contact Kelly Nabb at (563) 249-2335.



SUMMER CAMP – Don't miss out on camp this summer at Pilgrim Heights! Check out our church website for a link to Pilgrim Heights Church Camp for special events and dates! We have funds available through our Church Youth Programs for youth interested in attending!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Music and Worship Committee has chosen Sunday, July 19th for our outdoor worship service and potluck picnic at the Lowden Park.

You won't want to miss it...so mark it!

SEE YOU IN CHURCH!