

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

402 Main Street

P.O. Box 339

Lowden, IA 52255-0339

Rev. Stephen Stepp, Pastor

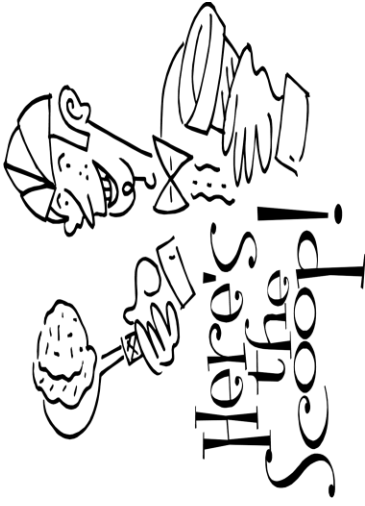
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JULY and **AUGUST**
2015

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

As I begin this Herald newsletter, I am looking out my office window into a very dark Monday morning. Big storms are looming just to the north of Lowden threatening to once again bring heavy rains and possible hail to our area. So of course I go to my smart phone's Doppler radar to see what's coming. But as I look at the large mass that hinges just on the edge of Lowden, I realize there is really nothing I can do except pray that the rain will be brief and minimal because I have no control over what is about to happen. Just then I hear the rain begin, first pattering the church roof, and then pounding it. Soon, thunder joins in the stormy chorus. Then, just as quickly as it came, the storm is over and yes, my radar confirms it. We have been saved from another multi-inch ground soaking storm for the time being, but as I look at the radar I realize that to our north, they are enduring what looks like a storm of hurricane proportion. The entire state of Wisconsin is covered in yellow and red. So now my prayers turn to our sisters and brothers to our north. I pray that they will be spared damage from this Goliath storm.

Prayer, our confirmation class studied prayer this past year. Our students wrote and read prayers for class and will write prayers for our worship service in the fall. We talked about how prayer is our way of talking with God and that we need to do it as often as we can. Paul teaches us the same, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thessalonians 5:16). So even when our prayers have

been answered, we need to continue to pray for the next people on our list. For me, this meant praying for the people who were now in the path of this storm. Because Jesus is always with us, "pray without ceasing" also means that if we talk with Jesus every chance we get, he becomes a close friend in whom we are able to share our deepest thoughts and hopes. Through prayer, our connection with God becomes a much deeper, close and personal relationship. When we pray unceasingly, we realize that every word and action that proceeds from us should be a reflection of Christ's faith in God. And when we attain that level of prayer, that sense of being in all aspects of our lives, we truly begin to live and believe in Jesus. Therefore Brothers and Sisters, may we all talk with God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each day, each hour and each minute of our lives so that we may be closer to God's kingdom through our prayer guided words and actions.

Coming up in July, we have an outdoor worship service planned at the Lowden Park on Sunday, July 19th at 10:00am with a potluck dinner to follow. If it rains, we will be at the church. Also, Vacation Bible School begins on Sunday, July 19th at 5:00pm. And of course our weekly Sunday worship services will be filled with song, prayer, and praise. See you in church!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve

***"In our lives there is bound to come some pain,
surely as there are storms and falling rain;
just believe that the one who holds the storms
will bring the sun."* unknown**

USHERS

THIS
MONTH

July 5	Church Council
July 12	Rose Horman & Beth Kahl
July 19	Lou & Janis Krafock
July 26	Senior High Fellowship
August 2, 2015	Church Council
August 9, 2015	Duane & Terry Lasack
August 16, 2015	Brian & Carolee Lohman
August 23, 2015	Dennis & Cheryl Boedeker
August 30, 2015	Senior High Fellowship
Sept. 6, 2015	Church Council
Sept. 13, 2015	Elon & Marcine Miller
Sept. 20, 2015	Al & Vicky Mohr
Sept. 27, 2015	Senior High Fellowship



VIDEOGRAPHERS FOR JULY

July 5	Donna Luepker
July 12	Jane Drewelow
July 19	Cody Fields
July 26	Cheryl Boedeker

VIDEOGRAPHERS FOR AUGUST

August 2, 2015	Jody Yutesler
August 9, 2015	Jean Stepp
August 16, 2015	Julie Hoffmeier
August 23, 2015	David Niermeyer
August 30, 2015	Cheryl Boedeker



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- July 2 Gaylon Esbaum
- July 3 Lou Krafock
- July 5 Keith Stewart
- 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,
- 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,
- July 28 Janis Krafock, Shandon Hoffmeier, Kelli Esbaum
- July 29 Elon Miller
- July 31 *Christy Combs



- July 2 Gaylon Esbaum, 86 East Main Street,
Lowden, Iowa 52255
- July 25 Faith Strackbein, 6126 Rockwell Dr. N.E. Apt.
120, Cedar Rapids,

July 27

Iowa 52402-4781
Mary Louise Horman, P.O. Box
448, Lowden, Iowa 52255



Happy Anniversary!

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- July 6 *Jacob & Heidi Neill 12 yrs.
- July 7 Chris & Phyllis Boedeker 59 yrs
- July 12 Jennifer & *Patrick Glover 7 years
- July 16 Nick & *Christy Combs 10 years
- July 19 *Dave & Rose Horman
- July 27 Aaron & Megan Horman 13 yrs
- July 27 Brian & Carolee Lohman 19 yrs.
- July 30 Al & Vicki Mohr 39 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



August 1	Duane & Terry Lasack	45 Years
	Lonnie & Stacie Luepker	23Years
August 2	Larry & Kerri Havel	12 years
August 10	Gerald & Alice Rowold	69 Years
August 14	Wilbert & Millie Muhs	45 Years
August 19	Don & Carol Boedeker	65Years
	Mike & Pam Jensen	32 Years
August 26	Leroy & Donna Luepker	54 Years
August 30	Kevin & Beth Kahl	40 Years



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.



CHURCH COUNCIL

Zion United Church of Christ
Church Council meeting
May 14, 2015

Zion United Church of Christ council meeting was held on May 14, 2015.

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

The meeting was opened with a prayer from Pastor Steve.

The minutes for the April 16, meeting was read with a motion to approve by Pete Johnson and second by Tanya Stewart. Carried. Treasure reports were reviewed with a motion made to approve by Kevin Kahl and second Merlin Conrad. Carried.

Financial reports were read and approved by Pete Johnson and Merlin Conrad. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Moving forward on Auto Deposit
- Merlin said Alliant Energy was here. Friday, May 8th for assessment
- Pete got plywood and put a cover on sump pump with lock.
- Vacuum replacement. Linda Freese donated a vacuum to the church. Bonnie would also like a hand held vacuum.
- Merlin is checking on carper repair.

- Church Constitution Review Committee; Deloris Kahl has volunteer but still need more volunteers.
- Organ repair man will start Friday, May 15. Boxes for sending pipes to be repaired are here.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Merlin took care of the keys and locks.
- Will be working on Christian Education windows.
- Pete Johnson is working to have a Pastoral Relations meeting.
- Organ Chamber work has begun.
- Getting bids on new addition roof. Merlin is getting the bids.
- Faucet fixed in nursery room.
- Discussion on church records to be in fire safety, fire proof drawers or put on flash drive was suggested.
- Spring Dinner concerns were brought up by Pete Johnson.
- Checking into corner southeast water pump not working. David and Merlin will take care of it.

PASTOR REPORT

- ❖ June 7th church will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a Mission Committee breakfast at 8:00 a.m.
- ❖ High School senior recognition was during worship service on May 3.
- ❖ July 19 will hold service at the park at 10:00 a.m. with a potluck to follow
- ❖ June 14 Pie Auction
- ❖ Pastor expense account was read and a motion approve by Tanya Stewart and second by Kevin Kahl. Approved.

FOR DISCUSSION: When has your faith in God helped you during your life?

Next meeting will be June 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor closed with a prayer.

Meeting adjourns by Merlin Conrad making a motion and second by Pete Johnson. Carried.

Respectfully submitted
Renate Port

Zion Church Council Meeting June 18, 2015

Zion United Church of Christ Council met at 7:00 pm on June 18, 2015. The meeting was called to order by President David Niermeyer. Pasto Steve opened with a reading and a prayer. Those in attendance were Pastor Steve, Kevin Kahl, Tanya Stewart, Pete Johnson, David Niermeyer and Merlin Conrad. Renate Port was absent. Linda Behrens was present thru the treasurer's report.

Joy and concern were shared.

Secretary's minutes from May 14, 2015 were read and approved on a motion made by Kevin, second by Merlin. Motion carried.

Calendar review: Cub Scout at Fellowship 6/23
Pastor's vacation 6/24 to 7/7
Worship at the Lowden Park 7/19 at
10:00 a.m. Potluck lunch to follow
Vacation Bible School 7/19/7/23

OLD BUSINESS:

- ❖ David is working with bank addressing computer issues for the electronic and automatic offering/donation deposits.
- ❖ Organist will be contract employees for accounting purpose.
- ❖ Thank You, Linda Freese for donating a greatly needed vacuum.
- ❖ Sue Monson and Deloris Kahl have volunteered to be on the Church Constitution Review Committee

- ❖ Church "Handy Person" will be the church council.
- ❖ Carpet repairs: Vestibule done. Further project pending.
- ❖ Organ refurbish going well and continues
- ❖ Keys and locks repairs completed by Merlin.
- ❖ Christian Education windows to be painted over summer. Lobby wall has been fixed.
- ❖ Church Council members will check dehumidifier on Sunday morning rounds.
- ❖ Church Council members will set up funeral tables for funerals.
- ❖ Pastoral Relations meeting tentatively scheduled for July 13 at 7:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Roofing estimates received from Jaeger Associates, Inc. Bryan's Construction Co., and Jason Conrad Construction LLC,
- Energy concerning rebates.
- Spring dinner profits \$3,089.37!!
- Bring forth ideas to Church Council for Memorial/gift money wish list items.
- Carpet cleaning to be done professionally, as needed basis.
- Sanctuary light is fixed.

Pastor's report read and approved on a motion made by Pete, second by Merlin. Motion carried. Discussion topic: What is the most important function of the church?

Next SHORTER meeting Tuesday, July 14 at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Steve closed with a prayer. Meeting adjourned with a motion made by Merlin, second by Kevin. Motion carried.

Tanya Stewart, Secretary Pro-Tem



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



The Missions Committee met Sunday, May 3, 2015 at 11:15 a.m. Members in attendance were Linda Behrens, Carmen Fields, Beth Kahl, Tanya Stewart and Rev. Steve Stepp. Marlene Wiedenhoff and Mary Huffman were absent.

Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer.

Linda called the meeting to order and the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The hope of the Mission Committee is to continue raising funds for various missions far beyond our current reserves.

The Committee agreed to match the Lenten Service offering, which will go to Camp Courageous. Linda still has to do that.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the upcoming breakfast. It will be held on the first Sunday of the time change, June 7, and the Committee would also be in charge of Coffee Hour following that worship service.

The duties were divided up with each member responsible for 2 egg casseroles, and some are to bring different breads, muffins and fresh fruits. Marlene will be in charge of decorating the tables. Linda will be in charge of getting the drinks. It was decided to have milk (Both white and chocolate), orange juice, grape or apple juice and coffee.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2015 following church services.

Pastor Steve closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Beth Kahl



**EVENING CIRCLE
MEETING
May 18, 2015**

Since the tour of the Cinnamon Ridge Dairy farm tour was cancelled, Evening Circle met at the usual time with 11 members and Pastor Steve present.

Linda read an article "Dust if you must." It was very appropriate for the month of May.

Secretary and Treasurer Reports were read and approved. Bills were presented. Motion was made and 2nd to pay all bills

Thank you notes from Carma Conrad for the anniversary gift and Elle Esbaum for the senior breakfast were read. Linda thanked Carma, Julie and Donna for serving the breakfast.

Linda also thanked those who helped serve the Fox Luncheon. Evening Circle thanks all those that do not belong to our group and were willing to help.

June 15 will be our breakfast outing at Mill Creek café in Clarence at 8:00 a. m. Cost is \$ 6.00

June 12 we will be serving root beer floats and brownie sundaes the night before garage sales.

There will be no meeting in July or August. July 20 we will tour the Green Thumbers garden center.

There was a discussion on using table clothes on the food serving tables for funerals.

There is a sign-up sheet for serving refreshments after early church.

June flowers is Jean

July flowers is Phyllis

July 21—Jan S and Jean will serve com. on ministry.

Meeting adjourned.

Entertainment for the evening was playing a game "What comes first" while munching on party mix served by Sharon and Linda. This was a lot of fun and very educational.

Respectfully submitted

Phyllis Boedeker

EVENING CIRCLE MEETING

June 15, 2015

Sixteen members of Zion Evening Circle met at Mill Creek Café in Clarence on June 15, 2015, for a wonderful breakfast and short meeting.

Donna Luepker, vice-president, led the meeting. She thanked Joy for buying the tablecloths for use at

funerals or other functions in church. She reminded us that they should be wiped and left to dry before folding and storing them. Guidelines for serving funerals are being discussed and a new chart will be hanging in the kitchen.

Jan Strackbein announced that our trip to Green Thumbers will be on July 20. We need to be there at 2:00. We will eat lunch at the Family Restaurant at 11:30. If you need a ride, call Jan.

Jean gave a report on the root beer float/brownie sundae sale Friday night during the garage sales. She said we made approximately \$100. If the weather had cooperated, we might have sold more!

Jean and Jan S. will serve the Committee on Ministry meeting on July 21; Julie and Donna will serve on Sept. 15. Flower committee: July—Terry and Annette; August—Joy; September—Sharon.

A thank you note from the Jim Kruckenberg family was read.

Sharon Elijah,
Acting secretary



Vacation bible school
Sunday, July 19 – Thursday, July 23, 2015
5PM – 8PM

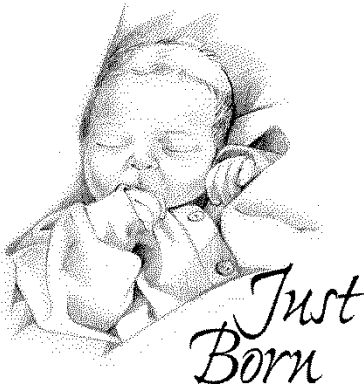
Welcome to Mt. Everest VBS! This is the place where youth of all ages will learn to conquer challenges with God's mighty power! At VBS, we will have a week of explorations of Powerful Bible Stories; Mighty Games; Imagination Station with Science Experiments and Crafts; and Uplifting Music for everyone to enjoy! Dinner will be provided for all participants and volunteers. It's our prayer that our Mt. Everest VBS will allow God's love to come to life like never before...touching lives, changing hearts, and drawing our youth and adults closer to Christ!

Ages 3 and up are invited to join in on the fun at VBS! Please register no later than July 15! Meeting this deadline will guarantee the correct size of your VBS T-Shirt! We are also looking for *volunteers* to help and lead our groups and stations on this week long adventure! Silver Cord hours are available high school students!

Also, mark your calendars for the *final program, Thursday, July 31 at 7PM*. We welcome everyone to join in our final night of VBS to see all the adventures learned throughout the week! It will be an uplifting, energetic program! A Must See! If you have questions, please contact Kelly Nabb, Christian Education Coordinator at (563) 249-2335.



Senior High Fellowship met on Sunday June 7. The members attending were Tessa Fields, Cody Fields, and Makayla Schluter. The president, Cody Fields opened the meeting with a devotional and prayer. A discussion was held about who the members would be for the upcoming year. The can recycling schedule, meeting dates, and events were all planned for next year as well. Pastor Steve gave the closing prayer.



Shae Abagale, daughter of Dan and Amy Mohr was born on June 17. She weighed 6 lbs. 8 oz. and was 21" long. Congratulations.

**THE
CONGREGATION
HOPE ALL THE
CHILDREN
ATTENDING OUR
CHURCH CAMP
AND A GOOD
TIME AND LEARNS
MORE ABOUT
THEIR RELIGIOUS
FAITH.**

Mark these dates on your calendar.

July 19-10:00 a.m. Outdoor
Worship at the Park
Potluck lunch to follow.



July 19 thru 23

Vacation Bible School

5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Thursday Night, July 23 at 7PM
VBS Final Wrap-Up Performance