

**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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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



*See you in Sunday School!*

**SEPTEMBER**

**2015**

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

I am thinking...Yep, I don't like writing articles for September. Why you ask??? Because it means that summer is almost over and it seems every year I get a little less done each summer compared to the last. That means by the time I am eighty, I won't get anything done, but maybe by the time I am eighty, I won't want to get anything done either. I hope I live long enough to prove that theory. ☺

Now on to exciting Jesus stuff. I just got back from the Wheatland nursing home worship service and I want to share with you an observation as I drove down old highway 30. There is a lot of corn and soybeans on that drive. What...you knew that already, of course you did, but when was the last time you drove slow and really looked at the beauty of God's creation on that path. Right now the tops of the corn are amber and it grants a beautiful blending with the green of the corn and the soy beans are so deep green and full and they seem to go on and on into infinity. As I drove, I wagered a guess that if all the corn and beans were of the edible variety, the state of Iowa could feed many small countries for an entire year. So I thought I'd look for some answers. What I found were some startling statistics.

In 2012, the US used about 5 billion bushels of corn for the production of ethanol as a gas additive. That is enough corn to feed approximately 412 million people for an entire year.<sup>1</sup> Right now, some 795 million people in the world do not have enough food to lead a healthy active life. That's about one in nine people on

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<sup>1</sup> <http://ecowatch.com/2012/07/11/food-or-fuel/>

earth.<sup>2</sup> I don't have an insight to share on this, I just hope that you will give it some thought using God's wisdom and Christ's faith. I know that every time I drive down old 30 and enjoy the great beauty of this time of the year, I will also carry another vision of people with full tummies. Jesus looked over the crowd of 5000 men and many more women and children said to his disciples, "You give them something to eat" (Luke 9:13).

September is a very busy month here at Zion. Our loss support group "A Cup Of Comfort" will have its first meeting on Wednesday September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 pm at the parsonage. Everyone is welcome to attend and share your love and support. We will have coffee, tea, and a light sweet treat. I hope you can join us.

Then on Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at our 10:15 am worship service, we will celebrate the baptism of Shae Abagale Mohr, daughter of Dan and Amy Mohr. A week later our Sunday School begins at 9:00 am and then—directly following our worship service—the Mission Committee is holding their "Mission Luncheon & Ice Cream Social" for the community. The fun doesn't stop there, no sirree, but you have to read the rest of the Herald and come to church to find out what other exciting things are coming up. May we all have a safe and joyful September filled with the faith of Christ and the wisdom of God. See you in church!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Steve

"If you can't feed a hundred  
people,  
then just feed one."

*Mother Teresa*

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.wfp.org/hunger/stats>

# THIS USHERS MONTH

Sept. 6, 2015 Church Council  
Sept. 13, 2015 Elon & Marcine Miller  
Sept. 20, 2015 Al & Vicky Mohr  
Sept. 27, 2015 Senior High Fellowship

Oct. 4, 2015 Church Council  
Oct. 11, 2015 Wilbert & Millie Muhs  
Oct. 18, 2015 Dwight Niermeyer & Dennis Mostaert  
Oct. 25, 2015 Senior High Fellowship

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## VIDEOGRAPHERS for September



September 6, 2015 Jane Drewelow  
September 13, 2015 Jean Stepp  
September 20, 2015 Julie Hoffmeier  
September 27, 2015 Aaron Horman



Heads up!! Get your walking shoes ready,  
The CROP WALK is coming up in November.  
The date will be decided later so keep watching for  
more details.

Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship.



**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- September 2            Shelley Jacobs
- September 4            Ray Wiese, Linda Freese,  
Marcine Miller, Jacob Gottschalk
- September 5            Jess Axline
- September 7            Brett Esbaum, Avery Luepker
- September 8            Emily Hayton
- Septmber 12            Henry Boedeker, Gail Hamdorf  
Caitlyn Neill
- September 17          Vicki Mohr
- September 19          Helen Gottschalk
- September 21          Chris Drewelow
- September 22          Alice Rowold
- September 23          Joy Combs, Randy Horman
- September 25          Taylor Lohman
- September 26          \*David Holst, Jared Bentrott
- September 27          Bob Rowold, \*Pam Jensen  
Royce Gottschalk
- September 28          Rhonda Poppe
- September 29          Steve Poppe, Kelli Proesch,  
Jennifer Horman

Card...  ...shower

**Henry Boedeker**

100 Roosevelt Ave.,  
Lowden, Iowa 52255

**Helen Gottschalk**

404 1<sup>st</sup> Street, PO Box 252  
Lowden, Iowa 52255

**Alice Rowold**

307 Main Street,  
Lowden, Iowa 52255



## *Happy Anniversary!*

September 2	Allen & Sandra Koch (1960) Darrell, Jr. & Jody Yutesler (1990)
September 8	Brad & Liz Norton (1979)
September 9	Kent & Janice Strackbein (1961)
September 11	Pete & Sharon Johnson (1965)
September 15	Gary & Kim Klahn (1984)
September 18	Jill & Mike Jacobs (2010)



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

Our loss support group  
"A Cup Of Comfort" will have its  
first meeting on Wednesday  
September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 pm at the  
parsonage. Everyone is welcome  
to attend and share your love and  
support. We will have coffee, tea,  
and a light sweet treat.  
We hope you can join us.



# CHURCH COUNCIL

Zion United Church of Christ  
Church Council meeting Minute's  
July 16, 2015

Zion United Church of Christ council met at 7:00 p.m. on July 14, 2015. The meeting was called to order by President David Niermeyer. Pastor 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.

Joys and concerns were shared.

Secretary's minutes from June 18, 2015 were read and approved, on a motion made by Merlin, second by Kevin. Motion carried. (Treasurer's and financial reports motions returned to copied minutes.)

The treasurer's general fund was reviewed and approved. A motion was made by Pete and second by Kevin. Motion carried. All remaining financial reports were reviewed and approved on a motion made by Merlin, second by Pete. Motion carried.

**Calendar Review: Aug. 2 Congregational Meeting**

**Aug. 8 Church office closed.**

**Aug.23-29 Pastor on vacation**

**Sept. 13 Ice Cream Social/First day  
Of Sunday School.**

**Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> Pastoral Relations Meeting**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- David will submit an article in the Herald concerning the electronic auto offering/donation deposit process.
- Carpet repairs; Steps in progress.
- Organ committee is meeting July 15 to discuss options to repair the electrical relay box.
- Discussed roofing status. Estimates reviewed. Set date for congregational meeting.
- Motion approved for Meyer Construction to insulate the sanctuary wall. Cost \$4,540.00.
- Alliant Energy rebate \$3,178. Estimated savings \$1,274. Motion made by Pete, second by Merlin. Motion Carried
- Please, share ideas to Church Council members for memorial/gift money wish list items.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Hail damage to roof claim pending.
- Lawn care options discussed.

**Pastor's report** read and approved on a motion made by Pete, Second by Kevin. Motion Carried.

**Discussion topic:** What activity do you enjoy most at church and why?

Next meeting Tuesday, August 18 at 6:00 p.m. Annual Council Dinner hosted by Pastor Steve and Jean to follow meeting. Pastor Steve closed with a prayer. Meeting adjourned with a motion made by Merlin Conrad and second by Kevin. Motion carried. AMEN.

Tanya Stewart  
Secretary Pro-Term

## **ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING August 2, 2015**

A special Congregational Meeting of Zion United Church of Christ was called to order by President David



Niermeyer following the worship service on Sunday, August 2, 2015.

Pastor Steve opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes of the January 23, 2015, Annual Meeting were read by David Niermeyer. A motion was made by Merlin Conrad and second by Jody Yutesler to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

The purpose of this special meeting was to discuss the condition of the church's roofs. It was stated that the shingles that were on the new addition had been there for 15 years and the other 2 roofs were a year or so different older or new. A slide program was presented showing the deterioration of the roof at the present time.

It was stated that the council had received two bids for the whole project and one for just doing the new addition. The one that covered the new addition would cost \$9,900.00 for asphalt shingles, and to cover it with metal it would cost \$18,300 to 20,000 for just that. The other bids were for all the church roofs. The bids were \$63,500 and the other was \$66,000 for the metal roofs that look like shingles.

Council is seeking some input from the congregation as to what they would like to have the council do. There was a question about if the gutter and down sprouts were included. Another question was if we would decide to do a section at a time would it match up to the first part done. There were several other question and comments. It was stated that a 50 year warranty was talked about.

After a lengthy discussion Jamie Nabb made a motion to have the council go ahead with the full roof. They (the council) would decide how to fund it. Either use endowment money; borrow money from Cornerstone

or a fund raiser. Joy Combs second the motion.  
Motion carried.

There was 2 addition items that they informed the congregation about. It had been decided to install some insulation in the east, north. south walls of the church for a cost of \$4,500 but Allaint Energy will pay 70% of the cost or about \$3178 of the cost.

Organ Committee has gotten the pipes back from Milwaukee and it was then found additional item needs to have some work done. The switches have gone bad and need to be repaired. The organ committee decided to convert the switches to solid state for \$2,600. They have enough money to cover the additional expenses.

LeRoy Luepker made a motion to adjourned the meeting Al Mohr second the motion. Motion Carried.

A closing prayer was shared by Pastor Steve.

Linda Behrens, Secretary Pro Temp

**Zion United Church of Christ**  
**Church Council meeting Minutes**  
**August 18, 2015 6:00 p.m.**

Zion United Church of Christ Council meeting was held on August 18, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President David Niermeyer. Pastor Steve opened with a reading and a prayer, Those in attendance were Pastor Steve, Kevin Kahl, Merlin Conrad, Pete Johnson, Tanya Stewart, Renate Port, Linda Behrens through the treasurers reports.

Joys and concerns were shared.

Secretary's minutes from July 14 meeting were read and approved with a motion by Merlin Conrad and second by Pete Johson to approve the minutes are present.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:

Pastor's vacation	August 23 thru August 29
September 2	Cup of Comfort meeting (Loss of a Loved Ones)
September 6	Baptism of Shau Abagale Mohr
<b>September 6</b>	<b><u>CHURCH BEGINS AT 10:30</u></b>
September 12	Vacation Bible School sleepover/C.E. Kick-of
September 13	Mission's Ice Cream Social
September 20	Music/Worship meets
September 22	Pastorial Relations meet at 6:30 p.m.

## **PASTOR REPORT:**

Pastor report was read and reviewed and approved on a motion by Pete and second by Merlin, motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- ❖ Steve Hansen will continue with organ repair October 1.
- ❖ Roof estimates are in, council will review and compare estimates.
- ❖ Alliant Energy insulation, estimate and rebates agreed on may begin 28<sup>st</sup> August.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Checking on hail claim on roof. Haven't heard from them yet.
- Lawn care discussed.

**Discussion Topic:** What is the best time for a meal at Zion that is followed by activities.

**Next council meeting is on September 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.**

Meeting closed with a prayer and motion to adjourn by Merlin and second by Tanya. Carried.

Rente Port  
Secretary.

## Thanks

After our August 18 Church Council meeting we went downstairs to join our spouses for a delightful dinner which was prepared by Pastor Steve and Jean. We enjoyed good conversations and several games to close out the evening. THANKS again for such a great meal.



Ashton & Jacob Sulzner are proud parents of a baby girl, Quinn Christine Sulzner. She was born on July 25, 2015 and weighed 8 lb. and was 21" long. She is welcome home by big brother, Kellen. The Grandparent is Bonnie Kintzel.



**ZION EVENING CIRCLE**  
**July 20, 2015**

12 members and Pastor Steve met at The Family Restaurant in Davenport for lunch on July 20, 2015. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all.

We then ventured to The Green Thumbers. While there we were given a presentation by ladies representing the Twisted Trunk, an olive oil company. We tasted different oils and vinegars and were treated to

brownies made using olive oil. We were told the key differences between olive oils and the health benefits of using olive oil. The olives used by the Twisted Trunk are grown in Italy, Chile, Spain, Tunisia, Australia, Portugal and California and they sell only freshest olive oils available. Thanks to Jan Strackbein for organizing this fun and interesting day for us.

Sharon Elijah  
Acting secretary



The Missions Committee met Sunday, August 16, 2015 at 10:30. Members in attendance were Linda Behrens, Carmen Fields, Beth Kahl, Marlene Wiedenhoff, Tanya Stewart, Mary Huffman and Rev. Steve Stepp.

Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer

Linda called the meeting to order and distributed the minutes of the last meeting. Tanya moved and Mary seconded to approve them.

She distributed the financial report and indicated that we needed to remove the Deacon fund check. The proceeds of \$393.20 from the breakfast were donated to the camp fund. She reported that the Council will be assisting in paying for camp, also. She recorded how the food was used and it was decided that we need additional French Toast casseroles and less sausage for next year. Carmen moved and Tanya seconded approval of the financial report.

A gift card was purchased for a family, who had a house fire. They were notified that the card was available to them, but they never picked it up. The

committee chose to hold on to it in case it was needed at a later date.

Discussion was held regarding inviting some of the campers to church to talk about their camp experience, so everyone knows how the money is being used. We will follow up after Sunday School starts.

**The Ice Cream Social** will be held after church on September 13. Church moves from 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. on September 6, but Sunday School does not start until September 13. A menu was set as follows:

Hot Chicken Sandwiches (Beth will check with Clarence church for recipe) and Hot Dogs  
Chips and Potato Salad  
Ice cream with brownie or Root Beer floats  
Water and Lemonade

Committee Volunteer Assignments:

Marlene – Toppings for Ice Cream and baked beans

Mary – Paper Plates, napkins, Solo cups (150), plastic wear (forks and spoons), long spoons and straws

Linda and Beth – Potato Salad

Carmen – Hot Dogs (She will talk to Tessa about getting them donated or for a better price)

Tanya – Ice Cream

The following items will be placed on a list for volunteers to donate: Chips (4 family size), Buns (10 packages hamburger, 6 hot dog), brownies (6 pans), Root Beer (6 2-liter bottles), lemonade

After some discussion, it was decided to have the meal inside and the ice cream and games outside. Ask people to bring their lawn chairs.

Pastor Steve said that they are working to get a tab on the website for the Mission Committee so we can list

our activities and let members know where the money is being spent.

The North Cedar Clergy is working with the Lutheran Services of Iowa to find consultants to assist in counseling people to manage their funds. This need has become greater over the past couple of years and their hope is that counseling families in managing their money better might help this situation.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 6 following church services.

Pastor Steve closed with a prayer.  
Mary Huffman, Secretary

### **Church Member Contributions using Bank Account Transfers**

Upon reviewing the options available for members to make regular, automatic contributions to the church, the church council is recommending that members who bank where online bill paying services are offered, can make church contributions in the same manner you would pay a bill through automatic transfer.

By using a member's own bank the church would incur no transaction fees and would not have to worry about any account security. For those banking at American Trust & Savings in Lowden please Sandy Esbaum at the bank to set up simple account transfer to make regular contributions if interested in using a similar program. If there is future growth in the use of this type of program it can easily be reviewed and changed at any time.

Thank you for your patience in this matter.  
Zion Church Council