

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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2015

ZION HERALD October 2015 Volume 88 No. 9

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

What does it mean to be united in the body of Christ? That question can be very difficult to understand if we only gaze through the 21st century looking glass of America. If we go back to 1st century Rome, an empire that the Roman's expected to reign for all times, we see that being united in the body of Christ was difficult. Christians back then were persecuted and they were tempted by the allures of what many might call a pagan culture, but they were organized by the Holy Spirit. So when I read about people who say things have gotten a lot worse, meaning our cultural loss of Christianity as a mainstream religion and how that has impacted our faith, I worry that we have missed the meaning of what being a Christian really means.

Now, if I were to list out what being a Christian means, it would include many things that are running through your minds right now. But being a Christian isn't a list, it's a group of feelings; feelings deep in our heart that are put there by God. These feelings are a part of our created image in God. These feelings are a part of God's Holy Spirit. These feelings are what Christ felt as he walked among us 2000 years ago.

It is these deep from the heart feelings that offer us guidance through life and how we respond to these feelings determines who we are as human beings and who we are as Christians. Let's face it, it's not so much our culture that is causing our feelings of sadness and fear in the wake of our 21st century because we face the same obstacles today as our early Christian ancestors faced 2000 years ago and they flourished. They flourished because they believed without fear that Jesus Christ was God; they followed the feeling in their hearts; and shared their belief in Jesus with others. They may have been careful in how they shared their faith, but they shared it and because they did, thousands upon thousands of Christians were imprisoned, tortured, and murdered. Still, those who survived continued to share their

faith until their death. That is why Christianity grew and the culture around them positively changed as a result.

Today, many Christians feel uncomfortable talking openly in public about our faith. Not because we are afraid of being imprisoned, tortured, or murdered. We don't share our faith like the early disciples of Jesus because we don't always put God at the center of our lives and allow ourselves to grow outward from God. Let's be honest, our approach to faith is unorganized because we don't allow God to lead us and prioritize our life for us. I have heard from so many people over the past 40 years that things were better in the past and in some way that is true because we were organized in faith. For example, before every meal we prayed. We went to church every Sunday unless we were sick. We had a goal to read the Bible each week. The list could go on and on, but one thing is sure, if we organized our business like we organize our faith, we would all be in big trouble. Christians in the first century were organized because they put God first and the rest of their life formed around their faith in Jesus Christ.

Today, we are certainly tempted by the allures of the 21st century culture we live in. But one of the biggest issues we face isn't the decline of human morals or the actions of the unjust. The biggest challenge we face is allowing God to organize our lives in Jesus Christ. We must accept the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit who gives us strength to overcome temptation and properly organize our life in faith. Organize it by putting Jesus Christ at the center and reclaiming our Christian way of life.

So let us all respond to what many say is the erosion of Christianity in America, by uniting together and reclaiming our faith organized life. And when we are challenged by a person or an activity that will disrupt our faithful life, let us stand together, put away the differences that divide us and support each other and say no, you will not disrupt my faithful life. If we do this we will begin to build a new

creation. It won't be like the one 40 years ago, but it we be one that is built on our combined faith in Jesus Christ. A faith that can move mountains here on earth. Praise be to God!

October is upon us, and with it all the wondrous changes that Autumn brings. So let us accept God's changes in our lives. May we all make worshiping God on Sunday a priority and may we all invite someone we love to join us because that is a vital part of our organized Christian life. See you in church.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve

"It's a good thing to remember
And better thing to do;
To work with the construction gang
And not the wrecking crew."
Philip Jerome Cleveland

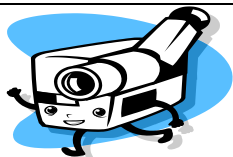
Ready to become a member of Zion United Church of Christ?

A new member meeting will be held for everyone interested in joining our community in Christ. Please join us on Tuesday, October 27th from 7:00-8:00 pm in the church library. Please give Pastor Steve a call at 563-941-7726 and let him know you plan to attend. Thank you!

USHERS

THIS MONTH

Oct. 4, 2015 Church Council
 Oct. 11, 2015 Elon & Marcine Miller
 Oct. 18, 2015 Dwight Niermeyer & Dennis Mostaert
 Oct. 25, 2015 Senior High Fellowship
 Nov. 1, 2015 Church Council
 Nov. 8, 2015 Judy Proesch, Joby Proesch
 Nov. 15, 2015 Brenda Esbaum, Brett Esbaum
 Nov. 22, 2015 Senior High Fellowship
 Nov. 25, 2015 Carmen & Scott Fields
 Nov. 26, 2015 Kip & Sandy Esbaum



VIDEOGRAPHERS

October

Oct. 4 Cheryl Boedeker
 Oct. 11 Jane Drewelow
 Oct. 18 Cody Fields
 Oct. 25 David Niermeyer

November

Nov. 1 Jane Drewelow
 Nov. 8 Jody Yutesler
 Nov. 15 Jean Stepp
 Nov. 22 Julie Hoffmeier
 Nov. 25 David Niermeyer
 Nov. 29 Aaron Horman



FOR OCTOBER

Oct. 4 Addie Luepker & Mackenzie Poppe
 Oct. 11 Mariah Behrens & Kacy Gottschalk
 Oct. 18 Kelly Proesch & Addie Luepker
 Oct. 25 Kaci Gottschalk & Mackenzie Poppe



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 1 Harlan Deerberg, Kyle Proesch
 October 3 Janice Strackbein, Sheila Bowling
 October 5 Robert Johson
 October 7 Karen Baldwin, Marx Dttmer
 October 8 Marlene Wiedenhoff
 October 10 Merle Tank, Laurie Steinke, Dan Mohr
 October 11 Deloris Kahl
 October 13 Fern Schluter
 October 16 Juie Hoffmeier, Addi Ra Ehltz, Tyler Stewart
 October 17 Marlene Fox, Easton Bowling
 October 18 Donna Jensen, Amdy Kahl
 October 19 Tessa Holst
 October 21 Diane Mostaert, Heidi Krafock
 October 24 Jane Armstrong, Johny Amina
 October 25 Linda Behrens, Jaydon Nabb
 October 30 Fred Klaveman, Wes Griesbach, Hiliary Griesbach
 October 31 Samuel Combs

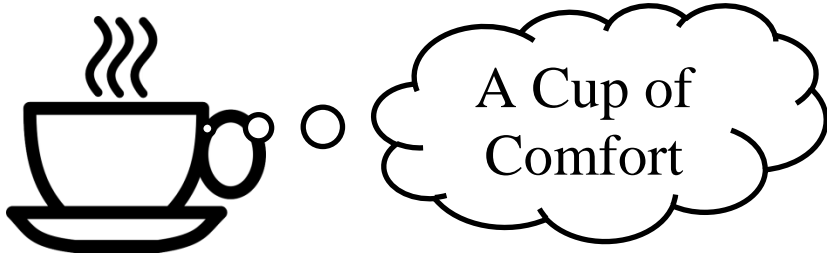
Card... ...shower

Harlan Deerberg 107 Augusta Drive Apt 1
 Lowden, Iowa 52255
 Marline Wiedenhoff 204 8th Street
 Lowden, Iowa 52255
 Deloris Kahl 103 Augusta Drive Apt. 2
 Lowden, Iowa 52255
 Marlene Fox 901 McKinley Avenue,
 PO Box 245,
 Lowden, Iowa 52255
 Fred Klavemann 608 Lynn Street
 Tipton, Iowa 52772



Happy Anniversary!

- October 7 Royce & Lisa Gottschalk 20 years
Sheila & *Travis Bowling 9 years
- October 8 *Brian & Jane Armstrong 21 years
- October 15 Tim & Jane Drewelow 38 years
- October 16 Jamie & Kelli Nabb – 16 years
- October 25 Robert & *Melissa O’Howell-1years



Our loss support group “A Cup Of Comfort” will meet on Wednesday October 14th at 3:00 pm at Deloris Kahl’s house. Carol DeJong, a Licensed Greif Counselor with Above & Beyond Home Health Care will be our guest speaker. Everyone is welcome to attend. We will have coffee, tea, and a light sweet treat. We hope you can join us.



Heads up!! Get your walking shoes ready, The CROP WALK is coming up on Saturday, October 17 at 10:00 a.m. Come and enjoy some exercise, fun, fellowship and sweet treat. Get your sponsor sheet from Sharon Kruckenberg or Linda in the office.

CHURCH COUNCIL
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SPECIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
September 6, 2015

Zion Church Council met after church on September 6th to discuss the bids on the Sunday School roof. We decided to go with Jason Conrad’s bid and will notify him on our discussion. A motion to approve was made by Merlin Conrad and second by Tanya Stewart, passed. David will contact Jason and get an approximate start time. David adjourned the meeting.

Zion United Church of Christ
Church Council Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2015

Zion United Church of Christ council meeting met at 7:00 p.m. on September 15, 2015. Those in attendance were David Niermeyer, Kevin Kahl, Pete Johnson, Tanya Stewart, Pastor Steve, Renate Port with Linda Behrens through treasurer report. Merlin Conrad absent.

Meeting was called to order by President David Niermeyer. Pastor Steve opened with a reading and a prayer.

Secretary’s minutes from August 18 were read and approved with a motion by Kevin Kahl and second by Tanya Stewart. Approved.

Treasurer’s reports were reviewed and read with Pete Johnson making a motion to approve with a second by Tanya Stewart. Carried.

Calendar review:

September 20	Zion choir to sing.
September 22	Pastoral relations meeting.
September 21	Zion Evening Circle meeting at Fox's Pond.
September 23	Confirmation starts.
September 24	Wheatland Nursing Home Service.
September 27	Eastern Iowa Association Meeting
October 17	CROP walk at 10:00 a.m.
October 14	Cup of Comfort meeting at Deloris Kahl at 3:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ❖ Organ refurbish going good.
- ❖ Roofing project: Jason Conrad will roof.
- ❖ Insulation project: waiting to hear from

NEW BUSINESS:

- Microwave was donate to the church by Bob and Mary Campbell.
- Discussed Financial Plan for roof.
- New Member Transfer: Carol Engle, and her son Karl.

Committee gave reports with a motion to accept by Pete Johnson and second by Renate Port. Approved.

PASTOR REPORT:

- Discussed October 4 Communion
- Copier and Printer in office was discussed. It needs to be replace. Pastor and Linda will look into it. Motion to purchase was made by Pete Johnson and second by Kevin Kahl. Approved.
- Pastor's report was approved with a motion by Tanya and Kevin second it. Approved.

Next council meeting will be on October 20 at 6:30 pm

Pastor closed with a prayer.

Presient David Niermeyer adjourned the meeting.

Renate Port, Secretary.



ZION EVENING CIRCLE

SEPTEMBER 21, 2015

Members and spouses met at Fox's pond for their first meeting of the year. We had a delicious meal of pulled pork sandwiches, chips, salads and desserts. 18 members and Pastor Stepp were present.

Barry Hoffmeier gave a wonderful presentation about his trip as a guardian for the Honor Flight on June 2. He showed slides and gave us facts about the monuments they saw and told us interesting details about the flight and bus trip. Installation of officers by Pastor Stepp was held. Donna presided over a short meeting. She thanked Linda for being president the last year and helping to revise the guide lines for funerals and flower chairmen. The Flower Chairman guidelines were passed out. She thanked those who worked at Nola Wenndt's funeral and said that Sharon and Donna made the meal for the September meeting of the Committee on Ministry.

Joy went over the new program books. Terry asked for help and donations to serve the reception after Faith Strackbein's memorial service. Marlene Wiedenhoff presented Marlene Fox with a gift for allowing us to meet at the pond again.

Our next meeting will be October 19th and we will do some cleaning at the church. Linda will have flowers for October. Annette, Marilyn and Marlene W. will have refreshments and Joy will do devotions at the October meeting.

Dues of \$10.00 are payable now.

Sharon Elijah, Secretary



The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone who attended the Ice Cream Social on September 13. A free will offering was collected

for lunch consisting of warm chicken sandwiches, hot dogs, potato salad, chips, pork and beans and a drink. Dessert included Root Beer floats or ice cream/brownie sundaes. About 50 people were served and we raised \$380.00 for the school "Snack Milk Program" a great cause for our community. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sunday School Kick Off September 13th

The first class of Sunday School at Zion was a shopping trip to J&J Grocery just down the street! Each class worked with a budget to buy some groceries for the food pantry. A special thanks to J&J Grocery for their donation to our food pantry! A perfect day to show kindness and share with others!

*****See photos on the back of the calendar*****

Senior High Fellowship

Senior High Fellowship met on Sunday September 27 following the worship service in which they ushered. The attendees were Cody Fields, Avery Luepker, Grace Proesch, Tessa Fields, and Makayla Schluter. Sig Schluter provided the wonderful meal. The opening devotional and prayer was given by Makayla Schluter. President, Cody Fields, called the meeting to order. Tessa Fields, secretary, read the minutes from last meeting. The treasurer, Makayla Schluter, gave the financial report. Tessa Fields read two thank you letters SHF received from the Lowden Food Pantry and St. John's UCC in Clarence for donating canned goods from our food drive we

put on last year. The meeting attendees also decided that SHF will be participating in the Crop Walk on October 17.

Submitted by Tessa Fields, Secretary

UP COMING HAPPENINGS

October 4 -World Wide Communion

*October 14 - Cup of Comfort @ 3:00
@ Deloris Kahl with guest speaker.*

*October 17 10:00 am. CROP Walk
Come and join us on our Walk*

*October 19 6:00 p.m. Evening Circle
Fall Clean up*

October 25 Neighbors in Needs Offering

OCTOBER 2015

<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
				1	2	3
4 9:00 a.m. Christian Education 10:15 Worship Service World Communion 9:45 to 10:10 Blood Pressure Check Mission Committee meeting	5	6	7 9:00 a.m. North Cedar Clergy 6:30 to 8:00 Confirmation	8	9	10
11 9:00 a.m. Christian Education 10:15 Worship Service Marlene Wiedenhoff's 80 th birthday celebration 2:00 p.m. Clarence Nursing Home Service	12	13	14 4:00 to 6:00 ZYC 6:30 to 8:00 Confirmation	15	16	17 10:00 a.m. CROP WALK Come & join the fun.
18 9:00 a.m. Christian Education 10:15 Worship Service with Mission Presentation	19 6:00 p.m. Evening Circle Meeting Fall clean up	20 6:30 pm Church Council	21 NO Confirmation	22 10:00 am Wheatland Nursing Home Service	23 Office Closed.	24
25 9:00 a.m. Christian Education 10:15 Worship Service Neighbors in Need Offering Senior High Fellowship meets Following worship	26 Herald articles due.	27 11:00 a.m. Eastern Iowa Clergy @ Muscatine	28 4:00 to 6:00 ZYC Halloween Party 6:30 to 8:00 Confirmation	29 8:30 a.m. Assemble Herald .	30	31



Zion Sunday School

Above: We circled the wagons and headed for J&J Grocery to help fill our food pantry for people in need in and around the Lowden community.

To the right: Our youth who attended camp this year say thank you and teach us a song, "The Fruit of the Spirit"

We sponsored 16 youth this year by offering 100% camp scholarships that were supported by Christian Education
Zion Youth Club
Zion Mission Committee
& the Zion Church Camp Fund.

Thank you Zion United Church of Christ
and thank you to our youth

for making 2015 a **GREAT** camper year.

