

**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
402 Main Street  
P.O. Box 339  
Lowden, IA 52255-0339  
*Rev. Stephen Stepp, Pastor*

*Nonprofit Org.*  
**U.S. Postage Paid**  
**Lowden, IA**  
**Permit No. 3**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**NOVEMBER 2015**



# Christmas Dinner 2015

Senior High Fellowship would like to invite everyone come and enjoy the annual Christmas Dinner in our fellowship hall on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> following the worship service. Be ready to enjoy great food, wonderful people, intriguing conversion, fun games, and prizes.

*"This is how we've come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed his life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for others, and not just be out for ourselves. If we see a sister or brother in need and have the means to do something to help them, but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God's love? It disappears. And we made it disappear." a translation of 1 John 3:16-17*



## Flowers on the Alter

Enclosed in the Herald is a form to designate flowers in honor of or in memory of someone you love. If you would like to give flowers, please fill out the form and drop it in the offering plate, in the office or mail it to church. You can purchase the flowers and bring them to church yourself or you may call Linda in the office and arrange delivery. Thank you.

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

“OH NO! Here we go again!” is what I heard this past weekend from a close friend in Wisconsin. He was talking about winter. He doesn't like winter because it is very difficult for him to move around in the ice and snow. So he feels trapped by the conditions of winter, and I must say I *understand* how he feels but I certainly don't *know* how he feels. I can't imagine his feeling of being trapped by circumstances beyond his control.

I wonder if Jesus ever felt that way knowing he would eventually be arrested, beaten, mocked, and die a tortured death on a cross. Did he feel like he had no control over his life? Jesus being fully human and fully God did have a choice even if we think he didn't. Jesus received the same gift from God that all humans have, free will, and Jesus chose to accept the pain of our sin and the suffering of crucifixion for us. We can *understand* how Jesus felt, but we will never *know* how he felt because he has paid the price of our painful death to sin.

So what does that mean for us now as we live our lives with the pain and suffering that surrounds us in this world? It means we must believe in God and live in the faith of Jesus Christ because it is faith that enables us to endure and guides us help others endure the sufferings of this world. The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.” (Romans 5)

When we are healed by this knowledge, we can reach out to our sisters and brothers who are suffering in the world. Through our faith, we become committed to helping others

find a way to endure. In the case of my friend, his church community has become a beacon of hope even though they cannot *know* how he feels; they can *understand* how he feels and therefore reach out to him in Christian love and fellowship.

All of us know someone who is suffering in this life and we are aware of many others who are suffering. Their suffering may be physical, mental or emotional and we can *understand* how they feel but we certainly don't *know* how they feel. And that's ok, because it is like our relationship with Jesus; and because of that relationship, we have the ability to pour out compassion like Jesus. It is shared compassion through understanding that enables us to help those in need. And if we get tired, let us remember the many times Jesus was tired, ready to go off to a secluded place, but instead had compassion for the people and continued his ministry of healing, teaching and hope.

Winter is approaching and with it the problems associated with the weather and the holidays. It is a special time when people need us Christians the most because there are many obstacles that cause them to suffer. So let us be as Christ, understanding how they feel and then acting compassionately to help bring healing, joy and hope into their lives. That is one of the greatest parts of being a Christian, bringing hope into the hearts of children, men and women.

In November we celebrate and remember sisters and brothers who have died and now shine in glory with Christ during our Totenfest worship service which will be held on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Then on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> we will join together for our special Thanksgiving Eve worship service when we will give thanks to God for all the blessing we have received this past year. I hope everyone will plan on making it to all six worship services this month. See you in church!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Steve

# USHERS

THIS MONTH

Nov. 1, 2015	Church Council
Nov. 8, 2015	Judy Proesch, Joby Proesch
Nov. 15, 2015	Brenda Esbaum, Brett Esbaum
Nov. 22, 2015	Kip & Sandy Esbaum
Nov. 25, 2015	Carmen & Scott Fields
Nov. 29, 2015	Senior High Fellowship
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Dec. 6, 2015	Senior High Fellowship
Dec. 13, 2015	Bob & Joni Fields
Dec. 20, 2015	Kent & Janice Strackbein
Dec. 24, 2015	Dan & Amy Mohr
Dec. 27, 2015	Church Council



## VIDEOGRAPHERS

### November

Nov. 1	Jane Drewelow
Nov. 8	Jody Yutesler
Nov. 15	David Niermeyer
Nov. 22	Julie Hoffmeier
Nov. 25	David Niermeyer

### December

Dec. 6	Donna Luepker
Dec. 13	Cheryl Boedeker
Dec. 20	Cody Fields
Dec. 24,	Jean Stepp
Dec. 27	David Niermeyer
Nov. 29	Aaron Horman



## FOR November

November 1	Addie Luepker & Mariah Behrens
November 8	Kacy Gottschalk & Kelly Proesch
November 15	Mackenzie Poppe & Addie Luepker
November 22	Kacy Gottschalk & Mariah Behrens
November 26	Kelly Proesch & Mackenzie Poppe
November 29	Addie Luepker & Mariah Behrens

**NOVEMBER  
BIRTHDAYS**



- November 3 A Duane Deerberg
- November 4 Florence Deerbert, Jamie O'Howell,  
Brian Lohman
- November 5 Cody Poppe
- November 6 Meredith Norton, Kylee Kahl,  
November 10 Hannah Combs
- November 11 Jean Stepp
- November 18 Karen Bentrott
- November 19 Mark Freese, Ryan Hamilton
- November 23 Harold Horman
- November 26 Rich Schluter
- November 28 Alan Mohr
- November 30 Terry Lasack



*Happy Anniversary!*

- November 10 Dennis & Cheryl Boedeker 42 years
- November 13 \*Dean & Jennifer Fredrick 16 years
- November 14 Bob & Doreen Hamdorf 67 years
- November 15 Tanya & Keith Stewart 12 years
- November 16 Al & Linda Behrens 47 years
- November 16 Dan & Amy Mohr 2 years
- November 18 Noah & Jessica Coppess 9 years
- November 21 Doug & Cindy Wiedenhoff 29 years
- November 23 Dan & Gail Hamdorf 19 years
- November 24 Rod & Renate Port 35 years
- November 24 Barry & Julie Hoffmeier -37 years
- November 24 Joby & Kyle Proesch 24 years

Card...  ...shower

November 5

Florence Deerberg, 107 Augusta Drive, #1, Lowden, Iowa 52255

November 23

Harold Horman, P.O. Box 448.

Lowden, Iowa 52255



Dear Church Family & my family  
I wish to thank each of you who shared with me my birthday part. The cards, Gift, and flowers were so beautiful. I am gratefully happy.

God Bless You

Marlene Wiedenhoff



## Christmas Decorating Committee



One of the most fun things to do every year is decorate the church for Christmas. It is a big job, but when lots of Zion members and friends get together and join in the fun, it makes the big job quick and easy. So this is our call to you, please come and join in the fun this year as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

### Saturday

### December 28<sup>th</sup>

### at 9:00 am

*See you there!*



**ZION EVENING CIRCLE**  
**October 19, 2015**

Zion Evening Circle and 4 of our confirmands as guests and Pastor Steve met at 6:00 to clean the kitchen and a couple of storage rooms. After the work was done, we were served a great lunch by Annette, Marlene W. and Marilyn.

Devotions were led by Joy Combs with the title "Clean Up for Heart and Soul". She gave us a quiz entitled Cleaning Products, which was enjoyed by all.

Donna called the meeting to order with 12 members answering roll call. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved. Thank you notes from Julie, Deb Axline and Bonnie Kintzel were read.

Donna thanked the confirmands for their help in cleaning the kitchen; Terry, Janis K., Joy, Linda & Vicki Mohr for working at Faith Strackbein's memorial service and those who brought treats; Millie and Linda Behrens for serving the CROP walkers and those who brought bars to serve.

We were reminded that \$10.00 dues are payable now.  
Sharon Elijah, Secretary



**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
October 20, 2015**

Zion United Church of Christ council meeting met at 6:30 p.m. on October 20, 2015. 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. News and happenings were announced.

Secretary's report from September 6 and 15, 2015 were read and approved, on a motion made by Kevin, second by Pete. Motion carried.

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

**Calendar review:**

- October 25<sup>th</sup> Organ Rededication
- November 1<sup>st</sup> –Totenfest
- November 11-17<sup>th</sup> Pastor on vacation
- November 22<sup>nd</sup> Confirmation Class Bake sale
- November 25<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship
- November 29<sup>th</sup> Advent Begins

**PASTOR REPORT:**

Pastor report was read and aproved on a motion made by Merlin, second by Tanya. Motion carried.

**Discussion topic: What is the most important reason for being a member of ZUCC?**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- ❖ Organ COMPLETED!!!
- ❖ Insulation project: Scheduled for October 30-31.

- ❖ Sending out THANKS AND APPRECIATION to Emogene Ford for her very generous \$4280 donation to purchase a new copier. "THANK-YOU"

### NEW BUSINESS:

- Shingles for the new roof will be gray. Motioned by Merlin, second by Pete. Motion Carried.
- The roof fund will replace the Interior Redecorating Fund. Motion made by Merlin, second by Pete. Motion carried. Quarterly envelopes will be included in offering mailings.
- December 6 worship will be moved back to 10:30 a.m. due to choir/organist conflicts.
- Financial quarterly report are given to all members
- Discussed candle lighting. Pastor will relay procedure to confirmaton class.
- If no organist is playing, please play CD music before worship service.
- Health Insurance premiums are increasing 5% next year.
- Permission granted to dispose of outdated kitchen items. Thank you clean up crew!
- Discussed organ scholarship, If interested, please see a council member.

**Next council meeting** will be on Tuesday, November 10at 6:00 p.m. Pastor closed with a prayer. Meeting adjourned with a motion made by Pete, second by Merlin. Moton carried.  
Tanya Stewart, Secretary Pro-Tem

### The Organ is finished!!!!!!

We celebrated the return of our organ during our October 25<sup>th</sup> worship service. We gave thanks to God for the gifts and talents we received and we asked for God's blessing over the next 50 years of service. If you have not heard it yet, join us for worship and enjoy the beautiful music the organ makes as leads us in song and meditation.

*Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service*

Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>

7:00 pm



Our confirmation class will lead this worship service of thanks to God for all our gifts throughout the year.

### **Missions Committee Meeting**

- The Missions Committee met briefly Sunday, September 6, 2015 to make final preparations for the Ice Cream Social.
- Members in attendance were Linda Behrens, Carmen Fields, Beth Kahl, Tanya Stewart, Marlene Wiedenhoff, Mary Huffman and Rev. Steve Stepp.
- Linda opened with a prayer.
- After looking at the list of items needed for the social, Beth and Jean agreed to bring brownies.
- Christian Education will be using the basement until 8:30, so committee members were asked to come at that time to help set up. Linda will bring pop.
- Any items brought early should be put on the back counter in the kitchen.
- Pastor Steve suggested that we should ask neighbors and non-members to join us.
- Pastor Steve closed with a prayer.

### **Missions Committee Meeting**

- The Missions Committee met Sunday, October 4, 2015 following church services. Members in attendance were Linda Behrens, Carmen Fields, Beth Kahl, Tanya Stewart, Mary Huffman and Rev. Steve Stepp.
- Mary will provide minutes to the prior meeting September 6.
- The Ice Cream Social raised \$380, which will go to the School Milk Program. Bill Norton made a generous donation and Mary will get a thank you to him. It was moved and seconded to add an additional \$120 to make it an even \$500.
- Everyone felt the social was a success, but it was decided to make carry-outs available next time, since they were requested from some who could not stay.
- Pastor Steve asked committee members to participate in explaining the Neighbors in Need project at the October 18 church service. Beth, Carmen, Marlene and Mary will present various topics.
- The Crop walk was discussed and it was suggested that we try doing it during Sunday School next year.
- The next meeting will be November 8.

- Pastor Steve closed with a prayer.

## *Christian Education*

October was a busy month!

- ❖ Our lesson focus this month and November is the 66 books of the Bible. We are learning a general overview of each book and a song to help us remember the order.
- ❖ We had a great time on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> because we made our sixth trip to the Annual Firemen's Waffle Breakfast. It is great to teach the youth to support our local firefighters by enjoying a great breakfast.
- ❖ When we got back to church, we had our Family Day gathering.
- ❖ We played games and learned more about each other and our families.
- ❖ Thank you to our teachers and parents for supporting our Sunday School program.
- ❖ If you know of any youth that would like to join our Sunday School, please contact Kelly Nabb or Pastor Steve.

## *UP COMING HAPPENINGS*

*November 1 - Totenfest Memorial Service*

*November 22<sup>nd</sup> - Confirmation Bake Sale*

*November 25<sup>th</sup> - 7p.m. Thanksgiving Eve*

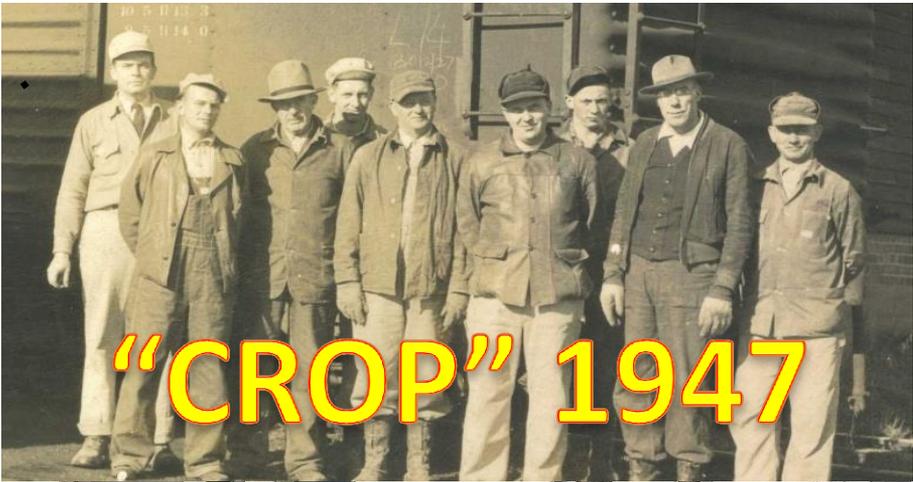
*Worship*

*November 28<sup>th</sup> - 9 a.m. Christmas Decorating*

*November 29<sup>th</sup> - Advents begins*

# November 2015

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	2	3	4	5	6	7
1 End of Daylight time! 9:00 am Christian Ed. classes <b>Blood Pressure check 9:30 to 10:00</b> 10:15 Worship Service Observing Totenfest			6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Confirmation Classes			
8 9:00 a.m. C.E. <b>10:15 a.m. Worship</b>	9	10	<b>11 Veteran Day</b> 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. ZYC Meeting 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Confirmation Classes	12	13	14
15 9:00 a.m. C.E. Classes 10:15 a.m. <b>Worship</b> Music /Worship meeting	16	17	18 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Confirmation Classes	19	20	21 9:00 a.m. Confirmation baking for Bake Sale 6:30 p.m., Cub Scout's Silly
22 9:00 a.m. C.E. Classes 10:15 am Worship <b>Confirmation Bake Sale</b>	23	24	25 Confirmation Class meets at 6:30 before the <b>7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service</b>	26 Thanksgiving Day 	27	28
29 9:00 a.m. C.E. Classes 10:15 am Worship Senior High Fellowship	30					



# "CROP" 1947



# "CROP" 2015





**Firemen's Waffle Breakfast 2015**



**Sunday School "Family Sunday"**

