

**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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Permit No. 3*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

January 2016

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

Once again I am at the desk, fingers at the ready, preparing to write an article for the Herald. Only this time something completely new and unexpected has happened. A quick and powerful thunderstorm has just passed through Lowden. Now that would certainly not be new and unexpected except....IT IS DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>! and! when I leave to go home, I will only need my sweater because it is 53° outside! And just think, that isn't even close to the biggest surprise of this week historically. Why you ask? IT'S CHRISTMAS!!! in just two days! and that was something new and unexpected.

Sure there were the prophecies, "A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God"( Isaiah 40:3); "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him"(Isaiah 42:1); "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land"(Jeremiah 23:5); "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"(Isaiah 9:6); Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey(Zechariah 9:9); "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel"(Isaiah 7:14), just to mention a few.

What God did 2000 years ago was truly the most new and unexpected event ever in human history. God came to earth to be one of us. Born like us; lived like us; blessed like us; baptized like us, and Jesus was also one person of the Triune God. Jesus did what no other person would do or could do. Live without sinning and then sacrifice himself for our sin.

This new and unexpected baby was Emmanuel, God with us. And that my sisters and brothers is what makes me right now, stop and give thanks to God and I hope that you take a moment, right now, yes as you are reading this, stop and give thanks to God for you are forgiven and have a new wonderful life to live in the light of that forgiveness.

Praise be to God for all that we have now and for all that we have been promised through the person and work of this child who was born on Christmas, Jesus Christ.

As we start off the New Year, let us set our eyes on the teaching and life of Jesus. We all can improve our faith and we can all improve how we live a faithful life with each day God blesses us with.

“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26).

In 2016, may we all enjoy our blessings and share them abundantly as Jesus did!!!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Steve

“Do all the good you can. By all the means you can.  
In all the ways you can. In all the places you can.  
At all the times you can. To all the people you can.  
As long as ever you can.”

# THIS MONTH USHERS

January 3, 2016	Church Council
January 10, 2016	Lonnie & Stacie Luepker
January 17, 2016	Kirk & Laurie Steinke
January 24, 2016	Keith Stewart & Jamie Nabb
January 31, 2016	Senior High Fellowship
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February 7, 2016	Church Council
February 14, 2016	Jody Yutesler & Tessa Holst
February 21, 2016	Randy Horman & Aaron Horman
February 28, 2016	Senior High Fellowship



## VIDEOGRAPHERS 2016

### January

January 3, Cheryl Boedeker  
 January 10, David Niermeyer  
 January 17, Cody Fields  
 January 24, Jody Yutesler  
 January 31, Jean Stepp

### February

February 7-Donna Luepker  
 February 14-Janie Drewelow  
 February 21-Julie Hoffmeier  
 February 28-David Niermeyer



January 3, 2016	Mackenzie Poppe & Kelly Proesch
January 10, 2016	Mariah Behrens & Kacy Gottschalk
January 17, 2016	Addie Luepker & Mackenzie Poppe
January 24, 2016	Kelly Proesch & Mariah Behrens
January 31, 2016	Kacy Gottschalk & Addie Luepker
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February 7, 2016	Mackenzie Poppe and Kelly Proesch
February 14, 2016	Mariah Behrens & Kacy Gottschalk
February 21, 2016	Addie Luepker & Mackenzie Poppe
February 28, 2016	Kelly Proesch & Kacy Gottschalk



January 3 Phyllis Boedeker,  
January 4 Allen Behrens, Josh Hamdorf,  
Matt Drewelow,  
January 6 Samantha Horman, Randy Millam  
January 7 Lois Latare, Kaelynn Kessler, Welma  
Krueger, Cavan Wiedenhoff,  
Hunter Lohman  
January 8 Angie Williams  
January 9 \*Mark Fox  
January 13 Shannon Hayton,  
January 14 Allison Hamdorf, Ari Ehltz, Owen Kahl  
January 16 \*Sandy Esbaum  
January 18 Chris Boedeker,  
January 26 Liz Norton  
January 29 Robert Muhs, Ladon Griesbach  
January 30 Mel Hamilton

## Card... ...shower

### JANUARY BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER

January 7 Welma Krueger,  
1929 155<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Lowden, Iowa 52255-9569  
January 18 Chris Boedeker,  
907 McKinley Avenue,  
PO Box 205, Lowden, Iowa 52255-0205



January 6 Mel & Kelli Hamilton, 32 years  
January 11 Angie & Dustin Peet, 8 years  
January 29 Elon & Marcine Miller, 44 years



## **ZION EVENING CIRCLE**

DECEMBER 21, 2015

Evening Circle held their annual Christmas party with 16 members and husbands as guests in Fellowship Hall. A wonderful dinner was catered by Mill Creek.

Marlene W. presented a stained glass sun catcher to Jean and Pastor Steve as thanks for all they have done for our group and our church.

Joy and Janis served ice cream drinks while we played a couple Christmas games. THANKS to Joy and Janis for a great night!



**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING** (unofficial)

**Special meeting November 29, 2015**

On November 29, 2015 Zion United Church of Christ Church Council members met after church to discuss and approve the 2016 Church Budget. It was reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Melin Conrad and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tanya Stewart. Motion carried and passed. Meeting was adjourn by President David Niermeyer.

Renate Port, Secretary

**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** (unofficial)

December 13, 2015, a congregational meeting was called to order by President David Niermeyer. Pastor Steve opened with a prayer. August 2, 2015 Congregational meeting made a motion by Sharon Elijah to dispense the reading of

the minutes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aaron Horman by. Deloris Kahl nominated Jamie Nabb and Bonnie Kintzel to the Church Council. Julie Hoffmeier made a motion to accept these two to fill Church Council position, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donavon Freese. Approved.

Donna Luepker will be conference delegate with Sharon Elijah will serve 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate.

There were no questions on the budget. Church Council noted that there will be \$388.00 increase on property insurance. Merlin Conrad made a motion to accept the budget, second by Dennis Boedeker. Carried.

Keith Stewart made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second by Donna Luepker. Carried

Pastor Steve closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Renate Port

**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING (unofficial)**

December 15, 2015

Zion United Church of Christ council meeting met at 6:00 p.m. on December 15, 2015. Pastor Steve opened with a prayer.

Meeting was called to order by President David Niermeyer.

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

Joys and concerns were shared. Working on the roof and it looking great. Don Boedeker has come home but keep him your prayers. Wilbert Wenndt is recovering from surgery, Linda Behrens is home from surgery and doing well. News and happenings were announced.

Minutes from November 10 meeting were reviewed and accept with a 1<sup>st</sup> by Pete Johnson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Merlin Conrad. Approved.

**CALENDAR:**

Doing the bell Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

December 20 Cantata at church with St. John's

December 21 Evening Circle Christmas Party

December 24 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eveing Service

**No Sunday School on the 27<sup>th</sup> will be back on January 3.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Insulation – has some finishing to do.
- Roof –Coming along and looking good.
- Snow removal- discussing.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Discussed Christmas Eve Program
- Pastor housing expenses, no change
- Deerberg door has problem-looking into repairing it. Merlin will check on the repair.
- Annual Meeting date January 31, 2016
- Have May Campbell help Linda in office as needed.

**PASTOR REPORT:**

- ❖ Thanksgiving Eve 60 was in attendance. Confirmation did an excellent job.
- ❖ We welcomed Carol Ingles and Rick & Mary Balke as new members on December 13, 2015.
- ❖ Confirmation class continue to work on their faith statements.
- ❖ A "Dinner for Eight" was suggested by Pastor and approved by council. More news on this great idea will follow later.
- ❖ Reimburse Pastor \$115.54 for vacuum repair. Merlin Conrad made a motion Pete 2<sup>nd</sup> it.
- ❖ Approval of Pastor expenses, motion by Tanya Stewart, 2<sup>nd</sup> Pete Johnson.

**DISCUSSION TOPIC:** What is the greatest road back to growing church membership besides the limited population in Lowden?

Next church council meeting January 12, 2015 with new members at 6:30 p.m.

President David Niermeyer adjourned meeting with motion by Merlin Conrad and second by Tanya Stewart. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Renate Port.



## Greetings from Christian Education!

I want to start off our year with much thanks to all those who make our Christian Education Program Successful!

First, thank you to the volunteer teachers who dedicate their time, talents, and faith to our youth in the classrooms and beyond! Thank you Sig Schluter, Sandy Esbaum, Megan Horman, Tanya Stewart, Jessica Coppess, and Makayla Schluter! Thank you to Pastor Steve for your support and guidance. Thank you parents, grandparents, and caregivers for making great efforts to have the youth here on Sunday mornings to gather for Sunday School lessons, practices and more! AND, the YOUTH of ZION United Church of Christ, I thank you for your time and talents shared with all of us! Let us remember their Christmas Eve lesson; let us remember that the greatest gift you can ever own is not found in the malls or stores or under the Christmas tree. It is found in your heart; let us share that peace and love with one another.

Finally, I want to thank God for his many blessings he bestows upon us and for his son, Jesus Christ, who was born for us! May God bless each and every one of you this Christmas and New Year Season!

### **Happy New Year!**

Kelly Nabb Christian Education Coordinator

- \*Reminder: 1. NO CLASSES on Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>!**
- 2. Christmas Breakfast, January 3!**

## Zion United Church of Christ Annual Meeting

will be held on January 31<sup>st</sup>. We will discuss the 2015  
Annual Report and ministry of our community.







