

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

MAY & JUNE 2016



ZION HERALD May/June 2016 Volume 89 No. 5 & 6

Mark your calendars please on Sunday, July 31st because that is the day of we will be holding our Outdoor Worship Service & Picnic. We want to have the biggest turnout ever!

Calling all

Summer Campers!!!!

Our church will again be offering scholarships to anyone who attends summer camp at Pilgrim Heights this year.

So contact Linda in the office at 563-941-7726 to get more details.

You can also go to our churches webpage

<http://www.zionuclowden.org>

and click on the link

[Church Camp 2016](#)

to get the times and dates for camp.

Start the "Summer of 2016" out right by coming to the Mission Committee Breakfast on Sunday, June 5th at 8:00 am. That is also the day our Worship Services do the summer switch to 9:00 am. See you there!

SENIOR HIGH FELLOWSHIP

is planning to have a spot in the 'Lowden Garage Sale Days'

If you have something you would like to give to our sale, please call the church office.

We will have a bake sale there too!

Thank you!

Senior High Fellowship is requesting the assistance of two adults to serve as SHF sponsors for the 2016-2017 program year. Our sponsors will help us continue the long standing tradition of Zion's SHF as we serve our church and our community.

If you are interest, please contact Linda or Pastor Steve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

What does it mean to truly be a servant of God? Many nonbelievers say that they do not believe in God because they are no-one's servant, or that human's made it up so they could take advantage of believers. When I was in seminary a young man told me that if you believe in God it means that you are below God because we are servants at the feet of God. I think many people are confused by what being a servant of God really means. In the New Testament of the Bible we find four gospels which record the life of Jesus. Throughout the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we hear Jesus' words of hope and joy. We also hear many accounts of how Jesus' actions cared for God's people.

John 13 we hear how Jesus washed the feet of the disciples. Not only does Jesus' action tell us something about our God, but it was also to prepare the disciples for what was to come. There is a great deal of symbolism by this act of love and servanthood, but it also reveals to us our purpose in this world. We are to love and care for the least and the greatest because God's hope for all of us is that we treat each other like we ourselves want to be treated, or even better yet, as Jesus cared for the people. The work of Jesus Christ is the true example of being God's servant. I believe this is just one attribute of the truly amazing Son of God who lived his life teaching, serving and loving the people. Jesus glorified God with every step and breath that he took.

If we look closely, the message of servanthood was in the Bible before Jesus came to earth. In the Old Testament, when the people brought their offerings to God, the offerings were not wasted, but instead they were distributed to the people who needed them most. Serving God through the offerings really served God's people. So when

Jesus came, he helped the people see again what the true meaning of being a servant of God meant. To serve God is to serve the people God so dearly loves.

In 2016, we have immigrants that wait at the borders of countries all over the world. These immigrants have fled their countries for many different reasons. Famine, war, and social injustice are the main reasons. And let's face it migration from one land to another has been going on for a very, very, long time. For example, Joseph's brothers tell the Pharaoh in Genesis 47 verse 4, "...We have come to live here for a while, because the famine is severe in Canaan and your servants' flocks have no pasture. So now, please let your servants settle in Goshen." The book of Ruth begins, "In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab." When they went into those lands, the people cared for the foreign migrants until they were able to go home. Some of those migrants stayed even after the turmoil or famine ended because they found a way to support themselves and their families. So it was when my ancestors migrated to the Americas back in late 18th century and early 19th century. They came because of turmoil in their home country and they decided to stay and make this continent their home.

Today, we still have events that send people packing, leaving their homes to find a new safe place for themselves and their families. So if we believe being a servant of God is serving God's people as it is told in the Bible, "What does it mean to truly be a servant of God as today's migrants look for a safe place for themselves and their families? May we all open our hearts and our minds and ask God for guidance and love as we live our lives in Christ-like

manner, reflecting God's love and glory to the people God so loves.

Summer is coming quickly and will we have many opportunities to continue the mission of God. What would you like to see our church do this summer to make a difference in Lowden, Cedar County, Iowa, the USA, and the world. Bring your ideas to church and share them or give me a call and tell me how we can make a difference in God's kingdom here and now.

Grace and peace,

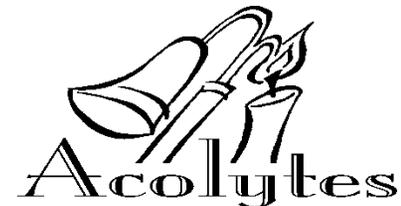
Pastor Steve

*"Prayer in action is love,
and love in action is service.
Try to give unconditionally
whatever a person needs in the moment.
The point is to do something,
however small,
and show you care
through your actions
by giving your time ...
We are all God's children
so it is important to share His gifts.
Do not worry
about why problems exist in the world
- just respond to people's needs ...
We feel what we are doing
is just a drop in the ocean,
but that ocean would be less
without that drop." - Mother Teresa*

USHERS

THIS MONTH

May 1	Church Council
May 8	Dean & Mandi Behrens
May 15	Wilbert & Millie Muhs
May 22	Brenda Esbaum & Sharon Kruckenberg
May 29	Gene & Linda Horman
June 5	Church Council
June 12	Jess & Debra Axline
June 19	Al & Vicki Mohr
June 26	Senior High Fellowship
July 3	Church Council
July 10	Cheryl Boedeker & Donna Luepker
July 17	Donavon & Linda Freese
July 24	Rick & Mary Balke
July 31	Senior High Fellowship



May 1	Mackenzi Poppe & Addie Luepker
May 8	Kelly Proesch & Kaci Gottschalk
May 15	Mariah Behrens & Addie Luepker
May 22	Kaci Gottschalk & Mackenzie Poppe
May 29	No Acolytes

There are no acolytes during the summer months their job will begin again in September.

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VIDEOGRAPHERS FOR MAY

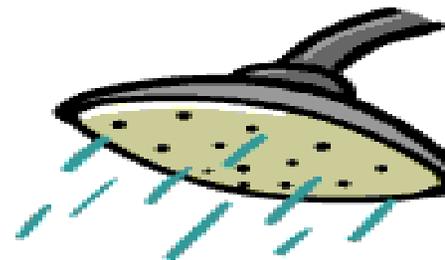
May 1 Jane Drewelow
 May 8 David Niermeyer
 May 13 Jean Stepp
 May 22 David Niermeyer
 May 29 Cheryl Boedeker

VIDEOGRAPHERS FOR JUNE

June 5 Aaron Horman
 June 14 Jane Drewelow
 June 21 Julie Hoffmeier
 June 28 Cody Fields



May 2 Jessica Coppess
 May 5 Andrew Fields
 May 7 Merlin Conrad
 May 9 Chelsea Ehls, Brandon Horman
 May 12 *Beryl Esbaum
 May 14 Bob Hamdorf, Nadine Lafrenz
 May 21 Barb Martin, Carter Lee Horman
 May 22 Jonie Fields
 May 23 Donavon Freese, Marilyn Lafrenz,
 May 24 Rick Bentrott
 May 28 Spencer Armstrong
 May 29 Cole Hamilton, Beckam Horman
 May 30 Josh Horman, Skyler Horman



MAY BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER

May 14 Bob Hamdorf, 113 Grant Avenue, Lowden, IA 52255
 May 14 Nadine Lafrenz, 1888, 190th Street, Lowden, Iowa 52255
 May 21 Barb Martin, 703 Jefferson, PO Box 383, Lowden, Iowa 52255



Happy Anniversary!

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 4 Jess & Debbie Axline 42 yrs.
 May 5 Rev. Steve & Jean Stepp 32 yrs
 May 6 *Mark & Beth Fox 44 yrs.
 May 10 Andrew & *Amanda Kahl 8 yrs.
 May 13 Dean & Lisa Hamdorf 27 yrs.
 May 16 Kip & *Sandy Esbaum 24 yrs.
 May 19 *Ryan & Angie Horman 9 yrs.



June 1 Connie Madden
 June 2 Marge Norton
 June 3 Lori Dittmer, Kelly Nabb
 June 5 Sharon Johnson, Tim Drewelow,
 Caylee Curley
 June 6 Marvella Fehling, Cheryl Boedeker
 June 8 Kerri Havel, Donna Breneman
 June 11 Cadence Horman
 June 12 Rev. Steve Stepp
 June 13 Grace Proesch
 June 15 Doreen Hamdorf
 June 17 Mallory Baldwin, Kyle Gottschalk
 Shae Abagale Mohr
 June 20 Alden Klahn
 June 23 Rodney Port*
 June 24 Carol Boedeker,
 Don Breneman
 June 26 Imogene Ford
 June 28 Dorothy Pingel, Tessa Fields
 June 30 Kalab Klahn



CARD SHOWER:

June 2 Marge Norton, 408 2nd Avenue
 Apartment 17 Clarence, Iowa 52216-0017
 June 6 Marvella Fehling, Wheatland Nursing Home
 PO Box 369, Wheatland, Iowa 52777
 June 15 Doreen Hamdorf, 113 Grant
 Avenue, Lowden, Iowa 52255
 June 24 Carol Boedeker, 507 Hall Ave. PO Box 177,
 Lowden, Iowa 52255-0177
 June 26 Imogene Ford, 475 Walker Road, Lowden,
 Iowa 52255-9569
 June 28 Dorothy Pingel, 404 McKinley Ave.,
 PO Box 402, Lowden, Iowa.



Happy Anniversary!

June 1	Bill & Sharon Elijah	53 years
June 3	Bob & Jonie Fields	16 years
June 5	Harlan & Florence Deerberg	62 years
June 7	Beryl & Diane Esbaum	36 years
June 9	Dana & *Paul Moran	9 years
June 16	Rick & Karen Bentrrott	37 years
June 20	Dean & Mandi Behrens	18 years
June 24	Wes & Ladon Griesbach	44 years
June 28	Adam & Lisa Horman	13 years
June 29	Chuck & Donna Breneman	53 years
June 30	Lou & Janis Krafock	54 years



Zion United Church of Christ Church Council Meeting Minutes April 19, 2016

Zion United Church of Christ Council met at 7:00pm on April 19, 2016. 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, Jamie Nabb, Tanya Stewart, Bonnie Kintzel, David Niermeyer, Merlin Conrad, and Pete Johnson. Linda Behrens was present thru the treasurer's reports.

Joys and concerns were shared. News and happenings were announced.

Secretary's minutes from Church Council Meeting March 15, 2016 were read and approved, on a motion made by Merlin, second by Bonnie. Motion carried.

The treasurers' reports were reviewed and passed, pending a General Fund recheck. Jamie motioned, Merlin second. Motion approved.

Calendar Review:

Apr. 24th Music/Worship Meeting following service

Apr. 26th Eastern Iowa Clergy Meeting

Apr. 28th Pastor is on vacation thru 4/6

May 1st Pastor Charles Mills will lead worship/communion

May 4th Last day of ZYC

May 9th Pastoral Relations Meeting at 6:30pm
May 11th Linda on vacation returns 5/23

May 15th Last day of Sunday School and Senior Breakfast

Pastor's report was read and accepted on a motion made by Pete, second by Bonnie. Motion passed. Discussion topic: What does living a life in Christ really look like? What should we do this month and the coming months to promote our missing members return? A motion was made by Pete and

second by Merlin to upgrade our CCLI license to include song select. Allowing us access to 110,000 songs with music/lyrics and free key adjustments to print and/or display on the screen. Cost \$151.20. Motioned carried. Pete motioned and Merlin second to have a Zion banner made for community events, promoting awareness. Motion approved.

Old Business

Three bids received for lawn mowing: Dean Behrens, Josh Easterly, and Kip Esbaum. Lawn mowing bid per Kip Esbaum accepted on a motion made by Jamie, second by Bonnie. Motion passed.

Insulation rebate in progress.

Fellowship Hall carpet to be cleaned in August per Scott Olinger for about \$200.00. A motion was made by Tanya and second by Merlin. Motion carried.

Transportation to church on Sundays is in progress. Volunteer drivers needed!!! If you would like to be a volunteer driver or need a ride to church, please call the church office or notify a council member.

New Business

A church council member will be present at each "Dinner for 8."

A memorial gift of \$2500.00 has been received from Faith Strackbein's family, designated for church music and/or organ repairs.

We are monitoring the bathrooms in the Sunday School basement. Please, notify a church council member, if you encounter any problems.

A big "THANK YOU!!!" to Al Mohr for his electrical work repairs throughout the church.

We will be removing a few pews to make our church more handicap accessible.

Annette Behrens has resigned her Fellowship Hall Custodian position, effective May 2nd. Bonnie Kintzel has graciously accepted the Fellowship Hall Custodian position. Jamie motioned, second by Pete. Motion carried.

Church Council will contribute \$50.00 per camper towards this year's camp fees. Merlin motioned, second by Jamie. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Jamie presented Spring Dinner recaps. We served 210 and had 76 takeout orders. Official profits TBA Evaluation meeting pending.

Missions will be hosting a breakfast June 5th at 8am in the Fellowship Hall. Free will offerings will be collected to support the Sunday school students' camp fees.

Next meeting Tuesday, May 17th, 2016 at 7pm. Pastor Steve closed with a prayer. Meeting adjourned with a motion made by Pete, second by Jamie. Motion carried.

Tanya Stewart Secretary



Missions Committee Meeting

The Missions Committee met Sunday, April 17, 2016 following church services. Members in attendance were Linda Behrens, Tanya Stewart, Beth Kahl, Marlene Wiedenhoff, Mary Huffman and Rev. Steve Stepp.

Pastor Steve opened with a prayer.

Linda called the meeting to order.

Profits from the soup lunch went to the Ronald McDonald House. The total contributed was \$310.00. The Lenten offering of \$192.00 for Ash Wednesday and the second Lenten Service the total was \$270.00. Grand total was \$462.00 which went to the OCWM.

Linda presented the treasurer's report. She asked for approval to move the Christmas Fund money into the appropriate account. Mary moved Tanya seconded to repay the money to the appropriate account and to approve the budget as presented.

Tanya presented a bill of \$40.82 for birthday cards. Beth moved and Jessica seconded to approve the bill for cards.

Discussion was held regarding the Mission breakfast, which will be held on June 5 at 8:00 a.m. We will not have coffee hour on this Sunday. Responsibilities are as follows:

Mary: One sausage casserole; 2 gallons of chocolate and 1 gallon of white milk

Beth: Two French toast casseroles

Linda: Fruit and apple juice

Marlene: Fruit

Jessica: Muffins and bread

Carmen: One cheese casserole, bread or muffins, orange juice

Tables will be set up on Saturday at 9:00. Jessica and Mary do not need to make a special trip for this. Mary will get a key from Pastor Steve, so she can arrive early and make her casserole and start coffee. Everyone else can arrive at 7:30. Mary will do the poster.

Discussion was held regarding financial assistance for Sunday School students wishing to attend camp. Money from the Red Wheel sales are used for this and it was suggested that students try additional fundraisers to support this. Ideas will be discussed with Sunday School teachers. The money from the Mission breakfast will be also be used toward camp and additional funding will be discussed as camp gets closer.

It was decided to move the Kick Off to August to prevent conflicts with student activities. Linda will work with Kelly to determine a good date.

Pastor Steve asked how the blood pressure program was going. Tanya and Beth feel it is going well.

Pastor Steve reported that the Church Council has discussed the idea of having coffee at the Church once a week, providing social time for members, since the gas station is no longer open. They also talked about providing rides to members, who are unable to get to church, and asked if the Mission Committee would consider providing gas cards to those members willing to offer taxi service. Tanya moved and Marlene seconded to support this service if we have it. We may want to continue discussing both of these topics at a later meeting.

The next meeting date will be June 26, 2016.

Pastor Steve closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Huffman, Secretary.



ZION EVENING CIRCLE

APRIL 18, 2016

Ten guests and 17 members and Pastor Steve met in the sanctuary on April 18th to begin our Evening Circle meeting. Janice Strackbein led devotions entitled "There is a Season". Katy Kash, our guest speaker, gave a wonderful, exciting talk about her mission trip to Liberia. Everyone enjoyed the talk immensely as she told about some of her experiences working with the people in Liberia, especially the children. We were all so impressed with her and thank her for coming and sharing with us. Millie and Phyllis served desserts after the presentation.

President Donna opened the business meeting with roll call. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report was approved as read. Janice moved, 2d by Joy that bills be paid. A thank you from Mariah Behrens for the confirmation stole was read.

Donna thanked all those that worked the Don Boedeker funeral luncheon and at the Lenten supper. Terry reported we served about 97 guests at the Lenten supper and our profit for the night was \$649.32. Discussion was held on donating that money to help pay for carpeting for the kitchen. Pastor Steve will take that information to the council for consideration.

Discussion was also held about the coffee makers we have in the kitchen. Jean and Donna cleaned them after it was reported a couple of them didn't work. Phyllis moved, 2d by Miller that we get rid of the two 100 cup pots that don't work. Carried.

Jan Olsen has asked the Circle if we would serve brownie sundaes and root beer floats again at Lowden garage sale night, Friday, June 10. Terry moved, 2d by Carma that we do that. Donna, Terry, Linda, Carma and Rose volunteered to help. There will be a sign up sheet for donations at the next meeting

We will be doing a project for Vacation Bible School in May. Jean will take care of flowers, devotions will be led by Marlene W. and refreshments served by Julie and Jody. On June 20 we will meet at Mill Creek for our annual breakfast meeting. May 15 is the Senior Breakfast and on May 17 Donna and Jean will serve the Committee on Ministry. Sharon Elijah Secretary



Zion Evening Circle wishes to thank those who gave flowers for Palm Sunday and Easter. Our sanctuary was alive with flowers in tribute to the risen Lord. Thank you very kindly.

The Evening Circle Flower Committee
Marlene Wiedenhoff,
Terry Lasack, Donna Luepker



Spring Dinner 2016

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2016 Zion Spring Dinner a success. Whether you cooked, served, cleaned, donated, consumed, or prayed, we thank you for your contribution. The dinner would not have been a success without you.

Thank you,
The Spring Dinner Committee

Christian Education News:

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, May 8 – Mother's Day – A special message from the youth for all Mom's.

Sunday, May 15 – LAST DAY of CLASSES – Our youth will be helping in the worship; playing handbells and being recognized for the year's accomplishments!

Sunday, June 12 – VBS Annual Pie Auction

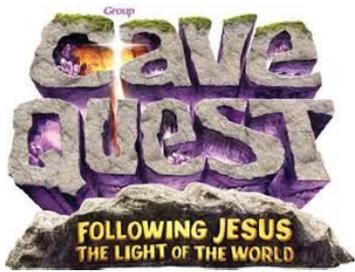
Sunday-Thursday, July 24-28 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!!

First, I want to say thank you to ALL of the family members who attended Parent/Family Sunday on April 17th! We had a great crowd and I promise we will make more food next year! ☺ Check out the Facebook Page – Zion United Church of Christ- Christian Education for pictures of the fun morning together!

Our time is winding down in the classroom with our youth. It's been a fun year from learning Fruits of the Spirit to the Books of the Bible to Building blocks along the way! Please note the important dates above that requires our youth to participate in the worship service!



With summer almost here; we have many opportunities to head to camp at Pilgrim Heights! Last year sixteen youth participated in a camp at Pilgrim Heights. We are happy to announce again we have camp scholarships available for our youth to use and participate in camp. More details will be forthcoming. Please go to our website and find a link to Pilgrim Heights for different camps available.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL this year will be **Sunday, July 24 through Thursday, July 28th** with the grand finale on Thursday night at 7PM for everyone to join us for this great event! Our theme this is CAVE QUEST VBS – Following Jesus – The Light of the World! We will take our

youth on an amazing adventure for five days that will help kids (and adults) begin to deepen their faith by exploring who Jesus is – the light of the World.

We cannot have such an amazing event without our funds brought in by our annual Pie Auction! Please join us for this fun and most worthy event for Vacation Bible School; the VBS Pie Auction on Sunday, June 12 following the worship service.

Kelly Nabb
Christian Education Coordinator



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.



The Church Council has decided to implement a program that would provide a ride to worship services for those who do not have access to transportation or are unable to organize the program, we are looking for volunteers to drive to and from the church. If you are so moved to help in such a way please contact the church office by phone or e-mail or speak to a council member. Anyone who would like to receive a ride to church please call the office also. Once we have a list of drivers and riders we can start with our Sunday morning program.

Thank You.
Zion Church Council

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You can go online and check out the Herald anytime at www.zionucclouden.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Our first 9:00 am Summer Worship Service begins on Sunday, June 5th, AND the Mission Committee is kicking off the Summer with a breakfast before that worship service at 8:00 am.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH!

MAY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Christian Ed class 10:15 Worship with Rev. Mills	2	3	4 Last ZYC meeting 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.	5	6 Pastor returns	7
8 Mother's Day 9:00 a.m. C. E. classes 10:a.m.Worship.	9 7:00 p.m. Pastoral relations committee meeting	10	11 Linda on vacation North Cedar Clergy	12	13	14
15 9:00 a.m. C.E. Classes (Last classes until fall) 10:15 a.m. Worship service conducted by the C.E. students	16	17 10:00 a.m. Eastern Iowa Committee on Ministry meeting. 7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting.	18 7:00 p.m. Baccalaureate at Clarence	19 8:30 a.m. E.C. Meeting	20	21
22 Senior Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Christian Ed classes 10:15 a.m. Worship Service	23 Linda returns.	24	25	26	27	28
29 10:15 a.m. Worship Service. NO Senior High Fellowship	30	31				

JUNE 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 10:00 a.m. Wheatland Manor Service	3	4 9:00 Set up for Mission Breakfast
5 8:00 a.m. Mission Breakfast to help church campers BEGINS 9:00 am. Worship Service	6	7 9:00 North Cedar Clergy	8	9	10 Notice: Anyone wishing to bring items to sell at garage are welcome, proceeds for SHF.	11 Senior High Fellowship garage sale & bake sale.
12 9:00 am. Worship Service Fellowship Hour following.	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 9:00 am. Worship Service Fellowship Hour following. 2:00pm Clarence Nursing Home Service	20	21 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	22	23	24 Herald Articles are Due.	25
26 9:00 am. Worship Service Fellowship Hour following. Mission & Music/Worship following service	27	28	29 Assemble Herald	30 10:00 a.m. Wheatland Manor Church Service.		

