

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 2016

ZION HERALD November 2016 Volume 89



Christmas Dinner 2016

Senior High Fellowship would like to invite everyone come and enjoy the annual Christmas Dinner in our fellowship hall on Sunday, December 4th following the worship service. Be ready to enjoy great food, wonderful people, intriguing conversation, fun games, and prizes.

"Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.¹⁵ He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

Isaiah 7:13-16



The Evening Circle will be sponsoring the annual "Make our Sanctuary Beautiful." Marlene Wiedenhoff 941-5305, Janis Krafock 941-7711 and Jane Drewelow 941-5527 will be taking orders on Sunday, November 6th thru Friday, November 16th. The committee does not have a price list yet, but will have it by November 6th when they are selling them. If you prefer giving to a favorite Church program, like Baskets for the Needy, The Christmas Decorating Fund, your favorite Charity, etc. Marlene will also help you with this.

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

Most of us, at some time in our life, have asked the question, "Where will I be in 10 years?" Maybe we were young, just out of high school, wondering what the future would bring to us. At that time, we gazed through youthful eyes and the world was right there, just waiting for us to go out and claim our place. Maybe we were a bit older, sitting in a rocking chair holding our new born child. As we beheld their youthful eyes, we wondered how our future would change over the next 10 years now that we were a proud parent. Or maybe we were older, looking out our window wondering what the first ten years of retirement would be like. In each of these visions, our role wasn't clear and it wasn't certain. We would have to make choices through those ten years as we lived them.

Our church life is the same. In the last 20 years, many of our members have chosen to stop being active. They have made their choices based on a wide variety of reasons. Some say they have been hurt by someone or something related to the church. Some say they have come to believe that they don't need the church to believe in God. And let's be completely honest, some members say they just don't feel like making the effort to attend worship services. Now this is not an exhausted list by any means, but it does represent some of the reasons we have been given from members of our church who have chosen not to attend church anymore.

In the same last 20 years, many of our members have chosen to continue being a part our church community by actively attending worship, by actively taking part in our activities, and by actively giving to the mission of God and the ministry of Jesus Christ. By doing so, these members have chosen to continue their faith journey and because of their efforts, our church is alive and active in our community, our country and in our world.

Now what does this mean for today. If we believe and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we know in our heart

that we must be active in our faith and be active in our faith community. When Jesus is asked, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" He responds, "The most important one is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."¹ Being a part of the living body of Christ in the community of the church is a foundational part of how we love our God and how we love our neighbor. In community, we love one another through prayer, by supporting each other during times of grief, by celebrating with each other during times of joy, and by simply being present in their lives.

Sisters and Brothers, in the name of Jesus Christ and with all the love of my heart and the hearts of our congregation, we petition all our members who are not active in our church community to come and join us at the table of Jesus Christ to partake in communion. It is here that we will begin to build our community into the community it can be when we all actively participate in the life of JESUS CHRIST and the life of HIS CHURCH. So please come and join in the great body of Christ to celebrate and remember the great sacrifice Jesus made so that we all could have eternal life.

All of us remember the Advent and Christmas Season because it is the time of year the we as Christians begin to tell the story of Jesus' birth. It is a season of new life and new hope as we turn our hearts to God and remember the greatest gift ever born on earth. A child of God. A child of life. A child of love. A child of forgiveness.

So come this Advent and Christmas season. Come and begin anew in our community of Christ. Come and worship God together and remember the great joy we experience when we gather and give God our love and our neighbor

¹ Mark 12: 29-31 (NIV)

our love. It is the way of Jesus Christ. Come for all are welcome in our community.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Steve
and the Community of Zion United Church of Christ.

**Our upcoming worship services at
Zion United Church of Christ**

Sunday, November 6th Totenfest will honor members who passed from this world and now shine in glory.

****We will honor and remember our Savior Jesus Christ by gathering at His table for Communion****

Sunday, November 13th A Service of Peace & Remembrance

Sunday, November 20th We celebrate the Reign of Christ on the last Sunday of the church year.

Sunday, November 27th The Season of Advent begins. The first Sunday of the new church year.

Sunday, December 4th Second Sunday of Advent. The Zion Christmas Dinner following the worship service.

****We will honor and remember our Savior Jesus Christ by gathering at His table for Communion****

Sunday, December 11th Third Sunday of Advent. Christmas Bell gifts are returned this Sunday. Congregational meeting will follow the worship service.

Sunday, December 18th Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 24th The Zion Christmas Eve Worship Service which includes our Christian Education Christmas Program and Our Traditional Candlelit Closing.

****We will honor and remember our Savior Jesus Christ by gathering at His table for Communion****

Sunday, December 25th A Celebration of Jesus' Birth!

****We will honor and remember our Savior Jesus Christ by gathering at His table for Communion****

THIS MONTH USHERS

Nov. 6, 2016	Church Council
Nov. 13, 2016	Beth Fox & Tessa Holst
Nov. 20, 2016	Kent & Janice Strackbein
Nov. 23, 2016	Bill & Sharon Elijah (Thanksgiving Eve)
Nov. 27, 2016	Senior High Fellowship
.....	
Dec. 4, 2016	Senior High Fellowship
Dec. 11, 2016	Rose Horman & Mary Huffman
Dec. 18, 2016	Lonnie & Stacie Luepker
Dec. 24, 2016	Scott & Carmen Fields
Dec. 25, 2016	Church Council



VIDEOGRAPHERS

November

November 6 Cheryl Boedeker
November 13 Jody Yutesler
November 20, David Niemeyer
November 27, Aaron Horman

December

December 4 Jane Drewelow
December 11 Cheryl Boedeker
December 18 Donna Luepker
December 24 Jody Yutesler
December 25 Jean Stepp



FOR November

November 6 Leighton Tjaden & Nathan Nabb
November 13 Koby Stewart & Taylor Lohman
November 20 Jacob Gottschalk & Milo Easterly
November 23 Thanksgiving Eve
Abby Balke & Leighton Tjaden
November 27 Nathan Nabb & Taylor Lohman

**NOVEMBER
BIRTHDAYS**



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

Card...  ...shower

November 5	Florence Deerberg, 107 Augusta Drive, #1, Lowden, Iowa 52255
November 23	Harold Horman, P.O. Box 448. Lowden, Iowa 52255



Happy Anniversary!

November 10	Dennis & Cheryl Boedeker (1973)
November 13	*Dean & Jennifer Fredrick (1999)

November 15	Tanya & Keith Stewart (2003)
November 16	Al & Linda Behrens (1968)
November 16	Dan & Amy Mohr (2013)
November 18	Noah & Jessica Coppess (2006)
November 21	Doug & Cindy Wiedenhoff (1986)
November 23	Dan & Gail Hamdorf (1996)
November 24	Rod & Renate Port (1980)
November 24	Barry & Julie Hoffmeier (1978)
November 24	Joby & Kyle Proesch (1991)
November 28	Bobbie & Mary Campbell (1977)

Isaiah 40

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.
³ A voice of one calling:
 "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD;
 make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.
⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together.
 For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."



**Zion United Church of Christ and Lowden Community
CROP WALK/RIDE**

On Sunday, October 16th, 32 walkers raised \$1040 to help end hunger in the world. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed treats served at In the Zion Fellowship Hall. The community of Lowden has supported CROP since 1947 when area farmers shipped corn to people in Europe who suffered from the devastation of World War II.

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO
CONTRIBUTED TO THIS MISSION!!!**



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
November 26
at 9:00 am
See you there!**



**ZION EVENING CIRCLE
October 17, 2016**

Zion Evening Circle started their meeting on October 17, 2016 by making Halloween favors for our friends and/or members in the nursing homes. Carolee was in charge. Devotions entitled "Pumpkin Gospel" was given by Annette.

President Donna called the meeting to order with 14 members answering roll call. Pastor Steve installed the officers: President, Donna Luepker, Vice-President, Terry Lasack, and Secretary, Sharon Elijah.

The Secretary's report was read and approved. Thank you notes from Carma Conrad, Marilyn Klahn and Pastor Steve and Jean were read. The treasurer's report was given by Julie and approved as read. A motion to pay bills was made by Janice, 2nd by Jean and carried.

Donna thanked Julie and Marlene Fox for allowing us to have our meeting at their pond; Annette for the nice devotions, Carma for taking care of the flowers and bulletin board, Marlene W. for purchasing the memorial for Pastor Steve and flowers for Carma and Marilyn, and Carolee for leading our project this month.

The CROP walk was discussed. About 33 people participated. It was moved by Julie, 2nd by Terry to donate \$100 to CROP.

Discussion was held on improvements we would like to see in the kitchen. Donna will give our ideas to Council President David Niermeyer.

Dues of \$10 are payable now. Linda and Annette will be in charge of the Totenfest flowers and candles, and the cornucopia in November. Janis K., Jane and Marlene W. will take care of the poinsettias this Christmas season. Joy moved, Jody 2nd to buy poinsettias for our church members living in a nursing home or assisted living.

Bring a scissors to the November meeting as we will be clipping and counting Our Family and Box tops for Education labels. The meeting will begin at 6:30. The project committee will be in charge of our Christmas party. On Oct. 25th Jean with help from Jody, will be serving the Eastern Iowa Clergy meeting. Carma will have devotions in November; Marilyn and Marlene will serve refreshments. Linda and Sharon will service the Committee on Ministry on November 15th.

Sharon Elijah
Secretary



**CHURCH
COUNCIL**
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
October 18, 2016

Zion United Church of Christ met at 7:00 p.m. on October 16, 2016. The meeting was called to order by President David Niermeyer. Pastor Steve opened with a reading and a prayer. Those in attendance were Pete Johnson, Tanya Stewart, Bonnie Kintzel, David Niermeyer, and Merlin Conrad. Linda Behrens was present thru the treasurers' reports. Jamie Nabb was absent.

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

Secretary's minutes from Congregational meeting on September 11, 2016 and Church Council meeting, September 20, 2016 were read and approved, on a motion made by Merlin, second by Pete. Motion carried.

The treasurers' reports were reviewed and passed. Pete motioned, Bonnie second. Motion carried.

Calendar Review:

November 6th Totenfest service

November 20th Music/Worship Meeting following worship.

November 23rd 7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship

November 26th 9:00 a.m. Decorate the church for Christmas

November 27th Advent begins, Mission Meeting following worship.

Pastor's report reviewed and approved, on a motion made by Merlin, second by Bonnie. Motion passed. Crop walk raised \$1040.00. Church information packet for visitors and new residents to be created. Question of the night: When you think of a Christmas tree, what memory comes to mind?

OLD BUSINESS:

Fellowship hall carpet cleaning done. Discussed further flooring options.

Kitchen improvement recommendations received and reviewed by Evening Circle.

Merlin will contact Home Town to check the kitchen drainage system, paid for by the Improvement Fund. Pete motioned, Bonnie second. Motion carried.

Merlin presented Window Worlds' estimate on the Christian Ed window replacements. Grand total \$13,124.f

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussed Pastoral compensation. Additional Council budget meeting scheduled November 6th immediately following worship.

Council will fix/change west outside light on Christian Building after harvest season.

Journeying through the Grief pamphlets to be given to families after the death of a loved one, fund by Missions.

Motion by Pete, second by Merlin. Motion approved.

Discussed church membership and church attendance/participation.

Missions is doing a donation drive for the Willis Dady Center the first three weeks of November. Complete list of supplies and collection house located in the church lobby. Mission also preparing and collecting funds for Hurricane victims in Haiti. Thank you for contributing to these emergency missions!!

Next meeting Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 7 p.m. Pastor Steve closed with a prayer. Meeting adjourned with a motion made by Pete, second by Bonnie. Motion Passed.

Respectfully submitted

Tanya Stewart, Secretary



Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Wednesday, November 23th

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 Sunday, October 2, 2016 following church services. Members in attendance were Linda Behrens, Carmen Fields, Jessica Coppess, Marlene Wiedenhoff, Tanya Stewart, Mary Huffman and Rev. Steve Stepp.

Linda called the meeting to order.

Pastor opened with a prayer.

Minutes were presented and it was move by Jessica and seconded by Carmen to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Linda asked if there were additional bills for the Ice Cream Social. There were none, but Tanya will have a bill for cards.

Linda presented a statement for the bills and money collected for the Ice Cream Social. While Mary donated the supplies, the bills were included to show the cost of the event. Total expenses were \$250.95 and we collected \$177.00. Actual expenses were \$125.00.

Discussion was held regarding the continuance of this event. Jessica suggested that rather than do sandwiches, the committee choose one of the Sundays in the summer and just do the ice cream floats with brownies. It could be published in advance that we would be accepting free will offerings for the Mission Fund. It was suggested that we do this in conjunction with the Lowden Garage Sale days and people could donate items they didn't sell, but were acceptable for the Willis Dady Shelter. It was moved by Mary and seconded by Tanya (and Carmen) to proceed with this activity. Motion carried.

The committee discussed to do a donation drive for the Willis Dady Center on November 6, 13 and 20. Mary will provide a list of items needed. We will ask our young people if they would help build a cardboard shelter (house) for collecting items.

Discussion was held regarding the e-mail request for donations to the flood victims. Tanya had notified that we had \$4,132.08 in the current fund. Linda reported that we have two CD's that can be cashed in for our end of the year giving. Our donations cover local, state, regional, national and world. Mary moved and Jessica seconded that we would donate \$1,000 to the flood victims. Money will be donated through the Conference, so they can donate to the appropriate organizations.

The Neighbors in Need script was distributed and each member present was assigned a portion to read at services on October 9.

The next meeting date will be November 27, 2016.

Linda adjourned the meeting.

Pastor Steve closed with a prayer.

Mary Huffman, secretary

The Zion Mission Committee & the 2018 Confirmation Class **Willis Dady Center Mission Project**

We are collecting needed items to help the center provide clothing and basic need items for people who come to the Center seeking shelter and support. Please consider giving to this important mission. We will have a bin in the church lobby/narthex for items to be dropped in.

We will take the items to the center on November 20th.

Thank you for helping us help families in need!

This is the list from for your information.

Men's: Hats, thermal socks, gloves, back packs, sweat pants, sweat shirts, white T-shirts, boxer/briefs, (please only sizes large, x large, xx large)

Children's: Hats, gloves, socks, scarves or a wrapped gift

General needs: Bath towels, wash clothes, shower curtains, shower liner, twin sized sheet set, full sized sheet set, large comforters or quilts (in good condition).

Please no twin sized blankets/comforters, & Walmart gift cards

Christian Education

News from Christian Education!

A big THANK YOU to our Sunday School Students! Their offerings have totaled over \$270 thus far this year! And they decided to donate to the Crop Walk and to the Lowden Fire Department! Thank you for all your donations thus far! They will continue to help others in our community and around the world with their offerings collected each Sunday morning.

A big THANK YOU to our families and students who were able to join us at the Lowden Fire Department for their annual Waffle Breakfast on October 23rd. We had 36 in attendance if I counted correctly! Once we filled out stomachs; we spent some time together in the Christian Education Program playing table games including UNO; connect four; Jenga; Chess; Chinese Checkers; and more! We always appreciate seeing families supporting our youth and program!

\$287.55 donated to both events!



Church Directory Update Request

Linda is busy getting ready to make up the new directory and she is asking you to let her know if your address has changed and if you have given up your land line, please let Linda know what your cell phone number is so the directory can be updated.

Thank you so much.



The North Cedar Clergy Christmas Bell Program



CHRISTMAS IS COMING, THE GOOSE IS GETTING FAT
PLEASE DO PUT A PENNY IN THE OLD MAN'S HAT
IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT A PENNY, A HA'PENNY WILL DO
IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT A HA'PENNY, GOD BLESS YOU!



There are many families in our area who have very little during the season of Christmas. So it is up to us to help bring the "Good News of Great Joy" to these families by providing food and gifts for Christmas Day. We can all understand it's hard to think about the GREAT JOY of Christ's birth on an empty stomach or if we lack the means to give to the ones we love.

THE CHRISTMAS BELLS WILL BE PUT ON THE TREE IN THE LOBBY/NARTHEX BEGINNING ON NOVEMBER 27TH AND THEY NEED TO BE RETURNED BY DECEMBER 11TH.

May we all enjoy the greater gift of giving to those in need this Christmas.

GOD BLESS US EVERYONE!



UP COMING HAPPENINGS

November 6- Totenfest Memorial Service

November 13- Peace and Remembrance

November 23rd - 7p.m. Thanksgiving Eve

Worship

November 20th- Reign of Christ

Willis Dady House gifts taken
to shelter

November 26th - 9 a.m. Christmas Decorating

November 27th- Advent begins

NOVEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Poinsettias will be sold on November 6 th and 13 th	Ladies taking order are Marlen W. Jane D.	1	2 6:30-8:00 pm. Confirmation	3 9:00 a.m. North Cedar Bells Stuff envelopes at St. John.	4	5 Hall rented Daylight Savings Time End tonight.
6 Blood Pressure check 9:00 a.m. C.E. 10:15 a.m. Worship Service Totenfest service Hall rented	7	8 7:00 p.m. Bible Study	9 ZYC 4-6 p.m. 6:30-8:00 pm. Confirmation	10	11 NHS Vets' day program at High school at 10:30 a.m. Light refreshments will be	12
13 9:00 a.m. C.E. 9:00 a.m. Choir practice 10:15 a.m. Worship Choir sings	14	15 Eastern Iowa Comm. On Ministry 7:00 p.m. Church Council	16 6:30-8:00 pm. Confirmation	17 10:00 a.m. Wheatland Manor Service 8:30 a.m. ECI	18	19
20 9:00 a.m. C.E. 10:15 a.m. Worship Music & Worship meeting after worship	21 6:30 p.m. Evening Circle Bring your scissors	22 7:00 p.m. Bible Study	23 7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship <u>Herald</u> <u>Articles Due.</u> 6:30 Confirmation	24 Office Closed. Thanksgiving Day	25	26 9:00 Christmas decorating- everyone welcome
27 9:00 a.m. C.E. 1015a.m. Worship 1 st Sunday of Advent Mission Committee. Meeting	28	29 Assemble herald	30 6:30-8:00 pm. Confirmation			

