

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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January 2017



ZION HERALD January 2017 Volume 90 Issue 1

**Zion United Church of Christ
Congregational Meeting
December 11, 2016**

Zion United Church of Christ Congregational Meeting was held on December 11, 2016, immediately following worship service. The meeting was called to order by President David Niermeyer. Pastor Steve opened with a prayer. Congregational Meeting minutes from September 11, 2016 were read by Secretary Tanya Stewart. Needing no amendments or corrections, Jody Yutesler motioned to approve the minutes, Kevin Kahl second. Motion carried.

The 2017 budget was presented, reviewed and approved, without any changes. Vicki Mohr made a motion to accept the 2017 budget, Leroy Luepker second. Motion carried.

Joy Combs and Sharon Elijah were nominated for 2017-2019 Church Council members. Sue Monson motioned to approve the new council members and Cheryl Boedeker second. Motion carried.

Conference delegates nominates for 2017 are Terry Lasack and Marlene Wiedenhoff. Jody Yutesler motioned to approve the conference delegates, Sue Monson second. Motion passed.

With no further business, Julie Hoffmeier made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Joy Combs. Meeting adjourned. Pastor Steve closed with a prayer

Respectfully submitted by
Tanya Stewart

NOTICE: Time to work on your Annual Reports.

Linda needs your reports by January 9 or sooner, so that the audit committee can check out your financial report. Thank you to the individuals that have already done their report.

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

Oh yes, it's time to make your New Year's resolutions. Time to promise to yourself and/or to others that you will change something about yourself that should, in the long run, make you better, thinner, stronger, smarter, nicer, bolder, kinder, or whatever you feel lacking in your life and/or in the life of those you love. Over the years, many of us have promised to quit doing something, start doing something, increase something, decrease something, or in some other way, change something in our lives. Now, the problem we have most with New Year's resolutions is that they usually turn out to be optional in our lives, so we eventually stop doing, start doing, decrease doing or increase doing the "something" we had promised to do for ourselves and/or the ones you love.

So, if you would please, set this paper down for 3 minutes and think about why your New Year's resolutions of the past have failed or fallen short of their desired effect on your life and/or the ones your love.

Now that the three minutes is over and you have had time to think...What did you come up with? Was it that your New Year's resolution was too hard to keep? Maybe you didn't have the support you needed to keep on track. Perhaps you made the resolution to please someone else? Possibly you never completely committed yourself to the resolution? Or maybe after a while of trying to fulfill your resolution you determined that you couldn't live the way you promised yourself that you would. Ok Pastor Steve, where are you going with this... Well, I think you know.

Being a Christian is extremely challenging because we are taught by Jesus Christ that God wants us to live far differently than the world around us lives. And why is that you ask? Because the world is broken and we are to be the repair people. Christ teaches us to be the people who don't go along with the "worldly" status quo

because that life contradicts our created image of God. The life that looks so good is really the life that destroys who we are. We were created to love God first and that means we do what our loving God in the person and work of Jesus Christ teaches us. We are to love all people. We can't do that if we agree with leaders who threaten other countries with war and destruction to get what they want. We can't love others if we choose to continue to turn a blind eye to people who live in the shadows of poverty, discrimination, and oppression right here in this country and certainly not in this world.

You see, being Christian calls us to a much higher level of life. A level Jesus lifts us to when he says, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35) So this is our true resolution for our lives. Not just at New Year's, or Christmas, or Easter. This is our resolution for everyday of our lives and our lives depend on it because if we are really Christians, we have faith in Jesus Christ and we are faithful in how we live our lives. Having faith is being faithful. The four men in Mark 2:1-12 didn't just say from a far, "we believe in Jesus so we hope our friend will be healed." No! They acted on their faith and brought the man to Jesus by digging through a roof and lowering the paralyzed man right to Jesus' feet. Now that is having faith and being faithful.

So, this very day, as you read this article, don't make an empty, hollow New Year's resolution but instead, I implore you, believe, pray, read, talk and live faithfully as Jesus teaches you, "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve

"Be generous to the poor orphans and those in need. The man to whom our Lord has been liberal ought not to be stingy." *Saint Ignatius of Loyola*

USHERS

THIS
MONTH

January 1, 2017	Church Council
January 8, 2017	Randy Horman & Keith Stewart
January 15, 2017	Dan & Amy Mohr
January 22, 2017	Kirk & Laurie Steinke
January 29, 2017	Senior High Fellowship

February 5, 2017	Church Council
February 12, 2017	Marcine Miller & Jody Yutesler
February 19, 2017	Brain & Carolee Lohman
February 26, 2017	Senior High Fellowship



VIDEOGRAPHERS 2017

January

January 1. Jody Yutesler
 January 8, Aaron Horman
 January 15, Jane Drewelow
 January 22, David Niermeyer
 January 29, Jean Stepp

February

February 5-Cheryl Boedeker
 February 12-Donna Luepker
 February 19- David Niermeyer
 February 26-Aaron Horman



January 1, 2017	Taylor Lohman & Jacob Gottschalk
January 8, 2017	Milo Easterly & Leighton Tjaden
January 15, 2017	Abigail Balke & Koby Stewart
January 22, 2017	August Harms & Nathan Nabb
January 29, 2017	Jacob Gottschalk & Milo Easterly

February 5, 2017	Leighton Tjaden & Taylor Lohman
February 12, 2017	Koby Stewart & August Harms
February 19, 2017	Nathan Nabb & Abby Balke
February 26, 2017	Milo Easterly & Leighton Tjaden



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

Card... ...shower

JANUARY BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 7 | Welma Krueger,
1929 155 th Street,
Lowden, Iowa 52255-9569 |
| January 18 | Chris Boedeker,
408 2 nd Avenue, Apt. 16
Clarence, Iowa 52216 |



- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| January 6, 1984 | Mel & Kelli Hamilton, 33 years |
| January 11, 2008 | Angie & Dustin Peet, 8 years |



Zion Evening Circle
December 19, 2016

Zion Evening Circle met in Fellowship Hall on December 19, 2016 with 16 members, husbands and guests Jen Norton and Linda Behrens. A social hour with crackers, cheese and sausage and a choice of drinks started the evening. Members brought a gift for the church making a nice assortment of paper products that can be used in the church.

A delicious meal of boneless beef ribs and chicken in basil cream, green beans and party potatoes, a dinner salad and dessert was catered by Mill Creek.

Marlene W. presented Pastor Steve and Jean with a gorgeous bouquet of flowers as our gift to Pastor and Jean for all they do for us.

After dinner, a dice game was played with all that present winning a prize. Thanks to Annette and Janis for providing us with a delightful Christmas party.

Sharon Elijah
Secretary

Senior High Fellowship

MEETING AGENDA

November 27, 2016

Attendees: Avery and Addison Luepker, Tessa Fields, Grace and Kelly Proesch, Makayla Schluter

- I. Thank you to the Fields' family for the meal
- II. Thank you to Tessa for giving the opening devotional and prayer.
- III. The meeting was called to order by pro temp president, Avery Luepker.
- IV. Minutes were brought by Tessa Fields

V. Motioned to move the election of officers for 2016-2017 by Avery and second by Tessa.

- Tessa and Grace accept the presidential nomination
- There is a tie 3 votes to 3 votes
- After a revote Tessa is elect the president for the 2016-2017 season
- Kelly accepts the Vice Presidential nomination
- Kelly gets majority vote and is elected Vice President
- Avery accepts the Secretary nomination
- Avery gets majority vote and is elected Secretary
- Makayla accepts the Treasurer nomination
- Makayla gets majority vote and will reprise her role as Treasurer

VI. Old Business

1. The Luepker family is in charge of the can recycling this month
- 2.Christmas dinner- The parents had a meeting and have decided on the meal and have given out assignments

VII. New business

- 1.Service Project- The Senior High Fellowship has decided to put together care packages and send them to active military members. More will be discussed at the next meeting

VIII. President Tessa Fields motioned to close the meeting.

- All approved

Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ

Our Conference Delegate, Donna Luepker has put information about the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Iowa Conference in the office if anyone is interested in what happened this year. Please stop by and ask Linda for the binder. Thank you.



**CHURCH
COUNCIL**
ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2016 Official

Zion United Church of Christ Council meeting was held on November 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Meeting was called to order by President David Niermeyer, then opened with a prayer. Those in attendance were Jamie Nabb, Pete Johnson, Tanya Stewart, David Niermeyer and Merlin Conrad. Linda Behrens was present through treasurer report. Pastor Steve was sick and Bonnie Kintzel joined the meeting in progress during old business.

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

Secretary's minutes from Church Council meeting October 18, 2016 were read and approved, on a motion made by Jamie, second by Merlin. Motion carried.

Reports:

General Fund was reviewed and passed. Pete made motion to approve with a second by Merlin. Motion approved. Remaining treasures' reports approved, on a motion made by Pete, second by Merlin. Motion carried.

Calendar: Nov. 23rd 7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service
Nov. 26th 9:00 a.m. Decorate the church for Christmas
Nov. 27th Advent begins.

Mission Committee meeting following worship
Dec. 4th Senior High's Zion Dinner
Dec. 11th Congregational Meeting following worship
Dec. 13th 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting & Dinner
Dec. 24th 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 25th 9:00 a.m. Worship Service (No Sunday School)

OLD BUSINESS

- ✓ Kitchen improvement: awaiting Home Town's evaluation
- ✓ Christian Ed window replacement update. Seeking sponsors to fund this project. Great opportunity for Memorial Gifts. West and north side to be completed first.
- ✓ Pastoral compensation. Motion made by Merlin, second by Pete to give Pastor a 5% salary increase, totaling \$37,275. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- Discussed emailing The Herald. Please make sure the office has your current address, phone number, email and contact information on file.
- Discussed church membership and church attendance/participation. Church membership expectations to be presented in the new year.
- Lion's has inquired to use the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen for their monthly meetings. Merlin motioned and Pete second, Lion's may use the Fellowship/Hall at a rate of \$25.00 per meeting. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Willis Dady donation drive continues. We will be dropping off the supplies this Sunday, November 20. Thank you for your contributions!!

Bonnie presented the Advent schedule, as arranged by Music & Worship.

Next very brief meeting, Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. Christmas dinner, games, and holiday cheer to follow, children and spouses welcome. Council closed with "The Lord's Prayer." Meeting adjourned with a motion made by Pete, second by Merlin. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted

Tanya Stewart, Secretary

Greetings from Christian Education!

I want to start off our year with many 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 to Sig and Makayla Schluter, Sandy Esbaum, Tanya Stewart, and Jessica Coppess. 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! Thank you to Joy Combs for playing beautiful music for us during the Christmas Eve program! Thank you to Terry Lasack for lending her time and guidance in the preparation of the program! Thank you Megan Horman for taking great pictures for us during the program! Thank you to Avery Luepker for playing the tambourine and drums during the program. Thank you to Pavin Esbaum for leading our musicians. Thank you to members of Senior High Fellowship for helping pass the light of Christ. So many hands come together to make our program a success! We really appreciate all the support of this program!

Let us remember their Christmas Eve lesson; the Christmas tree is a symbol of Jesus. The limbs are evergreen reminding us of his everlasting love for us. The lights which brighten the tree as Jesus brightens the darkest night and the star upon top remind us that we should all follow Jesus. The Christmas tree is a glorious reminder of this special season. This season which honors the joys of Christmas....the joy of Jesus!

May God bless each and every one this Christmas and New Year Season!

Happy New Year!

Kelly Nabb Christian Education Coordinator

***Reminder: NO CLASSES on Sunday, January 1st
Our Annual Christmas Breakfast, January 8th**

UP COMING DATES TO REMEMBER

**Every Wednesday
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Confirmation Class**

**Zion Youth Club
January 11 and 25
from 4:00 to 6:00**

**January 16
Evening Circle meeting
with Christian Ed Teachers being honored.**

**January 29
Annual Meeting following worship
Senior High Fellowship
meeting
following the annual meeting**