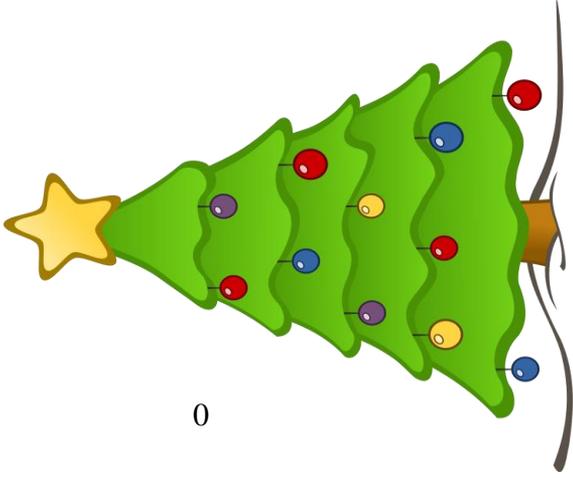


**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

*402 Main Street  
P.O. Box 339  
Lowden, IA 52255-0339  
Rev. Stephen Stepp, Pastor*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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**DECEMBER 2018**

Zion Herald December 2018 Volume 91 No. 12



# Christmas Dinner 2018

Senior High Fellowship would like to invite everyone to come and enjoy the Annual Christmas Dinner in our fellowship hall on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> following the worship service. Be ready to enjoy great food, delightful people, fascinating conversion, merriment, and prizes.

*“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”*

*Luke 2:8-14*

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Advent is a time for Hope. Each year we experience great hardship and bask in great joy. In today's world, we seem to be steered toward the fear of hardship while attempts are made to minimize our Christian Joy by comparisons to worldly joy. And when we allow the worldly notions of hardship and joy to cloud our knowledge of God through Jesus Christ, we can lose hope because the mountains that stand before us seem too great to climb. But Jesus doesn't tell us to climb the mountain; he tells us that God can move the mountain for us even if our faith is as small as a mustard seed. You see, God is the constant and ever-present hope in our lives. God is our refuge and strength. God is our hope when the joys of our lives

seem empty or inadequate.  
God is our hope when the hardships of life seem insurmountable.

*The Son of God became a man to enable men to become the sons of God. C.S.Lewis*

Therefore, we need not climb the mountain of hardship because even if our faith is as small as a mustard seed, God will move it us for us. And when we believe that this is possible with God, we can rejoice fully, knowing that "...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). Jesus was the hope of Ancient Israel and Jesus is our hope today because in Jesus we can live a life of freedom knowing that our reward is greater than any worldly joy and our reward over comes all worldly hardships. May our faith guide us this Advent season to experience the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of Jesus Christ in all that we do and all that we say. So when Christmas arrives, may we all lift our voices

to God saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, goodwill among all people" (Luke 2:14).

During the Advent Season this year, we will again enjoy beautiful candle lighting liturgies, wonderful music from the Zion Choir and our congregation, a Christmas Dinner, and most importantly, God's words of hope to the ancient people of 2000 years ago and God's words of hope for us today. God is still speaking to each and every one of us and I hope that all of our members will come and join together as one great community in Christ as we worship and give thanks to God. May we all have an Advent Season filled with hope, peace, joy and love and may we all experience great wonder as we celebrate God's grace-filled gift to all people this Christmas.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Steve



French General Lyautey once asked his gardener to plant a tree. The gardener objected that the tree was slow growing and would not reach maturity for 100 years.

The Marshall replied,

**'In that case,  
there is no time to lose;  
plant it this afternoon!'**

### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

**\*Sunday, December 2** first Sunday of Advent

Christmas Dinner will follow the worship service.

**\*Sunday, December 9** Bell presents returned to tree

**\*Sunday, December 16 –Congregational Meeting** will follow the Worship Service.

**\*Monday, December 24 at 6:30 p.m.**

Christmas Eve Worship Service  
with Christian Education Program

# THIS USHERS MONTH

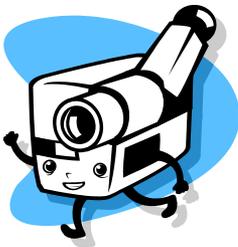
Dec. 2, 2018	Church Council
Dec. 9, 2018	Donna Luepker, Lori Dittmer, Marcine Miller
Dec. 16, 2018	Wilbert & Millie Muhs, Duane & Terry Lasack
Dec. 23, 2018	Scott & Carmen Fields, Robert & Joni Fields
Dec. 24, 2018	Christmas Eve Service-Church Council
Dec. 30, 2018	Wes & Ladon Griesbach, Danny & Gail Hamdorf

January 6, 2019	Church Council
January 13, 2019	Renate Port, Jody Yutesler, Brian & Carolee Lohman
January 20, 2019	Kirk & Laurie Steinke, Rick & Karen Bentrrott
January 27, 2019	Senior High Fellowship

## VIDEOGRAPHERS

### December

Dec. 3	Jane Drewelow
Dec. 10	Cheryl Boedeker
Dec. 16	Tess Holst
Dec. 23	Jody Yutesler
Dec. 24	Donne Luepker
Dec. 30	Jean Stepp



## DECEMBER

December 2	Josselyn Easterly & Jaydon Nabb
December 9	Carter Horman & Matthew Bramlett
December 16	Drew Behrens & Sophie Poppe
December 23	Jaydon Nabb & Johny Amina
December 24	Church Council
December 31	Josselyn Easterly & Carter Horman



December 1	Berniece Minor
December 2	Larry Havel
December 3	Sarah Ann Sawyer
December 5	Jaynice Hamdorf, Jane Drewelow, Linda Horman, Scott Fields
December 7	Scott Boedeker, Gary Klahn, Riley Holst
December 9	Megan Neil
December 11	Landon Luepker
December 12	Kent Strackbein, Barry Hoffmeier
December 15	Jill Jacobs, Elle Esbaum
December 17	Wilbert Muhs
December 20	Bonnie Kintzel, Angie Peet, Tim Kahl
December 21	Pavin Esbaum,
December 26	Sadie Holst
December 27	Trevor Hamdorf
December 28	Alex Dittmer, Jessie Horman
December 30	Cindy Wiedenhoff



*Happy  
Anniversary!*

December 9	Donavon & Linda Freese 1967
December 28	Tessa & *David Holst 1990



**ZION EVENING CIRCLE MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 19, 2018**

Twelve Evening Circle members met November 19, 2018, for their regular monthly meeting. While some members decorated the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall others trimmed and counted 524 Our Family labels and 924 Boxtops for Education. The money received from them will be used by the North Cedar schools to provide funding for many different activities.

Jane Drewelow gave wonderful, thoughtful devotions about Thanksgiving.

President Terry called the meeting to order. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved. Millie moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jody to pay the bills. Motion carried.

Terry thanked Sharon for providing altar flowers in October; Julie and Marlene for taking care of the Totenfest candles and flowers and altar flowers in November; Jane for giving devotions and Jody and Jean for providing refreshments at this meeting.

The poinsettia sale was discussed. The poinsettias will be displayed on the second Sunday in December. The new Advent candles are here.

The church's float for the December 1<sup>st</sup> Lowden Lighted parade was discussed. Jane had an idea and it took off from there. Work will proceed on the float on Monday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Evening Circle will again be helping with the basket raffle table at the Legion on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

In other business Jane moved that we strongly encourage Bonnie to get a new vacuum for the church and Evening Circle will pay for it. Second by Millie. Motion carried.

Christmas decorating will be December 1<sup>st</sup>. Julie would like help preparing the big tree on November 28<sup>th</sup>. The bell tree will

be up by Thanksgiving Eve. Evening Circle will purchase gifts for one or two bells. Please spend \$25 for each bell taken and the gifts shall be returned to church by December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Steve announced the annual Christmas dinner will be held December 2<sup>nd</sup> after worship and everyone is invited to attend.

Evening Circle's Christmas party will be held December 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 with a social hour and dinner at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall catered by Mill Creek. If you have a favorite wine you may bring it along to share. Reservations are needed and the meal should be paid for at the time of reservation. Members may bring gifts to the church that were requested by Bonnie in lieu of a gift exchange. Jane will be in charge of entertainment at the Christmas party.

December flower committee is Joy, Jane and Janis. In January Rose is on the flower committee; Janis and Jane will serve the Committee on Ministry; Sharon will have devotions and Donna and Millie will serve refreshments.

Meeting adjourned. Refreshments were served by Jean and Jody.

Sharon Elijah  
Secretary



**CHURCH  
COUNCIL**  
**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 25, 2018 (Official)**

Zion United Church of Christ Council met at 7:00 p.m. on October 25, 2018. President Joy Combs called the meeting to order. Pastor Steve opened with a devotion and a prayer. Those in attendance were Rick Balke, Duane Lasack, Bonnie

Kintzel, Joy Combs and Sharon Elijah. Jamie Nabb was absent. Linda Behrens was present through the treasurer's reports. Joys and concerns were shared.

The secretary's report was read and made official on a motion by Bonnie, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick. Motion carried. The treasurer's reports were reviewed and approved on a motion by Sharon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bonnie. Motion carried. Linda called our attention to a savings account and CD's held in the First Trust & Savings Bank in Wheatland (from Norman and Emogene Conrad Estates). Joy will check to see what caveats exist on using this account. Duane went over the Endowment Funds with us. There is a \$55,000.00 CD at First Trust & Savings Bank that is maturing on November 6, 2018. Bonnie moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Duane to re-invest this CD in a higher interest bearing CD. Duane will look into this and reinvest the money to our best advantage.

Pastor's report was discussed. There were 14 children attending the Parent's Night out. About 56 Zion members attended the UCC worship service in Tipton. 10 walkers participated in the CROP walk and \$465 was raised. Randy and Laurie Millam donated an anniversary plate to the church. The secretary will send a thank you note. Rick moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Duane to approve Pastor's expense account.

Calendar review:

- Oct. 31 Confirmation class helping with Trunk or Treat
- Nov. 4 Totenfest
- Nov. 10 Parent's Night Out
- Nov. 19 Evening Circle
- Nov. 21 Thanksgiving Eve service

Rick will look into repairing the bathroom stool in Fellowship Hall. There was water in the Educational Building basement from the recent rains. JJJ did some repair work on sump pumps. Lowden Plumbing and Heating worked on the drain in the boiler room.

Our next meeting will be November 15. Bonnie moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Duane to adjourn the meeting. Carried. Pastor closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted  
Sharon Elijah, Secretary

## GREETINGS!

There are many positive things happening at Zion United Church of Christ! We have a hard-working group of members, an active youth membership, and a growing outreach ministry to our community.

At our last council meeting it was noted that our giving is down from the previous year. Please consider a special Christmas offering this year to help meet the financial obligations of our church.

Thank you for the support you have given through the year. We look forward to another successful year at Zion.

**Merry Christmas!**

**From your Zion UCC Church Council**

Contact Heather: 515.971.8988

Enjoy an evening out while we entertain the kids!

More information can be found at [www.zionucclowden.org](http://www.zionucclowden.org)

Pre registration is required by the Wednesday before the event. Second Saturday of the Month

Parents,  
we have a great event for you! Bring your children to our church on Saturday, **December 8th** at 6 p.m. and take a night off to go on a dinner date, do some Christmas

shopping or just enjoy the evening. We will have dinner, activities and the Christmas movie "The Star" for the children to watch.

We will be throwing a happy birthday, Jesus party and talk about the true meaning of Christmas. Registration is due by Wednesday, **December 5th**. Returning families will need to call to confirm by that day to reserve their spot.

Kids' Night In/Parents' Night Out is our mission to give parents some time to reconnect with their spouse or just get a little break while their kids will be having a blast playing with other children during our fun planned activities. If you would like to volunteer, please let Heather Easterly know by giving her a call at (515) 971-8988 as soon as you can. God bless!



# A Star Among Us

Christmas Program on Christmas  
Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM.

All are welcome to join us and  
celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

.....

## **Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross**

*Offering will be taken on December 16<sup>th</sup>.*

For 115 years, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a leading light in our mission. The Christmas Fund is one of the 5 Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ and provides us with means to directly assist those who have so faithfully and selflessly served and now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs. Please make your contributions by December 16, 2018 so Linda be can send them into the Conference office. Thank you.

# MOVIE NIGHT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> @ 6:30 PM.

WE CANNOT PUBLISH THE TITLE,  
BUT WE CAN TELL YOU THAT OUR  
MOVIE IS A CHRISTMAS CLASSIC

STARRING

JIMMY STEWART, DONNA REED,  
& LIONEL BARRYMORE

SO, TAKE A NIGHT OFF!

COME ENJOY A MOVIE WITH YOUR  
CHURCH FAMILY.

OH YES, BRING YOUR FAVORITE  
MOVIE TREATS TO ENJOY.

## NORTH CEDAR CLERGY ASSOCIATION

### BELL PROGRAM 2018

NOVEMBER 21-----BELLS ON TREE

DECEMBER 9-----BELL PRESENTS  
RETURNED

UNDER TREE

DECEMBER 19-----BELL BASKETS

DISTRIBUTED

(HELP NEEDED)