

**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

402 Main Street

P.O. Box 339

Lowden, IA 52255-0339

Rev. Stephen Stepp, Pastor

Church Phone (563) 941-7726

Parsonage Phone (563) 941-5476

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**FEBURAY**



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**Information Corner**

Our website address is [www.zionucclowden.org](http://www.zionucclowden.org) Secretary: Linda Behrens

**Zion office hours** Monday through Friday 8:30 to 12:00 Zion office phone #563-941-7726

email: [zionucc@fbcom.net](mailto:zionucc@fbcom.net)

**Pastor Steve Stepp** email: [zionpastor@fbcom.net](mailto:zionpastor@fbcom.net) Phone #s- Office: 563-941-7529 Home:

563-941-5476 Office hours...Monday thru Thursday 9:00am-1:00pm **or** set up a time that works best for you.

**Members of our Church Council**

Aaron Horman-President, David Niermeyer- Vice President, Janice Strackbein, Secretary, Duane Lasack, Jon Mansfield, and Randy Horman.

**Address changes/updates**

If you are going away for a month or longer or are moving,  
please contact the church office to let

Linda know so that you will receive your mail in a timely basis. T

Thank you!

## DATES TO REMEMBER THIS MONTH

**February 2**

*"Souper" Bowl Sunday*

Wear your favorite team apparel and  
Please bring soup or a nonperishable food  
Item for our food pantry

**ALSO**

**February 2**

Christian Education Bake Sale

With proceeds going to a charity to be determined  
Be sure to stop by for some goodies.

**February 9**

*Our Third Annual Father/Daughter Dance*

from 6:00 to 9:00

Dads come and enjoy a special night with your daughter.

**February 23**

*Christian Education Parent Sunday*

**Mark your calendar for March 26**

**ASH Wednesday Service will be at Clarence.**

**Mark this date on your Calendar  
Sunday, March 1, 2020**

**Our Vision 2020 Potluck following  
the Worship Service**

**Come and help shape the future of Zion!**

The second decade of the 21 Century in now is the books and we at Zion United Church of Christ have so very much to be thankful for. Having been with you for the better part of this past decade, I know that we, as a community of Jesus Christ, have experienced great joy and happiness and we have endured great sorrow. We have faced times of uncertainty and we have basked in the glow of reassurance. We have welcomed new members into our church family, and we have watched others move on to different communities. We have wondered about people we have not seen for many years and we have embraced others who have returned to worship with us. We have lifted up great songs of praise as we thanked God for the babies who were born into our community and we have lifted up songs of lament for the members and friends we have committed into God's life of light and love.

And through it all we have prayed for the new and the old, for the lost and the found, for those who have stayed and for those who have left, and we have prayed for the anger we have felt and for the love we have shared. Through it all, we have known, without a doubt, that God has been with us each second of every minute, in every hour of every day within every week through all the months of this year and all the years of this decade and for that presence and love, we give to God the greatest of thanks and praise.

Our goal for the next year is to focus on each day as we live it to the glory of God by doing everything in our power to live as Jesus, to give as Jesus and to love as Jesus so that we may become a rock on which the church of Jesus Christ is built here and now. So, go my Sisters and Brothers and share the life of Jesus with all those you meet. Come into Zion United Church of Christ with the joy and love of God and share them with everyone you meet here. Then go back out into the world and give your love to everyone as Jesus gave to those he loved and those who condemned and crucified him, the innocent Son of God.

Then we will fulfil Jesus' final command as he ascended into heaven, *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age"* (Matthew 28:19-20).

We know that Christ is with us always, therefore we say with bold hearts, **"May God continue to bless us now and always so that we may carry the light of Christ into the world! Praise be to God! Amen!"**

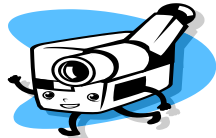
Grace and peace,  
Pastor Steve

*"You may speak but a word to a child, and in that child, there may be slumbering a noble heart which shall stir the Christian Church in years to come"*

*"Being a Christian is more than just an instantaneous conversion - it is a daily process whereby you grow to be more and more like Christ."*  
Billy Graham

**USHERS**  
THIS MONTH

February 2, 2020	Church Council
February 9, 2020	Gene & Janice Hamdorf, Joshua Hamdorf
February 15, 2020	Lou & Janis Krafock, Diane Esbaum
February 23, 2020	Senior High Fellowship
March 1, 2020	Church Council
March 8, 2020	Lonnie & Stacy Luepker
March 15, 2020	Brett Esbaum & Jared Bentrrott
March 22, 2020	Wilbert Muhs, Dennis Mostaert
March 29, 2020	Senior High Fellowship



### VIDEOGRAPHERS 2020

#### FEBRUARY

February 2 Donna Luepker  
 February 9 Jean Stepp  
 February 16, Aaron Horman  
 February 23, Cheryl Boedeker

#### MARCH

March 1 Donna Luepker  
 March 8 Jody Yutesler  
 March 15 David Niermeyer  
 March 22 Donna Luepker  
 March 29 Aaron Horman



February 2, 2019 Drew & Josselyn  
 February 10, 2019 Johnny & Jaydon  
 February 17, 2019 Sophie & Carter  
 February 24, 2019 Josselyn & Matthew



February 1 Kaci Gottschalk  
 February 2 Brenda Esbaum  
 February 3 Taylor Armstrong, Dave Horman  
 February 4 Jon Mansfield  
 February 7 Duane Lasack, Easton Drewelow,  
 Drew Behrens  
 February 8 Darren Esbaum  
 February 9 Laettner Esbaum  
 February 10 Sharon Elijah  
 February 11 Carl Pasley  
 February 12 Millie Muhs  
 February 13 Kevin Kahl, Renate Port  
 February 14 Blake Proesch

February 15 McKenna Luepker  
February 16 Makayla Schluter, Aidan Jacobs  
February 18 Koby Stewart  
February 23 Kip Esbaum  
February 24 Curt Conrad  
February 25 Gunner Klahn  
February 26 Sig Schluter  
February 27 Madeleine Combs



February 4, 1956 Harold & Mary Louise Horman 64 years  
February 5, 1977 Randy & Sandra Horman 43 years  
February 15, 1996 \*David & Dawn Adney 24 years



Zion United Church of Christ Council met at 6:00 p.m. on December 18, 2019. President Joy Combs called the meeting to order. Pastor Steve opened with a devotion and a prayer. Those in attendance were Randy Horman, Duane Lasack, Jon Mansfield, Aaron Horman, Joy Combs and Sharon Elijah. Linda Behrens was present through the treasurer's reports. Joys and concerns were given. The secretary's report was read and made official on a motion by Aaron, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Duane. Motion carried. The treasurer's reports were read and approved on a motion by Aaron, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jon. Motion carried.

Calendar Review:

December 24 – Christmas Eve service  
Jan. 5 – Take down Christmas decorations  
Jan. 10 – Annual reports due to the office  
Jan. 11 – Kids Night In-Parents Night Out  
Jan. 16 – Church council meeting  
Jan. 26 – Annual meeting

Pastor's report was reviewed. Aaron moved to accept Pastor's expense report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jon. Motion carried. Randy moved to move \$7400 from Pastor's salary to housing allowance on his W-2 form, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jon. Motion carried. Pastor reported that the North Cedar Bell program gifts were delivered today.

Discussion was held on council's responsibilities at funeral services. Aaron reported he had purchased the new eternal light and he will install it after Christmas.

The annual meeting will be January 26 at which time the annual report will given out. Council installation will be Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>.

Randy moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jon to adjourn the meeting. Carried. Our next meeting will be January 16<sup>th</sup>. Pastor closed with a prayer.

A supper for the council, spouses and new council members was served by Sharon and Joy immediately after the adjournment of the meeting. Games were played with prizes going to all.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon Elijah, Secretary



*Zion's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Father/Daughter Dance  
will be Saturday, February 8, 2020 6:00 to 9:00 pm.  
Grandfathers and Granddaughters,  
Uncles and Nieces  
are welcome too!*

### **SPRING DINNER COMMITTEE**

The Spring Dinner Committee has met to begin preparations for our church dinner. We have set the date for April 21, 2019 and are again planning to serve a Swiss Steak Dinner. This event serves as a gathering for all members of Zion. We hope that our members will participate in some way so that our





will be strengthened in this great mission of Zion Church. A sign-up sheet will be  
 the for you to choose one or more ways to participate and sponsor this event. Perhaps  
 will choose to make a food item, pick a job you will enjoy, make a monetary donation, and  
 enjoy a wonderful meal with your family and friends. However, you choose to do God's work for the  
 Church and for this mission, remember it is in the spirit of love and fellowship that brings us together.  
 We thank you in advance for your work and we will communicate further as we approach April 21st.  
 The Spring Dinner Committee: Julie Hoffmeier-Sue Monson-Merlin Conrad-Dean Behrens family-  
 Annette & Johnny Behrens and Rick & Mary Balke.

## ***Message from the Church Council***

### **VISION 2020**

What does God have in store for Zion? As we embark on a new decade, it's the ideal time to look to the future and with that we're launching VISION 2020. There are four focus areas that we'll look to define: MEMBERSHIP, WORSHIP, INVOLVEMENT and GIVING & FINANCES. We're holding a VISION 2020 Kick-Off Potluck on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> following worship. Please bring a dish to share and join us for a conversation about Zion's future. The goal of VISION 2020 is to build our community with the mindset of INVEST to THRIVE rather than PROTECT to SURVIVE. We look forward to your input and hope you will make plans to join us (plus, what's better than all of the great food at a church potluck)!

### **CHURCH FURNACE & AIR CONDITIONER REPLACEMENT**

Over the past few years we've begun to experience problems with the air conditioning units that cool the sanctuary and fellowship hall. The outdoor air conditioning units are 33 years old and the indoor furnaces and blowers are 27 years old. The units have served us well but require annual maintenance to keep them operational and are not energy efficient. The council has sought bids to replace both the indoor and outdoor equipment with more energy efficient two-stage models. The proposal also includes replacement of the dampers and controls that direct airflow between the sanctuary and fellowship hall. The estimated cost to replace the north unit is \$12,500 and the south unit replacement cost is estimated at \$11,500. The council has made the decision to move forward with the project only once funds have been raised. We are announcing the "Buy a Btu" fundraising campaign. Both units have a combined cooling capacity of 103,000 Btus and members are encouraged to think about donating in the amount of 25-cents per Btu. You can help us meet our goal of approximately \$25,000 with any gift, large or small. Contributions may be sent directly to the church or placed in the weekly offering collection marked "Heating & Cooling Fund."

If you have questions about either of these initiatives, please feel free to contact a church council member.

Aaron Horman, President  
 David Niermeyer, Vice-President  
 Janice Strackbein, Secretary

Randy Horman  
 Duane Lasack  
 Jon Mansfield

**OOPS... I forget to include this in last month newsletter. Sorry.**

### **POINSETTIAS 2019**

#### **IN MEMORY OF**

**FROM**  
 Debbie Axline  
 Debbie Axline

In Memory of Jess Axline  
 In Memory of Wilbert & Nola Wenndt

Brenda Esbaum	Larry Esbaum, and Kerri Havel
Marlene Fox	Roland Fox
Barry & Julie Hoffmeier	In Memory of Loved Ones
Randy & Sandra Horman	In Memory of Our Parents
Mike & Pam Jensen	In Memory of Dustin Gardner,
Mike & Pam Jensen	In Memory of Jerold Jensen
Mike & Pam Jensen	In Memory of Jeff Jensen
Mike & Pam Jensen	In Memory of Dale & Reba Meyer
Jon Mansfield	In Memory of Loved Ones
Marcine Miller	In Memory of Elon Miller & Service Men & Women
Sue Monson	Mel Monson
Jamie & Kelly Nabb	In Memory of Our Grandparents
Sigrun & Makayla Schluter	In Memory of Butch Schluter
Senior High Fellowship	Glory of the Season
Pastor Steve & Jean Stepp	In Memory John & Birdell Stepp and Carl & Phyllis Chappelow
Keith & Tanya Stewart	In Memory those Forever in Our Hearts
Janice Strackbein	In Memory of Kent Strackbein
Marlene Wiedenhoff	In Memory of Bob & Connie Wiedenhoff
Darrell, Jody & Dalton Yutesler	In Memory of Hazel Ann Thompson
Zion Youth Club	To the Glory of the Season

Courtesy of Evening Circle

**Clarence Assisted Living:** Marge Norton. And **Clarence Nursing Home-** Gladys Conrad  
**Prairie Hills-**Marlene Wiedenhoff, **Crest Ridge-**Bob Hamdorf

## Christmas Church Gifts

<u>IN MEMORY OF</u>	<u>GIFTS FROM</u>	<u>FOR</u>
American Legion Auxiliary	North Cedar Clergy	Glory of the Season
Al & Linda Behrens	North Cedar Clergy	In memory of Loved Ones
Harlan & Florence Deerberg	Christmas Decorating	In Memory of Family & Friends
Brad & Lisa Dircks	North Cedar Clergy	Glory of the Season
Bill & Sharon Elijah	Food Pantry	In Memory of Our Parents
Diane Esbaum	Improvement Fund	In Memory Roland Fox
Mary Huffman	North Cedar Clergy	In Memory of Loved Ones
Kevin & Beth Kahl	Improvement Fund	In Memory of Loved Ones
Pat & Peggy Kedley	North Cedar Clergy	Glory of the Season
Alden & Marilyn Klahn	North Cedar Clergy	Glory of the Season
Lou & Janis Krafock	North Cedar Clergy	Glory of the Season
Sharon Kruckenberg	North Cedar Clergy	In Memory of Loved Ones
Duane & Terry Lasack	North Cedar Clergy	Glory of the Season
Leroy & Donna Luepker	North Cedar Clergy	Glory of the Season
Jon Mansfield	Food Pantry	In Memory of Loved Ones
Family Members	Christmas Decoration	In Memory Arnold & Kathleen Miller
Wilbert & Millie Muhs	North Cedar Clergy	In Memory of Loved Ones
Darrell & Jody Yutesler	Technology	In Memory of Loved Ones
Lowden Garden Club	Food Pantry	Glory of the Season
Lowden Garden Club	North Cedar Clergy	Glory of the Season

