

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JANUARY 2019



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

Upcoming happening

January 8 HACAP in Lowden

January 9 Zion Youth Club Meeting

January 9 Confirmation class resume

January 13 Mission Committee Meeting

January 15 Movie Night

January 21 Evening Circle Meeting FUN night

January 23 ZYC Meeting

January 27 Annual Meeting after worship

Movie Night!!

Tuesday January 15 6:30 p.m.

(It is a new and wonderful movie

About a apostle who write many letter.)

Can you guess who it?

Zion United Church of Christ Annual Meeting

will be held on January 27th. We will discuss the 2018
Annual Report and ministry of our community.

Thank you

Zion Senior High Fellowship

for a wonderful Christmas Dinner on

Sunday, December 2nd.

Everything was FANTASTIC!

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

January is the first day of the new year according to the Gregorian Calendar. The what you say? The Gregorian Calendar. It is the most widely used calendar in the world. It was introduced by Pope Gregory XIII on October 1582 and included "Leap Year." Now don't worry, you do not have to go out and buy a gift for that one person who was born on February 29th, this is not a leap year. That means this new year will have the standard 365 days in it. Now many of us won't think a lot about the coming 365 days, but instead, we will concentrate on specific days within the 365 days.

For example, we know all the important birthdays. Our father's, our grandmother's, our wife's, our son's or any of the many other birthdays we help celebrate through-out the year. We also have anniversaries, reunions, graduations, first day of school, last day of school, etc. And then we have days like, Valentines' Day, Memorial Day, The Fourth of July, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving to name a few. Oh yes, we also have special church days like Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, and Christmas to name a very few.

Now, I know I missed some other important days in our life, didn't I? Hmmmm... Of course, I missed the most important day of all in in the life of a Christian, Sunday. That's right, Sunday. The weekly day of celebration because it is the day of the week that Jesus rose from death. Sunday is the day we set aside and call holy because it is the Sabbath Day for Christians.

In the Hebrew language Sabbath looks like this (יום שבת) and it is pronounced sha-buchhh. But more importantly, it is what the Sabbath should mean to us as Christians. Simply: STOP, REST AND WORSHIP GOD. Now there are 52 Sundays in the average year, which of course means there are 52 possible Sabbath days to worship and praise God.

From deep within my heart, I know that the aforementioned days in the second paragraph sometimes cut in on those 52 days of formal worship in our sanctuary because I was once there myself. I worked almost every Sunday for 13 years and that was my excuse. But the worst thing of all is this, there were days I just said, "I don't feel like going to church today." So, what I realize today, yup, right now as I am writing this, I cannot get even one of those days back when I didn't worship the God who loved me so much; wanted me so much, that God would call me to become a pastor...your pastor. That journey for me began in 1996 when God rearranged my life, so I could first and foremost, get back to coming to church on the Sabbath. I didn't have to answer that first call, but deep in my heart, I really didn't see any other choice and that is when I once again began to see God's purpose for me.

Do you know what God's purpose is for you? Zion has over 200 members on the books which means there are over 200 souls to whom God is saying, come to me, come to this place I have made for you, and see what I have planned for you.

There are 52 Sunday Sabbath days this year. So, let us as God's children and Christ's brother or sister fill the sanctuary as we lift our prayers and songs, our hopes and our dreams, and our love to God on the day God created for us; the day of the week God raised Jesus from death so that we could believe in Him. Praise be to God! Amen. See you in Church!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve

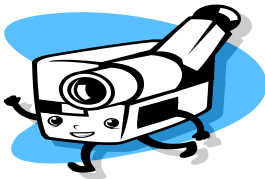
“Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.”

John Wesley

USHERS

THIS MONTH

January 6, 2019	Church Council
January 13, 2019	Renate Port, Jody Yutesler, Brian & Carolee Lohman
January 20, 201*	Kirk & Laurie Steinke, Rick & Karen Bentrrott
<u>January 27, 2019</u>	<u>Senior High Fellowship</u>
February 4, 2019	Church Council
February 11, 2019	Lou & Janis Krafock, Diane Esbaum, Vicki Mohr
February 18, 2019	Bob & Mary Campbell
February 25, 2019	Lonnie & Stacy Luepker Senior High Fellowship



VIDEOGRAPHERS 2019

January

January 6, Jean Stepp
 January 13, Cheryl Boedeker
 January 20, Aaron Horman
 January 27, Jane Drewelow

February

February 3, David Niermeyer
 February 10, Jody Yutesler
 February 17, Donna Luepker
 February 24, Aaron Horman



January 6 Mel & Kelli Hamilton, 34 years
 January 11 Angie & Dustin Peet, 10 years



January 6, 2019 Matthew & Drew
 January 13, 2019 Josselyn & Johny
 January 20, 2019 Carter & Sophie
 January 27, 2019 Jaydon & Matthew

February 4, 2018 Drew & Josselyn
 February 11, 2018 Johny & Carter
 February 18, 2018 Sophie & Jaydon
 February 25, 2018 Josselyn & Matthew



January 3 Phyllis Boedeker,
 January 4 Allen Behrens, Josh Hamdorf,
 Matt Drewelow,
 January 5 Samantha Horman,
 January 6 Lois Latare,
 January 7 Kaelynn Kessler, Welma Krueger,
 Hunter Lohman
 January 8 Caven Wiedenhoff
 January 9 Angie Williams
 January 13 Mandi Behrens, Shannon Hayton,
 January 14 Allison Hamdorf, Owen Kahl
 January 16 *Sandy Esbaum
 January 18 Koby Stewart
 January 26 Liz Norton
 January 29 Ladon Griesbach
 January 30 Mel Hamilton

Card...  ...shower

JANUARY BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER

- January 3 Phyllis Boedeker, PO Box 265,
 Clarence, Iowa 52216
- January 6 Lois Latare, 303 E. Franklin Street,
 Eldridge, Iowa 52747
- January 7 Welma Krueger,
 1929 155th Street,
 Lowden, Iowa 52255



**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (unofficial)
DECEMBER 15, 2018**

Zion United Church of Christ Congregational Meeting was held December 16, 2018, immediately following worship service. The meeting was called to order by President Joy Combs. Pastor Steve opened with a prayer. As the secretary read the wrong minutes, a motion was made by David Niermeyer, 2nd by Bernice Minor, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion carried.

The nominating committee placed the names of Jon Mansfield and Aaron Horman as council members and Mary Campbell as delegate and Terry Lasack as alternate delegate before the congregation. There being no other nominees, Duane Lasack moved, 2nd by Leroy Luepker the nominees to be declared elected. Motion carried.

The 2019 budget was presented. President Combs asked if there were any questions and discussion was held. Jan Strackbein moved, 2nd by Marilyn Klahn that we accept the budget. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Sharon Kruckenberg moved, 2nd by Linda Behrens that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried. Pastor Steve closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Sharon Elijah, Secretary



**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 15, 2018 (Official)**

Zion United Church of Christ Council met at 7:00 p.m. on November 15, 2018. President Joy Combs called the meeting to order. Pastor Steve opened with a devotion and a prayer. Those in attendance were Bonnie Kintzel, Jamie Nabb, Rick Balke, Joy Combs and Sharon Elijah. Duane Lasack was absent. Linda Behrens was present through the treasurer's report.

Joys and concerns were shared.

The secretary's report was read and made official on a motion by Bonnie, 2nd by Linda. Motion carried. The treasurer's reports were reviewed and approved on a motion by Bonnie, 2nd by Rick. Motion carried. Duane has re-invested the CD from First Trust & Savings Bank at a better interest rate.

Calendar review:

November 21	Thanksgiving Eve service
December 1	Christmas decorating at church
December 2	Christmas dinner sponsored by Senior High Fellowship
December 8	Kids Night In, Parents Night Out
December 11	Movie night
December 16	Congregational meeting
December 24	Christmas Eve worship service

Pastor's report was reviewed. Rick moved, 2nd by Sharon that the expense report be approved. Motion carried.

Consideration was given the Kids Night In program. There will be some expenses for the church. This should be included in the budget for 2019. There were 28 youth attending on November 10th. This program is doing very well, and the council agreed it is a good activity.

Old business:

The toilet in fellowship hall was repaired. An affidavit was prepared to change the name from German Reformed church to Zion United Church of Christ, so the Cedar County Assessor's office will have the correct name.

New business:

The church council discussed employee's compensation. On a motion by Sharon, 2nd by Rick, Bonnie Kintzel as church custodian is to receive \$12.50 an hour and Linda Behrens, as church secretary, will receive \$10.45 an hour in 2019. Motion carried. In lieu of third quarter giving statements, a letter to the congregation will be prepared to be included in the Herald. Snow removal will be done again this year by Marvin Mooney. The food pantry was discussed, and it was decided to put up a few posters about it.

Our next meeting will be December 13th at 6:00. At 7:00 our Christmas dinner will be held hosted by Jamie Nabb

and Bonnie Kintzel, our outgoing council members. Bonnie moved, 2nd by Jamie that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. Pastor closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Sharon Elijah

MISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
November 11, 2018

Present:	Linda Behrens	Rick Balke	Carmen Fields
	Jess Coppess	Megan Horman	
	Jan Olson	Pastor Steve	
Absent:	Mary Campbell		

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Linda and Pastor Steve led the group in prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

The March 25, 2018, meeting minutes were distributed and reviewed.

Financial Report:

Linda explained the Missions Committee gives out \$7,000 in donations annually. So far, \$1,000 has been distributed, so there is \$6,000 left. The committee discussed the following donations:

- \$100 to Hour of Sharing, Christmas Fund, Neighbors in Need, Our Church's Wider Mission, and Strength in the Church
- \$1,000 to North Cedar Bell Program
- \$1,000 to Willis Dady homeless shelter
- \$500 to Deacon's Fund
- \$1,000 to Wells with Water
- \$500 to Emergency Fund for fire relief
- \$1,000 to Bethany Home – Davenport Women's Shelter
- \$500 to HACAP

Megan moved for approval of the above donations, Carmen seconded, and the motion was approved by vote.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business.

New Business:

A future Missions Committee sponsored event was discussed. The committee felt a presentation on Anti-human Trafficking would be an interesting topic. North Cedar Clergy and the public of Lowden and surrounding communities would be invited with a brief reception to follow. Jessica Coppess will work on the speaker with hopes of scheduling a presentation sometime in the first quarter of 2019.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will take place January 13, 2019 after church.

Adjournment:

Linda adjourned the meeting. Pastor Steve ended with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jessica Coppess

**ZION EVENING CIRCLE
December 17, 2018**

12 members and 7 guests met for an Evening Circle Christmas party in Fellowship Hall on December 17, 2018. The social hour started at 6:00, followed by a very delicious supper served by the ladies of Mill Creek. The entrees were Boneless Beef Tips and Cheesy Chicken Squares along with potatoes, green beans and salad, and also including a choice of two desserts.

After the meal we participated in two fun games led by Jane Drewelow.

Gifts of a blue poinsettia and LED candles were given to Pastor Steve and Jean as a token of our appreciation of their work at Zion church.

Sharon Elijah
Secretary



Christian Education

First, thank you to the volunteer teachers who dedicate their time, talents, and faith to our youth in the classrooms and beyond! Thank you, Abby Balke, Jessica Coppess, and Tanya Stewart.

A special thank you to Megan and Carter Horman for helping with the music! 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 to gather for Sunday School lessons, practices and more! AND, to the YOUTH of ZION United Church of Christ, I thank you for your time and talents shared with all of us! Let us remember their stories shared tonight; let us look up at the stars and let them be a constant reminder of the birth of our savior; Jesus Christ. His everlasting love for us is meant for us to share that love and joy with one another! Take that shining star with you this Christmas! I want thank God for his many blessings he bestows upon us. May God bless each and every one of you this Christmas Season!

Merry Christmas and May God Bless us all!

Kelly Nabb Christian Education Coordinator

***Reminder: NO CLASSES on Sunday, December 30
Annual Christmas Breakfast January 6th at 9AM.**