

**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

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**JANUARY 2020**

Zion HERALD January 2020 Volume 92 No. 1

Upcoming happenings

January 14 HACAP in Lowden

January 8 Zion Youth Club Meeting

January 8 Confirmation class resumes

January 13 Mission Committee Meeting

January 21 NO Evening Circle Meeting

January 22 ZYC Meeting

January 27 Annual Meeting after worship

**Zion United Church of Christ**  
**Annual Meeting**  
will be held on January 26<sup>th</sup>. We will discuss the 2020  
Annual Report and ministry of our community.

### Church Information

**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

**Pastor Steve Stepp** 563-941-7529

Home: 563-941-5476 email: [zionpastor@fbcom.net](mailto:zionpastor@fbcom.net)

Office hours...Monday thru Thursday 9:00am-1:00pm or contact me to set up a time that works best for you.

#### Members on Church Council

Joy Combs, President, Aaron Horman, V. President,  
Sharon Elijah, Secretary, Duane Lasack, Jon Mansfield, Randy Horman.

#### New Council Members 2020

Janis Strackbein, David Niermeyer

### **ADDRESS UPDATE.**

If you are going away for more than a month or longer or are moving or  
your children change address,

Please contact the Church office to let us know that you will

Keep receiving your mailing on a timely basis.

Thank you.

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Doesn't it have a science fiction ring to it? But there is no fiction about where we are or when we are or more importantly, who we are. We are Christians breaking the threshold of another decade—the 20's. But what if we were to go back 100 years to the 1920's, what would we see? What was humanity up to? Well, the First World War had ended a few years before and just one year before Congress ratified the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment prohibiting alcohol. There was also a very big shift in our country that was recognized after the 1920 census was tabulated. For the first time in American history, more people lived in urban areas than rural areas. Americans were migrating to the city to find work and this caused a new cultural birth. A birth that would shift the landscape of the US forever.

Engineers and planners began to build cities that could accommodate larger populations. Infrastructure, housing, factories and support systems would form the new model for the American city. A model that was enticing to the people. Therefore, the city became the place to live because there was work, entertainment and resources to accommodate most needs.

One of the most fascinating things about this shift was how quickly it grew because hopeful people from Europe were still coming to the New World to make a better life for their families. But instead of moving into the interior of the country to farm, they settled in the cities. These new Americans became factory workers, builders or one of the many other occupations the city had to offer.

This shift to city life also caused a shift in the way Christians worshiped God. Instead of the measured growth of the rural church in America, urban churches began to claim a larger portion of Christian worshippers. Bigger churches with larger congregations as well as the changes in lifestyle began to change the way urban Christians practiced their faith.

So, what does this have to do us? Well, we are a rural church who, like many others, worry about our congregations and the changes that began over 100 years ago. Changes that we feel now threaten our wellbeing. But do we need to worry? NO, but we do need to begin our own shift, a shift that places Jesus Christ at the center of every aspect of our lives. It is the faithful shift that began with a little baby named Jesus. A baby that would grow up and begin the most important shift in human culture that has ever been experienced. It was and still is a shift that forms a transformation of the individual and then the community.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:1-2)

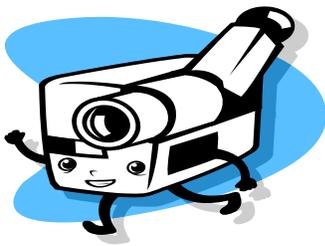
Christmas is the time to begin and continue our transformation into disciples of Jesus Christ. So, let us work together and share the great love of God that brought Jesus to earth. Let us share in His great revolution of the heart so that we can build God's kingdom now. If we do this, we will not have to worry about Zion United Church of Christ in Lowden, Iowa in this year, this decade or ever because we will reflect the life of Jesus Christ as we welcome others to join in our ministry for Him. Praise be to God!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Steve

Therefore, do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, (Romans 14:16-17)

# THIS MONTH USHERS

January 5, 2020	Church Council
January 12, 2020	Carmen & Scott Fields
January 19, 2020	Marcine Miller & Renate Port
<u>January 26, 2020</u>	<u>Senior High Fellowship</u>
February 2, 2020	Church Council
February 9, 2020	Gene & Janice Hamdorf, Joshua Hamdorf
February 16, 2020	Lou & Janice Krafock, Diane Esbaum
February 23, 2020	Senior High Fellowship



## VIDEOGRAPHERS 2020

### January

January 5, Cheryl Boedeker  
January 12, Jean Stepp  
January 19, Aaron Horman  
January 26, Jody Yutesler

### February

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



January 5; 2020 Carter & Drew  
January 12, 2020 Jaydon & Johny  
January 19, 2020 Josselyn & Sophie  
January 26, 2020 Jaydon & Drew

February 2, 2020 Johny & Sophie  
February 9, 2020 Carter & Josselyn  
February 16, 2020 Sophie & Jaydon  
February 22, 2020 Johny & Drew



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 6	Lois Latare, 303 E. Franklin Street, Eldridge, Iowa 52747
January 7	Welma Krueger, 1929 155 <sup>th</sup> Street, Lowden, Iowa 52255



January 6, 1984 Mel & Kelli Hamilton, 36 years



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (unofficial)  
DECEMBER 8, 2019**

Zion United Church of Christ Congregational Meeting was held December 8, 2019, immediately following worship service. The meeting was called to order by President Joy Combs. Pastor Steve Stepp opened with a prayer. The minutes were read by Secretary Sharon Elijah and approved on a motion by Julie Hoffmeier, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jody Yutesler. Motion carried.

Janis Krafock of the nominating committee announced that Janice Strackbein and David Niermeyer have agreed to serve a three-year term as council members. Robert Johnson moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leroy Luepker to approve Janice and David as council members. Motion carried. Janis also announced that Joy Combs has agreed to be the alternate delegate. Motion was made by Millie Muhs, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jody Yutesler to approve Joy Combs as alternate delegate. Motion carried.

Chairman of the Budget committee, Duane Lasack presented the budget for the 2020 year. Questions about the budget were answered by Duane and Aaron Horman. Leroy Luepker moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jody Yutesler to approve the budget as presented. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Duane Lasack moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Julie Hoffmeier to adjourn. Motion carried. Pastor Stepp closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Elijah, Secretary



**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**November 21, 2019**

Zion United Church of Christ Church Council met November 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. President Joy Combs called the meeting to order. Council members present were Joy Combs, Randy Horman, Duane Lasack, Aaron Horman and Sharon Elijah. Jon Mansfield joined later, and Linda Behrens was present through the treasurer's reports. Pastor Stepp opened with a devotion and prayer. Joys and concerns were shared.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved on a motion by Aaron, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Duane. Motion carried. The financial reports were approved on a motion by Aaron, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Randy. Motion carried.

Pastor Steve reviewed his report. The come-back program cards will be sent out next week. He has completed the Critical Incident Stress Management training. The North Cedar Bell program presents should be returned to church on December 15<sup>th</sup>, with distribution on December 18. The CROP walk

raised \$575. Discussion was held on Christian Education curriculum. Pastor's expense report was approved on a motion by Randy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Duane. Motion carried.

Calendar review:

November 27	Thanksgiving Eve service
December 1	Christmas dinner provided by Senior High Fellowship
December 14	Parents Night Out/Kids Night In
December 16	Evening Circle Christmas party
December 18	Church council meeting
December 24	Christmas Eve service

Old Business:

Joy thanked Aaron for all the work he did before and during the Slaton concert. We will need to purchase some covers for the new tables in Fellowship Hall. The old tables were sold. Aaron will proceed with the purchase of an electric candle for the eternal flame holder. Sharon and Joy will put together a program sheet for the church council.

New Business:

Snow removal was discussed with Duane volunteering to get some Ice Melt and Joy will talk to the Mooney's about snow removal. Council reviewed the 2020 budget. The Congregation Meeting will be held December 8<sup>th</sup>. More discussion was held on the new AC and heating units for the church and ideas for donations. Old hymnals were found in the cupboard in Fellowship Hall. Anyone wishing to have one should contact Joy. Council discussed the possibility of changing Christian Education times.

The Annual Meeting will be held January 26<sup>th</sup>.

Our next meeting will be December 18<sup>th</sup>. Duane moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jon to adjourn. Meeting adjourned. Pastor closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon Elijah, Secretary



**ZION EVENING CIRCLE**

**December 16, 2019**

11 members and 8 guests met for an Evening Circle Christmas party in Fellowship Hall on December 16, 2019. The social hour began at 6:00 with Christmas music played by Carter Horman on the piano. At 7:00 a delicious supper was served, catered by Mill Creek. The entrees were Boneless Beef Tips and Cheesy Chicken Squares with potatoes, green beans, salad and a choice of two desserts. The tables were decorated with Christmas center pieces from Marlene Wiedenhoff.

A beautifully wrapped gift of a Christmas decoration was presented to Pastor Steve and Jean in appreciation for all they do for Zion church.

Sharon Elijah



First, I want thank God for his many blessings he bestows upon us. A huge thank you to the volunteer teachers who dedicate their time, talents, and faith to our youth in the classrooms and beyond! Thank you to Jessica Coppess as well as our helpers in the classroom Makayla Schluter and Mariah Behrens. A special thank you to Carter & Cadence 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 take our belief and let it 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 belief with you this Christmas season and beyond! 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 29  
Annual Christmas Breakfast January 5<sup>th</sup> at 9AM.**

**In need of some additional teachers! If you are interested in helping teach our youth the word of God; please contact Kelly Nabb at (563) 249-2335. “More hands make less work!” Please consider helping in our classrooms and establishing a foundation of faith in our young ones! Thank you.**