

**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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*Lowden, IA*

*Permit No. 3*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Stop and consider  
God's wonders.*

Job 37:14



*July/August 2017*

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



**BEGINS  
SUNDAY, JULY 23<sup>RD</sup>  
5 DAYS OF WONDEROUS STORIES  
AND ACTIVITIES  
TELL EVERYONE TO COME AND  
ENJOY THE FUN!!!!  
AS WE LEARN ABOUT GOD**

**"A Biblical Description of the Christian Church"**

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:42-47



Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

This is an exciting time for Zion United Church of Christ in Lowden. The church council has begun the evaluation and accounting of our congregation and our ministry in Christ. This process has many facets and will take some time to complete, but it is a vital part of identifying our members and our purpose as we boldly continue God's mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

I would like us all to take a moment and think of what we value most about our faith in Jesus Christ and second, how the church community has helped form those Christian values. You see, the values we have received from Sunday School, Confirmation, attendance at worship services, participating in Vacation Bible School, being a part of a church activity group, or just socializing with members of the church have all helped shape who we are and how we live our lives. As Christians, we also believe that the more we participate in church activities, the closer we become as a community and the stronger our community becomes. And when our community is strong in Christ, we do not fear lack of participation. We do not fear lack of funds to keep the church open. We do not fear change or even the unknown because we trust in God and we feel God's presence through the people who come to share in the Word of God, Jesus Christ.

In the past six years, I have heard many comments about the state of our families, children, and culture. These perspectives have come from young and old alike and they all share a common thread. Our human values have shifted a great deal and those values have changed our Christian values as well. The problem with evaluating Christian values is that we often place them up against values we were raised in with the assumption that those values were pure.

You see, our values are rarely pure, but Jesus' values were. Therefore, if we are to change, we need to change as Christ would change to meet the needs of the people he came to serve. If we remember our Bible stories, the change Jesus brought was a great shift in the Hebrew values that were believed by many to be the values of God. But instead, those Hebrew values had been corrupted so Jesus taught us the right way to have a relationship with God and with each other. So as we look to the future of our ministry, we must not look into our past ministry and say that was the right way. We should instead always look to Jesus' ministry and use it as the road map of change for our future.

So now let us ask this question, "Has our church changed enough over the past 30 years to keep up with the ever-changing landscape of Lowden, of Iowa, of the Midwest, or of the USA? The answers I have received over my tenure here vary greatly. Some believe we have changed too much, while others believe we have fallen behind on change. Still others believe we are going as fast as we can if we are to keep everyone happy.

So as the council and the membership and ministry committee begin the evaluation and accounting of our congregation and our ministry in Christ, let us all ponder our purpose in God's mission; Jesus' ministry at Zion. Let us truly search our hearts and souls and ask, "I am saying, doing and giving all that I am able as our Savior Jesus Christ did in support of Zion United Church of Christ?"

May we all look to Jesus with joy and hope as we continue our journey of faith in this ever-changing world around us.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Steve

*"The way you store up treasure in heaven is by investing in getting people there."  
Rick Warren*

**"Every Christian is either a missionary or an impostor."**  
*Charles Spurgeon*

# USHERS

THIS  
MONTH

July 2	Church Council
July 9	Anne Harms & Annette Behrens
July 16	Rick & Mary Balke
July 23	Callie Tjaden & Rose Horman
July 30	Senior High Fellowship
August 6	Church Council
August 13	Ryan & Sarah Sawyer
August 20	Brian & Carolee Lohman
August 27	Senior High Fellowship
September 3	Church Council
September 10	Josh & Heather Easterly
September 17	Brenda Esbaum & Mary Huffman
September 24	Senior High Fellowship

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## VIDEOGRAPHERS FOR JULY



July 2, 2017	Donna Luepker
July 9, 2017	David Niermeyer
July 16, 2017	Aaron Horman
July 23, 2017	Cheryl Boedeker
July 30, 2017	Jody Yutesler

## VIDEOGRAPHERS FOR AUGUST

August 6, 2017	Jean Stepp
August 13, 2017	Jane Drewelow
August 20, 2017	Donna Luepker
August 27, 2017	David Niermeyer





### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 3	Mary Huffman, Londyn Rose Kahl
August 7	Judy Proesch
August 11	Sharon Kruckenberger, Jennifer Frederick
August 14	Marilyn Klahn, Allen Koch
August 15	*Brian Armstrong, Robert O'Howell
August 18	Bill Elijah
August 20	Brad Norton, Kim Klahn, Joby Proesch
August 21	Leon Kohlhoff
August 23	Adam Horman, Mariah Behrens
August 25	Bob Fields III
August 26	Dennis Boedeker
August 28	*Jason Hayton
August 29	Sandra Horman
August 30	Brynn Kahl
August 31	Madelynn Sherrill



*Happy Anniversary!*

August 1,	Duane & Terry Lasack
August 1,	Lonnie & Stacie Luepker
August 10.	Gerald & Alice Rowold
August 14,	Wilbert & Millie Muhs
August 19,	Mike & Pam Jensen
August 26,	Leroy & Donna Luepker
August 30,	Kevin & Beth Kahl



**WORSHIP  
& PICNIC  
IN THE  
PARK**

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS**

The Music and  
Worship Committee  
has chosen  
**Sunday, July 23<sup>th</sup>**  
**@ 10:00 am**

for our outdoor  
worship service and  
potluck picnic  
**at the Lowden Park.**

You won't want  
to miss it...  
so mark it!

**SEE YOU IN CHURCH!**

*Thank & You!*

*To those who helped in any way....*

*Thanks so much....*

*You saved the day!!*

*Thank you for your love, care & prayers  
after our house fire.*

*Steve & Ellen Waldorf*





## ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES APRIL 18, 2017

Zion United Church of Christ Council met at 7 p.m. on April 18, 2017. The meeting was called to order by President David Niermeyer. Pastor opened with a prayer. Those in attendance were Pastor Steve, David Niermeyer, Jamie Nabb, Bonnie Kintzel, Joy Combs, Merlin Conrad and Sharon Elijah. Linda Behrens was present through the treasurer's reports.

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

Secretary's minutes were read and made official on a motion by Joy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bonnie. Motion carried. The treasurer's reports were read. Jamie moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bonnie to accept the financial reports except for the Endowment Fund. Motion carried.

Pastor's report and expense report was read and approved on a motion by Merlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bonnie. Motion carried.

<b><u>Calendar review:</u></b>	April 30	Spring dinner
	5-1 to 5-9	Pastor's vacation
	May 11	Pastor review with Jonna Jensen
	May 23	Movie Night
	June 4	Mission committee
		Continental breakfast after church

### **Old Business:**

The windows in the Education Building are installed and completely paid for by donations and memorial fund money.

Discussion was held on the repairs needed in the kitchen area. Hometown discovered while viewing the pipes with a camera that the drain pipe from the sink, under the counter and 10 feet into Fellowship Hall is orange burg which is collapsing. Al Mohr has some ideas for the repair. It will be looked into in more detail after the spring dinner.

### **New Business:**

On a motion by Joy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Merlin, it was approved to take Dwight Niermeyer's name off the membership list at Zion.

Membership giving and membership requirements and outreach to members was discussed. Joy moved, Bonnie 2<sup>nd</sup> to have a committee to evaluate membership. Carried. This discussion is ongoing and will be talked about again next month.

The next meeting will be May 16, 2017, at 7:00. Our meeting was adjourned on a motion by Bonnie, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joy.

Respectfully submitted  
Sharon Elijah, Secretary

### **ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MAY 16, 2017**



Zion United Church of Christ Council met at 7 p.m. on May 16, 2017. The meeting was called to order by President David

Niermeyer. Pastor opened with a reading and a prayer. Those in attendance were David Niermeyer, Pastor Steve, Bonnie Kintzel, Joy Combs, Sharon Elijah and Jamie Nabb. Merlin Conrad and Linda Behrens were absent.

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

Secretary's minutes were read and made official on a motion by Joy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bonnie. Motion carried. The treasurer's reports were read. Bonnie moved, Joy 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept the financial reports as written. David will meet with the Endowment committee in the next few weeks.

Pastor's report and expense report was read and approved on a motion by Jamie, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joy. Pastor announced he will be the next moderator of the Eastern Iowa Association beginning in September 2017. This is a two-year term. Pastor read to us the purpose of the church as established in our constitution. He hopes to get more people to come to Bible Study.

<b><u>Calendar Review:</u></b>	May 23	Movie Night
	June 4	Continental breakfast following worship
	June 11	Pie auction following worship
	June 20	Church council meeting

**Old Business:**

Jamie gave a report on the spring dinner. Approximately 199 meals were served. The net income is about the same as last year.

The Building and grounds committee will meet shortly to discuss the kitchen drainage repair and the parsonage garage roof. The Sun News bill was discussed and will be paid. The membership lists and ongoing outreach to members was discussed. The technology committee had met.

**New Business:**

We discussed thoughts on the evaluating meeting that was held. We have a goal to bring new members to Zion and have more outreach to current members who don't attend church. We would like to see an increase in church attendance.

The next council meeting will be June 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Meeting was adjourned on a motion by Jamie, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joy. Pastor closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted  
Sharon Elijah, Secretary



**Missions Committee Meeting  
June 2, 2017**

Present: Linda Behrens  
Carmen Fields  
Jess Coppess  
Pastor Steve (Late)

Sharon Elijah  
Megan Horman  
Marlene Wiedenhoff

Absent: Mary Campbell

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Linda.

Approval of Minutes:

The April 2, 2017, meeting minutes were reviewed with no recommended changes.

Financial Report:

Linda needs to buy stamps for birthday cards.

Jessica moved to approve buying stamps. Megan seconded and it was approved.

Old Business:

Linda reported she spoke with Duane Lasack about reinvestment of the Mission Committee's two CDs. He recommended Vanguard mutual funds.

Megan moved reinvestment of \$30,000 into Vanguard. Jessica seconded and it was approved.

New Business:

The continental breakfast was a success. We had a very good turnout and donations totaled approx. \$130.

Members present discussed projects for 2017. The idea of a "Sundae Sunday" on the last Sunday before Sunday school begins as a way to say good-bye to summer was considered. More discussion needs to take place. Members agreed to send project ideas electronically so that they may be discussed in further detail and voted on at the next meeting.

There are four Christian education children signed up for camp. Members present agreed they would like to give \$50 to each camper to help pay for the registration fee.

Megan moved to approve giving each camper \$50.

Sharon seconded and the motion was approved.

The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Jessica Coppess



**ZION EVENING CIRCLE**  
**May 15, 2017**

Zion Evening Circle started their May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting with 10 members using their "crafty" talents cutting gears out of paper plates and cutting out larger gears for Vacation Bible School under the direction of Terry Lasack. We had many types and styles of gears! Joy gave devotions entitled "Mother's Day" while we were working.

After delicious refreshments served by Terry and Jody, we began our business meeting. Donna opened the meeting with roll call. The secretary's report was read and approved. Julie read the treasurer's report. Jody moved, Terry 2<sup>nd</sup> that the bills be paid. Motion carried. Thank you notes from the families of Wilbert Wenndt and Carma Conrad were read as well as a thank you from the church council for being invited to the last meeting.

President Donna thanked all those who worked at and provided food for Carma's funeral. Terry and Joy set up the tables the night before. Terry purchased 2 water pitchers for the church. Donna thanked Jody for taking care of the flowers and bulletin board in May. Janis and Janice will serve the Senior Breakfast on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Julie and Marlene F. will serve the Committee on Ministry May 16. Terry is in charge of flowers for June.

There is a sign-up sheet for donations and workers at the ice cream sale the Friday night of Lowden garage sales. If you are working, please wear your church shirt if you have one.

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, we will have breakfast at 8:00 at Mill Creek in Clarence and then go to Tipton to tour the Cedar County Historical Society buildings. The cost of the breakfast is \$8.00 including tip. Plans are being made for our outing on Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. We will be visiting the German-American Heritage museum in Davenport. Donna provided us with some reading material about the museum exhibit about Zion church. Janis will have more information at our June meeting.

Meeting adjourned  
Sharon Elijah, Secretary



**ZION EVENING CIRCLE  
June 19, 2017**

Zion Evening Circle met for our annual breakfast outing at Mill Creek Café in Clarence on June 19, 2017. 13 members enjoyed the bountiful breakfast after which Donna led a short meeting. Julie gave the treasurer's report. The profit from our brownie sundae/root beer float stand at the garage sale on Friday night was \$149.36.

Donna thanked Janis and Janice for serving the Senior Breakfast. Janice reported we will need a new guest book. Donna also thanked Linda, Jody, and Janis for helping her serve at the garage sales. Mention was made of washing the acolyte gowns and Joy volunteered to take care of that. Janis announced that our outing will be on July 19<sup>th</sup>, (a Wednesday). We will meet at church at 9:30 and then do some shopping in DeWitt; go to Davenport for lunch at the Machine Shed and then visit the German-American Heritage Center.

Serving refreshments after the summer Sunday services was discussed. We will talk more about this in May.

Zion will have their outside church service on July 23 at 10:00 which will be followed by a potluck lunch. On July 18 Marilyn and Jean will serve the Committee on Ministry. Terry will take care of July flowers; Millie the August flowers and Jean the September flowers. Janice and Millie will serve the Committee on Ministry in September.

After the meeting adjourned we traveled to Tipton to visit the Cedar County Historical Museum. We had a tour of the out buildings: the church, the log cabin, the hardware store and the Bed Bug School and saw the many exhibits in the museum. It was a beautiful day and we enjoyed the outing very much.

Sharon Elijah  
Secretary



## VBS PIE AUCTION

We held our annual Pie Auction on Sunday, June 25. All proceeds will go towards funding our week of VBS including meals, supplies, and shirts

for all participants and volunteers.

Thank you to all those hands who made the delicious pies donated! AND a great big thank you goes out to all those who purchased pies for the benefit of VBS! We raised \$1890! Thank you again for your generous support of this great program.

A special thanks to Darrell Yutesler, Jr. for auctioneering once again for us! He has done this job for us many years and we appreciate it! And thank you to Merlin Conrad and Nathan Nabb for helping be our ring men for the event! Fun was had by all who participated!

***Thank you!!!***

## **Giving to God is vital to continuing Christ's ministry at Zion**

Did you ever miss a Sunday and forget to catch up on your gifts to God? Most everyone has, but now you can set up your giving pattern through your bank.



Thank you Zion UCC for providing your fellowship hall at no cost to the Lion's Club so they could hold the trivia night to raise funds for Logan's service dog.

## **AUTOMATICALLY TRANSFER YOUR OFFERING**

Any member can ask their Financial Institution to set up an Automatic Transfer from their account to the account of their choice at Zion UCC. The transfer can be set up on a weekly, monthly or customized basis.

This convenience saves time, the trouble of writing the check out and the cost of the check itself.

The transfers are listed on your bank statement making it easy for you to follow each transaction.

If you are unfamiliar with this process or have specific questions, your Financial Institution or I will be able to answer any concerns and questions regarding this process.

Sincerely,

Sandy Esbaum

Financial Secretary Zion United Church of Christ

## **Vacation Bible School**

### **Maker Sun Factory**

**Begins July 23 and goes until 28**

**Come and join the FUN!!!**

## **MARK YOU CALENDAR**

**The Music & Worship committee**

**has chosen July 23th**

**for the outdoor worship service  
and Potluck Picnic at Lowden Park.**

**SEE YOU THERE.**