

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Rev. Stephen Stepp, Pastor*

*Nonprofit Org.
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RETURN SERVICE REQUEST

July/August 2018

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Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus,

I begin to worry when Christians say things like, "All the people coming across the boarder from Mexico are criminals and terrorists." When I hear this, I feel that fear, anger, hatred or greed has entered their hearts, and they are imprisoning the love God. Because of this imprisonment, they freely share whatever rhetoric they believe to be truth, all the while claiming that the Bible justifies the atrocities that are being committed right under our noses. Now, if you believe that I am being political, then so be it, because I cannot allow the truth of the Gospel to be silenced because that truth reveals the true love of God shown to us by the person and work of Jesus Christ.

- How many of us believe that Jesus would approve of children being forcibly separated from their parents?
- How many of us believe that Jesus would deny any of God's people refuge?
- How many of us believe that Jesus would deny any person food, water, shelter, medical care or comfort?

"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." James 2:14-17

I believe that the author of James was thinking about what Jesus said in Matthew chapter 25 verses 31-46. **So here is my invitation, look it up in your Bible and read it, then come to church on Wednesday, July 18 @ 2pm or 6 pm and let's sit down and talk about our faith, our life, and our world as we examine what Jesus teaches us about loving one another.**

May God's love guide you as you ponder the meaning of a faith driven life in Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Steve

**Being taught to avoid talking about politics and religion has led to a lack of understanding of politics and religion.
What we should have been taught was how to have a civil conversation about a difficult topic.**

RELIGION AND POLITICS
A BIBLE STUDY OF FAITH!
WENDESDAY, JULY 18
2:00 PM AND
6:00 PM



LET'S TALK ABOUT FAITH, JESUS
AND THE WORLD WE LIVE IN!

“No one should ever need to ask us, ‘Are you a Christian?’ because they should know we are by the way we live our lives.”

author unknown

USHERS

THIS
MONTH

July 1	Church Council
July 8	Brenda Esbaum, Mary Huffman, Sharon Kruckenberg, Rose Horman
July 15	Dennis & Cheryl Boedeker
July 22	Laettner Esbaum, Kip Esbaum, Bobbie & Mary Campbell
July 29	Senior High Fellowship
August 5	Church Council
August 12	Gene & Jaynice Esbaum, Joshua Hamdorf
August 19	Aaron & Megan Horman, Gene & Linda Horman
August 26	Senior High Fellowship
Sept. 2	Church Council
Sept. 9	Jane Armstrong, Al & Linda Behrens, Mary Huffman
Sept. 16	Mike Jensen, Wilbert & Millie Muhs
Sept. 23	Sandy & Allen Koch, Ben & Stacy Traver
Sept. 30	Senior High Fellowship

VIDEOGRAPHERS FOR JULY



July 1	Aaron Horman
July 8	Cheryl Boedeker
July 15	Jody Yutesler
July 22	Jane Drewelow
July 29	Jean Stepp

VIDEOGRAPHERS FOR AUGUST

August 5	Donna Luepker
August 12	Aaron Horman
August 19	Cheryl Boedeker
August 26	Jody Yutesler



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- July 2 Gaylon Esbaum
- July 3 Lou Krafock
- July 7 Stacie Luepker
- July 9 Nathan Nabb
- July 11 Darrell Yutesler,
- July 12 Donna Luepker
- July 16 Nick Combs
- July 17 Leroy Luepker
- July 18 Beth Kahl
- July 19 Ian Fox, *Dustin Peet
- July 20 Sue Monson,
- July 22 Dalton Yutesler
- July 23 Gene Hamdorf, Diane Esbaum
- July 25 Mike Jensen
- July 26 Carmen Fields, Jamian Horman
- July 27 Mary Louise Horman, Sandy Fields,
- July 28 Janis Krafock, Shandon Hoffmeier, Kelli Esbaum
- July 31 *Christy Combs



- July 2 Gaylon Esbaum, P.O. Box 433.
87 1st Street., Apt C
Lowden, Iowa 52255
- July 3 Lou Krafock. 95 Main Street. Lowden, Iowa
52255
- July 27 Mary Louise Horman, P.O. Box 448,
Lowden, Iowa 52255



Happy Anniversary!

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

July 6	*Jacob & Heidi Neill	15 yrs.
July 7	Chris & Phyllis Boedeker	62 yrs.
July 12	Jennifer & *Patrick Glover	10 years
July 16	Nick & *Christy Combs	13 years
July 19	Dave & Rose Horman	
July 27	Aaron & Megan Horman	16 yrs.
July 27	Brian & Carolee Lohman	22 yrs.
July 30	Al & Vicki Mohr	42 yrs.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 3	Mary Huffman, Londyn Rose Kahl
August 4	Heather Easterly
August 7	Judy Proesch
August 11	Sharon Kruckenberg, 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, Janine Fadale
August 30	Brynn Kahl
August 31	Madelynn Sherrill



Happy Anniversary!

August 1	Duane & Terry Lasack	48 Years
	Lonnie & Stacie Luepker	26Years
August 14	Wilbert & Millie Muhs	48 Years
August 19	Mike & Pam Jensen	35 Years
August 26	Leroy & Donna Luepker	57 Years
August 30	Kevin & Beth Kahl	43 Years

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 17, 2018



Zion United Church of Christ Council met at 7:00 p.m. on May 17, 2018. President Joy Combs called the meeting to order. Pastor Steve opened with devotion and a prayer.

Those in attendance were Jamie Nabb, Rick Balke, Bonnie Kintzel, Sharon Elijah, and Joy Combs. Linda Behrens was present through the treasurer's report. Heather Easterly also joined us to give a presentation. Joys and concerns were shared.

The secretary's minutes were read and made official on a motion by Bonnie, 2nd by Rick. Motion carried.

The treasurer's reports were approved as corrected on a motion by Jamie, 2nd by Rick. Motion carried.

Calendar Review: June 3	Worship begins at 9:00
June 5	Movie night
June 9	Pastor officiates at wedding

- June 10 Mission committee
brunch after worship
- June 17 Pie auction after worship
- June 19-23 Regional Youth Event at
Grinnell

Pastor's expense report was approved on a motion by Sharon, 2nd by Jamie, motion carried.

Heather Easterly gave an interesting presentation on an idea to have a "Kids Night In" at church. It will be a night, once a month, for free child care while parents take a break and get a night off. Themed nights will be planned, with a healthy meal, games, crafts and a movie. Registration must be made ahead of time. Jamie moved, 2nd by Rick, that the church council give Heather Easterly our support and blessing to move forward with plans for the "Kids Night In" program. Motion carried.

Old business:

President Joy announced that we have the new insurance policy in force.

Jamie suggested that we move the donations for the parsonage and church roof to the general fund. This will prevent the money from going to the Endowment fund first and then being transferred to the general fund.

The recent church potluck was discussed.

New business:

The summer outdoor church service will be held July 22nd.

Our next meeting will be held June 14th. Jamie moved, 2nd by Rick that meeting be adjourned. Pastor closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Elijah, secretary



ZION EVENING CIRCLE

MAY 21, 2018

Eleven members of Zion Evening Circle and Pastor Steve met May 21, 2018. The first order of business was tracing and cutting out rain drops and surf boards for VBS. Terry then gave devotions entitled "DIY".

President Terry called the meeting to order with members answering roll call by telling their favorite flower. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved as presented. Thank you notes from Marlene Wiedenhoff, Sister Water Project and Nathan Nabb were read.

It was announced that in addition to Linda and Julie serving the COM in May, Donna, Terry and Barry Hoffmeier also helped. They served 27. Because of the number of people served, Circle will pay for the chicken used for the meal.

Julie moved to pay bills, 2nd by Jean. Motion carried. Terry thanked those who served the COM, Donna for taking care flowers in April and Janis, Jody and Jane for serving the Senior Breakfast. 5 seniors and 13 guests were served at the breakfast on May 13th.

More ideas were discussed about the 75th anniversary of Evening Circle. Donna showed us the dish that was made commemorating the 25th anniversary in 1968. There is a sign up sheet for donations toward the root beer float/brownie sundae sale at the Lowden Garage Sale days on June 8th. Please put your name on the items brought for the sale.

Pastor Steve showed us a picture of the Advent Candles Circle will be purchasing for church. Terry announced that there are supplies by the coffee maker in the kitchen to be used for coffee after church this summer. Julie volunteered to wash the acolyte gowns.

Project committee announced that our June meeting will be the 18th, with breakfast at 8:00 at Mill Creek Café. On July 11th our outing will be to Circa 21 for a matinee and lunch. Pastor Steve reminded us of the outdoor church service to be held July 22nd, which is also the day VBS begins.

June flowers

Millie

July flowers

Janis

Aug flowers

Jean

Sept. flowers

Marlene W.

Serving COM July 17

Rose & Terry

Serving COM Sept. 18

Marilyn & Janis

Winning the last "conference door prize" was Julie.

Terry declared the meeting adjourned. Refreshments were served by Linda and Janis K.

Sharon Elijah, secretary

**ZION EVENING CIRCLE
ANNUAL BREAKFAST
JUNE 18, 2018**

Thirteen Evening Circle members met for breakfast at Mill Creek Café in Clarence at 8:00 a.m. June 18, 2018. It was a delicious, filling breakfast; thanks to Janis and Janice for planning this outing.

President Terry thanked those who worked for the garage sale root beer float/brownie sundae sale: Linda, Jody, Jane and Terry. We made a profit of \$117.50. Even though probably not attended as well as last year, it was still a profitable endeavor without a lot of work.

Thank you notes were read from Grace Proesch, Phyllis Boedeker and Tessa Fields.

Discussion was held on our 75th anniversary. July 15th is the date when we will celebrate during the church service and with cake (instead of cookies) after church. Circle will provide the altar flowers. We hope every member will be able to attend this special event.

Our Circa 21 outing will be July 11th. Meet at church at 10:30.

Flowers for July – Janice S.; August – Jean; September—Jody. Serving the COM will be Rose and Terry in July and Marilyn and Janis K in September.

Sharon Elijah
Secret

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Music and Worship Committee has chosen Sunday, July 22nd 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!



75th Anniversary Celebration

EVENING CIRCLE

**INVITES YOU TO HELP THEM
CELEBRATE 75 YEARS OF
SERVICE TO GOD & ZION
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BY JOINING THEM IN
WORSHIP TO WITNESS THE
REDEDICATION OF
EVENING CIRCLE
IN THEIR SERVICE OF
JESUS CHRIST.**

**THEN JOIN THEM IN A
CAKE RECEPTION FOLLOWING
WORSHIP.**

**A SPECIAL GUEST MAYBE
ATTENDING.**

INITIAL MEETING
★ OF ZION'S GIRLS' GUILD
HELD FRIDAY EVENING

The initial meeting of the Girls' Guild, a new organization of the Zion's Evangelical and Reformed church, was held in the church basement Friday evening. Miss Meta Richmann, appointed sponsor, presided and explained the purpose of the Guild.

Officers were chosen as follows: President, Ina Kahl; vice-president, Leona Strackbein; secretary, Allison Rix, and treasurer, Carolyn Strackbein.

The next meeting will be held at 8 p. m. Monday, August 16, in the Wm. Kahl home, southwest of Lowden, with Ina Kahl as hostess. Should a different meeting place be chosen, notice will be given. Each member is urged to bring one or more eligible members; a tea towel, embroidery floss and quilt patches.

SPRING DINNER UPDATE

The preliminary numbers are in! As of April 20, 2018, the Spring Dinner raised approximately \$3,700, but there are a few bills remaining to be paid, and a few member donations to be received. If you have not had an opportunity to make your financial donation to support the Spring Dinner, it's not too late! The books are still open! Please leave it in the collection plate, or either send it to the church office, or drop it off. Also, Cheryl and Jody will now rotate off the committee. If you are interested in the opportunity to serve, please let one of the Spring Dinner Committee members or the Nominating Committee know.

Thank you!

Cheryl Boedeker, Jody Yutesler, Diane Esbaum, Jean Stepp, Julie Hoffmeier, and Susan Monson

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

VBS WEEK

SUNDAY, JULY 22 - THURSDAY JULY 26

**MOVIE NIGHT
TUESDAY
JULY 17
6:30 PM
ZION
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

We will be showing a great movie about faith and conviction in the face of trial, persecution and war.

You don't want to miss it.

Be sure to bring your favorite movie snacks.

Special Dates in July and August

- July 11 Evening Circle Circa 21 trip
- July 15 Evening Circle 75-year Celebration
- July 17 Movie Night
- July 22 Worship in the Park 10:00 am with
Potluck Picnic to Follow
- July 22 Vacation Bible School begins at
5:00 pm
- July 26 Vacation Bible School Finale at
7:00 pm
- August 5 Rev. Lisa Gaston will lead our
worship service
- August 12 Rev. Bob Hamilton will lead our
worship service