

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

402 Main Street

P.O. Box 339

Lowden, IA 52255-0339

Rev. Stephen Stepp, Pastor

Nonprofit Org.

U.S. Postage Paid

Lowden, IA

Permit No. 3

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MAY & JUNE 2019



Dates to Keep in Mind

May 12 Mother's Day

May 12 – Last Day of Christian Ed classes
till fall

May 12 9:00 am Seniors Breakfast

May 12 10:15 Senior Appreciation

May 15-7:30 Baccalaureate at NC High

June 2 – Mission's Brunch following worship

June 16 – Father's Day

ANNUAL PIE AUCTION

June 19 8:00 Evening Circle's Breakfast
At Mill Creek

VBS Dates – July 21 thru July 25

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

History-present, tradition-innovation, tension-ease, conflict-peace, what we want-what God wants. What do these all have in common? They are not antonyms, and most would say they are certainly not synonyms. I believe if we compare the words and phrases, we will see that they augment each other in many ways and must be applied to the way we DO CHURCH.

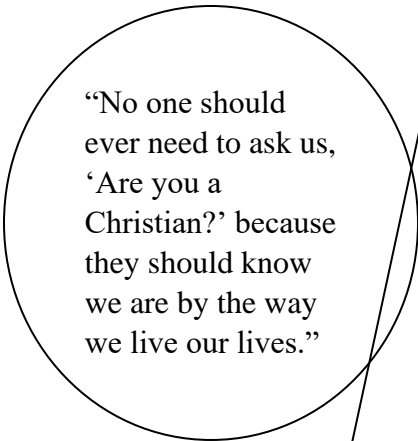
In our faith and in our church community, we must develop innovated ways to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our ever-changing world. To do this, we must study and understand our history. We must study the present culture with an open heart. We must consider the validity and impact of our traditions. We must recognize what Christ teaches us and put those teachings at the center of our ministry together. It begins by intentionally reading the Bible together with purpose to develop a direction for our faith, for our congregation, and for our community. May God open our hearts so that we may understand our purpose and direction in the world.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve


What does it mean?

In *The Brothers Karamazov*, Fyodor Dostoyevsky tells a story about an old peasant woman, very wicked, who died without leaving a single good deed behind. All she did, she did for herself alone, illicitly taking what she could take and acquiring by legitimate means what she could acquire, but not giving anything to anyone, nothing useful or beautiful, no helpful deeds, not even a kind look. After she died, the devil seized her and plunged her into the lake of fire. The story continues,

So her guardian angel stood and wondered what good deed of hers he could remember to tell to God; "She once pulled up an onion in her garden," said he, "and gave it to a beggar woman." And God answered: "You take that onion then, hold it out to her in the lake, and let her take hold and be pulled out. And if you can pull her out of the lake, let her come to Paradise, but if the onion breaks, then the woman must stay where she is." The angel ran to the woman and held out the onion to her. "Come," said he, "catch hold and I'll pull you out." He began cautiously pulling her out. He had just pulled her right out, when the other sinners in the lake, seeing how she was being drawn out, began catching hold of her so as to be pulled out with her. But she was a very wicked woman and she began kicking them. "I'm to be pulled out, not you. It my onion, not yours." As soon as she said that, the onion broke. And the woman fell into the lake...So the angel wept and went away.¹



"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."



"Perhaps the older saints in our faith communities—whose primary roles are not training, feeding, transporting, clothing or financially supporting the young—are uniquely suited for bringing the souls of the young to term; they have the time and the wisdom to wait and listen."

Holly Catterton Allen
*Intergenerational Christian
Formation*

¹ Volf, Miroslav. *Free of Charge*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005) 19.

USHERS

THIS
MONTH



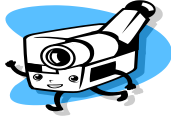
May 5	Church Council
May 12	Brian & Carolee Lohman, Tessa Holst Ann Harms
May 19	Kyle & Melissa Gottschalk Royce & Lisa Gottschalk
May 26	Church Council
June 2	Church Council
June 9	Jim & Jan Olsen, Brenda Esbaum Sharon Kruckenberg
June 16	Rose Horman, Mariah Behrens Dean & Mandi Behrens
June 23	Laettner & Kip Esbaum, Tanya & Keith Stewart
June 30	Senior High Fellowship
July 7	Church Council
July 14	Gene & Jaynice Hamdorf, Joshua Hamdorf
July 21	Mike & Pam Jensen, Janine & Todd Fadale
July 29	Senior High Fellowship



May 5	Johny Amina & Jaydon Nabb
May 12	Matthew Bramlett & Josselyn Easterly
May 19	Carter Horman & Drew Behens
May 26	No Acolytes

There are no acolytes during the summer months their job will begin again in September.

VIDEOGRAPHERS FOR MAY



May 5	Donna Luepker
May 12	Jody Yutesler
May 19	Aaron Horman
May 26	David Niermeyer

VIDEOGRAPHERS FOR JUNE

June 2	Jane Drewelow
June 9	Cheryl Boedeker
June 16	David Niermeyer
June 23	Jody Yutesler
June 30	Donna Luepker



MAY BIRTHDAY

May 1	Tucker Coppess
May 2	Jessica Coppess
May 5	Andrew Fields
May 7	Merlin Conrad
May 9	Brandon Horman
May 12	*Beryl Esbaum
May 14	Bob Hamdorf, Nadine Lafrenz
May 21	Carter Horman
May 22	Jonie Fields
May 23	Donavon Freese, Marilyn Lafrenz, *Rodney Port
May 24	Rick Bentrott
May 28	Spencer Armstrong
May 29	Cole Hamilton, Beckham Horman

May 30 Josh Horman, Skyler Horman



MAY BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER

May 14 Bob Hamdorf, 1015 Wesley Drive,
Maquoketa, Iowa 52060-2637

May 14 Nadine Lafrenz, 1888, 190th Street, Lowden,
Iowa 52255



Happy Anniversary!

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 5	Rev. Steve & Jean Stepp	35 yrs.
May 10	Andrew & *Amanda Kahl	12 yrs.
May 13	Dean & Lisa Hamdorf	29 yrs.
May 16	Kip & *Sandy Esbaum	27 yrs.
May 19	*Ryan & Angie William	11 yrs.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 2	Marge Norton
June 3	Lori Dittmer, Kelly Nabb
June 5	Sharon Johnson, Tim Drewelow, Caylee Curley
June 6	Marvella Fehling, Cheryl Boedeker
June 7	Susan Hamdorf
June 8	Donna Breneman
June 11	Cadence Horman
June 12	Rev. Steve Stepp
June 13	Grace Proesch

June 15 Leea Marie Hoffmeier
 June 17 Kyle Gottschalk, Shae Mohr
 June 20 Alden Klahn, Milo Easterly
 June 22 Kyra Lange
 June 23 Rodney Port
 June 24 Carol Boedeker, Don Breneman
 June 28 Dorothy Pingel, Steve Poppe, Tessa Fields
 June 29 Paxton Horman
 June 30 Kalab Klahn



CARD SHOWER:

June 2 Marge Norton, 408 2nd Avenue
 Apartment 17 Clarence, Iowa 52216-0017
 June 6 Marvella Fehling, Wheatland Nursing Home
 PO Box 369, Wheatland, Iowa 52777
 June 24 Carol Boedeker, 507 Hall Ave. PO Box 177,
 Lowden, Iowa 52255-0177
 June 28 Dorothy Pingel, 404 McKinley Ave.,
 PO Box 402, Lowden, Iowa.



Happy Anniversary!

June 1	Bill & Sharon Elijah	56 years
June 3	Bob & Jonie Fields	19 years
June 5	Harlan & Florence Deerberg	64 years
June 7	Beryl & Diane Esbaum	39 years
June 9	Dana & *Paul Moran	12 years
June 16	Rick & Karen Bentrrott	40 years
June 20	Dean & Mandi Behrens	21 years
June 24	Wes & Ladon Griesbach	47 years
June 28	Adam & Lisa Horman	16 years
June 29	Chuck & Donna Breneman	56 years

June 30

Lou & Janis
Krafock

57

years



HOSPITALITY TEAM

The Hospitality Team met on April 14, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. Pastor Steve opened with a prayer. Those in attendance were Church Council Member, Jon Mansfield, and Mary Balke, Marlene Fox, Marcine Miller, and Janis Krafock.

We hold a discussion about how we could improve our generosity to our visitors as well as our church family. Also, making them feel welcome, creating a pleasant atmosphere and encourage them to be more involved with our Church.

**Respectfully submitted
Janis Krafock**

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES March 14, 2019

Zion United Church of Christ Council met March 14, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. President Joy Combs called the meeting to order. Pastor Steve opened with a devotional and a prayer. Those in attendance were Jon Mansfield, Duane Lasack, Aaron Horman, Joy Combs and Sharon Elijah. Rick Balke and Linda Behrens were absent.

Joys and concerns were shared. The secretary's report was read and made official on a motion by Aaron, 2nd by Duane. Motion carried. The treasurer's reports were read for January and February. Moved by Aaron, 2nd by Jon to approve the reports. Carried.

Calendar review:

March 20 Lenten service at Bennett

March 27 Lenten service at Lowden with lasagna supper before worship

April 3	Lenten service at Wheatland
April 9	Movie night
April 10	Lenten service at Tipton
April 11	Council meeting
April 14	Palm Sunday
April 15	Evening Circle
April 18	Maundy Thursday service at Wheatland
April 19	Good Friday service at Clarence
April 21	Easter service, also sunrise service
April 28	Spring dinner

Pastor's report was read. Discussion was held on having altar communion every other month. Pew communion will be in April, June, August, October and December. Altar communion will be on the alternate months. Pastor reported many YouTube views of our church services. He is planning to take vacation from April 30 through May 7. Pastor would like to have Christian Ed teachers take a first aid and/or CPR class this spring.

Old business:

The mission committee has agreed to pay for the movie license. A light in the sanctuary has been repaired. Joy will check with Rick to see about the Alliant Energy repair. Pastor will see about adding a calendar to the church's website.

New business:

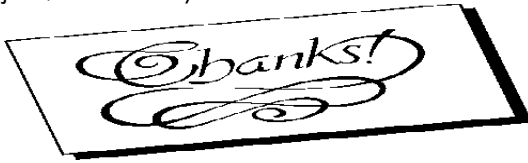
Bonnie has had the Lowden Fire Department check on the smoke alarms in our buildings. Derrick Lange has suggested places where alarms are needed in the kitchen and sanctuary. Duane moved, 2nd by Jon, that we purchase smoke detectors with CO detectors and long lasting battery life. Motion carried. Aaron will talk to Bonnie and/or the Lowden Fire Department about this.

President Joy would like to have a mission statement from each committee in the church. Our next meeting will be April 11th.

Aaron moved, 2nd by Duane that meeting be adjourned. Carried. Pastor closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon Elijah, Secretary



Zion Evening Circle wishes to thank those who gave flowers for Easter.

Our sanctuary was alive with flowers in tribute to the risen Lord. Thank you very kindly.

The Flower Committee,

Donna Luepker, Jean Stepp and Janice Strackbein

ZION EVENING CIRCLE

APRIL 16, 2019



19 guests joined 12 Evening Circle members for a very interesting talk given by Ryan Kedley on April 15, 2019. Ryan, the son of Pat and Peg Kedley of Lowden, now living with his family in DeWitt, is a member of the DCI. He told us about his work and investigations he has been involved in. We very much appreciated the guests coming to hear Ryan, who gave a most engaging presentation. A dessert was served by Julie, Terry and Janis.

President Terry Lasack called the meeting to order with roll call. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and declared approved. A thank you note from the Committee on Ministry was read. President Terry thanked all those who helped with the Lenten supper, the flower committee, Janice and Jody for serving the Committee on Ministry in March and the project committee for getting our speaker for the night. Janice was also thanked for repotting the plant in the Educational building.

Joy gave a report on the Lenten lasagna meal. 91 people were served and we made a profit of \$512.95. Members should be thinking about they want to do with this profit so it can be decided at the next meeting.

Donna representing the flower committee for Easter reported there were 27 plants ordered and they will be in place for the Easter Sunrise and Easter services.

The coffee pot used by the Committee on Ministry has been broken. Joy volunteered to purchase a new one.

President Terry announced that Marlene Wiedenhoff is now residing at Prairie Hills in Tipton and would welcome visitors. She has resigned from being courtesy chairman.

The Senior Breakfast was discussed. It will be held May 12th and Janice, Rose and Julie will serve. Discussion was held on a trip to the Ronald McDonald house in Iowa City. We will do this on June 17th and serve a meal. Our annual breakfast at Mill Creek will be June 19th.

Our next meeting, on May 20th, will be working on a project for VBS. Jane and Sharon will serve refreshments, devotions will be given by Donna and Linda is in charge of May flowers. The May 21st Committee on Ministry meeting will be served by Millie and Terry.

Meeting was adjourned.

Sharon Elijah, Secretary



Sunday, June 2nd,

The Mission Committee invites you to join us at our 2nd annual Brunch on the first Sunday of our early church start time. We hope a lot of you come and enjoy some good food along with some good fellowship time. We will be asking a "Free Will" offering to go towards a special project (more details will follow) so be on the lookout for more information.