

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
402 Main Street
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Lowden, IA 52255-0339
Rev. Stephen Stepp, Pastor

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NOVEMBER 2017

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Christmas Dinner 2017

Senior High Fellowship would like to invite everyone come and enjoy the annual Christmas Dinner in our fellowship hall on Sunday, December 3rd, following the worship service. Be ready to enjoy great food, wonderful people, intriguing conversation, fun games, and prizes.

“Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.15 He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

Isaiah 7:13-16



The Evening Circle will be sponsoring the annual “Make our Sanctuary Beautiful.” Joy Combs, Jane Drewelow, and Janis Krafock will be taking orders on Sunday, November 5th thru Friday, November 17th. The

committee does not have a price list yet, but will have it by November 5th when they are selling them. If you prefer giving to a favorite Church program, like Baskets for the Needy, The Christmas Decorating Fund, your favorite Charity, etc. They will also help you with this. Check order form enclosed.

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

“NOOOOOOOOOOOO-**VE**MBER when the wind comes howling through the trees and the lovely colors slowly fade away when the ground claims the final crisp leaves.” For you show tune fans, I was singing that to the tune of “Oklahoma.” Yup, November is here and with it cold billowing winds, blueish-gray skies and the overwhelming color of brown. So, when we place November in the context of Iowa, we see the different shades of brown all around us. Now if you enjoy the color brown with all of its varying tones, you probably enjoy how it blends, shapes and swirls in the landscape around us; and you will be right at home during November. Myself, I don’t enjoy large masses of similar color, that is why I am so taken by the first snowfall. The extreme contrast of effervescent white against the brown and gray landscape is breathtaking. I almost imagine a rainbow of colors being brought to life out of the dull tones of November.

Our faith can become a lot like November. It can become dull, unimaginative and mundane. We can get stuck in the grays and browns of “sure I believe in God” or “yeah, I belong to a church, but I don’t go too often,” or even, “I know enough about God.” But the reality I have come to believe is this, I will never know enough about God, because God continues to speak to us. God continues to interact with us. God is alive and active, and God wants us to be alive and active in our faith. Therefore, we need to continue to learn about God and talk about God and act like God. Act like God? Yes, act like God.

Jesus Christ is the example of acting like God. Loving, caring, giving, and healing God's people. So how did Jesus know how to please God in this life? Jesus learned just like we do, he went to the temples and read the Scriptures and then he talked with the people.

“Jesus stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:16-19).

Then Jesus would interpret the Scriptures so that the people would have God’s meaning revealed to them. During those times of reading and teaching, he would feed and heal the people.

That is our call from Jesus, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34-35).

So, do what Jesus does. Read the Bible, discuss it and then live it. Love one another as Jesus does, the way he shows us in the Bible. Go out and let everyone know that we are Jesus’ disciples.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Steve



**IN RELATIONSHIPS, YOU HAVE
TO BE WILLING TO CHANGE AND
ADAPT TO ONE ANOTHER AND
YOU HAVE TO MAKE THE CHOICE
TO CREATE A FOUNDATION
OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.**

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” John 3:16

**Our upcoming worship services at
Zion United Church of Christ**

Sunday, November 5th Totenfest will honor members who passed from this world and now shine in glory.

****We will honor and remember our Savior Jesus Christ by gathering at His table for Communion****

Wednesday November 22 Thanksgiving Eve Service

Sunday, November 26th We celebrate the Reign of Christ on the last Sunday of the church year.

Sunday, December 3rd The Season of Advent begins.
Christmas Cantata

****The Zion Christmas Dinner following the worship service.**

****We will honor and remember our Savior Jesus Christ by gathering at His table for Communion****

Sunday, December 10th Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17th Third Sunday of Advent. Christmas Bell gifts are returned this Sunday. Congregational meeting will follow the worship service.

Sunday, December 24th Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24th The Zion Christmas Eve Worship Service which includes our Christian Education Christmas Program and Our Traditional Candlelit Closing.

****We will honor and remember our Savior Jesus Christ by gathering at His table for Communion****

TOTENFEST

On Sunday November 5th, our community will observe Totenfest. We will honor the lives of members and friends of Zion United Church of Christ who passes on into New Life during the past year. They are Kerri Kae Havel, Dorothy Kathryn Fisher, Wilber Herman Wenndt, Carma Joan Conrad, Gerald Conrad Rowold. Let's thank God for these special people who have touched our lives.

THIS USHERS MONTH

Nov. 5, 2017`	Church Council
Nov. 12, 2017	Brian & Carolee Lohman
Nov.19, 2017	Donna Luepker & Lori Dittmer
Nov. 22, 2017	Bill & Sharon Elijah (Thanksgiving Eve)
Nov. 26, 2017	Senior High Fellowship
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Dec. 3, 2017	Senior High Fellowship
Dec. 10, 2017	Sharon Kruckenberg & Beth Fox
Dec. 17, 2017	Lonnie & Stacie Luepker
Dec. 24, 2016	Kent & Janice Strackbein
Dec. 24, 2017	Barry & Julie Hoffmeier
Dec. 25, 2017	Church Council
Dec. 31, 2017	Senior High Fellowship



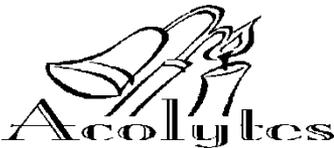
VIDEOGRAPHERS

November

November 5 Jean Stepp
 November 12 Jane Drewelow
 November 19, David Niemeyer
 November 22 Aaron Horman
 November 26, Aaron Horman

December

December 3 Cheryl Boedeker
 December 10 Jody Yutesler
 December 17 Aaron Horman
 December 24 Jane Drewelow
 December 24
 December 31 David Niermeyer



For November

November 5 Taylor Lohman & Leighton Tjaden
 November 12 Jacob Gottschalk & Milo Easterly
 November 19 Nathan Nabb & Koby Stewart
 November 22 Thanksgiving Eve Leighton Tjaden & August Harms
 November 26 Milo Easterly & Koby Stewart

Birthdays



of the Month BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

November 3	Amy Mohr
November 4	Duane Deerberg
November 5	Florence Deerberg, Jamie O'Howell, Brian Lohman
November 6	Cody Poppe
November 10	Meredith Norton, Kylee Kahl, Hannah Combs
November 11	Jean Stepp
November 18	Karen Bentrutt
November 19	Mark Freese, Ryan Hamilton
November 23	Harold Horman
November 26	Butch Schluter
November 28	Alan Mohr
November 30	Terry Lasack

Card... ...shower

November 5	Florence Deerberg, 107 Augusta Drive, #1, Lowden, Iowa 52255
November 23	Harold Horman, P.O. Box 448. Lowden, Iowa 52255

Happy Anniversary

November 10, 1973	Dennis & Cheryl Boedeker 44 yrs.
November 13, 1999	Dean & Jennifer Fredrick 18 yrs.
November 15, 2003	Tanya & Keith Stewart 14 yrs.
November 16, 1968	Al & Linda Behrens 49 yrs.
November 16, 2013	Dan & Amy Mohr 4 yrs.
November 18, 2006	Noah & Jessica Coppess 11 yrs.
November 21, 1986	Doug & Cindy Wiedenhoff 31 yrs.
November 23, 1996	Dan & Gail Hamdorf 21 yrs.
November 24, 1978	Barry & Julie Hoffmeier 39 yrs.
November 24, 1980	Rod & Renate Port 37 yrs.
November 24, 1991	Joby & Kyle Proesch 26 yrs.
November 28, 1977	Bob & Mary Campbell 40 yrs.

Zion United Church of Christ and Lowden Community

CROP WALK/RIDE

On Sunday, October 22nd, 32 walkers and 6 helpers

We raised \$1,228.00

to help end hunger in the world. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed treats served in the Zion Fellowship Hall.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS GREAT MISSION



**Christmas
Decorating
Committee**



One of the most fun things to do every year is decorate the church for Christmas. It is a big job, but when lots of Zion members and friends get together and join in the fun, it makes the big job quick and easy. So, this is our call to you, please come and join in the fun this year as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Sunday, November 26

Following worship service, with pizza being provided.



**ZION EVENING CIRCLE MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 16, 2017**

Zion Evening Circle met on October 16, 2017 at 6:30. We were honored to have Grace Proesch and Pavin Esbaum as our guest speakers. Pavin's grandmother, Brenda Esbaum was a guest also. Grace and Pavin gave a very interesting description of their Spanish class trip to the Dominion Republic during the summer. We were shown pictures on their laptops, mementos they purchased while there and they answered all our questions. We thank them for coming, it was very enjoyable.

Following refreshments served by Joy and Marlene F., devotions entitled "The Inviting Colors of Fall" were given by Sharon Elijah. President Terry then called the meeting to order with 13 members answering roll call with "what is your favorite Halloween candy". Pastor Steve then installed the officers for this coming year.

The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved. Donna moved, Millie 2nd, that we send thank you notes and a Casey's gift card to Grace and Pavin. Motion carried. Terry thanked Janice S. and Millie for serving the COM meeting in September; Janice for taking care of altar flowers and the message board and Joy and Marlene F. for serving refreshments.

Terry announced that Pat Kedley will be our guest speaker in April. The CROP walk will be on October 22nd at 3:00 and Marlene F. and Marilyn will serve refreshments. The Lowden Light-fest and Chili supper will be held on December 2nd. Members are urged to think of some ideas for members to take part in the lighted parade. Discussion was held about the 75th anniversary of Evening Circle in 2018. Members should bring ideas of how they want to celebrate to the next meeting.

Janice announced that our Christmas outing will be on November 24th. We will be going to DeWitt to see the Jim McDonough performance and out to eat.

The project in November will be cutting and counting labels for North Cedar, please bring a scissors. Refreshments will be served by Julie and Rose; devotions by Donna. Marlene W. and Jody are on the flower committee. They will also take care of Totenfest flowers and the cornucopia which will be on the altar November 12th, 19th, 22nd and 26th. Jean and Jody will serve the Committee on Ministry. Joy, Jane and Janis K will take care of the flowers in December.

Pastor announced that there is now a Google calendar which Janice S. and Diane Esbaum have been working on. He also reminded us of the congregational meeting on Oct. 29th.

The meeting was adjourned after which Rose was awarded the "conference" door prize.

Sharon Elijah
Secretary



**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 2017 (Official)**

Zion United Church of Christ Council met at 7 p.m. on September 21, 2017. The meeting was called to order by President David Niermeyer. Pastor opened with a reading and a prayer. Those in attendance were Bonnie Kintzel, Jamie Nabb, Merlin Conrad, Joy Combs, David Niermeyer, Sharon Elijah and Pastor Steve. Linda Behrens was absent.

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

Secretary's minutes were read and made official on a motion by Joy, 2nd by Bonnie. Carried. The financial reports were read. Jamie moved, 2nd by Merlin to accept the reports. Carried. The congregational meeting to talk about the roof project is set for October 29th, prior to the appreciation dinner.

Calendar review:

- Oct. 6-7 Annual conference meeting in Des Moines
- Oct. 7-17 Linda's vacation
- Oct. 19 Council meeting
- Oct. 22 CROP walk
- Oct. 29 Congregational meeting & Appreciation dinner

Pastor reported work has begun on getting a google calendar set up for the year 2018. Discussion was held on the question of the month "What is the future of the church" and the appreciation dinner to be held Oct. 29. On a motion by Joy, 2nd by Merlin, the pastor's expense report was approved. Carried.

Old business:

Joy told us of the work she and her committee have done on the membership lists. Jamie reported that we received a bid on the roof of the parsonage and garage. We will need 29 squares at \$594 a square. This will be discussed at the Oct. 29 congregational meeting. Donations to pay for this project will be appreciated. Jamie also reported that his committee is awaiting three bids for the repair of the kitchen drain. At this time no formal bids have been received. Jamie also thought

that a new flag should be purchased for the pole in front of the church. The church council appreciates the work that has been done on the landscape in front of the church.

New business:

It was decided to send quarterly statements to all members.

Bonnie moved, 2nd by Joy to adjourn the meeting. Carried.

Pastor closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon Elijah, Secretary

Christian Education

News from Christian Education!

On October 1st; we enjoyed our Annual Park Day at the Lowden Memorial Park! We had 26 students attend and we focused on "God Made You for a Reason!" God made each of us like no other; made us unique! God has a special plan for each one of us. We can trust that God's special plan for our life will be a wonderful adventure. When we read about God's people in the Bible, we can see how He made each of them for a reason.

The remainder of October we focused on the **Beatitudes**. These Blessings are taught by Jesus in the book of Matthew 5: 1-12. To be blessed is to be more than happy. Life doesn't always go our way, sometimes we get sick or someone gets hurt and of course this doesn't make us happy but being blessed is being full of joy on the inside even if things aren't perfect.

It's a deeper joy because we know, as believers, that the spirit of God lives in us and we will live with him in heaven someday.

Jesus used some big words, but here's an idea of what He taught the people:

Blessed are those who know they need God.

Blessed are those who feel sad; God will help them to feel happy again.

Blessed are those who are humble and do not brag or put others down.

Blessed are those who want to do as God would want them to do.

Blessed are those who forgive.

Blessed are those who try to do what is fair and act peacefully.

Blessed are those who are treated badly because they believe in Jesus;
God will take care of them.



North Cedar Clergy Christmas Bell Program



CHRISTMAS IS COMING, THE GOOSE IS GETTING FAT
PLEASE DO PUT A PENNY IN THE OLD MAN'S HAT
IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT A PENNY, A HA'PENNY WILL DO
IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT A HA'PENNY, GOD BLESS YOU!



There are many families in our area who have very little during the season of Christmas. So, it is up to us to help bring the “Good News of Great Joy” to these families by providing food and gifts for Christmas Day.

We can all understand it's hard to think about the GREAT JOY of Christ's birth on an empty stomach or if we lack the means to give to the ones we love.

THE CHRISTMAS BELLS WILL BE PUT ON THE TREE IN THE LOBBY/NARTHEX BEGINNING ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD
AND THEY NEED TO BE RETURNED BY DECEMBER 1TH.

May we all enjoy the greater gift of giving to those in need this Christmas.



GOD BLESS US EVERYONE!



UP COMING HAPPENINGS

November 5- Totenfest Memorial Service

November 22rd- 7p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship

November 26th -Christmas Decorating following worship with pizza for lunch!!!!

*December 3 - Advent begins with a wonderful
CANTATA!!!*