



## November 2020 Herald Newsletter



**Totenfest** will be held on All Saints' Day, Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> to honor all of our members and friends who passed into New Life during the past year. The service calls us to remember our loved ones who have gone before us and now shine in glory with Jesus Christ.

### Senior High Fellowship (SHF)

#### **MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

Senior High Fellowship met Oct. 25. Here are highlights of the meeting:

- Members will meet Nov. 4 after school to rake leaves at the church and help a member with a few odd jobs.
- **Thanksgiving Eve worship** (Wed., November 25, 7 pm) will be led by SHF. Look for a special "What I'm Thankful For" video featuring the members of Zion.
- SHF will serve their annual **All-church Christmas dinner, December 6** following worship, as a carry-out and delivery only meal.  
- Carter Hormann, Secretary

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

Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> – All Saints' Day. Worship with Holy Communion and Totenfest will honor members who passed from this world and now shine in glory.

Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> – Worship will include a time to honor our Veterans. November 22<sup>nd</sup> - We celebrate the Reign of Christ on this last Sunday of the church year.

Wednesday November 25<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm, Thanksgiving Eve worship led by Sr. High Fellowship.

Sunday, November 29 The Season of Advent begins – Youth led worship

Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday of Advent – Holy Communion. Celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas by bringing in some new socks to give to those who need them! Christmas Bell gifts are returned this Sunday.

Sunday, December 13<sup>rd</sup> Third Sunday of Advent.

Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday of Advent

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup> – Celebrate Christmas in Word & Song, led by youth

# Message from the Church Council

Autumn is a time of transition as leaves drop from the trees, cooler weather rushes in and we seek activities to occupy our time indoors. As nature transforms around us, so are we as a church family in the midst of a transition. It is important that we use this time of transition to open our eyes to consider new ways of approaching our ministry yet remain aware of our history and traditions. Over the last couple months, new ideas have been proposed and we have been challenged to contemplate our future pastoral leadership and who we are as a church. Please look at this time of transition as an opportunity and consider how we can recognize that we are one in the body of Christ and become even stronger in our ministry together.

## TRANSITION TEAM

We are excited to announce the formation of a Transition Team that will be tasked with the important work of discerning who we are as a church and who is God calling us to become. One of the most important tasks for this team will be to guide the congregation through a review of pastoral expectations in part-time vs. full-time ministry. The culminating work of this group will be the development of our local church profile to be shared with potential pastoral candidates. Serving on the transition team are: **Terry Lasack, Lonnie Luepker, Sue Monson, David Niermeyer and Jan Olsen**. We thank these folks for making this commitment and hope you will engage with this group as they solicit your feedback. Look for further communication in the weekly Zion News e-mails and Sunday worship announcements.

Aaron Horman  
Church Council President

---

## ZION EVENING CIRCLE

OCTOBER 19, 2020

Nine Evening Circle members met in the church sanctuary October 19, 2020, at 6:30 for their socially distanced meeting. Donna Luepker led devotions with a well-timed and themed devotion entitled "Get Away with God".

Julie was in charge of our project for the evening which was watching the movie "Breakthrough". Marlene brought the popcorn. The movie was very inspiring. Thanks, Julie.

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 approved. There were no bills. Terry thanked Donna and Diane Esbaum for helping serve the luncheon after Marlene Wiedenhoff's funeral. Circle has donated \$50 to the Zion's Memorial Fund in Marlene's name.

In new business, Joy moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sharon, to give \$200. to the CROP walk fund. Motion carried.

The devotion booklet bag and the Committee on Ministry book are being kept in the cupboard in Fellowship Hall.

In November Jan Olsen will give devotions; Jan S. and Jody are in charge of the flowers including the cornucopia and Totenfest candles and flowers. Sharon is in charge of the project which will be making a treat for nursing home residents and Terry will be in charge of decorating the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall. Sharon will provide a snack.

Sharon Elijah  
Secretary



The Evening Circle will be sponsoring the annual "Make our Sanctuary Beautiful," selling poinsettias for Christmas. Joy Combs & Terry Lasack, will be taking orders as soon as the information is available. Watch for our table in the Narthex. All poinsettias should be picked up Christmas Eve or shortly after.

If you prefer giving to Baskets for the Needy, The Christmas Decorating Fund, or any other church program, they will also help you with this.

### Missions Committee Meeting

October 18, 2020

Present: Linda Behrens Megan Horman Pastor Sue Sue Monson Carmen Fields Jan Olsen  
David Niemeyer

Absent: Jess Coppess

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Linda.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes for both July 26, 2020 and September, 2020 were read and approved. Megan moved to approve and Jan seconded

Financial Report:

Jan moved that we approve the financial report and Sue M. seconded. It was noted that there was \$20 that came in after the last report so there was \$455 in donations instead of \$435.

Old Business:

School Supplies – Jan said that the supplies that we took to the Library have not been put out yet. We discussed it and decided to have Ann do it around Christmas so that way if the kids need new supplies for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ½ of the year they would be available for them.

Fire Department donation – Megan moved and Carmen seconded that we donate \$300 to the Lowden Fire Department. The check will be sent to the Fire Chief.

In October we are collecting office supplies and in November we will collect donations for the food pantry (which will be just in time for Thanksgiving). Megan is checking with Julie on the top 8 things that they use the most in the food pantry to have church members bring in. We are also checking with Julie if they would need help in the food pantry on certain days and what her thoughts are on being open a designated time – at night or a weekend possibly for people to come in then. Megan will let the committee know what thoughts are. December we will do Socks for St. Nicholas – the official day is December 6<sup>th</sup>. Sue will look at a local area that could use donations like this.

Jim and Jan have gotten items from HACAP and they did have some perishable ones that they are currently storing in the freezer in the kitchen. Discussion was held again on a freezer for the food pantry. We will see how the next month goes and if they receive more items.

New Business:

Upper Room devotional – Pastor Sue and Linda are going to look at costs of another one that is similar but Carmen moved and Sue M. seconded that we pay for the subscription to one of these.

We also discussed having Missions possibly adopt a room in the church, working with Building and Grounds on this. We would have a room and make a wish list of things that need to be worked on and things that would be good to add to the room.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be November 15, 2020 after church.

Adjournment: Linda adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Horman



When we celebrate All Saints' Day, and tenderly honor those loved ones we have lost this past year, it's important to remember what it means to be a "saint." Saints are not just those who have died and joined the Saints in Light. In the early church, all baptized believers were called saints. That's you and me, boys & girls. And if thinking of ourselves as saints makes us feel uncomfortable or unworthy – that's okay. Because we aren't saints on our own. Calling ourselves and one another 'saints' reminds us that there is Something and Someone greater than us. God is the One who makes us holy.

Calling ourselves "saints" reminds us that in our baptism, we are bound to God and to one another. We are saints not because we have checked off all the right things on the "to-do" list, but because we are loved and forgiven by God. It is the perfect reminder that we are not in this alone. The prayer from the UCC Service for Re-Affirming our Baptismal Vows (and the Rite of Confirmation) sums it up beautifully: **O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to You as Your own, to love and serve You faithfully all the days of my life. Amen.**

A saint lives fully in the waters of baptismal forgiveness. Saints are not "right" or "good;" saints are FORGIVEN. They are regular people who live their lives in simple obedience to Jesus Christ. Saints are not mushy people who never make waves, who never disagree, who never make mistakes. Saints are those who live their lives connected to Jesus Christ, studying His word, His ways, His love.

We are "called to be saints" (Romans 1:7, 1 Cor. 12:2) when we have given ourselves over completely to God. Saints are willing to admit that we are not in control. God is. At our best moments, that is why it's difficult for us to call ourselves saints – because it takes work to let God be in charge of everything in our lives. And it means walking that very fine line between "thinking of ourselves less" and "thinking less of ourselves."

Pastor Larry Bethune puts it this way:

*"If you want someone to look up to, look down, and look around. Saints are the people not noticed for the good they do because they do not seek attention or credit or control. They just do the work - day after day, year after year, as long as they can, as long as they're here. They would never consider themselves saints because they are too humble. In fact, they don't think often of themselves at all because they are thinking mainly of others. They are cooking meals for the hungry, visiting the sick, cleaning house for the dying, feeding a friend at a nursing home. Look for them to be here a few hours before everybody else to chop the celery for the potato salad or quietly cleaning up after the last amen. They are beautiful without worrying about their appearance. They are strong without working out in the gym. They are faithful, not out of a sense of duty, but because it's who they are. Meet them in almost any circumstance of life, even in poverty or illness or loss, and they speak of their gratitude for the tender mercies of God. [Ask about] ... their struggles and sorrows, and they tell you of their victories and joys. Ask them to pray for you because they will. These are the saints."*

In a world that wants to focus on all that divides us, we are called to remember that we belong to God and to one another. Our unity is based on the radical love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. When we remember that – we can and will find common ground in Him.

We may not agree on everything – but giving myself to God as God's own helps me give you the benefit of the doubt. God gives us the strength and the patience to listen and to love, even when we passionately disagree about the details. God gives us the wisdom and the desire to find our unity in Him. That is the only way we can begin to heal this hurting world – whether it is in our homes, our community, or our nation. **O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to You as Your own, to love and serve You faithfully all the days of my life. Amen**

The best way to live into these vows? Live them. Day in and day out. Teach the gospel by loving God and loving your neighbor as yourself. Surround yourself with other saints who know they are sinners, and learn and laugh together by immersing yourself in the waters of baptismal love. Let God be God - of your life, your finances, your schedule, your relationships. When you make a mistake, ask for forgiveness and move on. As often as you encounter water in your life, remember your baptism, and live without looking back.

A fellow forgiven saint –

*Pastor Susan*

# November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 - All Saints Day  9:30 am– Worship with Holy Communion & Totenfest  10:45 am- Transition Team	2	3	4  1 pm- SHF Leaf raking	5 9:00 am Assemble Christmas Bell letter at SJUCC	6	7
8  9:30 am– Worship & Christian Education - Recognition of Veterans	9	10  3:30 – 4:30 HACAP Food Truck @ Bennett Ambulance Bldg.	11  6 pm- Building & Grounds	12	13	14
15  9:30 am– Worship and Christian Education 10:40 Mission Committee Meeting	16	17	18  6 pm- Church Council	19	20	21
22  9:30 am– Worship and Christian Education	23  6 pm- Worship & Music Committee	24	25  7 pm – Youth-led Worship for Thanksgiving Eve	26 [church office closed]  Happy Thanksgiving!	27	28  Decorating our Church Home
29 – First Sunday in Advent  9:30 am– Worship and Christian Education	30	<p><b>Coming up in DECEMBER:</b></p> <p>Sunday, December 6 – celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas – bring some NEW socks to worship to give to those who need them! <b>Christmas dinner</b> follows worship - sponsored by SHF (Sr. Hi Fellowship) – take-out or delivery only</p> <p>Sunday, December 13 – Zion UCC Annual Budget meeting follows worship</p> <p>Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve worship for all ages, with Holy Communion, Carols, &amp; Candles</p> <p>Sunday, December 27 – Christmas story in Word &amp; Song, led by Youth</p>				



### November Wedding Anniversaries

November 10, 1973 Dennis & Cheryl Boedeker  
November 13, 1999 Dean & Jennifer Fredrick  
November 15, 2003 Tanya & Keith Stewart  
November 16, 1968 Al & Linda Behrens  
November 16, 2013 Dan & Amy Mohr  
November 18, 2006 Noah & Jessica Coppess  
November 21, 1986 Doug & Cindy Wiedenhoff  
November 23, 1996 Dan & Gail Hamdorf  
November 24, 1978 Barry & Julie Hoffmeier  
November 24, 1980 Rod & Renate Port  
November 28, 1977 Bob & Mary Campbell  
November 30, 1991 Jody & Kyle Proesch



### **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

November 3	Amy Mohr
November 4	Duane Deerberg
November 5	Florence Deerberg, Jamie O'Howell
November 6	Cody Poppe
November 10	Kyla Kahl, Hannah Combs, Rick Balke, Meredith Norton, Jodie Snowbarger
November 18	Karen Bentrott
November 19	Mark Freese, Ryan Hamilton
November 23	Harold Horman
November 27	Brenna Horman
November 28	Alan Mohr, Callie Tjaden
November 30	Terry Lasack

### Liturgists (Lay Readers)

November 1 – Kelly Nabb  
November 8 – Jody Yutesker  
November 15 – Julie Hoffmeier  
November 22 – Terry Lasack  
November 25 – SHF  
November 29 – First day of Advent



### Acolytes

November 1 Church Council  
November 8 Tucker Coppess & Cadence  
Horman  
November 15 Owen Kahl & David Nott  
November 22 Cadence Horman & David Nott  
November 25 Senior High Fellowship  
(Thanksgiving Eve)  
November 29 Youth & Church council

### **Card Shower**

November 5  
Florence Deerberg,  
107 Augusta Drive, #1  
Lowden, Iowa 52255

November 23  
Harold Horman  
P.O. Box 448  
Lowden, Iowa 52255

**Notice:** If you are 80 years young or more, the church would like to honor you on your birthday with a Card Shower – by “showering” you with cards!

So, if you are that wonderful age of 80 or above, please let the office know so we can be sure your name is on the list. Thank you!

## VIDEOGRAPHERS

### November

November 1 Julie Hoffmeier  
November 8 David Niermeyer  
November 15 Cheryl Boedeker  
November 22 Aaron Horman  
November 25 SHF (Thanksgiving Eve)  
November 29 Jody Yutesler

### December

December 6 Julie Hoffmeier  
December 13 David Niermeyer  
December 20 Cheryl Boedeker  
December 24 Jody Yutesler (Christmas Eve)  
December 27



HACAP TRUCK will be at the Ambulance Building in Bennett on November 10, from 3:30 to 4:30. If you are in need please come.

## USHERS THIS MONTH

Nov. 1, 2020	Church Council
Nov. 8, 2020	August Harms, Ann Harms, Annette Behrens
Nov. 15, 2020	Jamie & Kelly Nabb, Wilbert Muhs
Nov. 22, 2020	Jim and Jan Olsen, Randy Horman
Nov. 25, 2020	Senior High Fellowship (Thanksgiving Eve Service)
Nov. 29, 2020	Church Council
Dec. 6, 2020	Church Council
Dec. 13, 2020	Donavon & Linda Freese
Dec. 20, 2020	Mary Huffman, Millie & Wilbert Muhs,
Dec. 24, 2020	Church Council
Dec. 27, 2020	Youth

As the weather gets colder, our efforts to keep warm and dry increases. We go to our dresser and get a clean pair of socks, slip them on and we're set. However, the sad news is so many of our sisters and brothers are not so fortunate.

For those experiencing homelessness, a new pair of socks can provide a measure of comfort, be a source of dignity, and can bring a smile to their faces.

December 6 is the Feast of St. Nicholas. Remembering his love for socks (!), we will be collecting new socks November 25 – December 6. (New athletic crew socks are preferred.)

Donations can be placed in the basket that will be on display. The collected socks will be distributed to the needy to help make their winter a bit warmer, dryer and safer. Your generosity and assistance are deeply appreciated.



**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Sept. 17, 2020**

On Sept. 17, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., President Aaron Horman called the regular monthly meeting of the church council to order. Present were Pastor Sue, Sandy Esbaum, Randy Horman, Duane Lasack, Jon Mansfield, David Niermeyer and Janice Strackbein. Pastor Sue opened with a prayer and reflection time regarding favorite hymns.

Duane made a motion to accept the minutes of the Aug. 20, 2020, meeting, second by David. Motion carried.

David made a motion to accept the financial reports, second by Randy. Motion carried. Discussion was held on procedures for recording/depositing memorial gifts and consolidating church bank accounts.

Pastor Sue discussed her intended office hours (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 am to 2 pm or by appointment) and contact methods.

David reported the Missions Committee school supply drive was successful. The committee is collecting cleaning supplies in September and office supplies in October for church use.

A bid of \$3,969.72 from Steve's Mirror and Glass to install a frame and tempered glass to raise the balcony railing was shared. It was the consensus of the council to not proceed with the project at this time.

Aaron reported that the Alliant Energy rebate for the new furnace had been submitted.

Pastor Sue, David and Sandy will continue to work on updating employee job descriptions.

Aaron and Sandy will begin work on preparing the PPP loan forgiveness application.

It was the consensus of the council to not renew the USPS bulk rate permit since the Herald is mostly distributed electronically and there are other mailing options available that do not require a permit.

A member cleanup day is scheduled for Sept. 20 to work on a variety of outdoor maintenance projects around the church and parsonage.

Duane made a motion to rent the parsonage to Jon Mansfield, Randy seconded. Motion carried; Jon abstained. The initial term will be for a 6-month period effective Oct. 1 with month-by-month renewals up to the 12<sup>th</sup> month. Jon will also be responsible for all utilities and snow removal around the parsonage. Aaron will draft the lease agreement.

Discussion was held surrounding a stewardship campaign. Pastor Sue will engage a group of members and report back at the next meeting.

Discussion was also held regarding formation of the search committee and next steps in the pastoral search process. Pastor Sue will share information with the council to review prior to the next meeting.

The closing question of the night was "What excites you about the future of Zion? What concerns you about the future of Zion?"

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

The next meeting is Oct. 21, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janice Strackbein



### **SNOW REMOVAL NEEDED**

The Building & Grounds Committee is looking for someone to remove snow at the church this winter. This includes sidewalks surrounding the church (excluding the parsonage area), steps and entrances. Areas need to be cleared as soon as possible after a snowfall and upon request. This position could be shared and may be in a volunteer or compensated capacity. Please submit a written proposal to the church office by Nov. 11 at noon. Contact the church office with questions.

### **WE NEED MORE OF YOU!**

We are looking for volunteers to assist with reading scripture during worship, providing special music, operating the video camera and running the Power Point slide presentation during worship. Please consider helping with these very important parts of our weekly worship service. Contact the church office, Pastor Susan or Aaron Horman if you are interested in helping out.



### **PANDEMIC SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

Due to COVID-19, it is REQUIRED that face coverings be worn at all time inside the church building for worship services, meetings, and other church functions. Also, please practice social distancing throughout the church. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to prevent the spread of the virus. Sunday worship is available in-person and online. Worship is livestreamed on FACEBOOK and posted to our YOUTUBE channel later in the day and later in the week on local cable channels. The livestream video begins about 9:20 am.

### **OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

The Church Council met Oct. 21. Here are highlights of the meeting:

- A transition team of five members will be created to prepare the local church profile for our pastoral search. This will be followed by formation of a search committee.
- The Building & Grounds Committee's proposal for organizations and committees to "adopt-a-room" was approved. This will be an effort to identify renovations needed in the various spaces of the church.
- To enhance communication and improve timeliness of distribution, church council, organization and committee meeting "highlights" only will be published in the Herald newsletter. Full meeting minutes will be available at the church or sent by request.
- The council approved a preliminary process to consolidate 24 church bank accounts to be effective Jan. 1.
- Church staff job description updates and performance reviews will be completed by the end of the year.



### **SHF OFFERS FALL YARD CLEANUP**

Members of Senior High Fellowship look to carry on the tradition of helping members with fall yard cleanup. If you need a hand with leaf raking or other outdoor fall-time tasks, please contact the church office or Kelly Nabb. The date will be set based on weather and the number of requests received and occur before city leaf collection ends Nov. 16.

### **PRAYER MINISTRY**

We are updating our Prayer Chain. This group is a way for prayer requests to be quickly shared with the Zion community throughout the week. If you would like to be part of our prayer ministry, contact the church office or Pastor Susan.

## **PLEASE SEND YOUR MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

If you are the secretary or recorder of a church organization or committee, we encourage you to submit highlights of your meeting to be published in our Weekly Zion News Update and Herald newsletter. Having a brief discussion at the end of your meeting to select the top three or four takeaways is a good way to successfully wrap up your time together and keep the Zion community informed of the work of your organization or committee. Send your meeting highlights to news@zionucclowden.org and look for them in an upcoming edition of Zion News.

## **WEEKLY ZION NEWS E-MAILS**

Are you receiving the weekly Zion News Update e-mails? This weekly electronic newsletter is sent on Thursdays or Fridays and as needed for special announcements. If you are not receiving this communication containing a variety of important information about the life of Zion, please check your e-mail spam folder for messages from news@zionucclowden.org. If you need assistance or want to make sure that your e-mail address is on our list, please contact the church office. For those members without e-mail access, printed copies of the weekly Zion News are available to pick up at worship.



## **AN INVITATION TO THE COMMUNION TABLE**

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month during worship. If you have decided to worship with us from home during the pandemic or are home-bound and would like to receive communion, please contact the church office or Pastor Susan. We would be happy to arrange a time for you to safely visit the church or schedule a time for in-home communion.



## **"VIRTUAL" CROP WALK 2020**

For many years Zion has participated in the CROP Hunger Walk to end hunger. And, in 2020, we will continue to fight against the new challenges of disease and disaster that leave people hungry. Join with us virtually in raising funds to help neighbors near and far get the meals they need this year.

This year our walk will be virtual but you can still lace up your shoes and walk individually, as a family or in a small socially-distanced group at your leisure as you support those in need. Our area CROP Hunger Walk will support the work of the Carroll Assistance Center in Wheatland and the Referral Center in DeWitt. CROP Hunger Walks also support the global disaster response and development work of Church World Service, the walk's national sponsor. Together, we can help end hunger in our community and around the world.

To participate virtually and make your pledge online, go to the local CROP Hunger Walk webpage at: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/dewittia>.

## **USHERS ARE BACK IN ACTION**

Since returning to worship this summer, the church council served as greeters and ushers. In October, we invited our scheduled ushers to again participate in the service in a modified role. We are asking those scheduled to usher to arrive around 9 am on Sundays. Adjusted duties include serving as greeters before worship begins (just inside the doors of the main entrance), carrying the offering plates up to the altar during the Doxology and ushering out at the conclusion of the service. Thank you for extending a warm greeting to our members and visitors. We appreciate your involvement in worship.

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

402 Main Street

P.O. Box 339

Lowden, IA 52255-0339

Interim Pastor, Rev. Susan Schneider-Adams

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**2020**

Zion Herald November 2020 Volume 93 No.11

**Information Corner**

**Zion United Church of Christ**

402 Main Street | P.O. Box 339 | Lowden, Iowa 52255-0339

Office: 563-941-7726 | Fax: 563-941-7529 | Website: [www.zionucclowden.org](http://www.zionucclowden.org)

**Secretary:** Linda Behrens

Zion office e-mail [zionucc@fbcom.net](mailto:zionucc@fbcom.net)

**Zion office hours:** Tues-Wed -Thurs, 8:30 -12:00 pm

**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Susan Schneider-Adams

Pastor's email: [zionpastor@fbcom.net](mailto:zionpastor@fbcom.net)

**Pastor's office hours:** Tues-Wed-Thurs, 10:00 - 2:00 pm **or** by appointment

**Church Council:** President: Aaron Horman, Vice President: David Niermeyer, Treasurer: Sandy Esbaum, Secretary: Janice Strackbein, Randy Horman, Duane Lasack, Jon Mansfield

**Custodian:** Bonnie Kintzel