

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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I was glad when
they said...Let us go into
the house of the Lord.

Psalm 122:1

**“Going to church doesn’t
make you a Christian.
Being a Christian makes
you go to church.”**

PS



Senior choir will practice
on Wednesday,
September 27 at 7:00 in
Fellowship Hall

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

What does being a Christian truly mean? It means that you believe that Jesus Christ, Son of Man and Son of God, is one person of the Triune God. Because you believe in Jesus Christ you participate in his faith in God and therefore you believe without doubt in God. It also means that your faith in Jesus Christ has transformed you into a Christian, a person who lives as Jesus commands. "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:29-31) and "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). Jesus taught us to first and always love God and each other. Now we all know these commandments, but where did we learn them? For most of us there are two primary answers, our family and our church.

Our parents and grandparents may have told you these commands right after they broke up a fight between you and your sister or brother. They may have read them to you when you said, "I hate that boy, he is mean!" They may have even reminded you of them when you got caught taking God's name in vain.

Our church also taught you these commandments. Most likely in Sunday School as a lesson or at ZYC when someone didn't treat another person as they would want to be treated. It certainly was in a sermon at least once (more likely many times). It may have been a pastor who reminded us after we said something about another person that was not in a Christian manner.

Now most of us know what is the most important thing we do in the life of our family. It may be sharing our love as we spend quality time with them, provide money to support the family, participate in the family reunion, come to a children's ball games, do the dishes after supper, mow the lawn, or one of many other activities family do together. So then, what about church?

What is the most important thing you do in the life of the church? Is it...attend worship services, give money to the church, participate in the Spring Dinner, come to Bible study, serve on a committee, serve as a worship leader, work on the landscape, or any of the other opportunities we as Christians have as we serve God? Is there one answer, two, or are all the answers equally important to the ministry of Jesus Christ. You see not all of us can do all the jobs, and because of that fact, each job is as important as the next because when you put them all together, they form the living body of Jesus. But there are some aspects of belonging to a church founded on the faith of Jesus Christ that are fundamental to the existence of the church and continuation of the mission of God.

For example, if no one came to church there would be no church, therefore attendance is paramount for the church to exist; and if no one gave generously to the church, the church would not be able to provide a place to gather nor the people to lead the ministry. These two primary actions as a Christian have been and always will be fundamental to the life of the church.

As we move into the fall season of our church life, let us all renew our commitment to Zion United Church of Christ. Let us make attending our worship services a priority in our lives and let us give generously so that, just as we were raised in the church and taught about the Triune God and the life of Jesus Christ, other will have the same opportunity we had. Let us participate in the life of Jesus

Christ as we participate in the life of His church and his body.

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (John 17:20-21).

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve

“A Biblical Description of the 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

What’s happening on Sunday, October 28th?
Come to our worship services and find out!

**I wish not merely to be called Christian, but
also to be Christian.**
Saint Ignatius

USHERS

THIS MONTH

Sept. 3, 2017	Church Council members
Sept. 10, 2017	Josh & Heather Easterly
Sept. 17, 2017	Brenda Esbaum & Mary Huffman
Sept. 24, 2017	Senior High Fellowship
Oct. 1, 2017	Church Council
Oct. 8, 2017	Robert & Jodie Fields
Oct. 15, 2017	Tessa Holst & Megan Hamdorf
Oct. 22, 2017	Noah & Jessica Coppess
Oct. 30, 2017	Senior High Fellowship



VIDEOGRAPHERS for September

September 3, 2017	Aaron Horman
September 10, 2017	Cheryl Boedeker
September 17, 2017	Jody Yutesler
September 24, 2017	Jean Stepp

Acolytes

Sept. 10	Jacob Gottschalk & Koby Stewart
Sept. 17	Milo Easterly & Taylor Lohman
Sept. 24	August Harms & Abby Balke
October 1	Nathan Nabb & Leighton Tjaden
October 8	Koby Stewart & Milo Easterly
October 15	Taylor Lohman & August Harms
October 22	Abby Balke & Nathan Nabb
October 29	Leighton Tjaden & Jacob Gottschalk



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- September 2 Shelley Jacobs
- September 4 Ray Wiese, Linda Freese,
Marcine Miller, Jacob Gottschalk
- September 5 Jess Axline
- September 7 Brett Esbaum, Avery Luepker
- September 8 Emily Hayton
- September 12 **Henry Boedeker**, Gail Hamdorf
Caitlyn Neill
- September 17 Vicki Mohr
- September 19 **Helen Gottschalk**
- September 21 Chris Drewelow
- September 22 **Alice Rowold**
- September 23 Joy Combs, Randy Horman
- September 25 Taylor Lohman
- September 26 *David Holst, Jared Bentrott
- September 27 Bob Rowold, *Pam Jensen
Royce Gottschalk
- September 28 Rhonda Poppe
- September 29 Steve Poppe, Kelli Proesch,

Card...  ...shower

Henry Boedeker

100 Roosevelt Ave.,
Lowden, Iowa 52255

Helen Gottschalk

404 1st Street, PO Box 252
Lowden, Iowa 52255

Alice Rowold

307 Main Street,
Lowden, Iowa 52255



Happy Anniversary!

September 2	Allen & Sandra Koch (1960) Darrell, Jr. & Jody Yutesler (1990)
September 8	Brad & Liz Norton (1979)
September 9	Kent & Janice Strackbein (1961)
September 11	Pete & Sharon Johnson (1965)
September 15	Gary & Kim Klahn (1984)
September 18	Jill & Mike Jacobs (2010)
September 22	Jim & Jan Olsen (1962)



**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 15, 2017**

Zion United Church of Christ Council met at 7 p.m. on June 15, 2017. The meeting was called to order by President David Niermeyer. Pastor opened with devotions and a prayer. Those in attendance were David Niermeyer, Pastor Steve, Merlin Conrad, Bonnie Kintzel, Sharon Elijah, Joy Combs and Linda Behrens. Jamie Nabb was absent. Linda left the meeting after the financial reports.

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 Merlin. Carried. The financial

reports were read. Merlin moved, 2nd by Bonnie to accept the financial reports as written. Carried.

Pastor's report and expense report was read and accepted on a motion by Joy and 2nd by Bonnie. Motion carried.

The Endowment Committee met and decided to invest the \$15,000 CD that had matured in an international mutual fund. Other CD's will mature in 2017.

Calendar Review: June 25 Pie Auction
 July 3 – 13 Pastor's vacation
 July 19 Evening Circle outing
 July 28 to Aug. 6 Pastor's vacation

Old Business:

Joy gave a report on church membership. She and her committee will be working on creating a new membership list using the files in the church office.

New Business:

Jamie will have a meeting with the buildings and grounds committee shortly. He will also take care of the Sun-News bill. The council went to the parsonage area to look at the landscaping in front of the house. Merlin will donate funds from Carma's memorial to redo the landscaping in front of the parsonage.

Joy moved, 2nd by Bonnie that we exempt non-profit charities from paying rent on Fellowship Hall on a case by case basis. We will not charge rent for the Trivia Night on June 23, 2017. Motion carried.

The next council meeting will be July 20 at 7:00. Meeting was adjourned on a motion by Joy, 2nd by Bonnie. Pastor closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Elijah, Secretary

“The Lord enjoins us to do good to all without exception, though the greater part, if estimated by their own merit, are most unworthy of it. But Scripture subjoins a most excellent reason, when it tells us that we are not to look to what men in themselves deserve, but to attend to the image of God, which exists in all, and to which we owe all honor and love.

John Calvin

**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
Unofficial Minutes
July 20, 2017**

Zion United Church of Christ Council met at 7 p.m. on July 20, 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, Merlin Conrad, Bonnie Kintzel, Jamie Nabb, Joy Combs, Sharon Elijah and Linda Behrens. Linda left the meeting after the financial reports.

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 Merlin. Carried. The financial reports were read. Bonnie moved to accept the reports, 2nd by Joy. Motion carried.

CALENDAR REVIEW:

July 23-27	Vacation Bible School
July 28 – Aug. 6	Pastor's vacation
Aug. 6	New member reception
Aug. 17	Church Council meeting
Aug. 27	Park Days community worship service

Joy moved, 2nd by Merlin, that we won't have our regularly scheduled church service on August 27 for us to join in the community service held in conjunction with Park Day. Motion carried.

Linda passed around a copy of the burials that were in the old church cemetery south of town. This unique list was found in the bottom of a file drawer.

NEW BUSINESS:

Merlin moved, 2nd by Bonnie, that we accept Jim and Jan Olsen as members of Zion Church. Carried.

Jamie reported on the building and grounds committee meeting. The dehumidifier in the educational basement is no longer working and needs to be replaced. The sump pump near the tunnel is not working and a new one will be purchased. The hand rail in the educational building will be re-installed. The committee checked into the floor drain in Fellowship Hall. Jamie met with the city men to see where the water drains to. The committee will get more ideas of what can be done. The committee will also get bids on a new roof for the parsonage and garage.

Joy reported on the work she and her committee have done on the membership rolls. We have 245 members now. The council had a long discussion on church membership.

Our next meeting will be August 24th, at 7:00 p.m. Merlin moved, 2nd by Jamie that the meeting be adjourned. Carried. Pastor closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Elijah, Secretary

"I pray that you will understand the words of Jesus, "Love one another as I have loved you." Ask yourself "How has he loved me? Do I really love others in the same way?" Unless this love is among us, we can kill ourselves with work and it will only be work, not love. Work without love is slavery."

— **Mother Teresa**



ZION EVENING CIRCLE
JULY 19, 2017

On a very hot and humid day, eight Evening Circle members met at Zion church at 9:30 for our annual tour. We headed to DeWitt to do some serious shopping; after which we went to The Machine Shed in Davenport for lunch where we met up with Pastor Steve and Jean. President Donna called a short meeting to order around the lunch table. Marlene moved, seconded by Jean, that we give a \$100 donation to the service dog fund for the Stouffer family. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

After a filling lunch, the German American Heritage Museum was our next stop. We had an interesting tour with our guide, seeing the exhibits, watching a short film, and looking at the view of the Mississippi River from the 4th floor. A big thank you to Janis K. for setting up our wonderful day.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Elijah, secretary

ZION EVENING CIRCLE

They had no meeting in August, will be back in action in September. Zion Evening Circle will hold their September meeting at Fox's pond on September 18th, beginning at 5:30. It will be a pot luck supper with the Circle officers providing

meat dishes, drinks and table service, so bring a covered dish to share. Husbands are invited. There will be a program presented by Julie Hoffmeier about Lions International after our supper. Guests are always welcome at any of our meetings. Please come and join us for an entertaining night.



VBS was a Success!!

Vacation Bible School was held on July 23 through July 27 with a grand finale on evening of the 27th. We want to thank our many, many volunteers who helped make our week a huge success!!! Over 5 days, our 48 VBS participants raised \$410 for helping Kids and their families be provided CLEAN WATER in Peru! It takes just \$5 to provide clean water to a family for one whole year. This means we have raised enough money to provide 82 FAMILIES clean water already! With the support of the MISSIONS COMMITTEE, we are now sending \$820! That is amazing and we thank you all for your support of our youth!

Back To
School!!

Sunday Classes begin Sunday, September 10th at 9AM!

We look forward to an exciting year teaching God's word!
Our teachers this year will be Jessica Coppess, Kelly Nabb,
Makayla Schluter, and Tanya Stewart



We look forward to a new approach with teaching our youth! Please encourage your child(ren) to attend and be amazed by the wonderful stories the Bible has to offer! Our classes are open to all children 3 year old and older including non-members of our church. Please fill out an enrollment form and return to the church office or Kelly Nabb. If you have any questions, please contact

Kelly Nabb

**Zion United Church of Christ
Christian Education Coordinator**