

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

402 Main Street

P.O. Box 339

Lowden, IA 52255-0339

Rev. Stephen Stepp, Pastor

Church Phone (563) 941-7726

Parsonage Phone (563) 941-5476

2016



Community Wednesday Lenten Services

Day	Location	Preacher
February 17	St. John's UCC, Clarence	Stephen Stepp
February 24	Peace UCC, Bennett	Grace Hammer
March 2	St. Paul's UCC, Wheatland	David Lorenzen
March 9	First UCC, Tipton	Scott Meyer
March 16	Zion UCC, Lowden	Tommi Boeder
Worship – 7:00 p.m.	Evening Meal – 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. *see the article about our meal on March 16th!	<u>Meal prices</u> \$7.00 for adults \$3.00 for children 10 yrs. and younger

Other Lenten Services

February 10, Ash Wednesday

Zion / Lowden 7:00 p.m.

March 24, Maundy Thursday

St. John's / Clarence 7:00 p.m.

March 25, Good Friday

St. Paul's / Wheatland 7:00 p.m.

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The month of February bring with it the beginning of the Lenten season. Let us prepare our hearts and minds as we engage God in a close and personal way.

As I did last year, my article for this month's Herald will be the pastor's "Annual Report."

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

How do we look at our history? Do we look for accomplishments? Do we look for our failures? Do we look for advancements that challenged our openness to change? Do we look for times when we chose to go back to something safe and comfortable? I hope that we look at all these things and many more as we look back into the history we shared as we continued our ministry in Christ during 2015.

One of the many gifts God has given us by being created in God's image is the ability to remember and share our memories. And God wants us to do just that! We are to share the hopes and fears that we have experienced. We are to talk about the history that caused us to love and hate. We are to gather and remember the times we lifted our praise and adoration to God for the wondrous gifts we have received. We are to share our laments for the times we failed and for the times we shared the loss of loved ones. We are to remember as we prayed together for our loved ones and for people we have never met. How we remember and share 2015 will certainly shape our 2016, and that my sisters and brothers is truly part of God's hope for us. So first let us take a look at 2015.

During the year, Zion continued to support our local and world communities through the North Cedar Break Milk Program, food pantries, rescue missions, homeless shelters, our local Nursing Homes, the Christmas Bell Program, the CROP Walk, local emergency assistance, children's missions, flood victims and all five of the United Church of Christ's special missions. One of our brightest stars of 2015 was breaking out the checkbooks and sending 16 of our youth to camp during the summer.

Last year we explored new hymns and we cuddled with our favorite oldies. We lifted our voices high with joy, and we quietly prayed for hope. We witnessed the beauty of music as the combined choirs of Zion and St. John's presented a spectacular cantata, "Mary Did You Know?" We huddled in darkness as members and pastors imparted a chilling Good Friday remembrance. Those were just a few of the memorable moments in our ministry for Christ in 2015.

So now let us turn to 2016 and embrace the hope God envisions for us and the ministry Jesus expects us to develop as we continue our faith journey in his

name. To that end, the church council has approved a special supper program where all members of our congregation will be invited to gather in small groups as early Christians did; eating in fellowship, discussing God's direction for our community, discerning Christ's vision for Zion United Church of Christ in 2020 and charting a course that will lead us in that direction over the next five years.

"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)

I hope that all of our members will accept their invitation to dinner and take part in forming our interpretation of God's vision of Christ's ministry at Zion United Church of Christ. May God continue to bless us in 2016 so that we may be a blessing to others.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve

**"Prayer is where the action is!"
John Wesley**

THIS MONTH USHERS

February 7, 2016	Church Council
February 14, 2016	Jody Yutesler & Tessa Holst
February 21, 2016	Randy Horman & Aaron Horman
February 28, 2016	Senior High Fellowship

March 6, 2016	Church Council
March 13, 2016	Rick & Karen Bentrott
March 20, 2016	Chelsea Ehltz & Bonnie Kintzel (Confirmation with 1 st communion)
March 27, 2016	Senior High Fellowship @ 6:30 (Communion)
Easter	Church council 10:15 (Communion)



February 7 Kelly Proesch & Mackenzie Poppe
 Lenten Service Kaci Gottschalk & Addie Luepker
 February 14 Addie Luepker & Mariah Behrens
 February 21 Kaci Gottschalk & Kelly Proesch
 February 28 Mariah Behrens & Kelly Proesch



February 7 Donna Luepker
 February 14 Janie Drewelow
 February 21 Julie Hoffmeier
 February 28 David Niermeyer



Feb 2 Brenda Esbaum
 Feb 3 Taylor Armstrong
 Feb 5 Elmer Krueger
 Feb 7 Duane Lasack
 Feb 8 Darren Esbaum, Dawson Hamdorf
 Feb 9 Laettner Esbaum
 Feb 10 Sharon Elijah
 Feb 12 Millie Muhs
 Feb 13 Kevin Kahl, Renate Port
 Feb 14 Blake Proesch, Rose Horman
 Feb 15 McKenna Luepker
 Feb 16 Makayla Schluter, Aidan Jacobs
 Feb 21 Ben Traver
 Feb 23 Kip Esbaum
 Feb 24 Curt Conrad
 Feb 25 Don Boedeker, Gunner Klahn
 Feb 26 Sig Schluter
 Feb. 27 Madeleine Rose

Feb 28 Alexis Freese

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER

February 5 Elmer Kruger,
1929 155th Street,
Lowden, Iowa 52255

February 25 Don Boedeker, check on address

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 4 Elmer & Welma Krueger-64 years
Harold & Mary Louise Horman-59 years
Feb 5 Randy & Sandy Horman- 39 years
Feb 7 Rich & Sigrun Schluter-18 years

Spring Dinner News

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Spring Dinner Committee is in full preparation for our annual event. In the spirit of fellowship, we invite all of you to participate in this great mission of Zion Church. This long standing tradition is your opportunity to gather as one body in Christ joining together in word and action to do God's work for the Church.

As in the past a sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex for you to choose one or more ways you may participate or sponsor this event. Perhaps you can make a food item to share, or find a job suited to your abilities or maybe a monetary donation to help offset the cost of the meal. However you choose to do God's work for the Church and for this mission, remember it is in the spirit of love and fellowship that brings us together as one body.

THE DATE FOR OUR MISSION, THE SPRING DINNER WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2016.

Please call on your Brothers and Sisters in Christ and share the good news. Each Christian has a job to do, a role to take, and/or a contribution to make. One assignment may seem more spectacular than another, but all are necessary to carry out God's plan for his church and his world. Be available to God by offering your gifts to God's service. Then, as you discover what God calls you to do be ready to do it.

We thank you in advance for your work and we will communicate further as we approach April 3rd,

The Spring Dinner Committee

Lenten Dinner at Zion



Zion Evening Circle will provide a delicious meal before the Lenten Service at our church on Wednesday, March 16th.

The meal will be served from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Come and enjoy our Beef Lasagna or Chicken Lasagna with a Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread, Beverage and Dessert. The cost will be \$7.00 for adults; \$3.00 for children 12 and under. The Lenten Service will begin at 7:00 p.m.

ZYC NEWS FOR 2015

What a year we've had!! Now that I'm doing end of the year statement, I'm quite proud of our group. With our ZYC Redwheel income we were able to pay \$800.00 for the children to get to go to Pilgrim Heights. We paid \$150 toward a benefit of a cancer patient, and still we support our child in Lebanon with \$30.00 a month.

We started our year off in the park with 20 children. We had a picnic, scavenger hunt, games and we also "cleaned" the park by picking up trash that did not make it to the waste basket.

Our time is 4:00 to 6:00 but most children are here at 3:30, usually "starved". Heather Easterly is helping me this year. We are doing snacks together. She is the mother of Milo and Joslyn. Her husband Josh helps with vacuuming and picking up.

Trish Reginnitter will also help when she has time. Our two other helper are still Makayla and Maddie Cornelius. Usually all hands are needed. We do have around 18-20 each time.

Our "lock-in" was cancelled because of the only snow storm so far. Seems I picked that night. We will try again this new year. Look our for Valentine Dady, the kids are planning something for you!!

Thanks Sig and Heather

Zion United Church of Christ Church Council Unofficial Meeting Minutes January 12, 2016

Zion United Church of Christ Council met at 6:30pm on January 12,2016. The meeting was called to order by President David Niermeyer. Pastor Steve opened with a reading and a prayer.

Those in attendance were Pastor Steve, Jamie Nabb, Tanya Stewart, Bonnie Kintzel, David Niermeyer, and Merlin Conrad. Renate Port and Pete Johnson

were absent.

Linda Behrens was present thru the treasurer's report.

Kevin Kahl attended thru Old Business.

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

Secretary's minutes from Special Meeting Nov. 29, 2015, Congregational Meeting Dec. 13, 2015 and Church Council Meeting Dec. 15, 2015 were read and approved, after

amending vacuum repair to purchase in the church council minutes pastor's report. A motion was made by Kevin, second by Merlin. Motion carried.

The treasurer's general fund will be delayed until next month. A motion was made by Merlin and second by Kevin. Motion carried. All remaining monthly and quarterly financial reports were reviewed and approved on a motion made by Kevin, second by Tanya. Motion carried.

Calendar Review

Jan. 19th Eastern Iowa Clergy Meeting

Jan. 24th Music and Worship Meeting

Jan. 31st Annual Meeting

Feb. 7th Christian Education Bake Sale

Feb. 10th Lent begins and we host first service at 7pm

Feb. 21st Mission Soup Luncheon

Feb. 23rd Pastoral Relations Meeting

Feb. 28th Christian Education Family Night 4-7pm

Pastor's report was read and approved on a motion made by Tanya, second by Kevin.

Motion carried. Discussion topic: What are the three most important parts of ZUCC?

Dinner for eight to begin hopefully in February, a small group dinner and discussion to help focus on our church.

Old Business

Insulation project remains in progress.

Roof is finished. Roofing fund envelopes will be included quarterly in our offering mailings.

New Business

President David Niermeyer was reelected president. Motion made by David, second by Bonnie. Motion carried. Merlin Conrad was nominated and

accepted vice president on a motion by Bonnie, second by Jamie. Motion approved. Tanya Stewart elected secretary. Motioned by Bonnie, second by Merlin. Motion carried.

Church Council Representatives assigned to committees.

Huge "THANK-YOU" to Aaron Horman for saving the computer files. We now have onsite, offsite and surge protection intact.

Yearly giving reports will be sent out to those who made contributions.

Sound system training to be held next month at council meeting.

Discussed separating secretarial and treasurer duties.

Next meeting Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 6:30pm. Pastor Steve closed with a prayer.

Meeting adjourned with a motion made by Merlin, second by Bonnie. Motion carried.

Tanya Stewart
Secretary



DECORATE THE CHURCH WITH SPRING FLOWERS FOR EASTER 2016

Janis Krafock, Donna Luepker and Marlene Wiedenhoff are in charge of the Easter flowers this year. They will be taking orders beginning March 8 at church and we need your order by Sunday, March 13th. The prices will be available later. Flowers this year will be lilies, hyacinths, hydrangea in blue or pink, azaleas, daffodils, and tulips. Thank you.



ZION EVENING CIRCLE

January 18, 2016

Zion Evening Circle met January 18, 2016 with 15 members answering roll call. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report was approved as read. Thank you notes from Pastor Steve and Jean; Marge Norton, Jane Drewelow and Jimmy Sander, Judy and Jane were shared. A motion by Millie, 2nd by Jody to pay bills was made and approved.

Donna thanked the many people who have shared their talents by arranging flowers in the sanctuary for Christmas; buying gifts for Christmas etc. Terry talked a little about the poinsettias and what we might try this coming year. Circle will pay for the stoles given to the confirmands this year.

Terry presented the plans and sign-up sheets for the upcoming Lenten supper. The menu will remain the same.

Spring dinner plans were shared by Jean. The dinner will be April 3rd, and will be significantly simplified. Cost will be \$10 a ticket with children under 12 eating a free special dinner, unless they want the steak meal. We should remember that as we are doing this, we should take the money equation out of it and enjoy the fellowship working together brings. A sign-up sheet for donations and workers will be posted.

The Committee on Ministry lunch will be served by Linda and Marilyn in January; February devotions will be by Jean; Rose and Janice S. will provide refreshments. Lynn Butterbrodt will be our special speaker. Flowers for February will be taken care of by Carolee.

Refreshments were served by Marlene F. and Julie. Jane had us put our thinking caps on as we answered questions about January. A little bit of Buzz Word was played before and during our refreshments. "Donna led interesting devotions with the title "Can This Year Really Be Different?"

Sharon Elijah
Secretary

Missions Committee Meeting

The Missions Committee met Sunday, October 4, 2015 following church services. Members in attendance were Linda Behrens, Carmen Fields, Tanya Stewart, Beth Kahl, Marlene Wiedenhoff, Mary Huffman and Rev. Steve Stepp.

Pastor Steve opened with a prayer.

Linda called the meeting to order and noted that Jessica Coppess will also be joining our committee.

Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

Our current balance is \$6,352.03. Linda noted that we have two CD's and asked if we should cash in the smaller CD to supplement the fund. Following a brief discussion, it was decided to wait until we actually need additional fund before cashing it in.

Linda reported that the Missions contribution from the current envelope have been deposited in the Zion Mission account, but that these funds were meant for the OCWM(Our Churches' Wider Mission). It was moved by Mary and seconded by Tanya to reimburse OCWM and to add the Zion Mission to the envelopes, if that's possible. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding holding a chicken and noodle and chili soup luncheon. February 21 was selected as the date. Linda will check with Little Home Daycare and the Fire Station to assure there are no conflicts. We will

meet at the church at 9:00 on the 20th to make soup and set up tables.
Responsibilities are as follows:

Mary: Two pans of bars and shredded cheese

Beth: Chicken Soup and crackers

Linda: Chili and Milk

Carmen: Two pans of bars

Marlene: Cheese tray and bread

Jessica: Bars or cookies

Members should keep track of their expenses and will be reimbursed as necessary.

The next meeting date will be April 17, 2016.

Carmen moved and Tanya seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Pastor Steve closed with a prayer.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

BAKE SALE

February 7, 2016

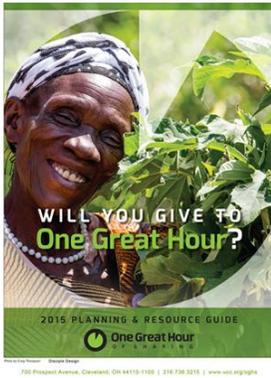
"SOUPER" BOWL SUNDAY

Please support our Youth with helping by baking goods or taking some baked goods home to enjoy! All proceeds this year will be given to the Ronald McDonald's House in Iowa City. Our confirmation class will be heading there soon for a service project!

All of our Youth will participate in a Souper Bowl Skit this Sunday. Please join in on the celebration and wear your **FAVORITE TEAM ATTIRE!!!** Also, we will be collecting soup for our church's food pantry to help our neighbors in needs.

Thank you for your support!

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY – Sunday February 21st – We will celebrate all of our birthdays during Sunday School and collect pennies for our ages!



OGHS

When the Apostle Paul visited the early churches in Macedonia, they became excited about the ministry opportunities he laid before them. These early followers of Jesus couldn't help but get caught up in Paul's contagious zeal for the ways God was working in their midst. So much so, they actually pleaded to be a part of the "service to the saints" that Paul spoke of while visiting their community—even though they were themselves living in poverty. This "ministry to the saints," referred to in his Second Letter to the Corinthians is another name for the offering Paul and the early churches were organizing for those in distant Jerusalem who had been suffering as a result of a devastating famine. The offering was considered a ministry whereby they expressed their religious conviction. They were answering God's spiritual calling by living in Christ's faith.

To organize a church-wide offering as a relief fund was a visible expression of their Christian unity. This offering was a way for Paul to model the unity of all believers and to provide a way for them to care for one another even if they did not know each other personally. For the churches in Macedonia and Corinth this offering was a concrete representation of the Gospel, that in Christ there truly was no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, rich or poor. There was no longer separation or division; there was instead unity in Christ.

This year on Sunday, March 6th, you can make a difference in the lives of many by giving to "One Great Hour of Sharing." God bless you!

DATES TO REMEMBER IN FEBRUARY

February 7, 2016---Come to Souper Bowl Sunday Christian Education Bake Sale. Collecting cans of Soup for church's food pantry

February 10, 2016 -- Ash Wednesday Service-Zion UCC in Lowden@7:00 pm

February 14, 2016 --- Boy Scouts Sunday

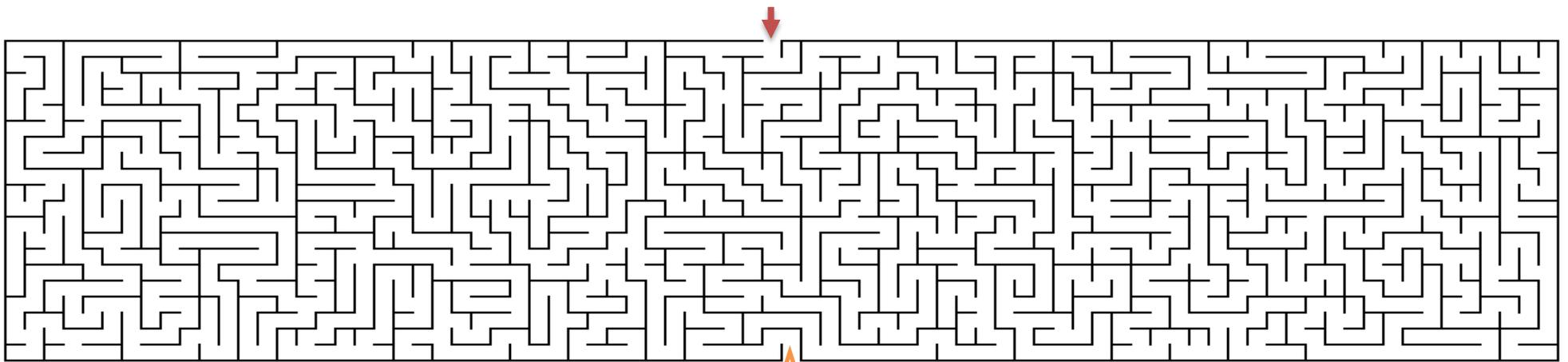
February 21, 2016--- Mission Committee Sponsoring a Soup Luncheon.

February 21, 2016---Christian Ed Celebrates Everyone Birthday and collects their pennies.

February 28, 2016---Our 5 Confirmands will read their Faith Statements

FEBRUARY 2016

	1	2 9:00am North Cedar Clergy in Stanwood	3	4	5	6 Fellowship Hall rented
7 Christian Education Souper Bowl Sunday Bake Sale Class at 9:00 Worship service at 10:15	8	9	10 ZYC Meeting from 4:00to 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Church Service @ Zion UCC @ 7:00 p.m.	11 10:00 a.m. Wheatland Manor Nursing Home Service	12	13
14 Christian Education Class at 9:00 Worship service at 10:15 Scout Sunday 2:00 p.m. Clarence Nursing	15 9:00 ECI Meeting Evening Circle meeting @ 7:00 p.m. with quest speaker	16 6:30 p.m. Zion Church Council Sound/projector training	17 Evening Meal 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in Clarence Lenten Service at St. John's UCC at 7:00 Rev. Steve Stepp Preaching	18 8:30 am E.C.I. Meeting	19	20 9:00 am Mission Committee set up for Soup Luncheon
21 Christian Education Class at 9:00 Worship service at 10:15 MISSION SOUP LUNCHEON FOLLOWING worship	22	23 7:00 Pastoral Relations meeting	24 ZYC Meeting from 4-6:00 p.m Evening Meal at Bennett Church 5:00 to 6:30 Lenten Service At Peace in Bennett. Pastor Grace Hammer Preaching	25	26	27
28 C.E. Class at 9:00 Worship service at 10:15 Faith Statements read by Confirmands S.H.F.Meeting With Parents Fellowship Rented	29					



2016 Lenten Maze Take your time as you navigate each maze. Stop occasionally and offer to God your prayers for help, hope, thanks. May we use the maze example as we navigate through the 2016 Lenten season.

