

# The Zion Bell

## April-May, 2009

Come, Gain a View for Eternity  
from Zion's Holy Hill

Rev. Thomas K. Schmitt, Pastor  
Andrea Roettger, Director of Christian Ed.  
Pat Huels, Administrative Assistant



14205 Ida Street Omaha, Nebraska 68142  
Phone: 402-493-1744 FAX: 402-965-8706

Pastor's e-mail: zionwest@msn.com

DCE's e-mail: zionwestdce@msn.com

Office e-mail zionwest2@msn.com

## Undeading the Dead in All of Us

Ever notice how God does His best work **when things appear dead? Even now, we've got little** green things poking out of the recently-frozen earth. Bulbs that were planted just before the freeze last year are showing signs of life. Yes, **new life is beautiful, but it's a hard, hard row to hoe** to get there.

You see, before there can be new life, the old life has to go away. The bulb has to die to being a bulb before it can have new life as a flower. The caterpillar has to die to being a caterpillar before it can fly away as a beautiful butterfly. The sinner has to die to being a sinner before he or she can live their lives for others. The body has to die before the **soul can soar to Christ's side in paradise.**

**"Everyone wants to go to heaven, but no one wants to do what it takes to get there,"** the old saying goes. Thankfully we do have someone who DID want to do what it takes—Christ Jesus who died, more than that, who was raised to life again—to give us all new life in His name.

Springtime is beautiful for all its sights, sounds and smells. But did you know that part of that beautiful smell of spring is stuff rotting in the muddy ground? All that yuck that has been in our yards over the winter getting snowed on, trampled on, and so forth is starting to decay, giving some nice life-enhancing nitrogen to my little flowers and **all those blades of grass that I'll be mowing again** soon.

When we leave our sins at the foot of the cross, their death and decay gives new power to our new life in Christ. All that old stuff—who wants it anyway??- just siphons off energy we could be using for the glory of God in our works for His people. But first we have to dig it in. We have to bury it with Christ so He can raise it again.

Now of course all this new life needs water **to get things going. That's why after a rain it smells** oh-so-good outside! God uses water to get us going in our Baptism—not just once, but daily! Luther writes in the Small Catechism,

**"[This baptizing with water] indicates that** the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and **purity forever. ... Saint Paul writes in Romans chapter six: 'We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4)'**"

So there we were, little dead Adams face down in the muck and mire of life, Christ comes along to pour his life-giving water over us and **WHAM! Those little dead souls spring to life! That's** God at work!

In a world that is so obsessed with death these days, what glorious things to think about this Springtime and especially this Easter season: Our God is a God of LIFE! He does His best work when things appear dead; the town is gathered in tears, and the bodies are nearly buried or even in the tomb four days.

**When we go see a baseball game, don't we** want to see a home run? Or a long touchdown at a football game? Or a thrilling one-point back-and-forth contest at a basketball game? **That's the players' best, we pay big bucks to see it happen, and frankly are disappointed when the game's boring.** How much more, then, should we look for, expect, and **celebrate God's greatest plays at work in our lives? Rejoice, dear friends: God's best work is continually playing in you! You ARE a new life in Christ!**



Lutheran  
High School  
of  
Kansas City

Here at Zion

One Night Only  
Monday, April 27  
7:00 PM

Concert Band  
Handbell Choir  
Highlights Choir

Zion will be hosting the choir that evening, providing dinner and housing for the group. Many students have ties to Nebraska and Zion. If you would like to help provide or serve dinner, or if you would like to open your home to between one and four people, please contact Pastor Schmitt or Pat Huels at the church office, 402-493-1744.

The students will be arriving at Zion around 4:30 and will be eating at 5:30. The concert is scheduled to begin at 7:00 PM.

Please invite your friends to come with you to this concert to show our support of these young musicians!

## Pastor Schmitt's Top Ten List

The economy is on most peoples' minds these days. I, along with all of you, need to remember Christ's words of caution about fretting and worrying about such earthly cares. Should we be good stewards of our personal finances? Yes! Should we look to the needs of those affected by the downturn? Absolutely! Should we get involved in making our community's economy stronger as we are able? Without question! Should we worry? Absolutely not. God is still in control. Still, here are my Top Ten Ways to Save Money in 2009:

10. *Use my bike for every visit in 2009—not only saves cash, but burns fat, not fuel!*
9. *Hook up the dogs to pull a push mower around the yard.*
8. *Make use of natural air conditioning: Visit friends in North Dakota all summer.*
7. *Make use of natural heating: Mooch off Andrea's friends in Florida for the winter.*
6. *Start eating out on days that end in "x" instead of "y."*
5. *Next new car make? Matchbox.*
4. *Recycle everything: Cans, bottles, papers, sermons...*
3. *Have a garage sale to make enough room in the garage for a few more garage sales.*
2. *Buy no more flowers this year—yeah, RIGHT!*

And the number 1 Way I could save money in 2009:

1. *Offer my cleaning and organizational skills for hire... oh, wait... That would keep money in OTHER people's pockets!*

Coming Soon:  
"Te Deum"  
Stained Glass Window  
Lakeview Room  
Watch Bulletin for date of Dedication

# Student Ministry Events

## DODGE BALL

6th Graders - Up

Sunday, April 19

1-2:30 PM

@ Concordia High School's Gym



Grab your friends, neighbors, and parents for some dodge ball.

Meet at Concordia High School Gym (156th & Fort), come through the doors off the gravel parking lot.

We will play several different varieties of dodge ball.

Sign up in our High School youth room downstairs by April 19 @ noon!

## SCAVENGER HUNT

9th - 12th Grade

Friday, May 1st

4:30 - 7 PM

Free

Zion's High School, 4th annual, city-wide scavenger hunt.

Here's what you need to know:

We leave the church parking lot at 4:30 PM and return no later than 7 PM.

All cars are driven by adults.

You will get dinner.

It's free.

And you find fun things.

Join us! It will be a blast!

Sign up in the High School room by Wednesday, April 29th.



## SERVANT EVENT

JULY 17-19

CURRENT 6TH GRADERS—UP

This year's Servant Event will be here in Omaha.

Each day we will work with a different service agency in Omaha. And each evening we will do a different fellowship activity (swimming, etc...). We will stay overnight at the church.

See Andrea for more details. Sign up in the High School Youth Room.

Parents and other interested adults are encouraged to participate!

## EASTER EGG HUNT

April 12

9:45 AM

Starting Location: Basement

Join us on Easter Sunday for an Easter Egg Hunt (actually 2 Easter Egg Hunts).

We will begin inside at the Sunday School opening area at 9:45 AM. Bring a basket or bag to gather your eggs.

Kids 4 and under will have a special, separate area!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 12	Easter Egg Hunt
April 19	Dodge Ball
May 1	High School Scavenger Hunt
May 3	Rite of Confirmation
June 7-11	Vacation Bible School
July 17-19	Servant Event
July 31-Aug 1	High School Leadership Training

## EASTER CANDY NEEDED

Candy donations are needed for our Easter Egg Hunt on April 12th. Please drop off smaller than the egg sized, individually wrapped candy to the church office no later than Sunday, April 5th.



**Volunteers are also needed to fill eggs!**

## CONCORDIA GRADUATION

Concordia Jr/Sr High School will be holding their graduation ceremony this year on Sunday, May 17, 2009 at 2pm. The graduation ceremony will be held at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church. 27 students will be graduating, including Rachel Lusvardi, a member of our church. The senior blessing will be Saturday night at Concordia HS for parents, teachers and seniors.



## CONCORDIA ACADEMY

Cameron Holtzen, a 6th grader at Concordia Academy, has been notified that he has been selected by the National Geographic Society as a semi-finalist eligible to compete in the 2009 Nebraska Geographic Bee. Cameron took a test at the school and was the school level winner. He then took a qualifying test, which was submitted to the National Geographic Society. The top 100 scorers will compete at the state level on Friday April 3, 2009 at the Strauss Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Keep Cameron in your prayers as he continues this fun adventure!

## CONCORDIA PLANT SALE

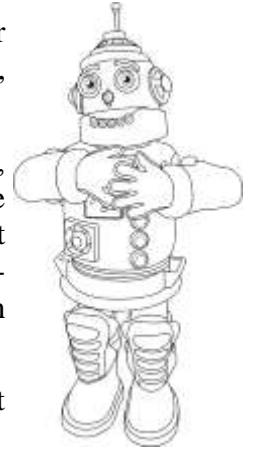
The annual Concordia Omaha Plant Sale has started! Students will be asking you to help support the school by purchasing a variety of plants. The final date to place an order is Friday, April 17th. Pick-up dates are Friday, May 1st from 8am-8pm and Saturday, May 2nd from 8am-1pm at Concordia Jr/Sr High School, 156th and Fort Street. Please help support our schools!

## WE NEED YOU!

Through the dedication of our members who volunteer at VBS, we minister to over 100 children.

If you aren't part of VBS yet, why not volunteer today? We have many levels of involvement to suit your schedule and interests. Each area even comes with its own leader's guide.

See VBS board or call Andrea at 493-1744 today!



## NEEDED!

Small plastic washers & nuts are needed for a VBS craft. Please drop off donations to church office.



Join Us for VBS Dinner  
5-6 PM - June 7-11

**Sunday** –  
Pastabake, Garlic Bread, Salad

**Monday** –  
Hot Dogs, Salad, Chips

**Tuesday** –  
Sloppy Joes, Potato & Pasta Salad,  
Chips

**Wednesday** –  
Potato & Nacho Bar

**Thursday** –  
Pizza & Salad

## Easter Worship Times

April 9, Maundy Thursday	4:30 & 7:00 PM
April 10, Good Friday	1:00 & 7:00 PM
April 11, Easter Vigil	6:00 PM
April 12, Easter Sunday	8:00, 10:30 AM

## Coffee and Donuts

On the bulletin board by the Lakeview Room there is a sign-up sheet for anyone who would like to serve coffee and donuts after the 8:00 service. You could do it for an occasion such as an anniversary or birthday.

All it requires is to bring donuts, cookies, or anything delicious, make coffee (coffee and kool-aid already bought and in the cupboard), serve, and clean up.

Thank you to the Boy Scouts, Board of Stewardship, Mitch and Colleen Johnson, Board of Elders and the Bartelt, Lindau and Sandelin families for providing these treats for the months of February and March.

~ Board of Fellowship ~

## TROOP 412

Boy Scout Troop 412 is holding a hot dog fundraiser at Canfield's Sporting Goods Store (8457 W. Center Rd.) on Saturday, April 25. The troop will sell Omaha Steak hot dogs, chips, and a soda for \$4.00 between the hours of 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Proceeds will go toward much needed tents and camp supplies. Please stop by and enjoy a nice lunch.



## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Teacher applications are now being accepted for the 5th & 6th grade position for the 2009-2010 school year at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Arlington. Math background and Lutheran teaching diploma or colloquy are preferred. Please submit resume and credentials to Barb Cook, in care of the school at 8951 CR9, Arlington, NE, 68002, or call 478-4278 for more information.

## 10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE!

### CONCORDIA LUTHERAN SCHOOLS OF OMAHA

Where can you enjoy golf, food, fun and fellowship while making a difference in the hearts and minds of young people? At the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha (formerly WOLSA) Golf Scramble! Join in the fun and let's put together a winning effort for our kids! This benefit will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2009, at the Tiburon Golf Club, 10302 S. 168 St., with a 12:00 p.m. shotgun start. We offer 3 areas of participation: You can play (bring your friends), become a hole sponsor, or a pin prize donor. Entry forms and sponsorship information are available at [www.concordiaomaha.org](http://www.concordiaomaha.org). Please contact Craig Schneider at 965-3534 or [concordiaomaha.org](http://concordiaomaha.org) for additional information. Thank you for your continued support of our schools: Concordia Academy and Concordia Jr./Sr. High School.

## + \*\* +Upcoming Choir Concert+ \*\* +

The Christus Chorus of Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota, will present "God So Loved the World," a concert of sacred music expressing Christ's sacrificial love for us and our response to it at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, (7706 S 96th Street) in La Vista, on Sunday, April 5, at 6:30 p.m.

The 32-voice choir, under the direction of Dr. David L. Mennicke, will perform a wide variety of styles, from classical literature to hymns, contemporary pieces, spirituals, and gospel music. Beautiful Savior member, Shane Acers, also sings in the Christus Chorus. The choir is grateful for the opportunity to perform some of the great music of the Church and to witness through music as an expression of faith. This performance is open to the general public. There is no charge, however, a freewill offering will be taken to support the choir's music ministry.

## Rebekah Circle News

Rebekah members met on January 27th in the Lakeview Room and Laura Deardoff opened our meeting with devotions from Matthew 6:33 which is "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well". We all need a reminder to put prayer and worship before all the daily worries that distract us from what is really important. We continued with the Bible study from the quarterly titled "Plunging Into the Word of God". There was much discussion about how we must study God's word and apply it to our lives.

Minutes and treasurer's reports from November and December were given. Rebekah's share of the bakery event proceeds has been sent to Project Hope and Open Door Mission. The matching funds from Thrivent will be distributed later. There was only one bill which was for the food purchased for the Bellevue family for Christmas.

The Circles will serve the Ash Wednesday meal and members volunteered to provide all the food for the soup supper and work to serve it. The program for 2009 was presented to members and approved. The by-laws for the Rebekah Circle were reviewed and a few corrections were made before being approved.

Kathy Rummel gave a report on Project Hope and Open Door Mission. The items from the tree in the narthex will be divided between both organizations and delivered soon. Zion members continue to give generously. Thank you all.

On February 26th ten Rebekah members and Pastor Schmitt met for our meeting. Laura conducted the opening which was about Mardi Gras since our meeting fell on Shrove Tuesday. She explained that the carnival season which begins on the Twelfth Night, which we know as the beginning of Epiphany, is a celebration with lots of colors. Laura and Elda were also hostesses and they followed the same color theme with the delicious sandwiches, cake and punch served.

Marlys conducted the meeting asking for all reports. Carol had sent greeting cards to several folks, get well cards to Jerry Miles and Wendell Wilke, thinking of you cards to Jean Meade and Lyle Bauman and a sympathy card to Jon and Boni Aulwurm. Kathy also reported on Project Hope and said another delivery had been made there and to Open Door Mission with hats, gloves, etc. from the tree in the narthex. Again thanks to all.

It was agreed to send \$100 each to Concordia Scholarship Fund, Bethany Scholarship Fund and to Zion's New Beginnings. That money came from Thrivent as matching funds from the bakery event. Pastor then conducted the Bible study from the Quarterly called "Behind the Scenes Women, Dorcas and Rahab". Our faith should be evident by what we do and how we treat people.

Rebekah members will be cleaning the kitchen in the Lakeview Room before our next meeting in March. Those that can are asked to come early on the 25th. We also encourage any Zion women who would like to get acquainted with other Zion women to consider visiting one of the Circles' meetings. We spend time in Bible study, work to serve others and have lots of fun as well.

Secretary, Carol Scebold

## Lydia Circle News

Our January meeting was attended by nine members, Pastor, and we welcomed two guests, Gayleen Meyer and Irene Muhleisen.

An article, "It's Over", was read by the Christian Growth leader, meaning all the glitter and excitement of the Christmas season. However, we are not to forget the "Good News" that Christ was born on Christmas Day, for which we are to be joyful all year through. We have the promise of Salvation and hope of eternal life through this wonderful gift of God's son. He has promised never to leave us, unlike all the other gifts. So you see it is not over! Alleluia to the newborn king, the best gift of all.

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved. Cards were sent to Marlene Sargent, Ed Zellers and Colleen Johnson. Project Hope thanked us for all the toys and gift wrap.

The new program for 2009 was presented and a motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the new program.

We will help the Rebekah Circle serve the Ash Wednesday soup supper in February.

Our gifts this year will go to Lutheran Family Services, \$100, Adam Moline, our Seminary student, \$100, Lutheran World Relief, \$100 and Armed Services, \$50. Open Door Mission and Project Hope each received \$150 from the proceeds of our baking event.

Seven invitations were sent to new members inviting them to visit our Circle. Thank you Marybeth for doing this.

Pastor led us in the Bible Study, "Plunge into the Word", from our Winter Quarterly.

Happy Birthday was sung to Margaret Behrendt whose birthday was today. We closed with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer. Ann Neuhaus served refreshments.

Our February meeting was attended by 8 members and Pastor Schmitt. Christian Growth leader read an article on Psalm 23, how it comforts us, especially in troubled times!

Thank you notes were received from LFS, Open Door Mission, LCMS World Relief and Project Hope.

Thirty bags were donated from the Rebekah and Lydia Circles to Global Care through the Lutheran Hour Ministries. We voted to increase the number of bags from our Circle next year by 5.

Pastor led us in Bible study, "Behind the Scenes Women-Dorcas and Rehab", from the Winter Quarterly.

Get well cards were sent to Wendell Wilke and Jerry Miles, sympathy to John and Bonnie Aulwurm and thinking of you to Jean Meade and Lyle Bauman.

February birthdays were Aleta Neuhaus, Patty Sass and Ferne Rockwell.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer. Refreshments were served by Elaine Raabe.

Don't forget, we love to have visitors. Our meeting dates are in the bulletin and on the calendar of the newsletter.

Secretary, Aleta Neuhaus

## PROJECT HOPE

As of this writing, we are not even half way through the Feinstein Challenge and yet have had a great response from the members of Zion. Through March 19, we have delivered a total of 791 food items since March 1. A *BIG thank you* goes to Curves for their donation that has helped us get to this point.

The Feinstein Challenge runs through the end of April with the last delivery being made on April 30. Mr. Feinstein makes a donation of one million dollars which is divided among the many food pantries across the United States. The awarding of this money is determined by how many food items and monetary donations are made during the months of March & April. Last year, Zion received a certificate for being the church that donated the most food items. Our goal, again for this year, is to be able to donate 1400 food items to Project Hope for this Challenge.

For the month of April, the featured item is canned fruit. However, any and all non-perishable food items are always welcomed. Each item is valued at \$1 for the Challenge. Yes, even a box of Jello is valued at \$1.

Additional ways to help Project Hope is to donate items that their clients cannot get with their food stamps. These may include personal care items, laundry items, and feminine care items. Did you know that if you donate a bottle of dish washing soap, a hand knit dish cloth will be attached? If you donate a bar of soap, a wash cloth will be attached! If you donate a bottle of liquid laundry detergent, it is broken down into 16 oz. bottles so it serves more clients! As you can see, your small donation can do big things.

The collecting of items for Project Hope is sponsored by The Lydia & Rebekah Circles as a mission outreach here in Omaha. Project Hope is located in the poorest zip code of Omaha and in these very difficult times are serving more and more clients.

Thank you to all who continue to contribute to this mission. If you have not done so in the past, won't you please consider picking up one extra can or extra package of a non-perishable food item the next time you do your grocery shopping? Pick up an item that is on sale or use a coupon that you would not use for yourself. There are many ways that spending little can mean so much to others!

Kathy Rummel, Project Hope Food Coordinator

## GLOBAL GIFT BAGS

The Lydia and Rebekah Circles are again sponsoring the Global Gift Bags. This mission won't start until the beginning of May. We have been doing this over 4 years now and would not be successful in this mission if it were not for the members of Zion.

Again this year we will fill these bags with school supplies and a toy for children ages 5 and up. When all the donations are in, they will be delivered to the Orphan Grain Train where they are shipped to various countries around the world.

A **Global Gift Bag Tree** will be set up in the narthex with tags on them indicating the items that are needed. Please read the tag carefully as there are specific items listed on each tag. You will just need to take a tag or tags, purchase the item needed and return them both to a basket sitting under the tree.

Watch the May bulletins and the next *Bell* for more information on the mission project.

## CARD COUNTER

Easter and Confirmations are soon approaching. We now have both Confirmation cards and Easter cards available at the card counter. The Confirmation cards are available by the box and individually. The Easter cards are only available individually. All of the greeting cards are individually priced at 50 cents each while boxed cards are priced as marked on the bottom of the box. Also, available at the Card Counter are Self Study Bibles that would make a wonderful Confirmation gift.

We have received a new shipment of greeting cards, so please stop by after either service on Sunday mornings.

## POP CAN TABS

An ongoing effort here at Zion is the collecting of pop can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. What does the Ronald McDonald House do with pop can tabs? They recycle them and therefore raise funds to support their House.

At the beginning of 2009 we had turned in a little more than 1500 tabs. We now are at a total of 21,683 tabs.

To participate, just take off the tab from any pop can, accumulate them and then bring them to the Lakeview Room. There is a small Ronald McDonald house as well as another container for you to deposit your tabs in or you can just bring them in a plastic sandwich bag or storage bag. You don't even have to count them; we have a volunteer who graciously does that for Zion!

Can we reach a goal of 100,000 by the end of this year? Your help is needed for us to do that!