

# The Zion Bell June-July, 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

## A Window on the World

On Sunday, May 10, we dedicated a new window in the Lakeview Room. The stained glass window was designed by yours truly and crafted by Tim Hautzinger of Classic Art Glass here in Omaha.

**It's not the first, nor is it likely to be the last window we've installed here. Some year, I'd like to write a commentary on all the windows in the church. I think it would be fascinating. I wholly realize that an entire book devoted to the design, intricacies and meanings of a couple dozen windows wouldn't be everyone's cup of tea.**

One thing stained glass windows have in common is that they are worthless unless lit from behind. Only then can their true colors and messages come through.

To be sure, you can get an idea what the window looks like while looking in (during the daytime) or out (during the nighttime), but to fully appreciate its glory, the light has to be shining **THROUGH the glass. Until that happens, there's not much to look at.**

But oh, what wonderful things happen when the sunlight comes through that glass!! Did you know that at sunrise the altar seems to glow a pale blue, and that the light turns the ruby globe of the eternal candle a rose color? Or that at sunset during the summer, the red, yellow, and green lights will catch the cross, altar candles, and fair linen and set them ablaze in color?

Have you ever watched the setting sun, filtered through the trees, catch the western windows and make the fire in the Good Friday window seem to dance as if alive? Have you sat where the acolyte sits and seen the sky in the Easter window turn a million different shades of beautiful? Or have you noticed the rainbow on the back wall after a summer evening service?

Some of these patterns are deliberately designed by the artisans who created the windows; others I am sure simply happen by chance. Regardless, there is sudden, surprising, and often breathtaking beauty in the house of the Lord as the sunshine plays with all that stained glass.

How about the light shining through YOU? Each of us is as unique as the panes of glass in the church. Each of us has a color of personality, a pattern of talents, a texture of vocation that is entirely unique. If there were no light inside of us, all the world could see would be a dim image of who we are. But when Jesus, the Light of the World, takes up residence inside us, oh, how we shine!

**"This little Gospel Light of mine;  
I'm gonna let it shine;**

**Let it shine, all the time, let it shine."**

Have we forgotten this Sunday School song of too many years ago? Where the Gospel light does not shine, the vocations, talents, and personalities **we've been given just sit there. Dull. Lifeless. Colorless.** Where the light shines brightly, so do we. Christ said that we were to be like a city built on a hill, a light placed on a stand, where all could see our loving lives and give glory to our Father in heaven.

Our newest window is a window on the world of praise surrounding the cross of Jesus Christ. It is **to be used to teach, inspire, and uplift God's people** gathered inside. Yet at night, when our lights are shining brightly in the Lakeview Room, that window looks so glorious from outside. Filled to overflowing with praise to the eternal Light of the World, Jesus Christ, may our lives illuminate, color, and surprise those around us with the love, mercy, and confident hope of eternal life that is ours in Christ our Lord.

## Pastor Schmitt's Top Ten List

I'm in softball withdrawal this summer. Our league filled up before we could get our applications in. Now I see those bright lights down the hill and ponder the Top Ten Things I Miss about Softball:

10. *Losing to the teams we're supposed to beat and beating the teams to which we're supposed to lose.*
  9. *Wind-aided curve balls that leave hitters clueless.*
  8. *Stellar fielding plays by our gazelle-like outfielders.*
  7. *Hitting the ball as far as I possibly can for a bloop single over the first baseman's head. Constantly. Right fielders never did catch on to my Kryptonite.*
  6. *Never quite knowing where the strike zone will be with tonight's umpire... or the next pitch...*
  5. *Driving other teams crazy with a sportsmanlike attitude, win or lose, and being able to clown around regardless of the score.*
  4. *I regret that Andrea never did train Charley to fetch Gregg Hart's home runs.*
  3. *Those beautiful summer nights when the temperature was just right, there was just a soft breeze keeping the bugs away, and the riverside park didn't smell too swampy—as opposed to the other 19 weeks of our 20-game schedule.*
  2. *The uplifting cheers of the home crowd—or should I say—the upsetting jeers of the home crowd?*
- And the number one thing I miss about Softball:
1. *Eating out afterwards!*

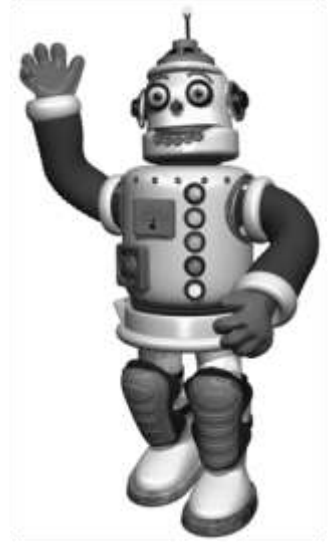
## VOLUNTEERS REALLY NEEDED!

**For Pre School**  
Inventor's Workshop  
Gizmo Play  
Best Bible Challenge

**For Elementary**  
Bible Challenge

If you aren't part of VBS yet, why not volunteer today? Each area comes with it's own leader's guide.

See VBS board or call Andrea at 493-1744 **TODAY!**



Register now for VBS 2009!

Easy as 1-2-3

1. Online registration at [www.zionwest.org](http://www.zionwest.org)
2. Call Andrea in the church office, 493-1744
3. Complete registration form in the narthex

## Thank You to Our Donors

The Te Deum Window is complete, thanks to so many parishioners, family and friends of those who, in the words of the Te Deum, recently were made to be **“numbered with [the] Saints in glory everlasting:”**

Wallace Neuhaus, Beulah Witt, Ethel Schneider, Florence Nelson, Jerald Holling, Norma Cohrs, Willis A. Witt, Russell Logemann, Margaret Logemann, Clara Junior, Ida Dillon, Lillian Penke, Earl Meade, Carl Scheer, Herbert Neuhaus and Donavon Brumels.

Thanks also to Malvin and Elaine Witt for their contributions for the windows to the Glory of God.

# Student Ministry Events

## LEADERSHIP LOCK-IN

**JULY 31-AUG 1**

**GRAND ISLAND**

**\$20**

**DEADLINE, JUNE 28**

**9-12 GRADE ONLY**



I'm a teenager... what can I do for the church?  
 What does a Christian leader look like?  
 How do I share my faith story with my friends who don't believe?  
 How do I stay focused on God when there are so many distractions?  
 What about life after high school? How do I stay strong in my faith?

This lock-in will help answer these and other questions. It will be lead by other High School youth in Nebraska. To sign up and more information see Andrea or see sign in Youth Room.

## CONFIRMATION CLASS

**6TH-8TH GRADE**

**SUNDAYS, 9:15-10:15 AM**

**Heaven & Hell—**

**May 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28**

**Worship—**

**July 12, 19, 26 Aug 2, 9**



All future 6th-8th graders are invited to the following Confirmation classes this summer.

“Heaven & Hell” (what the Bible tells us about what each is like)

“Worship” (a look

at the different parts of the church and worship service)

Each class is five weeks long. To attend, please call the church office, 493-1744.



## SERVANT EVENT

**JULY 17-19**

**08-09 6TH GRADERS—UP**

**DEADLINE, JUNE 28**

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

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



Sign up in the High School Youth Room.

Parents and other interested adults are invited to participate as they can!

Friday—Abide Network

Saturday—Open Door Mission

Sunday—Senior Help

## NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

**NEW ORLEANS**

**JULY 17-21, \*2010\***

**DEADLINE: FALL, 2009**

Every 3 years High School Lutheran youth from all over the world gather for a 5 day gathering. Next summer it is happening in New Orleans. Check it out at [www.lcmsgathering.com](http://www.lcmsgathering.com).



To go you must be 14 by the start of the gathering. More information to follow!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 31-Jun 28 Confirmation Class “Heaven & Hell”  
 June 7-11 Vacation Bible School  
 July 12-Aug 9 Confirmation Class “Worship”  
 July 17-19 Servant Event  
 July 31- Aug 1 Leadership Lock-In  
 July 17-21, 2010 National Youth Gathering

## **Rebekah Circle News**

On April 28th eight Rebekah members and Pastor Schmitt met in the Lakeview Room. Laura opened the meeting by leading members in reading the hymn, "We Praise You and Acknowledge You O God". Pastor used this hymn to describe the meaning of the beautiful new stained glass windows in the Lakeview Room.

The business meeting began with minutes, treasurer's report and the sunshine report. Judy had sent thinking of you cards to Willis Witt, Joann Walters, Diane Cohrs and Lola Buchholz. Sympathy cards were sent to the Willis Witt family and the Bob Sedlacek family. Judy also read some correspondence messages.

Kathy reported on Project Hope, the Global Gift Bag project and the collection of pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Judy also gave a report on the Tri Zone meeting which was held on April 19th at Lord of Life Lutheran Church. She also reported that \$175.00 was raised for mites on Mitey Muffin Sunday. Thrivent will provide matching funds. Judy also informed members that the Bylaws/ Constitution are ready to be reviewed and approved. They will be sent in soon.

Judy provided information on how to use the new coffee pots which were recently donated by Jean and Doug Wilshusen. She also went over the information about the candidates which will be voted on at the LWML Convention in June.

Members will be going to Farmer Browns on May 26th to celebrate all members' birthdays. Each member is to bring a white elephant gift, if they wish, to be exchanged that evening. In June our meeting will feature a video called Noah and Answers from Genesis by Ken Ham. All ladies in the congregation are invited to visit any of our meetings. Karen served a very delicious dessert for refreshment while members enjoyed an "Ask the Pastor" session, which is always very informative and interesting.

Secretary, Carol Scebold

## **Lydia Circle News**

It is time to update you as to what has been going on in the Lydia Circle. Our March meeting was attended by 10 members and one guest, Irene Muhleisen, and Pastor. The Christian Growth leader read an article "Blowing the Whistle". We all sin and deserve to be punished but God did not "Blow the Whistle" on us. He sent His Son Jesus who lived, died, and rose again, taking our sins upon Himself. God lets us who are guilty go free; we are forgiven. No longer do we have to fear sin, death or the devil. WE ARE FREE! John 8:36 says "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Thinking of you cards were sent to Elda Dearthoff and Phil Rummel and a sympathy card to Katie Elder for her grandfather.

We thank Curves and all our members for all the items donated to Project Hope during the Feinstein Challenge.

We received half of the money brought in at the Ash Wednesday soup supper which we helped the Rebekah Circle serve.

Eunice Neuhaus, Judy Treadway, Barb Kruse and Carol Scebold attended the Presidents breakfast on March 21.

The International LWML convention is coming up in Portland, OR on June 25th to 28th.

Pastor led us in Bible Trivia and we closed with the Lord's prayer and the table prayer. Margaret Behrendt served a delicious pineapple dessert, nuts, candy and coffee.

On April 30th eight members and two guests, Ruth Braun and Marguerite Sandelin were present. Pastor was under the weather and could not be with us.

Christian Growth leader opened with a reading "Magnolias". We never know how some small deed or a good word can change a person's life. Life is not the way it is suppose to be. It's just the way it is. The way we cope with it is what makes the difference. If we have missed knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ we have missed everything in the world.

Thinking of you cards were sent to Willis Witt, Joann Walters, Diane Cohrs and Lola Buchholz, sympathy to the Willis Witt family and Mr. & Mrs. Bob Sedlacek & family for Susan's mother. A thank you was read from the Willis Witt family for serving lunch at Willis' funeral.

Project Hope received 3700 items for the Feinstein Challenge. 23,466 can tabs were given to the Ronald McDonald House. Thanks to all who donated to these projects.

Money received for Mitey Muffin Sunday was matched by Thrivent and will go to the LWML Mites.

Changes for the LWML Constitution were approved.

Several of our ladies attended the Tri Zone Workshop on April 19th at Lord of Life in Elkhorn. There were 56 ladies in attendance. The National LWML has met their Mite Offering goal! This is the first time that has ever happened before convention time!! Pastor Kuhlman gave a very interesting Bible study on Matt. 11:28.

The District Convention will be June 4th & 5th, 2010 in Omaha. The theme is "GO, PRAISE, SERVE, TELL". They will be asking for help with hostesses, ushers, registration, packets, food, information table, decorations and transportation to mission areas. The Fall Zone Rally will be at Trinity, Murdock on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>.

In Pastor's absence we worked together the Bible Study from the Spring Quarterly, "Journey of Life".

We closed with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer. Marybeth served fresh fruit, nut breads, nuts, candy and coffee. Our only birthday lady for March & April was Lola Buchholz.

Secretary, Aleta Neuhaus

## PROJECT HOPE

We are the "winners" according to the director of Project Hope. Not only does that mean that we are the congregation that collected the most food for the Feinsein Challenge and therefore will be receiving a Certificate of Appreciation, but it also means that our collecting over 3700 food items really has helped many people who are less fortunate than us. Putting these people first makes us the "winners".

In June, the members of Zion will be presented with this Certificate of Appreciation and be able to learn more about Project Hope from the Director, Leigh Trumble. She will be visiting us on a Sunday morning to make the presentation. Watch the bulletin for further details.

The feature item for the month of June is canned vegetables. For July it is school supplies. That would include everything from backpacks, crayons, colored pencils, pencils, pens, note paper, notebooks, pocket folders, scissors, rulers, etc. The school supplies should be going on sale sometime in July.

Project Hope is also in need of bathroom tissue, bar soap, canned milk, coffee, and tea for their clients. Also appreciated would be devotional booklets and children's books.

So far this year Project Hope has served over 2,771 people.

Lastly, visit the Project Hope website, [www.projecthopeomaha.org](http://www.projecthopeomaha.org). The website now has a convenient way to give to Project Hope monetarily. With just a click of the "Donate Now" button you can contribute money without even getting out of your chair. Could it get any easier?

Finally, thank you to all the members who contribute so generously during the last two months for the Feinsein Challenge. You are the people that make delivering our bounties bring so many smiles to the staff of Project Hope. I would also like to thank the people who helped me load my car, obtain boxes for packing the food and helping with the deliveries. A special thank you to Pastor Schmitt, Pat Huels, Andrea Roettger, Bert & LaDonna Clevenger, Jerry & Judy Treadway, Stan & Carol Scebold, Dan & Marlys VanPelt and anyone I may have accidently forgotten. All this help was **greatly** appreciated.

Kathy Rummel, Project Hope Food Coordinator

## GLOBAL GIFT BAGS

It is again that time when we start collecting items for the children of the world. This mission effort is sponsored by the Rebekah & Lydia Circles. The Circles have purchased these gift bags that are used by the children of the world as backpacks. We then ask for the help of Zion to fill these bags.

This year we are trying to fill 40 bags. To do this, we have our "Global Gift Bag Tree" set up in the narthex with 360 tags. Each tag identifies an item that needs to be collected. Please read the tag carefully. On the reverse side is a prayer! Global Care is very specific in the items they want in these gift bags. Also, by the tree will be a sample of the gift bag and the items that go into it.

Once again the needed items are a letter size notebook, 5 regular pencils, 5 ballpoint pens (blue or black ink), a pencil sharpener, 1 pkg. 10 count colored pencils, 1 small coloring book, 1 small blunt point scissors and one 12 inch ruler with at least one side metric; and most importantly a nice child's toy for ages 5-12. This filled bag brings so much joy to these children. Please note: no jump ropes are needed this year.

Suggestions for toys are Etch A Sketch, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, Lego's, Slinky, puzzles, toys that light up or make a noise (with extra batteries, please), etc. Toys should be unisex and appropriate for 5-12 year age range. Be sure that toys are not sharp and won't tear the drawstring bags. WARNING: do not include military style items, liquid items or breakable items.

Make this a family mission by having your children shop with you to pick out the school supplies and the toy. Remember these bags are going to children that have had to survive amid the horrors of war, natural disasters and poverty. These gift bags provide these children with school supplies and toys that bring much needed joy and hope to their often desperate situations. Please give these gifts as if they were going to your own children or children of family and friends.

Where do these Gift Bags go? In the past they have gone to children in Cambodia, Madagascar, Malawi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Latvia, Guatemala and Sri Lanka. We deliver these Global Gift Bags to the Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, NE and from there they are shipped out to the various countries.

As we did last year, when we have all the items collected, we will fill the Global Gift Bags and deliver them. There is no deadline as these Gift Bags are shipped on a continual basis. In other words, when the Orphan Grain Train has a sufficient load, they are shipped to a country that they determine is in need. Last year Zion had all the items collected and delivered to the Orphan Grain Train in October!

Please keep in mind that this is a mission effort where we can be a follower of Jesus and give to those that are in much greater need than we are.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Kathy.

Kathy Rummel, Global Gift Bag Co-Coordinator