

The Zion Bell

August-September, 2009

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

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Irene Biberdorf Freitag: You Go, Girl!

I could not believe my eyes.

Those of you in church the weekend of July 18-19 heard me tell of this little old country church, their old, old organ and the talents of one Irene Biberdorf Freitag. On the following Tuesday, I received my Pierce County Tribune and opened to the feature section.

I was stunned. There, in front of my eyes, was a full page article on—you guessed it—the **“Crick Church,” their monstrosity of an organ, and Irene Biberdorf Freitag. She’s still playing, the family’s still singing, and the community’s still giddy that they’re going to be able to gather around Immanuel-Willow Creek’s Green Monster once again.**

The point of my sermon (for those who may have missed it, there or not) is that we should stop looking at how few blessings we have and, like the disciples, ask, **“What are they among so many?”** Instead, Christ wants to focus our attention on those things that God HAS placed into our lives, thank Him for them, and pray that He bless them as He blessed the five loaves and two fishes that fed the 5000 men not counting women and children. Christ told Philip **and the other disciples to “Go and see” what they did have rather than moan about the cost and availability of food to feed the multitude.** Do we follow that advice? Do we purposefully seek out the blessings in our lives? Or are our eyes focused on the seemingly insurmountable obstacles that life has placed between us and our perceived happiness and self-fulfillment?

Well, what DO you have? Christ would ask.

What would you answer?

To see the article, type the following into your web browser:

http://www.thepiercemytribune.com/page/content_detail/id/500533/A-musical-homecoming.html?nav=5015

While you're answering, would you include:

- ✚ The word and sacraments offered freely in **Christ's Holy Christian Church?**
- ✚ Your daily bread provided by the hand of God?
- ✚ The religious freedom as of yet still protected by your homeland?
- ✚ The breath of life in your body?
- ✚ Family, friends, and other support persons?
- ✚ A level of wealth unimaginable to over 90% of the people in the rest of the world?

We could go on and on with the blessings we take for granted. Realizing what blessings they are and counting them is only the first step. That Green Monster of Willow Crick is not going to play itself. **Someone's got to get the blower blowing and the keys moving.** We prayed to God in the Collect last Sunday that the Holy Spirit would help us **“acknowledge Your gifts, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience.”** Acknowledging and thanking God for our blessings is a great START. But to take those blessings and put them into service—what a way to follow through!

By the time you get this newsletter, Irene will have had her concert **“out at da crick.”** I'm sure it will have been wonderful (and the lunch delicious). Way to go. In a community that has seen so much decline and despair, way to go to show each other the blessings that are still to be had. And way to go to help me see the blessings in my own time, my own congregation, my own life, and in my own ministry.

May the Lord send His Spirit to each of us to acknowledge our many blessings, thank God for them, and most of all, to **PUT THEM TO USE** for His glory and the service of our neighbor.

Pastor Schmitt's Top Ten List

Irene's concert at the Crick Church brings back lots of memories about little quirks churches have, just like ours! Did you know that Zion has a staircase leading to nowhere? That our organ cannot be switched on except by those who know its secret? That in order for water to work, you have to know where to beat the system with a wrench? Here are just a few quirks from churches I've served. I'd love to hear of others from churches you've attended or heard of over the years.

10. *St. Paul, Rugby has an altar made from part of the town's old bowling lanes.*
9. *The "Crick Church" featured on the cover story has a hole in its siding where kids would climb into the attic and watch for the pastor to come so they'd know when to stop their tomfoolery.*
8. *Calvary, Kansas City is built over a spring that had to be re-routed when their building expanded.*
7. *The clock at Immanuel—Mount Olive, Illinois has never been electrified. It still needs to be wound each week, and the weights that are wound up the length of the tall tower are nothing more than wooden crates filled with rubble from the building's construction.*
6. *The first church Lutherans were able to get back into when the Soviet Union fell had been converted into a swimming pool. Where the altar once stood, there was a high dive!*
5. *Peace—Kansas City first met in a funeral home, a building that still forms a significant part of the structure. A "secret" passage in the basement used to transport bodies is still in use.*
4. *Open the wrong door in the basement of a church in Laurel, NE and you'll find a tunnel to the pastor's house!*
3. *Lakeside-Venice, FL (Andrea's former parish) had a secret room behind the choir loft. Who knows why???* Andrea's not telling...
2. *One of the gargoyles on the National Cathedral is in the image of none other than Darth Vader!*
1. *Who says early Christians didn't recycle? The bronze that makes up the high altar at St. Peter's in Rome was stripped from the portico of the Pantheon!*

Walking Together Lutheran Ministries

On Sunday, July 19, 2009 Zion Lutheran Voters approved entering into the team of congregations to make up "Walking Together Lutheran Ministries." We are excited to be a part of this cooperative ministry of the local Omaha congregations working together to meet the needs of people all over our area.

The mission of WTLM is to enable all participants to grow together in experiencing the fullness of life in Jesus Christ through worship and Bible study, through loving and caring for one another, through educational opportunities, through support in the struggles of living, through assistance with material needs, through social, recreational, and other activities, using a variety of facilities and locations throughout the Omaha/Council Bluffs metro area.

We see LCMS congregations and individuals, organizations and allies, businesses and business people from all over Omaha/Council Bluffs and beyond joining hands to fulfill our Lord's calling.

We see hundreds of volunteers in a number of locations walking hand in hand with "the nations" that are coming to Omaha/Council Bluffs, sharing the love of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

We see groups of LCMS youth and adults from the Midwest and beyond joining hands with us by coming to Omaha/Council Bluffs on mission trips to learn, to serve, and to share.

We see existing congregations in Omaha/Council Bluffs and beyond growing spiritually as their members discover anew the joy of sharing both the Gospel and the physical necessities of life.

We see people from various backgrounds, ethnic groups, and economic situations worshipping and studying the Word as the Holy Spirit incorporates them to form the bond of Christian love that binds them into both existing and new congregations.

- ✠ Hungry fed through food pantries.
- ✠ Naked clothed through thrift stores.
- ✠ Those burdened with the problems of life receiving Christian counseling and help.
- ✠ People new to our country learning necessary life skills such as ESL, job skills, and citizenship preparation.
- ✠ Children and youth learning of the love of Jesus while having fun in safe and secure places.
- ✠ People of all ages enjoying the Christian fellowship of social, recreational, and other activities.
- ✠ College students learning more about their faith so they can share it with other students.

We see all these activities not only as meeting human need, but as opportunities to share the Word of the Gospel with people. - courtesy of Rev. Steve Bartelt

Student Ministry Events

WORLDS OF FUN

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

6:30 AM - 10 PM ISH

SIGN UP BY AUG 16 @ NOON

HIGH SCHOOL ONLY

\$25 OR \$33

All High School youth are invited to a fun filled day at Worlds of Fun in Kansas City. The cost will either be \$25 (if 15 youth go) or \$33, plus all snacks, meals, and other "needs".

To sign up you must turn in, 1. Permission form, 2. \$33, by Sunday, August 16. All youth attending must agree to attend church the next day!



PAINTBALL

SATURDAY, SEPT 19TH, 9:30 AM- 3 PM ISH

6TH- 12TH GRADE

\$20 + , RSVP BY SUNDAY, SEPT 6TH

You and your friends are invited to an afternoon at Husker Paintball Adventures.

Cost: \$20, which includes: rental of paintball gun, mask and 200 paintballs. For those of you with a heavy trigger finger, you will need more money for additional paintballs. You also need to bring a bag lunch.

What to wear: You should wear clothing that covers your body (pants & long sleeves) and that can get muddy, shoes that are close toed and strap to your feet (AKA: sneakers NO FLIP FLOPS), and a head covering of some type.

What else you need to know: You must turn in by Sunday, Sept 6th: \$20 and a signed permission slip. Permission slips are located in the High School room, next to the Paintball sign up sheet.

Parents and Adults are invited!

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY, SEPT 13, 9:15-10:15 AM

2 YEARS OLD AND OLDER

Join us for the first day of Fall Sunday School. There will be special activities for all the kids as they meet their new Sunday School teacher and see their new rooms.

MIDWEEK

WED @ 5:30-6:30 PM STARTING SEPT 9

KINDERGARTEN—5TH GRADE

Midweek is a fun-filled evening of snacks, games, and crafts all while learning a Bible story.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The Confirmation classes that will be offered Sept 9 - Oct 7 will be: "Our Relationship with God", "Apostle's Creed, 1st Article", "Prayer", and "Girl Talk". All classes are on Wednesdays, from 5:30-6:30 PM.

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.lcmmsgathering.com.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 29	6:30 AM-10 PM	Worlds of Fun
Sept 19	9:30 AM - 3 PM	Paintball
Sept 13	9:15-10:15 AM	Fall Sunday School
Sept 9	5:30-6:30 PM	Confirmation
Sept 9	5:30 -6:30 PM	Midweek
Nov 1	?	Marty Party
July 17-21, 2010		National Youth Gathering

Thank You!

Thanks to the following people, Vacation Bible School was a huge success!!

Suzy Allen, Peg Bartelt, Rebecca
Mahalo nui loa Bartelt, Dawn Beck,
 Tregan Beck, Jody Berg,
 Sydney Bosley, Misty Bristol, Sally
 Cheek, Violet Christensen, Janice Cohrs,
Arigato Concordia Junior **Wa'-do** High
 Students, Lisa Crockett, Amy
 Dall, Billy Deardoff, Laura Deardoff, Luke Dear-
 doff, Katie Elder, Theresa Elder, Brooque Ellis,
 Mike Ellis, Jacki Franzen, Emily Gibson, Greg
 Gibson, **Tak** Rebecca Gibson, Yolanda Gil-
 more, God, James **Ashoge** Gud-
 Grundke, Suzy Grundke, Becky mundson, Linda Hiegel, Tom Hiegel, Jeanette
 Hoppmann, Pat Huels, Doug Kander, Re-
 becca **Merci beaucoup** **Auw'e**
 Kander, Sandra Kander,
 Deanna Kelly, Greg Kelly, Colette Lewis,
 Todd Lewis, Myranda Lewis, Sarah Lin-
 dau, Lois Luedtke, George **D** McCoy,
 Natalie Meeske, Jes- sica Myer,
Dhannvaad Brad Mit- **H** telstedt,
 Lori Nardini, Holly Olsen, Mi-
 chelle Pfeiffer, Becca Reedy, Tony Reedy, An-
 drea Roettger, Andrew Rohloff, Kathy
 Rohloff, Marguerite San- **Tand ikh bayarlalaa**
 delin, Carol Scebold, Stan Scebold, Thomas
 Schmitt, Darlene Sprague, That person I forgot to
 list, Jaki Thomas, Those that donated items, Jalen
 Timm, Kayla Timm, Chad **Jag tackar**
A Treadway, Judy
T Treadway, Marilyn Walz, Buck
H Wehrbein, Sandy Wehrbein, Chris
A Wurtele, You!

Midweek Volunteers Needed!

Midweek is for those that are in Kindergarten through the 5th Grade. They meet on Wednesdays, from 5:30-6:30 during the school year. See Andrea for more information.

✠ Opening / Closing Leader

Tells the Bible lesson of the day, provides music (there's a CD). A leader book is provided for each week.

✠ Games Leader

Leads games for 3 groups. Leader book has each week's games.

✠ Crafts Leader

Leads games for 3 groups. Leader book has each week's crafts.

✠ Snacks Leader

Leads snacks for 3 groups. Leader book has each week's snacks.

✠ Shepherd

Takes small groups of children to each site.

✠ 4-5 Grade Leader

Does lesson and activities with the 4-5 graders.

Sunday School Volunteers Needed!

There is nothing more rewarding than teaching Sunday School. All classes are team taught. No prior experience necessary. Sign up to teach today!

- ◆ **Sunday School Superintendent (20 minutes)**
 Make sure all teachers have what they need, that the teachers showed up, and that attendance has been taken.
- ◆ **Opening Music (15 minutes)**
 Lead the little kids and big kids in music. Have them sing in church once a month.
- ◆ **Opening Intro (15 minutes)**
 Intro the Bible story kids will learn, and hand out Birthday presents.
- ◆ **Sunday School Teacher (45 minutes)**
 Teach the Bible Story to a group of children (2-3 year olds, 4 year olds, Kindergarten, 1 & 2 Grade, 3 & 4 Grade, 5 & 6 Grade, 7 & 8 Grade, 9-12 Grade). Each teacher gets a leader guide with class ideas and activities.

Zion's Uth Pie Auction & Pie in the Face Contest Sunday, September 27, 11:45 AM

It's that time again when we get to leave the church with wonderful homemade pies, a full belly, and one very lucky individual gets to go home sticky.

This year's Pie Auction is being hosted by Zion's Youth Group. All funds raised will go towards their operating costs (activities, the National Youth Gathering which is this coming July, servant events, supplies, pizza) so that they can remain a non budgeted item on the church budget for yet another year.

Lunch will be a potluck, with brats and hotdogs being provided, followed by the Pie Auction.

All those wishing to see a special someone hit in the face with a pie this year should see Andrea Roettger to start a vote jar. All votes are \$1.



Summer Choir

If you like to sing, but don't have the time to sing in choir during the regular season, summer choir is for you. We rehearse once on a Wednesday evening and then sing the following Sunday.

The next summer choir rehearsal will be Wednesday, **August 5**, to prepare us to sing for Sunday, **August 9**.

But the August 5th date will be a double opportunity. From 6:30 to 7:30 pm that evening, Zion will host a rehearsal for the city-wide Service of Mission and Music. There is another article in the newsletter about it. Be sure to take a look at it. Then, from approximately 7:30 to 8:00 pm that evening, we will practice an anthem for the following Sunday.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Pastor Steve Bartelt.

Service of Mission and Music

Two years ago, the LCMS churches in Omaha joined together to celebrate the various missions of the Nebraska District in a city-wide service of praise and celebration.

This year, a second service of mission and music will celebrate foreign missions. On Sunday, **September 27**, at 4:00 pm, LCMS Lutherans from all over the metro will gather at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in LaVista to join in praising God for the opportunities to witness to the Gospel all over the world.

There will be a lot of mass musical opportunities for instrumentalists, hand bell players, a mass adult choir, youth choir, and children's choir. Zion will host a rehearsal for the mass adult choir at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, **August 5th**. There are additional rehearsal opportunities scheduled throughout the city. Singing in a service like this is a wonderful way for those who cannot commit to regular rehearsals for Zion's choir (and of course those who do sing in Zion's choir as well) to use their voices (or their instruments) to join in giving thanks to the Lord. Pastor Steve Bartelt and Vicky Vandervort are two of Zion's members who have leadership roles in the service. Ask either one of them for more information.

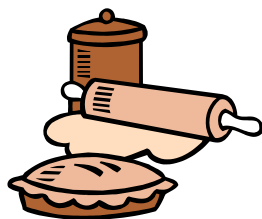
And if you aren't one of Zion's members who wants to participate in the mass musical aspects of the service, put the date on your calendar for coming to a wonderful celebration of God's mission.

Top 10 things Learned by Zion's Uth at this Summer's Servant Event!

1. Lead paint chips aren't as yummy as they might seem
2. Respirator Masks are the new summer fashion statement
3. Bugs (both dead & alive) will attack you while you sleep in the church basement
4. That Andrea knows more hiding spots in the church than the youth do
5. When washing windows, plan on washing them twice.
6. Geese will attack you and they might have teeth
7. Hard work can be fun and rewarding
8. That some houses are literally being held together with lead paint, 5 layers of shingles, and prayer
9. That you never know how by helping in a small way, you will change someone's life in a huge way
10. How to show God's love, by helping others

Pies Needed!

Donations of pies and cakes are needed for the pie auction. All donated goods need to be placed in the Lakeview Room by 10:30 AM on Sunday, September 27. Thank you in advance for your donations.



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 tasty, make coffee (coffee and kool-aid already bought and in the cupboard), serve, and clean up.

Thank you to the Board of Discipleship and the Board of Church Properties for providing these treats for the months of June and July.

~ Board of Fellowship ~



MISSION CENTRAL DAY TRIP

Zion is planning a Saturday tour of Mission Central in October. Log on to www.missioncentral.us to learn more about this unique LCMS facility located near Mapleton, Iowa. A schedule and more details will follow. It will be either the 10th or the 24th of October; and if there is enough interest, we will charter a bus. Contact Rich Thies for more information. If you are interested in going, please let him know your preference so he can give Gary and Maxine Thies a definite date.

Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha is hosting their 4th Annual Gala on Friday, November 6, at Embassy Suites LaVista.

This event benefits Concordia Academy & Concordia Jr/Sr High School while providing you with a night of entertainment: Emcee Jack Swanda, Christian Comedian Chris Blackmore, silent & live auction plus a great dinner. You can help support this ministry by saving the date and joining us or simply making a donation towards our auction. To find out more information contact Jennifer or email at concordiala@concordiaomaha.org



Lydia Circle News

On May 10th we served doughnuts between services. Our annual birthday party was held on May 28th at Vincenzo's restaurant. Connie Hagen and Lois Costar were our hostesses. They had fun games and prizes and table decorations. The three wives of the Laborers for Christ who were working at our Concordia School joined us. It was nice to have them and to get to know them better.

A thinking of you card was sent to Katie Dreessen and graduation cards to 10 of our high school graduates, also a college graduation card to Katie Elder.

Our June meeting was the 25th. Eight members, Pastor and guests Ruth Pruess and Ruth Braun were present. Our Christian Growth Leader read a very touching article, "Robby's Night". The secretary's and treasurer's reports were given.

Items for Project Hope for July are school supplies. The Global Gift Bags will be taken care of as before. Items for these are school supplies and a toy for children five and up. The Global Gift Tree will be set up again this fall.

Lois Costar received a gift for her and her husband, Bruce's 50th Anniversary. Birthdays for June were Ann & Eunice Neuhaus and Rudy Murchie. Thinking of you cards were sent to Arlene Logeman and Ferne Rockwell.

Pastor showed the movie "Where Do The Different Races Come From", by Ken Ham. We closed our meeting with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer.

Lois Costar served a refreshing dessert of pineapple cake and sherbet, nuts, candy and coffee.

Our meetings are on the last Thursday of the month at 1:30 and are on the calendar each month and usually in the bulletin. If you would like to come and visit we would love to have you!

Secretary, Aleta Neuhaus

Rebekah Circle News

On June 23rd nine members, five guests and Pastor Schmitt met in the Lakeview Room for our meeting. The wives of the Laborers for Christ and Doug and Jean Wilshusen joined us in viewing the video called "Where do the Races Come From" by Ken Ham. Pastor answered questions concerning the topic and we learned, as the film explained, God created one race of people, human. Our culture has conditioned us to believe many things which are not true but God's Word does set us straight with the truth.

Judy reported she had sent several cards, Thinking of You cards to Katie Dreessen, Ferne Rockwell and Arlene Logeman. She also sent graduation cards to ten Zion high school graduates: Amanda Carlsen, Chandler Fundum, Taylor Jacobs, Alexandra Jetter, Denver Klaus, Emily Lund, Rachel Lusvardi, Jordan Nichols, Layne Pruess and Taylor Sutton. Katie Elder graduated from college and was also sent a card.

Laura informed our group of a friend who is working as a missionary in China and is in need of support at this time. After discussion, our members decided to send \$100.00 to her friend. Laura and Bill celebrated their 25th anniversary at the beginning of June and we all wished them many blessings on their anniversary.

In July members are asked to prepare the Bible Study from the Quarterly, page 22, called "The Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail." The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer, and then Barb served a delicious ice cream cake for dessert.

Secretary, Carol Scebold

Project Hope

Please watch the bulletin for the August and September featured items for Project Hope. All contributions of nonperishable food items are so appreciated when the needs of their clients are so great.

Global Gift Bags

The "Global Gift Tree" is now finally up. Do to unforeseen circumstances it has taken a while to get it up. Please take a tag or tags and purchase the item stated and return with the tag to the basket by the tree. We need to collect all the items by late fall as this program is coming to an end and we need to get the filled gift bags to the Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk by the beginning of December.

The needed items are a letter size notebook, 5 regular pencils, 5 ballpoint pens, 1 pencil sharpener, 1 pkg. 10 count colored pencils, 1 small coloring book, 1 small pair blunt scissors, 1 any type 12 inch ruler with one side metric and a nice child's toy for ages 5-12 such as an Etch A Sketch, harmonicas, yo-yos, Slinky, and puzzles. The toy should be something your child would enjoy receiving.

Global Gift Bag Co-Coordinator, Kathy Rummel

Are you ready to join the Cub Scouts?

You can sign up now and join Pack 412 for the best scouting experience ever! Cubs in pack 412 benefit from participating in a focused, safe environment, and being with like-minded families.

Your son's adventures will be endless when he joins Cub Scouts. He'll participate in camping, Pinewood Derby Races, nature hikes, field trips, service projects, and more. Scouting is not only a great adventure, it's also a great builder of self-esteem and social skills, and a great way to meet new friends and learn new things. In order for your son to sign up for Cub Scouts, a parent must be present. The membership also includes a subscription to boys' life magazine. Boys rising to first grade or older can join cubs (ages 7-10).

Pack 412 has our Pack meetings each 3rd Monday of the month at Zion Lutheran Church from 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM. The Dens meet several times a month on their own schedule at different locations. We hope that you will join us. Call or e-mail us now for more information and to submit your son's scouting application. For more information, contact George McCoy. You can visit our website at www.zion412.org/pack412. Pack 412 is chartered by Zion Lutheran Church (West) Located At 144th and Ida Streets.



Cub Scout Promise

I, (name), promise to do my best
To do my duty to God and my country,
To help other people, and
To obey the Law of the Pack.

Law of the Pack

The Cub Scout follows Akela.
The Cub Scout helps the pack go.
The pack helps the Cub Scout grow.
The Cub Scout gives goodwill.

Cub Scout Motto

Do Your Best

Are you ready to join the Boy Scouts?

Do you like to camp and enjoy the great outdoors? Scouting offers you the chance to learn skills like hiking, camping and learn about nature. You'll meet other scouts like yourself that may be in your school or church. You'll learn how to help others in your community. The fun starts now - the values last a lifetime.

A boy can join the Boy Scouts if he is 11 years old, or has completed the 5th grade, or the Arrow of Light Award and is at least 10 years old, but is not yet 18 years old.

Troop 412 meets most Mondays at Zion Lutheran Church at 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM. We camp at least once a month. We hope that you will join us.

Troop 412 is chartered by Zion Lutheran Church (West) Located At 144th and Ida Streets.
For more information please contact Scoutmaster Kris Auch



The Boy Scout Law

A Scout is:
Trustworthy,
Loyal,
Helpful,
Friendly,
Courteous,
Kind,
Obedient,
Cheerful,
Thrifty,
Brave,
Clean,
and Reverent.

Boy Scout Oath

On my honor, I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong, mentally
awake and morally straight.

Boy Scout Motto

Be Prepared

Boy Scout Slogan

Do A Good Turn Daily