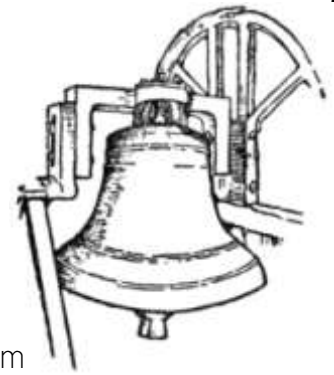




The Zion Bell

October-November, 2010



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

Beginning Monday, Sept. 27, Zion will be accessible only by way of 132nd and Military. Our intersection of 144th and Ida will be closed for renovation. Military between 144th and Ida is **PERMANENTLY closed, so we can't sneak around that way. To get to work, Mary will have to go from 142nd to 132nd to get to 156th.** To receive the gain of better roads, this is the pain we endure.

At the time of this writing, I am not sure of what the schedule for construction will be. I do **not know if we'll be able to access both parking lots from Ida during this phase.** I do know that once this project is done, the **rest of Ida will be redone, and we'll only be able to access the church from the 144th Street side of things.** Oh, the joy . . .

BUT - - when all is said and done, we'll have a left turn lane coming into our parking lot, the sight line over the top of the hill will be improved, and we'll have a few more paved parking spaces than before, albeit in different places, and not as close to the main entrance. Think of these spaces as gifts for your cardiovascular system on your way to enjoy the Christ's gifts for your soul.

Holy Scripture tells us that these changes in life are never pleasant, but painful—at the time of change! But in the end, after our wrestling, there is joy in the morning. There will be a blessing at the new dawn: Hebrews 12:11 tells us, **“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”**

At this point it is extremely important to remember that not all discipline is the result of doing something wrong and getting punished for it.

Athletes, musicians, students, professionals all subject themselves to rigorous discipline not for having done wrong in the past but in order to do better in the future.

One of your fellow parishioners and an extraordinary member of my pastoral support team (*that's all of you, by the way*) encourages me by reminding me that **discouragement is Satan's work. If, then, we regard our inconveniences, hardships, and persecutions as punishment from above, we view God's work in the way of law: “Do bad things, bad things happen. Do good things, good things happen.” This is not the way of our loving God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is the way of “My Name is Earl.”**

Rather, God sees us sinner/saints as beloved creations who are ALWAYS under construction. And, whereas our patience is going to be tried over and OVER and OVER again through the coming months (years???) of road construction **around us, God's patience with us is never-ending.** Even when we tear our own lives apart, He is there to rebuild them. When the evils of this dark age seek to ruin them, He is there to repair them. No charge, no waiting, no detours.

In the days between now and Christ's return, we will have to constantly seek God's encouragement in the midst of discouragements. I urge you, then, not to let such things as a few extra miles around the lake keep you from the bounty that God has to offer you in the Divine Service and the sharing of His Holy Word among your brothers in sisters in Christ. Here is the good stuff of life. Here is encouragement in times of discipline. Here is our home, our earthly Zion, regardless of the path that leads to its door.



Fork Dinner Summary

Many thanks to all who helped make our Fork Dinner such a great time: Those who prepared it—especially “Chef” Sandy Wehrbein—those who led the games, and those who came and enjoyed it.



Thanks to the Youth who shared their faith in New Orleans, then shared the experience with us. Laura Deardoff prepared a wonderful presentation that gave us all a real feel for what it may have been like down in Louisiana.

Thanks to Sandy and Suzy for their presentation on their trip to China, and for the gift of John 3:16 written in Chinese for display in our church.

Thanks to the many organizations within the Zion community who hosted games for the children, giving them a view of the wide range of ministry opportunities the Lord has gifted us to offer. Each child was given a “passport” to be stamped at each location, finally taking the completed passport to Pastor for a final gift. Throughout the evening, drawings were held for a number of free gifts, including Concordia Self-Study Bibles.



Finally, thanks to all who heeded the call to help us make some “New Beginnings in Christ” by erasing as much debt as possible. As of the end of the dinner Sunday, we had *surpassed* our

pledged total by around \$10,000: with \$720,615 pledged, our total stood at \$730,067.

Since the dinner, many more gifts have been received. These gifts, although no longer by name part of the “New Beginnings in Christ” campaign, will continue the worthy cause of the campaign, that is, erasing our debt so that we can be about expanding our ministry to our present congregation and the mission field God is even now planting about us.

All glory be to God on high!!

Pastor Schmitt's Top Ten List

With all this construction going on around us, it's hard not to think of what we'd be able to build if we had unlimited resources. Of course, you'd want a capable builder to do the work. Here are the **Top Ten Signs You've Hired the Wrong Crew to Build Your Dream:**

10. On the first day of construction, they show up and ask, “Now you'll have to remind me, just WHAT are we supposed to do here?”
9. They provide you a list of possible delays including not just weather, missing materials, inspections, etc, but also “Days that are just so nice it would be a shame NOT to go fishing.”
8. Their only excavation tools? Chopsticks.
7. Citing their desire to “Go Green,” their nails, screws, nuts and bolts are all bio-degradable.
6. You arrive one day to find your garage on the lower level nicely finished, but the only way to get to it is a set of stairs from the living room that's too steep, bumpy and narrow for your Buick.
5. Thanks to a great sale at the local plumbing supply store that they just couldn't pass up, you now have a master bathroom that seats seven.
4. Due to cost overruns, they not only decide that the Jacuzzi will end up in your laundry room, but that the Jacuzzi will end up BEING your washing machine.

3. What you wanted: What you were built:



2. When they're done, your house is light, airy, and has a great view of the surrounding mountains—but only because they forgot about the roof.
... and the number one sign that you've hired the wrong crew to build your dream:
1. Even though the project was completed last year, they're still letting themselves in to use your bathroom. (*But hey, at least there's room for them!*)

Student Ministry

FAMILY FUN NITE

MARTY PARTY

FOR ALL AGES!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

4-6 PM

People of all ages are invited to join us for an afternoon of fun as we celebrate the life of Martin Luther (from where we get the word, "Lutheran").

Marty Party will be at the Christensen Farm, where we will enjoy games, hayrack rides, crafts, bonfire, marshmallows, hotdogs, and much more. Martin Luther might even join us for a few minutes.



Please bring seating for your family and dress to be outside the entire time.

HIGH SCHOOL

Sun, Oct 3	Servant Event Meeting	11:30 AM
	Pizza Nite	6:30 PM
Sun, Oct 10	Capture the Flag	6:30 PM
Sun, Oct 17	Craft Nite	6:30 PM
Sun, Oct 24	Marty Party	4:00 PM
Sun, Oct 31	Trick or Treat	6:30 PM
Sun, Nov 7	Rake it Out	Afternoon
Sun, Nov 14	Bonfire @ Deardoff's	6:30 PM
Sun, Nov 21	Game Nite	6:30 PM
Sun, Nov 28	NO YOUTH GROUP	
Sun, Dec 5	GLO Games	6:30 PM
Sun, Dec 12	Progressive Dinner & Caroling	Evening
Sun, Dec 19	NO YOUTH GROUP	
Sun, Dec 26	NO YOUTH GROUP	

Servant Event

Information Meeting

6th Grade - Adults

Sunday, October 3

11:30 AM

MPR Room

The Board of Youth is planning a return trip to Wallace, Idaho for a Servant Event with Shoshone Base Camp this coming summer. We invite all people who are at least in the 6th grade to join us for this wonderful experience.



On October 3rd we will explain what happens on a servant event and attempt to pick a date that works for us and the camp. A couple weeks after the meeting we will be asking for a commitment to attend the trip.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sun, Oct 3	Servant Event Meeting	11:30 AM
Sun, Oct 24	Marty Party	4:00 PM
Nov 5-6	Confirmation Retreat	
Sun, Nov 7	Rake it Out	Afternoon
Sun, Dec 12	Progressive Dinner & Caroling	Evening
Sat, Dec 18	Children's Christmas Service	

CHILDREN'S

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Children of all ages are invited to participate. Costumes, no costumes, lines, no lines. Something for everyone!

Wed, Nov 10	Parts Posted	5:30 PM
Sat, Dec 4	Rehearsal	10:30-11:30 AM
Sat, Dec 11	Rehearsal	1-2 PM
Sat, Dec 18	Service	6 PM

LWML ZONE RALLY **“Get Out of the Boat”**

Sunday, October 10
Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church
15005 Q Street, Omaha
Registration begins at 1:30 PM
Program starts at 2:00

Members of Divine Shepherd who were part of a team that traveled to Guatemala this summer will be speaking on their experiences. Ladies, please consider this wonderful opportunity to meet with others from the West Zone and also share Zone news and refreshments. If you have any questions or need a ride, please contact Judy Treadway.



COOKBOOK

RECIPES & REMEMBRANCES: 125 Years of Grace

The Zion cookbook will be available for your Christmas shopping! Stay tuned for more details!

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 Education, Elders, Barb McDonald, Mitch and Colleen Johnson, Henry and Aleta Neuhaus and Board of Church Properties for providing these treats in August and September.

-Board of Fellowship-

PIE AUCTION PIE IN THE FACE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 11:45 AM

All are invited to join the Youth for Zion's Annual Pie Auction & Pie in the Face Contest. Lunch starts at 11:45. Please bring a potluck item; youth are supplying brats & hotdogs. All proceeds go to support Zion's Youth activities.



BOARD OF CHURCH PROPERTIES

- ◆ We are planning our annual fall clean-up day at church for Saturday, October 2 from 8:00 to noon. Please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board by the church office if you can help .
- ◆ With winter not too far off, we are looking for people to help remove snow from the sidewalks and steps around the church. If you have some interest in helping, please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board by the church office.



Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha St. Mark Lutheran Church Joint News Release

Contact: Rev. Jim Rasmussen, Concordia Lutheran Schools, 402-965-3534.

Concordia Academy will move to St. Mark Lutheran Church after the upcoming school year under a 10-year-lease agreement between the school association and the congregation.

St. Mark members recently approved design and financing plans for a new \$1.9 million addition to the church building that will include a new gymnasium to be used by the school and other church ministries. Construction is expected to begin by early September.

“We’re excited to make the move to a facility owned by one of our closest church partners,” said the Rev. Jim Rasmussen, chief executive officer of the Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha. “To have a home in a place where we are aligned with the owner in mission and ministry is a great blessing.”

Rev. James Irwin, senior pastor of St. Mark, said the project has congregation members buzzing with anticipation. “It’s exciting to see the energy building in this partnership,” he said. “St. Mark has really had a passion for Christian schools for many years.”

Concordia Academy is a Lutheran elementary school serving 170 students from kindergarten through sixth grade. The school will have options to extend its 10-year- lease at St. Mark for up to an additional 10 years, or potentially through the 2030-31 school year.

After the upcoming 2010-11 school year, Concordia Academy will move from its current home in the Westside Community Conference Center building at 108th and Grover Streets. St. Mark is located at 1821 N. 90th St., just a block south of 90th and Blondo Streets.

Concordia Academy is operated by Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha, an association of churches, including Zion, affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. St. Mark is one of 16 congregations in the association. The association also operates Concordia Jr.-Sr. High School at 156th and Fort Streets.

CASH FOR STUDENTS

It's time for "Cash for Students" sponsored by Hy-Vee. Gather up all the HyVee receipts you can find until December 31st. Receipts can be from groceries, drugs, and gas. These help our school in a great way. Tell your family, friends, and neighbors to save their receipts for you. Please bring your receipts to Zion or drop them off at Concordia.

Thank you!



Bible Funnies

Q. What do they call pastors in Germany?

A. German Shepherds.

Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

A. Noah He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

Q. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?

A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

JOINT CIRCLE MEETING

On September 18th seventeen Lydia and Rebekah Circle members, Pastor and Mary Schmitt and Bryan Stoltenberg met in the Lakeview Room for the annual joint meeting of the Circles. Pastor Schmitt gave the blessing before we all enjoyed the large variety of salads, bars and drinks for our lunch.

Bryan presented the program which was narrating the pictures he had taken during a recent trip to Israel. It was very interesting and Bryan answered several questions about some of the places he had visited.

After the program Elaine conducted the joint meeting. She asked for volunteers to help on LWML Sunday. Several Lydia and Rebekah members will help by being greeters, readers, and helping to serve coffee cakes that others have made. The bulletins have arrived and flowers for the altar will be provided by the Lydia members.

On October 10th the LWML Fall Rally will be at Divine Shepherd starting at 1:30. There will be a presentation about a mission trip to Guatemala. Members are encouraged to share rides.

Elaine then gave the report about the 125th anniversary cookbook. She showed us what the book will look like and told us the finished books should arrive around the first part of November. Five hundred eighty one recipes were turned in and there are six hundred books ordered. They will make a lovely gift, and she said there are over 150 preorders.

Elaine recognized those having birthdays in September which includes Marybeth, Shirley, Barb, and Marilyn. Anna's anniversary is also in September. She also asked Kathy to report on Project Hope. Kathy said the items requested for the month of October are soups, beans and supplies for Halloween. She said that Project Hope would like to have toys for children for Christmas by the beginning of December this year. She also mentioned that she will be setting up the tree in November which is for mittens, etc. for Open Door Mission and Project Hope. Kathy also mentioned that she has just received an order of cards which includes Christmas cards and more sympathy cards.

That meeting ended and the two Circles split up and each conducted a short individual meeting.
Secretary, Carol Scebold

Rebekah Circle News

The Rebekah group approved minutes of the June and August meetings and also received the treasurers report. Our group agreed to clean the kitchen downstairs in the coming year and Lydia group will take care of the Lakeview kitchen.

Kathy was asked if she could write a short article about Project Hope to be submitted to the LWML Leaguer. She agreed and will also submit a picture. Judy then read several thank you notes and also one from Project Hope requesting a time to meet at Zion during which a certificate would be given to our church.

Donna and Mary were selected to be the nominating committee at next month's meeting during which members will choose a president and vice president for the next two years.

Members were reminded of the Bakery Event which will be the weekend before Thanksgiving. There was also some discussion about the date for the next joint meeting; it was generally agreed that September is the best month for it. The meeting then adjourned.

Secretary, Carol Scebold

Lydia Circle News

Nine members were present for our potluck brunch on July 9th. We have served at several funerals this month. It was suggested that those bringing salads to these funerals bring a large salad as they seem to go over very well and there has been a shortage at times.

We congratulated Toni Luethge for her 50th wedding anniversary. There was quite a bit of discussion about the progress of the cookbook coming out for our 125th Anniversary of the church. After our meeting we thoroughly cleaned the kitchen in the lower level. It looked great; let's help keep it that way!

Ten members were present at the August 26th meeting. Elaine Raabe updated us on the progress on the cookbook. The LWML had an information table at the "New Beginnings in Christ Dinner" on Aug. 29th.

Pastor led us in a Bible Study, "The Pressure's Off: A Better You."

We adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer and enjoyed pie, coffee, nuts and candy served by our hostess Lois Costar.

The Lydia Circle had a brief meeting after the joint meeting on Sept. 18th. Minutes and treasurers report were given. The Fall Rally is Oct. 10th at Divine Shepherd at 1:30. Toni Luethge is taking care of the flowers for LWML Sunday Oct. 3rd. There will be an article in the Leaguer and the Quarterly about what we do for Project Hope (along with the congregation's help) all year long.

It is time for election of Secretary and Treasurer. Connie Hagen offered to take the job of treasurer again. We are still looking for a secretary!

Our next meeting is Oct. 28th at 1:30. Pastor will give the topic; Marybeth Cohrs will be our hostess. We would love to have you come and visit!

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary, Aleta Neuhaus

PROJECT HOPE

What is Project Hope? It is a Lutheran Food Pantry located in the poorest zip code area of Omaha near 42nd and Ames. Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons they hand out "pantries" to qualified clients. A "pantry" is a paper grocery bag filled with a couple cans of vegetables, a can of fruit, a sleeve of crackers, soup, pork & beans, pasta, tomato sauce or spaghetti sauce and some treats. One "pantry" is given out per every 2 members of a family. From the beginning of January of this year through June, 4,513 people were served.

As you can imagine, Project Hope has more clients with the poor economy. So every donation that a Zion member makes, no matter how big or small, is greatly appreciated.

We have had a great September, collecting almost 500 items at the time of submitting this article. The featured items for September were Halloween candy & treats as well as cookies. For the last few years Project Hope has and is having a safe Trick or Treat. This year it is on Saturday, Oct. 30th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. All of their client's children are invited to come and enjoy games and treats in a safe environment. Candy & trinkets will be given out that night. Volunteers are also needed to help at the event. This could be an excellent youth service project. Contact Project Hope at 453-7649 to help.

The featured items for October are canned soup and beans. Perhaps with the soup you could include a box of saltines or bag of oyster crackers. For November the featured items will be baking supplies (flour, sugar, baking chocolate, canned milk, vegetable oil, Crisco, etc.) and cookies. In addition, Project Hope has a most needed list of canned vegetables, canned fruit, peanut butter, baked beans, bathroom tissue and bar soap.

Did you know that with each bar of soap that is donated, a new wash cloth is attached? Also with each bottle of dish soap that is donated, a new dish cloth is attached. If liquid laundry detergent is donated, it is divided into 12 to 16 oz. clean water bottles. This is a way of making your donation go a little further. Also, for those who would prefer, monetary donations can be made by depositing them in our Project Hope box on a table in the narthex. Envelopes are provided for your convenience.

Around the beginning of November you will find a "Toy Box" located by the Open Door/Project Hope tree. The past few years the Lydia and Rebekah Circles have donated new toys to give to Project Hope so they can distribute them to their clients that have children. This year Project Hope would like these toys by the end of the first week of December so they have time to distribute them. If you would like to join the Circles in this effort, just bring a new toy of any type and put in our "Toy Box". You may want to include a gift bag or a roll of wrap to make the gift complete.

As always, Project Hope is very appreciative of all our donations and thinks of Zion as one of their special angels for all of our efforts.

OPEN DOOR MISSION/PROJECT HOPE TREE

Once again the Lydia & Rebekah Circles will sponsor our special tree in the narthex to collect caps, mittens, gloves and scarves. These items will be donated equally to the Open Door Mission and Project Hope. The tree will be set up in early November so we can have these items when the cold weather comes. Both agencies were so very appreciative of all the items we donated last winter. Deliveries will be made as the tree fills with these items. How long the tree will be up will be determined on the kind of winter we have. These items can be for men, women, boys, girls and infants. If you crochet or knit, perhaps you would like to make one of these items.

This mission outreach is to help those less fortunate here in the Omaha area.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

We continue to collect pop can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House here in Omaha. The tabs have a twofold purpose. First they help the Ronald McDonald House raise funds for their operation of the House and it helps the members of Zion to be involved in recycling. All you need to do is save the tabs from pop cans (or other cans) and then bring them to the Lakeview Room and put them on the east counter by the miniature Ronald McDonald House.

To date we have collected nearly 81,000 tabs and our goal is to reach 100,000 by the end of the calendar year. Zion is part of the "Thanks a Million" effort and that is our long term goal.....to collect one million tabs. Now before you gasp and think this is impossible, we recently had a donation of nearly 10,000 tabs. Also, when we reach 100,000 tabs that will mean we are one tenth of the way to our ultimate goal. Everyone doing a little will result in this great goal!

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND NAPKINS

The Rebekah Circle provides, as a service to Zion, an assortment of greeting cards and at this time of the year, Christmas cards & napkins. The Christmas cards and napkins will be available the weekend before Thanksgiving. Shop early for the best selection.

We try to keep our prices as low as possible. This is not a fundraiser for the Circle but is offered as a service. All of our cards have scripture verses.

In mid October we will also have Thanksgiving cards and napkins available.



Walking Together Lutheran Ministries

P.O. Box 9082

Omaha, NE 68109-0082

(402) 345-1037

walkingtogetheromaha@yahoo.com

Faith and Family Night with the Omaha Royals . . .

In front of almost 9,000 fans, Pastor Thomas Schmitt of Zion Lutheran Church, Omaha, fulfilled a lifetime dream of throwing out the ceremonial first pitch at a professional baseball game. On Saturday, August 7th, Walking Together Lutheran Ministries sponsored “Faith and Family Night” at Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha.

Prior to the game, fans passed by displays hosted by congregations, schools, and ministries in the Omaha area. Hundreds of copies of information and materials about Lutheran ministries were handed out. One congregation even gave away 2000 DVD copies of the Bible. Students from Living H₂O Campus Ministry were energetic in their witness to those entering the stadium. On their way into the stadium, fans passed by a display featuring pictures from past events of Walking Together Lutheran Ministries. Brochures were distributed welcoming fans to Faith and Family Night with an evangelistic message on the inside. Concordia Lutheran Schools gained names of half a dozen new families interested in Christian education.

The Omaha Royals pleased the fans with a victory over Portland. After the game, the Rev. Stephen Bartelt, President of Walking Together Lutheran Ministries, invited the fans to stay for a fireworks display and for a Christian music concert outside the stadium following the game. Nebraska District President Russell Sommerfeld shared remarks lifting up the name of Jesus Christ to the crowd.

Over 5000 fans jammed the outdoor stage to hear words and music from Rebecca St. James. She challenged the youthful crowd to live Christian lives. She also reminded them of the forgiveness in Jesus Christ for past failures. She held out the hope of the Gospel especially for young women with unplanned pregnancies. Another 2000 Bibles were handed out in the parking lot after the game.

Brush Up Nebraska . . .

On August 14 and 21, volunteers from several Omaha metro churches joined together to paint the home of a 98 year old resident of Council Bluffs. Several LCMS churches also participated individually in this annual “Paint-a-thon.”

Upcoming Events Sponsored by WTLM . . .

November 7, early afternoon. WTLM is recruiting hundreds of volunteers for its second “Rake It Out” effort to rake leaves from the yards of congregational shut-ins and other homebound people in the metro area.

[Watch for more information on how you can volunteer to help!](#)