



The Zion Bell

December, 2010
January, 2011



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Lord, Aid My Tongue to Bless Thy Name

If you are reading this on the internet, you can thank George McCoy, who has taken over administration of our web page from Lance Bukove, who many years ago gave us our first presence on the World Wide Web.

If you are reading this on the internet, you can also now click on the “Sermons” tab and see a video of your pastor using his “poor, lisping, stammering tongue,” to do his best to proclaim Law and Gospel to all who have ears. This expansion of our congregation’s teaching and preaching venues come as a result of not only requests from our South Texas Snowbirds (you know who you are), but from purchases made with memorials for one of Zion’s long-time teachers and missionaries, Elda Deardoff.

So here I sit, acutely aware of what an awesome congregation I have been given to serve: a congregation in which there is not only a strong desire to *hear* the Word, but a strong desire to *spread* the Word as well. It is no accident those two traits go together, is it? Like the old song goes, **“I love to tell the story**

For those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting
To hear it with the rest.”

This love affair with the Word of the Lord is something that truly is a miraculous work of the Holy Spirit, as Luther says, *“I believe I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel. . . .”* This calling out with the Gospel has been carried out in many and different ways through the years. Just think of all the changes our little church on the prairie has

seen in communications in her 124.5 years: The telephone (1876) was in its infancy. Radio wouldn’t come to Omaha until 1923, TV in 1949. Movies, Internet, Facebook, YouTube—What’s next? What a remarkable period of history we have been given to experience!

Alas, it would all be for naught if we only used this avalanche of technology for worldly pursuits or nefarious undertakings. Therein lies the danger, doesn’t it? Rather than letting technology—especially the boom in communications—serve us, how often do we end up serving the technology? Texting, messaging, emailing—in all our connectivity, are we witnessing to our faith? Or are we letting those who know the least about our Lord drag our dialog down to their level? **Who’s in chare of our communications? WE ARE!**

We hear about cyber-bullying, sexting, and all kinds of electronic abuse out there, but how are we letting our light shine into this darkness? How are we letting Christ direct our discourse in such a time as ours? We might bemoan the censorship Christianity gets in public arenas, but **who’s censoring your tweets?**

Lance and George used their internet know-how to help Zion spread the Word. Elda was not only a long-time teacher inside the church, but loved getting clever messages out on the sign **by the bell. Our snowbirds may vacate Omaha’s** winters, but still faithfully witness their faith deep in the heart of Texas. May we all join in such pursuits! Pray that right here at home the Lord of the harvest would use our tongues to bless His name, using every message to the witness of our life in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Schmitt's Top Ten List

A need has arisen among us, and indeed it has existed for some time: Several members of Zion who cannot drive themselves to church are in need of someone to give them a lift. At this time, there are several folks who live to the south and west of Zion who have requested rides. So here are the



Top Ten Reasons You Should Think About Giving Someone A Ride To Church:

10. *We'll get you one of those fancy Chauffeur's caps if you really, REALLY want one.*
9. *That warm, tender feeling that comes from knowing you've made someone's day.*
8. *That warm, tender feeling that comes from having another warm, tender person in the car on these chilly winter mornings.*
7. *The Intersection of 144th and Ida is open again, so you won't have to drive five miles out of the way to get to church anymore (for a while, anyway).*
6. *Think of all the 'way back when' stories you'll learn on the way to and from church.*
5. *You could use the carpool lane—that is, if Omaha had carpool lanes!*
4. *We'll reserve a spot right by the door for you!*
3. *Let's face it, some of us might need that extra little bit of responsibility to get out of our nice, comfy beds once in a while on Sunday mornings.*
2. *Who couldn't use another new friend? (That goes for both your rider AND you!)*

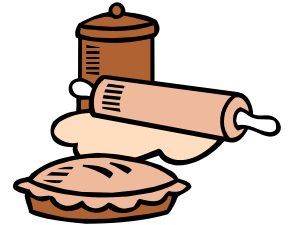
And the BEST Reason You Should Think About Giving Someone A Ride To Church:

1. *Once you see the joy in someone's eyes as you pick them up, you'll never think of the Psalm verse "I was GLAD when they said unto me, "Let us go unto the House of the Lord" again in the same way.*

JANUARY VOTERS' MEETING

Plan to attend the next quarterly Voters' Assembly on January 16 immediately following the late worship service. You will have an opportunity to share your views on the proposed budget for the new year.

ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK



RECIPES & REMEMBRANCES: 125 Years of Grace

The Zion cookbook is here and available for your Christmas giving! The hard cover three-ring binder cookbooks are priced at \$15 each (checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church).

Thanks to everyone involved in making this book possible and to all who submitted their favorite recipes, making this cookbook special.

Many thanks to all those who helped "rejuvenate" the balcony recently, especially Chris Wurtele, Pastor Schmitt, and Connie Hagen. The choir risers with the new "wedges" really work very well! You can almost see your face in the shiny floor! Come up and see all of this anytime!

~ Lynne Eifert (the one who spends the most time in the balcony)

CHURCH LIBRARY REMINDER

Books should be checked out only for a month. Please return overdue books. Thank you.

~ Library Staff ~

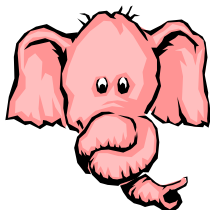
Student Ministry

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL EVENT Progressive Dinner & Caroling Sun, Dec 12 @ 5-8 PM

All youth (6-12 grade) are invited to an evening of singing and food. Please sign up in the high school youth room by noon of Dec 12th.



HIGH SCHOOL Epiphany White Elephant Party Sun, Jan 9 @ 6:30-8 PM



High school youth are invited to join us for an epiphany white elephant party. Bring a wrapped white elephant gift (cheaply new or used) and a snack to share.

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL EVENT A SNOW EVENT Saturday, January 15

You get to vote on the event. We can either go skiing at Mt Crescent (\$49) or go down the sled runs at Mahoney State park (free if you have a sled). Vote in the high school room!

HIGH SCHOOL

Sun, Dec 5	GLO Games	6:30 PM
Sun, Dec 12	Progressive Dinner & Caroling	5-8 PM
Sun, Dec 19	NO YOUTH GROUP	
Sun, Dec 26	NO YOUTH GROUP NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	
Sun, Jan 2	NO YOUTH GROUP	
Sun, Jan 9	White Elephant Party	6:30 PM
Sat, Jan 15	A Snow Event	Day
Sun, Jan 16	NO YOUTH GROUP	
Sun, Jan 23	Live Action Clue	6:30 PM
Sun, Jan 30	Sledding @ Standing Bear	6:30 PM
Sun, Feb 6	NO YOUTH GROUP	
July 17-22	Servant Event to Idaho	
Nov 18-20	NE High School Gathering	

Children's Christmas Service "My Dear Lord Gave to Me"

Children of all ages are invited to participate. A part for everyone! Sign up in narthex.

Sat, Dec 4	Rehearsal 10:30-11:30 AM
Sat, Dec 11	Rehearsal 1-2 PM
Sat, Dec 18	Service 6 PM



Sunday School

There will be **NO** children's Sunday School, Sunday, Dec 26

All children 2 years old - 6th grade are invited to Sunday School on Sundays from 9:15-10:15 AM. Youth 7th-12th grade, 9:30-10:15 AM.

Midweek

Midweek classes are currently on Winter Break. Midweek will resume Wed, Jan 5 @ 5:30-6:30 PM.

Midweek is for those PK4 - 5th grade. Learn a Bible story, play a game, eat a snack, make a craft.

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation Classes are currently on Winter Break. Classes will resume Wed, Jan 5 @ 5:30-6:30 PM.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sun, Dec 12	Progressive Dinner & Caroling	5-8 PM
Sat, Dec 18	Children's Christmas Service	6 PM
Sun, Dec 26	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	
Jan 5	Confirmation Classes Resume	5:30PM
Jan 15	A Snow Event	Day
May 6	Confirmation Public Questioning	
May 8	Rite of Confirmation	
July 17-22	Servant Event to Idaho	

Open House Concordia Academy

Concordia Academy offers an educational experience that is refreshingly personal, academically rigorous and seriously Christian! Visit our Open House on Thursday, Dec. 2 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the school, in the lower level of the Westside Community Center at 108th and Grover Streets. This event is for interested parents and students who will enter grades kindergarten through 6th in the fall of 2011. You will meet the teachers and learn about our program. Call 592-8005 for more information, or just come that night!

Coffee and Donuts

The new 2011 schedule for serving coffee and donuts on the second Sunday of the month after the 8:00 service is as follows:

January	Fellowship
February	Discipleship
March	Youth
April	Rebekah Circle
May	Lydia Circle
June	Elders
July	Church Properties
August	Education
September	Discipleship
October	Stewardship
November	Rebekah Circle
December	Lydia Circle

Thank you to all that helped serve coffee and those delicious goodies this past year.

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 Rebekah and Lydia Circles, Concordia families, Barb McDonald, Joel & Laura Sattgast for providing these treats for the months of October and November.

~Board of Fellowship~

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

We will have lunch and then decorate the church for Christmas on Sunday, December 5 after the 10:30 worship service.

Many hands make light work.

Please join us in the Lakeview Room.

~ Board of Fellowship ~

THE IMPORTANCE OF MEN LEADING THEIR FAMILY TO CHURCH

According to an article in the Cappers Farmer Magazine (6/21/05): Figures show that when a *child* attends church, he or she influences 17 % of the family to attend. When a *mother* attends, she influences 36% of the family to attend. But when a *father* attends, he influences an overwhelming 90% of his family to attend.

Proverbs 17:6 Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children is their father.

A Concordia Christmas

On behalf of the Concordia University, Nebraska family, I invite you to join us for our annual **Christmas at Concordia** celebration December 4 and 5. Christmas at Concordia is a musical celebration featuring concert performances and devotional presentations by student musicians and faculty from the university department of music. **Christmas at Concordia** events include several opportunities for you to celebrate our Savior's birth, God's ultimate gift of love and peace, during this Christmas season:

Concerts are scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 4 at 3 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 5 at 3 and 7 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church, 919 N. Columbia Ave. in Seward. Admission is free, but tickets are required. All 2009 concerts were sold out, so early reservations are important.

Holiday buffet dinners accompany the concerts and are scheduled for Saturday, 4:30-6 p.m. and Sunday, 4:30-6:30, in the Janzow Campus Center. Tickets are required for the buffet dinners.

The 16th Annual Scholarship Parade of Homes tour of five Seward homes decked out in Christmas cheer is scheduled for Sunday, 12:30-4:30 p.m. Tickets are required.

All reservations and tickets may be obtained via on-line registration beginning November 1 at www.cune.edu/CaCpayment or by calling 800.535.5494, ext. 7408.

Rebekah Circle News

October was a busy month for the Rebekah Circle. LWML Sunday was the 2nd and 3rd and the members of both Circles were privileged to be involved with the worship services. They also served refreshments between services on Sunday morning.

On the 10th of October seven Zion members traveled to Good Shepherd Church for the Fall Rally of the West Zone. Two members from that church presented the program. They had traveled to Guatemala in July with others from Central American Lutheran Mission Society. During the week they were there they conducted Vacation Bible School for 300 children and also built a 10X15 foot home for a family living in an area of extreme poverty.

On the 26th we held our regular meeting with nine members, guest, Carol Koppit and Pastor Schmitt attending. Donna conducted devotions about who we are in Christ our Savior. Mary and Donna conducted the election for office of president and vice president. Judy volunteered to remain as president and Carole was elected as vice president. They will serve for two years.

Kathy gave her Project Hope report about the food donated by Zion members and also pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Kathy also has purchased a number of books which will be given to Project Hope. Members approved a motion to offer Zion members an opportunity to donate some of the books to Project Hope. Kathy offered once again to put up a Christmas tree for Zion members to donate mittens, caps, scarves and gloves to Open Door Mission and Project Hope. She also reminded us of gathering toys for children of Project Hope families. She said there will be a "toy box" in the narthex soon.

On November 16th six Rebekah members and Pastor Schmitt met at Zion. Carole shared the devotion with the group; it was based on Jeremiah 3:22.

Judy reported that the cookbook sales continue and they will also be offered at the bakery event which will be on the 20th and 21st. Members volunteered to help with the sale of both food and books.

Carole volunteered to help out with funeral lunches in the event that Shirley is not available. Pastor then led the Bible study based on the first book of Revelation.

Mary, as hostess, served a delicious pumpkin dessert, nuts and mints. The meeting ended as we joined together saying the Lord's Prayer.

Carol Scebold, Secretary

Lydia Circle News

On Oct. 28th Pastor, nine members and one guest, Jean Wilshusen, were present for our meeting. The Christian Growth Leader read an article, "God and the Spider Web". With God a mere spider web can become a brick wall of protection. Pastor then gave a prayer.

We served at the funeral of Howard Nelson on Oct. 23rd. An encouragement card was sent to Jolene Dunn, sympathy to Mr. & Mrs. Mitch Johnson for his dad, the Harry Logemann family for Arlene's brother, Don & Shirley Lang for her niece's husband and the family of Howard Nelson.

A report on the Fall Rally, written by Carol Scebold, was read. Four Rebekah members and one Lydia member attended the Rally which was held at Good Shepherd on Oct. 10th.

The recipe books have arrived and we started selling them on October 30th and 31st. They will be available each weekend in the narthex and at our annual "BAKING EVENT on Nov.20th & 21st.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the offers of Connie Hagen, treasurer and Aleta Neuhaus, secretary to take those offices for another term.

The program this month was "Ask the Pastor". There were interesting questions asked and discussion on various subjects.

Jean Wilshusen was welcomed as a new member to the Lydia Circle. Birthdays this month were Connie Hagen and Elaine Raabe.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer. Marybeth Cohrs served Waldorf Salad, nuts, candy and coffee for refreshments.

Ten members and Pastor were present for our Nov.18th meeting. We opened with a short Thanksgiving devotion and Pastor then had a prayer. There were a number of thinking of you and sympathy cards sent. A nice thank you note was received from the family of Lola Buchholz for serving the lunch to about 75 in the Lakeview Room after the funeral on Nov. 13th.

Carol Thompson, from the Rebekah Circle will serve as coordinator for funeral lunches when Shirley Lang is not here.

310 cookbooks have been sold so far out of the 681 we had. We need to sell 67 more before we start making a profit.

Our Baking Event is Nov. 20th & 21st. The new pricing list has been handed out.

Joan Graham offered to get the doughnuts for us to serve between services on Dec. 12th. Dec.16th is our Christmas Party. Rudy Murchie and Shirley Lang will be our hostesses for a potluck lunch at 12 noon. We are to bring cookies to give to our shut-in members of the congregation.

Our President read a closing prayer and we said the table prayer. Joan Graham was the only birthday this month and she was our hostess for today. Anyone is welcome to come and visit our meetings at any time, we love to have visitors.

Aleta Neuhaus, Secretary

PROJECT HOPE

It may not look like Zion is contributing all that much if we only go by what is in the Project Hope cart in the narthex on any given weekend. We do average about 100 items if not more each weekend. That becomes hundreds every month and by the end of the year it becomes thousands. Add in the Feinstein Challenge collection and we are way over 10,000 items. That is a reminder of what can be done with just a small sacrifice on the part of each and every one of us.

December's featured items are coffee, tea, cocoa, hats, mittens and scarves.

The list of the most common asked for personal care items are bar soap (which we add a new wash cloth to), bathroom tissue, deodorant, diapers (especially size 5 & 6), dish soap (which we add a new hand knit dish cloth), feminine hygiene products, Kleenex, laundry soap, mouthwash (without alcohol), razors, shaving cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and hair products (combs, brushes, picks).

Any and all of these donations are so greatly appreciated.

PROJECT HOPE / OPEN DOOR MISSION TREE

As we have done for the past few years, we have our Open Door/Project Hope Tree set up in the narthex. It has lights and some strings of beads but it does need to be decorated. That is where you can help. All you need to do is bring mittens, gloves, hats and/or scarves and put them on the tree. Deliveries of these items will be made to Open Door Mission and Project Hope as needed. We will be collecting these items through February and perhaps longer, depending on the weather. Remember, children (and adults too) have a habit of loosing just that one mitten or glove and therefore the need for these cold weather items is always great.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

We continue to collect the tabs from pop cans to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House. Zion is a member of the "Thanks a Million Club" and we are getting close to having donated 100,000 tabs. Just save those tabs, bring them to the Lakeview Room, and put them on the east counter by the miniature Ronald McDonald House. There still is time to reach that 100,000 mark by the end of the year!

CARD COUNTER

We now have our selection of Christmas cards and napkins available at the Card Counter. We also have available a set of 12 cards with a picture of Zion's Sanctuary on the front for only \$1. For the best selection, stop by the Card Counter soon. As always, we have a selection of your everyday card needs such as sympathy, get well, birth of a baby, anniversary and birthday.

FEED THE BODY, FEED THE SOUL

As we continue to collect food and personal care items for Project Hope, the Director has expressed a hope of more Christian books for children and adults. The Rebekah Circle was able to take advantage of a Concordia Publishing House Warehouse sale. Almost 300 books were purchased in the hopes of donating them to Project Hope. About 110 of them are Christmas stories for children.

Zion's response for the first weekend of the mission has been awesome. Zion has paid for all of the Christmas books and then some.

How can you help? Just visit the tree of envelopes in the narthex. Each envelope has the name of a book and the cost. All you need to do is put that amount in the envelope and deposit it in the basket under the tree. That book will then be donated to Project Hope.

Project Hope is a LUTHERAN Food Pantry and so it is as important to share the Good News of God's love for us with the Gospel message as it is to feed their bodies. Prayerfully consider sharing in this mission effort.