

The Zion Bell March, 2007

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 Walk with the Lord

IN THE BEGINNING... We'll hear those words a LOT in the coming months.

First: Our Midweek Lenten Services Each Wednesday in March, 4:30 & 7:00

In these times of Lenten meditation and devotion, we will examine the uncanny correlation between the days of creation and the days of Holy Week... coincidence? I THINK NOT! "In the Beginning... And at the End" will walk us through the EIGHT days of creation to show us the new creations we are in Christ Jesus!

PLEASE NOTE: Although they have similar names, our Lenten Midweek series is **NOT** part of the "New Beginnings in Christ" Sustained Giving Stewardship Emphasis.

Second: Our Stewardship Emphasis



This is SO MUCH MORE than just another fund drive. Our campaign is about asking each of our members to re-examine every aspect of their lives, set fire to "everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles," (Hebrews 12:1) and make a New Beginning in, with, and for our Lord Jesus Christ. This may mean beginning to attend a Bible class; beginning to attend

church regularly if you've fallen away for a time; beginning to use your time in service to the Lord at Zion or in the community; beginning something new to stretch those wings God has given you in your talents... Whatever that new beginning may be, know that Christ goes with you!

February-March Events: Wednesday, Feb. 28, 5:45-6:45 Fellowship Hall, Lower Level

Awareness Forum—YOU SET the AGENDA!

This is the meeting that is a must-attend for every member who can possibly make it. We've used our Service time for our LEADERS to speak to YOU concerning the needs of the congregation. This is the meeting where YOU speak to our LEADERS regarding your concerns, hopes, and dreams for Zion. Our last survey of the congregation was completed in August 2005. Are the results of that survey still valid given the drastic change in our financial outlook? Once we're released from the burden of debt service, what ministries would YOU like to see? Come and LET US KNOW!

Saturday, March 17, 8:00 AM—1:00 PM All over Zion—Enter at the main entrance **Prayer Walk**

Inside your Awareness Packet there is a red card for prayer requests. We invite you to complete whatever requests you feel comfortable sharing and drop them in the box by the coat room labeled "New Beginnings in Christ." Then join us sometime on March 17 to take a Prayer Walk through the church taking time to pray throughout the building for the various ministries—existing and future—that occur in those areas. Sign up in the Narthex for a time or stop by whenever you can. Volunteers will be on hand to guide you.

“New Beginning” Events

(Continued from page 1)

Worship and Bible Class Groups

March 25-April 22 (except April 8, Easter)

At church and in your home???

Money expresses our values—our use of money can even shape our beliefs about God and people. Discuss with others prevailing attitudes about money, and how we reflect these attitudes in our personal behaviors in a special steward-shaping experience, titled “Jesus and Money: His Response and Ours.” This study will help each of us examine our own attitudes toward money in light of what Jesus had to say about it. Starting March 25 during the Bible Class hour and in—Lord willing—a number of small groups in your homes, a variety of opportunities to participate are being made available so that as a congregation we can learn and grow together. Don’t think you won’t be surprised and challenged by some of the truths revealed in this study; please make your participation a top priority!

***AGAIN, PLEASE NOTE:** The Lenten Midweek Series messages and services are NOT part of the Stewardship Emphasis.

Finally, “IN THE BEGINNING”

does NOT have to refer to something that happened long, long ago. **2 Cor.5:15, 17: [Christ Jesus] died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!** Note the grammar here, folks: God does not tell you that you WERE a new creation; He says you ARE a new creation—today, tomorrow, any day you are in Christ. And how is it that you are in Christ?

Romans 6:4

(Our “New Beginnings” Theme Verse)

“We were therefore buried with (Christ) through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

Pray the Lord to guide your “New Beginnings” throughout this effort that together as a congregation we can throw off the debt that burdens our collective ministry. Pray also that He guide you personally to **“throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”** Heb. 12:1

Pastor Schmitt’s

Top Ten List

What started as a response to a sudden increase in our debt has turned into a major re-energizing of our leaders and members. Folks have taken steps beyond their comfort zones to take on tasks they never thought they’d even consider. Families struggling with time and money issues have already contributed both mightily to their church. Rather than seeing ourselves as victims reacting to things that happen to us, we see ourselves as empowered Christians acting boldly to cause good things to happen to others! Here are the top ten ways you can boldly go where you never thought you’d go before:

10. *Start a practice during Lent to attend each and every worship service—well, you know, I mean, just one of the midweek Lenten Services and one of the weekend services—but you get the idea...*

9. *Renew that practice of having family devotions.*

8. *Come early to services and spend some time paging through the hymnal reading the texts of hymns to prepare for worship.*

7. *Join in our soon-to-be-formed evangelism task force to assist in some new high-tech and low-tech ways of reaching the lost for Christ.*

6. *Volunteer to assist in Bible Buddies.*

5. *Use your quilting skills to make a really, REALLY cool stained-glass quilt that will be on display for years!*

4. *Go with that instinct you had when you read the previous article and said to yourself, “I could lead a home Bible Study, especially when I’m given all the materials well ahead of time and all the training I need,” and call Pastor to volunteer.*

3. *Help our Discipleship Board welcome and mentor new families. Remember the joys and/or difficulties you had when you joined Zion then “do unto others...”*

2. *Volunteer to canvass the neighborhoods for Vacation Bible School enrollment.*

and the number one way to boldly go where you never thought you’d go before:

1. *Throw off the self-image of the victim; Put on the self-image of a warrior for Christ; “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.” 2 Timothy 1:7*

Dodge Ball
Sunday, March 18
4-5:30 PM
6th-12th grade
Concordia Gym (156th & Fort)

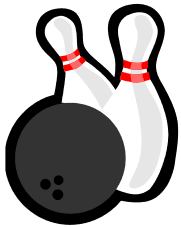


All Middle School and High School students are invited to an afternoon of dodge ball. We will be playing at Concordia High School's Gym (entrance through gravel parking lot).

There is no cost for this event and you may bring as many friends that fit into your or your parent's vehicle.

Xtreme Lock-In

March 23
7:30 PM
6th-12th grade



What? A Lock-In with the other Lutheran churches in Omaha, which will include broom hockey, ice skating, bowling, Bible study, concert, pizza, movie, fellowship, and new friends.

When? Friday, March 23- Saturday, March 24. Meeting at Zion's parking lot at 7:30 PM, and returning to Zion's parking lot by 6:45 AM.

Where? The Lock-In will be at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Omaha. There will be side trips to the ice rink and bowling alley.

Cost? \$20 per youth (due March 11th)
 \$0 per adult (we love adult volunteers) 😊

Deadline: Money is needed by March 11

What to Bring? A broom (with your name written on it), yourself wearing something you don't mind wearing all night, and a permission slip. (Permission slips can be found in your Sunday School room or in Andrea's hand)



St. Patty's Day
Family Nite
Saturday, March 17
5:15-9 PM



Join our St. Patty's celebration on March 17 Zion's Family Nite - the place to be seen!

There'll be corn, beef, & cabbage -
 Don't be nervous!

6 PM kicks off the family worship service.

Family games, a variety of fun
 Even some great prizes to be won!



9 PM we'll wind things down

We'll send you home with a smile - not a frown!

Vacation
Bible School

Sun, June 10 -
 Thurs, June 14
 6-8:30 PM



Student Ministry
Upcoming Events

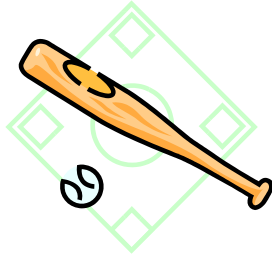
March 17	Family Nite	pk-8 grade
March 18	Dodge Ball	6-12 grade
March 23	Lock-In	6-12 grade
April 8	Easter Egg Hunt	pk-5 grade
April 27	Scavenger Hunt	9-12 grade
May 20	Capture the Flag	6-12 grade
June 10-14	Vacation Bible School	
June 16	Bennington Daze Parade	
June 23	World's of Fun	9-12 grade

Softball

Co-Ed and Men's teams now forming

Games will be on Sunday nights (Co-Ed) and Thursday nights (Men's) at Kelly Field (Fort & 120th), starting April 29 and continue through the second week in August for total of one game a week for 14 weeks.

The cost for the season, per person will be around \$35-\$50. Sign up at the bulletin board or see Mike Ellis or DCE Andrea Roettger, to find out more information.



Vacation Bible School Leaders' Meeting

**Sunday, March 18
11:30 AM –Upper MPR Room**

Interested in a Leadership position in this year's VBS. Come to this meeting a find out more about what's going on this year and how you can help.

Game Night

**6th-8th Grade
March 30
6-8 PM**

Concordia Jr/Sr High School

Concordia Jr/Sr High School (156th & Fort) invites all 6-8 graders to a game night. There will be "Dance, Dance, Revolution", dodge ball, basketball, card games, refreshments all for the low, low price of FREE!



Note to parents of young children

There is a display of tote bags hanging in the back of the sanctuary filled with children's books and scratch paper and also a stack of clip boards and crayons for our young people to use during the worship services. Feel free to help yourself and just return them after the service.

Join a Small Group!

Mothers of Young Children 1st & 3rd Saturdays 10-11 AM Basement



All mothers and children under school age are invited to attend. There will be Bible study, discussion, fellowship, playtime, and snacks.

The March dates will be 3rd & 17th.

Sunday Night Bible Study Sundays, 6:30-7:30 PM Upper MPR Room

Join Buck Wehrbein as his small group studies the book of Acts.

Young Adults

**Sunday, March 18, 4-5:30
Concordia Gym - 156 & Fort**

All young adults are invited to a game of dodge ball with the high school youth.. We will be playing at Concordia High School's gym (156th & Fort). You can enter the gym through the gravel parking lot.

Men's Fellowship Dinner Sunday, March 4, 4 PM

Menu: Cheesy Meatball Dinner

Speaker: Gary Thien - Thien Farm Management

Topic: The Food Resource Bank (an example of one way Christian men can make a positive impact)

Why: Because men need food, fellowship, and spiritual nourishment too!

Cost: Free will offering

?’s: Guy Mockelman
Chris Wurtele

Please RSVP on Bulletin Board

Coffee and Goodies

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

Thank you to Henry and Aleta Neuhaus and Theresa and Katie Elder for providing these treats for the month of February.

Also, if you would like to prepare and serve a Lenten supper, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or you can call the office. Your help is much appreciated.

~Board of Fellowship~

Sacred Music Concert

Please invite a friend or two and join us for a special concert of Sacred Music in place of our service Saturday evening, March 24, 2007 at 6:00 PM. The choir of Lutheran High School Northeast (Norfolk, NE) will be our guests for the evening. If you would like to host a pair of students overnight (Sat-Sun), please sign up on the sheet on the rolling bulletin board or call the church office.

Concordia University Friends & Alumni Tour to Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit

On Saturday, March 31, 2007, join the Alumni & Friends Tour to the Kansas City Union Station to view the *Dead Sea Scrolls* exhibit. The exhibit includes fragments of these incredible ancient documents as well as artifacts from the ancient community of Qumran, near the location where the scrolls were discovered. The discounted group rate for motor coach transportation and exhibit admission is \$50/person. Departure from Concordia's campus, Weller Circle Drive, is at 6:30 a.m. with return by 10:00 p.m.; depart from Holy Savior Lutheran Church, 14th & Superior in Lincoln, at 7 a.m. with return by 9:30 p.m. Pre-order a brown bag lunch for \$7 or bring your own; dinner will be on your own at Bandana's BBQ in St. Joseph, MO. Call the alumni office, 800 535-5494 ext. 7240, to **make your reservation by Monday, March 12. Space is limited so please make your reservations as soon as possible.**

PROJECT HOPE

It is again that time of year for the Feinstein Challenge. For the tenth straight year, Alan Shawn Feinstein will divide \$1 million among hunger fighting agencies nationwide by helping those agencies raise funds during March and April of 2007. Last year Project Hope received \$394 from the Feinstein Foundation at a result of Project Hope collecting monetary and food donations totaling \$37,740.84. Food items were credited at \$1.00 for each item donated.

Your donation toward this campaign makes you partners in a grassroots campaign to fight hunger. How can Zion help? As in the past couple of years, all you need is to contribute food items to our Project Hope box. Each food item then will be credited at a value of \$1. This continues through the end of April. The Feinstein money then is divided among the various hunger fighting agencies nationwide based on each agency's food and monetary collection for the month of March and April. All food collected on the weekend of Feb. 25th will be delivered to Project Hope on Feb. 28th or March 1st and thereby qualify towards the challenge. Last year, Zion collected 1,413 items in that 2 month period of time!! Can we try to make it 1,700 this year???? Remember only *food* items count towards the challenge. For instance, 1 can of soup collected for the challenge becomes the same as collecting \$1. Now how easy is that.

The featured items for March are dried beans, rice, or soup mixes. Just think how fast our total could grow if we each just bought 1 extra item each time we did our grocery shopping and donated that item to Project Hope?!

My apologies for not having our Project Hope poster up to date this last month. For the month of January, we did collect just over 700 items. How wonderful for that to come in at a time when we were having cold weather and the families being served by Project Hope needed this extra help. Thank you, Zion!

Kathy Rummel,
Project Hope Coordinator

PROJECT HOPE BOOK BANK

Thank you to everyone who has donated books, magazines and devotional material for the Book Bank. Please remember it is an ongoing project, so anytime throughout the year your book donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you again for your support in sharing reading material with Project Hope.

~ Cindy Sadowski~
Book Bank Coordinator



REBEKAH CIRCLE NOTES

The Rebekah Circle held their first meeting of 2007 on January 23rd at 7 pm. Joann Walters, our new president, led the meeting as Kathy was called away. There were 14 members present. Jane led the opening devotion.

The minutes and the treasurer's report were given. Dues for the new year and mites were collected. Joann reported that the Project Hope collection for February will be soups, stews and can openers. They will again run the Feinstein Challenge during February and March, where they match our donations to Project Hope.

LaDonna agreed to send the monthly reminders for meetings in Joann's place. Joann also reported that the Global gift boxes will replace the Mothers Touch program with the boxes being for children in India.

We reviewed the proposed program for the year 2007 and it was accepted. Discussion was conducted about the Bazaar and plans for the future. We then made plans for the Ash Wednesday Lenten supper which our Circle will serve on Feb. 21. We will serve soups, corn bread, crackers, bars and beverages.

Together, we went through the Bible study from the Quarterly titled "Do You See What I See?", reminding us that God placed the star in heaven to lead to Jesus, Our Lord and Savior.

Marilyn served a delicious chocolate cream dessert with nuts, candy and beverages.

Secretary,
Mary Christensen



LYDIA CIRCLE NOTES

Our first meeting of the new year was January 25th. Nine members were present. The meeting opened with a short devotional, "How To Have a Happy New Year." To do that the Bible says "Seek the Lord and call upon Him." It is important to have peace with God through faith in Christ as our personal Savior. This will enable us to enter upon and experience a truly "Happy New Year" and with absolute certainty to look forward to a "Glorious Eternity."

The secretary and treasurer gave their reports. Verna Neuhaus reported that cards were sent as follows: Thinking of you to Brenda Nelson, Don Laaker, Chris Peters, Colleen Johnson, Myrtle Berhow and Robert and Joyce Reed. Get well to Don Brumels, Joan Graham, Phil Rummel, Jerald Holling and Lillian Penke. Sympathy to Bert and LaDonna Clevenger, Stanley Dorau, Alice Beck and Lavern Logeman. Thank you's were read from Lutheran Family Service for our donation, Adam and Elizabeth Moline for the Seminary Student Fund for Adam, Clarence and Ethel Schneider, Joyce Bloemker and Wally Neuhaus for the Christmas cookies and Alice Beck for cards and condolences.

The proposed program for 2007 was presented and accepted. The program booklets will be given out at the February meeting. A big thank you goes to Pat Huels for printing these up for us again, she does a great job.

The only birthday this month was Margaret Behrendt.

We Closed with the Lord's Prayer and Pastor led us in Bible Study from the winter quarterly, "Do You See What I See."

Margaret Behrendt and Dolores Bradley served Pineapple Upside Down Cake, nuts, candy, punch and coffee for refreshments.

Aleta Neuhaus, Secretary