

The Zion Bell

April, 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 Blessed Easter to All

So what are your memories of Easter? The smell of the lilies? The joyful music? The new clothing you got to wear for the first time? Overflowing churches? Certainly Easter gives us a time to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord in high fashion. Here at Zion, we try to pull out all the stops to make our Easter Day as glorious as possible. After all, we are celebrating that occasion which serves as our guarantee of eternal life. As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:19-22,

If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

So here we are, worshiping and celebrating and eating and enjoying company on Easter day. Then comes "Easter Monday." Then what?

Well, Mary and I will have the day to ourselves. Don't know what we'll be doing, but we'll be together and having a quiet day to ourselves. A LOT of pastors—still loopy from all the services and preparations of holy week—will go golfing together. That's a hoot. Many families will be saying their good-byes to company and preparing for the week to come.

What will you be doing that week? Chances are that life will simply get you back into the same old same old. Work will still be there, possibly piled up if you had Good Friday and/or Easter Monday off. Schools will come back into session; regular routines resume. But will your life be changed? Will there be an unexplained bounce in your step, a song in your heart, and a joyful peace in your mind? After all, we have just celebrated

the most central event in the entire salvation history of humankind!

Our broken world just loves to drag us down with it. Kind of like my home state's top rejected travel slogan: "Missouri Loves Company." Yes, our old evil foe will be there as always, holding before our eyes lists of things that must be done; fun things that can't be done for lack of time, money, or physical ability; repairs that need to be made; complications in our bodily or emotional health; strained and stressing relationships at home, at work, at play...

TO HECK WITH IT, PEOPLE! Christ has indeed been raised from the dead! DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS???? This world has no power over us!!! We've been set free from the burdens of this world! Sure, we still have to tend to our duties, but they are not the be-all and end-all of our lives. Christ Jesus is. And He lives in heaven. And so will you through faith in His name. THAT'S WHAT FREES US from all the yuck of this world, the yuck that will still be there after the smell of the lilies (ah-CHOO!) has faded from the sanctuary, the copies of the Hallelujah Chorus are filed away for another year, the pretty clothes are back on their hangers, the food has been devoured and the company has left us to clean up the dishes.

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. Romans 6:6-9

Pastor Schmitt's Top Ten List

Anyone wanna join me for a float trip?? I'm in the early stages of planning a canoe trip sometime this June-July for any families that want to join me. All High School youth, young adults, and families with children under High School age (these children must be under their own parents' supervision) are invited. Why? Well, I was just remembering how much fun our HS youth in KC had each year on our float trip, and I'd like to get the annual tradition going here, but only AFTER I have a chance to take a trip with a group or two to scout out rivers and campgrounds. I'll be holding an organizational meeting on Thursday, April 19, at 7:00 PM at church.

While searching online, I found that Nebraska has the Niobrara... and that's about it. Now Missouri, that's another story. Lots of rivers and lots of gorgeous scenery along the way. But while scouting out these things, I came up with the Top Ten Rejected State Travel Slogans:

10. *Iowa...The State that Fast Food Forgot*
9. *Rhode Island...Don't Blink or You'll Miss It*
8. *North Dakota...Global Warming Isn't All Bad-Summer Now Lasts Two Weeks!*
7. *Florida...Not Just for Seniors' Bingo Anymore*
6. *Kansas: Mountain Removal Project Completed*
5. *South Dakota...From Wall Drug to Corny Palaces, A World of Weird Awaits You*
4. *Texas...Like Drivin'? You'll Love Texas*
3. *Wisconsin...There's More than Just the Dells*
2. *Nebraska...Gateway to Colorado*
1. *Missouri Loves Company*

I'll have some more information on this trip out shortly. If anyone has a favorite river that is:

- A. Class 1 (no rapids);
- B. Family-Friendly (not too crowded with the party crowd);
- C. Scenery-filled (more than cows and grass); and
- D. Campground/outfitter ready,

Let me know and we'll throw her in the hopper at our organization meeting on April 19 at 7:00.

Needed: Weekly Weeders

In the beginning, there were the Wednesday Menders, men who gathered to tend to and mend the building with whatever repairs needed to be made. Now, there are the Weekly Weeders, men and women who will gather at 9:00 AM on THURSDAY MORNINGS beginning April 5 to tend to the gardens around the church—watering, weeding, planting, whatever needs to be done. Already several of our groups tend various areas, but these Weekly Weeders will be a general-purpose squad, tending whatever needs to be done around the various garden areas of the church. We'll meet over a cup of coffee (or something) at 9:00, have a morning devotion and prayer, lay out our plans for the day, and spend the morning hours tending the gardens. If you'd like to join us, just show up ANY Thursday morning at 9:00. We should have most of the tools we need around the church, but bring gloves, kneeling pads, and whatever favorite tools you have.

Pastor Schmitt will be heading up this small group. Should you have any questions, give him a call or talk to him at church.

"New Beginnings" April Events

Invitations to our "Big Event" on May 6 will be mailed the first week of April. Volunteers from the congregation will then be spending much of the month calling to confirm reservations for this Event at Bennington High School. (There will be a simultaneous event at Concordia Jr/Sr High for children.) This dinner will be at no cost to our members and is shaping up to be a lot of fun.

Our Bible Classes will be going on during the Sunday morning Bible Classes through April 22. These are great classes that focus not just on giving, but taking back control of the great blessings God has given us.

Leaders will continue to have meetings and an Initial Commitment Event on April 22 at which they will be turning in their pledge cards for their 3-year commitments to our Capital Fund Drive.

Please join us in this exciting ministry of our congregation!

High School Event Scavenger Hunt

Friday, April 27
4:15-7 PM



All youth in the 9th - 12th grade are invited on a Scavenger Hunt. We will be leaving from the church parking lot at 4:15 PM to go to a top secret location. All youth will be returned to the church by 7 PM.

The cost is free, dinner will be provided. Anyone needing a ride to church should call the church office at 493-1744.

Come and have fun!



Bible Buddies Award Sunday

Sunday, April 15
10:30 Worship Service



This year Bible Buddies had over 35 children. They will be getting their certificates for attendance and special medals for completing their memory book on Sunday, April 15.

There will be a special event following the service for all children and their families following the service.



Vacation Bible School

Sun, June 10 - Thurs, June 14

6-8:30 PM

Dinner starting at 5 PM

Easter Egg Hunt

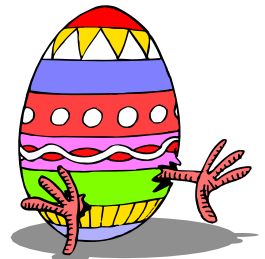
Easter Sunday, April 8th
9:45 AM
Basement

Join us on Easter Sunday, for an Easter Egg Hunt (actually 2 Easter Egg Hunts).

This year's Easter Egg Hunt will have 3 areas. The first area is a separate area and is for those who are 4 yrs old and under. The other area will be for everyone else with the younger kids starting on one end of the field and the older kids on the other.

We will begin inside at the Sunday School opening area at 9:45 AM. Bring a basket or bag to gather your eggs.

Donations of plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy (that fits into eggs) are needed.



Please place donations in church office by Sunday, April 1st.



Student Ministry Upcoming Events

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|------------|------------------------|------------|
| April 8 | Easter Egg Hunt | pk-5 grade |
| April 27 | Scavenger Hunt | 9-12 grade |
| April 29 | Confirmation | 8th grade |
| May 20 | Capture the Flag | 6-12 grade |
| June 10-14 | Vacation Bible School | |
| June 16 | Bennington Daze Parade | |
| June 23 | Worlds of Fun | 9-12 grade |



DINNER OUT

Want a night out with friends?
Have a need to converse with adults?
The Fellowship Committee has a night out planned for you. Here's the deal:
Bass Pro Shop Restaurant (in the Bass Pro Shop)
2901 Bass Pro Drive, in Council Bluffs, Iowa,
Saturday, March 31 at 7:30.

They have good eats, low to medium prices. They have a full menu, Our plan is to have a dinner location planned for each month so if you miss this month we will catch you next month.

For reservations call or email Sandy Wehrbein.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP TIMES

April 5, Maundy Thursday 4:30 & 7:00 PM
April 6, Good Friday 1:00 & 7:00 PM
April 7, Saturday Easter Vigil 6:00 PM
April 8, Easter Sunday 6:00, 8:00 & 10:30 AM

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 Mitch and Colleen Johnson, Board of Elders, and Loren and Marybeth Cohrs for providing these treats for the month of March. Also thank you to all who served a Lenten supper.

~ Board of Fellowship ~

WOLSA Teaching Position

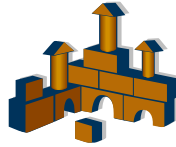
WOLSA (Wider Omaha Lutheran School Association) has an opening for a high school Spanish teacher. Interested applicants must have or can obtain a current Nebraska teacher certificate, be willing to belong to one of the WOLSA Association congregations, preferably a Lutheran college graduate. Applicants can send their resume to:

Matt Korte, Principal, Concordia Jr/Sr High School
15656 Fort Street, Omaha, NE 68116. Applicants may also contact Mr. Korte at kortem@wolsa.org

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.

They will meet April, 7th & 21st.



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

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

Young Adults Bible Study Sunday, April 29 Time to be announced

The Young Adults (18-39ish) will meet on Sunday, April 29 at the Beck's house. Call Tregan & Dawn for address & directions. The Young Adult Group is currently studying the book of Proverbs. New-comers are always invited.

THANK YOU FROM PHIL & KATHY

We praise and thank God that he saw fit to keep Phil on this earth for his family and friends. We thank God for his healing hand and the miracle He gave us.

Our heartfelt thank you to all of you, who have kept us in your prayers since Phil's hospitalization on January 23rd and upon his return home to recuperate and rehab. A special thank you to Pastor Schmitt for being at the hospital that first night and for all of his visits to the hospital and at home. We especially thank those who have sent cards, prepared meals, and offered your help. The meals were so very helpful those first weeks at home. It is so wonderful to have a church family that is supportive in times of need when our own family is not near us. Please continue to keep Phil in your prayers as he still needs to go through cardiac rehab and strengthening.

2007 Nebraska Mother of the Year

Our own Zion member, Marilyn Walz, has been named the 2007 Nebraska Mother of the Year. The following article was given to us by the Post Gazette.

Marilyn Jean Walz of Bennington was introduced as the 2007 Nebraska Mother of the Year when members of Nebraska Mothers Association met at the Seward Community Center. NMA President Jean Kolterman conducted the meeting.

Mrs. Walz will be honored at a special ceremony Tuesday, March 20, at the State Capitol in Lincoln and a luncheon at the Governor's Mansion.

Yvonne Dalluge of Pawnee City chaired the Mother of the Year selection committee.

A native of Cudworth, Saskatchewan, Canada, Mrs. Walz was teaching in a Lutheran school in Minnesota when she met and married Orville Walz. They moved to Seward in 1969. The couple has two children, Tamra and Jeffrey.

In 1981 the family moved to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada where Walz was president of Concordia College. The family returned to Seward in 1990 when Walz was named president of Concordia College in Seward. He retired in 2004 and the couple moved to Bennington.

Mrs. Walz was nominated by the Concordia guild of Nebraska at Concordia University in Seward. She has been an active member of the guild for 20 years. She helped establish the Holiday Tour of Homes to raise money for scholarships to Concordia or Southeast Community College in Milford.

The Mother of the Year helped found a group called "Women in the Community," which includes students and members of the community getting together for Bible study and fellowship.

Other community activities in which Mrs. Walz has been involved include the General Federation of Women's Clubs and serving as mentor to women of all ages, encouraging them to utilize their skills in leadership areas. She hosted numerous student events on campus and in her home and also organized groups of female students for mutual support and sharing.

Mrs. Walz started the Relay for Life on the Concordia University campus, co-chaired the Seward Public Library Foundation Building Fund and also served in various positions in her church, St. John Lutheran Church. She and her husband also went on a mission trip to Lithuania.

Mrs. Walz will also be honored at the 72nd National Convention of American Mothers Inc., April 25-29 in Las Vegas, NV.

GLOBAL CARE PACKAGES

The Rebekah and Lydia Circles are again participating in the Global Care Packages (formally known as Mothers Touch) this year. We have decided to send 30 boxes to the children of Tamil Nadu, India. These children have been left orphaned by the Tsunami on Dec. 26, 2004. We again hope to start this mission effort after Easter. We will have our "India Tree" up at that time with tags naming the needed item and age appropriate. Some of the things that we will be collecting are toothbrushes and toothpaste, combs, spiral notebooks, ballpoint pens, colored pencils, rulers, pencils, pencil sharpeners, blunt scissors, colored construction paper, fun Band-Aids, and appropriate children's toys. We hope to have a sample gift box on display so you can see what items we are looking for and how we pack these gift boxes. At anytime, should you have a question, please contact Kathy.

We pray that this mission effort is a success and that Zion will help us meet this goal.

Kathy Rummel, Global Care Package Coordinator

PROJECT HOPE

The emphasized item for the month of April is *Macaroni & Cheese*. Remember that we are still in the middle of the Feinstein Challenge where each food item that is donated counts as \$1 towards the total that Project Hope uses to qualify for part of a million dollar distribution by Mr. Feinstein to food pantries across the United States. I do not have any totals to what has been given to date. However, I will put them in the bulletin when I receive them. Project Hope continues to feed more and more people each year. Project Hope is always very appreciative of all of the donations that Zion gives to them.

Perhaps with the *Macaroni & Cheese* you can consider giving a canned vegetable and a canned fruit to make it a complete dinner!! Last year we collected just over 1400 food items for the Feinstein Challenge. Can Zion top that number this year? Remember, only food items count towards the Challenge. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy. Thank you for your help in this mission effort.

Kathy Rummel, Project Hope Food Coordinator

REBEKAH CIRCLE NOTES

The Rebekah Circle held their February meeting on the 27th. There were eleven members and Pastor Schmitt in attendance. Pastor opened with prayer reminding us to fix our eyes on Jesus during this Lenten season.

Laura Deardoff, our new Christian Growth Chairman, led the devotion from Proverbs that pointed out the good things pertaining to the heart. We each read verses assigned to us and finished by reading Psalm 24:35 and singing "Create in Me a Clean Heart".

We proceeded with the Bible Study from the Quarterly titled "What God Sees...My Heart", led by Joann, where we were again reminded to focus on God and not worldly things.

The minutes of the January meeting and the treasurer's report were given. Mary gave the Sunshine Report in Judy's absence, Get well to Judy Treadway, Henrietta Schulz, and Ethel Schneider, Sympathy to Grace Brumels (husband), Lillian Penke family, Jerald Holling Family, Dolores Bradley (brother), Thinking of You to Earl and Jean Meade.

A certificate of appreciation was presented to Marlys Van Pelt for her service as Vice-President for the past two years. Project Hope collection for March will be rice, beans and soup mixes. A member or our circle will be a delegate to the LWML convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota in June. The Tri-Zone Workshop will be April 15th at First Lutheran in Plattsmouth at 1:30 pm. The program will be the Sudanese Mission.

We all extended wishes to Barb and Rick Kruse whose anniversary was today.

Boni served a delicious strawberry dessert with nuts, mints and beverages.

March 27 is the date of our next meeting. We will be playing Bible Trivia and we would welcome any and all visitors to join us for a lively evening.

Secretary, Mary Christensen



LYDIA CIRCLE NOTES

Our February 22nd meeting was opened by our Vice President, Marybeth Cohrs. Christian Growth leader read an Article on "Choices". Everyone has lots of choices to make in our life. God made His choice out of His rich and undeserved love for all humanity by giving His Son to pay the price for our sins by suffering, dying and rising again that we might have eternal life. We have been focusing on this during this season of Lent. We will celebrate His resurrection in just a couple weeks.

The secretary's minutes were read and approved and a motion was made to accept the treasurer's report.

Thank you notes were read and Verna Neuhaus reported on the cards sent this past month.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to participate with the Rebekah Circle with the 30 mission boxes being sent to the children of India.

Barb Kruse will be the alternate for the LWML International Convention in Sioux Falls in June.

Marybeth Cohrs brought the new tables we purchased for the lower level.

February birthdays were Aleta Neuhaus and Patty Sass.

Pastor led us in a Bible Study from 1st John 4. God is Love. We love because He first loved us. The highest point of His love is that He doesn't hold our sins against us as we often do to others.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer. Marybeth served sugar cookies and iced tea and offered us sherbet to go with them.

Secretary, Aleta Neuhaus

PROJECT HOPE BOOK BANK

Thank you to Zion for the 120th Anniversary Mission Project of Easter books for Project Hope. What a blessed way to share the message of Christ's eternal gift.

And thank you to everyone who continues to donate books, magazines and devotional materials for Project Hope. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

~ Cindy Sadowski~
Book Bank Coordinator

