

The Zion Bell

February, 2007

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

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Dead in the Water

Thanks, George. George is one of our newer members who has been helping us figure out some of our computer situations. Just a couple months ago, he changed out the hard drive on my computer. Your pastor is terrified of opening up the unit and performing such an operation. I do well enough to use the thing in every day work! Then, last week, I went dead in the water. My cordless mouse went dead, so I replaced the batteries, hit the proper connect buttons, and thought I was back in business.

No dice.

Nothing worked. I could make the arrow move around, but I couldn't open anything or start any programs. I feared the picture of Kristy McNichol I had downloaded for my desktop wallpaper (replacing Martin Luther) did it. There she was, grinning at me, 18 times over, tiled in neat rows of six all over the screen. SHE did it! I managed through the keyboard to delete her, but still couldn't operate anything.

"George!" I yelled.

He came in on Sunday after church, clicked a few times, and fixed the whole thing.

You know how sometimes it's the simplest solution that solves the biggest problem? Here I was, all my back-up re-installation disks at the ready, prepared for the worst news. George very, VERY politely explained the problem to me. I wouldn't blame him for holding it in until he made it to the car, then burst out laughing and tell his family, "You'll never believe it!"

The problem? The right and left buttons on the mouse had gotten reversed.

Duh.

So here I am today, back at work, everything working normally against a plain blue background (Sorry, Kristy, you've been deleted!)

Trust me, I'm going somewhere with this...

Have you, in your walk with Christ, felt the same despair? That nothing is "working" the way you feel it should? That everything you try only seems to make your life worse? That if only you try another way of approaching the same problem, it will go away, but it doesn't—the problem's still there?

You're dead in the water.

Who's there to help? Why, Jesus of course! He's been there the whole time, ready and willing to help. Why then do we wait until we're dead in the water to call on His name? Certainly God tells us, "**Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.**" (Psalm 50:15) Does this mean we have to wait until we're in trouble to do so? Of course not! But so often when things are just hunky-dory we forget that it's the power of our Almighty God and His love are making our lives the hunkier and drier day by day.

So anyway, here we are, dead in the water.

That's when Christ does his best work. He's a funeral director's worst nightmare. He broke up every funeral He ever attended—even His own! He breaks them up by showing us the way of life. He gives us that life in the waters of Baptism where we were—literally!—spiritually dead in the water until God added His word of promise to the water and it became a life-giving sacrament. That life is still there... We just keep pushing the wrong buttons to get at it!

I could have kept clicking that left mouse button till hell froze over and the cows came skating home on the ice, but nothing would ever happen. We could keep looking to the ways of the world to get our lives back on track when we feel "dead in the water" but the result would be the same. It's only when we avail ourselves of the power of Christ to set things right that we can get the most out of life.

Thanks, Jesus, for setting us all right!

Pastor Schmitt's

Top Ten List

"Well, it has been a quiet week in Lake Beaugard, my home town..." It's been a while since "Lake Beaugard" has shown up in a sermon. These extended parables draw on everyday life in a fictional small town "up north" based loosely on Garrison Keillor's Lake Wobegon as well as two towns I served in rural North Dakota from '91 to '97. I've got the map of one town and the people of both in my head as I attempt to keep the story somewhat straight through three tellings a weekend. Having been there, lived it, and loved it, here are the Top Ten Signs You Too May Live in Lake Beaugard:

10. *The weekly newspaper is simply an affirmation of all the gossip you already knew.*
9. *No need to signal—everyone knows where you're going.*
8. *When the local radio station has a call-in contest, you can finish your sandwich and brush your teeth before calling in and STILL win the free DQ treat.*
7. *The only reason to lock your doors is to keep small children and wandering adults inside.*
6. *Checking out at the Wobbly Cart Grocery takes forever—not because of the line, but because you and the clerk talk and talk until the next person arrives to check out.*
5. *You leave a plate of cookies out when you're gone because UPS delivers to your kitchen table.*
4. *If your dog gets out, you have a string of messages on your phone detailing his path.*
3. *Each spring Itchy's Stop-and-Scratch Truck Stop has all-night pizza and sub service while the calves at the stock yard are cut and no one in town can get a wink of sleep for the noise.*
2. *You both crave and dread the arrival of spring since it not only means the departure of ice but the arrival of nuclear mosquitoes and the thawing of the sewage lagoon.*

And the number one sign you may live in Lake Beaugard:

1. *You know the previous nine reasons ARE NOT FICTION!*

That's right...just like much of the stories you hear in church, these are indeed factual. The names have been changed to protect the innocent, but the stories are true.



New Beginnings in Christ—

The Events

At our January Voters' Assembly, you approved a restructuring of the church's debt that lowers our payments from nearly \$9,000.00 per month down to \$6,500.00 per month. Still, this anchor of debt drags down the ministry so many of us would love to see flourish—especially as the neighborhoods fill in around us!

Dear Christian friends, it's time for this congregation to call on the Lord for His help in giving us a fresh start. In Christian symbolism, the Phoenix is used to portray not only Christ's resurrection, but the new life of the Christian as well. This legendary bird is a strong bird, living hundreds of years. Then it gathers a nest of sweet smelling twigs and spices. These are set on fire by the heat of the sun, and the phoenix is consumed in the fire. Out of the ashes the bird rises again, recreated and young, destined to live again for hundreds of years. Paul talks about our new life as Christians in our theme verse, Romans 6:4, "We were therefore buried with him (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."

Zion already has a great group of leaders for our Capital Fund Drive. In the weeks to come, here's what to expect:

- ✝ On February 18 and 25, there will be "Awareness Forums" at the church where the need for the Drive will be presented.
- ✝ From March 2 to 16, members will visit the homes of members who were unable to attend either of these events.
- ✝ Once these visits are made, we begin praying for the effort in a prayer walk on March 17.
- ✝ Rev. Dr. Orv Walz will lead a Bible Study in April (Exact days TBA)
- ✝ On May 6, we'll have our big Commitment Event at the church—a time for kids and adults to celebrate the commitment we share toward our goals.
- ✝ From May 8 to June 2, members will visit the homes of members who were unable to attend this event.
- ✝ On June 2-3, we announce in church the commitments made by members and dedicate ourselves to fulfilling those commitments.



Student Ministry Upcoming Events

Feb 11	Valentine's Dinner	5-7:30 PM
March 18	Dodge Ball	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 23	World's of Fun	9-12 grade

Summer CO-ED Softball

It's time to sign up for Zion's Co-Ed Softball team. No talent is needed, just come out and have some fun. Games will be on Sunday nights at Kelly Field, starting April 29 and continuing 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. Sign up at the bulletin board or see DCE Andrea Roettger, to find out more information.

Note from the Board of Fellowship

Thank you to Ruth Pruess for donating donuts for a Sunday in the month of January. Also a reminder that Lenten suppers will be coming. The first, Ash Wednesday, is February 21. If you would like to do a supper, there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or you can call the office.

Join a Small Group!

Mothers of Young Children

1st & 3rd Saturdays of the

Month

10-11 AM

Basement



This group will be meeting on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 10-11 AM in the church basement.

The February meetings will be the 3rd and the 17th.

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

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

February 25, 6-7 PM

Ellis' House

All Young Adults are invited to join this small group Bible study as they study Proverbs, meeting every 3 weeks at member's houses. Call Brooque or Mike Ellis for directions to their house.



Treasurer's Corner

Zion Lutheran Church—Statement of Operations
December 2006

Income	\$52,772.85	
Expenses	(24,564.92)	
Surplus	28,207.93	*Year to date deficit \$20,410

Attendance (5 weekends, Advent, Christmas):	Worship Services	2,056
(3 Sundays)	Adult Bible Classes	106
(4 Sundays)	Sunday School/Ziggy	229

Valentine Dinner

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2007

Serving from 5 ~ 7:30 PM

♥ Menu ♥

Choice of: **Chicken or Beef Tips**

Rice or Red Potatoes or Mashed Potatoes

Dinners include: **salad, green beans, bread, angel food cake with strawberries, and beverage**

♥ Location ♥

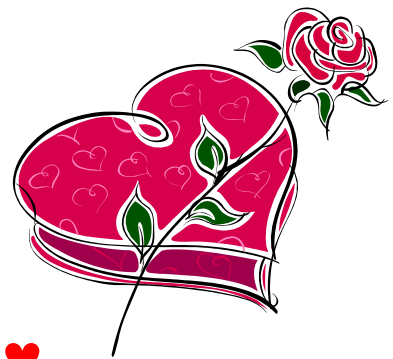
Zion Lutheran Church - Lakeview Room



♥ Price Per Person ♥

\$15.00 (Advance)

\$17.50 (At the Door)



♥ Babysitting Available ♥

Quality babysitting will be available down stairs,
with dinner and entertainment provided

**This dining experience is hosted by ZIGGY
(Zion's Inspired Group of God's Youth)**

Tickets are available for sale before/after church and by phone 493-1744

PROJECT HOPE

Thank you to everyone who donated to Project Hope for the month of January. As of this writing, I do not have the final totals but as soon as I do, I will put them on the poster for January and put it up in the narthex.

The featured items for the month of February are soups, stews and can openers. To go along with that, how about some saltine crackers. Stores have been having them on sale. With the cold weather we have been having, it is always good to have a bowl of hot soup or stew. Last year we collected 87 cans of soups and stews and only 2 can openers. Could we improve on that this year?? Remember, Project Hope continues to serve more and more people every year so they need our help more than ever.

Lastly, please consider donating some of the following items that Project Hope clients cannot purchase with their food stamps. Perhaps you could keep this list with your grocery list or on the refrigerator as a gentle reminder!

Diapers
Dish soap
Bar soap
Deodorant
Dry Laundry Soap

Toothbrush and toothpaste
Mouthwash (without alcohol)
Feminine hygiene products
Hair products (combs, brushes, picks)

Shaving Cream
Shoe laces
Razors
Bathroom tissue
Kleenex

Mary Ann, Director of Project Hope, continues to be so thankful for all that Zion does to help Project Hope. We also want to give a special thank you to the Zion Cub Scout Pack for donating 16 gift boxes to Project Hope. My understanding is that each Cub Scout filled a gift box with small items, then wrapped and marked if the box was for a boy or girl and the appropriate age. It was a very special surprise for Project Hope and they were thrilled to get them in time for Christmas.

A few more knit items also have been donated in January and delivered to a very appreciative Project Hope.

Kathy Rummel

GLOBAL GIFT BOXES

Global Gift Boxes is now what the former Mothers Touch, Kids to Kids, and Teacher to Teacher gift boxes are being called. I have only limited information at this time. The country for 2007 is India and the only Global Gift Boxes being done are for the children there that have been left orphans as a result of the tsunami. The Circles have not had their meetings for January as of this writing, so I cannot tell you if they will accept doing this mission project again this year and how many we will do. Keep watching the weekly bulletin and next month's newsletter for more information regarding the Global Gift Boxes.

The Mothers Touch Gift boxes for Uruguay have just been delivered to the Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk. We again thank all the members who donated to this very worthy cause.

Kathy Rummel

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



Information Please

It is exciting what can be done with our **Shepherd's Staff software**, but we need *your* information so that we may have complete and accurate records on each individual and on the congregation as a whole. Please help me update our membership database by completing the attached "Person Record" form.

Thanking you in advance for returning this form to the church office in a timely manner.



Pat Huels, Admin. Asst.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME! OFFICER & BOARDS INSTALLATION! POTLUCK!

On Sunday, February 4, new members will be welcomed to Zion and new/current Officers and Boards will be installed at the 10:30 worship service. A potluck will follow in the Lakeview Room so bring your favorite dish and join the festivities!



WOLSA REGISTRATION AND ENROLLMENT 2007-2008

Abundant Life Elementary, Bread of Life Elementary, and Concordia Jr/Sr High School will start re-enrollment and registration for the 2007-2008 school year as follows:

- January 22-26: Re-enrollment for current students and their siblings
- January 29: Open enrollment for WOLSA Association Congregation students and pre-schoolers
- January 30: Open enrollment for all Lutheran Congregations
- January 31: Open enrollment for the General Public

For more information, call the school offices: Abundant Life @ 592-8005; Bread of Life @ 391-3505; Concordia Jr/Sr @ 445-4000

Thank You Note

Thank you to the following musicians who participated in the Christmas Services:

- Marybeth Cohrs
- Laura Dearnoff
- Katie Elder
- Sherry Moentmann
- Danielle Rayman
- James Sadowski
- Justin Sadowski
- Vicky Vandervort

Area Church Events/Dinners

Wild Game Feed—St. Paul Lutheran School
Friday, January 26—6:00 to 8:00 PM at 5020 Grand Ave.

17th Annual Women's Retreat—St. John's Lutheran Church, Seward
Saturday, February 3—8:00 AM to 3:15 PM at Concordia University's Janzow Campus Center

Annual Chili & Chicken Noodle Soup Dinner—Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church School
Sunday, February 11—11:30 to 2:00 PM in the Social Hall

German Fest—Lamb of God Lutheran Church
Sunday, February 25—1:00 to 4:30 PM at Papillion American Legion Club
Food, Beverages, Door Prizes, Silent Auction

See bulletin board in the narthex or call for more information.