

The Zion Bell

June AND July, 2007

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

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Watershed Moments

October 29, 1928—Black Tuesday
December 7, 1941—Pearl Harbor
November 22, 1963—Kennedy Assassination
September 11, 2001—Terrorist Attacks on US
May, 2007—Zion turns a page in her history

As those who were at the May 6 dinner at Bennington HS already know, the watershed moments at Zion seem to coincide with major US watershed moments as well. There's a great depression going on? Let's quadruple the size of our building and add utilities! The world seems to be coming apart at the seams with the Cuban Missile Crisis, Mutual Assured Destruction, Presidents and college students being shot? Let's start a new building across the street! Terrorists are attacking our country, ushering in a new chapter in global history? Let's dedicate our addition just a couple months later!

Wow. Zion has really managed to hit the biggies when it comes to mirroring watershed moments in US history. Yet with each moment, there comes a time of growth. After the building was expanded right in the middle of the great depression, Zion went on to grow mightily. The new building across the street likewise ushered in a new era of growth for Zion. The building addition in 2000 certainly has had a positive impact on our ability to minister to our growing population base, and that brings us to May, 2007.

Let's see what's gone on since our last newsletter:

- ✠ We confirmed our largest class in 30 years.
- ✠ Our members have already contributed quite a bit toward the New Beginnings emphasis.
- ✠ We sponsored a community Blood Drive.
- ✠ We have hosted an internationally-known Handbell Choir with many guests in attendance.
- ✠ Planned several summer activities for all ages.

One of those ten confirmation students chose as his verse Jeremiah 29:11 ***"I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*** These words have just seemed to echo in my head this past month as such marvelous things have been happening! At the dinner and children's event on May 6, there was such happiness and optimism evident—especially when you KNOW you're there to be asked to rearrange the resources God has given you for His benefit. Just like that "Home on the Range" song, this was a place "where seldom is heard / a discouraging word!"

Even though our Blood Drive was less attended than we had hoped (we did share your concerns with the Red Cross), we still made a positive impact on the health of our community!

Then on May 16, the Alleluia Ringers came to town. For those who didn't know, this choir is perhaps THE premier collegiate choir in the nation! At this summer's national convention, The Alleluia Ringers are the only college choir to be a featured choir. That's saying something!! And here they were at Zion. Wow. Not only were they simply passing through, but they spent the day here, enjoying the zoo in the afternoon, dinner with our bell choir in the evening, and staying with our members overnight. Dr. Behnke wishes to share his appreciation with how well Zion hosted the ringers.

I just read over what I wrote and it sounds like I'm bragging! But what I'm trying to do in my own awkward way is to commend this congregation for coming out of a tumultuous 2006 with a positive, confident attitude in this year of 2007! As Paul says, ***"Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."*** For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends. 2 Cor. 10:17-18 Let us pray that the Lord would continue to commend, bless, and further our work together here at Zion this year and onward to the return of our Lord!!

Pastor Schmitt's

Top Ten List

Gas costs \$3.29 today at most stations. Consequently, many of us are cutting back on our travel plans for the summer. I certainly am! You won't get rid of me except for perhaps, maybe, one weekend this summer. So as long as I'm not going anywhere on a vacation, I will be enjoying a few days off here and there during the week to enjoy our local color. If I'm not around when you call this summer, forgive me. I'm just trying to recharge my batteries to serve you better. So for those of you who don't want to spend half your money on gas this summer, here are the top ten local attractions I'll be seeing/using/doing this summer:

10. *Standing Bear Lake—new path!! Still have to take your life into your own hands crossing the bridges on 144th, but hey, if you can make it to the path, it looks to be sweet!*
9. *Insides of my eyelids—OK, so this isn't something YOU can see, but I look forward to catching some nice naps this summer—might even hang a hammock in the back yard tree.*
8. *Zoo. Great. What else can you say?*
7. *Daily walk the stairs to the top of the First National Tower and get calves of steel. Hem up robe and wear shorts to show them off during services.*
6. *Lawn work—I think up my sermons while mowing. Every blade of grass preaches a sermon on God's greatness. My goal: Keep them both short and beautiful.*
5. *Come to church early and watch the sunrise color the altar in dazzling colorful arrays. Spend time appreciating the colors and message of each window.*
4. *Canoe the Elkhorn River June 23. Andrea's scouting out the river in her kayak to get us a good route.*
3. *Come to church late and watch the sunset color the altar in dazzling colorful arrays. Savor the silence and beauty of the sanctuary.*
2. *Help the youth at their "Stay-At-Home" service project at the church later this summer.*

And the number one thing I hope to do locally this summer:

1. *Did I mention the naps???*

The Divine Service: Our Weekly Bible Survey

You know the words. We say and sing them every week. But can you answer that classic Lutheran question, "What does this mean?" for each of the parts of the liturgy?

Beginning Sunday, June 3, Pastor Schmitt will be leading a class that takes us through the Bible Study that is the Liturgy. All members, especially new members, are invited to attend. We will use the Biblical texts in the Divine Service as the basis of our study. From these texts and their surrounding verses, we will gain an appreciation for the Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei as well as the other parts of the Divine Service. This is not a "This is why we have to use liturgy" class. This is a "Here are the riches the church has given us in the Divine Service" class.

This class was recently used as a new member class, and those participating have shared a deepened appreciation of our worship. Won't you join them, and us, in deepening your understanding of the nature and substance of our Lutheran way of worship?

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 both the Lydia and Rebekah Circles, George and Lisa McCoy and family for providing these treats for the month of May.

~Board of Fellowship~

Student Ministry Events

Survivor

July 13 (7 PM)- July 14 (1 PM)
6-12th Grade

ZIGGY invites you to an overnight at the Wehrbein Island in Waterloo. There will be many "Survivor" themed competitions.



Watch your mail for more information.

Bible Buddies Fun Day

Fun-Plex Water Park
Sunday, June 3
1-3 PM



All Bible Buddies participants and their families are invited to an afternoon of water fun on Sunday, June 3, at 1-3 PM. As a way of saying congratulations on all your hard memory work, the Bible Buddies program will pick up the cost of the student.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Mission Trip

Interested in a Mission Trip at Zion this summer? Come to the informational meeting Sunday, June 24 at 11:45.

Upcoming Events

June 3	Bible Buddies Fun Day at Fun-Plex
June 10-14	Vacation Bible School
June 22-23	Family Canoe Trip on Elkhorn River
July 13-14	Survivor (6-12th Grade)
August 2-5	"Mission Trip"- at church (6th-12th grade, plus adults)
August 17	"Drive-In" Movie (9-12th Grade)
Sept 16	Paintball (6-12th Grade)

Vacation Bible School



June 10-14, 2007

6:00-8:30 PM

Dinner-5 PM

Featuring:

"Digger"

&

"Dakota Joe"



Junior High & High School Bible Study

June - August the 7th-12th graders will all be together in the ZIGGY Room for Bible Study on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15.

We will be studying angels and heaven.



Summer Sunday School

"Even the Wind and Waves Obey Him"

Just a reminder that Sunday School for those 3 years old - 6th grade continues through the summer months. This summer's theme is "Even the Wind and Waves Obey Him".

Focus on Preschool (1st in a Sunday School Series)

A Note from your preschool Sunday School Teacher:

As we move from our divided rooms into group classes for the summer months, I would like to take a breath and address our parents of the preschool class. Sunday mornings seem to fly by so quickly when we are involved with teaching about our Lord, so we don't get to share our thoughts with Moms and Dads.

We are so proud of the kids. They have learned about praying to Jesus both silently, and by using words. Each week we talk about all the gifts God has giving us and the things we can do to show our love to Him in thanksgiving. We are working on the Lord's Prayer.

We have had lots of hands-on tools to help us do that. One of the greatest tools we have in our Sunday School classroom is the team teachers. You and your child know them as Miss Katie and Mrs. Amy. Let me introduce them to you as Katie Elder and Amy Dall.

This is the second year of teaching for Katie and I personally want to tell you how proud we are of how she has taken on this volunteer position and has developed into a wonderful teacher of God's word. Katie has a real love for this age group and it shows. In spite of a full college schedule and learning how to be the best Polka dancer, Katie finds time to prepare for her preschoolers with creative ideas and special crafts that help them understand God's Word. When you see Katie in the halls, give her a big "Thank You!" - she deserves it!

Amy Dall has been in the classroom all this year and has shown how much she loves to teach by being dependable and so willing to help with any task asked of her. She sees a project that needs doing and just does it. What a great relief to see her every week with her smile, ready to work. She is due any time now and we can't wait to see another Dall in our class.

We all look forward to sharing the love of Jesus with your child again this Sunday and every Sunday. Please know that we miss them when they are not there. You are their road to Jesus. That road may be bumpy and sometimes hard to follow but we are there to help.

In God's Love,
Sandy Wehrbein



Please pray for family and friends
in the military

Paul Oehlerts

Don Rayman

Beth Sedlacek

Chris Olsen

Will Kelly

George Ermeling

Russ Hula



ANGELS AMONG US

Hebrews 13:2 tells us that it is possible to encounter and interact with angels and not even know it. Do you believe you have experienced contact with an angel? How do you think you would react if you ever met one face to face? On the other hand, we contend with Satan and other evil angels on a daily basis. How do we recognize the work of both good and evil angels in our lives and the world around us? Who are these creatures? What is their purpose? Come and join Bob Vandervort's Bible class on Sunday mornings as we explore what God has to say to us about one of the most mysterious of His creations, angels.

VBS Volunteers Meeting!

Sunday, June 3—11:45 AM

All people who are volunteering or who would like to volunteer for VBS—your presence is requested on Sunday, June 3 at 11:45 AM in the Lakeview Room.

A short meeting to get everybody up to speed so that confusion is left at a minimum.

Items Needed for VBS

We would like to decorate for VBS with a bull whip, Indiana Jones type hat, Indiana Jones type jacket, male mannequin, random artifact looking items and a small tent. Any persons who are willing to lend such items should call the church office (493-1744) or see Andrea Roettger.

FLOAT TRIP '07



Join us June 22-23 for Zion's Inaugural Float Trip! We'll be starting out easy, with a leisurely float down the Elkhorn River near Scribner, NE. (In future years, once we get our feet wet, we'll take on some other rivers in other parts of the Midwest.)

We'll be leaving Friday evening for our camping experience. Over our campfire, we'll explore devotional patterns for individuals and families, sharing how the Lord has helped us out on a daily basis through Word and prayer. On Saturday morning, over the bed of hot coals cooking our breakfast, we'll come to the Lord in another devotion, then strike camp and set out for a trip down the river. Once we pull out, it's back to Omaha, a refreshing shower, and an invigorated devotional life.

Approximate cost is \$50 per person. Registration forms are available at the church. Or shoot off an email to Pastor at zionwest@msn.com and he'll get you signed up. This trip is primarily for Zion's singles, young adults and younger families. Minors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Sign up soon, and we'll get you up a creek – but with a paddle! – this summer!



**"You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning; My God turns my darkness into light."
Psalm 18:28**

You are invited to:

- ♦ **GATHER** with other believers
- ♦ **HEAR** God's Word
- ♦ **GAIN** ministry ideas from other Nebraska District members
- ♦ Be **UPLIFTED** and **ENCOURAGED**
- ♦ **BUILD** and **STRENGTHEN** Christ-centered relationships
- ♦ Be **RE-IGNITED** for mission and ministry in your congregation and community
- ♦ **RECEIVE** ideas and resources to help you share your faith

August 4, 2007
Concordia University,
Seward
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Rev. Scott Snow, National Director of Outreach for LCMS World Mission, will be the featured speaker for the day, sharing God's Word with the participants at the Opening Celebration and at the Time of Sending.

Participants will be able to choose from **over forty break-out sessions** focused on mission and ministry. These sessions are designed to spark ideas and share ministry resources.

Watch the *Nebraska Lutheran Reporter* and your church publications for **registration information**. Materials will be sent to each church office in **early June**. On-line registration will also be available at www.ndlcms.org.

Nebraska District LCMS
PO Box 407 • Seward, NE 68434 • www.ndlcms.org
1-888-643-2961



REBEKAH CIRCLE NOTES

The Rebekah Circle met on April 24th in the Lakeview Room with eleven members and Pastor Schmitt. Jane, our Christian Growth Chairman, opened the meeting with a devotion from the "Portals of Prayer", based on Hebrews 12:22,23, reminding us that at our baptism, our names are written in God's book of life.

Our program for the evening was "Ask the Pastor" where he answered all our biblical questions.

The minutes were read and approved and the treasurer's report given. Mites were collected. Judy gave the Sunshine report with Thinking of You card to Sandy Wehrbein.

Kathy read a Thank You from Project Hope. Our congregation has donated over 1650 items toward the Feinstein Challenge. The May collection will be dish, bar and dry laundry soaps.

Joann, Judy and Marilyn attended the Tri-Zone workshop at First Lutheran in Plattsmouth. A slide presentation of the Sudanese Mission was viewed with several Sudanese in attendance including children who sang for the group.

The Fall retreat will be in Fremont on Sept. 8, 2007, the program being "Happy Beatitudes".

Discussion was conducted on the convention offerings for the LWML convention in Sioux Falls to be sent with our representative, Barb.

Mighty Muffin Sunday will be May 6 and we set up the workers for each time after services. The free will offering will go to support the mite projects of the LWML.

The May meeting will be our "Birthday Nite Out" on the 22nd and Applebee's was picked as our destination, meeting at 6:30.

The evening closed with the Lord's Prayer. Laura served the refreshments of ice cream, bars and beverages.

Secretary, Mary Christensen



LYDIA CIRCLE NOTES

April 26th was the last meeting day of our Lydia Circle. Seven members and Pastor were present and we welcomed one guest, Joan Graham. Pastor gave the opening devotion on "The Lord Provides for His Sheep." There were 231 calls fulfilled from the graduating classes from the seminaries this year. PRAISE THE LORD!

Christian Growth Leader read an article, "Enjoy God's Cake". The ingredients of a cake are yucky if we eat the ingredients separately, but when they are all put together it is good. God works in the same way. Many times we wonder why He lets us go through such bad times, but God knows when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good. We just have to trust Him and eventually they will make something wonderful.

A get well card was sent to Sandy Wehrbein and a thank you was read from Project Hope. The Easter books were a big hit.

Aleta Neuhaus gave a brief report on the LWML Spring Workshop held at Plattsmouth on April 15. Three ladies from the Rebekah Circle also attended.

There will be 4 offerings at the LWML National Convention held in Sioux City in June. We are sending \$25 for each offering with Barb Kruse who is alternate from the Rebekah Circle. She will also take the "Heart to Heart" packets. Lydia Circle members please bring your "Heart to Heart" packets with you to our May meeting.

Margaret Behrendt and Lois Costar volunteered to be hostesses for our birthday party on May 31. It will be held at Jack & Mary's restaurant at 12:30.

Pastor led us in the topic from our quarterly, "What God Sees--Our Heart". We closed with the Lord's Prayer and refreshments of cake, bars, nuts, candy and coffee were served by Connie Hagen.

Thanks to everyone who contributed for our "Mitey Muffins" served on May 6th after all 3 services. Almost \$180 was collected and went to our National and District Mission projects. We really did appreciate what you all did. We also served doughnuts after the services on May 13th.

Since there will not be a Newsletter until August, I'll let you know what we have planned for JUNE and JULY. June 21 to 24 is the National Convention at Sioux Falls, SD. Our meeting day is June 28 at 1:30, with a Bible Study and convention report. Verna Neuhaus will be our hostess. In July we meet on the 26th at 1:30. There will again be a Bible Study and Ann Neuhaus will be our hostess. You know you are welcome to attend at any time. Have a great June and July and we'll see you in church!

Secretary, Aleta Neuhaus

PROJECT HOPE

This is a note from Project Hope in regard to the Feinstein Challenge. Project Hope thanks everyone who contributed this year from March 1-April 31, 2007. Project Hope ended the Challenge with 104 donors contributing \$50,454.37 in monetary and food donations! That is over \$12,000 more than last year! One church challenged their members to break 1,600 items and they finished with over 1,900! (Guess what church that was?) It will take a while before they find out what portion of the \$1,000,000 they will receive based on how much Project Hope raised towards this Challenge.

With summer coming, many of Project Hope's volunteers are taking well earned summer vacations. Project Hope is in NEED of help on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the computer desk (simple data entry) or on the desk. Help is needed immediately, please call 453-7649 to volunteer.

Also, take note that Hunger Awareness Day is June 5, 2007. Around America, over 200 food banks will utilize National Hunger Awareness Day as an opportunity to reach out to their respective communities to expand their understanding of hunger and its effect on their community. Over 16,800 children in the Omaha metro community don't know where their next meal is coming from! California Pizza Kitchen will donate 20% of the day's sales to the Food Bank.

Have you ever been so low on food that you would ride a bus for 45 minutes (that includes one transfer), sit for half an hour waiting for your number to be called to pick up food and then go back to the bus stop and wait for the next bus? About 25% of their clients either walk or take the bus to pick up food. Remember, their clients can only come four times a year, thirty days in between visits. Project Hope also shares their client names with seven other food pantries in the Omaha area. When people receive food stamps (it's really a debit card) they can but only food. Any personal care items are not included. This includes: soap, bathroom tissue, laundry detergent, deodorant, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. These are items that Project Hope likes to give out with the food bags.

The featured items for the month of June are canned fruit and applesauce. For July it will be back to school items. Watch the bulletin for updates and watch for sales so you can give a little extra to Project Hope. Remember, in summer the children are not in school to get the free lunch so this puts more of a burden on those families.

The Food Bank is currently low on canned vegetables, soup, peanut butter, rice, macaroni & cheese. Project Hope always appreciates donations of diapers, bathroom tissue, feminine hygiene items and paper sacks.

If you ever have a question in regard to Project Hope, please do not hesitate to call Kathy Rummel.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

The national LWML Convention will be held June 21-24, 2007 in Sioux Falls, SD. A member of the Rebekah Circle is attending as the alternate representative from the Omaha West Zone. We have a couple other members also attending this convention. They will take with them donations to go to agencies in Sioux Falls and for the Orphan Grain Train. These donations are "Gifts from the Heart" and we are currently collecting items to make two different kits. One is for Towel Kits and the other for Health Kits. The items needed for the Towel Kits are a new bath towel, hand towel and wash cloth. For the Health Kits we need Bar Soap, deodorant, shampoo, comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, and lotion. All items need to be donated no later than June 10. There is a pink container labeled "Gifts from the Heart" located near the card counter for the donated items. We thank you in advance for your help in this mission effort.

GLOBAL GIFT PACKAGES

We are waiting until June to put up our India Tree for the donations for the Global Gift Packages for the children of India. A reminder that India was affected by a tsunami in December, 2004 and the southern province of Tamil Nadu was one of the areas most affected.

The Republic of India and three neighboring countries (Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan) make up a subcontinent in southern Asia. India's area of 1,269,438 sq. miles is about one-third the size of the United States and it is the world's 7th largest country. The Himalayan Mountains, the highest in the world, separate it from China and other countries in the northeast. Additional mountain ranges, parched deserts, and dense jungles create natural barriers on the rest of India's northern borders. The country juts out into the Indian Ocean in the south. The island country of Sri Lanka sits at the southern tip of India.

India's main rivers in the north have their sources in the Minalayas. The Ganges, Indus, and Brahmaputra Rivers form fertile valleys which are densely populated and heavily farmed.

The climate in India is understandably varied because of its size, but, in general, there are three weather seasons. Winter lasts from November to January and is bitterly cold in the Himalayas but dry and mostly pleasant in the south. During the summer, February to May, the mountain areas remain extremely cold, but dry, hot temperatures prevail throughout much of the rest of the country. June through August is monsoon season. Heavy, unpredictable rains and strong winds blow in from the Arabian Sea in the southwest from late May through October and a retreating monsoon drops rain from the northeast during October and November. India's highly agricultural population is extremely dependent on these monsoons for their survival. Variations in the timing and the amount from year to year can cause drought, flooding, starvation, destruction and hardship for the people.

In December of 2004, a 9.0 earthquake in the Indian Ocean caused a tsunami to rush in and devastate much of the southeastern coast of India and other countries in the area. The damage was extensive. In India alone, over 8,000 were confirmed dead and 140,000 were forced to find shelter in relief centers. Over one-third of the deaths were children. Many children who survived are now orphans. Damage estimates may be as high as \$660 million with a reconstruction estimate of \$1.2 billion. Many coastal fishermen and farmers lost all they had. Thousands are still displaced and trying to rebuild their homes and lives. The next newsletter will have information on the history of India.

We are going to be sending 30 gift boxes to the children of India. We are collecting spiral notebooks, ballpoint pens, colored pencils, rulers, fun toothbrushes and toothpaste, combs, regular pencils, pencil sharpeners, blunt scissors, colored construction paper, fun Band-Aids and a child's toy. Be sure to read the tag carefully so you buy the appropriate item needed. We are doing gift boxes for boys and girls and for 3 different age groups. When the time comes, if you have any questions, please call Kathy @445-9066. We hope to have all items collected by December so we will have time to pack the gift boxes and get them to the Orphan Grain Train in January for shipping to India. Please watch the bulletin for additional information.

The Rebekah and Lydia Circles