

The Zion Bell

August, 2007

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

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“Someday” vs. “Sunday”

As I write this, we're in the middle of an unusual summer “slump.” While our Worship attendance is taking its standard summer dip with our parishioners taking trips hither, thither, and yon, our Bible Class and Sunday School attendance is higher than any other summer in recent history! While I'm pleased as punch with the *trend* of Sunday School and Bible Class attendance, (*Always room for more!!!*) I can't help but feel for those who are absent from the Divine Service.

Soon the schools will start up again, the weather will turn cooler again, and we'll get back into some familiar routines. One of those routines that I want to encourage you to either establish or reaffirm is the holding sacred of the Lord's Day. To be held “sacred,” a thing must be set apart and dedicated for a specific purpose. Hence, I don't use the communion chalice for my daily Diet Pepsi, I don't use my holy ministry to further unholy causes, and I don't use the day set apart for my feeding from the Lord to be fed by the world.

You all know more than I how many distractions there are for you on Sunday morning. Hey, I get paid to be here! Besides that, you have to drive past stores, playing fields, golf courses, and restaurants filled with people doing something else. The only parking lot I see is the one I walk across (*boy, I tell ya, that commute's a killer sometimes!*). So it's understandable with today's pressure on schedules that we will be unavailable for God's Services to us on a particular weekend.

DON'T LET THIS TURN INTO A HABIT!!!

Hebrews 10:23-25: Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

None of our members, I believe, intentionally says, “I think I'll deprive myself and my family God's Word and Sacraments.” Rather, the temptation we face is to give in to the idea that “Someday we'll get back into a rhythm” and be able to fit God's Services into our schedule. A very good friend once told me, “Someday isn't a day on the calendar.” In other words, don't put off making that appointment on your calendar. Set a date. Hold it “sacred.”

I fear that too many of us are holding worldly pursuits “sacred” while seeing the church as “optional.” The time is **NOW** to avail ourselves of the feeding and strengthening God gives us in our Worship and study groups. The time is **NOW** to bring our children up in the way that they should go. “Someday” doesn't exist! Sunday does!

What a difference it makes having a firm foundation in the Word of the Lord. I see it time and again in the students in my confirmation classes. The difference is even more amazing when the child is attending Christian schools and/or other church organizations. Again, I don't believe ANY family says, “I don't want my child to have that kind of foundation.” I want to believe we simply give in to that idea of “someday” building such a foundation. “Someday” doesn't exist! Sunday does!

Finally, a word about our Scouting programs. What a way to strengthen the foundation laid in our Word and Sacrament ministries! Our Pack and Troop 412 have outstanding leaders who are furthering that work of character development in our youth. WOW! What a difference they are making. If you have boys grades 1-8, get them in Scouting! Although Zion doesn't have a Girl Scout Troop, there are some quality ones around. Yes, I know—something else to cram into our schedules—but think about how you want your grandchildren's parents to live, then choose this day to build in them that foundation of faith and character that will serve them well all their days!

PASTOR SCHMITT'S

Top Ten List

Andrea's goal this year for our Co-ed softball team was three wins. That was one more than last year's total. Well, we've already done that, and more! We've won FOUR, including three in a row as of this writing. Our men's team is having a great season as well. So remember that list last year that talked about putting the "fun" in "dysfunctional?" Here's one to replace that; the Top Ten Fun Things About Winning Recreation League Softball:

10. The looks on the faces of teams that lose to a church team.
 9. The opportunity to demonstrate that you do not have to use profane or vulgar language to be a winner.
 8. The frozen custard or ice cream after the game tastes **SO MUCH BETTER** when you win!
 7. All the groupies lining up for autographs when we drive up.
 6. I'm serious about this one: We really could make a highlight reel of the spectacular catches our team has been making!!!
 5. Our first base-woman doing the splits while she catches the throw for an out is enough to even make the umpires cheer.
 4. I no longer have to wear my orange visor for cheap laughs—we yuck it up on the field after all those good plays!
 3. At the Seminary in St. Louis, our gym walls read, "Gracious in defeat; Modest in victory." Trust me, we still have the gracious thing down pat, but being modest is **SO MUCH MORE FUN!**
 2. It'll be so much easier next year to recruit top players for key scholarship positions. . . Yeah, right!
- And the number one best thing about Winning Recreation League Softball:
1. We're ready to take on the Kansas City Royals, and we stand a decent chance at winning! (*Oh, wait, my boys just took two of three from Boston... maybe not!*)

Student Ministry Events

Rally Day Sept 9 12-2 PM



All children and their families are invited to join us for fun water games (splash pools, slip and slide), face painting, family t-ball and kickball games.

Lunch will be a potluck, so bring something to share. Water clothes and a towel would be a good idea. Please also bring a school supply for the Sunday School classroom.

Sunday School Supplies

The Sunday School rooms are in need of new supplies. As you are shopping for your children's school supplies please consider picking up extra items. Needed supplies are: washable markers, colored pencils, plastic pencil box, glue, glue sticks, construction paper.

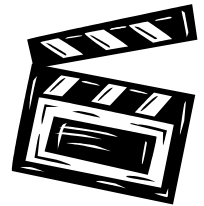


Parents and Twos September 16-November 4 9:30-10:15 AM

For 8 weeks Zion will have a class for parents and their 2 year old children. This class allows parents to encourage and nurture their children as they learn about Jesus together.

Drive in Movie Friday, August 17 7 PM 9-12 Grade

All High School Youth are invited to a movie night at a top secret location. So in order to go you must RSVP. Call the church for location (493-1744).



Confirmation Meeting 6-8th Graders & Parents Wednesday, August 22 7:30 PM

Bible Buddies Begins Wednesday, September 5 Kindergarten - 5th Grade 5:30-6:30

Confirmation Classes Begins Wednesday, September 5

Upcoming Events

August 3-5	“Mission Trip”- at church
August 17	“Drive-In” Movie (9-12th Grade)
August 22	Confirmation Meeting (6-8th Grade)
Sept 5	Confirmation Starts (6-8th Grade)
Sept 5	Bible Buddies Begins (K-6th Grade)
Sept 9	Rally Day
Sept 16	Paintball (6-12th Grade)
Sept 30	Pie Auction

SENIOR MEMBERS OF ZION

Magic Ages is a group of senior members at Zion who first started this organization in April, 1976. At one time this was the fastest growing organization at Zion, having 40 or more in attendance. It has now become a very small group with sometimes only 6 or 10 who attend. We would like to invite senior members of Zion to come and join us on Tuesday, August 7, 2007 for a potluck dinner at noon and for playing cards later. We really need to have more in attendance in order to keep this group going. Dues are only 25 cents and are used for prizes or for buying chicken as a special "treat" at special events. Hope to see you on Tuesday, August 7 at 12 Noon!

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 the Board of Stewardship, the board of Church Properties, Loren and Marybeth Cohrs, and



Young Adults Bible Study Saturday, August 18 5-6 PM

You are invited to join the Young Adults for a Bible Study on Proverbs. The Bible Study will be at the Boelman abode. Call Carin for directions

Orphan Grain Train—Lincoln Division WISCONSIN STYLE FISH FEED

Sunday August 12, 2007—4:30 to 6:30 PM
Lincoln Lutheran Middle/High School
1100 North 56th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

Please come and enjoy food, fellowship and learn a little more about what is happening here.

Orphan Grain Train volunteers from Lincoln and the surrounding areas have contributed, sorted, packed and labeled 5000 boxes of clothing to date and shipped 4-40' containers of clothing to needy people in the former Soviet States. Please help our volunteers with the operating expenses of the warehouse at 2500 Kimco Ct. Unit #103, Lincoln, NE, 68521 with a generous free will offering.

If you are unable to attend, but would like to contribute, send your check payable to Thrivent Financial (OGT) to the above address. Contributions will be supplemented by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Zion Men's "Old Fashioned Summer Cookout"

When: Sunday, August 5 at 4 pm

Where: On the Lower Level Church Lawn (Inclement Weather inside Lower Level)

Why: For fun and fellowship and of course to serve as an excuse to overeat (Nine out of ten surveys conclude Zion Men Have Bigger Bellies)

Who: All Men at Zion and any male guests they wish to invite. (Yes, please bring a friend. Your friend could even be someone who is considering a new church!)

Grub: Hamburgers, Fixins, Pork and Beans, Chicken, Potato Salad, Tea, Soda and whatever else the cooks can think of between now and then.....

PLEASE LET US KNOW YOU'RE COMING BY SIGNING UP ON THE SHEETS ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS JUST OUTSIDE THE LAKEVIEW ROOM. THIS HELPS THE COOKS TO KNOW HOW MUCH FOOD TO OVERPREPARE.



A Night for Dreams Under the Stars

To Benefit Lutheran Schools
Saturday, September 8, 2007
6 o'clock p.m.

Cocktails & Silent Auction—Dinner to Follow

Embassy Suites
555 South 10th Street
Omaha, NE 68102

\$65 Per Person
Valet Parking Included
Business Attire

For tickets call 997-7514
RSVP by August 20, 997-7514

Get a sneak preview of auction items at
www.wolsa.org and click on Gala 2007

OLD FASHION FAMILY FUN DAY

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN
Sunday, August 5 at 3:00 PM

You are cordially invited to St. Paul Lutheran Church, 5020 Grand Avenue on Sunday, August 5 for the "Old Fashion Family Fun Days from 3:00-7:30 PM, featuring the annual Pig Roast, Family Talent Show, Blind Box Auction, Roasted Pig Dinner, Cake Walk and Pie Auction. We eat at 5:00 PM. This is also a chance to meet our new vicar and his family. Please bring a vegetable, salad or dessert for the meal. Thrivent will match funds raised up to \$358 and will be used for refinishing the Fellowship Hall floor. We look forward to seeing you at this fun event.

KING OF KINGS OPEN HOUSE

MONDAY—July 30—7:00-8:30 PM

You are invited to an open house to introduce you to two new care ministry groups. If you, or someone you know, could benefit from either of these groups, please come to this open house. This is especially targeted to those who may find help in either the Caregivers Support Group or the GRANT Ministry Prayer Group and the evening will provide you a time to network with others as well as gain information about the support that's available to you.

We hope you'll join us for refreshments and fellowship at our Open House. There will be pamphlets available with more information, plus an opportunity for you to talk with the group leaders, gain support and express your specific needs.

You're invited to

Concordia High School's Season Opening Football Game and

Corral Cookout

Friday, August 31, 2007
Kickoff is 4:00 pm
Cookout begins at 5:30 pm

\$5/person or \$20/ family

Enjoy your choice of Hot dog, Brat, or
Hamburger with baked beans, relish, des-
sert and drink

Concordia Jr/Sr High School
15656 Fort Street, Omaha, NE 68116

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CONCORDIA ACADEMY (formerly Abundant Life Lutheran School) is looking for a caring person or persons for the Learning Center. The hours are 7-8:30AM and 3:30-6:00 PM Monday thru Friday. For more information or to apply, please contact the Principal, Dean Raabe at 592-8005.

CONCORDIA JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL has an opening for a part-time (20 plus hours) Study Hall person. For more information or to apply, please contact Principal, Matt Korte at 445-4000.

PROJECT HOPE - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

You are invited to a farewell reception for our esteemed Director, Mary Ann Johnson. Mary Ann is stepping down from her Directorship after 9 years of dedicated service to those in need of food, clothing, a hug or a prayer. As a representative of Project Hope, her smiling presence is well known in the Omaha community and will be greatly missed. Please join us at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 1821 N. 90th St. on Sunday, August 19 from 2:00-4:00 PM. In lieu of gifts, a non-perishable food item for the pantry would be suitable. Please contact Zion's church office for RSVP information.

LYDIA CIRCLE NOTES

We have been having a busy summer since you last heard from our Circle. The birthday party in May was enjoyed by all. The Jack & Mary's chicken is as good as it always was. Lois Costar and Margaret Behrendt had some good games and prizes for us. Thanks for being our hostesses.

We helped serve the lunch for Earl Meade's funeral on June 28th and had our meeting afterwards.

Barb Kruse from the Rebekah Circle attended the International LWML convention in Sioux Falls in June and she wrote up a very nice report on the convention that we read at our meeting. She also gave us a few pictures she had taken. Pastor led us in a Bible Study, "Get Going- There is Work To Be Done-God Will Help"! We also welcome Joan Graham as a new member to our Lydia Circle.

In July, we again served at another member's funeral, Beulah Witt. Our meeting for July is the 26th, at 1:30 in the Lakeview Room. Our hostess is Ann Neuhaus, and as always we welcome visitors. The meeting in August will be the 30th with a Potluck Brunch at 11:00 a.m. in the lower level. Mark your calendars and see you then.

In the meantime keep cool and pray for rain!

Secretary, Aleta Neuhaus



REBEKAH CIRCLE NOTES

The Rebekah Circle's Annual Birthday Nite-out was held on May 22, 2007 at Applebee's restaurant. Thirteen members were in attendance. Pastor Schmitt was able to join us for a time and led us in prayer. We extended farewell wishes to Jane Liljegren who is moving to Oklahoma. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and a delicious meal.

On June 26, we held our regular meeting with ten members and Pastor Schmitt. Pastor opened with prayer and he led the Bible study from the Spring Quarterly titled, "GET GOING, -THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE; GOD WILL HELP"! This is a lesson from Nehemiah where we learn to recognize the task God has set for us in life and to be thankful to God for being with us all the way. Laura led the devotion from Ephesians 4:9 encouraging us to build each other up with words to create a feeling of community.

The minutes, Treasurer's report and Sunshine report were given. Sympathy cards were sent to Eunice Muller, Donna and Ed Townsend, Jeff and Connie Dorau, and Earl Meade Family. Thinking of you cards to Lola Buchholz, Laura Deardoff, and Beulah Witt.

Pastor reported on a servant event that the Youth of the congregation will be having August 3rd-5th and they need help providing meals.

Project Hope's collection for July will be school supplies. We signed a card to be sent to Mary Ann Johnson, the director of Project Hope as she is retiring August 1.

Barb gave a report on her trip to Sioux Falls, SD for the International LWML convention in June. There were over 5,000 in attendance and they collected 1 1/2 semi loads of Heart to Heart kits. She reported that the Bible studies, speakers, and songfest were very uplifting. One highlight of these conventions is always the worship service with the music and communion service with these large crowds.

Our July meeting will be the 24th with Bible study and craft night. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Karen served a delicious dessert.

Secretary, Mary Christensen

PROJECT HOPE

We have just finished up with our featured collection for July of school supplies. A new poster with the July totals should be up shortly. The featured items for the month of August are shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. Please remember to add a food item or two also. The children are still home from school for most of August, which gives the Project Hope clients more mouths to feed for lunch. Project Hope is always in need of canned vegetables, soup, peanut butter, rice, macaroni & cheese, bathroom tissue, feminine hygiene items and diapers.

Also, the Board of Project Hope has received the resignation of Mary Ann Johnson as Executive Director effective August 1st. She is retiring for personal reasons and will be greatly missed. Mary Ann has been the Executive Director for nine years. Hopefully, a new Executive Director will be named by the middle of August. Mary Ann has assured me that they have had many qualified people submit their resumes and said the selection will be difficult as most of these people would be excellent choices.

In the meantime, Project Hope will stay the same and our generous contributions are still needed. They appreciate all donations of food, books, clothing and...of course money to keep their mission going.

Kathy Rummel
Food Coordinator for Project Hope

GLOBAL CARE PACKAGES, INDIA

The "India Tree" will be set up and full of tags on August 1st. The tags, as in past years, will list one particular item needed to fill our 30 gift boxes that will be sent to the children of India. The items range from school supplies, personal care items and toys. A sample gift box will be set up by the tree so you can see the kind of items and the size of the items needed. Please attach your tag to the item when you bring it to church and put the item in the appropriate container by the "India Tree" marked "India Global Gift Packages".

We will be collecting these items through December so they may be taken to the Orphan Grain Train in January for shipping. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Kathy.

Kathy Rummel

LWML SUNDAY

LWML Sunday is October 7th this year. We will again be taking a special mite offering during the services. To help you set aside a mite offering, we are including a mite calendar for August and September. Not only will these calendars help you set aside your "mites" but they also remind us of the many blessings we receive from God on a daily basis. The Rebekah Circle will have special "mite jars" available the end of July and the beginning of August to keep your mite offering in. Then on LWML Sunday you just bring this "mite jar" for the offering.

The National LWML Convention was held this past June and the Mission Grants for 2007-2009 total \$1,700,000. LWML Sunday is our way of helping to meet these mission goals. We will have more information on these grants in the future *Bell*.

Kathy Rummel